

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat and Mrs Michelle Muscat meeting the United States President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama during the United Nations General Assembly in New York – September 2015



Consultation on EU Citizenship: Share your opinion on our common values, rights and democratic participation

The economic arguments

September 2015

Věra Jourová Justice and Consumers
Commissioner for Justice, Consumers Directorate General and Gender Equality

The EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, **Věra Jourová** opened the Conference on EU Citizenship and Justice in Luxembourg. She calls citizens and stakeholders to participate in the online consultation on EU Citizenship that she launched today. The consultation will gather together the experiences and ideas of EU citizens on how to make it easier to exercise their rights. The opinions and ideas collected will provide the basis for the 2016 Citizenship report.

In her speech, she underlined the importance of freedom of movement in the EU: *"With an increasing number of EU citizens travelling, working, doing business or retiring in another Member State, free movement is a right that needs to be safeguarded and promoted. It is the right Europeans cherish the most and associate most closely with EU citizenship"*, she said. The Commissioner also stressed the Commission's focus on concrete actions to simplify the daily lives of in the field of justice to support mobile citizens: *"The Commission will continue to develop a European area of justice, in order to help citizens tackle legal difficulties they may face, such as cross-border divorces or child custody."*

Why is this important?

Are you a citizen of an EU country? Then you are also a citizen of the European Union! This gives you a number of key rights, such as the right to move and reside freely in the EU; or the right to vote and stand as a candidate in European and municipal elections in another EU country where you live, under the same conditions as citizens of that country. Your EU citizenship also guarantees that you cannot be discriminated against because of your nationality.

The European Commission is now asking for your views on how these rights can be strengthened. Here is your chance as a European citizen to have your say: tell us what matters to you and how things can be made better. Voice your opinion and help shape how the EU should work to make your daily life easier.

You can make a difference!

For you as an EU citizen, this consultation is a unique opportunity to report obstacles you might be encountering in your daily life when living, travelling, studying, voting, or running for political office in other EU countries. Your contribution will give the European Commission a much better picture of the reality on the ground and help us to address identified concerns.

Civil society organisations and other stakeholders may also reply to these questions on the basis of the common experiences of their members. Local or regional authorities businesses, academics or other stakeholders interested in EU citizenship can also share their views.

How can you participate?

You can fill out the questionnaire online from 14 September to 7 December 2015 at

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EUCitizenship>

You can also spread the word to others who may wish to participate and express their views.

INTERESTING VALLETTA ATTRACTIONS

Valletta, Malta's capital city and UNESCO World Heritage site

Valletta has been built on a peninsula in the central eastern part of Malta and has a population of just over 6000 people. Valletta is named after the French Grandmaster Jean Parisot De La Valette who headed the defence of Malta from the Ottoman invasion in 1565. The entire city of **Valletta** has been declared a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site.



Valletta boasts many buildings from the 16th century, mostly baroque architecture that was built by the **Knights of St. John**. Amongst them is the majestic St. John's Cathedral, several auberges that hosted the Knights in their times, the bastions surrounding the city, and several gardens. In fact, one could say that Valletta is actually a monument donated by the Knights.

Nowadays, Valletta hosts the National Parliament, the Law Courts, many Government Ministries and Departments, Administrative Offices, museums and plenty of **shopping opportunities**. The streets have a grid-like shape, so one could never really get lost while navigating through this open air museum.

The city is busy by day, but the Upper & Lower Barrakka Gardens offer a calm spot with incredible views of the Grand Harbour. Then as the sun sets, Valletta calms down and turns into a magic fortified city where the architecture stands out under the gentle lighting. Yet, with plenty of cafes, wine bars, theatres, exhibitions and other cultural events from time to time, Valletta is a **living city** all year long.



MANOEL THEATRE: The Manoel Theatre was constructed in 1731, but it's still in use today, holding a range of performances by various artists. [The Manoel Theatre Museum](#) portrays a powerful background of the fascinating history of the Manoel Theatre and the Royal

Opera House that was destroyed during the Second World War.



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA: Almost hidden by the cafes in Republic Square, the National Library of Malta (also known as Bibliotheca) is currently the legal deposit and copyright for Malta. The collection spans the personal libraries, the **archives and treasury manuscripts** of the Knights of St. John, including archives from the medieval Università dei Giurati of Mdina and Valletta.

HASTINGS GARDENS: Located on top of the bastions on the West side of the entrance to Valletta, the **recently-embellished** Hastings Gardens offer a magnificent view of the Marsamxett Harbour.



THE SIEGE BELL MEMORIAL: Overlooking the Great Harbour of Valletta, is the 10-ton bronze Siege Bell memorial that was **unveiled by Queen Elizabeth** and the President of Malta at the time, Dr. Censu Tabone, on the 29th May 1992, coinciding with the 50th anniversary from the award of the George Cross in 1942. The bell is mounted in a limestone tower, at the foot of which is a bronze figure representing the 7000 civilians and armed forces that died in Malta during the World War II between 1940 and 1943. The bell is rung daily, at noon.

THE LAW COURTS: The Maltese Law Courts replace the Knights' Auberge d'Auvergne, built in 1570 and completely destroyed by a German parachute mine during World War II. The current building was built in the late sixties in a **classical design**. The Law Courts

were inaugurated on the 9th of January, 1971 by the Prime Minister of the time Dr. George Borg Olivier and other distinguished guests. The first case to be heard at these Law Courts was scheduled for the 11th January, 1971 and was an appeal placed by two Sicilians in opposition to their extradition.

THE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE (KNIGHTS HALL): Adjacent to Fort St. Elmo and overlooking the Grand Harbour is one of the most impressive buildings of Valletta. The Mediterranean Conference Centre, which was used as a **hospital** for many years by the Knights of Malta, is now used as a conference and **exhibition space**.



THE MALTA EXPERIENCE: The Malta Experience is an **audio-visual** show covering 7,000 years of Malta's history. In 45 minutes, you will be taken on a journey to discover what happened since the early settlers first landed on the island, up until the recent history of the Second World War.

THE VALLETTA WATERFRONT: The Valletta Waterfront is the gateway to Valletta if one is arriving by sea. More than half-a-million **cruise passengers** arrive annually in this attraction; that has impressive backdrop of the Grand harbour on one side and

the elegant front and Valletta fortifications on the other side. The front has been **recently renovated** and now it offers an impressive number of facilities for cruise passengers and locals alike. There are a number of cafes, wine bars, alfresco dining, clubs, **shopping possibilities**, cultural and entertaining facilities, all set in colourful ancient warehouses that date back to the times of the Knights. From the Waterfront, you can take a bus, a taxi or a horse-drawn carriage to reach the centre of Valletta, and visit the rest of the city built by the Knights of Malta.



READ, ENJOY AND SHARE THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



The magazine that builds bridges
between Maltese all over the world

A Migrant Chaplain in Australia

- FR JOHN TALIANA MSSP

Fr John Taliana was sent from Malta to Australia while still studying for the priesthood. In his years in Australia he did both Parish ministry and migrant chaplaincy, besides serving for some time as Congregational Leader. Having experienced the reality of being a migrant himself has helped him to better understand the needs of migrants in Australia.



Being a migrant chaplain within the Australian Church is like having a very large parish - spread throughout the suburbs. Like any other pastor, as a migrant Chaplain I found myself journeying with my people, celebrating with them the joys and happy celebrations and sharing with them the sorrowful and painful events of everyday life.

The ministry of a migrant chaplain is important and needed because the chaplain is called to serve as a bridge between the Australian Church and the Ethnic Community. In this context it is important that the chaplain has a reasonable command of the English language and knows the history of the Australian church and has experienced it. The chaplain is to encourage his/her community to take an active part in the life of the local parish community.

As Maltese Chaplains we have strived to put the above approach into practice.

As a migrant Chaplain I found myself journeying with my people, celebrating with them the joys and happy celebrations and sharing with them the sorrowful and painful events of everyday life.

The Migrant Chaplain is often on the road traveling from one suburb to the other, and the Maltese community is not an exception to this because it is widespread. Liturgies in Maltese are celebrated in different parishes, especially where there is a high number of families. There are also opportunities for the community to come together not only for religious events but also to socialize and celebrate other occasions.

Nowadays the Maltese community is an aging one and this means that more people need to spend some time in hospitals or nursing homes and hostels. Very often they request the presence of their chaplain to minister to them in their own language. This is always of great comfort for those who are old or sick, to be able to express and share themselves in their own mother language. Naturally, during these hospital visits we also meet their families. This opens up a lot of opportunities to minister to them too, and see to their needs.

As Chaplains we have many happy occasions such as baptisms and marriages and other family celebrations. For us, these are always opportunities to minister to the couples and their families, encouraging them and challenging them in their faith. Most importantly, the Chaplain always works hand in hand with the local Parish Priest for the welfare of the community. He cannot work in isolation from the Parish Priest, but together, their primary concern is to meet the needs of the people entrusted to them.

A BIG THANK YOU - A friend of mine sent me your NEWSLETTER 96 and I liked it so much that I have printed it and gave it to my elderly Maltese parents who live in a retirement village. This journal is packed with information about the Maltese culture and the Maltese history which interest thousands of Maltese in Malta, Australia, US, UK, Canada, South America, Middle East and many more other countries. Many thanks and please, keep on sending it to me regularly. Viva Malta. Josephine Caruana - Canada

IS-SOLD GĦAMLUH MIJA MINN FR. NORBERT BONAVIA MSSP

Dejjem xtaqt nara b'għajnejja l-missjoni li s-Socjetà tagħna għandha fil-Perù. Kienet holma li hsibt li qatt ma kienet sejra ssehh, imma għarrali! Kien f'Lulju li għadda li din il-holma fl-aħhar sehhiet! Nghidilkom il-verità, altru tisma' fuq dak li qed jagħmlu shabna fil-Perù u altru tara b'għajnejk u tgħix ftit taż-żmien magħhom.



Meta bdew idawruni mal-parroċċi mxerrda 'l hawn u l'hemm, ghidt, "Kos hux! F'dawn is-47 sena li ilhom jahdmu f'dan il-kontinent Sud Amerikan il-Fathers tagħna, is-sold li tawhom il-benefatturi sarrfuh f'mija." Għax meta tara dak li rnexxilhom jagħmlu, nerga' ngħid bil-generozità ta' tant Maltin u Ghawdxin u bl-għaraq u l-bżulija, il-Fathers rnexxilhom jagħmlu l-mirakli.

Kif qalli wiehed minnhom, "Inti llum qed tara knejjes sbieħ, kliniċi mghammra b'kollox u servizzi tat-tobba u nfermiera b'xejn, kunsilli ta' kull għamla f'kull parroċċa, kulleġġi, skejjel, kindergartens, kċejjen biex jitimghu lill-foqra kull ġimgħa f'kull parroċċa, breakfast kuljum lil mijiet ta' tfal li filghodu ma jkunu

hadu xejn qabel ma jiġu l-iskola, tqassim ta' hampers u kaxxi ta' "Ohloq Tbissima" fid-djar, speċjalment lil persuni morda jew irtirati fi djarhom, istitut għal tfal iltiema jew bi bżonnijiet speċjali u tant servizzi oħra. Imma tajjeb nishaq li aħna bdejna mix-xejn.

Kull fejn għandna llum kien kollu trab u ġebel ma' kullimkien. Imbagħad il-Father hadni fejn qed jahdem hu. Qalli, "Halli nagħtik idea ta' kif sibna kull post li għandna llum". Hadni propju taht muntanja, fejn huwa kappillan. Trab kull fejn tara b'għajnejk u d-djar tan-nies m'huma xejn hlief griebeg. Il-quddiesi għadu jqaddisha barra fit-triq, kull filghaxija, wara li n-nies jispiċċaw mill-ftit xogħol li jrnexxilhom isibu. Issir f'kesha xxoqq il-għadam, kif taf tagħmel hawn fix-xitwa. Għad m'għandux knisja jew imqar sala fejn jiġbor in-nies. "Hekk," kompla jghidli, "kienet kull parroċċa li għandna f'idejna llum".

Mill-esperjenza issa nista' nixhed kemm in-nies li qegħdin nahdmu magħhom huma verament fqar. Għeziež benefatturi, f'isem ħuti li qed jahdmu f'din il-missjoni tal-Perù, ngħidilkom grazzi ta' kull sold li bghattulhom. Ejjew inkomplu ngħinu din il-Missjoni, billi titkellmu mal-hbieb tagħkom halli thajruhom jagħmlu bhalkom.

MALTA

National Commission for Persons with Disability - NCPD



Overview

According to Maltese legislation, KNPD is empowered to:

- ▶ investigate alleged acts of discrimination on the basis of disability, against governmental, non-statal and private entities, including the church
- ▶ carry out discussions with all parties concerned
- ▶ attempt to reach an amicable and reasonable conclusion, or to
- ▶ as a last resort, take cases before a Tribunal or Court.

Contact details:

Postal address: Bugeia Institute, Braille Street, Santa Venera, SVR 1619, Malta

Telephone: +356 22788555; +356 79788555 (SMS only)

General email address: helpdesk@knpd.org

Website: <http://www.knpd.org/index.html>

National Commission for the Promotion of Equality - NCPE



Overview

In order to have a society which champions equality, NCPE works towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of gender and family responsibilities, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, race/ethnic origin and gender identity by raising awareness; monitoring national laws and EU Directives; implementing policies; networking with different stakeholders; investigating complaints and providing assistance to the general public. The organisation is a predominantly *promotion-type and legal support body* [1].

Contact details:

Postal address: Gattard House, National Road, Blata I-Bajda HMR 9010, Malta

Telephone: +356 2590 3850

General email address: equality@gov.mt

Website: www.equality.gov.mt

Contact person for media enquiries: Maria Theresa Portelli: maria-theresa.portelli@gov.mt or +359 2 807 3030

➤ To find out more information about the grounds/fields of discrimination covered by the organisation, as well as its powers, activities and structure, please download the detailed profile below: [1] According to a European Commission study on Equality Bodies, predominantly promotion-type equality bodies “spend the bulk of their time and resources on a broader mix of activities that include supporting good practice in organisations, raising awareness of rights, developing a knowledge base on equality and non-discrimination, and providing legal advice and assistance to individual victims of discrimination” (page 44).

IL-PAPÀ MAR XTARA MOBILE...

Il-papà mar xtara mobile,
Mudell ġdid tassew sabiħ!
Nesa l-video u l-gazzetti,
Ilu ġimgħa ħsiebu fih.

“X’meravilja!” jibda jreden,
“Żgur bħal dana qatt ma rajt,
Anki jdoqqlok Happy Birthday,
W għall-Milied: is-Silent Night.

“Fih il-logħob bħal tal-kompjuter,
U messagġi li jkellmuni...!”
U dam siegħa mrekkien waħdu
Medhi jagħfas il-buttuni!

Liz-zijiet ċemplilhom kollha,
Lill-ħbieb tiegħu u l-ġirien,
Lin-nanniet u lill-kuġini,
Il-card ħlieha f’tlitt ijiem.

Ma’ kull ħarġa, ma’ kull qadja,
X’battikata, x’waħda din!
Dlonk tarah bil-mobile miegħu,
Bħal pistola f’ċintorin.

Hu u jsuq iħobb iċempel,
Jagħmel l-isbah diskussjoni,
Għad xi darba jaqbd u l-Warden
U jċapċaplu ċitazzjoni!

Fi triqitna għal għand in-nanna,
Illi toqgħod in-Naxxar,
Dorna lura mħabba l-mobile
Għax insieh warajh id-dar.

Il-Ħadd l’għadda, fil-quddiesa
Smajt ħoss ċkejken, mużikali,
Kien il-mobile qed iċempel
F’nofs is-Salm Responsorjali.

Fid-dar tagħna l-ħajja nbidlet,
Għandna ċerta serjeta’,
Sirna aktar effiċjenti
B’dan il-mobile tal-papà.

U x’hin rani mmissu nitfa,
Trid tarah... qajjem irvell!
Ħatafħuli minn idejja,
Qalli: “Dak mhux ġugagarell”.

SETTING THE SCENE WITH HENRY ZAMMIT CORDINA



Writes Ramona Portelli on August 7, 2015

Date of Birth: 16th June, 1958

Where do you live? I'm originally from Hamrun, but I now live in Fleur de Lys

Main & Media occupation: Videographer/Editor/Actor

Henry Zammit Cordina is a familiar face to those who follow TV drama on Maltese television. He has taken part in quite a few productions, portraying various challenging roles. He was twice nominated at the Malta Television Awards for his acting abilities in TV dramas *La Farfalla* and *Santa Monika*. His main occupation until a few years ago was banking. After nearly 35 years in

this sector, Henry decided to pursue what he loved doing most.

His exposure to film started at a very young age. He has taken part as an extra in various foreign film and TV productions, including *Midnight Express*, *Gladiator*, *Troy*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Erik the Viking*, to mention a few. During these last years, his experience has led him to main acting roles as well. He was one of the main actors in Malta's first medieval full feature film, *Adormidera*. He took part in *Simshar* and other films, and was entrusted with the lead role of Saint Paul in the docudrama *The Shipwreck*. He is presently on TV on a daily basis as one of the main actors in Malta's first daily TV Soap 'Hbieb u Għedewwa'.

Henry is the son of Josephine Zammit Cordina, a well known Maltese TV presenter and actress, and is the nephew of actor Joe Zammit Cordina, also familiar with Maltese audiences. *Image: Henry Zammit Cordina as St Paul in the shipwreck.* *Photo credits: CAK Malta website: www.eve.com.mt*

OPERA

Dido and Aeneas

VALLETTA 2018

09 OCT 15 - 11 OCT 15

TEATRU MANOEL



Valletta 2018 is proud to be collaborating on the Dido and Aeneas production by Teatru Manoel which will make its debut on the Teatru

Manoel stage on the 9th October 2015 at 8pm.

The production will grace the Manoel's stage once more on the 11th October 2015 at 8pm. Written by English Baroque composer Henry Purcell with a libretto by Nahum Tate, this opera in a prologue and three acts will be performed by the fresh Teatru Manoel Youth Opera in conjunction with the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble.

The opera is based off Virgil's Aeneid Book IV and retells the story of Dido, the Queen of Carthage, who falls in love with Aeneas, a Trojan hero that later abandons the queen, leaving her in a state of despair. For more information, please visit the Teatru Manoel official website. - See more at: <http://valletta2018.org/events/dido-and-aeneas/#sthash.c8HGWQom.dpuf>



POPULAR BABY NAMES IN MALTA

Getting the name for your child is one of your tasks during the 9 months of pregnancy and with so many cute names to choose from, thank God that pregnancy lasts a whole 9 months! Babiesmalta has listed the most popular baby names in Malta for these past few years to help you make up your mind

BOYS

Aiden
Alejandro
Alessandro
Alexander
Andre
Andrea
Andrew
Benjamin
Carl
Carlo
Christian
Daniel
Dejan
Denzel
Gabriel
Gianni
Isaac
Karl
Kayden
Kristian
Kyle
Jake
James
Jamie
Jayden
Jean
Jerome
Jeremy
John

Juan
Julian
Kieran
Kurt
Leon
Liam
Luca
Luke
Marc
Marco
Mark
Matteo
Matthew
Matthias
Michael
Michele
Miguel
Mikail
Mikiel
Nathan
Nathaniel
Neil
Nikolai
Nicholas
Sean
Sven
Thomas
Tommaso
Tristan
Zachary
Zack

GIRLS

Aaliyah
Alessandra
Alessia
Alexandra
Amber
Amy
Caterina
Catherine
Christa
Christina
Christine
elena
Ella
Elisa
Eliza
Elizabeth
Emily
Emma
Francesca
Gulia
Hannah
Hayley
Jade
Jasmine
Julia
Kate
Katie
Katrina

Kaya
Kayleigh
Kaylie
Kelsey
Kiera
Kristina
Kylie
Kyra
Lara
Leah
Maria
Mariah
Martina
Matthea
Maya
Michela
Michelle
Mireille
Naomi
Nicola
Nicole
Nicolette
Rihanna
Sarah
Shania
Thea
Yasmine

Nirringrazjaw lil dawg kollha li regularment jiktbu lna wara li jircievu dan il-gurnal popolari u lil dawg li jibghatulna n-Newsletter taghhom

NAHDMU FLIMKIIEN

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO WRITE TO US AFTER THEY RECEIVE
THIS POPULAR MAGAZINE and ALL THOSE WHO SEND US THEIR
NEWSLETTER - UNITED WE STAND

'My father risked his life to save Malta from starving'



Harbour pilot Lorenzo Attard manoeuvred the Ohio to Parlatorio Wharf on August 15, 1942, to the cheers of

starving Maltese and the playing of a band.

When news spread in the early hours of August 15, 1942, that a battered tanker laden with fuel and food was entering Grand Harbour, none of the harbour pilots was eager to steer it in. **Sarah Carabott** spoke to the surviving son of Lorenzo Attard, who took over the tanker that saved Malta from famine.



"My father told my mother that if he did not die trying to steer the tanker into port, he would die a few days later from starvation," recalls George Attard, Lorenzo's only surviving son. "Still full of fuel and with bombs dropping around the harbour, the sinking vessel could have blown up if it came under attack again. But he lived to tell the tale – and with him,

many Maltese."

Now 76, Mr Attard speaks from his home in Mellieħa, more than 70 years after his father, the pilot, manoeuvred the Ohio safely into the capital's harbour. Flanked by his wife Frances, he spreads several cuttings and pictures out in front of him – the only accounts left to hail this unsung hero. Mr Attard hopes that he will live to see his father receiving national recognition for his heroic act.

"I learnt the story of the arrival of the Santa Marija Convoy from him, but it was not until Lina Brockdorff mentioned my father in her book *Sereni u Serenati* that the story was made public," the father-of-three says. Mr Attard is the only surviving son of Lorenzo, while his sister Emma lives in the US. "When I was a kid, my father would take me, the youngest of six, to Customs Steps, where his office was, and pointing at Parlatorio Wharf would jokingly tell me: Son, over there is where I brought in a ship full of food that fed all of Malta.

George Attard recalling his father's bravery. Photo: Jason Borg



"At that age I didn't really understand what he meant and it was only as I grew older that I understood how he risked his life to get to the sinking tanker." Since the harbour was a main

target during the war, vessels were only anchored in the centre of port, to avoid any unexploded weapons and not to risk damaging the surrounding buildings if they got hit. However, Mr Attard berthed at the jetty so as not to risk losing the precious supplies the ship carried.

The Ohio is seen as the saviour of the besieged island. By 1941 food was already scarce in Malta and a convoy sent out in June of 1942 never made it to the island. Another 14 ships left Liverpool on August 3 but the convoy was heavily bombed on August 11. Two days later three ships made it to Grand Harbour. The freighter MV Brisbane Star sailed in on the eve of the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the badly damaged Ohio tanker arrived on August 15 with a destroyer on each side.

For centuries, Maltese harbour pilots have scrambled to merchant vessels to guide the ship's captain into the harbour. During the war, however, these pilots suffered famine as their livelihood depended on the arrival of ships which were not making it to Malta.

Meanwhile, the Admiralty asked the captains of Navy ships to steer the vessels into harbour themselves. Still, on that day the Admiral decided that a Maltese pilot should assume responsibility and chief pilot Ġużeppi Zahra had to decide who should do the job. Lorenzo volunteered, to the protestations of his wife Antonia and his brothers, but he dismissed their concern because, he argued, if he did not die bringing in the tanker, he would soon die of famine.

Carrying a substantial amount of wheat, food and fuel oil, Mr Attard manoeuvred the Ohio to Parlatorio Wharf to the cheers of starving Maltese and the playing of a band. A marble plaque was unveiled in Ponsonby Street, Mosta, on the residence of the late Lorenzo, who passed away in 1964. However, the family is still hoping for national recognition, such as a bust erected in his hometown

Malta is a favoured destination for Hollywood filmmakers but its own industry is just setting sail - and Simshar is leading the fleet. (SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 30/09/2015)

Philippa Hawker *Film and arts writer*

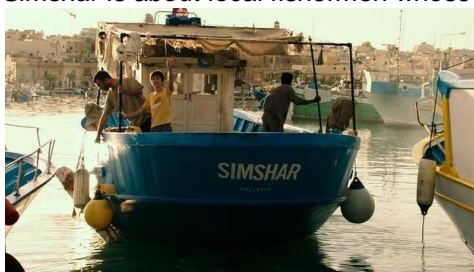


When it comes to movie-making, Malta has blockbuster connections. Hollywood comes calling because it's an ideal location for films set in the ancient world – *Gladiator*, *Troy*, *Alexander* – and there is a huge water tank available for movies that have dramatic ocean scenes. But for Maltese writer-director Rebecca Cremona, the emphasis of her feature debut was very different. The sea was a focus, but her story was a local one, made on a small scale. Yet there's here's a universality to it, and a grim topicality.

Rebecca Cremona says her debut film is fictional but based on

real-life events. Photo: Simon Schluter

Simshar is about local fishermen whose lives intersect with asylum seekers travelling by boat. "It's a fiction, based on two very real events," Cremona says. She came across the starting point for the film when she was home for Christmas, after studying overseas for several years. She met a man who had survived an accident at sea. His emotions were still raw, she says, and he had a lot to say. What captured her imagination came right at the end of their conversations when he told her, in an almost casual way, that while he and his fellow crew members had been adrift in the water for several days they had been seen by the crews of several boats. But they all passed by.



Cremona says when she heard this story, "Honestly, I didn't believe him at first. Then I spoke to other fishermen, captains of big boats, who were telling me how insurance companies would brief them about how to avoid migrants at sea. I spoke to a guy who rescued people the first time but lost two days of work and was accused of being a smuggler and had his phone confiscated and lost even more work."

When she made this element part of her narrative, she wanted to avoid "showing people as totally bad or totally good. They do what they do because they think they are protecting something." Her movie – which was Malta's first Oscar submission for best foreign film – ties together a number of narratives. *Simshar* is the name of a boat owned by Simon (Lotfi Abdelli), whose life we get to know in some detail. He is one of many fishermen having trouble adjusting to new realities and regulations and the regular presence of asylum seeker boats on the water.

Cremona also weaves in the true story of a Turkish vessel that has picked up a boatload of asylum seekers, only to find that the authorities in Italy won't let them disembark; nor will the Maltese. The stand-off becomes another element of the drama.

One of the asylum seekers, Makeda (Laura Kpegli), a young woman who speaks English, acts as an interpreter; her presence has an impact on Alex (Mark Mifsud), a local doctor who is brought aboard the boat to treat the sick, and forced to stay there against his wishes.

Although the refugees' plight is central to the story, we learn almost nothing about them, a choice Cremona says she felt was appropriate. "I didn't want to be presumptuous and say things from the refugees' point of view when I don't really know it. My 'in' was always the Maltese family."

When she started developing the script several years ago, there was less media attention devoted to migration and refugee issues. "I thought that maybe it would not be so topical in the future."

In fact, she says, "because it became so topical, and things changed all the time, I would write something for dramatic effect, but by the time we filmed it had happened – and even worse."

Cremona's first real experience on a film set was when she won an internship to work on Steven Spielberg's

Munich, which was shot in Malta. She had studied film and comparative literature at the University of Warwick in England (where she wrote her thesis on *Sex And The City*), then did more hands-on film studies in the US. Her thesis short film, *Magdelene*, won a Directors' Guild of America prize.

It wasn't easy to get *Simshar* funded and made, she says. "It was a combination of government grant, private investment, crowd-funding, sponsorship, sweat, blood and tears." Local filmmaking in Malta is still rare. "We were lucky, because a Film Fund was set up in 2008, and we were the first to benefit from it."

One of the difficulties in writing and developing *Simshar* was that "there was no precedent. I didn't have a body of work that I could relate to, where I could say, 'this is a Maltese film', or 'this is the phase it's in'. So it's quite classic in its form for that reason – how can you break a tradition if there is no tradition?"

When it came to casting, there were few locals with film experience to draw on. "We had refugees, migrants and even fishermen playing themselves. The children were non-actors, and we had some Maltese actors, TV actors or personalities." Abdelli, who plays Simon, the central character, is a Tunisian performer.

They were able to take advantage of Malta's infrastructure, however; they filmed in the large water tank as well as on the open sea. Cremona is developing more projects now, and hoping she can get something off the ground a little more quickly next time. But she knows it isn't always easy. "It's a privilege to make films," she says. "Particularly to make films you believe in."

I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting Ms Cremona at the Q&A session of *Simshar* at The Trak Cinema – Toorak Gardens – South Australia. The movie will be screened in the same theatre for two weeks starting on October 1. The members of the Maltese community showed great interest in this movie.

Malta Boats –DGHAJSA,LUZZU U KAJJIK A national symbol and a major Malta tourist attraction!



The colourful traditional Malta boats are perhaps one of the cutest attractions on the islands for the Malta tourist.

These eye-catching fishing boats are brightly coloured – usually in **red, yellow and blue**. Over the years, they have become so popular with visitors that they have since become a bit of a national symbol.

If you want to catch a glimpse of countless traditional Maltese boats, drop by at Marsaxlokk.

The harbour is always full of these type of boats, ranging from the *luzzu* (double-ended fishing boat), *dghajsa* (smaller boat) and *kajjik* (similar to the luzzu but has a square transom).

Nowadays, some of these boats are used to **carry tourists between Valletta, Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua**.

For many local fishermen (especially in Marsaxlokk), the traditional Maltese boat is a means of living and you can still see them braving the waters on these sometimes tiny boats. Surprisingly, the *luzzu* is even more expensive than fibreglass boats.



This is because it requires great skill and precision to build.

It is the local fisherman's preference, since a *luzzu* is more stable and more durable than modern boats.

Malta Boats and the Eye of Osiris

On the prow of the boats, you will always see a pair of eyes painted on each side.

These eyes descend from an ancient Phoenician custom.

They are referred to as the **Eye of Osiris** or Horus and the Phoenicians believed that the eye protected them against evil.

Tradition says that the eye of Osiris protects the fishing boats from danger and also wards off any evil spirits.

This belief lives on to this day because every Spring you can still see fishermen painting the eye afresh to give them maximum protection!



Valletta 2018 Foundation
October 2015 Newsletter



'Minn Fomm il-Bormliżi' A Celebration of Bormla's Local Community

Minn Fomm il-Bormliżi is an intergenerational project celebrating Bormla's community through a series of interviews. Pictured: Rudi Wester, the Coordinator of Cooperation between Leeuwarden 2018 and Valletta 2018, (standing, back) speaking to the Bormla youths (front).

Bormliżi' – a community-based intergenerational initiative, at Pjazza Paolino Vassallo, Bormla, on Monday 31st August. The project celebrates Bormla's rich history and community through interviews with Bormla's elderly conducted by Bormla's youths. After undergoing a series of workshops, the teenagers learnt a variety of skills such as video recording, video editing and interviewing, which helped them immortalise the testimonies of Bormla seniors who lived in the locality during post-war times.

Through the bridging of generations, Valletta 2018 creates an important legacy as a European Capital of Culture (ECoC): that of giving young people the tools to live a life of inclusion and fulfillment by being direct players in culturally enriching activities. Focusing in particular on Valletta and the harbour area, the ECoC includes all the Maltese Islands, with an aim to spread its impact throughout the whole Maltese territory.

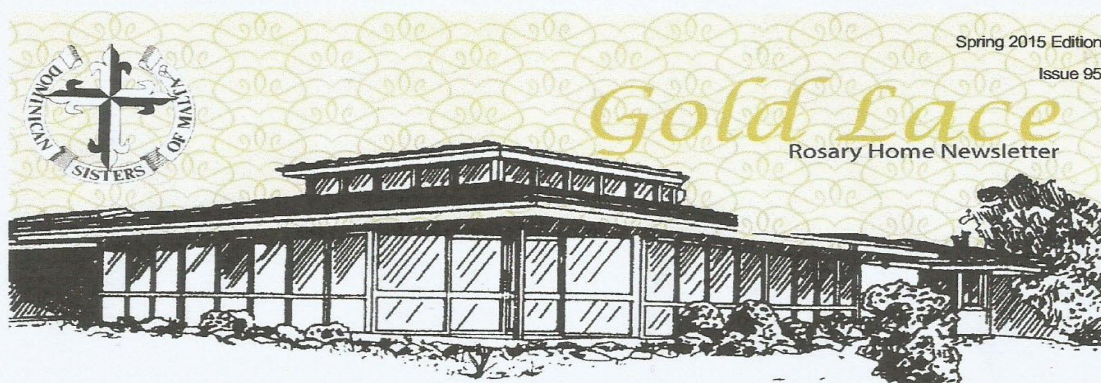
The ceremony included short addresses from the President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government Stefan Buontempo, Valletta 2018 Chairman Jason Micallef and Bormla Mayor Alison Zerafa.

The President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca commended the youths for their work, and thanked the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Forum Komunità Bormliża for their efforts. She added, "A strong community feeling and intergenerational solidarity have come out of this project in which youths make local senior citizens the central focus."

Mr. Micallef said "The documentation carried out in this project is priceless. The memories and the stories of the residents of Bormla have been recorded and will not be forgotten. Other than that, these youths, who have acquired new skills thanks to this project, have helped us discover the soul of this locality." For their contribution, the teenagers were given a certificate of participation while the senior citizens that were recorded were presented with DVDs containing their interviews. 'Minn Fomm il-Bormliżi' is a pilot project for Leeuwarden 2018's 'Behind the Front Door project.' - See more at: <http://valletta2018.org/news/minn-fomm-il-bormlizi-a-celebration-of-bormlas-local-community/#sthash.Ejg26Eis.dpuf>

**ALL THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS ARE AT: www.ozmalta.page4.me/ or ozmalta.com/
and at the Malta Migration Museum – Castille, Valletta, Malta**





"We are proud to announce that The Australian Aged Care Quality Agency has conducted the Facility Site Audit for Rosary Home 6th Accreditation. We have successfully met the 44 outcome standards.

A special appreciation to the Dominican Sisters of Malta, Board of Management, Staff, Residents and Relatives, Volunteers and Friends of Rosary Home for your commitment, continued support and dedication."

Sister Doris Falzon OP



The Maltese Newsletter congratulates the Dominican Sisters of Malta in Victoria Australia for this wonderful achievement



(L-R) Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador Sem Fabrizi, Ambassador Dr. Helmut Bock of Austria

High Commissioner Charles Muscat & US Ambassador John Berry

MALTA CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY IN CANBERRA

The High Commission in Canberra celebrated Malta's National Day on 21 September with a reception held at the High Commissioner's residence.

In his address, the High Commissioner mentioned that it was not an easy task to transform Malta's economy from one based on dockyards and ship repairs to a modern and stable economy that it is today – a vibrant and innovative economy which is at the moment one of the most stable in Europe.

The High Commissioner acknowledged the healthy relations between Malta and Australia which went back to the 1940's with the first waves of Maltese emigrants reaching Australian shores. This only improved as diplomatic relations were formalized with the establishment of the High Commission in Canberra in 1964, the same year of Independence.

The High Commissioner acknowledged with appreciation everyone's support to ensure the success of the event, including the untiring patronage of sponsors/advertisers.

There was a good turnout of around 200 guests from the diplomatic and Maltese community, the host government and friends of the High Commission.

Of the 55 Heads of Missions who were present among them were the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Head of the European Delegation, Ambassadors of the United States, Germany, Switzerland, China, Japan, Pakistan, and Regional Representatives of the UNHCR, UNIC and the IOM. Also present from the Department of Foreign Affairs were Mr. Kevin Magee, Assistant Secretary for NS&E Europe Branch, and Mr. Trevor Peacock, new Director of the South Europe Section.



Public Broadcasting Services Limited (PBS) is Malta's public broadcasting company. PBS operates TVM, TVM2 television channels and the Radju Malta, Radju Malta 2 and Magic Malta radio stations. PBS is funded by government grants and the sale of commercial airtime. TVM is Malta's most watched television channel,

while Magic Malta enjoys huge popularity among local and tourist listeners.

In 1975, PBS (formerly **Xandir Malta (XM)**) became joint member of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) together with the Maltese Broadcasting Authority (MBA). The latter was admitted as a full active member together with Malta Television Service Ltd already in 1970. Since 2003, PBS is the sole Maltese member of EBU. Prior to Xandir Malta, Rediffusion broadcast television programmes in Malta under the name Malta Television Service Ltd. The service was run by Rediffusion, a London-based independent broadcaster.

**WATCH THE MALTESE NEWS ON SBS2
EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY AT 8 AM**

MEET CHEF SHANE DELIA – AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE



At only 33 years of age, Shane Delia is one of Melbourne's most innovative young chefs.

Opening his much awarded first restaurant **Maha Bar and Grill** in February 2008, Shane has excited diners with his fresh Mediterranean approach to Middle Eastern cuisine.

Shane prides himself on his original culinary style that stems from the eclectic influences that have surrounded him both personally and professionally.

Shane grew up in a large Maltese family where food was more than just a meal, it was a chance for them to gather around a shared meal table and eat with the comfort and history shared by his family.

Shane married his Lebanese-Australian wife Maha, with whom his first restaurant shares its name, in 2007. His new extended family has opened his eyes and heart to the many similarities between his own Maltese upbringing and culture, and those of his Lebanese neighbours across the Mediterranean. He began to experiment with fusing Middle-Eastern and Mediterranean cuisine and the results planted the seeds for what would become Maha Bar and Grill.

His love for food and family is at the centre of what makes Maha extraordinary. Blending his classical training and his passion for honest, fresh and innovative Middle Eastern cuisine, Shane's "Maha cooking" is captivating.

Receiving Chef's Hats in both the 2009 and 2010 editions of the Age Good Food Guide and the Restaurant and Catering Association of Victoria award for the Best New Restaurant 2008, Shane is thrilled to know that the critics are as much in love with his contemporary Middle-Eastern dining room as are the people of Melbourne.

Regularly appearing on popular TV shows like Ready, Steady, Cook! and The Circle on Network 10, Shane warms audiences with his homely flavours and cheeky wit. Preparing to open his second venue 'St. Katherine's' in early 2011, Shane is laying the foundations to become an Australian dining icon and it seems that Australia is ready to share his ideology.



Shane at home with wife Maha, daughter Jayda, 5, and son Jude, 2.

Picture: Nicole Cleary Source: News Corp Austral

L-IKLA T-TAJBA, (bon appétit), is a project created by food lovers for food lovers.



L-Ikła t-Tajba, (bon appétit), sees participants from different age groups being invited to come on this culinary journey, supervised by head chef David Darmanin, a man who is passionate about Malta's culinary tradition. The participants are asked to invent their own original recipes using traditional Maltese ingredients and eventually preparing and serving these dishes during the 2015 edition of Notte Bianca on the 3rd October.

Participants are divided into teams, with each team having its own specialty. These teams are creating a varied and appetizing menu full of heavenly dishes where there is something for everyone.

In 2014, a group of participants, under the guidance of Darmanin, came up with a number of original dishes. These foodie creators revamped traditional Maltese sweets such as *mqaret*, which Valletta is famous for, and also *tortini tal-lewż* (almond tarts). They also cooked up a variety of dishes incorporating fish, which forms a huge part of the Maltese diet, as well as the traditional rabbit. Other traditional foods they worked into dishes were *gbejniet*, local cheese made from sheep's milk, salt and rennet.

These cooks accommodated everyone as they also worked on vegetarian dishes for patrons who have opted for a meat-free diet. Some teams also worked on fusing our delectable Mediterranean cuisine with different Asian cuisines, creating interesting dishes such as Maltese kebabs and spring rolls. L-Ikła t-Tajba is a Valletta 2018 collaboration with Notte Bianca.

- See more at: <http://valletta2018.org/cultural-programme/l-ikla-t-tajba/#sthash.7U6KhIFr.dpuf>



NATIONAL POET, WRITER AND AUTHOR OF THE MALTESE NATIONAL ANTHEM



DUN KARM PSAILA

Writer Dun Karm was a Maltese writer and poet, sometimes called 'the bard of Malta'. He was educated at the Seminary between the years 1885 and 1894 and then proceeded to study philosophy in 1888 and theology in 1890 at the University of Malta. Wikipedia Born: October 18, 1871, Żebbuġ Died: October 13, 1961 Education: University of Malta

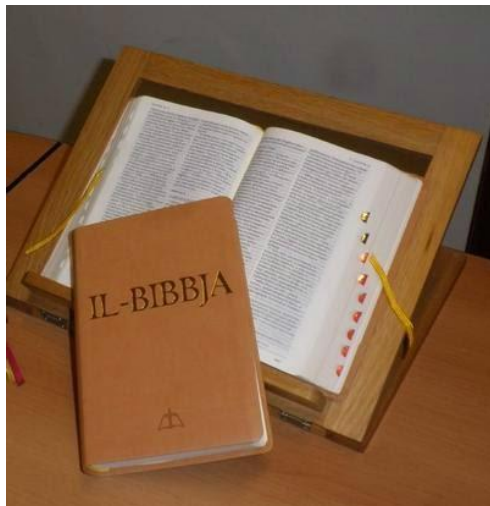
THESE ARE SOME OF THE BEST KNOWN HYMNS OF DUN KARM PSAILA: Innu Ewkaristiku (T'Adoriam Ostia Divina) L-Innu ta' Filgħodu L-Innu ta' Filgħaxija Innu lill-Madonna (Fil-Ħlewwa ta' Mejju) Innu tal-Kungress Marjan (Ismagħha l-Għanja) Innu lill-Qalb ta' Ġesù (Tina l-Ħlewwa) Innu tal-Papa (Għalxejn l-għedewwa jridu...) ® Għeditilna Kelma

These are some of the best known

POEMS OF DUN KARM PSAILA: *Għaliex? Lil Mikiel Anton Vassalli Lill-Kanarin Tiegħi* (1915) *Il-Vjatzku* (1915) *Quddiem Xbiha tal-Madonna* (1912) *Innu Ewkaristiku* (1913) (aqra) *Lil Ħuti l-Maltin* (1921) (aqra) *Lil Gannina Pisani* (1936) (aqra) OTHER POEMS OF DUN KARM PSAILA : *Lill-Madonna tal-Karmnu*" (1954), *Jien u lil hinn Minnu, Il-Musbieh tal-Mużew* (1920) *Il-Għanja tar-Rebħa*, *Żjara lil Ġesù*, *Univers leħor*, *Gunju*, *Innu Skola San Mikiel*. In 1920, Dr. A.V. Laferla, director of education, asked Dun Karm to compose a piece of music verses for Mro. Robert Sammut. The anthem was issued Maltese National Anthem, which was played for the first time in 1923. In 1941 this anthem was recognized as the official anthem of Malta and reaffirmed doing even in the Independence Constitution of 1964.

"Lil din l-Art helwa, l-Omm li tatna isimha, Hares Mulej, kif dejjem Int ħarist; Ftakar li lilha bl-oħla dawl libbist. Agħti kbir Alla, id-deh'n lil min jaħkimha, Rodd il-ħniena lis-sid, saħħa 'l ħaddiem; Seddaq l-għaqda fil-Maltin u s-sliem." MALTESE ANTHEM





AQRA IL-BIBJA BIL-MALTI

TESTMENT IL-QADIM

<http://www.laikos.org/Bibbja-TQ.htm>

TESTMENT IL-ĠDID

<http://www.laikos.org/Bibbja-TG.htm>

http://www.laikos.org/bible_index_laikos.htm



REFUGEES ON THEIR WAY TO EUROPE - SEPTEMBER 2015

Sent to us by Harry B (South Australia)



Statue of Grand Master Jean de Vallette

In Valletta - Malta

Just a few meters away from foundation stone, a statue of Valletta's founder Grand Master Jean de Vallette is placed in the square next to St. Catherine Church. This area was previously the police station, demolished as part of the Renzo Piano Regeneration of Valletta project. Built by sculptor Joseph Chetcuti this bronze statue is 2.5 meters long and weighs over 700 kilos. The Grand Master is wearing his armour, a sword and Valletta's building plans in his right hand.



Previously a car park, Malta's new parliament is constructed as part of the Renzo Piano Project for the entrance to Valletta.

Architect Renzo Piano unveiled the designs for the entrance to Valletta on Saturday 27 June 2009. This extensive project is expected was completed in 2015. Piano's plan include the new parliament that is built in Freedom Square, restoring City gate to its original design of 1633, re building the Old theatre for outdoor performances, refurbish Valletta bus terminus, a new lift from City Gate down to Valletta ditch which will be turned

into public gardens and other over all restorations.





ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA CHURCH AT VALLETTA

Recently restored, this church is an ideal setting to discover Mattia Preti's refined style close up. The church was particularly significant for the Italian painter for at least two reasons. Firstly, it was the church of his own Langue, the Italian Knights, who also lived close by in the Auberge d'Italie. Secondly, this was one of Preti's first commissions after his arrival in Malta in 1659, and was an early opportunity to display his artistic talent.

The Knights asked Preti to design the decoration for the vault, but commissioned a local painter to actually execute the work. Preti drew an elegant vault with painted stucco decorations and ornamental patterns in grey and gold, elegant and still worthy of admiration today. This commission also offered Preti the opportunity to learn a technique new to him, from the local painter executing his designs: oil painting applied directly on the wall, instead of the more traditional tempera technique used in frescoes.

Preti mastered the technique quickly, putting it into practice only a few years later to paint the vault of an even more important church, St John's Co-Cathedral. The real masterpiece by Mattia Preti in the Church of St Catherine is the altarpiece with the grandiose tableaux of *The Martyrdom of St Catherine*, executed in 1659 in Naples and donated by Preti to the Italian Knights to demonstrate his talent. This work represents for Malta one of the first examples of the great talent of Mattia Preti, a painter responsible for bringing to the island the strong pathos and theatrical exuberance of the baroque style, with its warm colours and strong contrasts.



MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



SEE YOU LATER, MATE - BYE
NARAK IK TAR 'L QUDDIEM - SAHHA