

# Maltese eNewsletter

## Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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A free, non-political, bilingual and cultural magazine

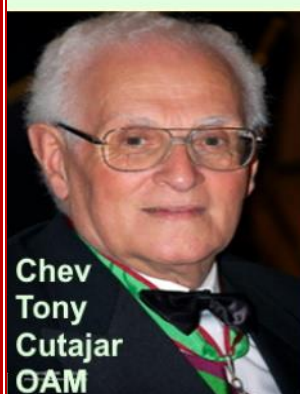


Shawn Saliba  
Mosta's Young  
Sculpture



Norman  
Conquest  
of Malta

GREAT COUNT  
ROGER  
OF  
HAUTEVILLE



Chev  
Tony  
Cutajar  
OAM



FRG MINISTRY PRESENTS  
**HOLY WEEK ONLINE RETREAT**  
LED BY FR ROB GALEA  
<https://www.facebook.com/FRGMinistry>

Fr. Rob Galea

MALTESE - AUSTRALIAN PRIEST



Tourism continues to be one of the sectors hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for countries in the Asia-Pacific region and Western Hemisphere. Governments in these regions, and elsewhere, have taken measures to ease the economic shock to households and businesses, but longer-term the industry will need to adapt to a post-pandemic “new normal.”

If you are hesitant to hop on a plane these days, you are not alone. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), tourist arrivals are estimated to have fallen 74 percent in 2020 compared to 2019.

For many developing countries in the Asia-Pacific and Western Hemisphere—small island states in particular—the effects have been severe. Before the pandemic hit, tourism was big business, accounting for more than 10 percent of global GDP. The share was even larger in tourism-dependent countries.

**Toward recovery** To recover, vaccines will need to be widely distributed, and policy solutions implemented. Some governments have been providing financial support, either directly or through soft loans and guarantees to the industry. Thailand allocated \$700 million to spur domestic tourism, while Vanuatu offered grants to small and medium-sized enterprises. Countries have also been assisting firms to adapt their business models and retrain staff. In Jamaica, the government gave free online training

## Tourism-dependent economies are among those harmed the

### most by the pandemic

certification classes to 10,000 tourism workers to help improve their skills.

However, many tourism-dependent economies are hampered by limited fiscal space. New initiatives to reignite the sector could perhaps help. In Costa Rica, for example, national holidays have temporarily been moved to Mondays to boost domestic tourism by extending weekends. Barbados introduced a ‘Welcome Stamp’ visa—a one-year residency permit that allows remote employees to live and work from the country. Similarly, Fiji launched a Blue Lanes initiative that allows yachts to berth in its marinas after meeting strict quarantine and testing requirements.

Post-pandemic, a continuing shift toward ecotourism—a fast-growing industry focused on conservation and local job creation—could give an additional boost to the industry. This is already a key element of Costa Rica’s tourism strategy. Thailand too is trying to shift to niche markets, including adventure travel and health and wellness tours.

Technology can also play an important role. With social distancing and health and hygiene protocols likely to remain in place for the foreseeable future, touchless service delivery and investments in digital technology could be a bridge to recovery.

Solutions will differ from country to country, and the pace and scope of recovery will of course depend on global developments. But there is an important opportunity to be harnessed. Beyond the immediate priority of mitigating the impact of the pandemic, countries will need to create a “new normal” for the tourism industry. Diversifying, shifting to more sustainable tourism models and investing in new technologies could help to shape the recovery



## FRIENDS OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION (FOAA MALTA)

It was Mgr. Philip Calleja who in April 1977 founded the Friends of Australia Association (Malta) after a number of meetings with interested people. An election was held and Mr. Tony C. Cutajar, who took active part in the discussions, was elected President of the new Association. The Patron is the Australian High Commissioner for Malta.



**Recipients of the Order of Australia Medal, Mgr Philip Calleja, Josephine Zammit Cordina, Virgil Bugeja and Tony Cutajar with former Australian High Commissioner Jane Lambert (second from left).**

The main aim of the Association is the promotion of friendship and good relations between Malta and Australia by means of cultural, educational and social activities. It regularly helps relatives of migrants and returned migrants especially with problems about

dual citizenship and pensions.



**FOAA Committee on the occasion of the presentation of the OAM medal to Chev. Tony C. Cutajar by the High Commissioner for Australia.**

In the past we took active part in calling on the Australian and Maltese governments for the re-establishment of the post of High Commissioner for Malta when this was abolished. We made our voice heard especially concerning double taxation, dual citizenship and payment for visas. We held talks on Australian pensions and Social Security benefits and organized

surveys and questionnaires. We also spoke on behalf of the children of returned migrants who found difficulties to enter the Junior Lyceum due to exams in the Maltese language.

Every year we take active part in Australia Day, Anzac Day and organise all sorts of activities for our 350 or so members. We have had occasions when, in conjunction with Dar l-Emigrant, we welcomed to our country such eminent persons as Governor General Bill Hayden, the Archbishop of Sydney Cardinal George Pell, the Bishop of Melbourne Mgr. Joseph Grech and various Ministers and members of the Australian government.

### FOAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Australia Association (Malta) supplies free administrative services and advise to all members and also those who may need our services with regard to:

Maltese and Australian pensions,

Emigration and matters related to all necessary qualifications,

Citizenship of both countries,  
Passports and ID cards for returned migrants,  
Employment in Malta by liaising with the ETC,  
Advise on taxation as well as information on the purchase of property in so far as rights and obligations are concerned,  
Maintain updated information especially from Australia on matters of interest to returned migrants.  
The FOAA has an excellent rapport with the Australian High Commission, as well as with both the Maltese and Australian departments dealing with Social Welfare. TC CUTAJAR

## **CHEV. TONY C. CUTAJAR OAM**

### **Ex-President of the Friends of Australia (Malta)**

TONY C. CUTAJAR was born in Gżira on 28 July 1936, studied at Stella Maris College, the University of Malta and that of London and at Manchester Training College. He taught English and French up to sixth form level in UK where he studied and taught for 10 years. These subjects he also taught in Malta from 1969 till 1997. He obtained a scholarships in French at the Sorbonne, on Shakespeare at Stratford-on-Avon and in teaching English through TV in London and Birmingham



Tony C. Cutajar is one of the most prolific authors of the Maltese islands although he also writes in English. He has written well over a 150 published fiction and nonfiction works, including children's books and textbooks, some of which won national prizes. He also produced the first eight e-books in Maltese mainly for young adults, as well as a number of others in English. His radioplays and serials have been broadcast for several years on National Radio and Television, some of which have also won first place in various drama festivals at the Manoel Theatre.

He produced radio and TV programmes, was the first Mayor of San Gwann, belongs to the Order of St. Lazarus and in 2009 was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) by the Governor-General of Australia Quentin Bryce for services to Australia-Malta bilateral relations. He was President of the FRIENDS OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION (MALTA) for almost 40 years.

Recently Tony was presented with the silver medal by the Grand Master of the Order of St. Lazarus, Don Carlos Gereda de Bourbon, Marquis of Almazan, for his work in the Order of Charity in aid of the lepers in third world countries.

At 85, Tony is still active by writing and publishing new novels in English and Maltese. He is married to Antoinette nee Bason, has two children Owen and Fiona and five grandchildren.

**A LETTER FROM SPAIN** - First of all, I hope that you're doing well. Once again I would like to thank you and show my appreciation for what you have achieved by keeping all of us informed about Malta and its history. I read the interesting article about Manuel Magri and would like to mention that during one of our trips, we saw his photo with an inscription, in Romania in a place called Oradea, it was located in a garden belonging to one of the famous villa / Museum. Amazing how despite the small size of the island, Maltese are well known in many parts of the world. Take care and enjoy your retirement.  
Regards Godfrey Vella Spain

## Norman Conquest of Malta



At the end of the tenth century the centre of the Mediterranean was a battlefield for the three great powers of the time: the [Byzantines](#), the [Muslims](#) and the [Normans](#). The Normans first arrived in Italy in 1014AD and in 1091 the Normans under [Roger Hauteville](#) took over all Sicily from the Arabs after thirty years of warfare. From there Count Roger sailed to Malta.

The Arabs in Malta quickly surrendered to the Normans and the terms of surrender included that all Christian slaves be freed. All horses and weapons were to be handed to the Normans and freedom of worship was allowed for all, with Christians and Muslims being treated equally. The Norman Court in Palermo was known for its tolerance of cultural diversity, as proven by the fact that Maltese Arab culture peaked in the 12th century, after Roger the Norman had occupied the country, when Muslim natives of Malta were among the leading writers and artists in the court of King Roger II. Still, non-Christians were required to pay a tax.

Following the full annexation of the Maltese Islands by [Roger II](#) in 1127, twelfth century Malta and Gozo were gradually drawn into the new political, economic and social systems of Latin Christian rule. Malta proved its worth, as it would many times over, as a naval stepping stone contributing to the Norman conquest of Djerba in 1135, and the North African territories in the 1140s. However the legend that Malta's national flag originates from Count Roger's coat of arms is a recent myth – still so strong that Masses are said on the 4th of November for the repose of the Count's soul.

From the mid-twelfth century onwards, the Latin Christian church started establishing itself in Sicily and Malta. Still, a 1240 report [1] records more than eight hundred Muslim families still lived in the Maltese islands around 1240 and Bishops to Malta usually remained in Sicily. Until 1156 the Archbishop of Palermo was in charge of the Maltese diocese but in 1168 the bishop of Malta, John, is mentioned by name. However, the [Majmuna tombstone](#) dated 1174 shows that the religions existed side by side for at least a century after Count Roger's son King Roger took over Malta fully in 1127 so Malta's Arab-speaking Christian population essentially hung between two worlds.

A Latin-Arabic document issued in November 1198 by the Empress Constance to "the whole people of the entire island of Malta and of the entire island of Gozo, our loyal Christian and Saracen subjects alike (Latin) / to all the Christians and the Muslims of Malta and Gozo – may God guide them! (Arabic)" gives much new information about late 12th century Sicily and Malta. The document throws new light on the Maltese archipelago under Norman rule, confirming that already under Roger II, in the words of Gilierto Abbate, "the men of these islands [lived] according to different customs and laws than [did] the men of our kingdom of Sicily".

Christian missionaries worked among the Muslim serfs in the Maltese countryside along with Greek hermits. [2] At this time many churches and chapels were rebuilt, some of the Byzantine and early Christian sites around the islands served as underground churches and Muslim places of worship were turned into Christian churches. The isolation of Malta and Pantalleria explains their cultural differences to Sicily in late medieval times when most people in the Maltese islands and Pantelleria continued to speak Arabic, whilst Sicilian was normally used for written communication in the Norman reign.

Strangely, Arab culture on the islands peaked in the 12th century, after Roger the Norman had occupied the country when Muslim natives of Malta were among the leading writers and artists in the court of King Roger II. By the end of the 12th Century the Norman reign in Southern Italy, Sicily and Malta had crumbled for several reasons including attacks by naval forces from Pisa and Genoa, but left an indelible mark on Maltese history, claiming Malta from the Arab world and planting it firmly in Western Europe.





## National Archives of Malta

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Head Office of the National Archives of Malta

at the Santo Spirito Hospital of [Rabat](#)

The **National Archives of Malta** ([Maltese](#): *L-arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta*)<sup>[1]</sup> is the central [archive](#) maintained by the [Mediterranean island nation of Malta](#). The Archives has been housed in the [Grandmaster's Palace](#) for most of its lifetime, having moved to three separate locations during the late 1980s. In

1988, the Legal Documentation Section of the National Archives of Malta was opened, after records of court and tribunal hearings and decisions had been transferred to a [Mdina](#) facility beginning the previous year. A [Gozo](#) facility was opened soon after, and in 1994, the then-[President of Malta](#), [Ugo Mifsud Bonnici](#), officially opened the Archives' new [Rabat](#) head office and main facility. All of the Archives' locations feature a reading room, with facilities for researchers open to those over the age of sixteen who produce valid identification.

In recent years, the National Archives of Malta has been increasing its presence on the Internet, in line with many of its national archival counterparts throughout the world. This effort has included enabling members of the public to search the records of the Archives online, and view a short description of what is contained in the records found. Other efforts have included the digitising of a number of the Archives' holdings, the release of many of the Archives' publications on its web site, the sale of copies of the Archives' holdings through its 'e-shop', and an online presence for Malta's *National Memory Project*, dedicated to eternalising the memories of those who have contributed to the history of Malta.

Efforts to establish a national archive began in 1971, when a Committee on the Preservation of Public Records was established by Guze' Cassar Pullicino. One year later, in 1972, a section of Malta's public records at [Casa Leoni](#) was opened up to the public and research facilities were provided for the public's use. Initially under the oversight of Malta's Ministry for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the Archives moved to the [Grandmaster's Palace](#), the home of the [House of Representatives of Malta](#), within a few months. At that point, the government official in charge of the Archives was Michael Ellul.

In January 1986, a governmental committee was established to discuss options for the management of Malta's public records. It was decided that a stand-alone National Archives of Malta would be established, to be headquartered in [Rabat](#) in a building that once housed a hospital. In addition, the [Banca Giuratale](#) in [Mdina](#) was identified as suitable to house the records of Malta's courts from the beginning of the occupation of Malta by the [Knights Hospitaller](#) to the early period of occupation by the [United Kingdom](#). In September 1987, the transfer of court records to the Mdina building began and was completed in October 1988. The transfer of all other records to the Rabat facility was not completed until July 28, 1989, and the official opening of the building did not occur until May 28, 1994, when [Ugo Mifsud Bonnici](#), the fifth [President of Malta](#), presided over the opening. At that time, the officer in charge was Joe Caruana.

The first regulating Act for the National Archives of Malta was Act IV, passed in 1990. Catalogues were published on [CD-ROM](#), an annual lecture was established and an exhibition centre was opened. In 2005, Act V came into force, creating the post of National Archivist (currently Charles

J. Farrugia) and created the National Archives as a [legal person](#) under the Government of Malta's umbrella. Since its opening, the National Archives have opened up three new facilities.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Facilities and services** The National Archives of Malta maintains three facilities across Malta. The first facility to be opened was the Legal Documentation Section, located in [Mdina](#), which was opened in 1988. This facility is located in an old bank building and houses court and tribunal records dating back to those decisions made under the [Knights Hospitaller](#). The second facility is the Archives' [Gozo](#) location, which holds over 9,000 items. The final facility to be opened was the Head Office, located in [Rabat](#), which was officially opened in 1994. This facility houses most of Malta's official records, and is the Archives' main facility.

The National Archives of Malta offers services available to all residents of Malta, although many of its on-site facilities are only open to residents over the age of sixteen years.<sup>[4]</sup> The National Archives repositories contain reading rooms accessible to the public. Visitors are required to show identification to enter. The National Archives' reading rooms contain a reference library, printed catalogues, photocopying facilities, an information desk featuring a number of publications and fact sheets and tools for preserving Malta's records. Items stored in the archives may be accessed by members of the public by filling out a form. The records are then brought out to the requester's table. In addition, the National Archives features a number of maps, plans and drawings of various public location in Malta, as well as photography work on royal celebrations and reconstruction work.

In addition, the National Archives of Malta offers a group and school visit program to increase public awareness of the records held there. Groups of 25 people or less may be taken through the Archives and shown what it has to offer, and school visits can be arranged in both the Archives' Rabat and Mdina locations. School students are shown through the Archives to increase awareness of what they have to offer and also shown how archived documents are handled. Students are also given the chance to experience the difficulty involved in cataloging and reorganising the Archives' items.

**Online services** The National Archives of Malta, like its counterparts in other areas of the world, has been moving to increase the availability of its services on the Internet. A number of items in its collection have been, or are in the process of being, digitised,<sup>[7]</sup> and a catalogue listing search, along with a short description of each item, is available online on the Archives' web site. The Archives releases many of its publications, including periodical newsletters, its annual report and the State of the Archives report, on its web site, and maintains an 'e-shop' to facilitate the sale of copies of some of its text and image holdings to interested members of the public. It is also possible to search the holdings of Malta's *National Memory Project*, a memory of those who have contributed to the history of Malta, through the Archives' web site.

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA**



Heritage Malta's [website](#) will be temporarily substituting physical visits to museums and sites, which are closed until the 11th of April, following the announcement of further mitigation measures against Covid-19.

"Part of our mission as the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage is to ensure accessibility to our cultural patrimony. During the next few weeks, as we did last year, we will fulfil this mission by providing virtual accessibility through our website and social media platforms," said Noel Zammit, Heritage Malta Chief Executive Officer.

The website offers tailor-made experiences for the current circumstances, aiming to meet the tastes and needs of various audiences. [Heritage Malta's You Tube channel](#) is also very popular. <https://heritagemalta.org/>



## Caroline Springs George Cross FC

### 74th anniversary

On March 12 1947 George Cross FC was officially launched. Maltese migrants Danny Gatt, Bill Sandham and Angelo Puli instigated the formation of a Maltese backed football team after the Second World War. Our first team was entered in 1948, when we joined the Third Division, with our first match played on Saturday May 8 1948 against Woodlands who we beat 2–0. Our achievements include winners of the Australian Cup in 1964, and being named champions of the 1977 Victorian State League, a league we were also runners up in on 9 occasions. In 1983, George Cross amalgamated with Sunshine City to become Sunshine George Cross. Having been one of eight Victorian clubs to have participated in Australia's National Soccer League, our best achievement was reaching the playoffs as finalists in the 1986 season.

We have produced 5 Weinstein Medalists and three Bill Fleming Medalists and have been the home for players John Markovski, Craig Foster, Kevin Muscat, Emmanuel Muscat and Andrew Nabbout. For the 2019 season, coinciding with the move to Fraser Rise, we changed our name to Caroline Springs George Cross FC. Our first game at City Vista Recreation Reserve was on June 30 2019, where we defeated league-leading side

Sydenham Park 1–0. To our Georgies family we say Happy Birthday!



## **Artistic productions broadcast on Maltese television by the MCC in collaboration with EUFSC**

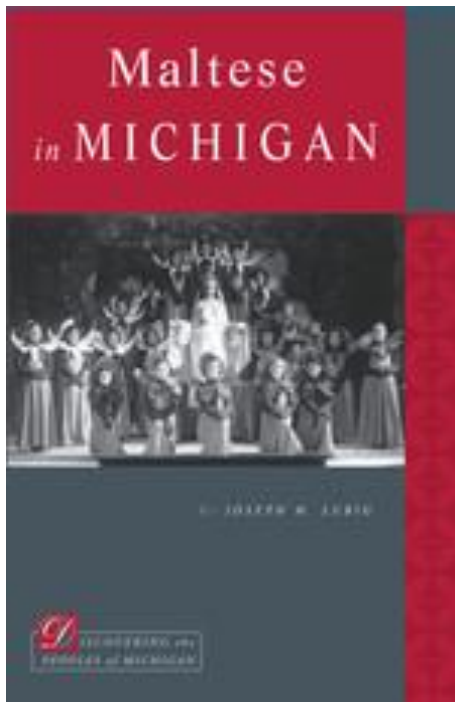
The Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) and the European Foundation for the Support of Culture (EUFSC) are known for the high quality work they do for Maltese culture and the arts, both in our country and internationally.

Over the last few years many collaborations have taken place between these organisations, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been forced to adapt to the current climate and therefore many planned events had to be canceled. In response to the pandemic, the MCC decided to adapt its current projects to comply with restrictions imposed by health authorities. To this end, a Music Director was engaged to record and film some of the most important organ works composed by JS Bach on the Walcker organ at the 'Mother of Good Counsel' church in Paceville.

This project is being carried out in collaboration between the Mediterranean Conference Centre and the Augustinian community in Paceville. In addition to the works composed by Bach, the repertoire presented will also feature works by contemporary Maltese composers, including a world premiere of the newly commissioned Tryptich, a work by Alex Vella Gregory.

These productions will be broadcast on Maltese television, as part of the MCC and EUFC policy to increase the accessibility of culture to the general public. <https://www.tvn.com.mt/>





## MALTESE IN MICHIGAN - USA

Joseph M. Lubig

### THE MALTESE AS EARLY PATRIOTS IN AMERICA

Given the strategic location of Malta in the

of political or religious persecution, disease, or famine. The Maltese came to the United States to capture a better life for themselves and for their children. Emigration has been a release valve for the Maltese government, as evidenced by the incentives offered to potential migrants. One of the incentives offered after World War II was the "assisted passage grant," allowing government-sponsored passage for Maltese to emigrate to Canada, England, Australia, and the United States for a fee of \$25 (in U.S. money), with the Maltese government paying the rest of the expense.

**ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY** Through written histories and personal interviews with the seven Zampa children we can see that the path from Malta to America did not always go according to plan. The plans for their journey would be completed in two phases with Michael, the father, traveling to Detroit first with daughters Rosemarie and Yvonne. Stella would stay in Malta with Victor, Henry, Margaret, Marion, and Irene. Michael Zampa was able to book a flight for him, Yvonne, and Rosemarie aboard a plane to Tunis. The three left on October 6, 1946, aboard a small plane with twelve other passengers.

**CONNECTIONS TO THE CHURCH** The Maltese are clearly affiliated with one religious group. It is easy to understand from their history that 98 percent of Maltese adhere to the Roman Catholic faith. The Maltese who came to America and to Michigan kept their allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic church of the first Maltese in Detroit was staffed by Maltese priests. Father Attard tells of the early Maltese church in Detroit: A prominent Maltese within the community in Detroit since 1920 was the Rev. Michael Borg who had arrived in that city to work among the Maltese in December 1920. The Maltese...

**THE STRUGGLE TO BECOME "AMERICAN"** Maltese priests, acting through the National Welfare Conference, advocated for

Mediterranean and the fact that it was tiny and overcrowded, it was natural that Maltese went with the Knights of Malta and other nations to find a new life and opportunity in the Americas. The first governor of New France, Chevalier de Montmagny (1636–1648) was a Knight of Malta and brought associate knights with him. It was at this time that a small Maltese population began to reside in Quebec. Under Montmagny, the Knights provided financial assistance to the first Jesuit missions to the Native Americans.

Between 1651 and 1665 the...

**COMING TO AMERICA PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II** Perhaps the social restrictions placed on males due to the dense population of the country combined with the desire for better paying or more consistent work led to the start of the waves of emigration. The first movement out of the country began in 1883, when seventy workers emigrated from Malta to Queensland, Australia. Political complications put this plan and additional ideas of mass emigration to Australia on hold. At the turn of the nineteenth century Maltese migrants were looking at North Africa, with a few making the journey to Australia and the United States, specifically to New Orleans.

**WORLD WAR II AND IMMIGRATION** The Maltese did not come to the America because

Congress to relax the 1921 and 1924 laws limiting immigration. The strong Maltese connection to the Roman Catholic Church made the Maltese attentive to the pleas of other Catholics when they encouraged the Maltese to assimilate. Americanization committees worked diligently to teach immigrants to appreciate and understand democracy. The industrial city of Detroit had the largest Maltese colony, which by 1924 probably counted some 5,000 members. Most of the men worked in the car industry. The Americanization Committee of Detroit established a Maltese Information Bureau, which printed a circular letter...

**KEEPING THE MALTESE IDENTITY** One way for an ethnic group to establish itself in a community was through the media. The need for immigrants to know they were in a familiar setting could help them carry the customs, folklore, language, and customs of their home country to their new world. The Maltese in Detroit established this link between their old

and new identities through media and social events that helped reinforce their identity.

The first attempt at a weekly paper for the Maltese in Detroit had its roots at the Maltese American Printing Company. This is the same company that was collecting donations for...

**THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS** During the first wave of immigration in the 1920s some Maltese opened up their own eateries. One place at 972 Michigan Avenue was called the So Different Restaurant, boasting that it was "The best place to eat." Other eateries followed, such as the Melita Bakery at 2511 Fifth Street, which achieved popularity because it could offer breads baked in the traditional Maltese style. Father Attard writes of several other local Maltese businesses during this period. Grech and Brincat operated the General Grocers on Howard Street; John Vella ran the School of Dancing at 1355 Howard Street; and Anthony DeGuara,



*Go with the Flo.*  
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## Gozo Philatelic Society May 26, 2020

This article is dedicated to all health workers

### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE VISITED MALTA ON TWO OCCASIONS

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale the WHO has dedicated the year 2020 to nurses and midwives. Nurse's day is celebrated on 12th May the birthdate of Florence Nightingale. Few people know that Florence has visited Malta twice, first on her way to Egypt in November 1849 and the second time on her way to

the Crimean War in 1854.

Throughout the years many countries issued stamps to commemorate this incredible lady and the work she has done. On her return to England after the end of the Crimean War she appealed for a commission to be set up to improve drastically the state of hospitals in the Mediterranean including those of Malta.

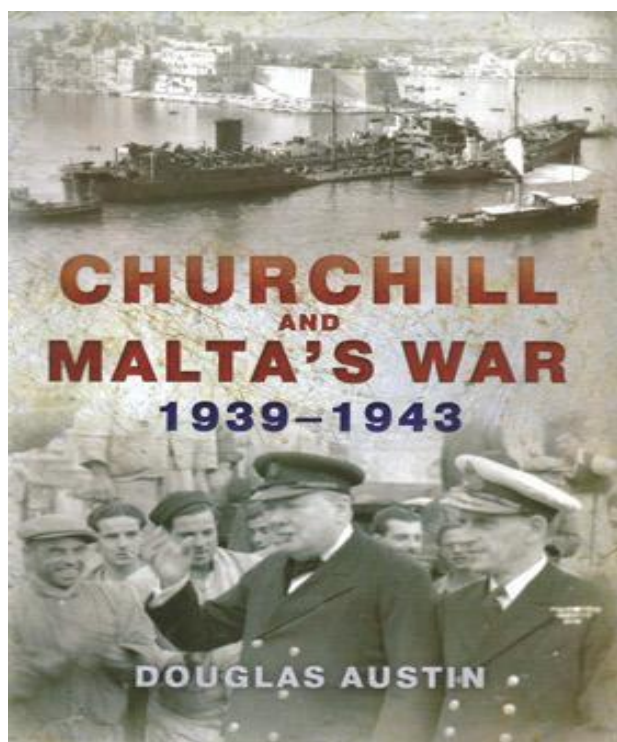


During World War I Malta has earned the name as Nurse of the Mediterranean because a lot of sick and wounded soldiers were brought to Malta. On 7th November 2014 MaltaPost issued a set of three stamps, two depicting Bighi and Floriana Hospitals where sick and wounded soldiers were treated and the other stamp depicts HMHS Rewa used as a British hospital ship. Unfortunately this vessel was hit and sunk by a torpedo from the German U-boat U-55 on its

way to Britain from Malta carrying 279 wounded officers.

During that time the Malta Centre of St. John's Ambulance and the British Red Cross Society were amalgamated for better and more efficient organisation.





In his dispatch of 5 June 1941 to Malta's Governor, General Dobbie, Churchill stated: *'You may be sure we regard Malta as one of the master-keys of the British Empire'*. Austin D., *Churchill and Malta – A Special Relationship*.

Once, Mussolini had declared war on France and Britain on June 10 1940, the Maltese archipelago was virtually isolated by some one thousand miles from (Gibraltar) on the West and by another thousand miles from the East (Alexandria, Egypt). To the South on the North African coast, British troops who had claimed victory over the Italians in December 1940 were in their turn defeated early in 1941 by General Rommel and the whole of Cyrenaica was soon in German hands. Worst of all, Malta, situated a mere fifteen minutes flying distance to the South of Sicily, became liable to swift airborne

## CHURCHILL AND MALTA

attacks. The battleships that once graced the Grand Harbour had been moved to Alexandria for safe keeping against any eventual (Pearl Harbour style) attack that could be mounted from nearby Italy.

Malta, then a British colony and an important naval base, albeit, shorn for most of the time of all British battle ships, was to endure a two year siege. An airborne fighting force was firmly established in Sicily, first by the Italian *Regia Aeronautica* and later by the German *Fliegerkorps X*. Malta's resolve to resist and break this siege was fully supported throughout the war years by Winston Churchill in his capacity as Britain's Prime Minister and Minister of Defence who presided over the War Cabinet in London.

Throughout the time that Malta was besieged, Churchill ordered no less than seventeen convoys to go to Malta's aid, in order to replenish diminishing food and military supplies. Churchill slowly furnished the 'island fortress' with Hurricanes and later on with Spitfires as well as other aircraft. These together with several submarines were to change Malta's role from a defensive one to an offensive force to be reckoned with, harassing, interrupting and sinking enemy shipping that crossed from Italy to Africa with provisions and troops to the aid of General Rommel.

## PEOPLE OF MALTA FACEBOOK



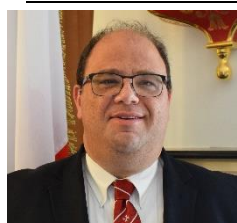
"We are known as tal-bigilla (broad bean dip). I started this work when I was 12 years old so it has been more than 30 years. My father used to sell bigilla and I always used to accompany him. We used a cart at the time. Then he had set up a cart for me too. I had started selling bigilla in Qormi. Nowadays I go around with a van around approximately 12 villages, week after week, according to the day. Only my brother and I have survived selling bigilla door to door.

Bigilla is made with broad beans, garlic and herbs - I follow my father's recipe. It takes me about 4 hours to prepare the van so that in the afternoon I go around with fresh bigilla made daily. That is why people buy from me because they appreciate a daily

fresh product, not packaged with preservatives. People who expect fresh buy from me. Although bigilla is part of the Maltese diet it originated from Egypt and entered our shores through Arab culture. In fact Egyptians use a lot of bigilla and you find quite a number of sellers like me. It is mostly consumed with bread and galletti (water biscuits) and sometimes it is used to stuff artichokes.

Apart from bigilla I also provide homemade felfel and other traditional Maltese delicacies like cod or anchovy sfineg (fried puffs of pastry).

The best part of it is that you get to meet a lot of different people and you are not stuck in one place behind a counter. I have regular customers who wait for me week after week and others who see me going through the streets and stop, buy and leave. Tourists, especially in summer when I am in Rabat, stop to enquire what it is and buy some to try it" – Peter



### **The Consulate General of Malta to Canada establishes a new reference library for Maltese Canadian students and researchers**

Maltese Canadians are very proud of their Maltese heritage and this is reflected in the growing number of enquiries the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada receives in relation to Maltese Canadian Migration history, family history searches and research about the Maltese Islands in general. To respond to this ever-growing demand, the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada informs of the establishment of a new reference library and helpline for Maltese Canadian students and researchers of Maltese Diaspora in Canada.

This small but specialised Library will compliment and work in full cooperation with the Board of the Maltese Canadian Museum, Archives Centre and Library found at the Maltese Canadian Museum hosted at the St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Parish in Malta Village in the Junction, in Toronto, in the Province of Ontario and other resources throughout Canada.

Maltese Canadian students and researchers who are interested in volunteering and/or want to make use of this service can contact directly, the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri on [raymond.c.xerri@gov.mt](mailto:raymond.c.xerri@gov.mt), on messenger, on Facebook webpage, 'Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada' or call him on 416-207-0922 or 416-207-0989.





**Fl-okkażjoni tal-100**  
**sena**  
**mill-bidu tal-Legjun**  
**ta' Marija**  
**7 ta' Settembru 1921**

Iż-żmien jgħaddi u  
 jitgerbej  
 ma jistenna żgur lil hadd  
 u bosta mill-grajjiet  
 tagħna

mill-moħħ joghsfru ta' kulhadd.

Iżda mal-mitt sena ilu  
 il-Legjun minn ta' Marija  
 go l-Irlanda Frank Duff welled -  
 Serv t'Alla mimlija tjubija!

Kien u l-elf u disa' mija  
 u magħhom wiehed u għoxrin  
 kien fis-7 ta' Settembru -  
 iż-żmien jgħaddi x'wahda din!

U minn dik il-ghodwa sbejha  
 tferrex sewwa il-Legjun  
 u mal-globu jibqa' jidwi  
 sakemm wieqfa d-dinja ddum.

Minn gos-Sema din l-Omm tagħna  
 bierket din l-inizjattiva  
 minn dejjem ħarset lill-membri  
 u dejjem qaltihom 'iva'!

F'Għawdex tagħna din il-għaqda  
 dahlet fis-sena Ħamsin  
 meta saret l-ewwel laqgħa  
 għal tal-bidu l-imsejbin!

Matul dawn is-sebghin sena  
 min jista' jkejjel il-ġid  
 mil-laqgħat bla għadd li saru  
 b'rieda soda tal-ħadid.

Kien f'San Gorg, f'parti mill-knisja  
 bdew isiru l-laqgħat -  
 minn go Malta Joseph Booker  
 żgur kien l-ewwel delegat.

Kompliet taħdem u tistinka  
 koppja Għawdxija b'tant fervur -  
 Edmea w Sander Tabone  
 tal-Legjun l-aqwa mutur!

Hafna oħrajn taw is-sehem tagħhom,  
 minn fost dawn il-Monsinjur  
 Vella Andrea illi ħadem  
 biex ixettel iktar f'jur

Biex maż-żmien il-Legjun jkber  
 u jixtered kullimkien,  
 fil-parroċċi l-ġid jagħmel  
 għal kemm għad itul iż-żmien.

U llum għall-grazzja t'Alla  
 il-*Praesidia* kibru sew;  
 min qatt jasal biex ikejjel  
 il-ġid illi lilna swew!

Il-kategoriji kollha  
 illi fiha s-soċjeta'  
 f'jum jew ieħor il-preżenza  
 ħassew fil-komunita'.

L-Isqfijiet tagħna ħabrieke  
 dejjem wrew apprezzament  
 mindu l-Legjun rifes f'Għawdex  
 hallewh miexi u fdawh bl-amment.

O Marija Omm ħanina  
 kompli ħares il-Legjun  
 eħilsu minn dan il-'virus' -  
 kun għalih int battaljun

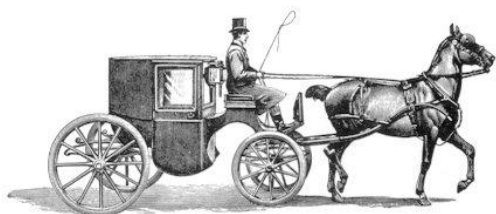
biex ikompli l-qerq jikxef  
 u t-tnassis minn tax-xitan;  
 issa lilu kompli seddaq  
 biex jimxi skont t'Alla l-pjan.

Sabiex wara lkoll magħquda  
 nigu żgur hdejk ġewwa l-Genna  
 fejn il-bniedem jgħix għal dejjem  
 fit-tgawdija u fil-hena.

**Kav Joe M Attard**  
**Rabat - Għawdex**  
**Marzu 2021**

## MURDER IN MALTA - THE CASE OF “ŽEPPI TAT-TUTTU”

[Denise Formosa](#)



On the 5th July 1862 in a huge house opposite the Granaries in Floriana, the murder of Katerina Borg took place during the dead of the night. This house still stands today, and it is very close to the Parish Church of St. Publius.

Katerina worked as a servant for the opulent De Martino family. Mr De Martino was a very successful business man and used to keep money hidden away in his large house. Whenever the need arose for him to go out, he always told Katerina never to open the main door to anyone. He was always worrying that someone would rob him...

One day, Mr and Mrs De Martino were invited to Mrs De Martino's sister for dinner at Balzan. Since they were very happy with the invitation, as they rarely met each other, they accepted and started making the necessary preparations for them to attend. Before they left the house, Mr De Martino repeated his instructions to Katerina and told her not to open the door to anyone, not even a familiar acquaintance. Katerina told her employer not to worry and go and enjoy themselves. Besides taking care of the house, she was also in charge of the De Martino's two-year-old son.

The De Martinos had a wonderful time at the De Marcos. They had a lovely dinner and chatted the whole night through. When it was time to leave their hosts, they rode the “kaless” which was driven by a horse and a coachman and started their trip home.

As soon as they bid farewell to their coachman, as they had arrived at their home in Floriana, they were about to witness a frightful scene. Mr De Martino went up the four steps to their house and saw in horror that their main entrance door was open! Somebody had got inside their home!

They quickly went indoors and discovered, that they had been robbed- all their money was taken and everywhere looked topsy turvy as the robbers had opened every single drawer and piece of furniture there was in the house.

As soon as Mr and Mrs De Martino fled upstairs to look for their son, they saw him unharmed crying on the floor. Katerina lay lifeless close to the bedroom. She had been mercilessly murdered and their son had witnessed the horrific events!

When the police inspector came to carry out the necessary interrogations, he asked the two-year-old who had hurt Katerina. The child kept repeating “Žeppi tat-Tuttu!” “Žeppi” in Maltese, is short for “Ġużeppi” meaning Joseph and “tutu” in baby language is “horse”.

After some time, the inspector realized that what the child was referring to was none other than the coachman himself. While the De Martinos were happily enjoying themselves at the De Marcos, he cunningly left the house of his employers and went to rob the De Martinos along with 2 friends. Since the De Marco coachman was no stranger to Katerina, she had opened the door for him, as he had come up with the excuse that Mr De Martino had sent him to collect some stuff as they were going to sleep at their relatives' house. Katerina had paid a very high price, as although she had tried hard to defend herself, she was killed in front of the child!

Almost immediately a proclamation was issued and whoever had any news of the killing would be given a sum of money in exchange for information. One of Žeppi's friends went to the inspector and gave him all the details, as he had happened to have waited outside until his 2 friends committed the merciless deed.

Both men were sentenced to death by hanging and without going into whether it is humane to kill a man by hanging or not, we can say that justice was served.



## Maltese-Australian Boxer Michael Zerafa sends Anthony Mundine into retirement in first-round knockout



### Anthony Pinda

**KNOCKOUT MOMENT:** Michael Zerafa sends Anthony Mundine to the canvas with a left right combo on Saturday night at the Bendigo Stadium. Picture: DARREN HOWE

It only took Michael Zerafa two minutes to defeat Anthony Mundine via first-round knockout on Saturday night at the Bendigo Stadium.

From the moment the fight began Zerafa showed

speed and aggression.

He was there to get the job done as smoothly as possible and claim the WBA Oceania middleweight title. Zerafa sent Mundine to the canvas after approximately one minute, but the 45-year-old was able to return to his feet.

However, the second time Mundine hit the canvas after a dominant combination from the 28-year-old Zerafa, the fight was all but over.

"I called this fight 15 years ago. When I was 13 I reached out to him and told him I was going to fight him, knock him out and retire him," Zerafa said ringside after the fight.

"I was real switched on for this fight as it was a must win.

"Zerafa is back."

Zerafa praised Mundine for his contributions to Australian boxing during the post-fight interview.

"Anthony, nothing but love and respect for you," he said.

"You put this sport on the map, now it's my turn to carry the torch."

Mundine said he felt comfortable in the ring during the opening moments prior to Zerafa's knockout blow. "I clipped one shot and it dazed me then he came in and finished it off like a killer," Mundine said.

"But that's boxing.

"All it takes is to catch the one shot that ends your night.

"He's a talented kid and now I want to see him and Tszyu fight, they are the two Australian boxing stars coming up."

Before the fight former-world champion Mundine said win, lose or draw to Zerafa that the night would mark the end of his career.

"I've done this for so long and now I just want to enjoy the rest of my life," Mundine said.

Looking to the future, Mundine has plans to bring positive change to the world.

"I want to work with youth and government to inspire and make change," he said.

Prior to the victory, Zerafa said he was using the bout with Mundine as a stepping stone to a fight with Tim Tszyu.

"Everyone is talking about Tim Tszyu. If he's so great then he should fight me," Zerafa said.

"The offer is there and I've made it quite clear I want to fight, I don't understand what's holding him up." [Bendigo Advertiser]

### CONNECTING COMMUNITIES MATTERS



Journal of  
Maltese Living Abroad



**Maltese e-Newsletter**

## Extract from Malta At War magazine (Wise Owl Publications)



Gnr Saviour Borg was buried at Pembroke Military Cemetery -

AC1 John Borg, 23, and his wife, Georgina, 22, were killed two and a half months after they were married.



Borg was buried at Cappuccini Military Cemetery, Kalkara, and his wife at the Addolorata Cemetery

National War Museum Association



Mary Grech, 18

Laurence Mizzi



Alex Grech, 15\*



Benedetto Scicluna, 17

National War Museum Association



Giovanni Scicluna, 44

National War Museum Association

## The air raid in Sliema - March 11, 1941

80th anniversary of tragic bombing which killed 21

### CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

Giovanni Borg, 24; Saverio Borg, 20; Giuseppe Borg, 13; Emmanuel Buttigieg, 40; Anthony Buttigieg, 30; James Churchill, 50; James Henry Churchill, 9; Dorothy Churchill, 4; George Churchill, six weeks; Andrea Degiovanni, 43; Doris (Dolores) Calleja, 17; Annie Farrugia, 67; Mary Grech, 18; Alex Grech, 15; Annie Grech, 11; Teresa Grech, 3; Angelo Saliba, 16; Nazzareno Scicluna, 50; John Scicluna, 44; Benedict Scicluna, 17; and Dolores (Doris) Zahra, 60.

### Times of Malta

National War Museum Association



The float created by the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto at Toronto's centennial celebration in 1934. The float won first prize.

Photo - Richard Cumbo

**IF YOU HAVE AN  
INTERESTING STORY TO  
TELL SHARE IT WITH  
OTHERS.**

**SEND IT TO US**



## MALTA AT WAR MUSEUM

Malta at War Museum, Couvre Porte,  
BRG 1810, Vittoriosa, Malta

The Malta at War Museum is located at Couvre Porte, Vittoriosa (Birgu). It stands to document the great ordeal which the brave people of Malta and their defenders have endured during the dark days of the Malta Blitz (1940-43) in WW2.

Vittoriosa is Malta's old maritime city, first convent of the Knights of St. John before Valletta (1530), Great Siege Headquarters (1565) and former home to the Royal Navy (1800 – 1979). Ensnared within Dockyard Creek, it inevitably became one of the worst bombed places of the conflict with almost half of it being destroyed as a result of enemy action. The museum is housed in an 18th century army barracks which served as a police station and air raid precautions center during the war. It sits on top of a massive underground rock-cut air raid shelter which offered refuge to hundreds of people. This shelter has been restored and forms part of the museum experience.

The MAW offers a rich collection of period artifacts and memorabilia ranging from personal items, documents, medals, uniforms and weaponry. It also features numerous period newsreels and sounds, hands-on interpretation and multilingual audio-guides.

At this museum, one can also watch the first documentary ever made on the island 'Malta G.C.' This short film was released by the Crown Film Unit in January 1943 on the initiative of King George VI who wished all his subjects to witness with their own eyes the brave endurance that Malta was putting up in

the face of impossible odds at a time when she received the George Cross for bravery from him. The film is narrated by Sir Laurence Olivier and features the purposely written 'Malta Suite' by the then King's Musician Sir Arnold Bax. Using rare film footage taken by the filming units of all three services Malta's war is chartered from Italy's entry into the war in 1940 till the lifting of the siege in 1942. Digital copies of this film are available from the museum.

### **Do you know someone who served in Malta during WW2?**

Get in touch, we wish to know. We are always interested to learn about the past experiences of former serving personnel whether from World War Two or the Cold War. If you are one of these or perhaps know of anyone who has and is willing to share his/her experience please get in touch by sending us an email at or write to us at FWA, Notre Dame Gate, St. Edward's Street, Vittoriosa BRG9038 - Malta. Should you be visiting Malta we will also be very happy to meet you.

**IMPORTANT:** If you have documents or photographs to share or memorabilia to donate for display at these historic sites please **DO NOT** post them or hand them to staff at these sites but send them directly to the above postal address to avoid undue loss or damage. For all donations made a written receipt is issued along with a free pass to visit the attraction.

Thank you for your support  
<https://www.maltaatwarmuseum.com/>





## THE MILL- BIRKIRKARA

Opened in 1990, the Mill – Art, Culture and Crafts Centre was founded by Gabriel and Mary Rose Caruana. The premise was to develop an independent artist-run contemporary cultural centre where modern and contemporary art, culture and crafts could be shared with visitors.

The Mill – Art, Culture and Crafts Centre is located in Birkirkara, Malta, on one of the busiest thoroughfares of the island. Possibly an unlikely place to house a contemporary cultural centre, the building is one of the old windmills built during the rule of the Knights of Malta. It was built in 1724, during Grandmaster Manoel de Vilhena's magistracy. The building is known as Il-Mithna tal-Maħlut, (Mithna = Windmill; Maħlut = wheat and barley flour) and was used for over 200 years to produce flour. The Mill ceased to operate in 1929, when it followed the same fate of other windmills that had closed down due to the introduction of steam powered mills in Malta at the turn of the 20th century. After the Second World War the Mill was used by a blacksmith. For a number of years, the Mill was abandoned and in a dilapidated state,



until it was restored in the mid-1980s by the Government Works Department. These works included the rebuilding of the spiral staircase and the provision of water and electricity, as well as repointing works. Following a tender issued by the Government of Malta for the Mill to be used as a cultural centre, Gabriel Caruana successfully gained the lease title for the Mill to be used as contemporary art, culture and crafts centre, which was opened to the public in June 1990. Further structural renovation was carried out in the mid-1990s by England and England with the reopening of a blocked window on the façade of the Mill. In 2012, the Mill was confirmed as a Grade 1 Scheduled Building through Government Notice 486 of 2012.

Since 2014 the Gabriel Caruana Foundation have assisted Gabriel Caruana and Mary Rose Caruana with managing the Mill with the aim to further the work initiated 27 years ago.

The Mill now holds a permanent exhibition of Gabriel Caruana, as well as other Maltese and international artists. Numerous cultural activities have been held since it opened as a cultural centre, including exhibitions, book launches, poetry sessions, and school visits.

### OPENING HOURS:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10:00 -12:00 and 17:00 – 19:00

Check our [Events page](#) for special opening hours and open days!

<https://gabrielcaruanafoundation.org/mill/>

## OLDEST CHURCH IN MALTA

Malta is home to over 365 chapels and churches – one for every day of the year. Some of these are recent, but the majority are at least two-hundred years old. Places of worship range from small wayside chapels, to lavish parish churches and ornate cathedrals, such as those in Valletta and Mdina. Some of these churches and chapels are very old, with several contenders for the accolade of the oldest church or chapel in Malta. The older ones often have graffiti scrawled on the outer walls, a legacy left behind from the times of the Knights, and often images of galleys were carved into the soft globigerina limestone from which many Maltese buildings are made.



This maritime graffiti is thought to have been left by sailors about to embark on a trip on the high seas, and perhaps it was done to bring good luck for the impending journey – after all the Mediterranean was infested with corsairs and pirates back then. The oldest church in Malta is that of St Lawrence in Vittoriosa (Birgu). It's widely believed that it was a donation from Count Roger the Norman, who visited Malta in 1090. The present building dates back to the 17th Century and was designed by the Maltese architect Lorenzo Gafa. The Knights of the Order of St John used the parish church of St

Lawrence as their Convent Church, in the days before Valletta was built and became the capital city.



One of the older small chapels is that of Santa Marija ta' Bir Miftuh, now situated in the limits of Gudja very close to Malta International Airport. It was built approximately in 1430 and is probably one of the best examples of a fifteenth Century parish church surviving on the islands today. Declared a parish in 1436 by Bishop Senatore de Mello, the chapel wasn't located in a village centre but served as parish church to several outlying, more remote villages. Bir Miftuh remained the parish church for the area until 1676, when the parish church of Gudja was built. The chapel is now under the care of Din L'Art Helwa..

## Dr Enrico Mizzi (1885 - 1950)

### PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA (1950)



Born in Valletta on the 20 September 1885, Dr Enrico Mizzi popularly known as Nerik Mizzi, was the son of Fortunato Mizzi (founder of the Nationalist Movement) and of Maria Sofia Fogliero de Luna. He was educated at the Gozo Seminary, Flores College and at the Royal University of Malta where he graduated in literature and science in 1906. He read law at the Universities of Rome and Urbino from where he obtained his LL.D. degree in 1911.

Mizzi was first elected to the Council of Government from Gozo in 1915 as Member of the Comitato Patriottico. While Mizzi was striving to obtain a liberal Constitution he was arrested at his residence on 7 May and court-martialled on charges



of sedition in 1917 under the Malta Defence Regulations for writings and statements against the British. He was sentenced to a year's imprisonment with hard labour, the loss of civil rights and the withdrawal of lawyer's warrant. The sentence was commuted by Governor Methuen to a "severe censure", while his civil rights and warrant were restored following the cessation of hostilities in 1918.

Mizzi founded the Circolo Giovane Mala and was life president of the Societa' Dante Alighieri. In 1919 Nerik Mizzi was elected Secretary of the National Assembly (NA) and was also to serve as delegate to the NA between 1945-47.

In 1921 he formed the PDN to contest the elections to Malta's first responsible Government. Mizzi's party formed a coalition government with the UPM in 1924 and he became Minister of Agriculture. Later the PDN merged with the UPM to form the Partito Nazionalista. He was co-Leader with Sir Ugo Mifsud (1926-42).

Nerik Mizzi was Minister of Industry and Commerce (1924-27), Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Posts (1932), Minister of Education (1932-33). He was member of the legislative assembly (1921-30), (1932-33), (1947-50); and Leader of the Partito Nazionalista (1942-50), and Leader of the Opposition (1947-50).

On 30 May 1940 while Mizzi was at the Malta Printing Press, he was arrested and together with another 47 Maltese citizens, was interned for their alleged Italian sympathies and later deported illegally to Uganda in 1942. He was repatriated on 8 March 1945 and resumed his seat in the Council of Government. After the 1950 elections, Nerik Mizzi was asked to form a minority government and in September 1950, he became Prime Minister, only to die three months later at his residence in Valletta and was given a state funeral.

Nerik Mizzi founded the ECO di Malta e Gozo, organ of the PDN in 1921, and founded as well as edited MALTA, organ of the PN (1926-40).

Dr Nerik Mizzi was married to Bice Vassallo,



I wish to congratulate and pass on my good wishes to the Maltese Queen of Victories Band on its 40th anniversary.

Throughout those 40 years many musicians, musical directors, committee members and volunteers have contributed their time and effort in ensuring the ongoing viability and success of the Band. To each of those persons I say thank you for your commitment and dedication.

The Band is an integral part of our Maltese community in South Australia and indeed the wider community, providing music for festas, celebrations, visiting dignitaries and community events. Hearing the Band play those lively marches lifts the spirit and goes a long way in keeping our Maltese culture alive.

Well done MQVB!!

Carmen Spiteri Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER****Journal of Maltese Living Abroad****READ, ENJOY, SUPPORT AND SHARE****maltesejournal@gmail.com**



## A CALL FROM RADIO CALYPSO (MALTA) TO ALL MALTESE LIVING ABROAD



We are Calypso Radio and we love what we do. Over the years Calypso Radio became an established name in Maltese households and businesses alike. Launched

as a community station in 2004 and nationwide in 2005 Calypso Radio remains the nation's favourite music station and aims at entertaining its audience not just through music but also by offering a warm and homely feeling to its listeners thanks to the cheerful line up of presenters!

Calypso Radio is Malta's only Retro Music Station giving its priority to the massive decades of the 60's, 70's and the 80's playing the greats such as 'The Beatles', 'ABBA', 'BeeGees', 'Hot Chocolate', 'Lionel Richie', 'Rod Stewart', 'Tina Turner', 'Air Supply', 'Percy Sledge', 'Duran Duran', 'Madonna' and others... Italo Hits are certainly not absent, where an array of Italian music is played daily. Our music menu is never ending and this is the reason why Calypso Radio remains Malta's favourite!

Calypso Radio gives the opportunity to its listeners to request their favourite tracks, receiving an immense amount of texts daily, mainly selecting their favourite songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's... This has naturally made Calypso Radio the Nation's Favourite radio station.

The programme features recorded phone calls made by listeners who share a short story or pass on best wishes to friends and loved ones. We also receive phone calls from Maltese people around the globe who send a message to their relatives in Malta. This is simply done as follows:

1. Caller calls on +356 2033 1403 and records a message (max 2 minutes).
2. Our editors insert the recorded message in the programme, which is then transmitted on Tuesday between 1am and 5am (Malta time) on Calypso Radio 101.8.

The line is open 24/7 and the phone line is a normal one, therefore normal rates apply. We usually have an average of 125 messages from people who call in and record their message to be broadcast, amongst which various Maltese living abroad..

Anyone can follow the programme via our website [www.calypsomalta.com](http://www.calypsomalta.com).

Gordon Pace BA (Hons), MBA (Chester) Station Manager Calypso Radio 101.8

Malta's second largest audience. Visit our website - [www.calypsomalta.com](http://www.calypsomalta.com)

**TUESDAYS @ 1AM - 5AM (MALTA TIME)**

24/7 TELEPHONE LINE.  
RECORD YOUR MESSAGE - MAX. 2 MINUTES

**+356 20331403**

normal international call rates apply

NON-MALTA CALLS

**5210 6000**

50c per call

CALLS FROM MALTA



***We are proud of our Maltese Achievers***



### Sunday March 21st | 12 PM

Our final program for the season on IL-MALTIN TAGHNA is with member **Anita Volpe** Vice President & Administrator of a community hospital in New York State. Anita is truly passionate about healthcare, from managing a hospital, mentoring those on a path to healthcare, and those who are interested in working in a healthcare setting.

Her academic journey started more than 30 years ago in Malta. Anita Volpe holds a diploma in nursing, a Bachelor's degree in Nursing Science, a Masters degree in Health Care Administration, and earned a Doctorate in Nursing Practice with distinction.

In addition to her role at the hospital she is a part time adjunct professor in the School of Nursing at Capella University teaching Bachelor's degree students and has guest lectured at Columbia University and mentored undergraduates at SUNY Delhi.

Anita will give us a snapshot into her many roles and share how she mentors and advises those interested in a career in healthcare.

"After a successful first season with series 1.0, IL-MALTIN TAGHNA series 2.0 will return in FALL/WINTER 2021. Click [here](#) to watch past episodes. It was a pleasure highlighting Maltese presence in so many impressive different roles. Guests and members alike shared their passion, insights, and what being Maltese means to them! Thank you to everyone for watching, until next time from Carmen D.!"

### SHAWN SALIBA TALENT MOSTI



Shawn Saliba, Skultur zġażuġ Mosti, twieled fil- 25 ta Lulju 1985 Minn eta zġhira kellu ġibda lejn ix-xogħol ta l-arti speċjament l-arti sagra, kemm pittura kif ukoll skultura. Ta 19-il-sena beda l- istudju tiegħu ġewwa l-iskola tal-arti, l-belt Valletta. Beda jistudja il-mudellatura fit-tafal taħt il-mibki s-sur Joseph Casha, ix-xogħol tal-forom taħt iddirezzjoni tas-sur Emanuel Cardona u l-istorja ta l-arti mas-sur Christian Attard.

Aktar il-quddiem għamel esperjenza mas-sur Joseph Chetchuti, ġewwa l-funderija artistika f Ħal Luqa fejn tgħalliem it-teknika tal-bronz u għen fuq diversi monumenti, fosthom Santa Marija u San Ġużepp, xogħol l-iskultur Malti Ċensu Apap, li jinsabu iżejnu iz-zuntier tal-knisja Rotunda tal-Mosta, kif ukoll dak tal-isptar Mater Dei xogħol tal-iskultur Chris

Ebejer. Għal madwar tlett snin, Shawn Saliba ħadem mal-kumpanija Laga Silversmiths ġewwa Ħal Luqa fejn tgħalliem it-teknika tax-xogħol tal- Fidda.

Fost il-bosta ta'xogħolijiet li għamel madwar Malta kollha huwa ħadem ukoll l-istatwa tal- San Vincent de Paul li tinsab fir-residenza tal-anzjani fil-Marsa.

Gewwa lis-studju tiegħu fil-mosta, Shawn beda jaħdem fuq diversi statwi, kemm xogħol f minjatura kif ukoll xogħol ta statwi lifesize maħduma filkartapesta. Minbarra diversi xogħolijiet li jinsabu fid-djar Maltin, insibu xogħol ieħor kemm fi knejjes u kappelel u anke barra minn xtutna. Fost oħrajn insibu tlett statwi proċesjonali maħduma filkartapesta, li Shawn ħadem lill-emigranti Maltin ġewwa Sydney fl-awstralja.

Dawn huma, statwa ta Santa Marija, oħra ta Kristu lrxox u oħra ta San Ġorġ Preca. Ahna nawguraw lil Shawn li jkompli fil-professjoni u l-vokazzjoni tiegħu u jkollu iktar successi f isem l- arti Maltija.

Nifirhu wkoll lill-genituri tiegħu, Mary u Charlie, u l- familja tiegħu li jgħixu f Adelaide, South Australia.

### MINN FOMM SHAWN SALIBA STESS

In-nannu u omni jgħidu illi l-bużnannu tiegħi kien jaħdem l- istatwi għan-nieċ. Jigifieri jidher li l- iskultura tigri daqsxejn filvini tal-familja tiegħi. Omni thobb ħafna l-pittura u d-dizinn u lili kienet thajjarni ħafna biex nagħmel xi haġa sa minn meta kont żgħir. Kultant kont immur magħha għall-lezzjonijiet talpittura fl-iskola tal-arti u minn hemm komplejt thegġiġt għal din it-triq. Fil-fatt inpingi nħobb ħafna imma fl-istess ħin kont inħoss ġibda partikolari lejn l- iskultura. Niftakar li meta kont żgħir, kont sibt mezz kif inħoll il-pasturi l- antiki biex nagħmel oħrajn ġodda. Dak iż-żmien omni kellha ħabiba li kienet taħdem fix-xogħol tattafal u tgħidx kemm kont niffittaha biex tgħallimni. Imma hi kienet tgħidli la tikber, jekk tibqa miġbud lejn l-iskultura, mur fl-iskola tal-arti għax hemm qegħdin il-veru għalliema.



U meta kbirt hekk għamilt. Tant kont deċiż li naqbad din il-linja illi tlaqt mill-awstralja, fejn il-familja tiegħi kienet marret toqgħod u ergajt lura Malta waħdi biex inkun nista nitharreg f dan ix-xogħol. Qalbi marbuta wisq ma pajjiżi u mal-arti li tidwi minn kull rokna tiegħu. Barra minn hekk, jien diletant tal-knejjes. Meta kont Malta, kont ngħaddi s-sajf kollu narma d-dar tagħna, il-knisja tal-mosta u nieħu ħsieb kappella. L-Awstralja hemm differenza kbira. Il-Maltin tal- Awstralja ma

jarmawx u ma jiċcelebrawx bħalna. Kelli nieħu deċiżjoni iebisa imma importanti f ħajti. Fuq kollox ridt ukoll nagħzel fuq liema tip ta arti kont ser nintefa. Il-pittura toghġobni ħafna għax ilkulur inħobbu wisq. Finalment iddeċidejt li nispeċjalizza fuq l-iskultura u b hekk bdejt nitharreg f dan il-qasam

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## Film Review -- 'Luzzu'

he Sundance Festival has handed out its awards for 2021. But a lesser-known film from the online Fest, *Luzzu* has received the coveted Black Diamond rating from our own Mark Harrington who has this week's Friday Film Review.

Hopefully by now, you are plugged into some online film forum exceeding that of your local band of merry Friday Film Reviewers, and consequently, you have heard of award winners like *CODA* and *"Judas and the Black Messiah"*, or that *Summer of Soul* is the next *Twenty Feet From Stardom*. But, I often like to call out a lower profile film at the end of the festival, and this year, without the opportunity for word of mouth buzz on the shuttles, theater lines or cafes, I felt it particularly important to draw attention to one such gem.

*Luzzu* is a type of Maltese fishing boat unique to the postcard fishing villages on the small island between Sicily and Libya. The small, colorful boats are handed down from generation to generation, adorned with a pair of eyes on the bow to protect fishermen while at sea. Director Alex Camilleri's family is from Malta and he spent over two years researching and working with his lead cast, real local fishermen Jesmark and his cousin David. Jesmark is struggling with challenges to the sustainability of his fishing business, including a leak in the boat he can't afford to fix, rigged fish auctions, and mounting EU red-tape and quotas. These trials lead Jesmark to test new waters involving smuggling and local black markets.

This is where the film's fictional narrative emerges, as Jesmark's fishing troubles are amplified when he becomes anchored with mounting obligations as a new father. His wife,

played by trained actress Michela Farrugia, is from a wealthy family with higher expectations. Greater conflict arises from managing the young couple's ailing newborn which leads to exploring what would drive Jesmark to shrug off working for larger trawlers due to environmental principles, yet rationalize crossing other fishermen to exploit black markets. Jesmark's

decisions navigate various risks and sacrifices as he balances new priorities while simultaneously enduring the loss of a multi-generational way a life.

The film's tension builds as we wonder if Jesmark will throw his mother in law overboard, or whether he'll get caught during riskier and riskier exploits under the dark of night, which mostly makes for entertaining viewing. But the film's naturalism transports audiences in a way that transcends its simple plot line. These gritty characters and the wonderful Maltese landscape give the film more weight to subtly re-explore the increasingly universal themes of survival in the face of certain environmental change and traditional paths conflicting with family obligation. The vertite and trained cast merge seamlessly and a restrained but poignant final act ensures the characters' lingering staying power with audiences afar.

So, on my ski trail rating system, *Luzzu* earns my highest Black Diamond ski trail rating. Director Alex Camilleri does his homeland proud with a beautifully packaged film, buoyed by naturalistic delivery of a simple but compelling narrative. Camilleri's risk casting real life fishermen successfully achieves the desired authenticity, rewarded with a Sundance Special Jury Award for Acting, and brings a new lense to a familiar struggle.

*Luzzu* is not yet rated but contains language, and eyes, lots and lots of gazing eyes. *Luzzu's* future release is TBD - distribution rights were picked up right before the start of the festival by Memento Films International.

This is Mark Harrington for KPCW's Friday Film Review.



Fr. Rob Galea

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