



Maltese eNewsletter



Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR

Contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com

We wish all our readers and all Maltese
living in Malta and abroad
a safe and merry CHRISTMAS



IL-MILIED HIENI LILL-QARREJJA U L-MALTIN KOLLHA



**MEDITERRANEAN
CONVENTION
CENTRE**

**MALTA
VALLETTA**



See inside



I'M DREAMING OF A MALTESE CHRISTMAS



Dreaming of a Maltese Christmas is very important to the people of Malta and its sister Island of Gozo. Most people on Malta are Catholics and go to a Midnight Mass. Usually the churches are full with people. In Maltese Happy Christmas is 'Il-Milied it-Tajjeb'.

The Churches are decorated with lights and nativity cribs, 'Presepu', built by the church goers. The cribs are decorated with figurines, called 'pasturi' (representing figures like the shepherds and angels). Today some of the cribs are mechanical and the figures in them move! The figure of the baby Jesus is put on the main altar at midnight on Christmas night. At epiphany it is traditional to put the three figures of the Magi in the crib. There is a group on Malta called 'Friends of the Crib' who help to keep the Maltese crib tradition alive. Cribs were first introduced into Malta from Italy by rich noblemen. They were not popular at first and most were burnt. The first true Maltese crib is believed to have been made in Malta in 1617 and was displayed in the Dominican Friars Church in Rabat. In St Peter's Monastery in Mdina, there is a crib dating back to 1670. This is treasured and looked after by the Benedictine Nuns who live in the monastery.

At about the same time, another Maltese man made a crib with moving parts powered by water! As cribs became more popular they also became more 'Maltese' with people replacing the Italian looking buildings and trades people with local ones. (Flour windmills were and are still popular buildings to feature in a crib scene.) The first imported Italian 'pasturi' were very expensive and most people couldn't afford them. So people

started making their own 'pasturi' from rough clay and plaster.

Some of these figures still exist today. (Modern pasturi are now often made of plastic.) By the early to mid 20th century, cribs were thought of as old fashioned and not very popular anymore. To stop the decline of Christmas, in 1907, a priest called George Preca founded children's charity and society called 'MUSEUM'. In 1921 he started a tradition of having a Christmas Eve procession with a life size figure of the Baby Jesus being carried at the head of the procession. At sunset on Christmas Eve in 1921, Fra Diegu Street in the town of Hamrun was crowded with children and adults ready to take part in the first procession.

In those days, street lighting was very poor in Malta and so many people brought lanterns with them to help them see their way during the procession and to shed light on the statue of Baby Jesus carried shoulder-high by four boys. The different types of lamps included, gas powered bicycle headlamps, oil lamps used on farmer's carts, coloured paper lanterns, Venetian lights, palm fronds and olive branches. The idea became very popular with people of all ages and so the very special Maltese tradition started.

These processions are still popular today and form part of the Christmas Eve celebrations. In 1986 the 'Friends of the Crib' society was formed and now they have over 500 members. Every year, in the weeks running up to Christmas, the Friends put on an exhibition of about 100 cribs of all shapes and sizes. Maltese houses are often also decorated with cribs with 'pasturi' (which are small plastic or clay figures representing figures like the shepherds and angels). Large figures of the baby Jesus are sometimes put behind windows or in balconies and lit at night. Houses are also decorated with Christmas wreaths, candles and all sorts of other decorations. Every household also has a Christmas Tree decorated with light bulbs, tinsel and Christmas decorations.

**NINNI, LA TIBKIX IZJED,
NINNI, GESU' BAMBIN**



**Message tal-Milied u
l-aħħar tas-Sena 2021**
**Mill-Onor. Evarist
Bartolo Ministru
għall-Affarijiet
Barranin u Ewropej
Lill-Maltin li jgħixu
barra minn Malta**

Għeziež ħuti, Xtaqt żortkom fix-xhur li għaddew imma ma stajtx minħabba l-Covid-19. Nittama li fix-xhur li għejjin inkun nista' nivvjagga u nigi narakom. Bħal ħafna eluf oħra li ngħixu fil-gzejjer Maltin għandi qrabati f'pajjizi differenti, u allura meta nżur pajjizi oħra fejn jgħixu Maltin u Għawdxin ma nħossnix qed inżur pajjiz barrani. Inkun qed inżur lil tal-familja, mhux biss dawk li jigu minni, iżda tal-familja Maltija. Il-familja Maltija hija ferm ikbar minn kemm għandna jgħixu fil-gzejjer tagħna. Għandna Maltin u Għawdxin jgħixu f'pajjizi oħra f'kull naħa tad-dinja, kważi daqskemm għandna jgħixu fil-gzejjer tagħna. Tajjeb li nżommu ħajjin irrabtiet ta' bejnietna u nsaħħuhom. Aħna fejn aħna nistgħu nħobbu lill-pajjiżna u lill-poplu tagħna waqt li nkunu parti sħiħa u ħajja mis-soċjeta' fejn qegħdin. F'dinja fejn tant żdied it-taħlit ta' popli, razzi, nazzjonalitajiet, ilsna u kulturi differenti, aktar hemm ċans jizdiedu l-kunflitti bejnietna. Imma aktar ukoll hemm iċ-ċans li jekk nagħmlu sforz ġenwin u diffiċli kemm hu diffiċli nitgħallmu ngħixu flimkien u nirrispettaw lil xulxin aktar hemm ċans li nagħrfu li aħna aħwa lkoll tal-familja umana li tgħix f'din il-pjaneta u ħafna mill-isfidi kbar li għandna quddiemna nistgħu negħelbuhom biss, mhux billi niġgieldu w inkunu għedewwa ta' xulxin iżda billi naħdmu flimkien għall-ġid komuni. Awguri 2021

**MESSAGE FROM
MARIO FARRUGIA
BORG
CONSUL GENERAL OF
MALTA IN VICTORIA,
AUSTRALIA**



"Where has this year gone?", is something which we so commonly

hear when we approach the last few weeks of every year. This year, however, I feel that when we express ourselves in this way, we do it with a sense of relief that the year has, thankfully, gone. Because it has not been a good year. It has been the year of the pandemic, where our lives took a turn which we never expected when we sang the "Aulde Lang Syne" on the midnight of December 31st, where the most basic things, those things which we so took for granted, were taken away from us, where our smiles were hidden behind face masks and we knocked each others' elbows instead of shaking hands. It was the year where we worried about our jobs and our economies, but most of all about our health. And worst of all, it was the year when loved ones were lost to this invisible enemy.

And so, it is with a deeper hope for better times this year that we give each other our season's greetings. We are not asking for much from 2021. We simply want our lives back, a return to normality. We want to put away those masks in a drawer and be able to smile when by accident we come across them amongst old pieces of clothing. We want to grab each others' hands again in a firm, good old fashioned handshake. We want to be able to travel to visit our families and friends in our beloved Malta. Most of all, we want to feel safe, we want to know that our loved ones are safe.

Let us hope for all this and more. I would like to wish all readers of the Maltese e-Newsletter a blessed Christmas, filled with love and the true values of this holy time in the anticipation of the arrival of the baby Jesus. And wishing everyone also a Happy, Healthy New Year. May all our dreams for 2021 come true.

A Piece of Malta this Season: The Maltese Christmas Crib in Moscow



Reference Number: , Press Release Issue
Date: Dec 08, 2020

One of Malta's most appreciated Christmas tradition for Maltese families, the installation of the presepe was extended to the Consulate of Malta in Moscow, the capital of the Russian Federation.

The crib adorns the central large shop-window of the Consulate on Donskaya str, Moscow. This makes it easy for the general public including the several hundred of students that frequent the universities located in the neighbourhood of the Consulate, to view the crib in correct health safety conditions. A description in Russian and in English about this age-old Maltese

Christmas tradition compliments the presepeju.

The crib was built by the Maltese diplomats and is made entirely from recycled material.



IL-lejl tal- Milied mimli tradizzjonijiet Maltin

Greg Caruana NSW

Ninsabu ftit jiem biss 'il bogħod mill-Milied. Huwa żmien sabiħ ta' ġabra kemm jekk mal-familja jew anke mal-

ħbieb. Iżda, għalina l-Maltin b'mod partikolari, huwa wkoll żmien mimli bi tradizzjonijiet.

Anke jekk it-tifsira llum twessgħet u jiċċelebra tista' tgħid kulħadd, mhux biss l-Insara, fil-qalba ta' dawn it-tradizzjonijiet Maltin għad hemm Gesu' tarbija (il-Bambin).. Waħda minn dawk it-tradizzjonijiet unikament Maltija hija l-purċissjoni bil-Bambin. Iddur fejn iddur madwar id-dinja, din il-purċissjoni mhux se ssibha mkien, Hija xi haġa tagħna l-Maltin.. Fil-fatt, kien fl-1921 meta San Dun Ġorġ organizza l-ewwel purċissjoni bil-Bambin fil-Ħamrun ,fejn fill-fatt ma kellhomx bambin u akwistaw wiehed minn għand il-patrijiet ta Santu Wintin tal-belt u ftit, ftit, fuq xewqa tiegħu, it-tfal kollha li kienu jattendu l-Mużew, fid-diversi fergħat imxerrda madwar Malta bdeu joħroġu f'purċissjoni bix-xbieha tal-Bambin.

Jingħad li meta saret l-ewwel purċissjoni, is-soċi tal-Mużew ma kinux ippreparati. Il-purċissjoni bil-Bambin issir filgħaxija. Għalhekk, maż-żmien, ġew inklużi l-fanali tal-gass li kienu jinżammu fuq lasta twila u jkunu mqassma tul il-purċissjoni. Minn dawn il-fanali, ġew imbagħad żviluppati oħrajn aktar elaborati tal-injam, bid-disinn u b' siltiet mill-Iskrittura li jfakkru l-ġrajja tat-twelid ta' Ġesù. Dun Ġorġ Preca tagħna tradizzjoni oħra sabiħa għal-Lejl tal-Milied, jiġifieri l-Prietka tat-Tifel li ssir qabel tibda l-Quddiesa ta' Nofsillejl.



X'aktarx li jkun tifel li għadu kemm għamel il-preċett, jew inkella xi abbati li jintagħżel biex fil-Lejl tal-Milied ifakkar lil dawk prezenti għaċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet fl-istorja tas-salvazzjoni. Dun Ġorġ Preca xtaq li jkun tfajjel ċkejken li minn fuq il-pulptu..

Fill-fatt l-ewwel priedka li saret, kien ghamilha Gorg Sapiano fill-parrocca ta Hal Luqa fl-1883. Illum il-ġurnata, mhumie x-subien biss li jagħmlu l-prietka. Ġieli tkun tifla wkoll u f'xi parroċċi daħlet id-drawwa li l-prietka jagħmluha flimkien tifel u tifla. Din id-drawwa permass ta'l-emigranti infirxet fl-awstralja, il-Canada, l-Amerika u kull fejn marru l-Maltin Madankollu. Il-Milied ghalina il-Maltin ifisser il-Presepu li mingħajr il-ġulbiena fih xi haġa nieqsa. Il-ġulbiena, tlibbes id-djar, iżda b'mod partikolari fil-knejjes. Il-ġulbiena tikber fid-dlam u titla bajda.. U la qed insemmu l-lejl tal-Milied, ma nistgħux, bħala Maltin ma jkollniex xi ħelu jew inkella xi xarba sħuna tradizzjonali għall-wara l-Quddies ta' Nofsillejl. L-Imbuljuta hija mghamula minn qastan imsajjar bill-kukkudina u ingredienti ohra li generalment tittiekel wara l-quddies tal-Milied...din it-tradizzjoni ohra Maltija għal żmien il-Milied. Ir-riħa tagħha biss iddaħħlek fl-atmosfera tal-Milied.

Bis-saħħa tiegħek
L-Istrina għenet
lil Amber Joy.
Agħti sehem
sabiex L-Istrina
tkun tista'
tibqa' tghin

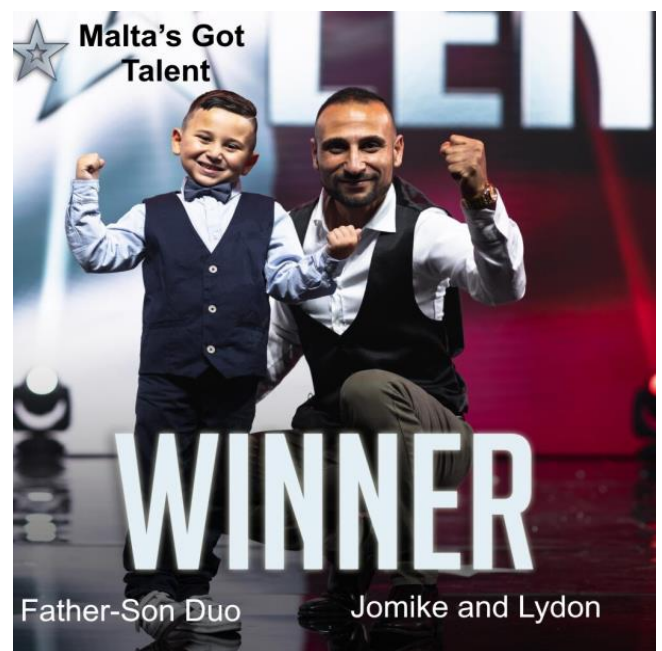
L-istrina L-ghada tal-Milied

26 Dicembru
2020



L-istrina
filmien b'solidarjeta'
l-ghada tal-Milied

Ta' ftit ġimghat Amber Joy sifruha Londra għal operazzjoni f'għajnejha. Amber Joy kellha bżonn hafna interventi, u L-Istrina dejjem kienet ta' support għal Amber Joy. F'Novembru li għadda Amber Joy għalqet 9 snin.



Father-Son Duo

Jomike and Lydon

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese living abroad

May you have a safe and merry Christmas

maltesejournal@gmail.com

Several Maltese
Embassies, High
Commissions and
consulates
receive, read and
share this Maltese
Journal



THE ARCHBISHOP DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR

The religious celebrations led by Archbishop Charles Jude Scicluna during the Christmas season will start on Christmas Eve. These services are open to the public in accordance with the measures and

restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vulnerable persons are invited to follow these celebrations on the national television channels as listed below, and on [Church.mt](https://www.church.mt) and [Newsbook.com.mt](https://www.newsbook.com.mt).

Thursday 24th December, Christmas Eve, at 5:15 p.m. the Archbishop presides over the first vespers of Christmas at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta, and then celebrates the Vigil Mass at 5:45 p.m.

Later in the evening at 11:15 p.m. at St Paul's Cathedral in Mdina, the Archbishop leads the Office of Readings during which Christmas carols are sung. At midnight he will walk in procession with a statue of a baby Jesus to celebrate the solemn midnight mass of the nativity of our Lord. The celebration will also be broadcast on **TVM**. Due to space restrictions, anyone wishing to attend is invited to call on 21456620 or 21454136 or send an email at parrocca.mdina@maltadiocese.org.

Friday 25th December, Christmas Day, at 9:30 a.m., the Archbishop celebrates the Christmas Day pontifical mass at St Paul's Cathedral in Mdina. The celebration will also be broadcast on **TVM2**.

Thursday 31st December, at 5.30 p.m., the Archbishop celebrates the annual thanksgiving mass at the end of which the Te Deum is sung, at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. The celebration will also be broadcast on **TVM2**.

Friday 1st January 2021, at 9:30 a.m., the Archbishop presides over mass on the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God and on World Day of Peace, at Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi. The celebration will also be broadcast on **TVM2**.

Sunday 3rd January, at 9:30 a.m., the Archbishop concludes the Christmas festivities as he celebrates the Epiphany of the Lord at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. During mass the Archbishop will confer the Ministry of Acolytes on two seminarians and the Ministry of Lector on three others. The celebration will also be broadcast on **TVM2**.



**Maltese
Christmas
Treat
QAGHAQ
TAL-GHASEL
HONEY
RINGS**



Father Manuel Adami

In one of December cold, grey clouds humid day, I was hurrying with my brother Oscar from Birgu to Kalkara. For a short cut we passed by the huge bastions until we came to an underpass, a lifeless desolated spot. Unexpectedly we heard an uplifting singing melody. I stopped and stooped to watch a lonely poor red breasted robin who was entertaining us in this unwelcome place with his sweet song. He changed the atmosphere for me for which I wanted to catch him and kiss him. Why of all places he settled there? Why did he not go around the corner on one of the tall olive trees? To love us. The robin made the difference between darkness and love.

We celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ among our busyness. Hope my friends that all of us stop and stoop before Baby Jesus to watch and hear His "song" of love. He will make a difference in our lives with the power of His Birth-Love.

On the desk of my room I keep baby Jesus all year round. It is interesting and a mystery how this baby Jesus was given to me.

It was Christmas eve I was to say mass in a shanty town in Peru. A criollo (local) girl of about fifteen years approached me. She had a baby Jesu with broken finger tips. She gave him to me and disappeared never to see her again. I remembered the saying of St. Teresa " Christ has no hands on earth but your hands, no feet on earth but your

THE POWER OF LOVE

feet". So many people around us who are broken, need healing.

My brothers and sisters, Jesus came to save us from hell which is the kingdom of hate. Jesus love and mercy attracts all the peoples of the world. Like Him we his followers is to love all, not by ourselves but with the power of God's Love. Love wins everything. We have to be martyrs of love like Jesus. Our life is a new song of love for God.

The Eucharist is a song of love. I write these reflections in front of the Bl. Eucharist out of love for you. Everyone of us has to be "a song of love" for Jesus, for Mary, for all people. Love is His gift to us which we give to others. Let us imitate Mary and Joseph by stopping in front of baby Jesus. He really inspires us.

Sing now "Gentle Woman"

We may find ourselves surrounded by people that make themselves very difficult to love them and we feel that way. Let us remember that love is a decision more than a feeling. Even then you are with God and you will speak of victories. Love defeats all evil. Jesus Himself defeated evil in the manger and on the cross. You are then His true disciple.

Love is joy. The prophets of gloom and doom are never happy because they lack love. Those who do not forgive same story.

Love and joy are an infallible sign of the presence of God.

Let no one comes to us without leaving loved without showing him love with a little smile or a little deed or an encouraging word. We do this with the power of love thus Jesus is born in our hearts everyday. You are precious, I love you I miss you. I want you to be with me in heaven. Let us now sing even from a distance....SILENT NIGHT

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions many Christmas activities organised by Maltese associations around the world had to be cancelled. Please check with your group for more information



photo - Darren Agius

What's On in Valletta this Christmas

Valletta has transformed into a vibrant and atmospheric city with Christmas projections and a Nativity scene in St George's Square, pop-up music events in Great Siege Square, film screenings and puppet shows at Is-Suq tal-Belt and Freedom Square and other attractions along the city's main streets.

The Valletta Cultural Agency's Christmas in the City programme is taking place between the 8th and the 24th December while a televised live show is planned for New Year's Eve. Although the Covid 19 Pandemic has changed the way the Valletta Cultural Agency is organising Christmas events in Valletta this year, this did not take away from the festive element and the intimacy of small-scale events taking place every evening.



Among this week's highlight performances were Opera in the City – a performance of world-famous operatic tunes by international Maltese tenor Nico Darmanin and soprano Nadia Vella, accompanied by pianist Sofia Narmania.

On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December, the popular seasonal family favourites Joyeux Noël and Polar Express will be screened at Is-Suq tal-Belt

(second floor). Puppet shows will take place on Tuesday 15th and on Wednesday 23rd December. Music performances by various bands, duets and ensembles can be enjoyed by shoppers, families and passers-by on all other days. Meanwhile, Blind Date with a Book continues to be a favourite as children and older people open telephone booths in Republic Street to take home a wrapped book as a gift. The Christmas Tree, lights and projections can continue to be enjoyed until the first week of January. Due to mitigation measures to combat COVID-19, booking for events by sending an email at info@vca.gov.mt is required. Tickets are free of charge. For further details including the full programme, visit the Valletta Cultural Website





Traditional Republic Day ceremony takes place in Valletta

The traditional Republic Day ceremony is currently taking place in Valletta, with the President of Malta George Vella giving a speech and presenting the country's most

prestigious awards later this morning.

December 13th commemorates the day in 1974 when Malta's constitution was revised, changing Malta from being a Commonwealth realm with the Queen of Britain as its head of state to a republic.

Sir Anthony Mamo became the first President of Malta. Current incumbent George Vella is the 10th person to hold this post since.

To mark the occasion, the Armed Forces of Malta and band have embarked on a parade from Parliament down Republic Street to St. George's Square – which is where the ceremonial parade takes place. Afterwards, a ceremony will take place in the Grand Council Hall in the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta, where the President will present the year's honours.

Due to Covid-19 regulations, only those with invitations in hand were permitted at St. George's Square.

The stories behind our Christmas traditions

The trees are decorated, the wreaths are hung and now it's about time to start laying out milk and cookies for Santa. There are so many traditions we've come to depend on during the holidays, but ever wondered where they came from? Now you'll know.

DID COCA-COLA INVENT THE MODERN-DAY SANTA?



Nope, this one's a myth. Although Coca-Cola started using Santa in their advertising in the 1930s, the company didn't come up with the image of the plump old man in his signature red and white. It just so happened that Santa's red suit and white beard matched the brand's colors. The modern-day image of Santa has been evolving for centuries. Modeled after Saint Nicholas who had a reputation for secret gift-giving, Santa was

eventually shaped into the sleigh-riding, chimney-climbing man we know today, through the work of people like Washington Irving and illustrator Thomas Nast. Nast's 1881 "[Merry Old Santa Claus](#)" largely formed the basis for today's Santa. In that image, Santa appears in the classic red and white suit with a big belly to boot.

WHERE DO CANDY CANES COME FROM?



This is one of those traditions that we're not too sure about. One story goes that a German choirmaster in 1670 was worried about children being disruptive during long church services, so he went to a candy maker for sticks of white sugar to keep them quiet. To give the candy an educational slant, the choirmaster asked the candy maker to make the sticks in the shape of a cane so that the kids would remember

the story of the shepherds who came to visit baby Jesus. However, all the references to this story are anecdotal and there are no real records to prove it's actually true. What we do know is that in 1919, Bob McCormack started making candy canes in Georgia and eventually became one of the world's leading candy cane producers. Since manually shaping candy canes into their traditional 'J' shape was inefficient and labor-intensive, McCormack's brother-in-law, a Catholic priest named Gregory Keller, invented the Keller Machine to automate the process of shaping straight candy sticks into today's J-shaped candy canes.

WHY DO WE PUT UP CHRISTMAS TREES?



There are a few different stories behind the origin of the modern-day Christmas tree, although not all are rooted in fact. Evergreen trees were actually used by pagans in winter festivals for thousands of years. During the winter solstice, evergreens signified the coming of spring. As Christianity spread throughout Europe, the trees began to be used as a symbol for Christmas. In mystery plays in Germany, they were often used as props, garnished with apples to represent the Garden

of Eden. One legend credits 16th century Protestant reformer Martin Luther for bringing the Christmas tree into homes. Luther was supposedly walking through the forest on the night before Christmas when he looked up to see stars shining through the tree branches. He was so dazzled by the sight that he told his children it reminded him of Jesus and then erected a tree in his own home.

But it wasn't until the mid-19th century that the Christmas tree as we now know it became custom. England's Queen Victoria encouraged her husband Prince Albert to decorate a tree as he had back at home in what is now Germany. When a drawing of the royal family with their exquisite Christmas tree appeared in a London newspaper, the tradition became popular throughout the UK and US.

WHY DO WE HANG WREATHS ON OUR DOORS?



In ancient Rome, people would exchange evergreen branches during New Year's celebrations to wish each other good health. The Romans eventually began bending these branches into a ring and displaying them on doorways, which symbolized both victory and eternal life.

The wreath later became a Christian symbol for the body of Christ. In holly wreaths, the sharp, pointed leaves represented the crown of thorns worn by Jesus on the cross and the small, red berries symbolized drops of blood. Evergreen wreaths embodied eternal life. For some Christians, hanging a wreath in the doorway has been an invitation for Christ to enter one's home. But today, people mostly hang wreaths on their doors because they're festive, pretty and well, because it's tradition.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE READERS

(These are only a few of the thousands of messages we received from our readers. We thank all those who wrote to us to wish our readers a safe and merry Christmas. I will reply to all those who contacted me in due time)



My sincere thanks for keeping me connected to the Maltese diaspora, especially in these difficult days. It has been a challenging year, more for some countries than for others. Some of us have lost loved ones and many have lived through dark times. We can only hope for a better future. My best wishes for the Christmas Season. May 2021 bring you all that your hearts desire. Keep well, **Dolores Cristina Malta**



On behalf of the Maltese centre in Cringila we take the opportunity to thank the committee and volunteers whom worked hard during the difficult times of COVID 19 to ensure our place adhere to the rules. We wish everyone a good and relax Christmas and a prosperous 2021, and god willing we meet again first Monday in February. Grazzi **President Louis Parnis Cringila, NSW**



"On behalf of the Government of Malta I extend to you and your families all the compliments of the Festive Season. Enjoy your Christmas celebrations with family and friends, however please do keep within the guidelines outlined by authorities. At this time of giving and goodwill the best gift we can give to each other is to do our bit to ensure we all stay safe and healthy. As we farewell 2020 I trust and pray that the new year will see an improved world. May God bless you and your family. My husband Venny and I wish you a joyous and blessed Christmas and a new year that will bring you happiness and prosperity. **Carmen Spiteri Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia**"



MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW

All tough this Christmas will be celebrated in a lower key than previous, We have a lot to be thankful for, this corona virus, showed us how important family and friends are, separated by border closures and health regulations we managed to keep in contact with one another via the internet and telephone, During this epidemic, the MCC of NSW did not to suspend its agenda during 2020. Meetings went ahead online, communication with ministers and council never stopped, although some cancellation of function had to be observed. Now we find ourselves in a good position compared to other country's including Malta The restrictions started to ease, in time for the Christmas season. On behalf of the Maltese Community Council of NSW the president and committee wish our community a merry and holy Christmas and safe new year

Emanuel Camilleri jp



On behalf of our Committee, Musicians, Members and Students we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope to be back doing what we love, performing music for you to enjoy in 2021. We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout 2020. Regards, **MMG Concert Band of Victoria**



Thank you for your journal. I look forward to receiving it & read it avidly. This year I was so disappointed that I could not make my annual trip to my second island home; the birth country of my parents and husband, the country I visited in 1972 to meet my grandparents, aunts, uncles & cousins for the first time. After 25+ visits, dear ones lost, new friends found, I still get that tingle of excitement at the sight of the first church steeple framed within the plane's window & I still shed a tear as the last glimpse of limestone fades away until next time. Your journal has been comforting, enlightening & provided an hour or so of being there.

Thank you so much. May the birth of the Infant Jesus give you & yours peace, love, joy, good health & fortune through this Blessed Season. May the spirit of Christmas remain to warm our hearts & light our way through 2021. May the goodwill born through the global adversity of 2020 continue to ensure equity, fairness, inclusiveness and harmony for all. Looking forward to the next journal! Take care. Regards **Margaret Spiteri**



Thank you for sending me the journal! I receive it each week and read it with my grandparents here in Canada — they are from Malta originally and get a lot of joy out of reading it. Thank you for taking the time to do this! All the best, **Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich**



Yes of course I'm still receiving and reading your journal and I always look forward for the next issue. You say you haven't heard from me; I didn't realize I had to say something, sorry. Please keep up the good work because I believe your journal really strikes a chord with all persons who have some connection to Malta. I know this because my uncle in Canada (I'm in Malta) was the one who introduced me to your journal and now I know of some others who also subscribe to it. So thanks for all your work in producing the journal and I pray that God bless you with more years of fruitful effort while giving you joy in doing so. Best regards, **Godfrey Farrugia, Marsaskala**



Yes I really enjoy reading your journal which I also print off and give to my elderly mother to read as she is not computer literate. My mum is 92 and is a Scicluna like yourself. She then passes these onto friends of hers to read so rest assured your journals are very well received. Thanks and Kind Regards, **Tom Reale**



On Australia Day 1951, my parental family and I, then safeguarded by our mother **Dolores BORG**, arrived in Sydney, Australia. As such, our surviving family members will have been in Australia for 70 yrs on Australia Day 2021. We arrived on 26/01/1951 from NAXXAR in Malta to finally reunite with Dad, **Aronne Borg**, who had arrived six months earlier. My siblings and I were lucky to have parents who took the risk and travelled half way around the world to start a new life to provide us with enhanced future prospects in a new country for us. Australia has been a fantastic place to grow up in and live in. **Joe BORG, Liverpool, NSW**



Yes, I'm still interested and I messaged you on your last journal to go into Facebook for Gozo crafty ladies, they are a great group of women living in Kercum Gozo that do tremendous charity work. Their last project was a hand crocheted 25foot Christmas tree, they called the Tree of Hope, I think this group should be highlighted they donate everything they make to hospitals in Gozo and Malta and ship to 3 world countries such as Africa and villages in Peru. They are an exceptional group, if you have the time please go to their Facebook page. A very good friend of mine Gracie Camilleri is a main worker. Thankyou and Merry Christmas **Rose Cassar**



I want to thank you and wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and new year's! Your newsletters have been a saving grace to keep me connected to our culture. If you ever in the Southwest of America please come and see me and have pastizzi and coffee. All the best, **Malta Joe Gauci.**



Ghadu kemm wasal il-"MALTESE JOURNAL". Bhal dejjem, mimli taghrif interessanti! GRAZZI, f'isimna u ghan-nom ta' tant qarrejja mill-Komunita' Maltija. Qeghdin fix-xahar tal-Milied. AWGURI lilek u lil gheziez tieghek. **Gorg u Laura Boffa**



On behalf of my mother Mary Buhagiar I would like to thank you for the Maltese Newsletters that we have received this year. Mum enjoys reading the newsletter as she finds them informative and keeps her in touch with her homeland. Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Regards, **Bernardette Horley**



I very much would like to keep on receiving the newsletter. It is a real pleasure to receive it from you. Many thanks for your efforts with this. Have a wonderful Xmas holiday and all the best for health and happiness in 2021! **Michael Fenech**



Hope you are keeping well to keep the Maltese eNewsletter Journal for Maltese living in Malta and Abroad going strong. I enjoy receiving, reading and sending it out to many different people worldwide. In fact many did not know there were Maltese publications at all, or originating from Australia. Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Regards **Nancy Serg OAM**



My family and I would like to thank you for your wonderful journal. We read it together week after week. We are so addicted to it that we wait anxiously to receive it. We also share it with our relatives in Canada and Malta. **Jeff and Anne Bolton - Australia**

I arrived in Australia, been to Malta a few times but I depend on news and information on your journal. I have recommended to some friends and I always forward them a copy . Regards,
Benedict Soler

Maltese Communities , their stories, history and more. I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry and Safe Christmas to all of you and I look forward to keeping you informed and our readers as we prepare for the Malta ANZACs sports in Malta in 2022. Best Wishes

John Calleja

Just like to express my sincere thanks for your excellent magazine with lots of historic information , thank you and wishing you and staff and readers of the journal merry Christmas and happy new year. **John P Muscat**

Dear Frank, On behalf of our chairperson and dedicated volunteers of the **Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives** at St. Paul the Apostle Church complex in Toronto, we send you, your family, all those involved in producing your great and informative E-newsletter and its many worldwide readers, our best wishes to all for a healthy, happy and Blessed Christmas. May the New Year-2021 become COVID free and a year of good health and success to all. **Richard S. Cumbo, Curator. Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Thank you again for your awaited newsletter which I read with great enthusiasm. It is great to hear about other Maltese around the world, including Malta. This year has been a challenge for everyone as you mention, but well done to you, and your team, for providing such a service in a well presented document. Thank you and Merry Christmas!
Kind Regards **Ross Pulo (Melbourne – Australia)**

On behalf of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus in Lockleys, I would like to convey our Best Wishes for a Happy and Blessed Christmas and A New Year filled with Blessings of Joy, Peace and Good Health to the Maltese Community were ever they may be in the world. May God bless us all and keep us united in His love. **Sr. Vittoriana DeBattista FCJ Adelaide S.A.**

Another hard year have passed for you in sending to all your readers all over the world , these wonderful Journals for all to read. Many thanks goes to you for keeping us busy reading in these eight months of lockdown. I wish you and your family a BLESSED CHRISTMAS and a wonderful New Year, and hopefully it will be a better year. Regards **Jane Galea Melbourne**

We always welcome your magazine which is unique and informative. I am addicted to it and you are making Maltese living abroad proud. Although produced in Australia it reaches readers from all over the world. Wishing you all a MILIED IT-TAJJEB. **J. B. Borg - Spain**

Frank, Just a short note to wish you all of the best for the forthcoming Festive Season. Your circulars have been most enjoyable and brought back many memories. All of the best for 2021.
Regards **Ronald Andrews South Africa**



MALTESE-CANADIAN DANCER JOANNE CAMILLERI

Thank you again so very much for adding my letter and the poster to your publication. E-Newsletter 351. I take this opportunity to wish you and all the readers of the journal a Merry Christmas and please stay safe.
Joanne
<https://www.joannedancer.com/>

thank you for the work you put in to send your Enjoyable journal which I look forward to and read as soon as it gets to me. Keep up the good work which many of us Appreciate Again thank you Marto Bezzina



Maltese Center of New York

Dear Frank

We hope you are well. Please find attached a Christmas greeting from the Maltese Center of New York. We have also begun a live zoom show with one on one conversations. You can check it out here.:

<https://www.themaltesecenter.com/expert-series-1-0>

Stay well, Carmen Debono

I hope you are well. I would like to thank you for publishing the information about my latest book 'Il-Milied it-Tajjeb ta' Gogo'.

Wishing you and your family a great Christmas and a wonderful new year! Best regards
Gioconda Schembri



**27-20 Hoyt Avenue South. Astoria,
NEW YORK USA 11102**

We believe that having the Maltese Center we offer a community for those of Maltese heritage to have a place that they can identify with all the while living in New York City.

**Readers from every
Australian States and
Territories, Canada, USA,
Europe, South America,
Africa, Middle East,
South Africa and several
other countries**

Enjoy this journal



The Maltese Journal is archived at
Malta Migration Museum - Valletta; Website-ozmalta.com
Maltese-Canadian Archives Toronto; Facebook;
Maltese Associations in Australia, Canada, USA and UK
Nursing Homes - Schools - Libraries
foreignandeu.gov.mt/en/Government/MLA/Pages/E-Newsletters.aspx





MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Renew your membership at the Malta Band Clubs

Malta Band Club Announcement

The President and the Executive Committee are reaching out to everyone including Club Members, Bands-People, Committee Members, Lifetime Members and Possible New Members to inform you of the Financial challenges we are facing.

The Committee is working hard to try and keep our dream alive "Il Klub tal Familja Maltija". We are one of the few remaining Clubs with their own premises that remains active. With the current situation expenses are amounting, monthly payments need to be met. We must sustain and strive to weather these difficult times.

In order to accomplish this we need your Financial support. We are asking everyone to renew their 2021 Membership and also accepting any donations. New Members are welcomed and encouraged to join.

The Club recommends to mail in cheques, however the Club will open on the below dates & times for your convenience. Frozen Pastizzi & Cooked will be available for take out. Please call ahead if ordering cooked Pastizzi.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: FAMILY \$100.00 - SINGLE \$65.00

Friday Dec 18th 10:00am - 1:00pm. Sunday Dec 20th 12 (Noon) - 3:00pm.

Monday Dec 28th 10:00am - 1:00pm. Thursday Jan 7th 10:00am - 1:00pm.

Sunday Jan 10th 10:00am - 1:00pm

My Message to all Maltese Canadians on this matter

This year more than ever before, all Maltese Canadians should do their utmost to support the Malta Band Club and all other Maltese organizations in Canada. We owe it to ourselves, our family, relatives, friends and most of all our children.

PACEVILLE - MALTA

Mercury skyscraper grows to 33 floors as planning board approves three more storeys



We sincerely thank all our friends who support this journal especially those who contribute articles, poems, new ideas and suggestions.

We keep on improving with your help



MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE

VALLETTA ✱ MALTA



The 16th century building now the Mediterranean Conference Centre has long been one of Valletta's most remarkable landmarks. Located towards the tip of Valletta peninsula, the MCC stands for distinction with magnificent views across the Grand Harbour.

The sheer size and scale of the building coupled with its conversion into a modern conference centre in 1979 makes the MCC such an impressive architectural feat today. The sensitive and innovative restoration won the international acclaim with the coveted 'Europa Nostra' Award for its successful blending of the fine old architecture with modern technology.

In addition to conferences, it offers one of the finest venues in the Mediterranean for a range of events including product launches, exhibitions, conventions, banquets and theatrical performances.

The Mediterranean Conference Centre is a rare example in the region of a heritage building functioning to the exacting demands of the 21st century. The Centre's long experience and reputation as a unique quality venue is confirmed by its membership of the prestigious Historic Conference Centres of Europe (HCCE). The Mediterranean Conference Centre is

one of Europe's largest conference centres within a historical setting.

The Centre boasts of impressive spaces, such as the main auditorium, Republic Hall, seating 1,400 in theatre style, the elegant and unique La Valette Hall that offers an imposing banqueting venue for up to 900, as well as a host of individually-styled smaller halls suited for receptions and more modest-scale conferences and seminars.

In total, the Centre offers an area of over 8,000 square meters.

The MCC also offers a full complement of audio-visual equipment

including interpretation facilities. All rooms have independent sound, light and climate control. When it comes to providing receptions and banqueting, we have selected the largest catering partner on the Island to guarantee you a quality dining experience. The Centre is equipped with an in-house fully-fledged kitchen situated below the La Valette Hall. Given the vast experience of our catering partner, the Centre has the capability to provide up to 4,000 covers a day.

Whether you're seeking to launch a new product or host a multinational convention, the Mediterranean Conference Centre offers a truly unique combination of flexibility atmosphere and impeccable service. Source <https://mcc.com.mt/about->



**Share it with others
send it to us**



Rebecca
Cremona
MQR
Film
Maker

REBECCA CREMONA MQR

On Republic Day each year, the President, on behalf of the government and people of Malta, pays public tribute to a number of Maltese citizens

who distinguish themselves in different fields of endeavour, by appointing them to the National Order of Merit or to the Xirka Ġieħ ir-Repubblika, or by awarding them the Midalja għall-Qlubija or the Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika. Nationals of other countries may be conferred with honorary membership of the Order or the Xirka or awarded the Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika on an honorary basis.

This year's Investiture Ceremony again took place at The Palace, Valletta, on Sunday 13 December 2020, immediately following the customary ceremonial parade held at the Palace Square. During the ceremony, President George Vella appointed eleven members to The National Order of Merit. Seven other individuals were awarded the Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika one of them is Rebecca Cremona.

Born in 1983, Rebecca Cremona is a Maltese filmmaker. She obtained a BFA (Hons) in 'Film Theory and Comparative Literature' from the University of Warwick (UK) and an MFA (Hons) in Broadcast Cinema from the Art Centre College of Design (US). She also studied at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.

Her thesis film Magdalene won a student Emmy and a Director's Guild of America award. In 2014, she directed and co-wrote Simshar which was Malta's first ever submission for Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards. As well as being a local box office hit, Simshar enjoyed worldwide distribution garnering critical acclaim. Furthermore, the film

won a plethora of awards from over 40 international film festivals it was selected for.

Cremona has worked on several films that were shot in Malta, including Spielberg's Munich and Amenabar's Agora. Her portfolio of work includes Public Service Announcements for the United Nations and other entities. Rebecca also volunteered her time to make promotional videos for the national bids for the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) and V18.

Recently she adapted for the screen a novel by Juliana Maio, for the renowned producer Sara Risher. With several projects in the pipeline, Rebecca is committed to bringing Maltese stories to international prominence and working towards the preservation of Malta's heritage and environment.

Chris and I would like to thank you for your informative newsletters you produce over and over again. Chris finds the articles about the history of Malta an interesting read.

Looking forward for 2021, let's put 2020 behind us, and hope for a better year for everyone. Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year to you Frank and all your family. Keep up the good work, and God Bless.

Dolores Muscat

Maltese eNewsletter



This journal of all Maltese living
abroad

Is the only free, bilingual, non-political
and multicultural publication in
Australia

that is loved, read, respected, enjoyed
and shared by readers from several
countries of the world.

Subscribe and will not
miss a thing

Maltese-Australian in Australia



maria selleck

PROPERTIES

Owner / Director

Maria spent most of my working life before real estate as a federal public servant commencing her very punctuated career at the Australian High Commission in Malta and in Canberra with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Austrade and the Commonwealth Audit Office. Due to her partner's overseas postings with DFAT they travelled and live in different countries and cultures and as a result Maria was able to communicate with and better understand various people from different cultural backgrounds.

This experience has also provided her with some of the many tools that are required for an effective real estate person.

Maria is energetic and passionate about real estate and her reputation for integrity and fair dealing is second to none. With then just 6 years in the real estate industry Maria wanted to do it her way and in early 2009, set out to build an award-winning agency under her own banner with a total focus on customer service and giving her clients value for money. Before establishing Maria Selleck Properties in January 2009, Maria had received multiple achievement awards in the local and national real estate industry and has earned her reputation as one of Canberra's leading professional agents achieving great sales for clients. In addition to other awards since 2009, Maria also received the prestigious Real Estate Institute ACT Small Residential Agency Award of the Year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2016 plus the national REIA title in 2013.

Maria's personal attributes of integrity, passion, tireless energy and genuine helpfulness have consistently given her the competitive edge. Maria always prides herself on exceeding her client's expectations. As a big believer in always going the extra mile with every single property, Maria regularly enhances homes with her own stunning works of art and beautiful furnishings and commissions minor improvements as required on selected properties. The results have been great outcomes and delighted clients. In her career of fifteen years, she has personally achieved an unsurpassed 50+ record price sales with 96% of her listings being sold at or above the asking price.

A crucial part of Maria's reputation is built on her extremely high ethical standards - a quality that is cultivated throughout Maria Selleck Properties. Whilst getting the best possible result is high on her agenda, so is making sure that each and every client, seller and buyer, is treated with respect and integrity. Clients have viewed her honest, straightforward and insightful approach as a breath of fresh air, which explains the inordinately high amount of repeat business and referrals. But when asked what it is that makes her so successful, Maria is adamant about one thing: real estate is not about houses, it is about people and relationships. It is this belief that drives her and her business and is what keeps her clients coming back.

Maria's unique and diverse background has spanned continents, cultures and all socioeconomic levels. Her extensive life experience has equipped her with the emotional intelligence that allows her to intuitively understand each of her client's needs and sensitivities and work with them accordingly. Her extensive managerial background in both private and public sectors in Australia, Europe, Asia and the Pacific and the broad range of skills and expertise which she has developed were readily transferable into her work in real estate.

Keeping Maltese Communities Connected

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad



Toronto is still getting a Santa Claus Parade in 2020 but spectators won't be allowed

The idea for the parade originated from an earlier promotion by the Eaton's chain of department stores, on 2 December 1904, when Santa walked from Union Station to the downtown Toronto Eaton store on Queen Street.^{[2][3]} The first official

Toronto Santa Claus Parade was first held on December 2, 1905 with a single float.^[2] Sponsored by Eaton's, Santa was collected at Union Station,^[4] and delivered to the downtown Toronto Eaton's store. The parade grew in size each year and attracted large crowds.

From 1910 to 1912, the parade began its journey in Newmarket on a Friday afternoon, stopping overnight in York Mills and then continuing south along Yonge Street to Eaton's downtown Toronto location on Saturday afternoon.

For the 1913 parade, Eaton's brought in reindeer from Labrador to pull Santa's sleigh.^[6]

Until 1915, the parade was followed by Santa holding court at Massey Hall where he would meet with up to 5,000 children.

By 1917, the parade featured a number of floats and in 1919 Santa arrived in the city by plane.

From 1925 until the late 1960s the floats from the parade were reused in Montreal where Eaton's had been holding Santa Claus Parades since 1909. This arrangement was cancelled in 1969 due to bombing threats by the Front de libération du Québec and did not resume until it was revived in the 1990s by Défilé du Père Noël, the downtown Montreal business association and is known in French as *Défilé du Père Noël*. Eaton's also launched a Santa Claus Parade in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1909. Eaton's sold the Winnipeg parade to the Winnipeg Firefighters Club in 1965 and it has continued as a community parade to this day, but is now operated by the Winnipeg Jaycees.

Beginning in 1947, a recurring character, Punkinhead, was seen each year in the parade.^[8] Punkinhead was a character in a series of storybooks sold by Eaton's. By the 1950s the Toronto parade was the largest Santa Claus parade in North America.^[9] Eaton's continued to pay for the parade, which was used to promote its retail business.^[7] The company's Merchandise Display Department worked year-round at Eaton's Sheppard and Highway 400 service building to make costumes and build floats and mechanized window tableaux. In 1952, the parade was televised for the first time by CBC Television,^[2] and in 1970 the first colour broadcast was aired.

Eaton's association with the parade ended in 1982 and almost led to the parade's demise.^[10] Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey spearheaded a "Save Our Parade" campaign, and soon after a group of businessmen led by Ron Barbaro and George Cohon, with the help of 20 corporate sponsors, stepped in to save the parade.^{[11][4]} Cohon retired from the parade organization in 2014. Today the parade is funded by various corporate sponsors (including McDonald's, Canadian Tire, Lowe's, The Walt Disney Company, Toys R Us, Mattel, and Tim Horton's) which are featured in floats. In 1983, the Celebrity Clowns began and remains a tradition of the parade today.

In 2011, the parade route moved its southbound leg from Yonge Street, via Dundas Street West, to Avenue Road, Queen's Park Crescent and University Avenue, concluding at St. Lawrence Market; the change was made in order to provide more space for floats and spectators.^[12] In 2019, the route changed to begin from the east end of the city at Bloor and Parliament, owing to construction at its usual starting point.^[13]

The 2020 parade was cancelled as an in-person event due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Toronto. A broadcast-only version of the parade was filmed at the Canada's Wonderland theme park in Vaughan, which aired on December 5, 2020.

The Santa Claus Parade is back in Toronto for 2020 proving that not even a global pandemic can dampen the city's Christmas spirit. In a video update released by the The Original Santa Claus Parade's

president Clay Charters and Toronto mayor John Tory alongside Mr. and Mrs. Claus, the group announced that in order to bring Santa to town, the parade will go on without spectators. "We know it's been a challenging year...to keep our tradition alive, the 116th Annual Santa Claus Parade will air on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. on CTV. It's sure to be the best ever Santa Claus parade TV special." The show will include over 20 floats and new features such as musical guests, celebrity appearances and marching bands that everyone can enjoy from the comfort of their home.

"We are so thankful that our sponsors and partners are enthusiastically embracing this new format," said Charters.

"It is with their support, including broadcast partner CTV, that we are able to bring the Original Santa Claus Parade to life and show Canadians that they can still get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy the parade from the comfort of their own homes."

The parade will be produced by Bell Media Studios in a closed set parade route.

"It'll allow all the young people across the country to enjoy this spectacle," said Tory. "We want everyone to know that this year's parade TV special will be one that no one will forget," replied Santa



Christmas 2020, the Pandemic Doesn't Turn Out the Lights in New York City

Many people would like to return to Christmas of the past, but NYC is instead living through a pandemic Christmas. Terry W. Sanders' photo reportage *by La Voce di New York*

Masks and social distancing have transformed the Christmas season in New York, but despite Covid-19, cheerfulness remains contagious. New Yorkers won't let the pandemic steal the magic of Christmas, but they will need to be more disciplined, as the city is already paying the price of the Thanksgiving gatherings and celebrations, and the increase in cases is expected to continue until New Year's. Although Broadway and the Rockettes have been cut out from the festivities, many of the traditional events are still scheduled, and although undergoing changes to deal with the health emergency, the city has decided not to sacrifice the holiday season's joy. But what is certain is that New Yorkers and tourist crowds that normally clog the city will be missing. do. Here are three movies you can choose to watch during the Christmas Eve or Christmas night.

WE ARE PROUD OF ALL THE MALTESE ACHIEVERS

THE WAY HOW ONE CONSUMED FOOD IN 1950'S MALTA

BY DAVID JOHN CARDONA

In view of the vital appliances that were needed in post-war - Malta

Early Post-war Malta consisted of hard living, small wages, shortage of appliances and many more. Throughout this article a brief information will be shown regarding the most crucial things that a person living in the 1950's had to use throughout his life.

Of course cookers weren't invented yet...but what surely was available were the famous 'Valor' paraffin cooking stoves also known as 'Kuciniera' in Maltese. Made in England and brought to Malta with the use of naval ships,



the Valor cooking stoves were regarded as high-quality materials which could last forever, thus being perfect to use for a family which didn't earn a lot of money. One would open the small door found at the front of the stove and light up the wick 'Ftila', place an enamel teapot on top and make a nice warm coffee in order to gain energy for a hard working day in the fields. An interesting characteristic was that the tube part of the Stove was made out of enamel which was a very good material. Prices for these normally varied from 2 to 3 Pounds

Another appliance which was available was the kerosene cooking stove known as 'spiritiera' in Maltese. Basically this had the same use as the one mentioned previously, but had some structural differences mainly not having a small door to light the wick up but having to light it from the top part. The shapes were totally different but they served the same purpose. They were available in 3 modes, one which consisted of a single knob and had a single burner, the other consisted of 2 knobs and had 2 burners and the other consisted of 3 knobs and had 3 burners. Its material was made out of enamel and were regarded as high class. Prices varied between 5 to 6 Pounds



Another appliance which was well popular amongst maltese people was the coffee grinder well known as 'Mithna tal-kafé' in Maltese. This was affordable for many families and was to be found almost in every house. It was normally used for coffee but was even used for other purposes, mainly grinding into bits hard shelled food like walnuts and other nuts.



One would grind the food and when ready would pick it from the small wood drawer. Prices varied between 2 to 3 pounds.

An appliance which was well used in the 1950's were the cups used for cottage cheese. These cups were handmade out of hay since plastic wasn't available unlike nowadays. The majority of families in Gozo had sheep, cows, hens and many other animals. They used to make cheese out of the goat's milk and used to place it in these cups.

As we can see, in the past a total different situation was present but although there was a scarcity of materials, unity was present amongst all the family members and everyone grew up appreciating the little things in life. To be continued.....

I wish you a very merry christmas full of love and prosperity!

Christmas Maltese Fruitcake - A dark, rich, well spiced old fashioned English style fruitcake that can be made weeks in advance of Christmas.

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups chopped dried prunes (6 oz), chopped
- 1 1/4 cups chopped dates (6 oz), chopped
- 1 1/2 cups dark raisins (8 oz)
- 1 1/4 cups golden raisins (6 oz)
- 1 1/4 cups currents (6 oz)
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 3/4 cup molasses
- 1/2 cup coffee liqueur, or 1/2 cup strong black coffee
- Zest and juice of 2 oranges
- 1 cup chopped glace cherries
- 1 cup candied citrus peel
- 1 1/2 cups toasted pecans (7 oz), roughly chopped
- 2 tsp allspice
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp powdered ginger
- 1 tsp cloves
- 2 tsp nutmeg
- 3 tbsp cocoa
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup ground hazelnuts or almonds
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda

Instructions

1. In a large saucepan melt the butter over medium heat and add the raisins, dates, prunes, currents, brown sugar, molasses, spices, coffee liqueur (or coffee) and the orange zest and juice.
2. Bring to a gentle boil and very slowly simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and allow to cool for 30-45 minutes.
4. When cool stir in the beaten eggs.
5. Sift together, flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda.
6. Add the ground nuts and fold through the boiled mixture. Fold in cherries, citrus peel and pecans. Pour into prepared baking pan. You can decorate the top with additional pecan halves, cherries etc., if you like.
7. Bake at 300 degrees F for 1 1/2 to 2 hours depending upon the size of your pan. Mine took the full two hours in a 10 inch spring form pan. The cake should feel firm to the touch at the centre and a wooden toothpick inserted into the center should come out clean. The cake should be cooled completely in the pan on a wire rack before removing.
8. At this point you can poke small holes in the top and bottom of the cake with a fork and pour on 4 ounces of dark rum or your favorite whiskey, half on the top, wait ten minutes, then flip it over and pour the remaining half on the bottom.
9. Soak several layers of cheesecloth in additional rum if you like and wrap completely around the cake, then cover with several layers of plastic wrap and store in a COOL place.
10. When serving, you can add a layer of marzipan or if you have decorated the top with fruit and nuts, brush with a simple glaze of equal parts water and sugar boiled together for about 10-15 minutes.



BOXING DAY = THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

26TH DECEMBER

St. Stephen, the first of the Martyrs, d. c. 34AD, was a popular deacon in the early Church of Jerusalem, who distributed alms to the orphans and poor. He was falsely accused of blasphemy and stoned to death by the Jewish Authorities.

His martyrdom was witnessed by the Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus—who would later convert to Christianity and become St. Paul the Apostle.

St. Stephen is the Patron Saint of deacons, and stonemasons, and is usually shown with a martyr's palm and three stones. His Feast Day is celebrated as 'Boxing Day' in New Zealand, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

The Guild of St. Stephen traditionally award their crosses, medals and awards to altar servers on this day.



St. Stephen by Giacomo Cavedone, 1611 (detail)

The day after Christmas, which is today known as Boxing Day, was the feast day of St Stephen, the first Christian martyr or protomartyr. Stephen was stoned to death after being accused of blasphemy and his death was witnessed by Paul the Apostle, then known as Saul of Tarsus. This public holiday is celebrated on 26th December in several countries as part of the Christmas holidays. Typically it will be moved and celebrated on the next weekday if 26th December is a Saturday or Sunday. If Christmas Day falls on a weekend, Boxing Day may be observed on Tuesday 27th December.

It has been said that the name of Boxing Day comes from people getting rid of empty boxes from presents after Christmas day. While a beguiling notion, the tradition dates back to England in the middle ages, though the exact origin is debatable.

One theory is that it comes from the fact that servants were given their presents in boxes on this day, the 26th being the first working day after Christmas day. This tradition of giving gifts for service extended beyond servants to tradesmen, such as milkmen, butchers, etc.

Another popular theory is that it is named after the custom of priests opening alms boxes in churches after Christmas. These held money which had been donated to the poor and needy in the run-up to Christmas. Some churches still open these boxes on Boxing Day.

Australia In South Australia, Boxing day is known as **Proclamation day**. It celebrates the proclamation of South Australia as a British province by Captain John Hindmarsh when he arrived at Holdfast Bay on 28 December 1836. In South Africa, December 26th is a public holiday known as the **Day of Goodwill**. Before 1980, the day was celebrated as Boxing Day. It has been a Bank Holiday in England, Wales and Northern Ireland since 1871. Having this status during the height of the British Empire explains why this holiday is still celebrated in many Commonwealth countries.

St. Stephen's Day - In non-Commonwealth countries, the day is more commonly referred to as St Stephen's Day or the feast of Stephen as mentioned in the carol 'Good King Wenceslas'.

Oliver Friggieri – In Memoriam!

Roderick Bovingdon NSW Australia



My very good friends! Patriots! True friends of Malta!

With the saddest loss of our national shining light – Oliver Friggieri, beacon to our minuscule nation - a nation so great at heart and soul - now is our hour of reflection, of introspection. This is our opportune moment to rally our thoughts, our individual consciences, to put aside all egocentricities, to tackle as one the myriad negative subtleties confronting our national identity emanating from within as much as from without.

I believe we collectively owe our departed friend Oliver, our loyalty to his national plea with which



so many of us sympathise; way beyond the solid nay flamboyant appearance of an inanimate public monument, as well intentioned and deserving this truly is.

For just as much do I genuinely believe that our national idiom – still lingering with deep seated prejudices and bigotry from yore that threaten its very foundations - through the conscious and intentional erosion of our ancient, rich,

mellifluous Maltese idiom, needs our continuing guidance, support and defence that *others* from within our very ranks, merely purport the very role they claim to uphold.

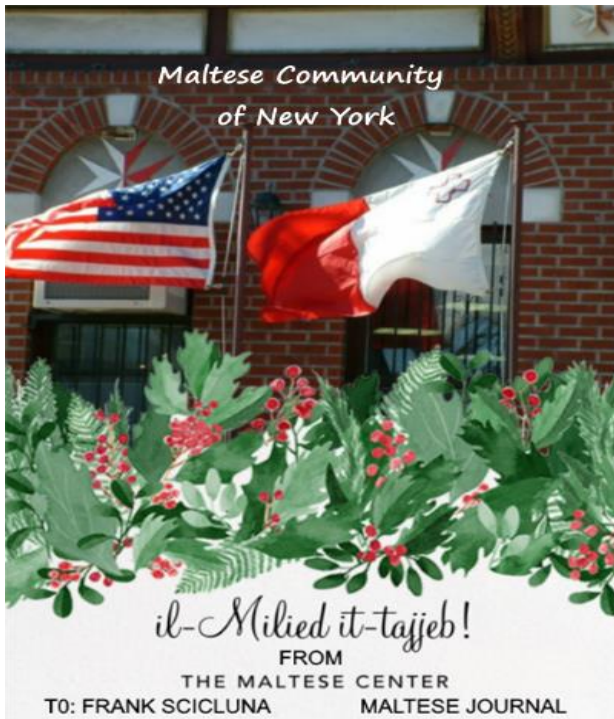
Though none of us humans ever attain perfection – and Oliver was no exception to this axiom – it is difficult for me to foresee in our near future, any one individual from within our own fraternity, who can replace the void Oliver's ominous absence blatantly reveals in the sphere of his unique specialty!

Language! More specifically the Maltese language, was ultimately his national cry! For within his native idiom he so dearly revered, he foresaw our redemption, our continuation as the proud people we Maltese truly and deservedly are.

This, our solidarity in pursuing Oliver's national convictions through the diligent preservation of our national indigenous tongue, will serve, I firmly believe, to fortify our crumbling Maltese identity.

Let it be noted by all that throughout my entire adult life – Oliver Friggieri was quick to observe this indefatigable pure Maltese trait in all my cultural, aesthetic, intellectual endeavours, along with other distinguished Maltese citizens such as Ġużè Aquilina, Ġużè Galea, Ninu Cremona, Charles Camilleri, Erin Serracino Inglott, Agatha Barbara, Anton Buttigieg, Peter Serracino Inglott, Ġużè Cardona, Dun Frans Camilleri, Censu Tabone and several others who are still with the living - our rich and sophisticated Maltese idiom is the supreme catalyst which sealed our lifetime friendship. And it will be this same force which will see our Maltese idiom untampered through the present and forthcoming threats emanating from our not so clever human civilisation.

Without these unshakeable convictions our ancient rich traditions, as revealed within the intricate beauty of our unique Maltese discourse, will not survive the present century! This plea, this cry, out of the depths of my inner soul, goes out to all red bloodied Maltese, without fear or favour, lest we forget Oliver Friggieri's ultimate message to one and all



FATHER CAUCHI osa from MALTA, Qed niktiblek b-ilsien t' dik l-Omm li tgħatulna fl-okkażżjoni tat-Tifkira olenni tat-Twelid ta'idna Ġesu' Krisu ki ukoll tat-tmien ta' din is-sena u l-bidu tad-dieħla. 2021.

Din is-sena kienet ta' ġid u ta' niket għalija Għalija kienet ta' ġid għat-tagħrif tiegħek u tan-gurnali li għoġbok tibgħatli li huma ta' inters kbi għalija. Fihom sibt ħana affarijiet li qabel ma kontx nafhom. Mhux biex niftaħr jiena ktibt fil-gurnali kolha ta' Malta dwar l-istorja, imma ċerti affarijiet ma kontx nafhom. Din is-sena kienet ta' ħsara kbira għad-dinja kollha kif ukoll għall-hartna bl-epidemja tal-coronavirus. Nittmaw li s-sena d-dieħla tkun aħjar.

Xewqat tajba tal-Milied u tas-sena l-Ġdida flimkien mal-Barka tal-bambin ta' Betlemm, t'Ommu Marija w ta' San Ġużepp lilek, lill-Familja tiegħek, u lill-Maltin kull fejn jinsabu. P.Mark Cauhi O.S.A



Bl-isbah xewqat għall-Milied u s-Sena l-Ġdida

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Feliz Natal e Próspero Ano Novo

John Camilleri
Embaixador

Embaixada de República de Malta
Av. da Liberdade, 245-4ºD 1250-143 LISBOA

During these difficult times, we need to keep our spirits up and celebrate Christmas as normal as possible. I would like to remember all those who died during this pandemic period and their families, relatives and friends. I thank God that this journal has been a helping hand to many people who were and still suffering pain and loneliness as a result of this wicked virus. Our scribscription during this year has doubled and I am pleased that I have reached our objective i.e. connecting communities and building bridges.

Maltese film selected for World Cinema Dramatic Competition at Sundance

Writer-Director Maltese-American Alex Camilleri is an alum of both the Sundance and Film Independent labs and is currently preparing his feature-length debut, **LUZZU**.

The project has won national funding in Malta, was selected for the Les Arcs Works-In-Progress screening, and will premiere in 2021. His short film and documentary work has



FESTIVAL PREDICTIONS2021
Sundance Film Festival Predictions
Alex Camilleri's Luzzu



played globally, winning such awards as "Best Student Documentary" for [STILL HERE](#) in the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at the 63rd Cannes Film Festival.

Luzzu follows Jesmark, a struggling Maltese fisherman, who is forced into the cutthroat black market fishing industry to change his family's fate and provide for his girlfriend and newborn baby.

Luzzu's production is filled with local talent beyond its main cast: Jesmark Scicluna, Michela Farrugia, and David Scicluna.. Alex Camilleri wrote and directed the

film while Rebecca Anastasi, Ramin Bahrani, Alex Camilleri, and Oliver Mallia produced.

Next year's festival will have a more focused line-up to cater to a post-COVID environment, meaning *Luzzu* is just one out of 72 feature films to make it to Sundance's screens.

This year's programme will be available to a much wider audience with a seven-day virtual edition – that includes films from 29 countries (including Malta of course!) and 38 first-time features.

Luzzu's appearance in the programme for the World Cinema Dramatic Competition will be a first for Malta – with the nation only recently making forays into high-quality features. It's a sign of the kind of talent that's on offer.

Luzzu was made with the support of the Malta Film Fund and the financial incentives provided by the Malta Film Commission and the Government of Malta..

