

Journal for Maltese around the world



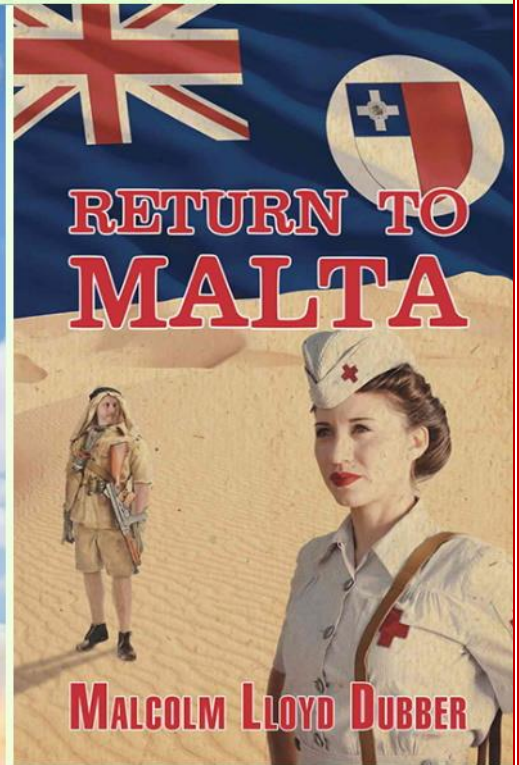
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP

VICTORY DAY

8
September

1565
1800
1943



MALCOLM LLOYD DUBBER



She has just
been told
she is
MALTESE



The Malta Community Concert Band in Mississauga - Canada



Malta Victories to be commemorated in Xaghra ceremony

BY [GOZO NEWS](#)

Xaghra will be commemorating the two victories of Malta – 1565 and 1943, during a ceremony which is to take place on Wednesday the 7th of September in the main square.

Starting at 10am, there will be re-enactments with the participation of locals, by the Xaghra Historical Re-enactment Organisation, of the Great Siege of Malta 1565, the Black Plague 1814 and scenes from the Second World War. These include the triumphal entry of Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette and the Captain of the Order of St John accompanied by Knights and Maltese soldiers.

The Captain of the Order will read out various proclamations by Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette.

One states that following the victory of the Knights and the Maltese over the invading army after a five-month long siege in 1565, the Grand Master declared that the 8th day of September was to be remembered every year as the day of victory.

Other states that the day was to be dedicated to Our Lady of Victory. The ceremony concludes with the laying of wreaths in front of

the Great Siege monument, which will be temporarily set up in Victory Square, followed by the National Anthem.

The commemoration event is being organised by Xaghra Parish, in conjunction with the National and Regional Celebrations Committee within the Ministry for Gozo and Xaghra Local Council.

The end of the Great Siege of 1565 is commemorated on the 8th of September, this year marks the 457th anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta; the epic 1565 battle that made a legend out of a little island that, against all odds, withstood invasion from an empire.

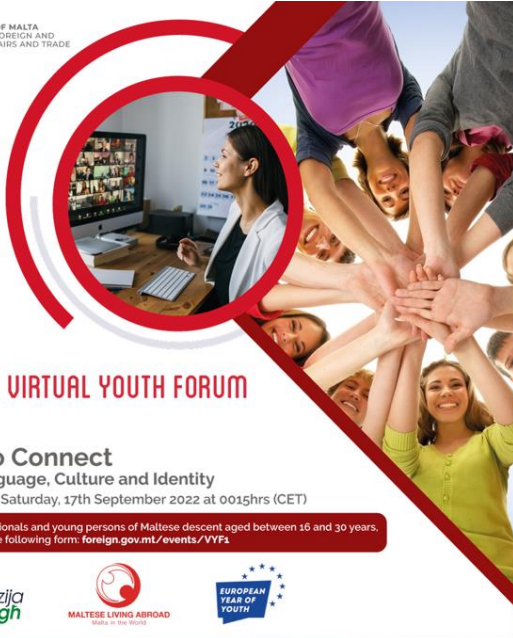
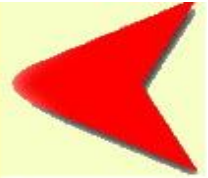
The Great Siege of Malta commenced in May of 1565 when the Ottoman Empire began invading Malta, which was then occupied by the Order of the Knights of St John.

After several months of continuous battle and bloodshed the Siege came to an end on the 8th of September, a date that continues to be commemorated with the annual public holiday Il-Vitorja.

It also marks the end of the French occupation of Malta in 1800 and coincidentally, the armistice of the Fascist regime in Italy in 1943.

The connection with Malta in 1943 was two-fold – the bombardments by the 'Aeronautica' were over and the Italian Navy was brought to Malta to remain moored at St. Paul's Bay until the end of the war. *File Photograph by Alain Salvary*

VIRTUAL YOUTH FORUM



VIRTUAL YOUTH FORUM

I Want to Connect

Maltese Language, Culture and Identity

Date and Time: Saturday, 17th September 2022 at 00:15hrs (CET)

Young Maltese nationals and young persons of Maltese descent aged between 16 and 30 years, may register on the following form: foreign.gov.mt/events/VYF1



Maltese youth living abroad can register for the Virtual Youth Forum on foreign.gov.mt/events/VYF1. This online forum will be bringing together young Maltese and descendants of Maltese from all over the world, to get to know each other better and to discuss what the Maltese language, culture and identity mean to them

Australia, Saturday, 17th September 2022
NSW, VIC, QLD - 8.15am SA - 7.45 am
WA - 6.15 am

United States & Canada, Friday, 16th September 2022

US: San Francisco 3.15pm

US: New York 6.15pm Canada: Toronto

6.15pm Canada: British Columbia 3.15pm

. Żgħażaġh Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta jistgħu jirreġistraw għall-Forum Virtwali taż-Żgħażaġh fuq foreign.gov.mt/events/VYF1. Dan il-forum onlajn ser jgħaqqad żgħażaġh Maltin u dixxendenti tal-Maltin mill-erbat irjieh tad-dinja, sabiex isiru jafu lil xulxin aħjar u jiddiskutu bejniethom xi tfisser għalihom il-lingwa, il-kultura u l-identità Maltija. - *posted by Edwidge Borg – President FMLS*

WARTIME GOZO



Wartime Gozo – is the title of what promises to be a very interesting lecture being delivered by local researcher Charles Bezzina, at Il-Hagar Museum in Victoria.

A lot has been written about Wartime Malta, but very little about Gozo. Up to some years ago, there may

have been the impression that nothing important happened in Gozo – and it is hardly mentioned in Maltese wartime books.

Although Gozo did not endure the harsh air attacks or hunger that hit the island of Malta, the smaller island experienced problems such as tragedies, air-raids and deaths. So what really happened in wartime Gozo?

Charles Bezzina, a poet, has published widely and is an active member of Maltese literary organisations. The museum said that he is being featured in this lecture because of the intensive attention he gives – also through books and other publications – to Gozo during World War II.

While the landmark temporary Willie Apap exhibition continues (9am to 5pm daily), all are invited to this lecture on Saturday, the 17th of September, starting at 11am on level 3. It is recommended to book a free seat on events@heartofgozo.org.mt

8 SEPTEMBER 1940 LONDON PRAISES MALTESE ON NATIONAL DAY

Malta – World War 2.

ENCOURAGING MESSAGES MARK NATIONAL DAY

Lord Lloyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has broadcast a message to Malta from London to mark Malta's National Day. In a rousing speech he said:

"The old Maltese spirit rises again, and with hearts steeled they cherish the sacred soil of Malta, defying all who would attack their Island."

Lt Gen Dobbie added his own broadcast across Malta and Gozo:

"Important as the fortress of Malta has always been on account of its geographical position and the facilities provided, yet it is now more important than ever and suddenly finds itself in the very forefront of the battle."



Former railway tunnel turned shelter became a chapel for National Day (NWMA Malta)

UNDERGROUND SHELTER HOSTS NATIONAL DAY SERVICE

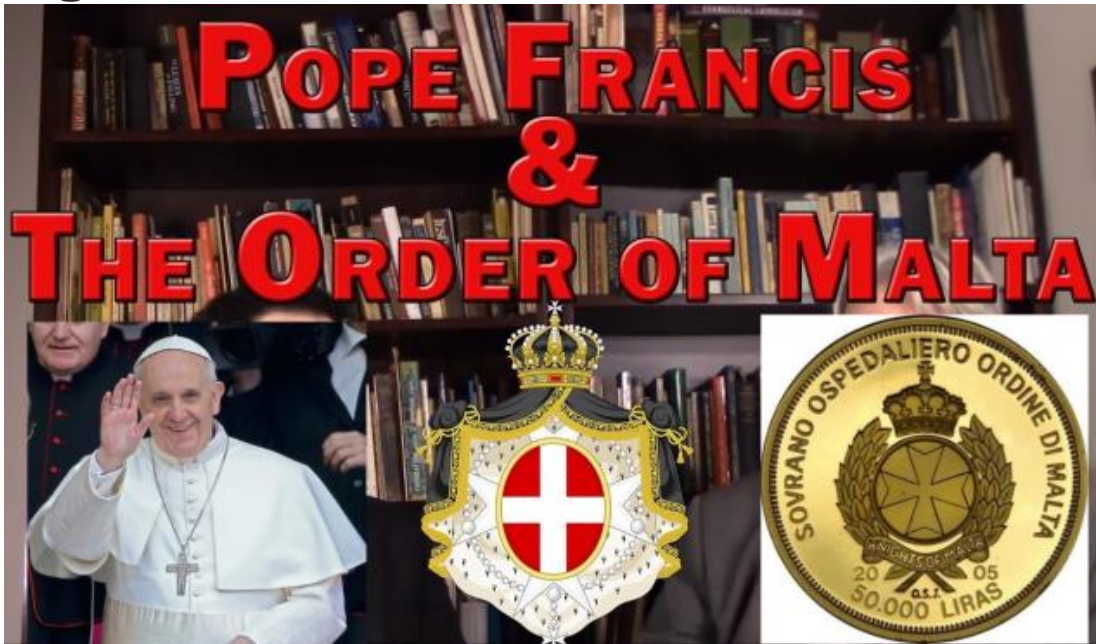
One of the largest underground shelters became a holy site with a special service to mark the Malta's National Day. The Yellow Garage under Valletta, temporarily transformed into a chapel illuminated by numerous candles, echoed to the voices of over 200 sheltering civilians raised in the singing of hymns.

36 children dressed in white and carrying candles received their First Holy Communion deep down in the rock beneath the bastions guarding the entrance to the capital. The service was led by

Canon Joseph Delia, who has dedicated himself to looking after the spiritual needs of the Yellow Garage's underground community. A modest party followed, during which the children were given sweets and souvenirs, bringing an end to a day of happiness among the air raids.



Pope Francis replaces Order of Malta governing body, high offices



By [Hannah Brockhaus](#)

Vatican City
Pope Francis has revoked the titles of the Order of Malta's four High Offices, established a provisional government, and convened an extraordinary general chapter for January 2023.

The **Sept. 3 decree** is the latest step in the reform of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, ordered by Pope Francis in 2017.

Among the new mandates, the pope also approved the order's new constitutional charter and regulations. The changes go into immediate effect.

"After listening and dialoguing with various representatives of the Order, the time has come to complete the renewal process that has been initiated, in fidelity to the original charism," Francis said in the decree's preamble. He said during the reform of the Order of Malta, "many steps have been taken, but just as many impediments and difficulties encountered along the way."

Francis' decree revokes the titles of the Order of Malta's members in the High Offices, giving them to other members and reconstituting the Sovereign Council, which is the government of the order.

To these four, he also appointed an additional nine new members of the Sovereign Council, forming a provisional government.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta has four High Offices: Grand Commander, Grand Chancellor, Grand Hospitaller, and Receiver of the Common Treasure.

The Lieutenant Grand Master of the Order of Malta remains Fra' John Dunlap, who was appointed by Pope Francis after the sudden death of his predecessor Fra' Marco Luzzago, in a move which sidestepped the order's electoral process. Pope Francis also convoked an Extraordinary General Chapter for Jan. 25, 2023, the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul.

Francis stated that next year's meeting will be held in compliance with the new regulations and will be prepared by his special delegate Cardinal Silvano Tomasi and Lieutenant Grand Master Fra' John Dunlap, with assistance from the interim Sovereign Council.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta is both a lay religious order of the Catholic Church and a sovereign state subject to international law. In 2017, Pope Francis ordered reforms of both the order's religious life and its constitution.

"The changes have certainly opened the Order of Malta to a number of new opportunities - Fra John Critien, for example, is now the Grand Prior of Rome. He is the first Maltese individual to hold that role and he is the first non-noble member to hold that rank. What a wonderful thing this is.

'This dress represents our Australia': Why Dai Le wore the áo dài for her first speech in Parliament?



Independent MP Dai Le has used her first speech to promise to advocate for her electorate of Fowler, which she says has been neglected and taken for granted.

Independent MP for Fowler Dai Le gave her first speech to Australian federal parliament.

A first speech is a momentous

occasion for any member of parliament, and for Dai Le it was also an opportunity to celebrate multiculturalism.

For her first speech to parliament, the newly elected independent member for Fowler wore an áo dài, featuring an Australian flag design. The áo dài is the national dress of her home country of Vietnam and is usually worn on special or regal occasions. While the Australian flag has been a subject of controversy, Ms Le's said it's a representation of the country that welcomed her as a refugee and represents "hope, freedom and endless possibilities."

"For me this dress represents our Australia – a multicultural Australia that embraces people who have come here looking for hope, freedom and opportunities," she told SBS News in a statement. "It's a celebration of our nation and all the possibilities it delivers."

"Combining both my Vietnamese heritage and the Australian flag represents my two worlds." The dress was made by a designer in the western Sydney suburb of Fairfield.

Dai Le recounts her refugee journey in first speech

Ms Le made history at the May election when she beat Labor's candidate, former senator Kristina Keneally, and won the southwest Sydney seat of Fowler. Fowler had previously been a safe Labor seat, held for 12 years by Labor MP Chris Hayes on a significant margin until his retirement in 2022. During her speech on Monday, Ms Le shared memories of the boat journey with her mother and sisters after fleeing war-torn Vietnam when the former southern capital of Saigon fell.

Ms Le, who was seven at the time, remembered the treacherous trip where the wooden boat nearly capsized in a major storm. After living in multiple refugee camps overseas, she and her family were eventually settled in Australia. "I remember the moment when we were accepted to be resettled as refugees in Australia ... and remembering as we stepped out of [Sydney's] Kingsford Smith airport, the feeling of gratitude and freedom," she said. "We were filled with hope as we looked out onto the horizon of endless possibilities."

"Australia, you welcomed my mother, my family, with open arms, you gave us comfort, food and a warm bed to sleep," she said. "This migration story belongs to all of us. It's our story, and we can all be proud to share it."

'Forgotten people' are backbone of Australia

Ms Le said her electorate was tired of being taken for granted by the major parties. "The people of Fowler wanted and needed a representative who came from their community and would never forget the personal challenges that they face ... not just at election time but every day," she said on Monday. "While it is a privilege to represent the people of Fowler, we are not a privileged people."

"We are the forgotten people and yet we are the backbone of Australia." A breast cancer survivor, Ms Le said she had experienced Australia's "amazing" public health system but would use her time in parliament to advocate for more services in her electorate



THE UNOFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE
LIVING AROUND THE WORLD

Malta in the World
Ahna Maltin
Bhalkom

Turning Malta into 'a concrete jungle'



News confirming that Malta is by far the most crowded country in the European Union adds to the frustration of those prone to feeling claustrophobic living in such restricted land space. This may explain why more and more people are travelling abroad nowadays. One consolation perhaps is that the island is very close to the European mainland as Sicily is only 93 kilometres away.

The finding gives greater weight to the argument in favour of preserving the little open spaces that still exist. Playwright George Bernard Shaw is once reputed to have said that Malta was the nicest heap of stones he had ever seen. It is not a nice compliment, though he sugared it a bit, but, had he been alive today, he would find a jungle of ugly concrete instead of a heap of stones.

Many past idyllic places have given way to a kind of development, often of no architectural value at all, that has stripped them of their former charm. Tower Road, in Sliema is not the Tower Road those over 60 remember so well. The frenetic development of this particular area is often given as one of the best examples of how development has gradually changed the face of Malta. Over the years, houses of character and other structures that blended so well with the environment of particular streets in towns and villages have been pulled down to be replaced by concrete monstrosities.

The country is today looking at development differently and is trying to preserve the little that has remained but this is not proving easy as controversies often arise over permits given, or not given, for specific projects. The latest protest, that over a proposed development – now rejected – in Lija, next

to the Belvedere in oleander-lined Transfiguration Avenue, may be given as an example of the new awareness that has been generated over the impact of development on sensitive urban locations. An ugly mechanical excavator now sits in a gaping hole, a reminder of how new development can scar a beautiful location, not just in Lija but in places all over the island.

Of course, the argument is not one against all development. Indeed, building upwards, rather than horizontally, saves land space. The call is therefore for the preservation of what is worth safeguarding in the course of such development.

With hindsight, the island could have been more alert in the past to avoid making glaring mistakes in the rampant development that has taken place, including legal or illegal constructions right on, or far too close to, the foreshore. This has marred many a beautiful site. It was the new awareness over the damage that can be done to the environment by new development that had forced the government to back down from plans to allow the building of a golf course in a site that many felt ought to be left untouched.

Street after street in so many places are gradually losing buildings that once helped give localities their individual identity. If this trend continues, such identity will be lost forever. Again, this is not meant as a requiem for old Malta but as a strong spur to whoever is in charge of preserving all that is worth preserving to keep vigilant and not to give in to pressure, wherever it comes from. Over-crowding should add that extra thrust to the ongoing drive at ensuring careful planning and development.



‘Bullying has no place in our society’



aid of L-Istrina.

This year's theme aims to create more awareness about bullying among children, and children had to prepare and submit a drawing bearing the theme of friendship, inclusion, and combating bullying.

Miriam Vella, wife of the President of Malta, and Simon Azzopardi, Chief Wealth Management Officer at Bank of Valletta, thanked all participants during an event held at the San Anton Palace. Three drawings were selected by a panel of judges, featuring Masters students from the University of Malta studying the History of Arts and appointed by the MCCFF. These drawings will feature on the ecofriendly cardboard piggy banks that will be distributed in all primary and secondary schools in Malta and Gozo to collect funds for the L-Istrina effort.

Vella was pleased to host all participants and remind everyone present of the importance of this year's theme: "Be a friend not a Bully."

"Bullying has no place in our society, and children should be the first to remind us all that we need to fight it through friendship and inclusion" said Vella. Whilst admiring the children who participated for being an example to others, she also thanked their teachers and parents, who are helping to instil a culture of inclusion and solidarity in our schools.

Azzopardi, on behalf of the Bank, spoke about the annual BOV Piggy Bank Campaign, which in its 19

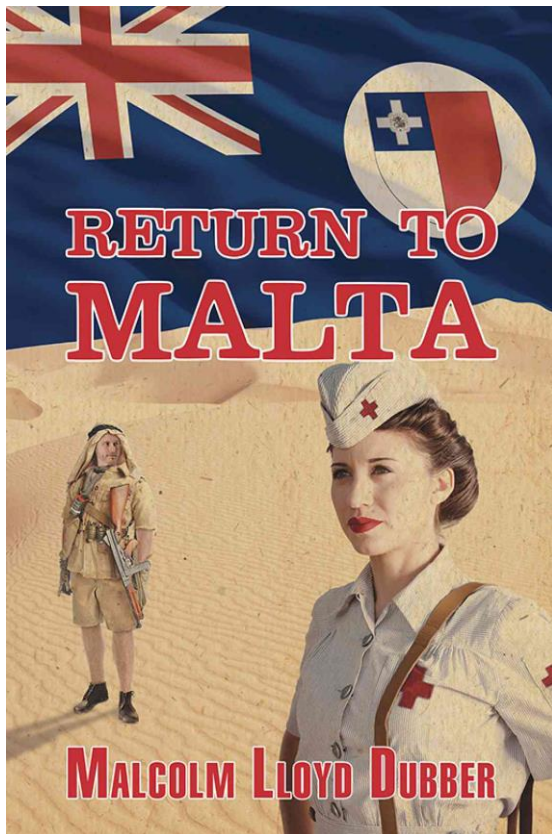
The Malta Community years of existence, raised more than €2.6 million in Chest Fund Foundation aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund and Bank of Valletta Foundation from funds collected from students and welcomed a number of donations by the Bank.

schoolchildren who "The Bank has a strong presence in the participated in this year's Community, and our aim is to drive altruism in the design of the eco- society we operate in. With the funds raised during friendly cardboard Piggy the BOV Piggy Bank Campaign, the Malta Banks. These will be Community Chest Fund Foundation continues to distributed in all primary support vulnerable persons who require vital moral and secondary schools and financial aid during the toughest times of their during this year's BOV life".

Piggy Bank Campaign in Last year's *L-Istrina BOV Piggy Bank Campaign* raised the sum of €60,800, which funds were presented by BOV during the live broadcast of L-Istrina together with the bank's donation.



Publication: Return to Malta



Description: Nurse Hazel Almonde is caring for injured servicemen during the dark days of the siege of Malta during World War Two when she meets injured Naval Chief Petty Officer Ewan Jones, who has survived an attack on an Italian destroyer. They are immediately attracted to each other. Ewan is recruited into a naval intelligence operation to pose as an Italian naval officer who survived the sinking of the Italian destroyer. Hazel becomes his contact as the nurse attending the POW camp. Ewan infiltrates the Axis POWs to find out the invasion plans for Malta. Their relationship is severely tested when she suffers a harrowing ordeal at the hands of the Gestapo after the POW ship is captured and taken to Tripoli. Ewan escapes and finds himself in the Long Range Desert Group. Hazel is tormented again but re-joins Ewan. They return to Malta and are married, but the war continues.

Author Malcolm Lloyd Dubber came into novel-writing based on his experiences of real events. He is a consultant in emergency planning, explosives chemistry and a nuclear safety expert. Malcolm is

an active member of the Welsh branch of the Emergency Planning Society.

A Valletta Museum unveils an ancient Phoenician sarcophagus



Sarcophagus excavated in Rabat makes its debut at Museum of Archaeology

The sarcophagus was excavated last year at Għajn Klieb. Photo: Heritage Malta

A Phoenician stone sarcophagus excavated last year at Għajn Klieb, on the outskirts of Rabat, is one of the major attractions at an exhibition which has just been inaugurated at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. The exhibition brings to light the results of months of painstaking studies by a multidisciplinary team researching the sarcophagus and two other tombs discovered in the area, as well as their

contents. The three tombs, although inherently different, shed light on the burial rituals of the earliest Phoenicians on the island, Heritage Malta said.

Sarcophagi are coffins made of stone or terracotta and are exceptionally rare finds in Maltese archaeology, so much so that the previous discovery happened some 300 years ago.

The sarcophagus featured in the exhibition was found by accident in a rock-cut tomb during road trenching works in 2001.

At the time, the decision was taken to preserve it by leaving it in its original findspot.

But in 2020, increased development pressures to improve infrastructural services in the area led to the decision to investigate the tomb. A collaboration between three entities was set up to ensure the best use of the available resources in view of the rarity of the find.

The entities involved were the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Heritage Malta and the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Malta.

Together, they formed a team of archaeologists, osteologists, pottery specialists, conservators, diagnostic scientists and field archaeology support staff who are researching the tombs themselves as well as bones and other objects found inside them.

The exhibition "Meet the Phoenicians of Malta" is intended to provide visitors with a snapshot of the research undertaken so far. Moreover, the tomb in which the sarcophagus was discovered is put in the wider context of the ancient cemetery in the area of Għajn Klieb and Għajn Qajjet in Rabat which was used by the first Phoenicians who settled in Malta some 2,700 years ago.

Speaking at the launch of the exhibition, National Heritage Minister Owen Bonnici said HM's main objective is to interpret the country's history and communicate it to visitors.

Superintendent of Cultural Heritage Kurt Farrugia remarked that following the discovery of the tomb containing the sarcophagus, the Superintendence proactively sought to ensure that all the necessary measures were taken to ensure the complete safeguard of the unique discovery.

The tomb and its contents will be exhibited locally in a permanent manner and the discovery will be presented to international academic fora.

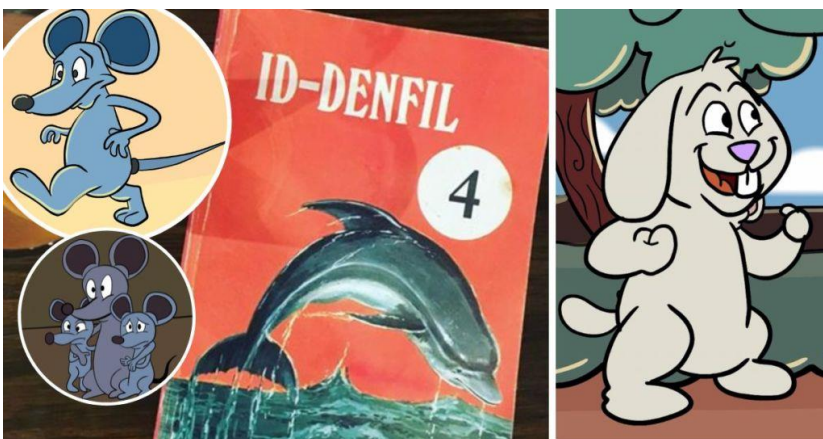
HM's senior curator for Phoenician, roman and medieval sites, David Cardona, said this is the culmination of one of the phases of a project that has been years in the making.

Members of the agency's field team were actively present not only for the tomb's excavation but also for the extraction of the sarcophagus. The agency is also offering its expertise in the research, analysis and conservation of a selection of the artefacts discovered in the three tombs.

Professor Nicholas Vella, from the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Malta, said this was the first time that a series of exceptional discoveries made as a result of developer-funded archaeological investigations were investigated so thoroughly by a team of specialists hailing from the major cultural heritage entities in Malta.

The exhibition runs until October 30. Entrance is free of charge. (Times of Malta)

Maltese Book 'Id-Denfil' Is Returning... As A Cartoon Series



By [Sasha Vella](#)

The beloved classic Maltese school book series Id-Denfil is making a grand return as an animated cartoon series. Produced by Turi Animation Studio, the new animated series is part of a mission to pay tribute to the much-beloved book, while at the same time teaching and entertaining young children, especially since the book is no longer in use.

"Content is practically being consumed on a daily basis, especially by young children. The problem is that they are faced with very limited content in Maltese, especially cartoons, when they do so," Turi Animation Studio explained.

"Therefore, our main aim was to create a short cartoon series which whilst entertaining our children, we will give them a chance to understand and learn Maltese, which was the primary purpose of Id-Denfil back then."

The cartoons are all produced in a 2D hand-drawn animation style. The animators drew one drawing after the other to create motion, with the style and technique being quite similar to some of the most beloved cartoons available.

“After consulting with a number of primary teachers, we learnt that the biggest struggle our children face when watching content is that content in Maltese with animated subtitles is very limited,” the studio explained.

“Subtitles tend to help children understand faster how to speak and write. Therefore, we immediately decided that all of our episodes in id-Denfil will have animated subtitles that will light up when they are hearing the voice within the cartoon episode.”

Turi Animation Studio has been working on this project for more than a year, with help provided by Arts Council Malta and as well as a private investment.

A team of five people worked on this project ranging from production management to animators and a music composer.

Production was taken care of by Chris Spiteri and Vanessa Attard, and the main animators on the series were Christ Scicluna and Chris Spiteri once again. The music was composed by David Debono and the voice-over was done by Celine Buhagiar.

The first episodes of the mini-series will start airing on ONE TV in the coming month of October.



**Maltese
Australian**

Natasha Tatarinoff

natasha is a proud Maltese-Australian. Her mother migrated to Australia from Malta in 1980. Her education began at James Erskine Public School. She then went on to her High School Education at Emmaus Catholic College. At the very young age of 9 Natasha started performing and showing her fantastic voice which brought her to the attention of quite a number of different people in the community.

In 2018 she was invited to sing at La Valette and Balmoral Hall in Blacktown for the Santa Maria Festa where she sang the beloved song “AVE MARIA” and she received a standing ovation.

She also sang many other popular songs from the 50’s and 60’s and some Maltese songs, one of which I distinctly remember being “O’MARIE, O’MARIE” which she dedicated to her grandmother Maria Camilleri. **Natasha**, kept on with her successes, one after another. She was a guest singer vocalist for the Fairfield City Council- “Bring it on Festival” in 2017.

In 2018 she was a guest singer vocalist for the Maltese Cultural Community “Providence House Fund Raiser”, Blacktown City council- International Links & Sisters Cities Awards, Music For Life “Brain Cancer Fund Raiser” with Dr. Charlie Theo. In 2019 Natasha was handpicked to perform in a number Cabaret shows one of which included the infamous Frank Ifield. She was also given the honor of performing for the Maltese Community During the Australia Day Celebrations.

In the same year she was again invited to be a guest vocalist for The Blacktown City show, The Maltese Cultural Community “Providence House Fund Raiser”, The PCYC Penrith for International Women Day celebrations where she was the youngest star of the show. Later that year she was invited as a guest vocalist for Blacktown City Counsel – International Links & Sister City – Hangi.

2019 was also the beginning of her acting career where she was chosen by Captivate Creative and Performing Arts to play one of the leading roles in an original Australian Play “Forgotten” at the Parramatta Riverside Theatre where she really shone. In 2020 she was invited to perform for the 3rd time as a guest vocalist for the Maltese Cultural Community “Providence House Fund Raiser”.

During lock down in 2020 Natasha released her first movie “support actor” on Netflix by Monsoon Pictures Australia “I Met A Girl”. She had the honor of working with Hollywood superstar Brenton Thwaites who has been in a number of Hollywood blockbusters such as “Pirates of the Caribbean”, “Maleficent” and also TV shows such as “Home and Away” and “Titans” just to name a few. This year in 2022 Natasha has again been invited to performed as a guest vocalist for both the Penrith Show and Blacktown City Show.

However, her greatest honor of all was when she was asked to join the Sydney Balalaika Orchestra as their lead Female Vocalist. Keep an eye out for our very own rising star. **Our NSW Correspondent**

The Maltese American inspector who caught killers for a living



Falzon publishes recollections of violent crimes that rocked San Francisco

“But the biggest part of my life remains my father: Frank Tabone Falzon. My dad was everything to me,” Falzon, now 80, tells *Times of Malta*.

Frank Senior, from Cospicua, had migrated to Detroit, US, with two of his brothers – Charlie and Lawrence – after the economic crash of World War 1. He moved to San Francisco where he met Catherine Bridget Fox, of Irish heritage, at the church of St Paul’s Shipwreck in San Francisco.

“The community of the area where I, and my three siblings, were raised in, was predominantly Maltese. “My dad’s friends were all Maltese: I remember we’d

stop in front of the display window of a shop selling TVs, to watch whatever was being broadcast on this new device, and all the Maltese people would gather around my dad.

“My dad was a celebrity: he was a championship soccer player for the Maltese club and eventually the San Francisco athletic club. “My dad and I were inseparable – we did everything together and my Maltese connection lives deep inside my heart.”

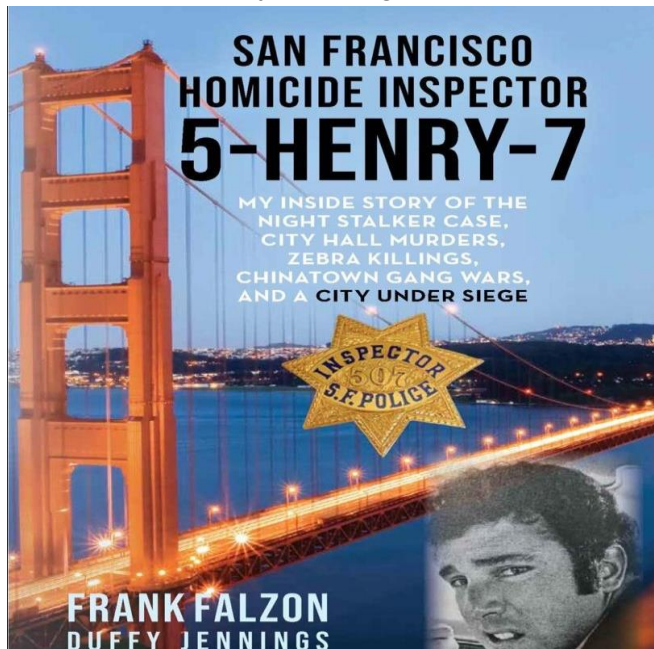
Frank Senior died of melanoma when his son was just eight years old. The bond between the two was so tight that his family broke the news after some days as they feared the little boy could not be able to handle the news.

After his father’s death, there was a point when the young boy would tell his peers he was Italian, to avoid being quizzed about his nationality.

“I don’t do that anymore – I am very proud to be a Maltese citizen and I have dual citizenship: Maltese and American, and I have since also visited my father’s hometown of Cospicua.”

Falzon’s Maltese connection features in a book he has just published, called [San Francisco Homicide Inspector 5 Henry 7](#).

Frank Falzon is a former San Francisco Police Department Homicide Inspector who made a name for himself by letting his discipline, meticulousness, and mere determination to solve crimes shine through. After all, from simply following these practices, he not only had a huge role to play in the “Night Stalker”



case in 1985, but he also managed to solve the 1974 Carlson Case, where Frank Carlson and his wife, Annette, were brutally tortured by Angelo Pavageau. While Frank was tied up and slain, Annette was raped for over three hours and then left in a pool of her blood to die. Then, they were both set on fire.

It is these two cases in particular that Frank remembers the most, especially because of the heinousness of the crimes. Moreover, Frank’s harrowing encounter with Richard Ramirez, the “Night Stalker,” is also one that he can vividly recall to this day. In 1989, when the inspector was escorting the infamous killer to state prison, the latter got his attention by giving him an eerie smile and saying, “Hey, Falzon. You’d like to now about the two old ladies on Telegraph Hill, wouldn’t you? It was me.” He was talking about two women whose stabbed and mutilated bodies were found months before in their flat.

ladies on Telegraph Hill, wouldn’t you? It was me.” He was talking about two women whose stabbed and mutilated bodies were found months before in their flat.

Although Frank Falzon is now retired, he continues to be a constant presence in his Californian community and the law enforcement units. His feature in ‘Night Stalker: The Hunt for a Serial Killer’ is just a small example of that. “There is no doubt in my mind,” he said, “[that Richard Ramirez] committed

other crimes in San Francisco.” And it’s true, because, in October 2009, officers discovered DNA evidence indicating that he was responsible for the death of a 9-year-old girl in Tenderloin.

By that time, though, Frank had already retired. Otherwise, it seems like he would have had no issues in immersing himself in the cold case unit that was given the responsibility of examining the dozens of unsolved cases in the area, searching for other victims who could be tied to Richard. Furthermore, in 2019, Frank wrote a letter to the Californian parole board to ensure that Angelo Pavageau, the perpetrator of his other most crucial case, would not be released from prison anytime soon.



Maltese brothers star in film shot in Australia and California

TVMNews

At the end of this month, a Maltese-Australian film will be shown in local cinemas, which is guaranteed to put a smile on those who watch it. 'Brothers from Malta' is a production that will give audiences a window into the unique characteristics of the Maltese.

Julian and James Galea are brothers who were born in Australia to Maltese parents. Their

upbringing was a mixed bag – interspersed with aspects of Maltese culture. They have a leading part in the comedy 'Brothers From Malta' in which they appear as brothers Joe and Charlie who had not spoken in seven years.

Their sister Josephine – played by Lisa Galea, who is their cousin – gets sick and doesn't want to die in the hospital so the brothers end up traveling to California to fulfill her wish.

The film uses comedy to demonstrate the importance of family and the lasting bonds between family members. Julian Galea, managing director of the company Galea Pictures, who wrote, worked and took part in this film, said that this film is about the special bond which exists even between broken families which, showing how important it is to cherish these.

An audience can reflect on that, maybe reflect on the behavior within the family and anyone whose having any problems in the family, have some sort of resolution with this movie.

Julian Galea said that through this film he also wanted to expose the reactions of Maltese people when travelling, especially in countries where people have never heard of Malta or the Maltese language.

I thought it was a great opportunity to showcase the Maltese culture in a film set abroad – I don't believe a Maltese movie set abroad has been done before. And I want to showcase the Maltese culture in a movie and juxtapose it against another country.

The main roles in the film, that of the three brothers, are played by Maltese descendants. The rest of the characters are American actors. The film was mainly shot in California, Australia and also contains old footage of Malta. 'Brothers from Malta' is Julian Galea's third film with links to Malta.



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The Micallef Father and Son: Meet Malta's Most Famous Documentary Film Producers



Nicola Collins

Combine Malta's rich history, idyllic scenery, age-old traditions and glorious weather and you have just some of the factors providing attention-grabbing material worthy of a

documentary

or two. Meet father and son, Maurice and Christopher Micallef, Malta's most famous documentary producers, and find out why their work is regarded as the best insight into Malta and the Mediterranean you may never otherwise experience.

In the beginning Filmmaker and director Maurice Micallef was born in 1935. In 1964, Maurice produced his first documentary entitled *A Glance at Valletta*, and in 1972, with funding assistance from the Italian Government, he was sent to Rome's RAI Studios where he gained technical experience that helped shape his career.

At the tender age of nine years old, Chris' first role in the film industry was starring in one of his father's productions, *The Boy and the Red Ball*. His part in this led him to receive a best actor award in 1977. Three years later, Chris went on to star in another of his father's films, *'My Brother's Keeper'*, which again earned him the same award.

Chris Micallef, Michael Fenech and Vitorin Galea in My Brother's Keeper | © Chris Micallef

Separate works

Prior to focusing on documentaries, Maurice produced fiction films, namely *Twelve into Ten* (1972), *The Hiker* (1974), *Images* (1975), *The Boy and the Red Ball* (1977), *The Hand of God* (1978), *My Brother's Keeper* (1980), *Back to Eternity* (1986), *Full Circle* (1992), *Fatal Hitman* (1994), and *Arlekkinu* (1996).

At the age of 18, Chris took on his first role as a producer. His debut was a documentary named *Lifeline for a City* about Malta's aqueducts

during Grand Master Wignacourt's reign in 1610. The film earned him a staggering 11 awards, not only in Malta but also Skopje, Jesenice, and later in Cork to name a few. Graduating from the University of Malta with a degree in engineering, Chris went on to obtain a master's degree in business administration and a doctorate in social sciences from the UK and a diploma in art from Valletta's School of Art.

In 1974 Maurice produced and directed *The Islet of Filfla* and in 1985 came *The Unsolved Mystery*. But it was in the mid-90s that both Chris and Maurice realised that their strong point is in documentary productions. The father and son have since worked together, and in the process set up CMM



Productions. At first directing and producing three documentaries on Super 8, in 1994 Maurice and Chris went on to make documentaries exclusively for ONE; those documentaries being *Norman Legends in Malta*, *Il-Misteru tar-raddi fil-blatt*, *Mnajdra*, *Wignacourt's Aqueduct*, *Filfla*, *The Oldest Calendar in Stone*, *The Phoenicians*, *The Tal Qadi Stone*, *Hal Far Airfield*, *The Unsolved Mystery* and, their most recent, 2018's *Kannizzati Fishing*.

Dr Charles Boffa & Maurice Micallef while filming Filfla, 1974 | © Chris Micallef

Malta's long hours of sunshine is just one of the many factors that make Malta the ideal location for documentaries. Dr Chris Micallef says, "The Maltese Islands can adapt to almost any scenario, ambience, budget, and historic setting, both land and sea. Blessed with a rich cultural and social heritage, the range of subjects that one can tackle for documentaries is varied and diverse. Every coloniser left an imprint on our Maltese cultural heritage, ranging from prehistory and the building of megalithic structures to the British rule. A fleeting

look at what documentary subjects we have tackled over the years will take the audience to the four corners of the world, all in the space of 316 square kilometres."

In finding subject material for their documentaries, he goes on to explain their three steps to success: "First of all the subject material has to be appealing to the scriptwriter and the producer of the documentary. Producing a documentary is, indeed, a very long and laborious process. Secondly, look practically at what is available to be filmed, availability of resources and budget limitations, and then decide the way forward. And finally, the most important question is will the people be interested to watch it? It may not always be the case that what is of interest to us will be of interest to the audience out there; gauge the idea of the documentary subject with friends, colleagues and family."

Inspiration and determination - Being a father-and-son team means that Maurice and Chris can talk about their work all day long without having to schedule meetings. Once agreeing on an idea it is thoroughly scrutinised, and if the subject has not been covered before, even better. Chris' doctorate in social sciences from Leicester University means researching subjects is second nature to him, and with both Maurice and Chris being researchers, editors and producers means they know what to look for. 'We know what we want so let's do it!' is their motto. Creating an atmosphere where taking risks is a major factor, Maurice and Chris ensure that with each documentary they have a team of committed and dedicated people on board. Synchronisation of being at the right place at the right time is key. Chris says, "Who on Earth is ready to wake up every day for months between 1am till around 4am, sometimes during winter, just to film moon alignments at the Tal Qadi temple limits of Burmarrad, or Mnajdra temples at Qrendi? If an alignment is missed, then filming will be delayed by months."

The future of the Maltese film industry

In Maurice and Chris' opinion, The Malta Film Commission encourages screenwriters to use both the Maltese culture and landscapes for production developments. "Our cultural wealth reflects a myriad of cultures, which surely help and assist the Malta Film Commission to instigate internationally recognised writers to incorporate the Maltese Islands into part of their scripts. In our view, the setting up of a video-on-demand portal should be set up by the Ministry of Tourism. This will engage further in audience interacting on a specific subject matter before visiting the Maltese Islands."

Biggest achievements

In terms of qualities that make a successful documentary producer, Maurice and Chris have six



main criteria around which they revolve their work: tell an engaging and inspiring story, do your homework, develop the right skills, keep

meetings effective, get along with your team, and be clear and concise in all communications. With this in mind, it's not surprising how successful the pair are. The honorary service by Maurice Micallef in representing Malta through his several productions, and by promoting Malta's national heritage abroad makes him the first Maltese filmmaker who has won in four different categories/genres in international competitions: they are fiction, documentary, animation and experimental. His greatest achievement was when he was awarded Xirka Ġieħ ir-Repubblika ('for the benefit of the Maltese' for exceptional merit in services to the island) in 2014 for an outstanding career in filmmaking.

For Chris, in addition to being mentioned in prestigious books and journals by well-known authors including Graham Hancock, Tore Lomsdalen, Professor Frank Ventura and Peter Marshall, his greatest achievement was when he was awarded Xirka Ġieħ ir-Repubblika in 2016 for his research conducted on Maltese megalithic temples that developed into documentary productions.

Awards and the future

Gaining over 217 awards worldwide for their work, their most prestigious accolade is the Best of Show (an IMDb-rated festival) for *Hal Far Airfield*, a short documentary tracing the history of the airfield. The film is impeccably researched and includes extensive original wartime footage combined with re-enactments of Maltese Army Regiments and the British Royal Air Force. Sharing upcoming projects, Chris concludes, "We are in the final stages of producing a feature documentary about the Normans and the Medieval period in Malta. But we will leave it at that at this stage so that we have something to talk about in future!"



My dad used to half-jokingly describe himself as "the first wog Mayor of Brunswick".

On 4th September 1972 - fifty years ago - Melbourne's multicultural City of Brunswick elected its first non-Anglo non-Celtic Mayor. He was my father, Loreto ('Larry') York. He was also the first Maltese to be elected Mayor of an Australian city. Loreto Meilak was born in Sliema in 1918,

When I say he was Maltese, I mean he was born in Malta (Sliema) (in 1918), grew up there, his parents and siblings and grandparents, great-grandparents etc were all Maltese (from Gozo actually), he spoke fluent Maltese which was his first language, and for his entire life up to his passing in 2009 he identified with pride as being Maltese.

BARRY YORK REMEMBERS

He changed his surname by deed poll from Meilak to York when he was stationed in London with the Royal Air Force after the War. He had volunteered in Malta in June 1940.

He was in the Australian Labor Party at the time of his election as Brunswick's Mayor but was very disappointed to learn that a fellow Labor Councillor had opposed his election as Mayor on the grounds that "If we let Larry be Mayor, the wogs will take over Brunswick".

Such ignorance crosses political party lines; more so back then.

My dad continued to work in a factory during the day, as Mayors weren't paid a wage back then. He saw the role as a great honour and used his multi-lingual (self-taught) skills to serve the ethnically diverse working people of Brunswick. My mother Olive's support enhanced his role enormously.

My dad used to half-jokingly describe himself as "the first wog Mayor of Brunswick". At the time of his election, the 'wogs' were probably more than half the local population. There were a dozen different ethnicities in the street in West Brunswick in which my parents and I resided.

My father had two periods as Mayor - 1972/73 and 1976/77. He used to say, "Not bad for someone who only had four years of formal education".

He paved the way for others of 'wog' background and today, thank heavens, no-one talks nonsense about 'wogs taking over'.



Barry York (b. 1951) was born in London, the son of a Maltese airman and his English wife. His family migrated to Melbourne in 1954 and he grew up in Brunswick. He attended La Trobe University, where he was deeply involved in student politics. In 1971, following a blockade of a University Council meeting, he was one of eight students who were excluded from the University. In the following year, he and two other students were gaoled in Pentridge Gaol for several weeks for contempt of court. The University successfully applied for their release and York then completed his Arts degree. He subsequently taught at schools in Victoria and New South Wales. From 1981 to 1988 he was a postgraduate student at the University of Sydney and the University of

New South Wales, where he gained a doctorate. In 1989 he joined the staff of the Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies at The Australian National University and he was a research fellow at the Centre from 1991 to 1996. He was a research fellow at the Victoria University of Technology in Melbourne in 1997-99. He was then employed as a historian with the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House until his retirement in 2016.

The origins of Malta's and Gozo's folklore singing – 'ghana'



. ALBERT FENECH

Would islands as small as Malta and Gozo have their own traditional folklore music, a melody and song that is uniquely distinct and has survived hundreds of years, practically unchanged and not influenced by the passage of time?

Youngster Angelo Theuma from Zejtun, one of a number of youthful 'ghana' singers keeping the tradition alive. Yes, they have. It is called 'ghana' – no, not pronounced as in the African nation Ghana, but pronounced simply "aa-na" because the coupling 'gh' in Maltese takes the sound of the immediate succeeding vowel. A straight translation is 'song' in

the pure and simple form of the word.

To the uninitiated, untrained ear, as well as to most foreigners (if not all of them), it may well sound like a frustrated cat stuck on a hot, tin roof, wailing because its charm is not in the actual music but in the lyrics, some of which even the Maltese find difficult to understand because individual singers use individual dialects – and these can vary greatly even in a small country.

The music content is provided by traditional string guitars (not electric!), not particularly melodious but to provide a background rhythmic sound to which lyrics are set. The singer is usually a soloist but duos are also popular and may be two men or a man and woman – probably the most popular.

Duos 'spar' to score points off each other, one berating the other for their foibles and shortcomings. Husband and wife exchanges give great merriment as each partner relates the things that anger them most about the other.

Male duos are normally left for the experts as these are impromptu and the singers make up the rhyming couplets either to "attack" or "defend" as each situation comes up.

Soloists may recount some joyous or sad experience, childhood, customs or traditions or may be critical of some event, including politicians and political parties. A soloist may be accompanied by a number of guitarists.

Researchers and historians believe the 'ghana' has its origins from Spanish tradition with influence from nearby Sicilian folklore music. To this I would add a distinct Arabic trait – certainly in the language but also in guitar intonations. After all, both Spanish and Sicilian music have their Arabic background strain too. The late and well-known Maltese historian and folklore researcher Ġużè Cassar Pullicino found an early form of the 'ghana' dating back to 1792.

Contrastingly, the major research into Maltese folklore singing and songs was carried out by the German lady Bertha Ilg at the turn of the 19th Century into the 20th. She lived in Malta for a number of years and collected and documented 200 popular folk songs from the period.

Old gramophone record of Maltese 'ghana'.

Current musician and researcher Andrew Alamango confirmed that during the first 30 years of the 20th Century, the role of folklore music continued to increase and also included the use of mandolins and accordions.

He also said the 'ghana' is important and remains important because of its vocal traditions, consisting of the skills of impromptu coupling of rhythmic phrases set to music. It is a basis of the Maltese language that is set to music that is typical of the countries of the Mediterranean region.

Crowds flock to Buskett to hear 'ghana' and eat fried rabbit and chips.

For a while between the late 50s and 80s, 'ghana' was denigrated by some and dismissed as the music of the 'uneducated' and the country farming folk and therefore of no real consequence.

However, since then it has seen a surge and has now resumed its great popularity. There is an annual 'ghana' festival that also includes folk music from throughout the Mediterranean shores, but its greatest stage is the Buskett Gardens near Rabat.

This is the venue for the annual “Mnarja” folk celebration, commemorating the feasts of Saints Peter and Paul on 29th June. Held on the eve, Buskett comes alive with thousands of visitors. Folk music abounds as well as eating the traditional dish of fresh rabbit fried in garlic with lashings of chips. Sadly there has been an infiltration of more modern music – including today’s rowdy and senseless cacophonies – but the cry has gone up for a restoration of the traditional folklore strains.

As an aside, decades ago males had to commit a marriage vow to their forthcoming partner to undertake to take her to the “Mnarja” Festival annually.

One may also drop into a countryside or village coffee shop on an evening and find an ‘ghana’ singer strumming away to entertain friends.

Thankfully, the tradition is attracting younger and younger age groups, mainly males such as my good friend Angelo Theuma from Zejtun where “ghana” is vastly popular as it is in places like Qormi, Zebbug, Zabbar and a number of others.

Malta radars during World War II



The Malta system was the first and only one tested outside the UK. When the war broke out, in 1939, the British Forces brought over four more radars, to cover high- and low-level flying aircraft, as well as surface (sea) movements.

Within two years, the British had more than six radars operating as early warning systems, fighters’ interception control, maritime and submarine detection and surveillance. In addition, a number of gun control radars were found all over Malta during the duration of the war.



A UNIQUE GARMENT SEEN ONLY IN MALTA

Maltese women and girls of all classes and ages used to wear the black Ghonnella (Faldetta) when they go outdoors. This long heavy cloak is peculiar to the islands of Malta and Gozo, and is made over a frame worn on the head and held in position by the right hand. Even young girls have their faldetta, a miniature of ones worn by their mother.





What is the traditional game Il-Gostra?

loyalty Malta

Have you ever heard of Il-Gostra? Well don't worry if you haven't, learn all about Malta's traditional game here!

Daring, brave, or just downright plain silliness? One thing is for sure: if you're planning your holidays to Malta, try and catch a glimpse of the unique spectacle of "Il-Gostra". This traditional game will certainly give you something to talk about once you have returned home while intriguing your social media followers! But what is "Il-Gostra" exactly? Let us tell you all about this traditional Maltese sport in today's post!

A game steeped in history

Going all the way back to the Middle Ages, the *Maltese Gostra game* is believed to have derived from the Neapolitan game of the Cockaigne pole.

In many seaside towns across the Maltese Islands, a large wooden pole (between 10-16 metres long) would be erected over the sea. Back then it was mounted on a coal barge and towed to the harbour. The large pole protruding over the sea would be heavily laden with animal fat and grease.

The aim of the game is to grab one of the three flags at the end of the pole: a blue and white one dedicated to St. Mary, a yellow and white one representing the Vatican and the Belgian tricolour dedicated to St. Julian (it is believed that he was born in Ath, a Belgian town, in 7AD).

The winner would get a prize and of course, the Gostra champion title prestige!

Where can you find Il-Gostra?

These days, you can find il-Gostra in Msida and St Julian's, in honour of St. Joseph and St. Julian respectively. Brave men queue up to try and run along the pole to grab one of the coveted flags. Inevitably many contestants fall awkwardly into the sea below, making for some compelling viewing!



Throughout the years, this local tradition has garnered more and more worldwide attention, with the world's media houses turning up in recent years!

This is just one of the many Maltese traditions and peculiarities you can expect to experience during your holidays in Malta, with the village festa being the most sought-after by tourists and locals alike. Join the crowds and embrace the Maltese spirit to

the full by booking your flights to Malta today!

56531 Lieutenant Colonel Walter Felix Luke Fava



MD (Malta 1931) PhC (1924)

7 Oct 1906 [Cospicua Malta] – 5 Feb 1973
[Aldershot Hampshire]

Lieutenant Colonel Walter Felix Luke Fava qualified from the University of Malta in 1931 and had a Certificate in Pharmacy from the same university from 1924. He was commissioned in the Royal Army Medical Corps on 27 July 1933 and attended the medical officers' entry course at the Army Medical College MillBank and the RAMC Depôt Crookham.

From 27 July to 6 September 1933, he was seconded to the Victoria Central Hospital,

Wallasey Merseyside, as a house surgeon, under the provisions of Art. 213, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, 1931. In 1936, after he married his wife Victoria Ethel Zammit Tabona, he was posted in India.

He served in both World Wars and specialised initially in anaesthesia and later in radiology. He was officer commanding BMH Iserlohn, BMH Singapore and acting officer commanding BMH Mtarfa, Malta.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter Felix Luke Fava was awarded the 1939–1945 Star, the Africa Star, the Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, General Service Medal with clasps Malaya and Cyprus and the 1953 Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal. These are held by the National War Museum Valletta, Malta.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter Felix Luke Fava died at the Cambridge Military Hospital Aldershot on 5 February 1973 and was was buried in Fleet Cemetery, Hampshire, UK.



**TO SURVIVE THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES
ABROAD MUST WORK TOGETHER,
AMALGAMATE AND INVOLVE MORE
THE YOUNGER GENERATION**

I thank all those who share this JOURNAL with their families, relatives and friend in other countries of the world. No wonder

**THE JOURNAL FOR
MALTESE LIVING
ABROAD** is read by thousands of people all over the world





MY FIRST VISIT BACK to MALTA

Edel Vella
Musco

(Posted by
Victor Vella
NSW)

I REMEMBER
...yes. I well
remember
suitcases on
Parade standing
to attention on
the red shag
carpet .16 big
bags in fact filled
with gifts,

opal broaches little koala bears tea towels
printed with Aboriginal designs of kangaroos, the
Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House.

I remember Dad's excitement and an impromptu
gathering of family and friends. I remember Mum's
anxiety rising at the frenzy and disruption of it all.
I remember thinking fantastic last year of primary
school. Missing a whole term away from that
teacher and his routines of mental maths, dictation
and spelling tests. We were going to Malta , my
brothers in green made to measure safari suits,
mine in white cheese cloth, I loved it.

Flying over this tiny little country you could see all
the way around it...Is the runway long enough? I
was used to travelling in Australia long very long
car trips to Melbourne to visit my uncle and Broken
Hill just for the fun of it and to break in a new car.
Through the glare I could see my family dangling
over the airport balcony waving madly. I was a
baby when we left Malta in 1968, not even two
years old extended family was now 9 years later a
new thing to navigate. Instant sense of belonging,
cousins many of them, a tussle of hugs and kisses.
I remember the ride to Mellieha the crazy bumpy
roads, detours designed around 10-gallon drums
that everyone seemed to ignore.

Freedom to go out with my cousins, the buses are
the best bright colours religious icons and rosary
beads suspended leaving just a crack for the driver
wearing just a white singlet, to look out of. Loud
music from poor quality speakers. Even louder
conversations drivers talking to other drivers

through open windows I could pick up the
swearing, I loved the sound of the language and
people not realising that I could understand. The
text with all the x's g's and h's its fancy flow on the
page.

In Malta I had Grandparents I remember the
Nannas, beautiful cool homes, Pepsi under the
bed to keep it cold, spinning wool on a spindle,
crocheting itchy blankets that made it back to
Australia. The day defined by bells, things stopped
the rosary started. My Nanna demanding that I
return a loaf of bread to the baker as he sold me
an undercooked one, mistaking me for a tourist I
was no tourist I had connections 'Ta Salvina' he
was embarrassed when he worked out who my
grandmother was.

Trips to Gozo with a bus load of excited old ladies
to see big churches ...Ta Pinu is the highlight.

The colour of the sea and my Nannu's boat shed,
filled with jars of weird stinky things, intricate
fragile fishing baskets, the smell of fuel, boats with
eyes, siestas, 'hobz biz-zejt' that we called blood
sandwiches and the Maltese soft drink Kinnie.

My birthday in September could not compete with
the Festa and I understood why my parents are
both Vic and Vic after the patron saint of Mellieha
La Vitoria. Who needs birthday cake when you
have Catherine wheels, fireworks and mountains
of shredded paper to drop from your
grandmother's roof onto the parade of band
members below.

Baulkham Hills where we lived in Sydney can
never match this. I wanted to stay .Summer
holidays end I didn't stay .But when I was 27 I
found another island in North East Arnhem Land
called Galiwinku .I was a teacher, my husband a
nurse and our daughter Kiara started her life there
on this tiny island of at the time 1000 people .Here
I felt at home again surrounded by sea, immersed
in other languages, beautiful artwork a rich culture
of music dance and spirit. Bill Henson, Australian
photographer sums up memory this way, *The
sense of spirit of place the genius loci and what it
sparks and the way we carry our childhoods inside
us for the rest of our lives, that bodily memory is a
sensation older than sense .*

To quote the lyrics of George Warumpi ab
aboriginal poet: *I come from the Salt Water People
My island Home is always waiting for me !!*



Joan Pace Jakobsen in Canada

I was born in Canada to immigrant parents from Malta. I'm a proud resident of Ward 4 in the Mississauga Valley neighbourhood for over 12 years.

I am a working mom, wife, caregiver, dog owner, and hockey coach active in my community. I am a member of the "sandwich generation" and I see the benefits of extended family on children and seniors every day. I know that all kinds of families make a vital community.

I have 25+ years of leadership experience working in many industries and countries. I build diverse teams, partnerships and deliver results specializing in innovation, transformation, business development and operational efficiencies to deliver better and save millions of dollars. I've worked in private, public and non-profit sectors. I have worked at the City of Mississauga's IT department for 3.5 years where I participated in the municipal process. My background demonstrates that I'm results driven with a proven track record.

I'm a certified Project Management Professional. I have an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies from York University, a Masters Certificate in Project Management from Schulich School of Business, and a Certificate in Executive Leadership from Cornell.

I'm passionate about the environment, community engagement and volunteerism. Since 2017, I've been a hockey coach with the Mississauga Girls Hockey league (MGHL). This year, I was also an instructor for the NHL First Shift Hockey program. It is very rewarding to help young girls develop a love for hockey. I've also been involved in educational causes, as a member of the Board of a non-profit organization in Peel, teaching adult literacy for 3 years and as a member of parent council in my school community (Canadian Martyrs & St. Pio).

As a resident of Ward 4, we need more engaged representation and for our concerns to be addressed. I'm running for Councillor because I can deliver and lead our community. We need change

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM TORONTO, CANADA



On 27 August 2022, Consul General, Ms Denise Demicoli, had the pleasure of joining The Malta Band - Community Concert Band in Mississauga in the first of several MaltaDay celebrations in.

Pleased to see a good turnout to the event & the high esteem Maltese in Ontario have to commemorating historically significant events in our history that have shaped our present and future as a sovereign country.

It was also a pleasure to meet Joan Pace Jakobsen for Mississauga Councillor -Ward 4, a first generation Maltese-Canadian who will be running for council in Ward 4 Mississauga in the upcoming elections in October 2022.

Consul-on-the-move: Vancouver & Edmonton 11-17 October 2022 (tentative)

Denise Demicoli
Consul General for Malta
in Canada

Expression of interest for consular services in British Columbia and Alberta open until 15 September 2022. Kindly complete this online form to provide your contact details if you are interested in consular services that will be provided in BC and AB in October 2022. We will contact you shortly after with further guidance and details.

This initiative is intended to bring consular services closer to Maltese nationals in different provinces, who would otherwise need to travel to Toronto to submit citizenship and passport applications.

The survey will take approximately 4 minutes to complete:

<https://forms.office.com/r/PQgydmDbUT>

When the British Empire waged war on the Maltese goat

Malta's hidden treasures: 'Offending the



goat offended the local lifestyle'

Jessica Arena |324 min read

Boy milking goat into a glass as children in Valletta wait to drink the goat's milk. Postcard courtesy of Caroline Farrow

For nearly a century, the British waged war on the Maltese goat, a humble farm animal blamed by the occupiers for an illness that had swept over their troops.

But the goat was an important element in the local food chain, and the Maltese resisted the occupiers' attempts at eradicating goats from the islands until they were threatened by food security in World War II.

During the war, the island's isolation threatened its food supply, a scenario that Malta relived in 2020 when COVID took the world by storm.

"I think food security has, and will always be, an issue in Malta. When COVID-19 hit there was absolute havoc. We are small and so dependent on food importation, that the fact food may not reach our shores obviously gives rise to panic," National Archives researcher Horace Vella told *Times of Malta*. In 1942, the situation was quite dire, and goats were being slaughtered left, right and centre to feed the locals, depleting the goat population once and for all.

People were promised new flocks in exchange for the slaughtered ones, but by the end of the war, the northern European tradition of cow's milk had trumped Malta's relationship with the goat.

This relationship was first threatened during the Crimean War, around 1854.

"The British needed their troops in Malta to be as



healthy as possible, but several were being found sick or maligned with a specific undulant fever. The fever was coming and going in waves, something the British found strange.

"One of the military's investigating doctors, Captain David Bruce, discovered the bacteria that was causing the diseases. It was later named brucellosis after him. Then in 1905, Sir Temi Zammit discovered that the goat was carrying this fever."

In order to protect its local garrison, the British government ordered the slaughter of sick goats.

'Offending the goat offended the local lifestyle' Laying the blame for the Malta Fever on the goats did not go down well with the Maltese, who relied on goat's milk as a part of their daily nutrition.

The goat had adapted well to the Maltese climate: Malta is a semi-arid Mediterranean island with limited vegetation, and the goat's digestive system meant the animal could thrive on garigue flora while yielding a good amount of milk.

The slaughter order found huge opposition from herdsmen whose business was suddenly dealt a blow, but also the general populace, who found the provision system of goat's milk quite convenient.

"The Maltese like to be spoiled in all aspects. Much like how in some places we can get bread on our doorstep, the herdsmen used to take their flock through village roads providing fresh milk directly from the goat.

"People used this milk in their day-to-day lives. They put it in their drink and food and fed infants with it. The goat was ingrained and entangled in

our daily life, so when you offend the goat, you were also offending the local lifestyle.”

Despite the locals’ resistance, the undulant fever was not going away anytime soon. Cases continued to grow in the 1930s and so did the assault on the Maltese goat.

The British government sought to eliminate the presence of the goat by trying to eliminate dependence on it. It did not want another riot like that of 1919 triggered by bread prices and food shortage, so in 1932 the British pushed for pasteurisation.

Herdsmen were required to take goats to milking stations in Hamrun, San Gwann and Tarxien, where the milk would be pasteurised, and by



1938 goats vanished from Valletta streets. It was only in WWII, when the Empire had to tighten its belt and introduce rationing, that the Maltese goats once again featured in a slaughter policy.

In 1942, Jack Cecil Drummond took stock of the food situation in Malta and it was clear that the British biochemist did not look on the Maltese goat favourably.

“According to Drummond, the goat was an ‘uneconomic unit’ trampling the roads... and leaving its droppings all over the place. He differed with what locals reported of its milk quality and said that it could not compare to British goats.”

Drummond recommended a slaughter policy, closing a long chapter on the Maltese goat.

This article is being published as part of a series called Malta’s hidden treasures, a collaboration between the National Archives of Malta and Times of Malta.

Those interested in this project can register online on www.memoria.com ahead of the launch of the website. More information about the national archives on 2145 9863 or customercare.archives@gov.mt.



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