



Maltese Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

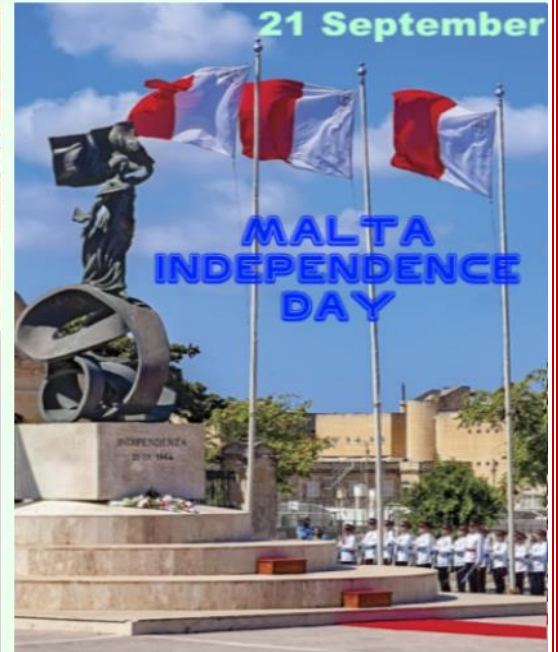
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The Maltese community of New South Wale celebrated the feast of 'IL-VITORJA' at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, Australia



Malta for the first time at the Cycling World Championships In Wollongong NSW AUSTRALIA



**Happy Parenting — Malta
(For Happier Children)**

happyparentingmalta.com

Mary Gauci President

Anthony Cauchi Founder & PRO

**UFFICCJU KOMUNIKAZZJONI**Stqarrija għall-istampa (EN) mill-Kummissjoni Ġustizzja u Paċi. **PR 112/2022****INDIFFERENCE THAT KILLS****STATEMENT BY THE JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION**

The Justice and Peace Commission urges Malta's authorities and politicians to prioritise the saving of lives and refrain from

using language that fans the flames of indifference following the unnecessary death of a four-year-old girl who tragically lost her life in Malta's Search and Rescue Area.

The young girl, Loujin, died because action by the competent authorities to save the lives of 60 people stranded at sea — who had left Lebanon 10 days earlier — came too late.

Moreover, the legitimate queries from relatives, journalists, NGO representatives and citizens of goodwill regarding the location of boats and any action being undertaken by the Armed Forces of Malta should not be met with silence or summarily dismissed.

Far from being traitors or enemies of the state, people who raise their voices in favour of saving lives at sea are honouring our vocation to be — in the words of Pope Francis during his visit to Malta last April — a “safe haven” for migrants, thus helping to prevent the “sinking of civilisation” which threatens us

all. Despite Pope Francis urging citizens to “move from indifference to solidarity”, it is sad to note that in Malta, Loujin's death was once again met with deafening silence from certain quarters.

Since January, more than 1,000 asylum-seekers have lost their lives in the Mediterranean. And yet, these near-daily tragedies do not always make headlines.

The Commission's President, Daniel Darmanin, said: “We seem to have gotten used to this tragic and avoidable loss of life. When these people cry for help, no one seems to be listening. And if we are listening, we don't seem to care enough to do something about it.

“The migration issue is certainly complex and complicated. However, when it comes to rescue at sea, we can never lose sight of one simple truth: there aren't some human beings who are more worthy of our consideration, care, and protection than others. When lives are at stake, everything else is secondary.”

The Justice and Peace Commission hopes that Loujin's untimely death shocks us into action and helps us shake off, once and for all, the torpor of indifference that leads to cruel loss of life.

Former Maltese President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca said she was saddened to learn that Malta was among the countries who reportedly refused to rescue Loujin.



“She could have been my daughter, my granddaughter, the daughter of my cousin, neighbour, relative or friend... she could have been your daughter,” Coleiro Preca wrote.

“This picture [of Loujin] represents injustice against all those who have the same rights as I do to live in peace, and not in war.”

University social wellbeing lecturer Andrew Azzopardi argued that all laws and international relations should be placed secondary to the human need to save lives.

“When it comes to saving lives, we shouldn't be dictated by laws or rivalries... in my opinion we should save people who are in our SAR, and if needs be, even those who are outside it. We have a duty to save lives as we had a duty to save Loujin.”



The 30 years of diplomatic relations between Estonia and Malta are being commemorated by an official visit to Estonia by President George Vella in this north European state which has a frontier with Russia.

Today's commitments were characterised by discussions between the two Presidents who agreed that Europe has to be most active to protect citizens from the difficulties being faced including greater security for energy and food supplies.

Next month President George Vella will welcome the Estonian President, Alar Karis, in Malta for the scheduled Arraiolos meeting.

Their meeting was held in Kadriorg, the Presidential Palace in the Estonian capital, Tallinn. They not only discussed the good relations between the two countries, but also common problems both countries face.

President Vella said they spoke of the increase of the EU, what will the policies be, what will be the position on the impact of energy prices, what will result from the war in Ukraine, the sanctions against Russia and how Ukraine is to be safeguarded. He said these are common to all in Europe.

H.E. Dr Vella said that although Malta is not a member of the Northern Alliance, NATO, it recognises the importance of collective defence and the cooperation required in the EU. He explained that for Malta, the United Nations remains the focal pivot for peace and security.

He condemned the conflict in Ukraine and President Karis explained the direct effect it has on Estonia. He

explained the Russian invasion is a direct threat to the multilateral system that the international community that has protected Europe after World War II in order to prevent conflicts such as this.

He said the EU is more united than ever and every effort has to be made to protect the values and principles of the EU. European citizens are suffering economic problems because of the war and therefore support for Ukraine becomes more important.

The two Presidents also discussed the Mediterranean region with Dr Vella saying it has its own impacts and therefore needs immediate international attention.

The threats of immigration were also discussed, and the Estonian President called for the solidarity of the EU Member countries.

"Russian aggression in Ukraine, but also activities in Syria, Libya, Western Africa and elsewhere, are constantly creating chaos. Malta has become an important partner for Estonia in the Mediterranean region. Together we help to advance democratic, economic, social reforms in southern neighbourhoods. Regions are already suffering from a lack of food security and rising commodity prices. In such context Malta has been dealing with a remarkable migrant flow for many years. Estonia completely understands the complexity of refugee crises. We also have become a frontline state and currently host 50,000 Ukrainian war refugees", he said.

With President Karis, and later Estonian PM Kaja Kallas, as well as Speaker Jüri Ratas, President Vella spoke of various initiatives in education and culture that already exist between the two countries and the potential of greater overseas investments in both countries.

President George Vella also visited the monument commemorating the victims of Communism dedicated to the people of Estonia and their sufferance under the former Soviet Union. President Vella laid a wreath of flowers. His last commitment on the first day of his state visit will be an official dinner this evening hosted by the President of Estonia, Alar Karis.



High Commissioner H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg was invited by Australia's Prime Minister Hon. Anthony Albanese to attend the morning tea event to mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II. HC attended the event together with other Commonwealth High Commissioners and Chief of Protocol Mr Ian McConville.



**THE MALTESE COMMUNITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
CELEBRATED THE FEAST OF VITORJA,
MALTA'S NATIONAL DAY, AT ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL,
SYDNEY AUSTRALIA**

In this photo: Order of Malta Central Eastern Region NSW representatives with the High Commissioner for Malta in Canberra, HE Mario Farrugia Borg, and the Consul General for NSW, Lawrence Buhagiar the statue of Our Lady of Victories at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. The Procession was followed by a Mass in honour of Our Lady of Victories (tal-Vitorja) on the occasion of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin (il-Bambina) concelebrated by the Maltese Chaplains of the Missionary Society of St Paul co-ordinated by Fr. Tarcisio Micallef, MSSP.

The leaders of the Maltese organisations, clubs, and associations representing their members at the religious ceremonies were joined by very many citizens and religious. Both the High Commissioner of Malta and the Consul General of NSW and their families were in attendance and took part in the liturgy.



Malta's long list of rulers include the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Greeks, the Arabs, the Normans, Sicilians, Swabians, Aragonese, the Knights of St John, the French for two restless years and finally the British for over 150 years, which have left an indelible mark on the island today.

Independence Day (Maltese: Jum l-Indipendenza) celebrates the day the country gained independence from the United Kingdom on 21 September 1964, becoming a republic 10 years later. Despite this, the British legacy is still strong in Malta, from the language to the old-fashioned red phone- and letter-boxes, now a rare reminder of times gone by.

On the 25th anniversary of Malta's independence, a bronze and marble Independence monument was inaugurated at the entrance to the Mall in Floriana. The monument was created by celebrated Maltese sculptor Ganni Bonnici and, at a height of 8.5m, was his largest creation and perhaps the tallest statue-based monument in Malta. The monument is said to

represent an important milestone in Ganni Bonnici's artistic career. It merges the abstract with the figurative, as the female figure (an allegory of Malta) strides forward into the unknown while liberating herself from the shackles of the past represented by the abstracted bands beneath her as she holds aloft the national flag.

**THE MALTESE COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA CELEBRATED THE
FEAST OF 'IL-VITORJA' AT LOCKLEYS 9-11 SEPTEMBER 2022**



JANE AGIUS

CARMEN SPITERI

EDGAR AGIUS

ANTONIA ABELA



BERNADETTE BUHAGIAR

SISTER BONNIE

STACEY SALIBA

KATIE CASSAR

MALTESE IN ADELAIDE CELEBRATE MALTA NATIONAL DAY

The Maltese Community Council in South Australia (MCC) hosted a dinner on Saturday 10 September 2022 to celebrate Malta National Day. The celebration was a joint one – with the Queen of Victories Feast also being observed over that weekend.

The weekend started on Friday evening with a Tribute to the Queen of Victories held at Christ the King Church, Lockleys. All Maltese societies were invited to take part with the recital of a prayer and presentation of a floral tribute. The Maltese Queen of Victories Band provided hymns between each decade of the rosary. Afterwards light refreshments were served in the Church Hall.

On the Saturday evening a dinner was held in the Church Hall. The MCC was pleased to welcome invited guests His Grace the Archbishop of Adelaide Patrick O'Regan, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Tourism, Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Shadow Treasurer, Matt Cowdrey OAM MP, Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia, Mrs Carmen Spiteri and Mr Venny Spiteri, MCC President Mr Edgar Agius OAM,

Lockleys Parish Priest Fr Michael Trainor, Adelaide Hills Parish Priest Fr Alfred Farrugia, Sr Bonnie Attard, Sr Natalia Calleja and Sr Rita Spiteri. Mr Ron Borg was the MC for the evening and started the proceedings by asking all to be upstanding whilst a rendition of 'God Save the Queen' was played in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr Borg acknowledged the invited guests and the Maltese Queen of Victories Band played the Maltese and Australian National Anthems. The MCC President was then called to address the gathering. Mr Agius' speech spoke to the united work done by the various societies to bring the evening

to fruition and was followed by a brief and abridged Maltese history lesson by the Honorary Consul Mrs Carmen Spiteri. Ms Bettison and Mr Cowdrey also gave brief speeches, acknowledging and congratulating the Maltese community. His Grace the Archbishop was invited to say grace before the serving of the meal, to which he very graciously obliged. All invited guests gathered whilst two celebratory cakes were cut, one by the Archbishop in honour of the Queen of Victories and the other by

the Honorary Consul to commemorate Malta National Day.

We were fortunate to have Chev Mr Charles Figallo OAM attend our function. Charles has been and continues to be a wonderful benefactor for the Maltese community. Charles brought along a number of colleagues and friends and also very kindly donated an array of raffle prizes. Thank you Charles for your generosity and your fantastic support for the community.

A four course meal was prepared and served by resident caterer, Mr Joe Cassar and his assistants. The meal had some Maltese overtones, with gbejniet, bigilla, galletti, olives, capers and puddina featuring in the courses. During the evening we were entertained by singer Stacey Saliba who treated us to some well known Maltese ballads as well as popular tunes. DJ Eric provided background music during the meal and then some dancing music to round out the night. Thank you to those persons who worked towards making the evening enjoyable and successful.

On Sunday Mass was celebrated in Christ the King Church in honour of the Queen of Victories. Fr Alfred officiated in predominantly Maltese but with some English as well. The Chaplaincy Festivities Choir, under the direction of Sr Bonnie Attard sang during Mass. Directly at the conclusion of Mass and Benediction a wreath laying ceremony took place, with the Honorary Consul Mrs Carmen Spiteri, Mr Matt Cowdrey MP, the MCC President Mr Edgar Agius and representatives of each Maltese society laying a wreath at the Window of Remembrance in the Church. The participants were led in by flag bearers, Venny Spiteri and Charlie Saliba. Ron Borg and Joe Camilleri played the Last Post and Ray Grima recited the Ode. It was a reverent ceremony which was finished off with the choir singing the Maltese and Australian National Anthems.

A social gathering was then held in the Church hall, with the Maltese Queen of Victories Band giving a concert, food and drinks available for sale, raffle and towards the end of the evening the joyous, lively and spirited brijju. This was accompanied by the throwing of shredded paper, much to the delight of the youngsters in the crowd and the not so young!!



Malta for the first time at the Cycling World Championships In Wollongong

Joe Bajada



The plaque at the Maltese Centre - Cringila NSW

Malta has just written a new page in the World Cycling history when for the first time ever took part in the World Championships. This took place on Sunday 18 September 2022 in Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia. Two cyclists of Maltese descent living in Australia, Daniel Bonello and Alexander Smyth took part in the Time Trial on the Wollongong circuit over a distance of 34.2km.

Daniel Bonello had a wonderful performance when he completed his two laps in a time of 44:57.14, while Alexander Smyth ended his race at 47:14.64. This Time Trial was won by Norwegian Tobias Foss in a time of 40:02.78. Stefan Kung of Switzerland finished second and Belgian Remco Evenepoel third.

These 2022 UCI Road World Championships continue throughout this week with several other category races. The Maltese contestant is being led by the secretary general of the Malta Cycling Federation Joe Bajada who during these days is holding several other meetings, as

well as his participation as an UCI voting delegate in next Thursday's Congress.

With an immediate intervention by the same Bajada, with UCI President David Lappartient, Malta was given a wild card so that next Sunday Daniel Bonello could also take part in the Road Race, a race that will start in Heensburgh over a distance of 266.9 km.

In the meantime, the Maltese contingent was invited by the Maltese club of Illawarra at the Cringila Cultural Centre.

Distinguished personalities including Wollongong Mayor Gordon Bradbery and NSW Consul Lawrence Buhagiar also took part in the event. In a speech on the occasion the Club President Louis Parnis said that it was very satisfying for them not only to welcome a Maltese contingent but also to do all their best to make this Maltese visit to Wollongong a successful one.

Joe Bajada thanked the same Parnis for the support and care given by Louis Parnis and his wife Lina on this Australian experience.

CELEBRATION CONCERT MAGIA DI OPERETTE



The MAGIA DI OPERETTE Concert is organized by the Societa' Filarmonica Nazionale LA VALETTE AD 1874 to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the victory by the La Valette Symphony Band in the international bands competition held in Como, Italy

Date: 19th November 2022

Time: from 7pm

Venue: Catholic Institute Theatre, Floriana

Italian Operetta singers from Milan, Italy – Tenor **ANDREA BRAGIOTTO** and Soprano **BARBARA FASOL** will perform solos and duettos from popular operettas: The Merry Widow, The White Horse Inn, Scugnizza, La Duchessa del Bal Tabarin, Il Paese dei Campanelli, La Danza delle Libellule, Il Paese del Sorriso, La Madama di Tebe, La Principessa della Czarda, Cin ci La' leading to a grand finale, while the La Valette Band conducted by Mro Dominic Darmanin will perform the overtures from the Operettas The Merry Widow by Franz Lehar; Die Fledermaus by

Johann Strauss II and Orpheus in the Underworld by Jacques Offenbach. This Celebration Concert is under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of Malta. Booking from Societa' Filarmonica Nazionale La Valette, 297 Republic Street, Valletta Telephone: 21221818 Email: info@socnazlavalette.com Donation of 15 euros per ticket
Chev. Dr. Tonio Portuguese

Consulate General for Malta in Toronto Ontario - Canada

What's on this month ...
September 2022



Monday 19 September 2022 -

National Day of Mourning to pay tribute to the late Queen Her Majesty Elizabeth II

Wednesday 21 September 2022 -

Malta Day 2022 - 58th anniversary since gaining Independence

Sunday 25 September 2022 -

Malta Day 2022 celebration @ Malta Park & St Paul the Apostle church, Dundas St W.

SCHOOLS, SOCIETY AND DIGITAL WELLBEING

ADVANCING SAFE, HEALTHY AND ETHICAL ENGAGEMENT ONLINE

Teach Internet Safety to Children, Parents, and Teachers creating a world where young people can safely benefit from Technology and the Internet.

The current pandemic has led to significant changes in the way we live and has also led to a focus on the importance of promoting health and wellbeing. A key element of this is undoubtedly digital health. Digital health focuses on creating a healthy balance in our use of technology. Obviously, being conscious of digital health is important for adults but is even more so for our children.

So, what does digital health involve? One of the key components is the management of time spent online. One of the first things we notice when we deliver our interactive workshops, in person or virtually in primary and secondary schools, is that many children and teenagers are not actively conscious of the amount of time they are spending on screens in places like their bedrooms, before they go to sleep. For older children and teens we explain the impact of what is known as the 'blue light' which is emitted from the vast majority of digital devices affects the level of melatonin in the brain.

This can have a detrimental effect on things like the quality of sleep, energy levels the next day and importantly concentration levels. When children realise what kind of impact using screens before going to bed can have they can be genuinely surprised. The overall impact of screentime is inextricably linked to the amount of time spent online. Balance is the key here and that begins with education. It can be helpful if a child learns that time spent online can be part of their week but not the only focus of what they do. There is no substitute for face to face communication!



The ongoing development of social skills is a cornerstone of child development and historically, has never involved the use of digital devices.

So, what can you do as a parent to help your child build an awareness of their digital health? Encouragement and open communication are central to supporting your child in regard to this. Regularly remind your child of the importance of spending time with their friends in settings that do not involve using digital devices and communicating online. Encourage and promote moderation in the amount of time that your child spends online and using devices such as smartphones to communicate.

Talk with your child about starting to think about the time they spend online as an important element of their overall wellbeing. In other words, too much time spent on screens or sitting playing online games can have an impact on their current on future wellbeing. In a similar way to the way in which healthy eating is incorporated into family life, digital health needs to be seen in a similar way. Encourage your family to have regular digital detox days and incorporate digital health into your family's 'Digital Contract'. Family life is sometimes hectic and always busy! Juggling all the demands of parenting can undoubtedly be challenging. Helping your child to be aware of their digital health is something that can be incorporated into your family life and become a regular part of your discussions on managing the digital world.



A very fine Italian violin by Alfredo G. Galea

(1909 - 1994)

Cape Town, 1955

After making this violin in 1955, Alfredo Galea, who was also a superb violinist, kept it for his personal use for several years, refusing to sell it. The important South African soloist and concert master, George Walker (1915 - 2003) heard this violin and wanted it. After many efforts and refusals he eventually acquired it by offering Galea his own superb violin by Amon Bilmark, along with a substantial amount of money. Walker kept it for the rest of his life and during his long career as soloist, concert master, teacher and broadcaster and would play on nothing else. This violin has always been commented on by fellow musicians and critics for its power and beauty of tone.

Alfredo G. Galea (1909-1994) was accredited as Master Violin Maker by the Italian National Association of Violin Makers in Rome, an accomplishment merited by the high quality of his work. The German researcher, Lütgendorff notes that Galea made his first violin at the age of 11 and by age 15 had completed 15 violins. His teacher at that time was the Italian violinmaker, Ami care Coschiera, who had a workshop in Alexandria.

After the Second World War Galea moved to Durban in South Africa for a position as first violinist in the Durban Symphony Orchestra. At that time Durban was home to Amon Bilmark (1894-1961) - a former pupil of Simone Sacconi. Bilmark's studio and business dominated the entire country. Soon after his arrival in Durban in about 1946, Galea entered a partnership with Bilmark, but that lasted only briefly, until 1950.

Galea set up his own workshop. He would remain in South Africa for a total of about 16 years, alternating between Durban and Cape Town. By the late 50s he was firmly established as a violinmaker of a very high order.

During one of his concert tours to South Africa, Yehudi Menuhin met Galea. Menuhin was impressed by Galea's work and suggested that Galea should move to the United States. Menuhin eventually assisted him in emigrating to the US in 1962. Galea settled in Longbeach Ca. where he

opened a violinmaking studio and shop. This studio was soon to dominate the violin community in that area and became noted for excellent repairs and restorations. For the next 32 years in the USA, Galea enjoyed the recognition he deserved and desired. He remained there for the rest of his life until his death on 28 July 1994, aged 84.

Galea commanded respect through his work. Ruggiero Ricci commissioned a violin from him in 1970. By 1979 Galea had made around 200 instruments and his life's work amounted to around 240 instruments. He made only two to four violins per year, and they are in the hands of professionals all over the world. So far I have not come across one that showed work of inferior quality or of poor tone. Being a good violinist, Galea knew what violinists wanted and didn't sell an instrument until it conformed to the tonal properties he expected and became known for. All his violins sound really good.

In this violin, made in Cape Town in 1955, Galea departs from his usual model with its somewhat generous arching, in favor of a much flatter top and back. But in every other respect the hand is unmistakable - clean workmanship of a very high order, with impeccable attention to detail. One has to admire his tracing of purfling - virtually flawless. The corners are beautifully shaped, as are the lines and positioning of the f-holes - in this case with almost imperceptible asymmetry.

The choice of material is superb, and Galea's characteristic light golden honey-coloured varnish with its high transparency shows the wood off to great advantage. As with most of his instruments, the back is in one piece. This violin, as with all his violins from his South African period, bears his handwritten label and brand in the inside of the back.

Playing on this violin makes it clear why Galea kept it for himself and why George Walker was so keen to own it - never parting with it till his death

Mr Ronald J. Andrews, Maltese Honorary Consulate in Durban – South Africa

KURZITAJIET



HAIXIA TAL-INGLIŻI/ L-INGLIŻA / QARSU

Din hi pjanta selvaġġa, komuni li tikber aktar ma tagħmel xita, bejn Diċembru u Frar. Il-ħaxixa Inġliża ddaħħlet f'Malta ftit wara l-wasla tal-Inġliżi fl-1800, u orġinat mill-Afrika ta' Isfel. Wieħed għandu mnejn isaqs: għaliex din il-pjanta ġejja minn pajjiż daqshekk 'il bogħod? Sal-1869, jiġifieri sakemm infetaħ il-Kanal tas-Swejz, bosta bastimenti Inġliżi kienu jagħmlu l-kummerċ tagħhom mal-Indja

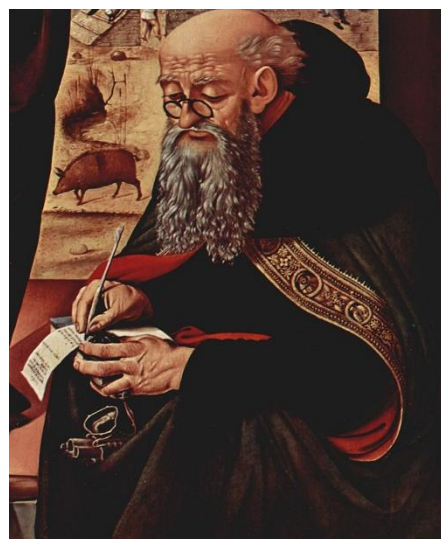
billi jinnavigaw mal-kosta tal- tal-Punent tal-Afrika, b'waqfa f'Cape Town. Kien min hawn li din il-pjanta ttellgħet ma' prodotti oħra fuq il-bastimenti. Il-pjanta tissejjaħ anki 'qarsu', minħabba t-togħma aċiduża tagħha, għax fiha l-aċidu oksaliku. F'Malta din il-pjanta ma tagħmilx żerriegħa. Jingħad li ftit wara li din il-pjanta giet impurtata f'Malta, din infirxet mal-Mediterran kollu u f'ħafna artijiet tal-Ewropa.



HRUQ TA' SANT'ANTNIN

Il-ħruq ta' Sant'Antin (Lat. *Herpeszoster*, Inġliz. *shingles*) hi dik l-infjammazzjoni li tista' tfeġġ f'postijiet tal-ġisem, eż., fuq id-dahar, fil-wiċċ u fuq il-għonq. Il-marda hi kkważata mill-vajrus, *Varicella zoster*, l-istess vajrus li jikkawża il-ġidri r-riħ, u li jibqa' ma jmur qatt mill-ġisem. Dan il-vajrus 'rieqed' kapaċi

jerga' jattiva ruħu fil-ġisem u jinfexx fil-ħruq ta' Sant'Antnin. L-ewwel sintomu huwa l-ħakk, u ftit jiem wara jibda jidher faxx ta' tikek ħomor. Aktar tard jidhru wkoll b'żieqa żgħira b'likwidu safrani. Wara xi ġimgħa, il-feriti jibdew jinxfu, biss l-uġiġħ jista' jibqa' jinħass sa ġimgħat wara minħabba li l-vajrus ikun attakka n-nervituri li jibqgħu ffjammatt. L-isem ta' din il-marda ingħata l-ewwel darba mill-patrijiet ta' Sant'Antnin fi Vienne, Franza meta fis-sena 1095, in-nies ta' din il-belt sofrew minn din il-marda. Fl-ikonografija Sant'Antnin (il-Kbir, jew l-Eremita), il-protettur kontra din il-marda, jidher ħafna drabi b'ħanzir ma' ġenbu għaliex skont l-istorja, il-feriti kienu jkunu ttrattati bix-xaħam tal-majjal. Il-ħruq ta' Sant'Antnin jista' jkun rif. wkoll għal aktar minn marda waħda partikulari. Waqt li fi Franza u l-Ġermanja dan l-isem jirriferi għall-ergotizmu, fl-Ingilterra u fl-Amerika l-ħruq ta' Sant'Antnin jirriferi għall-marda magħrufa bħala *Erysipelas*,





IL-HAJBU

1. Mod ta' mixi fuq erbgħa, jiġifieri, mixi mbé, bħat-trabi li għadhom kemm telqu jimxu.

2. Xi ħadd bla dar u li jiġġerra mat-toroq, ħafna drabi, maħmuġ u bi hwejgu żdingati.

3. Fis-snin tletin kien hemm raġel minn Bormla jgħidulu l-Hajbu, li kien jitlajja kuljum fi Triq San Pawl, il-Belt. Jgħidu li kien hemm rġiel oħra bl-istess laqam, fosthom wieħed minn Ħaż-Żabbar. Qbl. B'Ingliz - hobo li x'aktarx ġejja minn *Hoe Boy*, appellattiv li beda jintuża fl-Amerka, fin-naħa ta' Kalifornja, madwar l-aħħar tas-seklu dsatax, biex jirreferu għal dawk in-nies li kienu jiġġerrew minn post għall-ieħor ifittxu x-xogħol. Idjom: 'Dak dejjem qisu l-Hajbu - rif. għal xi ħadd li ma għandux fejn joqgħod u li dejjem jiġġerra 'l hawn u 'l hinn. Din il-kelma kienet tintuża biex ibeżżgħu lit-tfal - eżempju. 'Ara ġej il-Hajbu għalik'. Ara: *Snajja' u Xogħol il-Maltin, It-Tieni Volum*, ta' Paul P. Borg, pp. 260-262, fejn hemm artiklu fuq il-Hajbu ta' Bormla. Is-sinjura Rita Mizzi miż-Żejtun tgħid li kienet tismagħhom ikantaw taqbila dwar il-Hajbu.

DENI RQIQ / DENI BIERED Il-marda magħrufa bħala d-Deni Rqiq taffettwa l-organi tal-ġisem, bħal pereż., il-**MILSA** b'mod li tiffjamaha u tikkawża uġigħ fiha u fl-għadam. Il-marid jinħakem b'deni kontinwu u baxx (irqiq). Meta fil-bidu tas-seklu dsatax f'Malta bdew jaslu s-suldati Ingliżi, xi wħud minnhom bdew jimirdu b'din il-marda misterjuża. L-Ingliżi taw diversi ismijiet għal din il-marda, eż., *Undulant Fever*, *Mediterranean Fever*, u *Malta Fever*. Meta fl-1886, t-tabib David Bruce skopra l-mikrobu fil-bniedem, dan il-mikrobu beda jissejjah *brucella* wara ismu, u l-marda, *Brucellosis*.



Sadattant kien għadu mhux magħruf minn fejn kien ġej dan il-mikrobu. Xi wħud kienu jemmnu li din il-marda kienet ikkawżata mill-ilma mniġġes tad-drenaġġ. Fl-1905, wara riċerka intensiva, Dr. Temi Zammit skopra li l-mikrobu kellu l-orġini tiegħu fil-ħalib tal-mogħoż. Dak iż-żmien, il-ħalib kien jinbiegħ billi r-ragħajja jieħdu l-merħliet tal-mogħoż tagħhom fl-ibliet u l-irħula, u l-ħalib tal-mogħħa jiġi mferra' fi skutella li x-xerrej kien inewlihom. Naturalment, il-ħalib tal-mogħoż ma kienx ikun ppastorizzat (mgħolli) u ċ-ċans li l-ħalib jgħaddi l-infezzjoni lill-bniedem kien kbir. Il-pastorizzazzjoni tal-ħalib saret obbligatorja f'Malta fl-1938. Dan minkejja li Louis Pasteur, fl-1802 kien diġa skopra l-benefiċċji tat-togħlija (pastorizzazzjoni) biex jinqerdu l-mikrobi.



'IL-FURJANA' CELEBRATES THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE HOTEL PHOENICIA MALTA (1947-2022)

The September issue of 'IL-FURJANA' has just been published. This gazette is the oldest paper of its kind which still is being published in the Maltese Islands. In October of next year the gazette will be celebrating its 70th Birthday since it was first published.

The main feature in this fifth edition during this current year is about THE PHOENICIA MALTA which is a renowned landmark that one finds in the town of Floriana. In an eight page supplement, the "IL-FURJANA" is commemorating the Diamond Jubilee (1947-2022) since the official opening on 3rd November 1947 of one of the oldest hotels in Malta.

The supplement includes an extensive article by Martin Camilleri about the history of THE PHOENICIA MALTA, always regarded as the flagship of the accommodation industry in Malta.

The article is accompanied by quite a number of photos some of which are historical. These photos go to show how much THE PHOENICIA MALTA was a witness to some of the greatest historical events that happened in Malta. They also show the damage this hotel sustained during the Second World War when, although still under construction, was still bombarded on the 27th April 1942.

The day after the same fate fell upon St. Publius church situated a few hundred meters away from the hotel. This attack caused massive destruction, loss of artifacts but, above all, human lives.

Other photos show why THE PHOENICIA MALTA was one of the favourite hotels of Queen Elizabeth II even since the days when she was still a princess and used to come to Malta where her future husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was stationed with the Royal Navy.

This edition of 'IL-FURJANA', includes also two very interesting special features. The first one is about a crypt, unearthed earlier this year, under the chapel situated in the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana. The article is by Mr. Michael Pace Ross, the Administrative Secretary of the Curia.

The Sports pages have statistics and photos regarding the 50th anniversary since Floriana F.C. registered their first ever win in a European competition organized by UEFA when on the 20th of September 1972 they beat Ferencvarosi TC. of Hungary 1-0.

In those days, Ferencvaros were a very renowned team with well-known players within their ranks, some of whom just ten days before had won the silver medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics. Hungary lost (2-1) against Poland in the final.

Julian Holland, Secretary of the Fsoptions Club writes about the reopening of the club premises in St. Anne Street, Floriana after four long years of negotiations with government authorities.

The September issue of 'IL-FURJANA' includes an interview with Mr Vincent Borg who is the new Mayor of Floriana. In the news pages there's an item about a book that the Floriana born sporting journalist Philip Micallef published in Australia.

Three from the four editions of 'IL-FURJANA' issued so far during this current year were special editions. That of April, commemorated the 80th anniversary since the war in Floriana, and the full fledged and complete first feast of St. Publius after the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May the special edition featured Pope Francis' visit to Malta, and in the following month (June), in yet another special edition, we gave complete coverage about Floriana F.C. triumph over Valletta F.C. in winning the IZIBET F.A. Trophy.

Now, after H.M. Queen Elizabeth II death, we are going to issue, yet, another special edition featuring Her Majesty's link's to Floriana, going back to the years when she was still a Princess living in Malta.

Those interested in acquiring any copy, want to subscribe in the gazette, or for any other information, can do so by sending an email to Stephen Tonna - email address: sanpublju@gmail.com mobile number 79339649, or to Freddie Tonna - email address: annotfre@gmail.com



Nancy M.A Serg nee Borg OAM
My Maltese and Australian Lives and
Maltese Community Involvement in NSW
MY LIFE IN MALTA 1946 + and AUSTRALIA 2022
(Written exclusively for the Maltese e-Newsletter)

MY MALTESE BACKGROUND

1946 I was born in Sliema Malta, the eldest of ten '10' children to Leone and Agnese Borg. My sister and I attended St. Elizabeth Nuns and Government Primary Schools in Sliema. I was my mother's right hand. Dad taught me to relieve her in our Grocery-Winery shop downstairs whilst he worked elsewhere. We cooked for twelve '12' on a Primus Stove, handwashed dishes, clothing and hung up on the roof to dry; washed floors daily, read bedtime stories, finally get to my homework and study under the yellow light bulb in the hallway. In summer Mum took pram and all for an evening stroll-passigata, meeting friends at Ghar id-Dud by the Sliema 'sea-front'. We enjoyed and behaved, so we could go again!

1954 whilst at The Blue Sisters Hospital, recovering from a tonsil operation, Queen Elizabeth 11 entered the ward, stopped by my bed and asked how I was. I could not talk, but wiggled my fingers at her Majesty who said, "You will get better dear". I re-counted this to my class. We received a British Flag, and exercise book with a cover which had Her Majesty riding on her horse.

Daily, I visited Nannu Pietro P. Borg, Artist/Winemaker who lived three doors up. He recounted his ancestry which inspired me to track relatives. To-date the 'Parteca' families are still elusive. His wife, my Nanna M.

Assunta Caruana Nichols, died at Gzira from a bomb blast on the first day of WW11. She left six '6' children. When young, I often stayed with family friends at Msida and Sliema whose sons studied for the priesthood. Mum taught me crochet and knitting and Cettina next door, taught me sewing by German Burda patterns. Ines my 'Confirmation Sponsor' 'Parrina tal-Grizma', gave me interesting books to read. I delighted listening to this family's friendly debates on the subject, as her brother was a politician. In between serving customers Mum read us books and said the rosary whilst we all sat on the stairs. Life was full-on in our large family. Sa' Melit and Sur Calcidon, 'Catechism Teachers' coached me to teach 'Dutrina-Cathechism' to Primary School children for First Holy Communion. I found German and Shorthand books in Dad's attic and learnt Shorthand by myself practising by taking notes from radio. I hoped to become a reporter in Germany and send money home. My father was not impressed and trained me to work in our Grocery/Winery shop to relieve mum who was pregnant. My sister Carmen and I attended 7am Mass daily at Sacro Coeur Church Sliema. At 15yrs of age, a Priest skipped us from receiving Holy Communion citing political reasons. My parents, customers, friends, relatives etc. were scandalised. Despite this, our faith remained. We frequented another church close by. Dad's brother Charles joined the Salesian Oratory and became a Missionary in South America. We kept in touch. I was quite touched about the plight of the poor villagers and corresponded with some children.

Mum was born at Hal-Qormi Malta, the youngest of eighteen '18' children to George Borg from Qormi and Giuseppa Borg nee Gauci Camilleri from Rabat. I remember Nanna Giuseppa on her deathbed. At times I

stayed at Qormi in the school holidays with four of mum's eldest siblings who looked after each other. Uncle Karmenu, a Chauffeur for a government minister bred Pigeons for Stuffat tal-Pidgin 'Pidgeon Stew'. He was cheerful; ready to help his siblings and everyone. I attended the Investiture of Uncle, Sir Emanuel

'Leli 'Borg Gauci OSTa Artist-Sculptor when Knighted by Queen Elizabeth's representative at Valetta. I watched him work on a bust of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth 11. Uncle Leli was resident Artist/Sculptor at the Qormi Club 'Kazin' tal-Banda San Bastjan. Auntie Grezz, a member of the Socjeta tal-Muzew 'a religious order' for over fifty '50' years took me with her to 6.00 am Mass. I loved the Qormi Church Bells and vegetable markets. On the way back we purchased Maltese fresh bread, 'Hobza Maltija' hot from the local oven.

We enjoyed thick slices with oil, tomato conserve, capers and mint 'Hobs biz-zejt u l-Kunserva'. I remember the Goats came behind the front door and were milked into a huge jug for the family. Early evenings, together with elegant Auntie Melita, we went to Strada Rjali, the main street in Belt Valletta to meet friends at Cordina's or Piazza Regina. Uncle Karmenu drove her weekly to Sliema to assist my mother who enjoyed her cheerful company and receiving family news. We looked forward to Auntie Melita's visit which gave mum a respite.

Carmen and I formally learnt Shorthand at Floriana Technical College and at Sammy's Touch-Typing School Hamrun, practising typing on a cut-out cardboard typewriter keyboard. We received Shorthand and Typing Certificates which proved invaluable later. The Kana Nuns were recruiting young ladies to emigrate to Australia. I planned to join, work and send money home. Dad was not impressed. A decision was made to emigrate as a family to Australia. Our extended families were aghast and knew they would never see my parents again.

AUSTRALIAN SETTLEMENT AND JOURNEY

1964 our family of twelve '12' arrived at Woolloomooloo NSW Australia, on the Ship 'Sydney'- Flotta Lauro. We rented a house in Bankstown for three months. After an interview at the Commonwealth Employment Office and a typing-shorthand test, and within two days I started work as a Typist and my sister Carmen worked in the Accounts Department at HG Palmers Punchbowl. Travel by the red 'rattler' trains was a novelty. After work we helped mum with housework, siblings with homework. At St. Felix's Catholic Youth Organisation, I bonded with Gina and Trini, recent emigrants and met Felix Serg of Austrian-German background who came to visit my parents and get to know each other's families. Dad thought Felix's mum 1964 Mr. Lawrence Dimech encouraged me to write the "Pagna tan-Nisa - Women's Page" for the Maltese

Herald Newspaper. I vowed to preserve my Maltese language and writing skills. The family moved to Smithfield NSW where Dad built a concrete pit in the garage and repaired cars after work. He found it hard to adjust, as did many European men in that era. Mum made friends with the gregarious Italian and Lithuanian worked as Secretary in Sydney utilising my Secretarial skills receiving good wages. I put my first Christmas gifts on lay-by and looked

forward to decorating our Christmas Crib etc in our Lounge Window where neighbours etc enjoyed it.



**NANCY CROWNED MISS MALTA
IN SYDNEY 1N 1976**

1967 I won the 'Miss Malta' of Sydney Competition. (The Maltese Guild of Australia Souvenir Program 1967; The Maltese Herald 11October,1967 Pg2; Catholic Weekly Sydney 12Oct.1967 Pg25; Il-Berqa 4 July 1968 Pg2; Times of Malta 4 July 1968 Pg9; It-Torca 14 Sept12th Oct.1967). This was an unexpected opportunity to visit my beloved families and friends in Malta, Gozo, UK and acquaint myself with Felix's families in Germany. Back in Sydney after six months, I was surprised Dad was in Fairfield Hospital. I updated him with family news.

1969 Dad passed away and was buried at Liverpool Cemetery NSW Life for mum was hard with mortgages and children to support. Whilst my siblings were at St. Gertrude's Primary and High Schools, mum found courage to work as an interpreter in English, Italian and Maltese at a Fairfield Solicitor. After work Carmen and I helped with homework etc. On Saturdays we cleaned the house giving mum a break. I mended uniforms and sewed new clothes for my

fast-growing siblings. My young brothers mowed the huge lawns and fiddled with car repairs in dad's garage. Everything was a novelty, learning the Aussie way.

My siblings made friends at schools and became 'Aussies' quicker and easier than Carmen and myself. It was a huge relief the family was settling down at last. From research, I urged mum to join the Senior Citizens Group at Fairfield where she became enamoured with the Australian ladies' educational talks, weekly meetings, bus outings, etc. I saw the remarkable difference this integration made in her life as my

siblings left the nest. Mum eased into Australian life, met familiar faces at the shops in Fairfield and Smithfield. When confident she taught Religion at Smithfield Public School where there were multicultural children. She mixed well with any nationality and became expert at carpet bowls at St. Claire. She also



The Serg's family with the grandmothers



Nancy (left) arriving in Australia

amazed us with her deft piano playing.

I joined the local Catholic Youth Organisation, went to meetings and bus outings. I met my lifelong friends Gina and Trini and Felix Serg. A few years later Felix and I married and moved to Seven Hills NSW.

I felt guilty for years about leaving mum with my nine '9' siblings and all the family housework. We visited her in the weekends and assisted in many ways. I adjusted to tri-cultural cooking and lifestyle and my German language improved. Over the years Felix and I were blessed with three '3' daughters.

1975 I entered The Lovely Motherhood Quest, raising money for the Deaf and Blind Children NSW. (Daily Mirror 8 May, 1975 Pg5; Lantern Light Aug. 1975 Pg15; The Blacktown Advocate 6 May 1975).

When at Kindergarten and Primary Schools, I carried out volunteering and worked part-time until they attended High Schools, Universities and started work. I worked part time at Wonderland Travel. Mr. Joe Sammut, Manager, introduced me to La Valette Social Centre Choir. I remember the Nuns and then Mr. Victor & Mrs. Rachel Floridia, Choir Directors.. I immersed myself in the Maltese and Australian Communities, our children's Primary and High School activities, Mothers' group, pottery etc. I settled well into Australian life, made friends with Australian ladies, updated courses in Secretarial Management/Supervision and worked full-time in satisfying positions.

The Prince of Denmark visited the Swedish Company I worked at. As Marketing Secretary, I flew to Melbourne with Departmental Management for a 'Super-Silencer Compressor' promotion. I heard Maltese voices in the factory and stopped to give greetings. The prince was intrigued and enquired about Malta. Years later I visited my Swedish friends; and sang in the World Festival Choir and Luciano Pavarotti concert in Stockholm Sweden. It was a huge highlight (The Maltese Herald 6 July 1999 Pg4).

Working part-time and full-time careers suited my family. When they grew up, I worked full time as Personal/Administrative Clerk to the Chief Inspector's where I set up the first Administration Office, conduct interviews for new Public Service staff and also relieved the Clerk of The Chief Superintendent of a huge District. A satisfying career. 1978-1992-1997-2010, I was Actor, MC, PR, in the Good Friday Pageants "It- Triq Tas-Salib" and "Ikun Li Trid Int" produced and directed by Mr. Eddie Busuttil, who acted as 'Jesus (Photo No.1) These shows were much appreciated, outstanding and in demand.

1993-1997 As Mentor and Patron of the Young Australian Social Group 'YAMSG' I attended meetings and was MC at two '2' Maltese Youth Concerts at Australia's Wonderland Eastern Creek NSW where our daughters took part as Co-MC, Publicity Office and Singer. I felt proud they were involved.

1994 1999 Sister MaryAnn Grima FMM RIP and Sister Catherine Buhagiar FMM enlisted me on board, and I became one of the foundation members and Master of Ceremony for the Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day for five '5' years. . The METD is still ongoing todate.

1995 Together with Mr. Victor Vella Maltese Teacher and Author, we broadcasted Thirty '30' Maltese Language Lessons on SBS Maltese Radio Program in English and Maltese which were ideal for students.

(Photo No 2). 1996 I relieved Mr. J. Borg Maltese Radio Presenter, on air whilst he was on leave. Mr. Ioane LaFaoe, SBS Radio Producer, entrusted me with translating/producing/broadcasting thirty '30' programs of 'Homereach Series' on Government services available which I broadcasted on SBS after interviewing carers of Maltese **Elderly at their homes.**

1999 as part of a large contingent I sang as Soprano Chorister with 'The Beethoven Society of Australia' at the Manoel Theatre in Malta and later onto other parts of Europe.

2000- 2009 Remembering how my mother enjoyed Australian Groups which helped her assimilate, I founded and set up five '5' Maltese Seniors Groups in NSW.

1) The Botany Coffee and Chat Group in South Sydney on behalf of the Maltese Community Council of NSW..

2) The Rockdale Maltese Seniors Group which I set up due to demand in that area. (Photo No. 3 combined groups).

3) The Merrylands Community Health Centre, Maltese Seniors Group. a/a/

4) The Men's Group at Merrylands Community Health Centre.

5) The Migrant Resource Centre Maltese Seniors Group at the Migrant Resource Centre at May's Hill due to being approached by Mr. Alfred Fenech OAM and Mrs. Maria DeCarlo to start an MRC Group. (Photo No.4)

The Maltese Australian Independent No2. 12 th November 2013 Pg10; and on 10 th December 2013 No 6 Pg 3).

I engaged Maltese Seniors Groups with Australian Groups combining bus tours and functions etc. Their scope widened and new friendships were made. It was just so lovely and satisfying to witness.

Due to family illness, I retired and became a Carer etc.

2001-2005 I received five x 5 Medals in the 'City to Surf' Fun Runs. When retired, I childminded our eight '8' grandchildren. After university studies some now work, the rest are still at High and Primary Schools. When my husband retired, we visited his mother at Aged Care till she passed away, and my 103-10mths old mother Agnese Borg at her own house, catching up with our siblings and family occasions.

2013 I was extremely honoured to receive the Order of Australia Medal 'OAM' at Government House Sydney "For serving in the Maltese Community of New South Wales". (The Sydney Morning Herald 26-27 Jan 2013 Australian Day Honours 4; The Telegraph 26 January 2013; Hills News 29 Jan 2013 Pg6; Hills Shire Times 29 Jan 2013 Pg13; Lehen Il-Maltin li Jghixu Barra No 27 Feb.11, 2013; The Maltese Herald 29 Jan 2013 Vol 51 Issue 5) MCCV News No117 Jan-Feb. 2013 Pg1&; Pg9.)

2013-2014 Mr. Alfred Fenech OAM and Mrs Maria DeCarlo called on my assistance to set up the first Maltese Seniors Group at the newly established Maltese Resource Centre, 'MRC' at Mays Hills NSW. We enjoyed the first Christmas party (Photo No4). Sadly, Mr. Fenech passed away whilst I was overseas.

2018 – Mr. Paul Zammit OAM FAICD invited me to attend a committee meeting where it was decided to start "The Catholic Breakfast Group" which met at Parliament House NSW. This attracted excellent and distinguished speakers and Catholics who worked in the city and outer areas. I researched and read the Opening Prayers for the 'Breakfasts' till Covid-19 surfaced. (Maltese E-Newsletter 260 Pg6 April 2019.

2019-2022 Covid-19 made its appearance and things came to a standstill. This changed our lives from the norm. Sadly, the death of Queen Elizabeth 11 was followed worldwide by thousands on TV. We now look forward to King Charles 111 Coronation and proceedings in the UK on our TV. This marks the beginning of an era.

Mrs. Nancy Serg nee Borg OAM 19 September 2022 (copyright)

The above information and activities are by no means exhaustive. If I left anybody or anything out, my apologies are sincerely offered. Information can be accessed in the bi-lingual Maltese-Australian Books, E-News and Journals at The Maltese Community Council of NSW 'MCC', The Alfred Fenech Maltese Resource Centre Parramatta West NSW; contact@mccnsw.org.au Mentioned in Books and Maltese E-Newspapers i.e. Telqu Ghal Ghonq it-Triq 2008 by Mr. Lawrence Dimech Pgs. 149-154: A Who's Who of Maltese-Background Persons in Australia and NZ by Mr. Maurice N. Cauchi in Victoria: An Australian/Maltese Monument &; Malta's Chequered History & Leaders by Mr. Oreste L. Aquilina (Pg38,119,121,126); Maltese E-Newsletter, Journal of The Maltese Living Abroad; Editor Mr. Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP maltesejournal@gmail.com; The Voice of The Maltese; (We are for the Greater Malta) Editors Mr. Lawrence Dimech OAM and Mr. Joseph Cutajar)

EVARIST BARTOLO

**Former Minister for Foreign and European Affairs
Writes to The Maltese Journal (2021)**



Maltese and Gozitans in the world

I was born and brought up in a village, Mellieha, where every family has someone who has emigrated to somewhere else in the world. In the village primary school we were often asked to imagine writing to

our relatives in Australia.

I still remember vividly around 60 years ago, two of my uncles in my nanna's very modest sitting room embracing their brother and sisters, with a lot of tears shed, before they left for Melbourne. I remember as a child feeling very worried about the fate of my uncles as I was told that their voyage by sea would take more than a month. I had no idea where Australia was but I thought a month was an awfully long time to spend on a boat and what would happen to them if the sea got stormy, especially at night?

Even though they arrived safely I still remember having my fears confirmed when I was told at the age of six, in 1958, how a number of Maltese emigrants were on a Norwegian ship that caught fire on its way to Australia. Although they were all saved it still filled me with anxiety about others who were leaving their family to go to Australia.

So as a child for me emigration meant tears, separation and danger. Till the first parcel arrived for us nephews and nieces for the first Christmas after our uncles left. Then emigration meant also very nice small toys that we could not find in Malta. Eventually as I grew up, I started realising that emigration was necessary for thousands of Maltese and Gozitans to have a job and bring up their families decently as there were not enough jobs were being created in Malta and Gozo, a colony that had no say in its own economic development and relations with other countries as

were forced to be a military, naval and air base for Great Britain and nothing else.

So the Maltese and Gozitans were told to cross the watery desert and look for the Promised Land. They were even paid to be able to leave. I also got to know that it was not the first time that emigrants used to write back home saying that they lived very comfortably in grand houses when in fact they lived in poor housing conditions without even basic sanitary facilities. After taking the painful decision to leave Malta, how could they admit that when they arrived, the place they lived in was much worse than the one they had left in Malta? Malta and Gozo have always been islands of emigration.

The first settlers emigrated to Malta around 8,000 years ago. We are told that the first Neolithic people probably arrived from Sicily, but they originated from different parts of the Mediterranean, including both Europe and Africa. Since then Maltese have been emigrating to all corners of the world. We can find Maltese and Gozitans in around 194 countries in the world today. There are about 120,000 first generation and 300,000 second and their generation Maltese living in other countries which means that we have a diaspora of about 420,000, as many Maltese and Gozitans we have in our islands.

A world Bank report published last year shows that 24 per cent of all Maltese live outside Malta, putting the rate of emigration for the Maltese population as the highest out of any EU country. Despite all this I still believe that we are not aware enough of the reality and history of emigration. I still feel that emigration is apart from our history rather than a part of our history.

One scholar who has really worked hard for many years to change this shortcoming is Professor Henry Frendo. I am grateful to him for this new latest book about Maltese and Gozitan migrants overseas which is full of interesting information and analysis about our diaspora.



It was a farmer's life



N O S T A G I A



**YOU DON'T SEE THESE
ANYMORE**



**Having a nap after
drinking a bottle of wine**



**Karmen Mikallef Buhagar (right), a Maltese migrant
in Egypt, collecting money for the Malta Relief Fund.
WW2**

**We thank all our readers,
supporters and contributors
from all over the world for
making this journal the
most read and the best**

**If you
have a story
to tell share it
with others**

**Send it to us
Record it in
HISTORY**



Happy Parenting — Malta (For Happier Children)

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Date: 19th September 2022 Happy Youths free of Addiction

Exhibition and Award Presentation At the Gżira Local Council Premises

Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children) in collaboration with the Gżira Local Council and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is organizing an exhibition at the Gżira Local Council premises of the items submitted to the competition themed Happy Youths free of Addiction. The exhibition will remain open until 26th September 2022.



The exhibits include various categories such as art, music, sculpture and essays. Nominations for the Exemplary Youth in Sports award have also been submitted.

Mayor Conrad Borg Manchè will present the prizes during a ceremony to be held on Sunday 25 September 2022 from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Mr Ryan Galea, one of the administrators of Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children), a graduate in Design and in Personal Development, will give a talk on Art. The event will be animated by The Small Brass Band led by Mr Roderick Attard, Ms Liana Agius (singer and music teacher) and Ms Harshini Sriram (a young singer and Guitarist). The event will be concluded with refreshments kindly provided by one of our members who specializes in

catering.

Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) has already collaborated with various Local Councils who, after giving priority to applicants from their particular Locality, are ready to welcome participants from all other Localities, especially because certain initiatives are held online.

I would like to state that in particular we have received the support of the Gżira Local Council. Mayor Borg Manchè has supported Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children), especially activities targeted at youths and children, for the past four years. Now that he has completed his Law degree course, he is also assisting in our administration in the role of Vice President of our organization. More information at: admin@happyparentingmalta.com

Mary Gauci President

Anthony Cauchi Founder & PRO

IN MEMORY OF JOE EBEJER (IL-MOSTI) (1925-2022)



Joe Ebejer was born on the 25th of September 1925 in Mosta (Malta), the eldest son of the Ebejer family. At a young age, he attended the Mosta Primary School, and was a member of the Mosta Scouts, as

well as a member of a theatrical group, that staged plays at the local 'Oratorju tal-Qalb ta' Gesu'.

His father arrived in Australia in 1948 leaving back home his wife and family. Two years later, he was about to return back to Malta, Joe told him *"Please Dad, don't come back. There is nothing here in Malta. We will come and join you"*.

So, on the 14th May 1950, together with two of his brothers Joe arrived in Australia. After a couple of initial jobs, he settled at the Post Office and later, together with his wife Kitty, opened a shop in Girraween, NSW. As he told me, in those days the Maltese migrants used to say that there was nowhere for them to go to so, Joe went to the Department of Tourism and asked them to give

him information about the most popular attractions in Sydney.

Then he organized buses and tours for the members of the Maltese community and they visited places of interest around Western Sydney. When the "Girraween Social Club" was established, Joe was elected president of the club; beside this and later on a football team was formed at the same club.

Joe was also a good actor and singer. His favourite songs were those of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. Joe used to be a popular MC at weddings and other functions.

In 1964, Joe told me that Fr. Paul Baron OFM Cap approached him to join La Valette Social Centre (then known as Maltese Community Western Suburbs Association) where he was one of the pioneers.

For several years Mr. Ebejer and his late wife Kitty dedicated their time as volunteers. They used to visit Homes for the Elderly whether they were Maltese or not.

Joe was a real gentleman and a devout Christian. He spent some time in a Nursing Home at Quakers Hill where he passed away peacefully on the 10th September 2022.

Till we meet again – GREG CARUANA (NSW)
20/09/2022

Chapel of St Nicholas - Zabbar



The **Chapel of Saint Nicholas** (Maltese: *Il-Kappella ta' San Nikola* or *ta' San Niklaw*), sometimes known as *Tas-Subriċint*, is a Roman Catholic chapel located in the Żonqor area between Marsaskala and Żabbar, Malta. A previous chapel dedicated to Saint Nicholas was located in the area from at least the early 16th century, but it was deconsecrated in the 17th century. The present building was constructed between 1759 and 1762 in the Baroque style. Today, the chapel is located within the limits of Marsaskala, but it is administered by the parish of Żabbar.

History Notarial documents of the early 16th century suggest that a chapel dedicated to Saint Nicholas existed in the Żonqor area. This chapel formed part of the parish of St. Catherine of Żejtun, and it stood on land which belonged to Salvu Burlò. It was visited by Pietro Dusina in 1575, who found that the chapel had an altar but no door, and that it was undecorated. Burlò was ordered to install a wooden door.

This chapel was not well-maintained, and it was not used regularly, which resulted in it being profaned by Bishop Miguel Juan Balaguer Camarasa on 25 March 1659, and again by Lorenzo D'Astiria in 1666. It remained functional for a few more years, before being profaned for a third time by Bishop Miguel Jerónimo de Molina on 25 March 1679.

The present building was built by the lawyer Giovanni Battista Azzopardi Barbara, in order to fulfill the wish of his father, Gian Francesco. The first stone was laid down on 10 July 1759 by monsignor Giovanni Maria Azzopardi Castelletti. It was completed within three years, being consecrated in 1762. The chapel was presumably built to serve the religious needs of farmers who lived in the area, and it is sometimes known as *Tas-Subriċint*.^{[1][3][4]} At some point, a plaque stating *non gode l'immunita ecclesias* was installed near the doorway to indicate that the chapel did not enjoy ecclesiastical immunity. The chapel was damaged during World War II, and it was repaired in November 1945. For some time, Society of Christian Doctrine members from Żabbar used the chapel for retreats.

Today, the chapel is located within the limits of Marsaskala, but it forms part of the parish of Żabbar. The chapel is open on Friday evenings for rosary or adoration, and mass is held there once every month.^[1]

The chapel is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands. It is erroneously listed twice with inventory numbers 1741 and 2102, under the localities of Marsaskala and Żabbar respectively.

Architecture The chapel is built in the Baroque style out of local limestone. The chapel is a rectangular building, and it has a small cylindrical dome with a lantern. The façade contains the main portal, which is flanked by two sets of flat pilasters set on plinths. The doorway is set in the central bay, and it is decorated by mouldings and topped with a pediment. A window which illuminates the chapel is found above the door. A wide entablature topped by a cornice runs along the entire façade, and another triangular pediment tops the central bay.

This is decorated with the coat of arms of Bishop Bartolomé Rull, surmounted by the arms of Grand Master Manuel Pinto da Fonseca. A plaque with a Latin inscription commemorating the chapel's completion is found above the main doorway, while a longer inscription describing the course of construction is located inside the chapel.^[1] The chapel's altarpiece depicts Saint Nicholas wearing a bishop's clothing, and it is attributed to Mattia Preti's bottega. The original painting is now in the Żabbar Sanctuary Museum, and a copy by Michael Mifsud is located inside the chapel.

A small wooden statue of Saint Nicholas from the old chapel was moved to the Żabbar

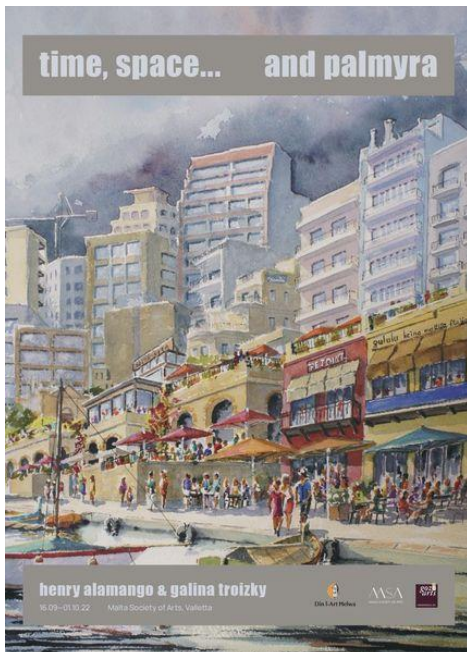
**THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER CONNECTS
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD WITH THEIR HOMELAND**



It is a free, bilingual and non-political journal, which has spread around the world like wildfire. It is Australia-based and distributed not only in every State and Territory of Australia but also in many countries where other Maltese reside. It is keeping the Maltese communities connected with Malta and with its language, history, culture and heritage.

The electronic newspaper is also printed and distributed to residents of several Aged Care Facilities, schools and to members of Maltese associations in Canada, Australia and USA. Since the demise of *The Maltese Herald*, the only Maltese Newspaper in Australia, the Maltese Journal has become one of the only concrete and effective digital contacts with Malta and other Maltese around the globe. To subscribe in the e-newsletter send Frank an email: maltesejournal@gmail.com

Environmental degradation expressed in a contemporary local exhibition **15-30 September**



Michela Tufigno

Community Under Siege by Henry Alamango

Coming up this month at the Malta Society of Arts (MSA) is *Time, Space... and Palmyra*, which explores the topical theme of the degradation of natural landscapes and the built environment, with its social implications.

The exhibition will showcase 12 water-based medium works by Henry Alamango and 15 works in a contemporary style using collage and acrylic technique by Galina Troizky. Opening on Thursday 15 September, the works will remain on display at MSA's galleries at Palazzo de La Salle in Valletta until Friday 30 September, and in the evening of Saturday 1 October specially for Notte Bianca.

Alamango and Troizky had already developed a personal and artistic partnership through other collaborative projects in the past. Their long conversations often converged on their common concerns: primarily, the decline of the environment, urban degradation and their social implications.

"Art became an opportunity to express our concern and alarm at what is happening to the environment around us," explain the two artists. "Our collaboration began with frequent plein-air sessions, which naturally evolved to studio work practically all year round, often with intense brainstorming and mutual criticism. We then decided to make a statement with our works through an exhibition.

"This theme was conceptualised around four years ago, but then COVID intervened. Time passed, and eventually we realised that our original intent had mushroomed in the national and international psyche," continue Alamango and Troizky. In 2015, like the rest of the civilised world, they rightly recoiled in horror at the deliberate physical and cultural destruction by ISIS of the ancient city of Palmyra, Syria, of UNESCO World Heritage fame. "However, flashbacks to Palmyra continue to manifest themselves much closer to us. Palmyras are happening every day: in our streets, next door and elsewhere globally, and we're now living in an economic order where material 'growth' is equated to 'development', replacing social values by monetary value," they say.

Troizky's contemporary art has been strongly impacted by rapid urbanisation, often accompanied by social decline, in both Moscow and Berlin, where she worked for several years. She moved to Gozo early this century, hoping to escape these negative influences. Her work makes strong statements about the downside of over-urbanisation without a social soul and the 'invisible' social consequences which then become apparent: loss of community, of identity, anonymity, loneliness (exacerbated by ageing populations), and the transfer of relationships to a virtual world with all its social dangers.

These beliefs are also echoed in Alamango's works. Mostly known for his figurative art depicting the local environment in a nostalgic, often romanticised form, some of the works in this exhibition present alternative versions of idyllic locations. Intrigued by the transformation of space and habitats over time, his water-based paintings consist of 'snapshots' at various points in time, illustrating how a locality or a social environment has mutated over the years. A number of his works also integrate anachronistic elements, while others foreshadow an extreme urbanisation whose process has already started.

MSA President Arch. Adrian Mamo remarks that the MSA is proud to be hosting an exhibition with a strong social commentary. "Henry and Galina have created works which leave a powerful emotional impact on their viewers. The artworks summon our full attention: they make us think, and at times also weep at what our society has come to," he says.

In conclusion, Alamango and Troizky express their desire to spark conversation: "If this exhibition serves, as a modest platform, to raise awareness and to provoke mature discussions around the themes of rural and built environments with their links to mental and social well-being, then we would have laboured for something useful beyond just pretty pictures."

Time, Space... and Palmyra by Henry Alamango and Galina Troizky is open between Thursday 15 September and Friday 30 September, and in the evening of Saturday 1 October specially for Notte Bianca between 7pm and 11:30pm at the Malta Society of Arts in Valletta. Entrance is free. For more opening hours and details about the exhibition please visit [click here](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/MaltaSoc>



**Migrant & Refugee Sunday 2022
Multicultural Mass**

Multicultural and refugee Sunday will be celebrated with Mass in St Francis Xavier Cathedral, ADELAIDE on Sunday 25 September 2022 at 2.30pm. This year the Maltese have been chosen to say a prayer of the faithful in Maltese amongst other languages.



EUNIC Australian Cluster is organising an event at The Australian National University on 26 September, for the European Day of Languages. The High Commission of Malta for Australia and New Zealand will be participating in the event and will be giving out gifts for the prize draw

Join Us

In celebrating the Day of Korean Art Exhibition

"The Soul of East and West"

We invite you to our
Grand Opening VIP Reception
Friday, September 23, 2022.
6pm-9pm

Arta Gallery 14 Distillery Lane Toronto M5A3C4

Enjoy Food, Drink, Performance, and Art

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*Please bring your own business card to enter the VIP reception raffle for a chance to win a complimentary stay in the Novotel Hotel Toronto North York.

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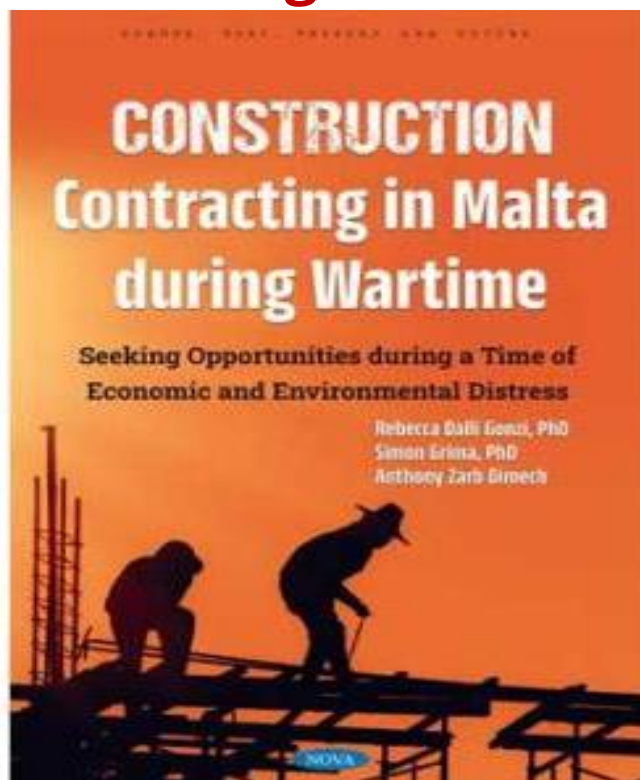


The Soul of East & West is an exhibition of artwork by five South Korean Artists and five Canadian Artists of which I'm one.

ART GALLERY 14 Dustillery Lane, TORONTO

Joseph Muscat OSA AOCA
Visual Artist / Art
& Exhibition Consultant
Canadian - Maltese

Wars bring about irreversible change



'Construction contracting in Malta during wartime – Seeking opportunities during a time of economic and environmental distress'. Authors: Rebecca Dalli Gonz, Simon Grima & Anthony Zarb Dimech. Publisher: Nova Science Publishers, Inc. / 2022. Pages: 92pp

One of the most impressive traits of the Maltese national psyche is that during times of wars, pandemics and other trials and tribulations, the Maltese people rose to the occasion demonstrating uncommon resilience and morale.

[Construction contracting in Malta during wartime – Seeking opportunities during a time of economic and environmental distress](#) reveals in no small detail how financial structure decisions can evolve from treating profitability as a given to recognising that value depends on the allocation of decisions of control.

In doing so, the book focuses on a Maltese personality, Chev. Angelo Grima (amiably known as Is-Sur Gulin tal-Qutu) who hailed from Zejtun. He is the main character in this book. He is the key to much of the information about contracts awarded to his firm in the 1900s. He was also continually aided and supported in his construction contracting profession by two of his brothers, Carmelo and Joseph.

The book addresses important questions such as what it takes to identify and act upon opportunities in a time of distress, high unemployment, hunger, no money and low morale as was the situation during the Second World War in Malta.

The book adopts an intensive research and academic approach, but it does not veer away from instilling a sense of emotion in the reader with several anecdotes thus enriching the text.

The strength of the book is that it is not merely a theoretical research paper but it is backed up with data in the form of contracts and other documentary evidence and proof of the sterling service provided by the Maltese workforce, including living testimonies of those who worked with Chev. Grima.

The book does not fail to put the reader into the picture by describing in no trivial details the historical and contextual background of Malta's initial fortifications and defences and the intensity of the assaults on Malta during 1940-1943. The book is a fine example of a Maltese case study where sustainability in a time of distress was ensured. One important necessity as pinpointed by the authors is that it is an important necessity for a nation to properly perceive sound investment opportunities. War is one of the catastrophic forms of variance from the norm and, therefore, risk, and it alters, at least for a time, all major social and economic relationships. It complicates the forecasting and expectations and hence appraisals.

The publication identifies the main drivers to seek opportunities in a time of distress as was the Second World War. The main drivers identified were as follows:

Asking for help, Participation Intuition/spirituality Risk-taking Sustainability Closure

Identifying the skillsets of the workforce

Indeed, the book reveals how Chev. Grima's good observation, communication and negotiating skills and his ability to marry the chain of needs to deliver objectives proved successful. In the process Chev. Grima pursued the common good in his endeavours rather than focusing on profit alone.

**“QATT MA NIXBA NAQRA
DAN IL-GURNAL” Ibj**



MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS -TORONTO

St. Paul the Apostle Church Maltese Canadian Parish

- MALTA DAY Wednesday, September 21, marks the 58th anniversary of the Independence of Malta. As part of these celebrations organized by the Consulate General of Malta, the 10:30 a.m. Mass in Maltese, next Sunday September 25, will be celebrated both as

thanksgiving to God for our country of origin, and as a prayer for our nation. A Raising of the Flag ceremony will be held at Malta Park at 10:00 am, and a light reception is being held after Mass at the parish Hall.

JUM MALTA Nhar l-Erbgħa, 21 ta' Settembru, jaħbat it-58 anniversarju minn meta Malta ħadet l-indipendenza. Bħala parti mill-program imħejji mill-Konsolat Ġenerali ta' Malta, nhar il-Ħadd, 25 ta' Settembru, noffru l-quddiesa tal-10.30 a.m. kemm biex niringrazzjaw 'l Alla għal art twelidna, kif ukoll biex nitobu għall-pajjiż għażiż tagħna. Qabel il-quddiesa tittella' l-bandiera f'Malta Park, fl-10:00am, u wara jkun hemm riċeviment żgħir fis-sala tal-Parroċċa.



Caravaggio the Musical – The Rise and Fall of a Tormented Genius

An original new musical which tells the tempestuous story of the Renaissance artist Michelangelo Merisi aka Caravaggio who achieved fame and notoriety for his chiaroscuro masterpieces and volatile personality.

- 20 - 25 September 2022
- Show Times Vary

- Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, Malta

One of the most famous artists of all time, Caravaggio is best known for his painting 'The Beheading of St John' housed at St John's Cathedral in the heart of Valletta – a world-renowned treasure.

This will be the first original musical commissioned and produced by the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. Showing at the MCC between the 20 and 25 September 2022, the musical is composed by Paul Abela, with Book and Lyrics by Joe Julian Farrugia, and directed by Malcolm Galea. The cast includes some of Malta's most recognisable voices such as Roger Tirazona, Lawrence Gray and Neville Refalo, with other local talents like Talitha Dimech, Kate Fenech Field, and Ryan Grech completing the list. Caravaggio will be played by a UK-based actor who will be moving to the islands for a few weeks specifically for this production.

Tickets - www.showshappening.com/mcc

THE FRONT PAGE ON THE FRONT LINE

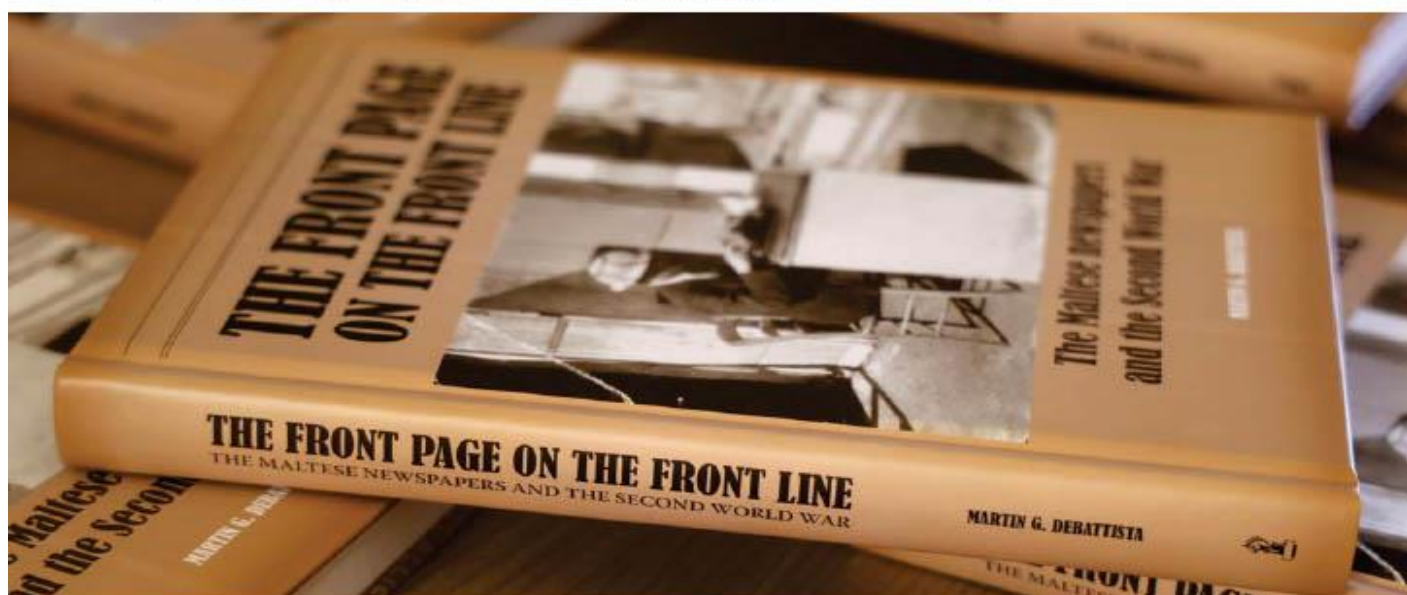
**The Maltese newspapers
and the Second World War**

BOOK LAUNCH AND PUBLIC LECTURE

Martin G. Debattista

**Saturday
1 October 2022
11:00**

**Il-Ħaġar
Heart of Gozo Museum
Pjazza San Ġorġ,
Victoria, Gozo, Malta**



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR GOZO



midseaBOOKS



The late Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip (second from left) during a visit to the Malta polo club in the 1950s.



The Keyes' Challenge Cup being presented to Prince Charles (now King) by his sister, Princess Anne, in 1969.

PRINCE (now KING) CHARLES - POLO IN MALTA

Polo was first introduced to Malta through the joint efforts of British Army officers stationed in Malta, and by officers who were either on their way to or returning home from India. The Calvary regiments, together with the officers in the Royal Navy's Mediterranean fleet were the first teams to play on Maltese soil. One of the many famous Presidents of the Malta Polo Club was Prince Louis von Battenberg who served in Malta in the Royal Navy. His son, Earl Mountbatten of Burma was also a keen supporter of the sport and later; he too was to become the President of the Malta Polo Club. It was the Earl who introduced several Maltese players to Polo and personally taught the game to anyone who showed interest. It was during this period that the 'Maltese Cats' team was formed. The Maltese Cats were a very strong team who regularly played against the Royal Navy and British Army teams, winning the Cawnpore Cup for seven consecutive seasons.

Several members of the British Royal Family have played Polo in Malta too, with Edward VIII, (whilst he was still the Prince of Wales) the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Charles among them. King Alfonso of Spain was also a famous player at the Malta Polo Club and in 1928, presented the Club with King of Spain Cup, which is still played for annually.

Over the years, the Malta Polo Club has also participated in tournaments abroad, most notably in England, France, Ghana, Scotland, Ireland, Spain and Italy. The Malta Polo Club endeavours to host foreign teams with the aim of improving the level of Polo played in Malta. Among them, the Berlin Brandenburg Polo Club, the French Aix en Provence Polo Club, Rome Polo Club and the Royal Madrid Polo Club who have all visited Maltese soil to play Polo.



FIND US AT THE

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