



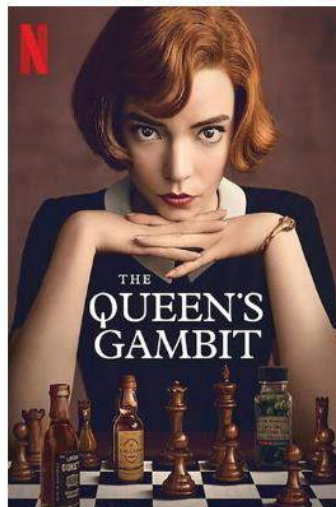
# Maltese eNewsletter

JOURNAL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Editor: Frank L Scicluna



- Martez Schembri Diskey



Why is the Maltese Cross included in Queensland's Coat of Arms?



Hon Evarist Bartolo MP  
**We serve our country**  
Ministry for Foreign  
and European Affairs



A BIG  
THANK YOU  
from  
MMG  
CONCERT  
BAND OF  
VICTORIA



## We serve our country



**Hon Evarist Bartolo - Minister**

### *Mission Statement of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs*

Our work is both within our country and beyond.

Our ministry exists to serve the nation. We are responsible for Foreign and European Affairs. Our work could be interpreted as being focused on matters that happen outside and beyond our shores. In fact, it is the very opposite. Our remit is to serve the Maltese and Gozitans in Malta and far

from our shores. There are almost as many Maltese citizens living away from Malta as those living in Malta. Our duty is to be of service to them.

Our duty is that, in planning and executing our international relationships is to try to achieve the widest possible consensus within our country. Our job is to work with other ministries, and with our social partners and as well in civil society for the common good for our people.

#### ***Securing peace with other nation states***

Our duty is to develop and secure beneficial and peaceful relationships with our neighbours in Europe, in the Mediterranean and in Africa, and with the greatest possible number of countries, including those who may have an adversarial relationship with each other, in order to contribute to the overall benefit of Maltese citizens.

We are guided by the values of neutrality, of a politics in favour of peace and disarmament; by principles that dictate that we are not used for the purpose of war with others, and that we must not enter into a military alliance with any other nation state.

Our neutrality does not mean that we are indifferent to what happens around us. In today's world, where technology and communications have made us the neighbours of everyone, what happens in other nation states and particularly in the Mediterranean soon has an impact on our lives. We need to use new media more effectively in our work.

We need to be more responsive to the happenings around us, understand their impact and be in a position to take appropriate action.

We need to protect ourselves from cyberwars, new forms of attack and aggression from the internet, invasions without the need of the traditional vehicles of war.

When there is conflict between nation states, we will continue to advocate for dialogue, reason and international law instead of armaments, murder and the law of the jungle.

#### ***To improve the livelihood of our citizens***

We work with other ministries and with the private sector to attract investment and increase commerce and support the efforts of Maltese businesses operating overseas, with the objective of increasing wealth, prosperity and enterprise in our country.

We contribute to the fight against terrorism and international economic crimes such as human trafficking, the trafficking of oil, arms and drugs and money laundering.

We recognise our responsibilities to save the planet from the climate emergency.

We support the promotion of our culture, the Maltese language and local talent overseas and we facilitate cooperation and partnerships with other nation states.

We contribute to the agendas of the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Union for Mediterranean and the Commonwealth in favour of democracy, human rights and sustainable development.

We work to secure European Union funding and use this wisely for the public good.

We will be proactive in the development of European politics and we will operate in partnership with our friends in the European Union to ensure that the Union follows a pathway which will bring our nation prosperity.

We will ensure that European regulations will also facilitate national wealth such that our citizens and Maltese enterprise benefit from the wealth and opportunities of the European market.

***In favour of dialogue and mutual respect***

In tandem with other nation states, we will respect those from a different culture, race, religion and civilisation, and find common ground to live peacefully together, as opposed to stoking conflict and the destruction of each other.

Many of today's challenges such as the climate emergency, security, international economic crime, the respect of international laws, the development of ethical technologies, the respect of human rights, immigration, the Covid-19 pandemic, terrorism, the spread of hate speech and fake news online, the threat of nuclear arms and new robot variants.... know no frontiers or borders. We need to work in concert with other countries since no one country can find unilateral solutions.

Where power and influence are equated with nation states with economic might and geographic size, it is never easy for micro-states like ours to continue to pursue a pathway for the benefit of our citizens, but we will not give up hope in this pursuit.

The corollary is that we believe that the love for our country, its citizens and the public good can coexist with our resolve to prevent harm to other nation states and their citizens.

***We need to be worthy representatives of our country***

We build on the achievements of those who served before us, since they had the courage to dream and work towards a predetermined objective - to make our country independent, a republic, without military bases, neutral and a member of the European Union; to live in a democracy while creating wealth and gainful employment, to improve the quality of life for our citizens and those who choose to live on our islands.

More than anything else: through our own commitment and behaviour, we seek to make known to the rest of the world the essence of what makes this country and its people unique and beautiful.



**GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE - CRINGILA, NSW**

**Christmas has come early to the Maltese Centre**

**We sincerely congratulate the president, committee and members of the Centre for the many achievements to improve the premises especially with the assistance of Paul Scully, the local member of Parliament (pictured above together with the president Louis Parnis)**

## A message from Bishop Grech on the day of his Creation as Cardinal



On the day of his Creation as Cardinal, His Eminence Mario Grech has delivered a message to his “dear Gozitan and Maltese brethren.”

The message is shown in full below:

I must confess I was somewhat surprised at the reaction of our people when Pope Francis announced that he was going to make me a member of the College of Cardinals of the Church. I learned that not a few said they wept for joy when they heard the Pope utter the name of one of their brothers!

I suppose Francis’ call resounded in many people’s hearts and its echo spread throughout homes, workplaces, hospitals, streets and elsewhere, bringing with it consolation and hope. Many felt a sense of gratification,

because since the Pope thought of us too while considering the “consistory” (the highest body of the Church he consults with), that meant he knows about us and respects us!

I am saying this not in a spirit of boastfulness but rather in appreciation of much good there is among us, not only as a Church but also as a country; with a sense of gratitude too, for all those who have gone before us, in the Church and in civil society; and with a sense of the responsibility incumbent upon us to enhance the good that we have, while weeding out the negative elements which raise their head from time to time. The breath of fresh air which swept down upon us with this news means that the Church is still relevant to Maltese and Gozitans alike. In spite of all its mistakes and defects, the Church is still rooted in the hearts of our people.

The indications are that there is still place for the Church among us. Had it not still been relevant, would there have been so many who follow the Pope’s message at midday on Sunday, and pray the Angelus with him? Had the Church not still meant something for Maltese and Gozitans alike, would there have been all this interest in the Pope’s choices? Naturally there is a “model” of the Church and a style of ecclesial life whose time has disappeared; it is also true to say that if we do not pay attention, our words will fall on deaf ears. But when it comes to the crunch, our people know how to express their faith.

### **MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

This journal of Maltese living abroad is preserved at the Malta Migration Museum - Valletta, on Facebook and Twitter, the Maltese-Canadian Archives, Toronto and Gozo National Library and on [www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)  
Several organisations and institutions print the journal and distribute it among their members.  
Our readers share it with their family and friends

**DON'T FORGET TO  
SEND US A  
CHRISTMAS  
MESSAGE TO  
INCLUDE IT IN THE  
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS  
EDITION**



## Ambassador of Malta to Germany meets the Minister for Federal and European Affairs and Representative of the State of Hesse in Berlin



, Press Release Issue Date: Nov 27, 2020

On the 25th November 2020, Dr Vanni Xuereb, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the Federal Republic of Germany, paid a courtesy visit to Ms Lucia Puttrich, Minister for Federal and European Affairs and Representative of the State of Hesse in Berlin. This marks the first of a series of meetings that Ambassador Xuereb is undertaking to establish contacts with the representatives of the 16 German federal states and

explore possible areas of cooperation with these regions. The state of Hesse is home to around 6.3 million inhabitants, making it the 5th largest federal state in terms of population. It hosts the city of Frankfurt am Main, one of the world's most important financial, industrial and exhibition centre.

During this meeting, they had an exchange of views on Malta's and Germany's experiences in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both agreed on the importance of solidarity and multilateralism when it comes to tackling such a challenge, also in relation to the need for a just distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine worldwide. They also talked about irregular migration and agreed on the need to find a consensus at EU level on the reform of the Common European and Asylum System. The future relations between the EU and the UK were also discussed. They expressed their confidence in the Chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier and his team, and agreed on the importance of having a close relationship with the UK, whilst implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and protecting the Single Market. At the end of the meeting, Ms Puttrich invited Ambassador Xuereb to visit the federal state of Hesse once the travel conditions permit. During this meeting, Ambassador Xuereb was accompanied by Ms Sephora Gauci, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Malta in Berlin.

## ID-DGHAJSA TAL-LATINI

The **Gozo boat** ([Maltese](#): *Dgħajsa ta' Għawdex, tal-latini, tat-tagħbija, tal-pass or tal-mogħdija*) was a type of [settee](#)-rigged boat originating from [Malta](#). Gozo boats were the main means of transport across the [Gozo Channel](#) between [Gozo](#) and the [main island of Malta](#) from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. The design of the boats developed from the [speronara](#). Gozo boat on a 1926 Maltese stamp



A ferry service between the islands of [Malta](#) and [Gozo](#) has existed for centuries,<sup>[2]</sup> and the earliest known reference to such a link date back to around 1241, when the boat was called the *madia*<sup>[3]</sup> or *tal-mogħdija*. By the 16th century, Gozo boats took the shape of a [brigantine](#).<sup>[4]</sup> The earliest known depiction of a Gozo ferry boat is a painting from around 1750. At the time, the vessels



were known as the *speronara del Gozo* or *barca del Gozo*,<sup>[4]</sup> and they were almost identical to the *speronara* which was used for maritime trade.

The Gozo boat became distinct from the speronara in the late 19th century, around the same time that the vessel's use for mercantile activities was declining.<sup>[5]</sup> In the 1880s, the Gozo speronaras changed their sail arrangements to a *settee* rig, and they became known as *tal-latini* due to their similarity with *lateen* sails. In 1919, engines began to be installed on some Gozo boats, although many still retained their sails.

Most Gozo boats were built at *Kalkara* in the *Grand Harbour*. The Caruana family, who were the last builders of Gozo boats, moved from there to *Mġarr* on Gozo in 1940. After 1959, a few Gozo boats were built in *Gela, Sicily*. The last one to be built was the *Santa Rita* (G48) in 1963.

Gozo boats usually made trips from the Grand Harbour in Malta to Mġarr Harbour on Gozo. Other trips were made from the Grand Harbour to *Mellieħa* or to Marfa, or Mġarr to Marfa or *St. Paul's Bay*. The boats carried both passengers and cargo between the two islands. Trips from Gozo to Malta generally carried agricultural products such as fruit, vegetables, eggs, and poultry, while return trips from Malta to Gozo carried manufactured goods such as cement, soft drinks, and beer.

Gozo boats were painted in shades of green, blue, red, and yellow, similar to the traditional *luzzu*. One boat, painted black, carried corpses between the islands.

**Accidents** There were a number of accidents involving Gozo boats. Some were hit by rifle fire while passing the *Pembroke* Rifle Ranges, although the authorities warned the boats' masters in advance. In 1900, a Gozo boat that was being used for *lampuki* fishing capsized, killing one fisherman. Another boat lost her masts in 1911, but managed to enter St. George's Bay. In 1926, an unoccupied Gozo boat was found adrift in rough seas. In rare cases, they were involved in collisions with *tugboats* or *pinnaces*.

In *World War II*, the boat *Stella Maris* was destroyed by enemy action.

**Decline** By the 1960s and 1970s, regular steamer services began to compete with the Gozo boats, which were no longer cost-effective. The remaining boats were converted into fishing boats, or were abandoned at Mġarr Harbour. Since 1979, *Gozo Channel Company Limited*, which uses modern *RORO ferries*, provides ferry services to Gozo.

**Surviving examples** Very few Gozo boats still survive today.<sup>[7]</sup> One of these is the *Sacra Famiglia* (G32), which was built in *Kalkara* in 1933.<sup>[8]</sup> It had become unseaworthy by the 1970s, and was beached at *Mġarr*. The hulk was eventually purchased by a private individual who wanted to sell it to the Ministry for Gozo. It was then purchased by the *Gozo Channel Company Limited*, who handed it to *Wirt Ġhawdex* and sponsored its restoration. After the boat was restored by the Caruana brothers (the sons of its original builder), it was placed on permanent display at the *Żewwieqa* promenade in 2014.

Another surviving Gozo boat is the *Maryanne*, which was built in Gela in 1960. The boat remained in Gozo until February 1983, when it was purchased by Captain Morgan Cruises. The boat still belongs to Captain Morgan, who use it for cruises around *Marsamxett* and the *Grand Harbour*. *Maryanne* is in good condition, but it no longer has the distinctive masts and a deck has been added. Another two or three Gozo boats which were converted into fishing boats might still exist.



**Legacy** The Gozo boat has become a symbol of the island of Gozo, and a boat sailing on rough waters is featured on the flag and coat of arms of the village of *Qala*. Gozo boats are also found in the logos of various Gozitan organizations, such as the Gozo Philatelic Society and the Imperial Gozo Yacht Club. The classical 1970s song *Id-Dgħajsa tal-Latini* by the Maltese band New Cuorey is about a Gozo boat.

## ONE OF THE LAST SURVIVING EXAMPLES OF A 'DGHAJSA TAL-LATINI' TO BE RESTORED



One of the last surviving examples of a 'dghajsa tal-latini' is about to undergo a lengthy and laborious process of restoration. The boat was acquired by Heritage Malta earlier this year.

Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government José Herrera, together with Heritage Malta's Chief Executive Officer Noel Zammit, provided details of the project.

Minister Herrera described the project as one which

would bring back to life a key player in our country's maritime history. He pledged his commitment and that of the government towards a collective effort to ensure that our maritime heritage is not lost but can be enjoyed by future generations. He stated that Heritage Malta's and his vision is to make use of the old Pixkerija as a museum to showcase these important exhibits, including the 'dghajsa tal-latini.'

Noel Zammit expressed his satisfaction at this acquisition by Heritage Malta which further attests to the agency's endeavours to give a future to our past.

He explained that the boat will be restored on site and, until work is completed, will be sheltered under a temporary structure to protect it from the elements.

The 'dghajsa tal-latini' earned its name from the lateen sails on which it depended for motion.

It was mainly used for the transportation of supplies and passengers between Malta and Gozo.

Measuring between 45 and 50 feet, it is the largest of the Maltese traditional boats.

They explained that the origins of the 'dghajsa tal-latini' are lost in the pages of history, but there is evidence that as early as 1520 this type of boat was being constructed on the shores of the Grand Harbour.



### MMG Concert Band of Victoria

We would like to thank everyone that purchased a ticket/s in our Christmas raffle. We really appreciate the support. As per our live video on Facebook, which took place last night (Tuesday), our lucky winners are: 1st Prize - \$2269 Thermomix TM6 Michelle D 2nd Prize - \$1000 JB HiFi Voucher Lisa Arena 3rd Prize - \$500 Good Guys Voucher Leah Little 4th Prize - \$300 Red Balloon Voucher Belinda Vella 5th Prize - \$200 Bunnings Voucher Joanne Stinson 6th Prize - \$80 Smiggle Voucher Kelly Cutajar

To replay the moment we announced the lucky winners, head to our [Facebook page](#). Are you interested in purchasing a Thermomix? If so, chat to one of our members at MMG Concert Band of Victoria who is a Thermomix consultant or head to her [Facebook page](#) for all things Thermomix. Amie Cardona - 0404 894 576



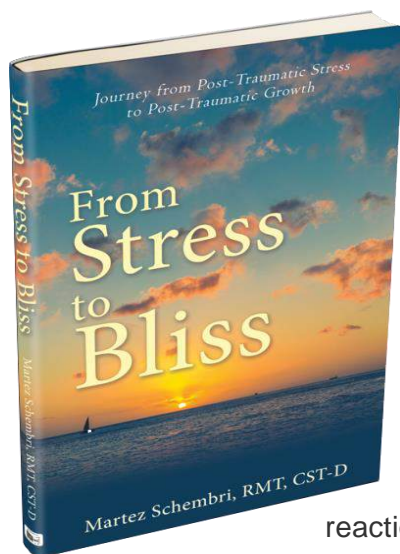
THE JOURNAL THAT IS CONNECTING MALTESE  
IN MALTA, GOZO AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

2013 - 2020 - SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES  
BUILDING BRIDGES

[maltesjournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesjournal@gmail.com)







## MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

A new publication from a Maltese Canadian professional - Martez Schembri Diskey. A big congratulations to Martez Schembri Diskey, the author of a new self help publication; "From Stress to Bliss- An Integrative Approach to Health Care and Self Care", which is also now online. Martez you continue to make the Maltese Canadian Community proud.

**Synopsis** After experiencing four traumatic car accidents and suffering the agonies of healing, Martez Schembri was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Refusing to submit to what felt like a "life sentence," she preferred to reframe this as a post-traumatic stress

reaction, and use her experiences as something to grow from and become stronger through, resulting in **Post-Traumatic Growth**. She learned first-hand the importance of an integrative approach to healthcare. She spent decades learning from stress and trauma, and post-traumatic stress and has developed a body-oriented integrative healing approach on body, mind and spirit for healing and growth.

In *From Stress to Bliss*, Martez shares the biopsychosocial-spiritual dimensions of treating for healing through this integrative approach to help us to connect and balance of mind, body and spirit to journey to our own unlimited possibilities.

### About the Author



**Martez Schembri-Diskey** is a Registered Massage Therapist, Integrative Craniosacral Therapist; Massage Therapy Professor; Solution Focused Counselor; Spiritual Director, currently studying Spiritual Psychotherapy at Transformational Arts College.

Martez is a proud mother of two professional children. She's also an author of two books, "**From Stress to Bliss— Journey from Post-Traumatic Stress to Post-Traumatic Growth**" and "**Journal MAGIC,**" workbook on successfully integrating *Meditation, Affirmations, Gratitude, Intention and Connects*. She is a Contributing Author in the late Louise Hay book "Modern Day Miracles- Louise Hay and Friends", Lynda Dyer's "Life After Lupus, Healing Your Immune System", and "You Have So

### Much Potential"

She is a highly sought after speaker and retreat facilitator on the subjects of: Integrative Healing; Body, Mind and Spirit, Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, Post-Traumatic Stress, Growth and Self-Care through a Biopsychosocial-Spiritual Approach.

Martez facilitates various seminars, workshops and retreats such as Heal the Healers Retreats for Health Care Practitioners, First Responders, Social Workers, and Teachers ; Integrative Craniosacral Therapy Courses; Body-Oriented Integrative Approach to Treating Stress; TRE Tension Trauma Releasing Exercises and Trauma Informed Care for Registered Massage Therapists- From Stress to Bliss.

Martez's lifework and passion is to educate, empower and inspire healing on all levels through integration of the three pillars of health, our mind, body and spirit by renewing our mind, relaxing our body and restoring our spirit for healing





## MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN SINGER - Stacey Saliba ( posted by Greg Caruana NSW)

I'm originally from Mosta, Malta however I was born in Adelaide, South Australia while my parents Mary and Charlie Saliba were on holiday visiting our family. My parents decided to baptise me in Adelaide before returning back to Malta at just two months old.

Whilst growing up in Malta, I attended the local primary school of Mosta and then went on to attend the Sir Adrian Dingli Junior Lyceum high school in Pembroke. As a child, I was always heavily involved in music. At the age of five, I started taking piano lessons and then at six years old I joined the local Mosta church choir, 'Shalom'. There I discovered my passion for singing and begged mum to take me to singing lessons. I soon started vocal training under the direction of the renowned Maltese singer Doreen Galea.

Doreen was a great teacher and mentor and encouraged me to participate in several children's festivals and events around Malta. I also joined her choir, which often performed on various television shows. My involvement in such performances and musical shows developed both my confidence and vocal ability. Whilst in high school, I joined another children's singing group under the direction of the Maltese actor and film writer, Mark Doneo.

Mark was a fantastic drama and performance teacher who trained his choir to not only sing, but to also act and perform. Through Mark's singing group, I took part in various musical and television shows. Every Sunday afternoon we sang and performed as a group on the local family television show. Being part of such musical groups, did not only develop my voice and performance skills, but also led me to make new friends and meet many wonderful people within the Maltese music industry.

At the age of 14, my parents decided to migrate and start a new life in Adelaide, South Australia. I started attending Mount Carmel College, where I also participated in most of the musical activities that took place at the school. This really helped me settle into the new high school, make new friends and adjust to the new Australian life, which was very different to that of Malta.

I soon met Guido Coppola, an Italian classical vocal trainer in Adelaide who took me under his wing and taught me for a few years. Classical training really opened my eye to a whole new way of singing and voice development.

During this time, I also started singing traditional Maltese songs at the local Maltese community groups around the state. Then one year, a very close family friend and active member of the Maltese community in Sydney, Greg Caruana invited me to sing at the feast of Santa Marija in Black Town. Through this, I met the wider Maltese community of Australia, which then led me to participate in other Maltese shows around the country, including the St. Helen dinner dance in Melbourne and the Maltese community shows in Brisbane and Perth.

Performing at local Maltese communities around Australia, opened doors to various other Australian community shows and events, including weddings, engagements, parties and other festivals, at which I have been performing regularly, both as a solo artist and also with other musicians and bands in Adelaide. A few years ago, I also recorded my first cover album "Memory", which is a mixture of popular Maltese and English songs, including the well-known "Viva Malta" by Freddie Portelli and the famous classic "You're My World" by Cilla Black.

Singing is more than a hobby for me. It is a way of life, through which I find my happy place, meet many wonderful people, attend great events and most of all make others happy through the beautiful language of music.

***We are proud of our Maltese Achievers***



## Malta in 8th place Valentina wins Junior Eurovision 2020 for France!

It was a tight and nail-biting race as Valentina battled it out against 11 other incredible contestants to win the Contest with her song 'J'Imagine'. The event was

organized by the EBU and Polish Host Broadcaster TVP who provided audiences with a unique show full of new technology never seen before in the competition.

After a magical Junior Eurovision edition that combined prerecorded performances with a live show in Warsaw, Poland, the French artist 'Moved The World' to win Junior Eurovision 2020 after receiving a combined score of 200 points from the expert juries and online voting.

Karakat from Kazakhstan came in second place with 152 votes followed by Soleá from Spain who finished in third place with 133 points. A new record was reached with over 4.5 million votes cast in this

112	FRANCE	200	54	UKRAINE	106
69	KAZAKHSTAN	152	49	MALTA	100
73	SPAIN	133	44	POLAND	90
64	THE NETHERLANDS	132	44	RUSSIA	88
57	BELARUS	130	50	SERBIA	85
42	GEORGIA	111	38	GERMANY	66



year's competition!

The scoreboard of the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020 EBU

About Valentina

Valentina is a part of the 'Kids United Nouvelle Génération' and has previously recorded two albums with the group. She was

selected to represent her country by FranceTV at this year's Contest. Besides singing in her own native language, the 11-year-old also likes to sing Italian music too.

Valentina performs

Valentina's super fun performance included 4 dancers, one of which balanced and twirled on their head! Her staging was equally impressive and involved bright and colourful LED effects that displayed famous European landmarks in the background - even a dancing Eiffel Tower!

This year's show was hosted by Polish TV presenters Ida Nowakowska-Herndon, Rafał Brzozowski and Małgorzata Tomaszewska. Today's show was quite a bit different from previous editions not only because it took place during a global pandemic but also because of how it was broadcast. The 2020 competition combined prerecorded performances with a live show in Warsaw that included the use of augmented technologies that have never been used before in Junior Eurovision. The Contest was watched by millions on TV and on the official Junior Eurovision YouTube channel.



9-year old Chanel Monseigneur was the Maltese ambassador for this year's Junior Eurovision held in Poland. She scored one hundred points with 49 points being awarded by online voting and ranked in eighth place

**Chanel Monseigneur: "Going to Poland was awesome and I would love to go back for a holiday"**





# The Immigration Story of Charles Bonello

## (Maltese - Canadian)

My journey began on the island of Malta on Monday, April 16th, 1951 aboard the Greek ship Nea Hellas. I was only 18 years old and barely looked 13 as my passport picture shows. Leaving my parents, five brothers and five sisters to start a new life in Canada was very difficult. I watched them disappear from view as the ship left the harbour thinking I might never see them again. However, I knew that Canada held a very great future for me. In the years following the war, the huge reconstruction of Malta had created a lot of jobs, but when the rebuilding was done, unemployment became a problem. I had seen in movies and photos that Canada was a beautiful country. I also heard that it had great opportunity and I would later find out for myself that it was all true.



**Charles Bonello with friends on board  
TSS Nea Hellas**

On the boat I soon made friends with some other Maltese men. One of them would some day become my brother-in-law. Our first stop was Naples, Italy, on April 17th where we took on Italian passengers immigrating to Canada and the United States. The Maltese and the Greeks had a lot of resentment towards the Italians who had been the enemy during the war. It was not easy to travel with people who had just a few years earlier destroyed our country. Things got out of hand a few times in the following weeks. After stopping in Lisbon, Portugal, to receive more immigrant passengers, we started on the long trip across the Atlantic. En route we hit a large storm which lasted almost a week and most of us spent the whole time in bed sea sick. After two weeks, we finally arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada. I got off at Pier 21

and my friends continued on to New York, USA. The photo shows my friends and me on the Nea Hellas.

I was in Canada and I couldn't speak a word of English. I had hoped that my roommate would be traveling with me because he could speak it well, but we were separated and I had no idea where he was. I would have been lost if it were not for the Immigration Department and the Salvation Army. They were extremely supportive and helpful. Soon I was on a train bound for Ajax, Ontario, where I would finalize my immigration paperwork. The three day trip was very difficult. I had no money to buy food and all I had was a tin of hard cookies that my mother had made for me before I left Malta. I also remember having to change my shirt once or twice a day because of the black smoke from the engine. We first arrived in Whitby, Ontario, where we were transferred onto a bus for the short ride to Ajax. Ajax was a small town that had been built during the war. It was mainly made up of barracks that housed the people who worked in the bomb factories. There I stayed, in the barracks while I looked for a job. I was surprised to find that my roommate from the boat was staying in the same place. We reunited and went job hunting together. He was a big help considering he could speak the language. We soon found that what we had heard was true. Jobs were easy to find. It didn't take us long to find jobs in Toronto. At the time, the Young Street subway was being built and I was hired as a construction worker but I had to quit after a few days so I could get paid right away. I had to pay some food and pay rent. But again jobs were very easy to find and I soon took a job in a large bakery called Christie's Bread where

I would stay for 20 years. I took some night school courses to improve my education and learn to speak English. This proved to be beneficial when I eventually gained a position of foreman.

After 6 years living in Canada, I had saved enough money to go back to Malta to visit my family. While I was there I met Vivienne and we dated for three weeks. Before I left to come back to Canada we were engaged and I promised to arrange to have her come over so we could be married. With financial assistance from the Immigration Department, she came over by airplane and we were married in July, 1958. In May 1959 our first Canadian baby boy was born. Later we had another son and later on a daughter.



In 1966 we bought our first house in Etobicoke, a suburb of Toronto. Now that my family and I were settled, the rest of my family in Malta began to see how well we were doing and how wonderful Canada was. Eventually, they all ended up coming over including my parents. The photo below shows my siblings and me at a wedding. This was the first time we had all been together in the almost 30 years since I left Malta. My parents and one of my brothers later went back to spend their final years there. After 20 years of working at Christie's Bread, the plant went out of business. I started a job as a mail delivery postal worker. I worked there for 20 years until I took early retirement at the age of 57 for health reasons.

I live in a small rural community after 47 years of marriage with my wonderful wife. We have 4 grandchildren and a family which is very close. Vivienne and I have done a great deal of traveling all over the world together and we have always felt that people treat us kindly when they find that we are from Canada. Whether I am at home with my family or traveling through this magnificent country or traveling abroad, I can gladly say that I am proud to be a Canadian.



## MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW

A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc.

Established in 1999



### Can you speak Maltese?

THE MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW is inviting applications from people to assist in language teaching.

Support and training will be provided for these paid positions.

Classes for juniors and adults are held at Horsley Park Public School  
Saturday mornings during school terms.

If you can assist with teaching or administration in 2021 and would like more information please contact

Maria 0416 119 100 or Miriam 0419 476 924

Email: [malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com](mailto:malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com)

If you have a  
story to tell

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**The Maltese Center** 27-20 Hoyt Avenue South Astoria, New York 11102

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## **SERIES 1.0**

### ***IL-MALTIN TAGHNA***

**WITH GUEST – FRANCESCA CASSAR  
AND MARTHESI FENECH**



The Maltese Center is excited to present our new SERIES 1.0 with guest speakers who will share their passions and knowledge. Our first speaker is Francesca Cassar, Malta's Consul & First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations, NY.

Find out more about Francesca and her journey to diplomacy. This live online event will be hosted and followed by a moderated Q & A.

Shall we brunch? Physically-distant, of course. The NYC Maltese Center has graciously invited me to be a guest on Series 1.0 "IL-MALTIN TAGHNA" on Sunday, December 13 at 12 pm (EST).

This free ZOOM event will be held in English. I would so love for you to join! There might be mimosas. Participation requires registration and is limited. You can RSVP here: <https://www.themaltesecenter.com/events-1/series-1-0-il-maltin-taghna-with-author-marthese-fenech> With warmth and gratitude, Marthese Fenech



## **About The Event**

The Maltese Center is excited to present our new SERIES 1.0 with guest speakers who will share their passions and knowledge. Our first speaker is Francesca Cassar, Malta's Consul & First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations, NY. Apart from being a diplomat by profession, Ms. Cassar is also a classical ballerina. We welcome you to join us through ZOOM to view and participate with Q & A. The ZOOM app is free download here

<https://www.themaltesecenter.com/>



## Ta' Qali Artisan Village: promoting the locally crafted



*The view of glass blowers working in synergy to produce colourful artefacts is among the sights mostly associated with the Ta' Qali Artisan Village. A number of companies excel at this craft, with their artisans each being responsible for a part of the process, from the first gathering of glass, to applying coloured glass, creating patterns within the colours, shaping, and finishing.*

When Mdina Glass fired up its furnace and opened its doors in 1968 in what was an ex-RAF hangar, the company became Malta's first glassmaker and, in doing so, introduced a craft to our shores that we have now become renowned for around the world. In the early days, Mdina

Glass relied on a couple of knowledgeable artisans from overseas, complemented by a team of inexperienced but enthusiastic trainees, some of whom remained with the company for decades. One particular apprentice, Joseph Said, joined a few months after the company opened and worked his way up to production manager before taking over the company in 1985.

**MDINA GLASS** has established itself as one of the local market leaders in its field. The glassmakers have thrived thanks to a dedication towards attention to detail and, in later years, constant desire to innovate. In the early years, the main products were small decorative items like vases, bowls and figurines – all small enough for tourists to take back home in their luggage. However, the new millennium saw the drive for innovation take hold. Remaining true to traditional handcrafted glassmaking, Mdina Glass began creating glassware that was more 'interior décor'. This saw the introduction of various new offerings: larger vases and bowls, lighting, lanterns, sculptures and practical items like pouring jugs, tumblers, and oil and vinegar bottles. Yet the base techniques and tools – blow pipes, calipers and paddles – remain the same.

**VALLETTA GLASS** has been operating from its premises at the Ta' Qali Artisan Village including a workshop and a retail shop since 1979. Thousands of tourists and locals visit each year and assist live glassblowing demonstrations where custom designed glassware is produced. Visitors can observe the craftsmen's ability to combine and exploit the glass aesthetic qualities of transparency, translucence, fluid form and texture with its inherent structural strength and architectural qualities. Valletta Glass has evolved throughout the past decades and has grown and diversified by continuously providing quality artistic works that exceed one's expectations.

**PHOENICIAN GLASS BLOWERS** was established later in 1986, originally having its base at Manoel Island and eventually moving to the Ta' Qali Artisan Village in 2000. Two of the company's glass blowing signature features are the unique red colour which has proven to be timeless, as well as the use of 22ct gold leaf and foils of silver leaf. Today, Phoenician Glass has evolved two other techniques: fused glass and glass jewellery.

As part of its fused glass collection, the company has in more recent years added personalised gifts and trophies as well as corporate mementos, house names, and house numbers. It has also been entrusted with the production of customised glass wall art whereby clients have come up with unique designs which resident craftsmen have replicated in glass.





## The French Occupation 1798-1800

On the 9 June 1798, a French fleet sailing to Egypt with over 30,000 men under [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) arrived off heavily fortified Valletta, ruled by the Knights of St John. A French Knight in Malta recorded the event in these terms: "the Maltese people saw from vantage points, the forest of masts which covered a vast expanse of sea....the sight petrified us." Grand Master Ferdinand von Hompesch refused Bonaparte's demand that his convoy would be allowed to enter Valletta and take on supplies, upon which Bonaparte immediately ordered his fleet to bombard Valletta and landed several thousand soldiers at seven strategic sites around the island.

Most French knights commanding various strategic localities and forts deserted the Order. However, many Maltese regiments resisted bravely in spite of the confusion. At Fort Tigne, the Maltese Cacciatori regiment threw back three times the attacking French forces. At Fort San Lucian at Marsaxlokk, the Maltese garrison fought fiercely for 36 hours and the 165 men only gave up when they ran out of water and ammunition. Although Valletta was strong enough to hold out against a lengthy siege, the weakened Order failed to mount a strong resistance and once the city of Mdina fell to Bonaparte, Hompesch surrendered Malta to the French on the 12th June 1798, in exchange for estates and pensions in France for himself and his knights.

Napoleon stayed in Malta for a few days establishing a French administration, dismantling the Knights' institutions, limiting the Bishop's influence to purely religious matters, expelling all foreign clergy, seizing church property, protecting family rights in a Civil Code of Laws, granting free education for all and establishing freedom of press. The French abolished nobility, slavery, the [feudal system](#) and the inquisition. Slavery was abolished and all Turkish slaves were freed. All aristocratic rights and privileges were abolished.



Napoleon then sailed for Egypt, leaving a garrison of 3,053 soldiers under General Vaubois, but the Maltese turned against the French due to lack of employment after the departure of the Knights, French failure to pay salaries and pensions that were due to their Maltese sailors and others, while monies intended for food supplies were stolen to fund the Egyptian campaign.

[General Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769-1821 seized Malta as a good stepping-stone to Egypt, strengthening his control of the Mediterranean.](#)

The Mdina Nobles and Church leaders encouraged insurrection when the French began meddling with Maltese churches and looting them of their silver. The last straw came when on September 2nd, the French ordered the auctioning of the damask of the Carmelite Church at Mdina. This was opposed by an angry crowd and rioting broke out. Colonel Masson was attacked and thrown from a balcony in nearby Rabat, dying along with some of his men while Col. Masson's wife was only spared because she was expecting a child. The French troops took refuge behind the walls of Malta's fortified cities, where they were blockaded by the Maltese militia. French control of Malta had lasted less than three months!

Valletta was surrounded by approximately 10,000 irregular Maltese soldiers led by Emmanuele Vitale and Canon Saverio Caruana. The Maltese were armed with 23 cannon and a small squadron of coastal gunboats. Although there were some skirmishes between the garrison and the Maltese, the fortress was too strong for the irregulars to attack.

When the French Mediterranean Fleet was destroyed at the [Battle of the Nile](#) on 1 August 1798, the British Royal Navy was able to start a blockade of Malta, assisting the Maltese rebellion against French rule. The French troops eventually ran out of food and had to eat cats and rats. Although small quantities of supplies arrived in early 1799, starvation and disease had a disastrous effect on the health and morale of the French troops.

Portugal, Great Britain and belatedly, the King of Naples and Sicily, sent ammunition and aid to the Maltese stopping French convoys to and from Malta, forcing them to surrender to larger British squadrons in hard-fought battles. These defeats and lack of regular supplies weakened the French position in Valletta and on the 4th of September 1800 after a two-year siege, General Belgrand de Vaubois surrendered his garrison, exhausted by malnutrition and typhus disease.

On the 15th of June 1802, the National Congress of the people of Malta and Gozo placed the Maltese Islands under the sovereignty of the British Crown, drawing up a Declaration of Rights in which they agreed to come “under the protection and sovereignty of the King of the free people, His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland”. The Declaration also stated that “his Majesty has no right to cede these Islands to any power...if he chooses to withdraw his protection, and abandon his sovereignty, the right of electing another sovereign, or of the governing of these Islands, belongs to us, the Maltese alone, and without control”.

By the terms of the **Treaty of Amiens** of 1801 Britain was to return Malta to the Order of St. John. the Napoleonic Wars with France began soon afterwards, partly due Britain's refusal to do so. The island subsequently remained in British hands until its independence in 1964.

## When the Union Jack first flew over Malta?



Do you know when the Union Jack first flew over Malta? The answer will surprise you.

Maltese history is a rich tapestry of events, influences and war. The Maltese are proud of British heritage, but few seem to know where the British flag was first flown over the islands.

By the 18th century the threat of invasion from the Ottoman Empire had receded so the Maltese started to build on land outside the fortified cities, now that pirate attacks were also a distant memory. In the central town of Birkirkara, they built farmhouses around agricultural land including on the hill overlooking Valletta which is now part of San Gwann. One farmhouse built there is Ta' Xindi farmhouse on the road between San Gwann and Mater Dei hospital.

The building is modest and not too large. Today the road is busy with traffic leading to the hospital, while constant urbanisation has meant that

the vast fields it once controlled no longer exist. The building looks like any other and one wouldn't think it has any special significance unless one spots the plaque on the wall.

Records don't show who built it but by 1798 it was owned by 21-year-old cotton merchant Vincenzo Borg. This was the year when the French occupied the islands however the French soon offended the Catholic Maltese by looting churches to fund the French war effort against the British. On the 2th September 1798 the Maltese revolted against the French during an auction of church property, and soon 10,000 Maltese surrounded Valletta, bayng for blood.



[19C bust of Borg Brared at St Helen's Basilica Museum, B'kara.](#)

Vincenzo Borg was one of the ringleaders of the campaign against the French, chosen by the people of Birkirkara and neighbouring Mosta as their leader. Together with two other Maltese, he was one of the main figureheads in the uprising, leading one of the largest battalions in the 10,000-strong irregular (volunteer) militia that was set up. Arms were scarce at first however the British and Portuguese navies supplied the insurgents with arms.

Borg used his home as his field headquarters. Under his command insurgents built batteries around Valletta harbour but the fortified city was strong enough to repel attacks. Borg spoke to British Admiral Alexander Ball to see if the United Kingdom was interested in taking the islands. Ball was already well-loved Malta but was suspicious of Borg's intents. Despite this, Borg wrote to Ball explaining “the majority of us (Maltese) wish to see the islands under British jurisdiction”. It was clear that the Maltese expected Britain to act.

On 9 February 1799, Borg hoisted the British Union Jack over his farmhouse showing his commitment to the cause, the first time the British flag flew over Malta.

The French surrendered and left Malta by 1800, ending a 2-year occupation following which the British held onto the islands under the Treaties of Amiens and Paris, ruling until Malta gained its independence in 1964.

Antoine Borg





## HISTORY OF MALTESE IN GIBRALTAR

A **Maltese** community has existed in **Gibraltar** since shortly after its capture by an **Anglo-Dutch** fleet in 1704. Gibraltar, **Malta** and **Cyprus** were the three stepping stones whereby Great Britain controlled the **Mediterranean** and the vital route to the **Suez Canal** and thence to **India**. Following the capture of Gibraltar, most of the existing population elected to leave, leaving behind a small population of around seventy (mainly neutral **Genoese** people). Immigration from neighboring Spanish towns soon followed, giving

Gibraltar a very **cosmopolitan** population. Years of coexistence and intermarriage on the **Rock** soon led to a coalescence of **Maltese**, **Italian** and **Andalusian** culture, preserving the **Mediterranean** and **Catholic** uniqueness of Gibraltar despite the centuries of British rule.

**COLONIALISM** Gibraltar prospered by the arrival of 19th century trade with **North Africa** and the presence of the **Royal Navy**. This prosperity attracted immigrants from neighbouring Mediterranean lands and in 1885 there were about 1,000 Maltese people living in Gibraltar. Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and improvements to the existing **fortifications of Gibraltar** to make the rock practically impregnable. The naval base in Gibraltar was to prove its strategic value in the two **world wars**. It was only to be expected that, given the common cultural bond between Malta and Gibraltar, some Maltese would be lured by the prospect of lucrative employment there.

**MALTESE IN GIBRALTAR** By 1912 the total number of Maltese living in Gibraltar was not above 700. Many worked in the **dockyard** and others operated businesses which were usually ancillary to the dockyard. However, the **economy of Gibraltar** was not capable of absorbing a large number of immigrants from Malta and by 1912 the number of Maltese was already in decline as they returned to the **Maltese Islands**. Eventually those who stayed in Gibraltar became very much involved in the economic and social life in Gibraltar, most of them also being staunch supporters of links with the UK. The situation in Malta was very different, where, despite an earlier **attempt at integration with the UK**, rising nationalist sentiment led to independence in 1964 and the establishment of a republic a decade later.

### NOTABLE GIBRALTARIANS OF MALTESE DESCENT

- **Keith Azopardi QC**, leader of the **Gibraltar Social Democrats** and former leader of the **Progressive Democratic Party**.
- **Davina Barbara**, TV presenter of the **Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation**.
- **Charles Caruana CBE**, former **Bishop** of the **Roman Catholic Diocese of Gibraltar**.
- **Peter Caruana QC**, former **Chief Minister of Gibraltar**.
- **Georgina Cassar**, **rhythmic gymnast** and **2012 Olympian** for **Team GB**.
- **Gerard Teuma**, **Chief Executive** of the **Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation**.



## THE BOY WHO KILLED A GIRL... AND OTHER WOMEN'S MURDERS

Mosta as it might have looked in the mid-to-late 19th century and where Vittorja Vella, 16, was killed by a boy three years her junior.

**Kim Dalli** takes another look at a new book about the murder of Maltese women and highlights more of these heinous crimes from history: a teenager shot dead by a child, a prostitute who had her throat slit and a rape victim strangled and thrown down a well.

It was 1867 and Mosta dome had just been built. Sixteen-year-old Vittorja Vella was playing beads with another girl her age in the streets of the town when an argument erupted over the game.

The incident was witnessed by Ġużeppi Sammut, 13, the brother of Vittorja's playmate.

On seeing his sister being beaten up, Ġużeppi ran as fast as he could to his father's farm, grabbed a shotgun and returned to shoot Vittorja. The girl is the youngest victim in crime historian Eddie Attard's newly published book, *Il-Femičidju: Qtil ta' Nisa f'Malta* (from BDL), which documents all the femicides of the last two centuries.

Despite the boy himself being even younger, he underwent a trial by jury, was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years in prison with hard labour.

Thirty-five years earlier, Malta witnessed the first killing of a prostitute that century: Grazzja Grech, known as Zol-in-Zol, was found dead in her Senglea home in April 1832.

Prostitution was not illegal at the time, although over the years certain restrictions had been introduced dictating where prostitutes could live. They were forbidden from occupying the ground floor but allowed to live in maisonettes on the first floor.

Grazzja's absence had aroused the suspicions of her neighbours. After their knocks at her door went unanswered, one of them peeked through a window to see her lying on the floor in a pool of blood that oozed from her slit throat.

Grazzja was known to host a number of men at her home and many hailed from localities outside Senglea. Among these men, there were two youths in particular who were often seen in her company. The night before the victim was found dead, the pair had been spotted buying bread, cheese and a bottle of rum from a Senglea shop.

Their appearance was described to the police, who identified the two as 18-year-old Giovanni Fedele from Sliema and 21-year-old Pawlu Laus from Valletta.

Both goldsmiths, they had known the victim for a while. Grazzja was rumoured to have declared the two as her favourite clients, and they had even presented her with a gold ring they had forged themselves.

It was this ring which was found to have sparked the crime of passion, because the youths had got to know that Grazzja had given it to a fishmonger.

*It was this ring which was found to have sparked the crime of passion, because the youths had got to know that Grazzja had given it to a fishmonger*

On the day of the crime, Giovanni and Pawlu, armed with a penknife, paid a visit to Grazzja. As Pawlu held her down, Giovanni slit her throat.

A month later they were sentenced to death in a trial by jury. Despite a plea by governor Sir Patrick Ponsomby to mitigate the sentence, they were hanged. Giovanni was the youngest man in Malta to receive the death penalty.

Yet the tragedy continued to unfold.

Giovanni's mother, who knew of her son's waywardness, had often warned him that he would one day end up on the gallows. Pawlu's father, who kept hoping until the end that the sentence would be changed, committed suicide.

The final victim in this case appears to have been the fishmonger, who received a savage beating and later died of his injuries.

Another murder involving sex was that of 18-year-old Duminka Galea, dubbed Malta's Maria Goretti, after the 11-year-old saint who was stabbed to death after resisting rape.



Duminka was working in her father's fields in Naxxar in 1869, together with her siblings. As her brothers and sisters were about to leave, she asked them for a sip of water, but their jug was empty. They suggested she draw some water from the well in the nearby fields belonging to the Schembri family.

That evening, Duminka failed to turn up for dinner. Her frantic family visited the Schembri farm and asked after her but to no avail. Ċikku Schembri, 24, denied having set eyes on her.

The next day, one of the victim's siblings suggested searching the well, fearing his sister might have fallen in. There they ran into Ċikku again, who seemed very evasive and would not answer their questions.

The family filed a police report and a search of the Schembri farm yielded clothes smeared with blood. Duminka's body was found in a well. An autopsy revealed that she had been raped and then strangled. Although most of the evidence was circumstantial, Ċikku was found guilty by a count of 6-3. As a result he could not be handed the death penalty and was sentenced to life imprisonment.



### MEET THE COMMITTEE

**Today we thought we would do something a little different to our usual Meet the Player post. We wanted to introduce you to our Committee.**

**We have 10 hard working, passionate people who work hard to ensure the band continues to be successful now and into the future.**

**They are a strong dynamic team, driven to achieve the bands vision seeing the Maltese culture preserved here in Victoria through a common love, MUSIC.**

**Our committee members are: Dean Attard - Co-President**

**Joe Cardona - Co-President Amie Cardona - Secretary**

**Rebecca Xuereb - Secretary Emanuel Cuschieri - Treasurer**

**Frances Offer - Treasurer Chris Barratt - Band Representative**

**Steve Azzopardi - Band Representative Maryanne Vella - Librarian**

**Lisa Zammit - Policies & Procedures**

## WHY IS THE MALTESE CROSS INCLUDED IN QUEENSLAND'S EMBLEM?



Why is the Maltese Cross included in Queensland's Coat of Arms?

The inclusion of the Maltese Cross in the Queensland Badge and Coat of Arms has an interesting and somewhat inconclusive history.

On 23 August 1873, the Secretary of State for the Colonies advised the various Colonies regarding the adoption of distinctive badges. When this request was received in Queensland, the then Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. Hemmant, wrote to the then Governor, His Excellency Mr. W.W. Cairns, as follows:

"Referring to the circular despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies upon the subject of distinctive badges proposed for the flags of several Colonies, I have the honour to advise Your

Excellency that the difficulty of producing upon bunting a fair representation of the head or bust of Her Majesty has proved so great, and the effect, when produced, so unsatisfactory, as to render it necessary to abandon the idea of using that device for the Queensland Ensign, and I beg therefore to recommend that the accompanying design, within a wreath of laurel, be adopted for the flags of the Colony in lieu of that formerly advised"

The "design" forwarded with the letter was described as "the Maltese Cross with the Crown in the centre". On 16 July 1876, the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty approved the design submitted and this was subsequently gazetted on 15 November 1876, as follows: "His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct that in the future the Badge of the Colony be emblazoned in the centre of the Union Flag for use by the Governor and to the employment at the Queensland Government shall as herein after described - ARGENT ON A MALTESE CROSS AZURE A QUEEN'S CROWN PROPER."

Subsequently, the design was incorporated as part of the Queensland Coat of Arms when the Royal Warrant authorising the present design for the Queensland Coat of Arms was issued to the State of Queensland on 29 April 1893.

It is not known for certain why the Maltese Cross with a superimposed crown was chosen. One popular theory is that as the Victoria Cross was first bestowed by Queen Victoria in 1857, at the close of the Crimean War, and as Queensland became a separate Colony in 1859, it would be a natural association of ideas to ally Queensland with the Victoria Cross which is itself a form of the Maltese Cross with Royal Arms and Lion superimposed. Another theory is that there was a connection between the Maltese Cross and the first Governor's wife, Lady Bowen. Given that the Maltese Cross was not put forward until 1876, the former theory appears stronger. Brian Randall, Queensland Places Coordinator - *State Library of Queensland*





## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### for Voluntary Organisations for Official Development Assistance Projects 2021

For more information, one may visit the website of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs [foreignandeu.gov.mt](https://foreignandeu.gov.mt)



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROJECTS 2021

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs invites project proposals from CVO-registered Voluntary Organisations specialising on development. Open for 1 pre-defined project in Ethiopia and 2 pre-defined projects in Ghana, the Expression of Interest aims at targeting pre-defined requirements for the local communities towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Expressions of Interest, along with other required documentation, are to be submitted by e-mail to [development.mfea@gov.mt](mailto:development.mfea@gov.mt) by not later than 12 noon (GMT+1) of Friday, 18 December 2020.

Registrations for a virtual information

session will be organised for interested CVO-registered Voluntary Organisations on 26 November at 1230hrs. Interested Voluntary Organisations can register by sending an e-mail to [development.mfea@gov.mt](mailto:development.mfea@gov.mt) until 25 November to be provided with a link to access the session.

For more information, one may visit the website of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs <https://foreignandeu.gov.mt>

## Chess is having a boom due to pandemic and 'The Queen's Gambit'

Gross sales of chess units reportedly have exploded because of the hit Netflix present "The Queen's Gambit," a sequence that depicts the rise of a younger feminine prodigy within the 1950s.

Netflix's series The Queen's Gambit has broken the record for its most-watched limited scripted series. According to Netflix, a record-setting 62 million households chose to watch The Queen's Gambit in its first 28 days. The show made the Top 10 in 92 countries and ranked No. 1 in 63 countries. Toronto-based toy service provider Spin Grasp, whose basic video games division owns about 70 % of the US market, has seen its chess gross sales improve by "triple digits" for the reason that miniseries' Oct. 23 premiere, whereas smaller rival Goliath Video games has recorded a 1,048 % surge, [NPR reported](#).

EBay reported a 215-percent spike in gross sales of chess units and equipment following the debut of the present, whose fictional chess prodigy Beth Harmon squares off towards male chauvinism within the Postwar US along with a string of nerdy rivals.



Wood units have been hottest on the web public sale web site, promoting 9 instances higher than plastic, glass and digital varieties, **in keeping with The New York Instances**.

“Six months in the past, a 12 months in the past, these retailers weren’t saying, let’s load up on chess units,” toy analyst Gerrick Johnson informed NPR. “Good luck discovering a chess set this vacation!” Anya Taylor-Pleasure performs Beth Harmon within the Netflix sequence “The Queen’s Gambit.”

The coronavirus pandemic had reportedly pushed up curiosity in chess this 12 months as locked-down shoppers took up the sport even earlier than “The Queen’s Gambit” arrived.

EBay was already promoting 60 % extra chess units than final 12 months, and the variety of chess video games performed on-line day by day had grown to about 16 million from roughly 11 million at the beginning of 2020, the Instances reported.

However the present can also be benefitting teams such because the US Chess Federation, which informed the Instances that its membership jumped this month for the primary time for the reason that pandemic hit.

“The chess neighborhood fell in love with the sequence as a result of it efficiently portrays totally different features of chess in all its richness: It’s simple sufficient to be enjoyable to play, but in addition advanced sufficient to pose a problem,” David Llada, a spokesman for the Worldwide Chess Federation, informed the paper.

### CHESS IN MALTA

Perceived as a man’s sport, Malta is no different from the rest of the chess scene but *The Queen’s Gambit* is known to have inspired – especially – women.

But Fleri says he does not see the “stumbling block” in getting more females into the sport changing in Malta any time soon – even with the influence of the series, which stars a young, female, quirky and rebellious chess prodigy.

With only around six active female players and no more than three under 16s who “take it seriously” in Malta, “it may start something with girls, but this would be short-lived and there will not be a second series”. It is too early to know whether it could entice juniors to take up chess and, more so, female players.

Nine-year-old Hayley Thornton has been playing for two years and is the same age as the TV series protagonist Beth, Anya Taylor-Joy, who starts out in a Kentucky orphanage and is introduced to the game by the taciturn janitor before proceeding to take over the chess world. She becomes obsessed with the game while battling addiction.

Parents are reluctant to allow their children to watch the series, Fleri points out. “The fact it portrays Beth as someone who is addicted to tranquilisers and, at times, needs to take them to be able to play, might give the wrong impression to juniors.”

In fact, Hayley is forbidden from seeing it, while 14-year-old player Milena Stagno has yet to watch it.

Fleri’s twin 14-year-old sons, however, are halfway through the drama and it has certainly motivated them to study more.



Matthew, the highest-rated of the brothers, plays the game almost four hours a day during the week and six at the weekends, clocking up to 30 hours, having recently stopped athletics to focus on this.

The boys first became interested in chess when they were seven and were taught the basics by their father at a time when there were no chess clubs and

hardly any kids’ tournaments.

Today, the Swieqi Chess Club, set up to further develop and promote chess locally, especially among the next generation of players, is growing steadily, and participation in this year’s league was just as high as last year despite COVID-19, Fleri said, adding that players really want to be back on the boards.

(Source – Times) <https://www.swieqichessclub.com/>



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## Malta Drydocks - Um el Faroud tragedy, 20 years ago

25 years have passed since nine dockyard workers were killed in an explosion on board a small Libyan tanker in the Drydocks

20 years have passed since nine dockyard workers were killed in an explosion on board a small Libyan tanker in the Drydocks.

The nine were working on the Libyan state-owned Um El Faroud tanker in Dock No. 3 when, at around 10:15pm,

an explosion on board ripped the tanker's central section.

Seven of the workers- George Aquilina, 24, of Qormi, Charles Callus, 46, of Valletta, Mario Hales, 39, of Mqabba, Simon Mifsud, 26, of Birgu, Simon Pisani, 22, of Msida, Angelo Sciberras, 51, of Zabbar, and Anthony Vassallo, 29 of Dingli- died instantly. The other two- Paul Seguna, 37, of Zebbug and George Xuereb, 58, of Qormi suffered grievous injuries, which they later succumbed to at St Luke's Hospital.

While in the ambulance, Xuereb reportedly asked the medical staff what had happened to his co-workers. The ship suffered severe structural damage too. An inquiry was launched and it resulted that the explosion occurred due to accumulated gas in one of the tanker's holds. In 1998, when the inquiry was concluded, the ship was towed out to sea by Wied iz-Zurrieq for usage as an artificial shipwreck and a diving attraction. A brass plaque was stuck to the ship as a memorial to the nine workers.

With the tanker anchored to its final destination, it took four hours for workers to fill it up with enough water to sink it, a scene that was witnessed by thousands of people.

In 2006, a heavy storm ripped the ship into two sections, right across the middle.

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4 December 2020 - 9 January 2021  
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**IL-HAĠAR**  
HEART OF GOZO

## The Three Musketeers

1982



Ray (Zazu) Farrugia, Hector Martinez and Victor Gauci

This photo taken in 1982 named "The Three Musketeers", found in the "High Flying Eagles" match day programme, Sunday 17th February 2002, Volume 24 Number 7

Melita Eagles - Sydney - Australia



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Well Done Ladies & **FORZA MALTA!!**

Women's NT

Georgia

Malta

Shona ZAMMIT 34'  
Haley BUGEJA 44'  
Haley BUGEJA 52'  
Haley BUGEJA 58'

**0-4**

We would like to Congratulate the Maltese Women's National Team on a resounding 4-0 away victory over Georgia in Tbilisi

Malta National Football Team



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