

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP



THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD MEETING IN MALTA
(Photo) Visiting the President of Malta Dr George Vella



Giromolo
Cassar
architect



VALLETTA

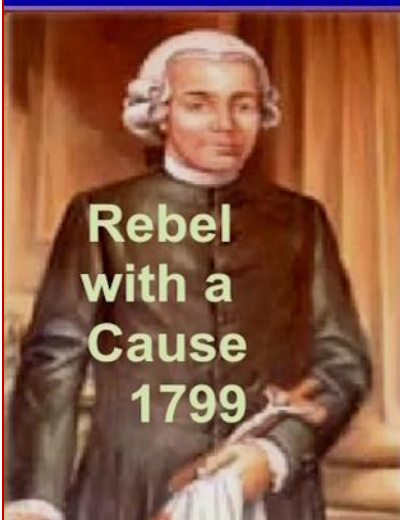
VALLETTA
Citta' Umilissima



City of the Knights

DUN MIKIEL XERRI
GULIERMO LORENZI
SHOT DEAD BY FRENCH SOLDIERS

MATTEW PULIS
DUN MIJU ZARB



Rebel
with a
Cause
1799



(M.A.B.S.I.) is a Maltese society situated in the heart of Corktown, Detroit USA



The feast of Our Lady of Victories (Il-Bambina) celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney NSW on Sunday 10 September 2023

The Feast of the Birth of Our Lady was celebrated on the 10 September 2023 at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. This Catholic Feast is celebrated on the 8th of September on Victory Day which is a public holiday celebrated in Malta and recalls the end of three historical sieges made on the Maltese archipelago, namely: the Great Siege of Malta by the Ottoman Empire ending in 1565; the Siege of Valletta by the French Blockade ending in 1800; and, the Siege of Malta during the Second World War by the Italian army ending in 1943.

Rev. Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP organised this wonderful celebration, and Fr Noel Bianco MSSP as the celebrant at the Holy Mass. Fr Tarcisio was assisted by Antoinette Mascari, Mark Boffa and many others who contributed in making this religious and solemn occasion so successful year after year.

Particular thanks to Joe Portelli and Miriam Portelli, Tanti family for the catering and refreshments, Joe, Johnny, Joe Ebejer, Vivian Vella, Steve Vella and many others.

God bless the Maltese Community in Australia and all the Maltese Community leaders in New South Wales of whom many were represented during the Holy Mass and procession.

Special thanks also go to the Choir led by Marie-Louise Marisa Previtera and the Knights from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta for their participation and support.

The Paulist Fathers also thank the Consul-General for Malta in NSW, Mr. Lawrence Buhagiar and his wife Rosieanne for attending and participating in this historical and cultural event.

God Bless the Maltese Community in NSW.

**IT IS SO PLEASING TO SEE THAT THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
ARE STILL FAITHFUL TO THEIR CULTURE, IDENTITY, HERITAGE
AND THEIR FAITH**



**The celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Victories (IL-BAMBINA)
at Warrawong NSW on Sunday 10 September 2023**

Hundreds of members of the Maltese community from across the state attended this religious celebration at St. Francis of Assisi church Warrawong on Sunday 10 September 2023 to mark the 50th anniversary of arrival of the beautiful and artistic statue of Our Lady Queen of Victories known as Il-Bambina.

The statue of Our Lady of Victories which is displayed at the St Francis of Assisi parish church has become an important symbol for the diverse Illawarra community since it was shipped here from across the globe. Fifty years ago, the Scerri family, paid to import a statue of Our Lady of Victory to Warrawong.

The Franciscan Fathers and the Maltese community used to celebrate Malta's Victory Day, 8 September every year and it was an important event in the community calendar. But in recent years the annual feast did not go ahead. The Franciscan priests left the parish in the hands of the diocese and these last few years COVID-19 stopped the celebration of the feast. But this year Mr Louis Parnis, President, and Elizabeth Walker, secretary and the members of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre decided to revive and start to celebrate this cultural event again. Louis said it had taken six months to plan the program and ensure the word goes out to everyone who wanted to participate. It was not just the Maltese

community that joined the celebration, but also Portuguese, Italians and Australians. It's not just an old Maltese tradition, it's a diversity of people coming together to celebrate this significant feast. Hon Stephen Jones and the Hon Alison Byrnes, Members of Parliament joined the congregation at the Mass and in the procession.

Mgr. Brian Mascord Bishop of Wollongong celebrated the Holy Mass in honour of Our Lay and led the procession around the church grounds. The statue was carried in a religious procession. The Wollongong Brass band played religious hymns during the event. And among those carrying the statue there were the family members of those who made it happen. The father who brought the statue succumbed to illness during COVID-19, but the kids, Joe and Michael Scerri participated in the festivities. After the Mass and the procession everyone at the church was invited to the Cringila Community Centre for refreshments. The attendance was about 190. The association provided food, tea/coffee and cakes for everyone at no cost. We are looking forward to holding the feast again next year. Fr. Rick Micallef, a local priest currently in the parish of Wagga Wagga have accepted to be one of the Mass celebrants.



Some photos from the Mackay Maltese Club Our Lady of Victories Festa Mass on Friday night and Festa Dinner on Saturday night at St Francis of Assisi Aged Care Home. Thank you to all who helped and all who attended. We appreciate the ongoing support.



THE SOLEMN FEAST IN HONOUR OF
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Patroness of the Maltese Community
of South Australia

CELEBRATED AT CHRIST THE KING CHURCH
LOCKLEYS S.A.
29 Sept - 1 Oct 2023

Friday September 29th - Tributes to Our Lady - 7pm in the Lockleys Christ the King Church. Followed by light supper in the Church Hall.

Saturday September 30th - Social Night - 3 course meal \$35.00 per head with drinks available at the bar at reasonable prices. DJ Eric will be playing your favourite music. No tickets at the door, must be pre booked. Tickets are available by ringing Jane Agius 08 82687168 or Mary Saliba 0422 388 423 - be quick and book your ticket or book a table.

Sunday 1st October - Mass begins at 2.30 with Father Alfred. (There will be no procession this year). After mass we meet at the Parish Hall for entertainment.

Come along and socialise with old friends or make some new ones. The Maltese Queen of Victories will play a concert and then the BRIJU at the close of

the evening. Bring along your whole family and have a great time.

Monday 2nd October - Cleanup day - come along and help us with the cleanup.



MALTESE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA AND QUEANBEYAN

The Festa Tal-Bambina was celebrated at 2.00pm in
St Benedict's Church in Narrabundah, ACT,
followed by afternoon tea in the Parish Centre, adjacent to the church.
The High Commissioner to Australia,
H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg attended the celebrations.

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READERS ALL OVER THE WORLD AND NO FEES ARE CHARGED FOR
ADVERTISEMENTS.**

**THE SA MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE PRINTS OUR JOURNAL AND
GIVEN FREE OF CHARGE TO THE MALTESE SENIORS
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Maltese culture and Maltese Living Abroad

There was a time when it was assumed that once Maltese migrants left the island, they were no longer interested and certainly never encouraged to come back.

They were expected to assimilate as quickly as possible and forget their roots, their culture and their background. In fact, of course, this was pure fantasy which was most unlikely to happen.

Now, more than half a century after the original waves – one might even say a tsunami of migrants – left Malta in the 1950s and 1960s, the realities of the situation have become clearer.

A recent survey shows that none of the original migrants have changed in any fundamental way from Maltese of the same background who have never left Malta. They still have the same original culture, eat mostly the same food as pastizzi, ġbejniet, qaqocc and rabbits, congregate with other fellow Maltese in clubs, festas and dinner dances and picnics, keep their religious feasts like IL-BAMBINA or the patron saint of their village and other cultural events and in practically all respects are Maltese.

Even more unexpected is the finding from another survey relating to the second generation, which indicates that quite a considerable proportion of young Maltese, while born and bred in Australia, still have a very soft spot for Malta. They frequently visit often, enjoying the friendship of their cousins and rother relatives. Most of them

may have lost fluency in Maltese language, but many of them keep in touch with what is happening in Malta through the now ubiquitous availability of internet and other instantly available sources of information like the Journal of Maltese Living Abroad and the many radio programs and the daily news from Malta on SBS channel..

This may come as a surprise to those Maltese who never left the islands. They find it strange to understand how, after all this time Maltese abroad can still be Maltese.

On the other hand, it is worth keeping in mind that Maltese of the first generation now constitute only about one fourth of all those who have a right to consider themselves Maltese citizens.

As in Malta, the young generation is quite distinct from the old, with much better education, often having a tertiary education, and being more appreciative of the technical and social advancements associated with a modern society. It is important to distinguish between the two categories when one speaks of Maltese living abroad. They have a lot in common, but also a lot that is different.

There have been several issues which have been raised in previous conventions and which need to be kept in mind. These include issues relating to the rapidly ageing population, loss of language and culture, issues relating specifically to youth and communications with Malta. This aim of this journal is to bridge this gap. It allows readers to discuss issues prevalent within the communities they come from. So, if you have and comments or stories, I will be delighted to hear from you.

Emigration is part of our history and identity.



MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

**The Maltese community of Detroit at
Most Holy Trinity celebrated its
14th Annual Festa IL-Vitorja last weekend!**



THE VOICE OF OUR READERS

Ghaziz Frank, grazzi minn qalbi tal-Maltese e-Newsletter li inti gentiment tibghatli regolarment. Kemm ikun fiha x'taqra! U l-fatt li niftakar li qed jaqrawha wkoll eluf ta' qarrejja ohra timlini bi kburiya li jien Maltija. Tislijiet mill-qalb, Lina Brockdorff

Hello Frank just wanted to say how much we enjoy the Maltese Journal. You put a lot of time and effort into bringing your readers interesting articles.....regards J & J Mallia...

Ghaziz Frank, Grazzi ħafna, ħafna għal din, edizzjoni oħra interessantissima tal-Maltese E-Newsletter. Nammirrak immens għal mod ta' kif jirnexxilek tippubblika tant edizzjonijiet fi żmien qasir. Prosit u l-Mulej ikompli jsejdedek u jbiegħek f'din il-missjoni tiegħek li tagħqqad lillna l-Maltin, kulfejn ninsabu. Saħħa u tislijiet. Freddie Tonna

Thailand Delegation, Order of Malta Australian Association, 'Hands-on' Charity Work



Confrère Stephen Gatt

Photo right: Children and female models strut their stuff wearing costumes of the Hills peoples of Thailand. This was a fur and feather show without equal.

Photo left: (L to R): Confrère Adrian Borg Cardona KMG, Khun Mina, Confrère Stephen Gatt KMG(Ob), HE Chalit Pukbasuk, HE Ulpiana Lama and Surasak Satho

I returned from Thailand yesterday. While I was there, I was regaled with the efforts of Confrere Adrian Borg Cardona's projects for Thailand Order of Malta Delegation Humanitarian, Altruistic, and Charitable Works of the Order. These projects are not only ambitious; they are practical. These 'works' are for destitute people of all faiths living in the most extreme conditions of poverty, homelessness and isolation. This Bangkok trip was, for me, a true journey in humility.

It outlined starkly how one person can achieve daily miracles with very little. In three weeks, Adrian Borg Cardona had taken 20 survival packs and wheelchairs to Ubon Ratchatani where he also rendered aid to the Day Centre for the Elderly. He delivered 96 wheelchairs to the provinces. He and his friends donated 100,000 Thai Baht (AU\$5,000) to Malteser International to assist Burmese refugee (from Myanmar) camps in Northern Thailand. He obtained and delivered medical equipment, mainly 3 volumetric infusion pumps, to Ban Phaeo Hospital. That very afternoon, he also finished the Thai Middle East Gateway to promote Thai products from marginalised communities in deprived areas, mostly sticky rice and dried mango and durian, to Saudi Arabia and Israel, as well as China.

During the morning, I introduced Adrian to several 'booths' in the trade display of the 23rd ASEAN Congress of Anaesthesiology, the convention in which I was a Keynote Speaker, which could potentially donate surplus medical equipment to Confrère Borg Cardona. Prof Reny Segal of Royal Melbourne for GE, Sunita Charnnarong of Mölnlycke Health Care and Gianpietro Mangone of Intersurgical, Berkshire, UK, were the most enthusiastic.

The main funding arm for Confrere Adrian Borg Cardona, KMG(Ob), a Maltese Knight in Our Order, is a large group of 'A List' business and professional wealthy socialites of the Soroptimist International Club of Bangkok. In the afternoon, we attended a High Tea Charity Fundraiser called 'Journey to the Highlands' at the elegant Montien Hotel, Surawong. Phenomenal amounts of funds were raised using some innovative ploys, eg. a grand fashion show in which members would donate 10,000 Baht (\$480) and sponsor a professional model or child wearing costumes from the Hills of North Thailand; a variety show in which each performer segment of song, ballet or dance would likewise sponsor themselves or a local singer or dancer and donate \$500 for the privilege of being on stage. There were stalls selling silver and jewellery and fabrics and costumes where most of the proceeds went to Soroptimist.. and there were raffles, sponsorship of awards and entry 'donations' to this exclusive event in the Bangkok calendar. These prominent ladies provide extensive funds for the slums of

Bangkok and beyond and relief in the recent floods in Nbon Ratchathami: Adrian is firmly plugged into the largesse of these wonderful women.

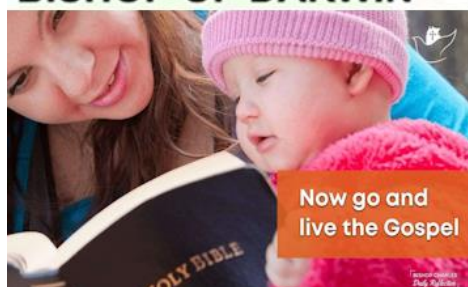
This is how it goes in Thailand. The main donors are influential women of means gleefully and generously redistributing their and their partner's substantial fortunes to charity causes. Indeed, most of the Thai members in the Delegation in Thailand are Dames of the Order of Malta.

The theme was 'Last Wish – Granting Hope, Healing Hearts' for children with terminal illness. The sponsor for the Soroptimists was The Secretary to HM King Rama X Maha Vajirelongkorn, Air Chief Marshall (rtd) Chalit Pukbasuk, Chairman of the Council for National Security in His Majesty's Privy Council. The guest of honour was HE Ulpiana Lama, Chef de Mission and

Chargée d'Affaires in the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo.

Confrère Adrian, we, of the Australian Association and especially your old friends in the Central East Region (CER), are truly proud of you. This is Obsequium Pauperum in action. Adrian has been in the Order of Malta for 29 years and 11nd class in obedience for 17 of those years. It is remarkable that a single Knight of the Sovereign Order of Malta can achieve so much. This whale-shark makes us all look like whitebait. At this level of output, imagine what 19 years in Thailand dedicated to the sick and the poor, the marginalised and the destitute, and the frail and the dispossessed, has already achieved.

REFLECTION BY CHARLES GAUCI BISHOP OF DARWIN



The other day, while I was celebrating mass and as I often do, I reminded the congregation at the beginning of the liturgy of the Eucharist that we are about to share in a special way, the great YES that Jesus said to his father, our father.

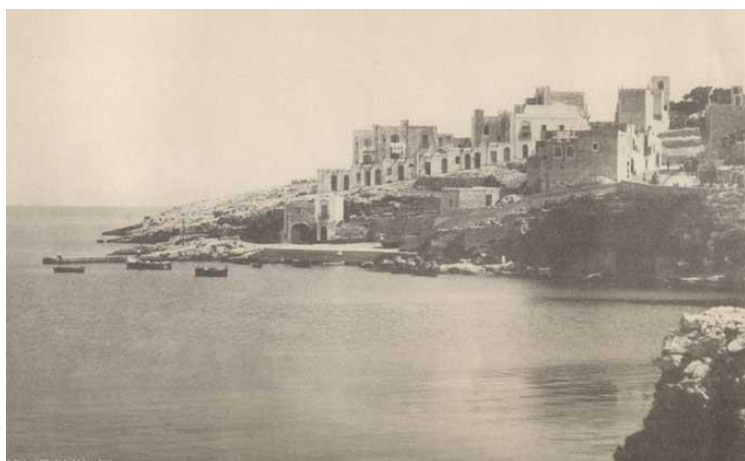
We are being invited to accept his redemption of us individually and universally. We enter liturgically and sacramentally into an eternal dynamic, an explosion of love embracing eternity.

A wounded sinful priest leads a congregation of wounded sinful people.

Yet redeemed and infinitely loved, washed clean by the shedding of his blood.

Mind-boggling Love by a God who is a 'Crazy

Lover' How often do we take this amazing mystery for granted? Whether this mass is celebrated in an amazingly beautiful Cathedral or under a gum tree, it is the same mind-blowing mystery. We bring our ordinary stuff of life, our struggles, our loves and hopes, our sins, and our messiness, We come as we are to be transformed more and more into the mystical body of the one who is Love... Do this in memory of me. What a transforming memory that brings about reality! Now go and live the gospel!



St Paul's Bay: From tranquillity to turmoil

www.maltatoday.com.mt

St Paul's Bay has evolved from a small fishing village to a sprawling cosmopolitan town, making it Malta's largest. Two notable residents tell MATTHEW FARRUGIA about the challenges the locality faces as it grapples with trash, rats and crime.

Population growth and tourism have created

pressure on the locality's infrastructure, including a waste problem.

St Paul's Bay was once a picturesque seaside village widely renowned for being a summertime destination for many Maltese. However, the locality has seen drastic change over the past three decades, resulting in hundreds of commercial outlets, thousands of hotel rooms, and apartments that are rented all year round.

Indeed, the locality is often in the news because of the problems caused by its rapid and at times haphazard expansion. From violent arguments to garbage piling on street corners, constant construction and a lack of enforcement, St Paul's Bay is experiencing problems that are common to other localities. But with a population of 32,000 and a large land area, these problems are more magnified. Former St Paul's Bay mayor and current Nationalist MP Graziella Galea and ADPD Chairperson Sandra Gauci, a resident, highlighted a wide array of problems that are chipping away at the quality of life of the locality's residents.

'Rats are our pets'

Graziella Galea believes that lack of proper waste management is to blame for the endless presence of garbage bag heaps on street corners. "The new rubbish collection schedule is not adequate for this locality," Galea said, adding that collection does not take place in a timely manner.

Waste collection takes place in the afternoon, she said, noting that the situation is not helped by lax enforcement. "Rats have become our pets," ADPD's Sandra Gauci said. "One cannot increase the population of a locality and reduce the number of garbage collection days."

Gauci referred to her party's protest in the locality in July, where she had emphasised the filthy condition of pavements and public spaces, the noise from bars that residents have to put up with, and how economic interests had made citizens the victims of overdevelopment.

A lawless place

But another problem in Malta's largest locality seems to be the frequent violent episodes happening on the streets. In August, pictures of a bloody man lying on the street unconscious following the latest fight quickly spread through social media. "Unfortunately, it is a common feeling amongst the majority of the residents that it is not safe anymore to live in this locality," explained Graziella Galea pointing to the number of thefts, fights and frequent vandalism in the area. A few years ago, she said, the St Paul's Bay police station was shut down and the number of police officers at the Qawra police station is insufficient to meet all the community's needs.



"The presence of the community police has helped in this regard, but more presence on the street is required," Galea said. According to the MP street fights have become "the order of the day", and very often they involve foreigners coming from the same country or from "the same regions of the world".

This, she believes, is causing disquiet among law-abiding Maltese and non-Maltese residents. "There is a sense of helplessness brought on by the fact that there is turmoil in various parts of the community, especially given the lack of police presence," Galea said.

New buildings going up mean that the locality's population is expected to continue growing.

Endless construction

Despite already being the largest locality in Malta, there seems to be no sign of growth abating with more and more residences being built around the clock. In the first and second quarter of 2023, St Paul's Bay saw the highest number of residential building permits being issued.

According to Graziella Galea this creates two different problems. There are properties being built on top of existing buildings and in the process causing damage to road infrastructure and existing properties. And newly built properties are rising to as much as eight stories, creating more pressure on the water and drainage infrastructure. These strains on infrastructure are further exacerbated when one considers that a number of rented properties are used to house several residents, Galea added. "The fact that large scale projects are taking too long to finish, is also creating a sense that St Paul's Bay is all a construction site," she said.

Writing was on the wall Interestingly, Graziella Galea's father, ex-PN minister, Ċensu Galea had written his Masters in Maltese thesis in 2012 on the transformation of St Paul's Bay. He had highlighted the same troubling realities that the locality is experiencing today.

At the time, Ċensu Galea had noted that the locality was once the third smallest village on the island, and by 2005 it had already claimed the title of the second largest locality in Malta. Galea even predicted that if no action was taken, St Paul's Bay would become the largest locality in the country, which he attributed to rapid construction of apartment complexes with cheap rental prices.

At the time of writing his thesis, Galea noted that St Paul's Bay locals whose families had lived there for generations were unwelcoming of outsiders - foreign, as well as Maltese people - who came to the locality and changed its characteristics. He had noted that refugee communities were more likely to live in a segregated manner and Maltese residents who lived in the locality during the summer would cause parking problems for locals. Fast forward more than 10 years and those same issues have grown exponentially.

Solutions Finding solutions is not easy but ADPD's Sandra Gauci believes that dividing St Paul's Bay into two or three separate localities could help make it administratively more manageable.

"St Paul's Bay's population is close to that of Gozo (where several local councils exist) without accounting for tourists," Gauci said, adding this issue required immediate attention.

Apart from the original village of St Paul's Bay, the locality comprises Bugibba, Qawra, Xemxija and Burmarrad. But Graziella Galea was not too keen on splitting the locality. What is mostly needed is "a good understanding of the society that is building up in the area", she said.

Galea said the creation of subcommittees could help to gather information and propose solutions for the betterment of the locality. Enforcement with regards to environmental matters and noise pollution was another point Galea brought up. But she insisted that the local council has to have all the "financial support that is required to support the society which lives in it."

With regards to finances, both Galea and Gauci pointed towards generating income through tourism. Galea stated that the local council could be financed from the eco tax paid by tourists, as well as from the licences paid by commercial entities. "This could be a source of additional income for the council to mitigate the problems created by tourism itself," Galea said. Gauci went one step further calling for the introduction of a "tourist tax" which would directly finance the local council.

And in order to address the segregation within the community, Gauci insisted on making residents welcome, irrespective of who they are. "They have to feel that they belong here or else they will keep treating it simply as a place with no love," Gauci said.



**OUR LADY OF VICTORIES HORSLEY PARK
2023 PARISH FEAST
SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER**
10am Mass • 11am Procession with Statue Of Our Lady • 12 Noon Festival

CAR SHOW

REGISTER YOUR CAR NOW!
email functions@ourladyofvictories.org.au or
contact the Parish Office on 9620 1242



**IF YOU HAVE AN
INTERESTING STORY
TO TELL
SHARE IT WITH
YOUR FELLOW
MALTESE LIVING
ABROAD.**

**SEND IT TO US
AND ARCHIVE IT
IN HISTORY**

maltesejournal
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It is my pleasure to include in this issue the first part of a review of a detailed history of Malta in the 50's/60's . The writer, Victor V. Vella has an M.A. in History (University of Sydney) and is a frequent broadcaster on SBS. Radio AND CORRESPONDENT OF THE Journal for Maltese living abroad.



Victor Vella
NSW
Australia

Detailed history of Malta in the 50's/60's BEGINNINGS. (1)

It was the Roman senator and writer Cicero who said: to be ignorant of what occurred before you were born, is to remain always a child. So I thought it would be a good idea for the first, and even more so for the second, and third generation of the diaspora Maltese scattered all over the world, to get to know some highlights of the history of the island. Many of the first-generation Maltese who in many cases left in the 50'ties and 60'ties may have passed through the times I would be talking about. It would also be beneficial to the 2nd and third generation whose concept /culture of Malta and especially of its history is either lost in the milieu of the millennium or lost completely because it was never heard of or studied. So here is an over - review of that history concentrating mainly on the events of when many of us left the Island in search of a new life and adventure.

One of the first historical mention of Malta is found in the Acts of the Apostles where St. Luke narrates the shipwreck of St. Paul on his way to Rome.... and he mentions 'the kind-hearted barbaroi.' (barbaroi for barbarians...was the name given to people who were not Greeks or Romans). According to radio activity tests on carbon by the British Museum in 1963 it seems likely that the original ancestors arrived on the island of Malta soon after 4000 B.C. The first of the clover leaf stone temples rose about 2450 B.C.

What happened next is still obscure. The pattern seems to have been that of an indigenous stock retaining its basic identity as it received fresh waves. of settlers. Punic remains, Greek traces, Roman villas, Christian and Jewish catacombs, Arab topographical names (e.g. Mdina), records of Norman, Angevin, Spanish dominations precede the monuments left by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem who arrived in 1530 and who were turned out by Napoleon on his way to Egypt in 1798.

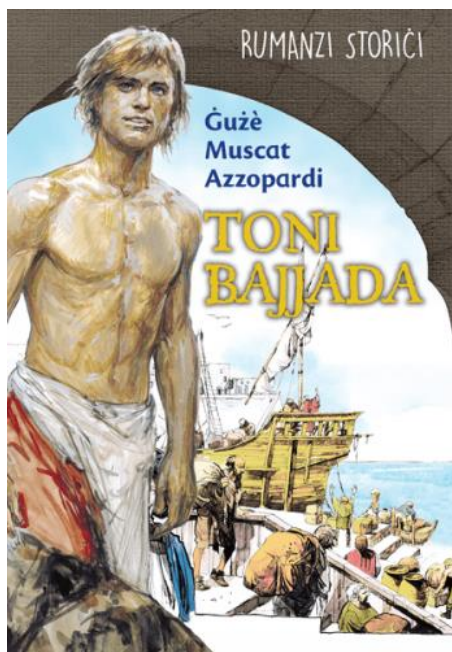
The Maltese soon rose against the French and called in Lord Nelson. The British ruled Malta up to Independence Day 21st September 1964. In the 50's/60's the Maltese still lived in 45 towns and villages on the industrialized island and 14 parishes on the agricultural island of Gozo. One of the factors which fosters the striking sense of national identity of the 319,000 inhabitants (of the period) is certainly the Maltese language which is used and spoken by all. It is written in the phonetic, Roman-type alphabet and with English it is the official language. Malta has a national poet Dun Karm. a diocesan priest remarkable for his mixture faith and fatherland, a first class translation of the Bible into Maltese from the more ancient texts by Monsignor Saydon and of a university chair of Maltese occupied in the 50's by writer scholar Prof. J. Aquilina.

At that time there were four dailies published in Maltese. Like the race, the language has received a number of Romance and Anglo- Saxon words. But its structure has remained Semitic . Though the two dioceses of Mata and Gozo have been deeply influenced by the Italian style of Catholicism most of the basic liturgical words are not derived from Latin. The Mass is *Quddiesa*, priests are *Qassisin*, Baptism is *Maghmudija* , confession is *Qrar*, God is *Alla* and Christians are *Insara*....

Because of the limited resources, the Maltese have often depended economically on outsiders. But then these outsiders have often landed heavily on Malta's strategic position. Indeed such interdependence explains the existence of Malta as a community: the islands are just barren rock and only their geographical position and their magnificent natural harbours have persuaded man to settle on them and change them into a home where according to a report by Durham University, 'everything is man-made and man-maintained in existence.'

The Maltese economy was largely based on the service to settlers. The diligent Maltese worker found in the latter a guaranteed market for his products and services.... The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 coupled with the invention of the steamship inaugurated a period. of prosperity in the islands, following the expansion of the Royal Naval Dockyard and the beginning, of the process of industrialization. Up to the 1957 the whole economy of Malta was geared to serve the British forces in Malta and Malta became an Island fortress. After

the second World War, this fortress became obsolete, and the decision was taken in London to close down the Dockyard and to 'run 'down the military establishment. This was an economic blow to the Island. In a fiercely competitive world, the Maltese found themselves bereft of the main source of economic survival. Then came the first and second 5-Year Plans both heavily financed by the U.K. government. They set up to develop agriculture, light industry, the privatised dockyard, and tourism. However, this still actuated great hardship in the short term.... and the unemployment level grew close to 10 percent of the employable population.



Toni Bajada - The Maltese Messenger of the Grand Master

Back in the 16th Century, Malta was pretty much an OG Game of Thrones plot line minus the dragons, surprise incest and sneaky eunuchs. The Knights of St. John desperately needed to know what the Ottomans were up to during the Great Siege of 1565, and in order to do this, they needed to come up with a foolproof way to infiltrate the Ottoman camps without being detected. This seemed pretty impossible considering how flamboyant those Knights were.

Enter the heroic and handsome Toni Bajada, Malta's very own dreamy spy. Bajada was born in Naxxar and is one of the most famous spies the Maltese islands have ever seen.

This man is widely considered to be a hero, and it's no

surprise.

Toni spent some time in Turkish captivity where he made it his life goal to learn his captives' language... most probably so that he would know when the next meal is coming up. When Grand Master de Valette learned of Bajada and his prowess, he handpicked him personally and gave him the pant-wetting task of carrying messages in and out of besieged cities... by swimming.

Yes, Bajada used to swim from Valletta to know where to carry messages.

At this point, we can safely assume that Toni was a hunk, seeing as he swam great lengths daily. To fit in better, he had to put on some drab Turkish attire and infiltrate the Ottoman camps with gusto along with four of his other secret agent spy friends to gather information from the



Turks.

The Great Siege of Malta, from the Vatican Museum, painted between 1580 and 1583 by Ignazio Danti.

One day, Toni had just arrived from Mdina to inform the Grand Master that relief was coming from Sicily in the form of 700 men led by some guy named Melchior de Roblea.

La Valette was of course worried about how the hell they would reach Birgu and Isla from Mdina undetected by the Turks, so he and Bajada decided that it would be

best for them to just go by sea.

So Bajada returned to Mdina to lead the Sicilian relief to Kalkara. Bajada led a whole army of 700 loud Sicilian men in the middle of the night — right under the Turkish invader's noses. *Without being detected.* Not only that, but they made it there two hours before their planned time.

This man's accomplishments pretty much gained him a permanent place in Malta's Hall of Heroes along with countless roads named after him. We applaud his great courage; not everyone can manage to swim from Valletta to St. Angelo on what we assume on a daily basis.



Hindus celebrate Shree Krishna Janmashtami in Malta

Hindu Association of Malta

Hindus in Malta celebrated the birth of Lord Shree Krishna in an event held on 6 September.

The Hindu Association of Malta celebrated Shree Krishna Janmashtami at Orpheum Theatre in Gżira.

Hindu Association of Malta

The celebration marks the birth of Hindu deity Lord Shree Krishna, who is praised and worshipped around the world for his teachings on duty, righteousness, and devotion. Cultural performances as well as a feast were organised to mark this important date on the community's calendar.

The celebrations held in Gżira saw some 400 individuals attending, including people hailing from Malta, Nepal and Bangladesh, and of course India.

Hindu Association of Malta

Among those in attendance were the High Commissioner of India to Malta, Gloria Gangte; officials from the High Commission of India, Msida mayor, Margaret Baldacchino Cefai; Integration and Anti-Racism Advisor, Alexander Tortell; Gżira local councillor, Alexander Calleja Zammit; and philosopher Prof Michael Zammit, who is specialised in ancient and eastern philosophy.

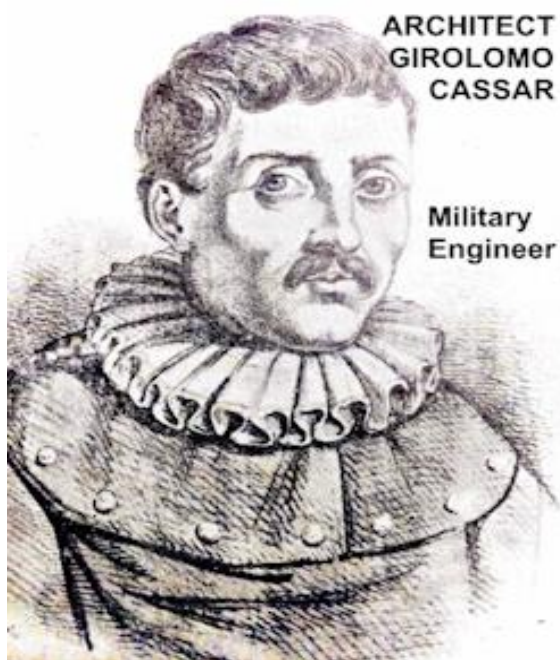
"We believe that such cultural exchanges integrate the communities, societies and countries at large, bringing people together and resonating the message of world is 'One Family'," the association said in a statement, as it thanked Malta

and its countrymen for extending their support and making them feel at home away from home.



THE JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
seeks to protect and promote the rights and interests
of the members of the Maltese Diaspora and promote
Maltese identity, culture and heritage, including the
Maltese language.





Girolamo Cassar (Maltese: *Ġlormu Cassar*, c. 1520 – c. 1592) was a Maltese architect and military engineer. He was the resident engineer of the Order of St. John, and was admitted into the Order of St John in 1569. He was involved in the construction of Valletta, initially as an assistant to Francesco Laparelli, before taking over the project himself. He designed many public, religious and private buildings in the new capital city, including Saint John's Co-Cathedral, the Grandmaster's Palace and the auberges. He was the father of Vittorio Cassar, another architect and engineer.

Cassar's date of birth is not known, but he is believed to have been born in around 1520 in either Birgu or Gudja. The Cassar family, probably originating from Sicily, had been established in Malta since at least the year 1440.

He had two brothers, named Andreas and Ians, and married his wife Mathia in the early 1560s after which they had five children -two boys, Vittorio and Gabriele; and three girls, Marietta, Battistina and Caterinella. Cassar had another child, Gio Domenico, from an extra-matrimonial relationship which he made sure to inherit none of his will and testament,

ironically justifying himself by writing that his son was disobedient.

Cassar was initially a *capomastro* (master builder), and he was a pupil of Evangelista Menga, the resident engineer of the Order of St. John. He worked as a military engineer during the Battle of Djerba in 1560 and the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. During the latter siege, he worked on repairing fortifications damaged by the Ottoman assaults, sometimes at great personal risk.^[3]

In 1566, the Order decided to construct a new capital city Valletta, and Cassar became the assistant of Francesco Laparelli, the Italian military engineer who had been sent to design the city's fortifications and grid plan. On 22 April 1569, Cassar was received within the Order in recognition of his merits as an architect and engineer. At this point, the Grand Master issued him a passport and Cassar spent the rest of the year touring Italian cities,^[3] including Naples, Rome and Lucca. He became familiar with the Mannerist style during this tour, and he employed this style in many of his later buildings.

Auberge d'Aragon, the only auberge which still retains Cassar's original design, with the only addition being a 19th-century portico

Upon his return to Malta in around late 1569, work on the Valletta fortifications was almost completed, and he took over the project after Laparelli left the island. He also became the Order's resident architect and engineer. He designed many public, religious and private buildings within the city, including the Grandmaster's Palace, the seven original auberges and the Conventual Church of St. John (now known as Saint John's Co-Cathedral). Cassar also designed a few buildings outside the capital city, most notably the Verdala Palace in Buskett. The original design of the Sacra Infermeria is also attributed to him.

The date and circumstances of Cassar's death are not recorded. He made his second will on 9 January 1589. He is believed to have died in around 1592 in Valletta. He was buried in the Church of Porto Salvo in the same city.

I sincerely thank all those who sent a small donation to assist in the production of this journal. If you would like to help send your donation to
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Save the Date

DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2023

TIME: 6 PM

2nd Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad



INVITATION

The Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad is back for the second time. Join us on Friday 27 October at 6pm CET for a unique opportunity for Maltese youths both in Malta and Beyond to connect and discuss issues of common concern to youth all across the globe. Save the date! More information and registration details to come in the coming weeks!

The Journal of all Maltese Living Abroad





Melissa MurleyMALTA VINTAGE HISTORY

I'm trying to find a relative of this beautiful little girl. She was my grandmother's daughter. She was born in Malta, unsure of town. According to family, her father owned a bar called Spiro's bar in Malta. She would have been born in the late 1930s, possibly 1940. Last name was Buttigieg.

My Grandmother left Malta after the war but unfortunately (circumstances unknown) she left her daughter with the father. Heartbreaking. Alma is my grandmother's name. This little girl, would be

in her 80s now if she alive. Any information would be amazing. She has a brother here in Australia, that she never knew about



THE SWORD OF LA VALLETTE DURING THE PROCESSION OF THE BAMBINA IN XAGHRA - GOZO

The weather allowed the Xaghra to fully celebrate the program and all the celebrations of the feast of Mary Bambina. This year was a special occasion for them as they also celebrated 50 years since the statue of the Bambina was crowned by the then Bishop Nikol Cauchi. During the procession of the day of the feast which took place in the normal way, in the presence of thousands

of people, the sword of La Vallette was also carried which was brought from the parish of Birgu. The birth of the Virgin Mary is celebrated in four parishes in Malta, with Naxxar and Mellieħ postponing the procession because of inclement weather and in Senglea the procession went through different streets, But in Xaghra Gozo everything was celebrated as usual. Last night, the Xaghra Fireworks Association lit up the sky with a wonderful fire show, while the Brijuni 1973 Association put on a wonderful show in front of the Church.

FROM MDINA TO AUSTRALIA

Again, thank you for such a wonderful newsletter. It is full of interesting information and so many things for us all to learn about – Australia Hall – how it needs to be kept and not modernised – some things need to be kept. Also, I so enjoyed your piece about doors and door knockers.

My great grandmother's (Vittoria Inguanez) family lived in Casa Inguanez on Triq Inguanez, Mdina. It has amazing double doors and a fabulous door knocker and the Coat of Arms above the door. I was 'blown away' to see this on both visits to Malta and to know that my ancestors lived there. I am trying to find the person who now lives there as I would love to be in contact and ask them if at all possible, to tell me about the interior décor. It must have been amazing, and I would so love to see inside and discover mysteries and solve stories about my ancestors. Although I have tried for years to find out who lives there, I have been very unsuccessful. I am thinking of writing a letter and addressing it to the owner of the house and would hope that who ever lives there would open and read my letter.

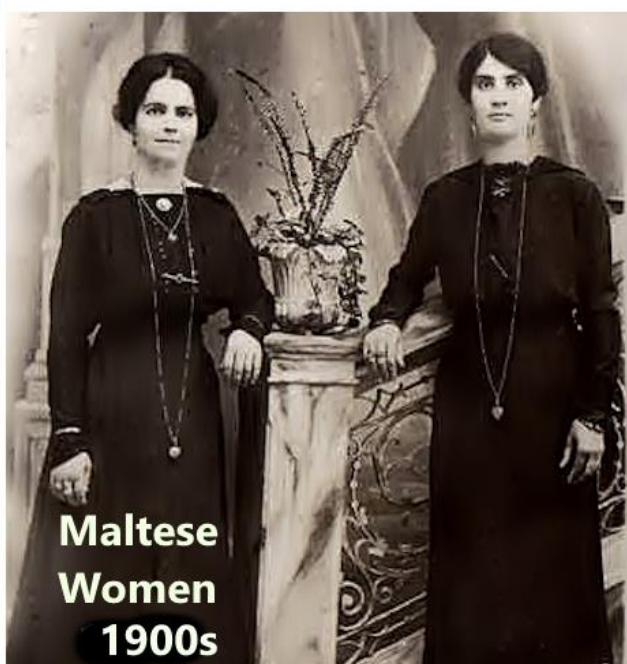
On an earlier visit, I did knock on the door but had no response. I then sat on the doorstep and wrote a long letter and pushed it under the door. Sadly, I did not have any reply. I am open to any suggestions anyone may have on the best way to contact the owner or person living with the Casa Inguanez.

Again, thank you so much for a wonderful newsletter. Kind regards Marion from Queensland –Australia



Girls from Hamrun Primary School waving the Union Jack flags during the celebrations of the coronation of King George VI

8 September 1943. 80 years ago Italy's unconditional surrender was announced. The photos show street celebrations in Malta following this news. Photo: Aviation Museum, Malta.



NOSTALGIA



Seven victims of the C23 tragedy remembered in commemorative ceremony

BY GOZO NEWS · The Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta this week organised the annual ceremony to commemorate the five soldiers and two policemen forming part of the AFM and MPF who lost their lives 39 years ago aboard P23 (then C23) on the 7th of September 1984.

The ceremony consisted of a solemn Holy Mass officiated by the AFM Chaplain and concelebrated by the MPF Chaplain followed by a wreath laying ceremony in front of the P23 monument situated at Hay Wharf Base. Patrol boat C-23 was on a dumping detail of illegally manufactured fireworks. It was supposed to be a routine operation which followed the Police's find and seizure of the fireworks in the limits of Zabbar a day earlier.

Bombardier Joseph Pace, 36 of Santa Venera; Gunner William Simpson, 36 of Lija; Private Anthony Vella, 20 of Ghajnsielem, Gozo; Police Sergeant Saviour Muscat, 30 of Birkirkara; and Police Constable Joseph Hare, 24 of Sliema, all lost their lives on that day.

The remains of 36-year-old Bombardier Francis Borg of Hamrun and 27-year-old



Private Anthony Farrugia of Zejtun, were never found. Private Emmanuel Montesin, 21 of Paola, survived the blast and managed to steer the patrol boat to Comino, where the alarm was raised.

The fireworks had been seized the previous day in the limits of Zabbar and were being carried on the deck of the patrol boat when the sudden explosion occurred. The cause was never conclusively established, although it is thought to have been a spark caused when a hatch was closed.

The following day, September the 8th, was declared a Day of National Mourning. The flag-draped coffins were carried together in a large military funeral attended by thousands of people and led by a Guard of Honour of what was then the Task Force. The flag-draped coffins were brought to Malta on patrol boats 'C-28' and 'C-29,' and a funeral cortege left St Luke's Hospital.

Thousands of people gathered to pay their last respects along the route as a Task Force AFM 48-men guard of honour, led by Captain Charles Mansueto, escorted their fallen comrades.

Quo Vadis - Malta?

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Welcome to joannemizzi.com, a haven for art enthusiasts and lovers of hand-painted artworks! Founded by myself, a female Maltese artist, Joanne

Exhibition by the female artist Joanne Mizzi in Valletta

At the Palazzo Ferreria, Valletta, the Maltese artist Joanne Mizzi is presenting "Memories", a continuation of the solo art exhibition that will be open from 6 to 22 September 2023. The exhibition consists of works of art made with acrylics and ink. Mizzi's art focuses primarily on the cultural aesthetics of Malta. It sheds light on traditional architecture, cultural heritage, iconic places, and traditional objects - elements that are now nostalgic for many. Her drawings provide a glimpse into the past, taking visitors on an emotional journey

Mizzi, this platform is a testament to my unwavering passion for portraits and the captivating beauty of Maltese characteristics & architecture. As an ardent art lover, my vision was to create a space that celebrates the timeless elegance of handcrafted masterpieces and allows art aficionados to immerse themselves in the allure of her artistic creations. Each artwork showcased here reflects my unique talent, attention to detail, and genuine love for the craft, making joannemizzi.com the perfect destination to discover and cherish the finest art pieces.

At joannemizzi.com, I take immense pride in offering hand-painted artworks that speak to the soul and resonate with your deepest emotions. The carefully curated collection reflects my dedication to preserving the essence of my subjects while capturing the mesmerizing charm of Maltese architecture. Whether you're an avid art collector, simply seeking to adorn your space with one-of-a-kind treasures, or to give a unique gift, my gallery awaits you with open arms.

through time and inviting them to reflect on their personal history and memories.

Whether you have a love for Malta's cultural heritage or simply appreciate detailed and evocative drawings, "Memories" is an exhibition worth visiting. You can see Joanne Mizzi's artwork at Palazzo Ferreria, Valletta. The hours are from 9 am to 6 pm. Follow Mizzi's art on Facebook under Joanne Mizzi Art to stay up to date on her work with regular updates as well as information on the creative process behind her drawings.

