Maltese eNewsletter

Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com Editor: Frank L Scicluna

Manwel Dimech

MALTA'S GOT TALENT

Christian - 5 YEAR OLD Geography Genius STUNS

MALTESE CANADIAN VICTOR MICALLEF SHINES WITH THE CANADIAN TENORS

Maltese American re-elected in Michigan USA

Maltese immigrant's son re-elected in the US

At just 28 years old, Darrin Camilleri is set to serve a third term in office abroad

Julian Delia TIMES OF MALTA

Darrin Camilleri, right, and his father, Frank, who emigrated to the US from Malta in the 1960s. Photo: Instagram

Michigan isn't just an important state for US presidential hopeful Joe Biden, whose win there took him a huge step closer to White House victory. It is also crucial for the son of a Maltese man who emigrated to the US in the 1960s. Maltese-American Darrin Camilleri, has just been re-elected to the Michigan House of Representatives for the third time, representing the 23rd district.

The Democrat took to social media to thank his supporters in the collection of cities known as Downriver, just south of Detroit, promising to work for them and their families.

Camilleri is proud of his Maltese heritage, going as far as sponsoring legislation to declare September 19 as an official Maltese-American heritage day on his constituents' calendars.

Camilleri's grandfather, Carmelo, emigrated from Malta in the 1960s to Detroit. Photo: Instagram

He has spoken proudly of his late "Nannu Carmelo", who took the "brave journey to the US from Malta in the 1960s - uprooting his whole family and life to take a bet on Detroit."

And he found common ground with former US presidential election hopeful, Pete Buttigieg, as one of the "handful of Maltese-Americans in public office".

"Both of our fathers were born in Malta," he said after a meeting last year. "We talk food, the love of our island and the origins of our families here in Malta."

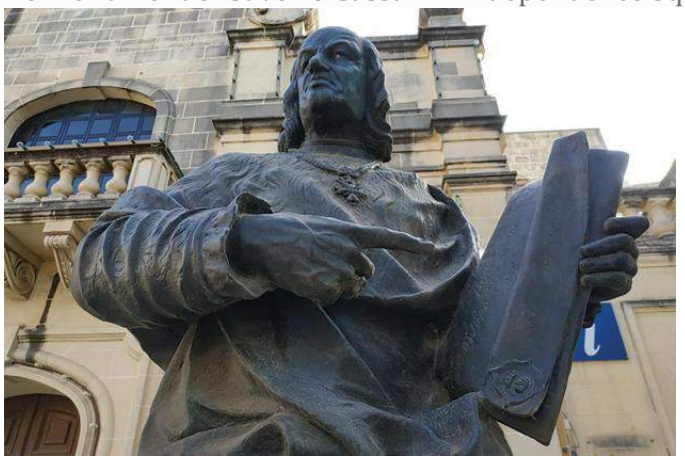
The 23rd district's newly-reelected representative also serves as the House's Whip.

His key electoral pledges are based on fostering economic security by raising the minimum wage and implementing a graduated income tax, ensuring pensions for civil servants are safeguarded from retirement taxes and promoting affordable access to healthcare.

Camilleri also believes in public education, pledging to support investment to avert what his campaign refers to as 'Michigan's literary crisis.' He has also spoken out against corporate polluters and the need to hold them accountable.

Today Gozo celebrates its day

The monument of Saverio Cassar in Independence Square, Victoria. Photos: Charles Spiteri



Gozo Day is being commemorated today. It was on this day in 1798, that Saverio Cassar, archpriest of the Matrice, the present cathedral, emerged victorious with the people of Gozo on the far superior French battalion.

The following morning, as attested in a letter that Alexander John Ball, the British captain responsible for the blockade, despatched to Lord Nelson, "the place was delivered up in form to the Deputies of the island".

During the French occupation, Archpriest Cassar had taken upon himself the spiritual, administrative, and political governance of Gozo. It was for this reason that the British passed on the island of Gozo into his hands.

On October 29, 1798, Gozo together with Comino became an autonomous region. The emergency government had taken upon itself the strenuous task to provide wages to the local troops, to import food from Sicily, and to organise the various sectors of administration.

No wonder that the place was "delivered up in form" to Cassar and his deputies.

Gozitan historian Joseph Bezzina says that, for the first time in recent history, the Gozitans had become their own masters. Archpriest Cassar became Governor-General and governing head for the King of Naples. He soon appointed lawyer Francesco Pace as a resident ambassador in the Sicilian court.

Through the upheavals caused by the French Revolution, an enlightened era dawned for the archipelago and for 22 months there also existed what is referred to in official documents as La Nazione Gozitana (the Nation of Gozo).

In 2005, a committee set up under the auspices of the Gozo Ministry started preparations for an overdue commemoration of Cassar on the 200th anniversary of his death (December 16, 1805).

This committee succeeded to erect a monument in his honour in Independence Square. It was within this committee, led by the late George Vella, that the idea of Gozo Day was conceived. It was commemorated for the first time on October 28, 2005.

Today, Gozo Bishop Anton Teuma will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral at 6pm. Mass will be followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the foot of Cassar's monument.

THE JOURNAL THAT IS CONNECTING MALTESE
IN MALTA, GOZO AND THE REST OF THE WORLD
2013 - 2020 - SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES maltesjournal@gmail.com

On 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing to an end the First World War. From the summer of 1918, the five divisions of the Australian Corps had been at the forefront of the allied advance to victory. Beginning with their stunning success at the battle of Hamel in July, they helped to turn the tide of the war at Amiens in August, followed by the capture of Mont St Quentin and Pèronne, and the breaching of German defences at the Hindenburg Line in September. By early October the exhausted Australians were withdrawn from battle. They had achieved a fighting reputation out of proportion to their numbers, but victory had come at a heavy cost. They suffered almost 48,000 casualties during 1918, including more than 12,000 dead.

In the four years of the war more than 330,000 Australians had served overseas, and more than 60,000 of them had died. The social effects of these losses cast a long shadow over the postwar decades.

Remembrance Day around the world

Despite the common history, Remembrance Day has evolved in different ways around the world. Depending on where you are in the world, it can be known as Armistice Day, Veterans' Day, Remembrance Day, Poppy Day and may not even be celebrated on November 11th.

BERMUDA A public holiday in Bermuda, Remembrance Day is marked with a parade where surviving war veterans and the descendants of deceased veterans march wearing full military uniform and medals. The march begins at 11 AM and ends at the Cenotaph in front of Cabinet House. It is here that they lay wreaths and a two-minute silence is held to remember those who fought in the first world war and other conflicts since then. 544 Bermudians served in the first world war, mainly in the Bermuda Militia Artillery and the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps. In total, 53 Bermudians were killed in action, 15 were wounded, 14 were taken prisoner of war, four went missing in action and 19 died of disease or wounds.

CANADA In Canada, Remembrance Day is a public holiday and federal statutory holiday, as well as a statutory holiday in all three territories and in six of the ten provinces.

From 1921 to 1930, Armistice Day was held on the Monday of the week in which November 11th fell and Thanksgiving was held on the same day. In 1931 an act was adopted that said the day should be called Remembrance Day and be observed on November 11th.

Cayman Islands In the Cayman Islands, Remembrance Day is a public holiday on the Monday closest to November 11th.

UNITED STATES In the United States, the day was renamed to Veteran's day in 1954, after a campaign by a member of the public to extend the commemorations to include those who served in World War II and other conflicts. America commemorates its war dead on Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

UNITED KINGDOM In the UK, the official commemoration was moved to the Sunday closest to November in 11th 1939, to avoid any disruption to production in factories supporting the war effort. This

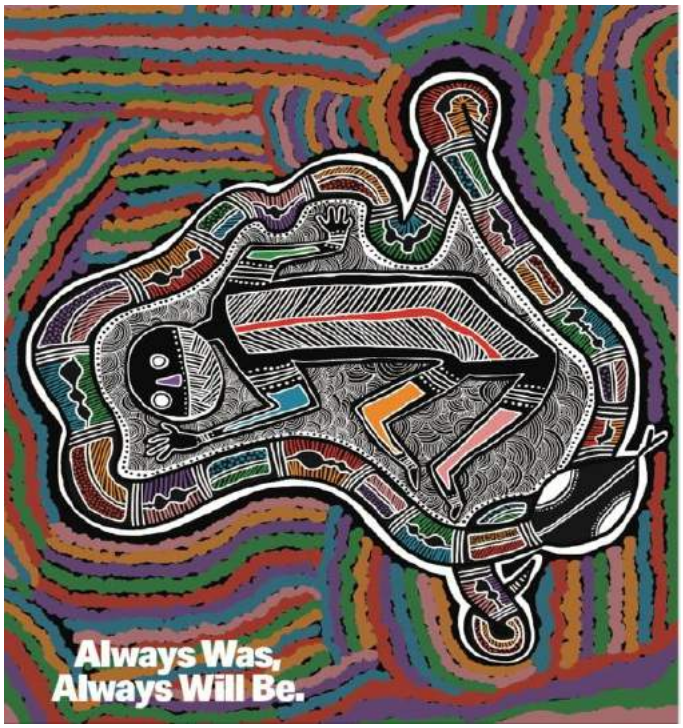
Sunday observance has remained since, though November 11th may also be marked with a moment of silence at 11am.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND In Australia and New Zealand, the events and losses at Gallipoli have taken deeper hold on the psyche, and the ANZAC day celebrations are the main occasion for people to remember the fallen of conflicts.

BELGIUM AND FRANCE The day is marked by an official holiday in both France and Belgium. While the end of the war may be seen as a time for happiness and celebration; the unprecedented loss of life in the war means that the day is a sombre day of reflection. In France, the day is marked by parades across the country, such as the grand parade at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. See Armistice Day for more details.

MALTA A two-minute silence is held at 11am on **November 11**, which marks the **day** the armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany that brought the end of the war. It was a tradition first started by King George V in 1919. During the First World War, **Malta** earned the name 'The nurse of the Mediterranean'

'Shape of Land' by Tyrown Waigana is the winning design in the 2020 National NAIDOC poster design awards. **By Luke Pearson** Source: Supplied



NAIDOC Week – What is it?

NAIDOC stands for the **National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee.** It is a significant week in the Australian calendar, and an especially important one for many Indigenous communities around the country. It is a week to celebrate our culture and heritage, commemorate our history, unify our communities, and to share with the rest of the nation. NAIDOC Week happens each year between the first and second Sundays in July.

Due to Covid-19, The NAIDOC Council has also announced a new date for the annual celebration to protect the health and safety of communities and their elders from the potential risk of Covid-19.

November 8th-15th will be the official 2020 celebration week.

NAIDOC Week events are held all around the country and often involve music performances, art showcases, cultural workshops, talks, and activities for children. Click here https://www.naidoc.org.au/get-involved/naidoc-week-events to find any NAIDOC events happening near you.

NAIDOC Themes

Each year a different theme is selected by the NAIDOC Committee which provides the focus for NAIDOC Week. These themes have previously ranged from political, social and cultural issues, including Treaty, Sacred Sites, Cultural revival is Survival, the Tent Embassy, Bringing Them Home, the Yirrkala Bark Petitions, Families, White Australia has a Black history, Respect, and Self-determination among others.

The posters for each year's theme are selected through a national competition. This year's is: "Always Was, Always Will Be". This year's poster competition winner is proud Noongar and Saibai island man, Tyrown Waigana.

NAIDOC History

The origin of NAIDOC Week is often regarded as beginning in the 1950s, but the influence of the 1938 Day of Mourning is acknowledged by many as creating the catalyst, and widespread support, for such an annual event.
Between 1940 and 1954 the Day of Mourning was held on the Sunday prior to Australia Day and commonly became known as Aborigines Day. In 1955 however, it was shifted to the first Sunday in July to disparage the idea of protest and instead promote it as a day of celebration; that the 26th of January is still regarded by many as the Day of Mourning, as well as Invasion Day or Survival Day, gives us some indication that not everyone agreed with this shift.
The following year, 1956, the second Sunday in July become a day of remembrance for Aboriginal peoples and this provided the key dates for NAIDOC Week (then NADOC) that remain today.
NADOC, the National Aborigines Day Observance Committee, was made up of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members until 1974, the first year that the committee was entirely Aboriginal run. This was also the first year that it was decided that the event should last for a full week, and it was commonly referred to as National Aborigines Week from this point forward until 1989, when the term NAIDOC Week was formally introduced.
Despite its decades old history NAIDOC Week is still a point of contention for some, with stories about certain local councils or other government agencies refusing to fly the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flags or perform Acknowledgements of Country being a common news story in recent years.
There have been many calls over the past few decades for NAIDOC Week to be recognised as a national holiday but this is still yet to occur.

The Royal Naval Bighi Hospital

-

ALBERT FENECH

Villa Bighi is one of the most iconic buildings on the inner rim of the majestic Valletta Grand Harbour. The central original villa was intended as a summer residence built by the priest Fra Giovanni Bichi who was a Member of the Order of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem in 1675 in a mainly then uninhabited area. Little was he to know at the time the role that his originally modest villa was to assume in much later years.

Spacious and comfortable wards**In 1813 the building was hurriedly transformed into an isolation hospital as a great plague terrified Malta – more devastating than today's COVID. The changes were carried out under doctors Luigi Pisani and Gio Batta Saydon. Aligned to this period was the terrifying episode of the nearby Kalkara Cemetery.**

The famous Cot Lift for patients

A number of people were found to be infected by the plague and were hurriedly buried alive in the cemetery and for many years later the whole area was said to be haunted with people reporting hearing screams and wails of anguish during the night. Some tragic incidents in recent years continued to maintain the aura the whole area is damned.

Villa Bighi sits proudly on the edge of the peninsula of the southern coastal village of Kalkara with breath-taking views of the natural Grand Harbour of Valletta as well as the imposing forts of St Angelo and St Elmo and is one of the finest examples of 19th Century neo-classical architecture on the Islands.

The building now converted into a science and technology centre ESPLORA

When the plague subsided the building was formally handed over to the British forces in 1822 and a decision was taken to use the building as a hospital with new surgical wards being added to deal with the spread of infective diseases at the beginning of the 20th Century.

The superb Naval medical staff

The combined efforts of Sir George Whitmore, Salvatore and Gaetano Xerri resulted in new and innovative and stunning structures and became known as the Royal Naval Hospital Bighi.

The design of the building was crucial in halting the spread of disease by focusing on aspects such as the sea air circulation and incorporating rounded edges on the walls so that dirt and dust could not fester. In fact, of all the patients that were too sick for their ships doctors, RNH Bighi had only an incredible 4% mortality rate.

Christmas time in one of the wards

It had been planned that beds would have plenty of air circulation for patients and with large verandahs and the medical care provided was rated to be among the best.

The hospital had an important role in three wars treating the wounded in the Crimean War of 1854 and later the two World Wars. Unfortunately the hospital suffered considerably during World War II and much of it did not survive the aerial bombardments.

Ward

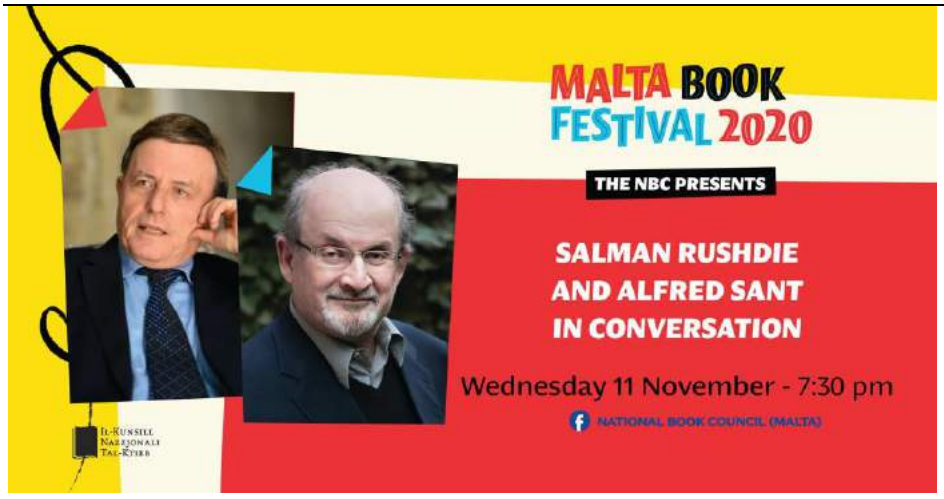
Over the years several personalities were treated at the hospital. In 1863, the son of Queen Victoria, Prince Alfred, was treated there for a month and he placed on record the efficiency of the treatment he had received.

As my father Frank was in the British Services, although in the RAF and not the Royal Navy, we were entitled to treatment at the hospital, and in early 1959 this brought about a personal family experience.

My mother suffered a gum infection and her lower gum filled with pus. She was deemed to need an immediate and emergency operation. My father applied to Bighi and she was immediately taken there.

The operation was promptly carried out by a Naval dental surgeon who cut opn her gum and drained the pus and then inserted no less than 21 stitches. I remember visiting her there (I was 13) and barely recognised her because her face had swollen into a huge balloon. Eventually she recovered.

Later the surgeon informed my parents she had been millimetres away from death because the pus had pushed upward and had almost reached her brain, in which case it would have proved fatal.
In 1847 an anaestetic was administered for the first time at Bighi Hospital and even at the start of the 20th Century x-rays were used in surgical blocks on the other side.
A major innovation was the 'cot lift', the second electric-powered lift to be installed in Malta. This stretched down the outer facade of the whole building and was used to transport patients direct from boats to the wards.
Fifty years ago last week, on 17th September 1970, Villa Bighi was used as a hospital facility for the last time after 167 years of continuous service and was handed back to the Maltese Authorities.
For a while it served as a technical school and for various other functions but sadly fell into a state of dilapidation.
In 2010 a project was initiated by Malta's government for the transformation of the West Wing, the Cot Lift, the Chaplin's House and the Mental Ward into a National Interactive Science Centre, now known as ESPLORA under the wings of the Malta Council for Science and Technology and since its inception it has become a leading local attraction and one of the largest interactive science centres in Europe.
Nowadays Villa Bighi also functions as a stunning event venue for anyone wishing to enjoy its glorious charm, esteemed architecture and breath-taking views. It has been refurbished and repurposed and given a new lease of life as a top-notch event venue.
Now, to recognise and commemorate its position as a top leading hospital for over 150 years, a permanent exhibition has been mounted and includes information about the architecture, the personalities and the medical technology used at the hospital. This and the rest of the ESPLORA exhibits can be viewed through virtual means.



With just FEW DAYS to the start of the 2020 Malta Book Festival, featuring a varied events programme put together by the National Book Council and participating publishers, we have gathered here all the information you need to know about how this first virtual edition is aspiring to forge an online community of writers, publishers and readers in Malta.

The programme contains more than sixty activities spread over five days, including book launches and presentations, meetings with authors, working groups and discussions, as well as a range of activities curated especially for children. All of the events in the programme will be streamed online via the National Book Council website and Facebook page.

A Booker Prize winning author

The special international guest of this edition of the Festival is one of the most celebrated authors of our time, Sir Salman Rushdie. He is the author of a handful of classic novels, including the acclaimed *The Satanic Verses*, *The Moor's Last Sigh* and his masterwork of magic realism, *Midnight's Children*, for which he won the prestigious Booker Prize. Rushdie has influenced a generation of writers and stands as both a pop culture icon and one of the most thought-provoking proponents for free speech today.

In the first of two events in which he will be participating, Salman Rushdie will be joining the recipient of the 2019 National Book Prize Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr Alfred Sant on the evening of 11 November in a conversation touching on the achievements, influences and current preoccupations of the two great writers, led by Prof Clare Vassallo. A seminal figure in Maltese literature following a long and distinguished literary career, Dr Alfred Sant is the author of a notable list of published works ranging from novels, short stories and plays, as well as political and autobiographical writings. Besides the Lifetime Achievement Award, Sant has won the National Book Prize on five different occasions and in different categories. The following day, on Thursday 12 November, Rushdie will be directly engaging with readers in the form of a digital Q&A moderated by Prof James Corby.

You can take the Maltese out of fireworks – but you can't take fireworks out of the Maltese!

August was planned as a bonanza month when in early July the pandemic seemed to be under control and receding. Mass events were planned, external festa activities were on course to resume and in general, the enjoyment of the height of summer.

It all went askew when it became increasingly clear the islands were suffering from the pandemic spike that has swept throughout the world in August. All mass events were cancelled and new restrictions imposed on travel, social distancing and everything else under the sun.

END OF AN ERA OF MALTESE CHAPLAINS IN WARRAWONG, NEW SOUTH WALES AND ADELAIDE – SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Maltese Franciscan Conventual friars, as was announced in May 2020, are leaving Warrawong parish in NSW and St Francis of Assisi church after 60 years of continuous spiritual assistance.

The parish was established in 1956 by Fr. Victor Bonello who was from the town of Xaghra, Gozo and he was the first parish priest to open the new parish.

Many Maltese post-war migrants were not very fluent in the English language and wanted a Maltese priest to helped them with their spiritual need including confession, Holy Mass in Maltese, home visits etc.. This request was finally granted by Archbishop Michael Gonzi after several attempts.

Fr. Victor Bonello also invited the Maltese Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus to open the St Francis of Assisi catholic primary school next door to the church in 1960. The sisters left the Our Lady of Fatima convent in Warrawong three years ago and are now altogether in the St. Joseph convent in nearby parish of St Patrick's at Port Kembla. Fr Leonard Testa OFM Conv. retired early last year.

This departure of the friars has also occurred in Adelaide last year in the parish of Lockleys, when Fr. Gabriel Micallef OFM retired and returned to Gozo after many years of missionary work. The Maltese community of Adelaide is still without a chaplain. This journal wrote to the church authorities in Malta and Gozo to send even one priest for a short time to continue the sterling work the Maltese chaplains achieved for more than 60 years. The Church of Christ the King at Lockleys, funded and built by the Maltese Franciscan Fathers and the members of the Maltese communities. The first parish priest was Fr. Giles Ferriggi. Now the church and parish are administered by the Archdiocese of Adelaide. The reason given is because of a shortage of priests in Malta and Gozo.

We thank all those friars who worked tirelessly over the many years and all the faithful parishioners who supported and prayed for the Warrawong and Lockleys parishes to become a vibrant communities. The Warrawong parish will now be handed over to the diocese of Wollongong and administered by a diocesan priest from January 2021 appointed by the bishop of Wollongong. Lawrence Scerri

However, the human spirit cannot be subdued no matter the general gloom and low morale.

Three major events were planned for August; a Fireworks Spectacular around various areas of the Islands; the celebration of the feast of The Assumption celebrated in seven parishes around Malta and Gozo on 15th August, and the Valletta Pageant of the Seas 2020 in Valletta's Grand Harbour.

All took place in a vastly reduced form, the main emphasis being that crowds were strictly ordered to keep away (these are normally attended by thousands and thousands) and watch proceedings on a virtual online basis, mainly on tv.

Fireworks displays are annually part and parcel of summer. Groups have their factories around the Islands and work relentlessly in competition to produce the best and to better others. Preparations start early in the year but received a tremendous blow when restrictions were placed on mass events in March/April by which time many of the preparations had been completed.

All those involved in manufacture, mounting and firing are purely amateurs and more often than not dig personally into their own pockets to foot the expenses. Their sole aim is the pride in their work.

Matters seemed to be looking up but a further blow came and wholesale cancellations were once more imposed on mass events. It is highly dangerous to store fireworks from year to year and so the firing took place, on a subdued basis and mainly viewed virtually online, both for the Fireworks Spectacular and the celebration of The Assumption.

The Valletta Pageant of the Seas sponsored by the Valletta Cultural Agency took place in Valletta's Grand Harbour on 18th August with spectators strictly ordered to keep away and view the events in a virtual online manner.
Among the major events was the usual "Tellieqa Telliqin" (the Mother of all Races) in which members of the community have to come together to build nine vessels using only recycled material. There was also "The Return of the Runaway Ferris Wheel". Another normal main feature is The Regatta in which nine rowing clubs participate. This year however, it took a new turn in that ONLY female rowers could participate. The team from Vittoriosa emerged triumphant with Glynnis Mizzi, Rachelle Gialanze and Cayenne Mizzi winning €2,000 for their club.
The event culminated in the spectacle entitled "Il-Mappa" (The Map) with the participation of 34 yachts and 20 rowing boats, reflected in huge mirrors placed around the Harbour.
So yes, the general atmosphere is one of deep gloom and low morale, but some valiant people have helped to alleviate some of this with their superb efforts and all viewed from the comparative safety of one's home. God bless them all.
ALBERT FENECH

L-Ghanja ta' l-Emigranti Maltin

Ahna sraqna miz-zonqor ta' Malta
Sahha gdida ghal hidmet id-driegh;
Ahna sraqna mill-bahar tal-Fliegu
Fehma shieha li taghleb ir-rieh;
Minn gos-sema ta' Malta dalmani
Sraqna l-kwiekeb ghal art il-Barrani.

Min se joghtor mat triq jekk Maltija
Huma l-kwiekeb li jdawlu lill – qalb.
U bil- qawwa ta' bahar setghani
Ahna r-rwiefen neghilbu bit-talb?
Qatt ma tmermer iz-zonqor tal-Gzira:
Qatt ma sejra qawwitna tkun fqira!

Ahna t-tafal hallejna warajna,
Ghax fit-tafal m'hemmx qawwa tad-diem:
U hallejna lill- mewga sajfija,
Ghax fil-lajma sajfija m'hemmx sliem.
Mhux ghalina is-seher tal-qamar,
Imma l-hegga ta' kwiekeb bla sabar.

Ruzar Briffa

We congratulate VICTORIA BORG for being re-elected to Brimbank Council VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR MALTESE ACHIEVERS

President of Malta

His Excellency Dr George Vella presented Letters of Credence to Dr Clive Aquilina Spagnol, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Malta to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Their exchanges focused on the existing potential between the two countries in several fields such as health, education, commerce and the logistics sector. They also discussed recent developments in the Gulf, the need for regional stability and contacts between the Gulf Cooperation Council, of which Saudi Arabia is a member, with the European Union.

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada coordinates a resource Donation to the Maltese Canadian Museum and Archive Centre

Maltese Canadians are very proud to have a sizeable Museum and Archives Centre with a large quantity of Maltese Canadian artifacts and documentation with an Archive Centre and Library. This Maltese Canadian institution is situated at the Auditorium of the St Paul The Apostle Complex in a neighbourhood known as Malta Village in the heart of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

September 2020 marks the 90th Anniversary from the establishment of the Maltese Canadian Parish of St Paul The Apostle in Toronto. The Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada in cooperation with the same Parish wanted to commemorate this milestone event for all Maltese Canadians with a number of initiatives during this period - September 2020-2021.

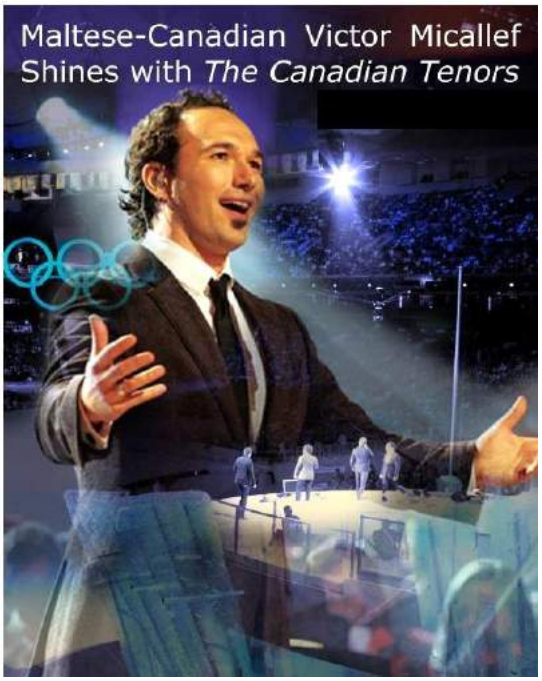
The first initiative is a resource donation to the Maltese Canadian Museum & Archive Centre. Following a preparatory meeting held last year a list of needs was compiled and the Consulate

General worked on compiling the items through sponsorships. The donation consists of manikins to display traditional Maltese costumes; a filing cabinet; an exhibit display unit; a laminator and many files with all the necessary accessories. Furthermore, a supply of acid-free paper to be used in the preservation of old newspaper documents, old photographs and other biodegradable items. The combined donation amounts to CAN$3,000 and has been provided as sponsorship by three companies in Malta.

The Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri presented this donation to the Curator of the Maltese Canadian Museum & Archive Centre, Richard S. Cumbo, in the absence of the Chairman, Pastor Fr Mario Micallef, and in the presence of the other Museum Board members. Consul General Dr Xerri in a short speech spoke about the importance of such an institution to provide witness to present and future Maltese Canadian generations and preserve the special bond between Malta and Canada. Curator Cumbo thanked the efforts of Consulate General of Malta to Canada and Consul General Dr Xerri for this much welcomed and timely initiative.

About Victor Micallef

Maltese-Canadian opera singer and member of the vocal group The Tenors. ***Fraser Walters and Clifton Murray***He and his group are best known for such songs as "The Prayer" and "Panis Angelicas." He has also performed with Il Teatro del Maggio Musicale Florentino in Italy, The Orpheus Choir, and the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio.



Before Fame He began his musical career with the piano at the age of 4 at the Royal Conservatory of Music. He started singing and taking voice lessons at 16.

AchievemenTYS His group's self-titled debut and Christmas albums have sold more than 160,000 copies in Canada alone.

Family Life He is of Maltese descent, but was born in Toronto, Canada. He studied vocal performance at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto.

Associations He has worked with well-known conductors including **Zubin Mehta** and **Claudio Abbado**.

THE TENORS - Clifton, Fraser, and Victor have been thrilling audiences around the world with their powerful songs, outstanding harmonies, and undeniable charm.

Blending classical music and contemporary pop, the award-winning and multi-platinum selling band have achieved international success, performing over 1000 live shows and hundreds of TV appearances on five continents.

The Canadian vocal super group have performed for the last four Presidents of the United States, including at the White House Christmas Tree Lighting for the Obama family, for the world leaders at the G20 Summit, for the opening ceremonies of the XXI Olympic Winter Games, for Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, The Oprah Winfrey Show with Celine Dion, The Primetime Emmy Awards, and the NBC Tree Lighting Ceremony at Rockefeller Centre.

The Tenors have had the honor of sharing the stage with some of the biggest names in music including Sir Paul McCartney, Sarah McLachlan, Sting, Justin Bieber, Andrea Bocelli, Sir Elton John, Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Richie, and David Foster.

LEAN ON ME: https://www.tenorsmusic.com/lean-on-me/

O CANADA: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIUtMauhVK4&feature=emb_title

Official lyrics of "O Canada"

English version

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

French version

Ô Canada! Terre de nos aïeux,
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
Read, enjoy, share and support your journal
We belong to the same global village
Building Bridges between us and linking Maltese all over the world

Jesuit priest falls victim to COVID-19

He is the 64th person in Malta to have died of the virus

Fr Edward Mercieca SJ

Jesuit Fr Eddie Mercieca succumbed to COVID-19 on Saturday night, becoming Malta's 64th victim of the virus.

The health authorities said on Sunday he was confirmed positive to COVID-19 on October 15 and was admitted to St Thomas Hospital on October 17 and transferred to Mater Dei Hospital on October 21.

His loss to the Jesuit community follows that of 76-year-old Fr Lino Cardona, who became the 60th victim of coronavirus on Thursday.

Tribute to Mercieca was paid on Facebook on Sunday by Jesuit priest Patrick Magro who said Mercieca spent a lifetime bringing people closer to Jesus, "now you meet Him face to face".

Aged 80, Mercieca joined the Jesuits in 1959 and took his first vows two years later. He served in the missions in Chile between 1963 and 2004, when he was appointed promoter of Ignatian Spirituality. In this capacity, he visited more than 30 countries to conduct seminars and workshops. In 2012, he was appointed Spiritual Father at the Pontificio Collegio Pio Latino Americano in Rome and the following year returned to Malta for good.For three years he was at Mount St Joseph Retreat House in Mosta and served as retreat director and pastoral Minister. In 2015, due to ill health, he joined the community at Loyola House, Naxxar.

The Glarac Association losses it's life president

By Saviour Azzopardi Chairman Glarac Association Malta

The year 2018 saw the Glarac Association lose one of its founder members, first chairman, archivist and life president when David Woodcock passed away after a long illness. His was a very tough battle which he fought with great courage and I can personally recall the 2017 Cenotaph march in London, when he, even though in pain, wanted to carry on and complete the march even though it takes about two to three hours from starts to finish. David was one of the organisers in the first meeting in the year 2000, of relatives who had suffered a loss of loved ones whilst serving on the Three Ships HMS.Glorious, HMS.Ardent and

HMS.Acasta. After the first and second meeting in Plymouth a committee was formed in 2002 and David was elected as the Chairman of this committee. In 2008 he came to Malta along with most of the committee to present to Malta a commemorative plaque remembering the Maltese men who lost their lives on HMS.Glorious. Together with the then president of Malta, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami he unveiled this plaque.

David believed that the captains and crews of both HMS.Ardent and HMS.Acasta should have been awarded more than a mention in despatch by the admiralty. Their courage during the whole battle, even though against superior odds and even damaging the Scharnhorst in the process, merited more than just a mention in despatch. He was still pursuing this fact with great vigour.

David was also keen on tracing his father's footsteps while his father was stationed in Malta. David's father, Fredrick, had perished on the Glorious on the 8th June 1940 along with his shipmates after a two hour battle with two of Germany's new mighty battle cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. David was very proud of the fact that he was born in Malta during the time his father

was stationed on the island. David's father, Fredrick, was a Master

at Arms and as such was also the PT instructor for the ship he was on. His role was a liaison between the captain and the crew making sure the crew was kept fit and happy. He would organise many of the ships sporting and social activities. Fredrick's love for physical fitness would one day play a prominent role in one of Cospicua's most memorable days as a football club.

Fredrick was stationed in Kalkara and would often notice a group of young men running around the area in what looked like a training routine. One day he asked these men what Dr.Mario Tabone, Chairman Heritage Malta, David Woodcock and H.E. Dr.Eddie Fenech Adami unveiling the plaque February 2008 they were doing and on telling him that they were part of Cospicua's football team his interest rose. He made enquires and upon meeting the president and committee was appointed their club trainer. He was part of the Cospicua team that went on to win the coveted Cousis Shield in 1927 beating Valletta United 1-0.

The way a story unfolds sometimes is quite amazing. Since becoming The Chairman of The Glarac Association Malta, one of my dreams had always been to erect a monument for the Maltese lost in this tragedy.

Unfortunately here in Malta I do not believe memorial monuments for particular ships exist. I do not recall seeing one with names of the men lost on any ship. I contacted a friend of mine who also happens to be a noted Maltese artist in helping me

and the committee with sketches of our ideas. His name is Joseph Barbara.

Our conversation during the many times we met discussing the monument sketches drifted towards the men on HMS.Glorious and when I mentioned Fredrick Woodcock and his relationship with

Cospicua's winning the Cousis Shield in 1927, Joe's eyes lit up. It so happened that Joseph's grandfather, also called Joe Barbara, was president of Cospicua's football team at that time.

He showed me photos of his grandfather proudly sitting next to the Cousis Shield. Joe Barbara, il-Mast, as he was called in those days due to the fact that he was also abandmaster, is still highly thought of to this day because during his time as their president, St.George Football Club went through some of their finest football days.

David Woodcock came to Malta on several occasions looking to trace his father's footsteps. When they lived in Kalkara David's mother employed a number of people to help her out in her daily chores. His searches took him to the Cospicua football club. They were glad to see him and talk to him; however, they could not find a copy of the 1927 football team with his father in it. If there is such a photo and David's father can be identified I would be very grateful if a copy can be made, so that I can forward it to David's family, who I am sure would be very pleased to see it.

After serving as the Glarac Association chairman for a couple of years David stepped aside to allow for fresh ideas to take over for the good of the association. He was made a life President due to his continued work towards the association as the association's main archivist. Anyone who would like to share stories of their relatives who served on HMS.Glorious.

PETER CALAMATTA – BIOGRAPHY

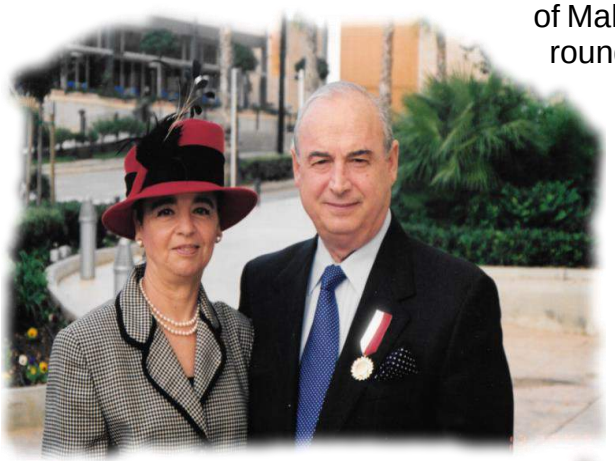
Peter Calamatta has been Malta's foremost horticultural guru for over 50 years. He studied his trade extensively in different countries which include the UK, Italy, Austria, Israel and the United States of America.

For seventeen years he advised the Malta government on the creation of an efficient commercial horticultural industry as also it's Afforestation programme. With the help of four U.N.D.P. and FAO consultants, he introduced protected cropping under greenhouses on a grand scale which also led to a healthy export industry. A success story for Malta and Gozo which is still thriving thanks to a more demanding local market as a result of the boom which the healthy tourism industry brought with it.

Concurrently, Peter embarked on a secondary career in the field of broadcasting. His gardening programmes which spanned over 45 years revolutionized the way the Maltese people looked after their gardens and made them appreciate nature and the beauty and benefits of trees, shrubs and flowering plants all the year round. In the year 2000, he published his landmark book in English, Mediterranean Gardens. A best seller on all counts, now a collectors' item, because it is out of print.

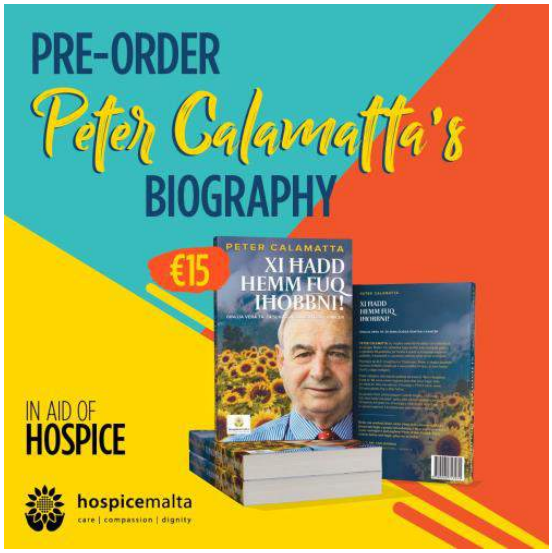
In 1978 Peter resigned from Government service and took the giant leap into the world of business. Single-handedly he created a landscape business which until then did not exist. He opened garden centers based on the English style which were a great novelty for those days. His landscaping works won him accolades worldwide from the likes of BALI the British Association of Landscape Industries and ELCA the European Landscape Contractors Association. In 2001, together with his son Carlos and three other prominent entrepreneurs he

formed a consortium to take over responsibility for the maintenance design and upkeep of all public areas, highways, roundabouts and public gardens which were under the care of the central government. The Environmental Landscapes Consortium, the ELC, changed the face of Malta and Gozo from an arid and dusty state to a year-round display of turf, trees, shrubs and seasonal plants.



A miracle which brought Malta and Gozo at par with its European counterparts. So much so that in 2010, ELCA decided to hold it's annual conference in Malta with the sole purpose to showcase Malta's achievements to all the other European landscapers.Peter Calamatta's lifetime dedication towards the embellishment of the country, recognized with the Midalja Ghall-Qadi tar-Repubblika which was presented to him by the same President who wrote the foreword to his first book, the late Professor Dr. Guido DeMarco in 2003.

Peter and his wife Simone as also his children Daniela and Carlos, with their respective families, became St Julian's residents in the year 2000 when they all moved to the new project housing in Portomaso. As soon as Peter became a St Julianite he immediately became very active in the community by helping at the newly opened Millenium Chapel. Peter and Fr Hilary became inseparable friends and have since worked very hard to provide food and clothes to needy families on a weekly basis. Peter also used his newly found hobby of singing to record a numbers of CDs to collect much-needed revenue for the Millenium Chapel. In 2016 he also produced a very original and well-researched book "Maltese Plants of the Bible". The Success of this book was really quite stunning. It generated over €100,000 which all went for the Millenium Chapel. These funds will also make Fr Hilary's dream to create a Biblical Meditation Garden on the roof top of the Millenium Chapel become a reality.



The garden is presently under construction and should be inaugurated by the end of 2017. Peter was also involved in improving the quality of life of St Julianites and all visitors to St Julian's not only by his work through the Environmental Landscapes Consortium which embellishes the garden and public areas but also by giving his input with the authorities concerned regarding traffic control and parking problems. For this, he was awarded "Gieh San Gilju" by the council and mayor of St Julians in 2017. St Julian's is truly proud of its prime citizen, Peter Calamatta, who has become a well-respected resident and one who has the wellbeing of all St Julian residents at heart.

Malta Emigrants' Commission - Valletta

Unfortunately, due to covid-19 and other circumstances no Christmas Hampers are being organised this year 2020

MALTESE OWN AND PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 76 Sunshine 3020 ABN 36 585 341 794 - Registration A0001823P

Maltese Own Band during Covid-19 Lockdown

The Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society has had to endure the consequences of the Covid-19 Lockdown, as have all other social and community groups during these extraordinary times.

This situation has been unprecedented in the Maltese Own Band's 43 year history and has caused and required unfortunate repercussions.

The Maltese Own Band has been at the forefront of Maltese Culture since 1978, in promoting Maltese music and its traditions and culture to not only the Maltese community, but the general public as well, not only in its home state of Victoria, but in N.S.W, South Australia and Queensland as well.

The Maltese Own Band have not been able to rehearse or perform due to the cancelation of all Feasts and Community events that would have taken place normally.

Isolation has meant that we have had to find ways of still engaging our members in some sort of social way to keep up our member's morale, as to many members, the Band is an integral part of their lives.

The Committee quickly embraced technology and were able to continue their monthly meetings electronically via Zoom. It was also decided to set up weekly Zoom catch-ups for all our members, where they would be able to chat socially and keep in touch with their band friends. The committee members also took it upon themselves to periodically ring any members that were not able to take part in the Zoom catch ups to check on their welfare and see if there was anything they needed.

At the request of some followers that were missing hearing us play at feasts, we implemented the "Marci Monday" initiative on Facebook where we began sharing recordings taken over the years.

To continue to nurture the valuable friendships built between the families of band members, the Committee also ran various family friendly social events, such as an online music trivia night.

To keep the musical side of thing going, our Bandmaster Mro. Mario Cassar, suggested to organise an online performance of one of the Band's songs. It was decided to use "Do-Re-Mi", taken from our "Sound Of Music" selection, arranged by our very own Mro. Mario Cassar.

Our members were asked to record their parts separately at their home and then forward them electronically to Mario where then, with the help of his extremely talented wife Fiona, put all the recordings together and uploaded the completed song to The Maltese Own Band's Facebook page. This proved to be lot of fun for our members that took part.

The finished video was excellent and was fantastically well received by our Facebook followers, with almost 3,000 views so far.

Following the success of our first online performance, Mario wanted to try something more ambitious and challenging for our members. He decided to put together a medley of popular Halloween themed songs to malteseownband malteseownband@gmail.com malteseownband

celebrate Halloween in Isolation. This was a completely new piece to the band and had never been rehearsed or played before. Mario wrote and put together all the pieces for the various instruments (with a few surprise inclusions) and forwarded them to our members to rehearse individually. Over the course of 2 weeks, our members then practiced furiously and learnt their parts. When ready, they were asked to record each of their individual parts as well as record a short video of themselves wearing a Halloween themed costume. The most important instruction they were given by Mario was to make sure they had some fun doing it, and got their whole family involved. These were then forwarded to Mario, where again with Fiona's help, put together the Halloween Medley and uploaded it to our Facebook page.

Please find all the relevant links below. • Do Re Mi Virtual Performance • Halloween Medley Virtual Performance . We hope that you enjoy listening to our music as much as we enjoy bringing it to you. We look forward to the day that we can start getting together again and see all of your smiling faces at the Festas. Till then, keep safe and stay happy. **Joe Portelli Vice President**

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3/

Important Update: Due to the ever changing situation in Malta, it has been decided that this year's Science in the City festival will move totally online. Keep an eye out for our digital program coming out soon and stay safe!

View the Programme https://scienceinthecity.org.mt/

Science in the City goes Digital!

Science in the City is overflowing with art-infused science, bringing the newest research to you in ways you never would have imagined. Join us to experience this year's festival themed **'Engage, Empower, Enable'** and learn how we can all use science to improve ourselves and the world we live in. This year Science in the City can be accessed entirely from the comfort of your home. There is something for everyone, with animal-inspired jazz concerts, online escape rooms, science theatre, experiments and plenty more!

For live shows, don't forget to register for our Live Virtual Festival for the chance to have your say and interact with our performances. For the rest of our festival's digital content, come and Explore the Arches!EU Funding This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, under grant agreement No 955263. https://scienceinthecity.org.mt/

Jikteb Fr. Manuel Adami minn Malta

Gheziez huti Maltin, Hsibt li niktbilkom fuq xi affarijiet li qed ninnota kemm ili hawn Malta. Bhalissa waqt li qed niktbilkom minn sant'Agata, ir-Rabat, kontinwment nisma' t-tiri tall-kaccaturi ghax hu zmien il-kacca. Nisma' t-tiri matul l-istagun kollu mit-Tnejn sal Hadd min qabel ma jisbah u jibqa' sejjer kontinwament sa wara li jidlam. Issa biex tara xi seqer u tjur ohra hlief xi ftit sturnelli saret haga rari daqs kemm hu rari li tara xi tifel jew tifla jisimhom Lonzu u Lonza. Smajt li lin -nassaba qalulhom li jistghu jonsbu mbasta jergu jtajruhom!

Issa xi haga fuq d-djar li huma patrimonju Malti ghax ma tarax bhalhom fid-dinja hlief xi ftit imitazzjonijiet li bnew xi Maltin f'Melbourne u nahseb li wkoll f'Sydney. Tiftakruhom il-gallarijiet tall-injam, hodor u xi kulur iehor li kollna nghixu fihom.? Kull belt u rahal kellhom d-distint arkitettoniku taghhom. Telghu gallarijiet tal-gebla Maltija l-gmiel taghhom specjalment f'Ghawdex. L-antiki, ejja nghidulom t-town houses, qieghedin jitnaqqru u flokom jitilghu it-terraced houses. Kien hemm ukoll il-kerrejjiet bil-bitha fin-nofs u l-familji x'aktars fqar kienu jghixu madwara. Issa min flokom hemm l-luxury homes! Barra dan hemm il yaghts, xi whud minnhom kbar qieshom vapuri.

Wara li ghaddiet il-miserja li gaghbet maghha l-Gwerra l -Kbira beda svilupp bla razan. Hafna djar antiki u sbieh bdew jinhattu bhal ma gara fix-xatt ta' tas-Sliema. Hemm bdew tilghin ukoll lukandi kbar. Issa spiccaw il-bjar u flokom inbnew garaxxujiet. Fuq il-bejt issa sar penthouse. Trid tara fuq il- bjut tal penthouse kif joholqu gnien zghir. Fit-toroq ukoll, anki fi sqaijiet tara hafna pots zghar u kbar b'xi sigar zghar u kbar. Ghandi hija joqghod il-Birgu, post nadif immens, prosit ghall-kunsill, dana ghandu daqsxejn ta' terrazzin quddiem id-dar fuq il-garage b'hafna pots bil-fjuri u nanieh u wkoll xi sigar tall-laring u tal-mandolin. Il-garr ta' hdejh thajjar u ghamel l-istess. Sa anki t-turisi jieqfu jharsu u jghidulha lil mara ta' hija "nice garden" jew "nice little orchard." Gieli waqfu fuq il-bank li pogga hija u t-turisti joqogghu fuqu jistrieh u jieklu l-lunch, "beautiful Malta blood orange, mandarin and lemon." Veru li -Malti ghaqli fi gzira ckejkna jiehu l-okkazzjoni biex juza kull pulzier art li jkollu.

Mela smajtuha li fuq id-dar tieghek tista tbiegh l-arja u min jixtriha jista jibni fuqha? Hekk hu! Jiena qed ninnota wkoll li Malta saret zona industrjali. Il-krejnijiet saru jiddominaw kull fejn thares. Lanqas Ghawdex ma baqa' lura u miexi wkoll f'din id-direzzjoni u jintilef il-gmiel u l-kwiet li hu l-pulmun tal Maltin. Reget qiegheda tissemma l- mina bejn Malta u Ghawdex. Jaghtini l-biki nara faccati ta' djar mill-isbah jitkissru bill-gafef. Mank ta' l-inqas ihallu l-faccata. Jiena jidhirli li nies ta' kultura u anki l-knisja ghandhom id-dmir li jsemmghu lehinhom fejn jaraw il-maltemp gej. Jekk ser noqoghdu nharsu lejn il-flus u lejn l-ekonomija biss minghajr sens ta' bilanc ser nispiccaw hazin. Ga smajta kemm il-darba li Malta saret Hong Kong ohra. U allura l-kaccaturi u n-nassaba mhux ser jivdlilhom spazju ghal dan "li sports" favorit taghhom li ma jghaddux minghjru! U dak li hu tipiku Malti dejjem qed jintilef darba ghal dejjem.

WHO WAS MANWEL DIMECH?

Manwel Dimech is something of a hero in Malta, which by first appearances might seem a little strange for a person who, at a young age, was imprisoned for theft on eight occasions, and then, at the age of 17, sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for murder. But then, most things about Dimech's life are exceptional.

Dimech was born on 25 December 1860 in a slum dwelling in Triq San Ġwann, Valletta, where his family lived in one room, and the small building housed 60 people. The family moved house a few times before his father died at 37, leaving his mother to cope with a family of 10 children. Just two weeks after his father's death, in 1874 and at the age of 13, Dimech was imprisoned for his first theft. This established a pattern - petty theft and brief imprisonment - that would continue until his murder ial in 1878. Dimech left prison in 1890, only to return a few months later for counterfeiting money. Eventually, in July 1897, he was released at the age of 36, after spending 20 years in imprisonment.

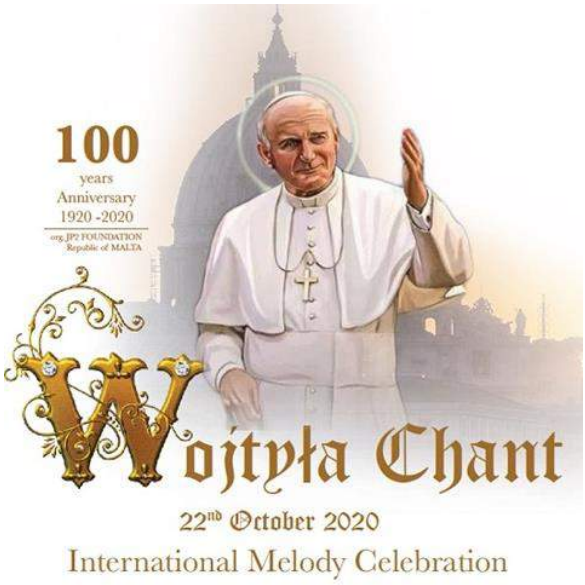
Dimech had been illiterate before going to prison, but while there he educated himself and read promiscuously, teaching himself Maltese, English, French and Italian. At the beginning of 1898 he started his own language school, and published a weekly newspaper - *Il-Bandiera tal-Maltin* (The Flag of the Maltese) - as a voice for the oppressed, in which he criticized, among many other things, the abuse of prisoners, the strength of the Catholic Church, the oppression of the working classes, and campaigned for free education for all. He also wrote two books on language learning.

In 1904 he wrote a revolutionary novel, *Ivan u Prascovia*, about two Russian lovers under the Tzarist regime, although part of it was lost and it was published unfinished. In 1911 he founded the philanthropic association *Xirca tal-Imdawwlin* (The Society of the Enlightened) - renamed *Xirka Maltija* - whose aim was to encourage support for his ideas on social reform. For a number of reasons - advocating the emancipation of women and criticizing the clergy among them - Dimech was excommunicated in the same year, and in 1914 the (British colonial) Maltese government arrested and exiled him for life for 'agitating the Dockyard workers against the government because he had anticlerical and socialist principles'. He left behind his wife and three children in Malta, and died a prisoner in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1921.

As a writer, he is probably remembered more for his journalism, although he also wrote two novels and some poetry. Unfortunately, nothing has been translated into English. A statue of Manwel Dimech now stands prominently in Valletta in front of the Kastilja. Several streets and a bridge have also been named after him.

National recognition As a sign of national recognition, on November 10, 2012, the President of Malta, Dr George Abela, unveiled in St John Street, Valletta, a commemorative plaque marking the birthplace of Dimech. A year later, on October 13, 2013, the Prime Minister of Malta, Dr Joseph Muscat, unveiled in Qormi another commemorative plaque marking the spot were, in 1912, Dimech had been stoned by a mob. On September 5, 2014, exactly 100 years to the day since the beginning of Dimech's exile, the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, unveiled, close to the Customs house at Valletta (from where Dimech was sent to his exile), yet another commemorative plaque marking the event.

Achievement Dimech evocatively and compellingly advocated the emancipation of the masses. His assault on the entrenched structures of oppression in Malta was extraordinary, outstanding and unmatched by anything that had gone before. Dimech was not a nationalist, an anti-colonialist or a socialist in any way we would understand the terms today. He was, first and foremost, an enemy of any kind of domination, coercion, cruelty, tyranny, repression and subjugation. If this made him a nationalist, an anti-colonialist or some kind of socialist, it was surely only in an indirect and oblique way. Dimech did not achieve in his lifetime what he set out to accomplish. He was violently and unjustly truncated. Most of the policies he advocated were implemented some half a century after his death by Dom Mintoff in the 1970s.



JP FOUNDATION – GOZO

Feast of Pope Saint John Paul II celebrated with the Wojtyla Chant

The JP2 Foundation of Gozo has this year celebrated the Liturgical feast of Pope Saint John Paul II.

Because of the restrictions concerning the pandemic, the celebration took place in a different manner to usual, with the Foundation embarking on a project called – Wojtyla Chant International Melody Festival 2020, which included the participation of a number of international organisations and identities.

The festival consisted of a recital of melodies which varies from instruments to voice performances. These were all recorded live and broadcast on social media, particularly on the Youtube Channel called Wojtyla Chant.

The participants hale from Albania (Tiran), Azerbaijan (Baku), Canada (Alberta and Quebec), Ireland (Galway), Italy (Loreto and Rome), Kenya (Nairobi), Malta (Gharb and Victoria), Portugal (Fatima and Sameiro), San Marino and Sweden (Stockholm).

The JP2 Foundation accepted two suggestions that were made; The festival should take place every year and; Extend the timing of the festival from the 22nd October to the feast of Christ the King which falls on Sunday 22nd November.

The General public is invited to view the Youtube channel and also visit the facebook page.

INTI TEMMEN FL-ERWIEH

Jikteb Greg Caruana – NSW

Bhallissa ,kwazi is-siegha ta wara nofs nhar 3 ta Novembru, il-gurnata tal-Melbourne Cup ghalina hawn go Sydney .Izda ghall Malta 2 ta Novembru li ghalina l-Maltin huwa jum ghaziz ,li fieh niftakru fl-gheziez taghna li marru jiltaqghu mal-Mulej. u waqt li qed nikteb dan l-artiklu ,qed nisma program dirett ta' Ivan Caffiero minn fuq ONE RADIO minn Malta, bill-programm popolari tieghu , "Farag u Kuragg". Dan il-programm huwa huwa ta' interess u ta' taghlim ghall kullhadd. U l-programm tieghu Ivan illum semmieh …. "Int tghemmen fl-Erwieh"..

Dan il-program huwa kompost minn telefonati li jghamlulu is-semmiegha ,mhux biss minn Malta, imma minn hafna emigrant li jghixu barra minn Malta u anke minn hawn go l-Awstralia. Dawn it-telephonati huma komposti minn esperienzi varji li certu semmiegha jkunu iltaqaw maghhom. Ezempju illum smajna wahda ta' persuna li minhabba li z-zwieg tal-genituri sfratta din baghtiet u trabbiet man-nanna taghha. U lil ommha li gabitha fid-dinja saret tafa meta kella xi 18 il-sena. U meta missierha li kien f'relazzjoni ma mara ohra ,sar jaf li kellmet lil ommha ma kellimiex iktar sa ma miet.

U meta saret taf li kien qed imut marret l-isptar u xhin waslet qalula li kien miet siegha qabel , naturalment din l-imbierka intefghet fuqu titolbu mahfra ,dan missiera ,li suppost kien iddikjarat mejjet siegha qabel ,gholla idu u bhall ghannaqa mieghu , u s'intendi kullhadd baqa imbellah ,imma l-imfermiera li kienu hemm qalula li dan missiera ,issa srieh.Storja li tqabdek il-bart…li tghallimna kemm ikunu boloh li meta ikollna xi nghidu ma tal-familja nibqaw ma nitkellmux….meta ma nafux se jigri siegha ohra….

MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA

Thank you if you have already purchased tickets for our Christmas raffle. If you haven't purchased tickets as yet, there are still tickets available.
Tickets are $15 each (+0.50 transaction fee per ticket)
Raffle is being drawn on Tuesday 1 December at 8pm live on our Facebook page.
BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE
https://www.trybooking.com/BMDFE
500 tickets available!
Prizes will be drawn in descending order.
If you haven't already done so, follow us on our social channels.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: https://www.facebook.com/MMGConcertBandofVictoria

GARDEN OF LIFE AT XAGĦRA CEMETERY

One of the tombstones at the Garden of Life. Photos: Charles Spiteri

A new area, called Ġnien il-Ħajja (Garden of Life), has been created at Xagħra cemetery, following the completion of the new extension of the burial ground and the restoration of the old part of the cemetery, including 'the garden of reflection'.

The idea to create Ġnien il-Ħajja came to fruition after several Xagħra families who igrated to other places and had to be buried abroad, will be remembered by affixing their photos and criptions on large rocks scattered around the garden.

għra archpriest Carmelo Refalo said it was sad that after these people, who loved and dedicated their lives to ir village, but had to leave Gozo for a better living, were to be forgotten.

oday we find Xagħra parishioners who are buried in other cemeteries in Malta, Gozo and abroad and whose mories are not recorded in the village," he said. "With this new novel idea, families and friends can now pay ir respects to these people who are not buried in this cemetery."

ong the path of Ġnien il-Ħajja, one finds natural vegetation which embellishes the surroundings. During the :avation of the place an antique rubble wall pertaining to the old cemetery was unearthed. In the near future Way of the Cross will be affixed to the wall.

The future of our diaspora should be a major challenge and it also brings opportunities in different areas such as business, culture and education

LIJA BELVEDERE TOWER

Built as a folly within the private gardens of 17th century villa, the Lija Belvedere Tower is one of the landmarks of this history-packed Maltese village. The tower is today separated from the gardens of Villa Gourgion and acts as a roundabout! And did you know it has a connection with Malta's constitutional history?

From Wikipedia and The Times Of Malta.

Torri Belvedere was built in Neo-classical style in 1857 as a folly within the private gardens of Villa Gourigon, a 17th-century villa which belonged to the Marquis Depiro. It was designed by the architect Giuseppe Bonavia. A folly is usually constructed for decoration and as a symbol of power and wealth. It was highly visible from several other parts of the surrounding villages.

Several meetings were held at Villa Depiro Gourgion to discuss the first conception of the Maltese Constitution in 1921. In the 1950s, part of the villa's garden was destroyed to make way for Transfiguration enue. The belvedere was retained as a roundabout, and it is now one of Lija's landmarks. It was granted ade 1 protection status in 1996 and recently restored.The Belvedere Tower is constructed in globigerina estone and has a circular plan. It is built on four levels.

LMALTA:WAR DIARY Tag Archives: Qormi - https://maltagc70.wordpress.com/tag/qormi/

November 1940: Wellingtons Crash on Village Killing Six

Burned out Wellington bomber and houses in Qormi

AIRCRAFT PLOUGHS INTO HOUSES

Two civilians and four RAF servicemen were killed this evening when two Wellington aircraft loaded with bombs crashed just moments after take-off. The aircraft were part of a flight of Wellington bombers taking off from Luqa on a mission to attack the city of Naples. Both were carrying a full load of bombs and fuel.

Observers reported that after take-off both Wellingtons failed to gain height. The first crash-landed at shortly before 30pm on open ground near Tal Handaq. An officer and medical team from 2nd Bn Royal West Kent giment at Luqa drove immediately to the crash site.

n minutes later a second Wellington crashed into houses on edge of the village of Qormi. Villagers said they re awakened by the loud drone of a low-flying plane. It appears the pilot made every effort to clear the age but crashed on two houses on the outskirts in Don Mario Street, killing two civilians. They have been ned as Alfred Agius and his wife Dolores.

F and Army teams rushed to the scene to find a great part of the burnt-out aircraft suspended from the steel ders of one of the houses. Parts of the burning wreckage had fallen into a nearby quarry. As they proached rescue workers heard moaning. A badly injured airman was found clinging to the side of the arry. Two others were sprawled lifeless near the wreckage. Efforts to haul the survivor up failed as he was weak to hold a grip to the rope. Despite the risk of exploding bombs, Police Constable 347 Carmel Camilleri unteered to be lowered into the blazing quarry. He succeeded in tying the rope around the injured airman, rgeant A T Smith, who was then hauled to safety. It took nearly three hours to complete the rescue eration. An investigation into the cause of the incident has concluded that the Wellingtons were carrying too avy a load for operating from Luqa aerodrome. Orders have now been issued to prevent a repeat of such idents.

13 May 1941: Disabled Refugees and Children Saved by 'Miracle' Bell

UNEXPLAINED TOLLING SENDS EVACUEES TO SHELTER

A home for elderly and disabled people at Qormi escaped destruction this afternoon in an event which its Spiritual Director has described as 'miraculous'. The home was evacuated from the Three Cities to Qormi last year.

The home's alarm bell sounded at around 2pm, as enemy bombers were crossing the east coast heading for Luqa aerodrome. As residents of the home and pupils of the village school headed for an underground shelter, the home's caretaker rushed towards the Spiritual Director saying he had not rung the bell as he had not received the customary call from the Police. At that moment, a rific explosion rocked the building, shrouding it in a thick cloud of dust. It was only then that the air raid alert unded over the village.

e question of how the bell was rung remains a mystery, which the Spiritual Director has described as a *"truly aculous deliverance, which could have resulted in one of the worst tragedies to befall Malta through the r".* He added that five days ago, on *"the feast of Our Lady of Pompeii, I conducted a Service in the chapel; if having a premonition of an impending disaster, I urged everyone to pray devoutly"*. Today he believes se prayers were answered.

OCTOBER 1940: TA QALI TO BECOME FIGHTER STATION

Ta Qali

TA QALI TO BE HOME TO NEW SQUADRON

The former Malta airport at Ta Qali is to be re-opened as a RAF fighter aerodrome. Air Headquarters Mediterranean issued instructions for Wing Commander J R O'Sullivan to proceed to Ta Qali airport with a small headquarters staff for the purpose of forming a temporary one squadron fighter station with immediate effect. At 0900 hrs today, W/Cdr O'Sullivan left RAF Station Hal Far for Ta Qali with 14 airmen, including three senior NCOs, accompanied by a detachment of 17 men of the King's Own Malta Regiment for guard duties.

tomorrow, a maintenance party of 261 Squadron consisting of 24 airmen including three senior NCOs will ive from RAF Station Luqa for the purpose of maintaining Hurricane aircraft operating from Ta Qali as a nporary measure. The majority of these personnel will continue to be accommodated at Luqa and will ceed daily to Ta Qali for duty. Several buildings at Ta Qali will be taken over for temporary accommodation: rri Combo will operate as the Officers Mess, the Pottery as Barrack Rooms and Institute. Senior NCOs will accommodated by 8th Bn Manchester Regiment in Chateau Bertrand until further notice. It is planned that Qali airport buildings will be converted to offices, sick quarters and an armoury.

Qali has not yet been used for RAF operations. Teenager Charles Grech who lives near the airfield scribed what he saw: *"It was obstructed with old buses, wrecked cars, lorries and hundreds of 50 gallon oil ums filled with earth. They were dispersed all over the airfield in order to prevent gliders or transport aircraft m landing there, in case of an airborne invasion…we once noticed there was a biplane looking very much a Gladiator parked on the grass on one side of the airfield…this was a dummy made of wood and sack-th and it was set up as a decoy to give the enemy the impression that the airfield was operational in order divert attacks from other targets, thereby giving Luqa and Hal Far airfields a respite."*

A Short History of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco
By Abraham Vella and Mona Vella-Nicholas

Towards the end of November 1929, thirty-five Maltese residents of San Francisco met to discuss the establishment of a Colonial Club. A committee was given the task of finding suitable premises for a meeting place. In January 1930, they rented the ground floor of a house at 1648 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco. That same month, a committee selected the first officers of the club: F. Grech, President; C. Fenech, Vice-President; E. Micallef, Secretary; J. Azzopardi, Treasurer; C. Scicluna, Assistant Secretary; and R. Deguara, Assistant Teasurer. Hence, the "Maltese Club of San Francisco" was given birth.

Very soon after, the "Melita Soccer Football Team" decided to join the Maltese Club, doubling the Club's membership. In 1932, the "Sons of Malta Soccer Team", as the Club's team was now called, won the Redmen Convention trophy in Santa Cruz. Other Club members who were musically talented organized a jazz band which played at dances and picnics and even gave concerts. This "San Francisco Maltese Band" even played for the welcome of Archbishop Edward Hanna at his dedication of the St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church auditorium. A dramatic company was also formed under Club auspices. This group put on plays in Maltese for the entertainment of the Club's members and their families.

The Club's activities encouraged many other Maltese to enroll, so bigger premises became an indispensable necessity. In June 1931, the committee rented the large building at 1789 Oakdale Avenue, a former church. The Club eventually bought the property, which remained its headquarters until 1995, when the Oakdale building was sold and the Club's present premises at 924 El Camino Real in South San Francisco became the Club's new home.

Although the soccer team and dramatic group no longer exist, the Club continues to be a source of entertainment and community to new generations of Maltese-Americans. Dinner-dances, casino trips, children's Christmas parties, and other events draw members and guests from all over the Bay Area to the Club. With the addition of women as full-fledged members in the 1990's, mystery trips, bingo nights, pot-luck dinners, and knitting groups have been added to the list of the Club activities. In addition, a Melitensia library has been added, providing books, music, and films on a variety of aspects of Maltese history and culture.

The Club celebrated its 50th anniversary at its Oakdale premises in San Francisco in May 1979. Joseph Grech, Jr. was president at the time. San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein was the guest of honor. Twenty-five years later, led by President Joseph Tanti, the Club celebrated the biggest event it has ever had. This 75th anniversary celebration was held on October 2, 2004 at the South San Francisco Convention Center and featured the Nicolo Isouard Band of Mosta. One can only guess how a new generation of Maltese-Americans will celebrate the Club's 100th anniversary in 2029!

IL-MILIED IT-TAJJEB TA' ĠOĠO (*ĠOĠO'*S MERRY CHRISTMAS)

A Christmas tale with a twist! By Gioconda S. Schembri

Christmas is almost here and while everybody is looking forward to the celebrations, a group of turkeys on a small farm in Malta are not so enthusiastic! Led by *Ġoġo* and his friend *Bebbuxu* the cat, they are planning something big that could change the future of Christmas forever! Will humans come on board with their idea so that at last all turkeys will be able to enjoy the Yuletide festivities like the rest of the world?!

This book is an ideal Christmas gift for children of all ages, including the young at heart! It is beautifully illustrated by Gianluca Spiteri. Written in Maltese, an English translation will also be provided with every copy of the book.

Publication date: November 2020
Format: Print & Ebook (20 pages, colour illustrations)
Age:0-7 years
ISBN: 9780994564412 (print book), 9780994564405 (ebook)
Contact details: giocondaschembri@yahoo.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Gioconda S. Schembri née Mifsud was born in Malta. After graduating as a Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta, she joined the public service and for three years she served at the Malta High Commission in Canberra as First Secretary, and also as Acting High Commissioner for several months. Gioconda migrated to Australia in 2002, where she has worked with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Australian public service, the Consulate of Malta and as a freelance translator of the Maltese language.

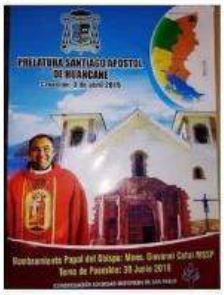
Her hobbies and interests are varied and include history, the theatre, music, literature, international politics, travel and craft. She lives in Melbourne with her husband Darren and son Thomas.

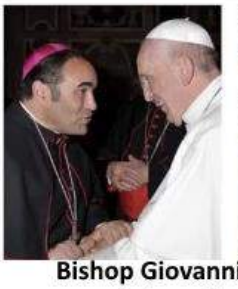
'Il-Milied it-Tajjeb ta' Ġoġo' (*Ġoġo*'s Merry Christmas) is her second book after the publication of 'Three Anzacs from Malta, a true story of friendship, love, and loss' in 2017

WE THANK ALL OUR READERS FOR SUPPORTING THIS JOURNAL

AND MADE IT A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE LINK BETWEEN

MALTESE LIVING IN MALTA AND IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD





Bishop Giovanni Cefai mssp at Arequipa - Peru

Following the consecration of Bishop Giovanni Cefai mssp at Arequipa Cathedral on the 24th June, the MSSP started the new mission in the prelature of Santiago Apostol de Huancane. Mons. Giovanni started this new mission together with Padre Pedro the first mssp Peruvian member. This mission started on the 30th June, 2019 Foundation Day of our Society. Situated deep into the Peruvian Andes region which borders Bolivia, the prelature is marked by distictive differences: from a deep seated community of Aymara speaking communities, to Quechua speakers, and to communities further up near Madre de Dios, the vast forest which starts to become the Amazon.