Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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A free, non-political and bilingual magazine - Communication Matters

The Commonwealth

Delivering a Common Future

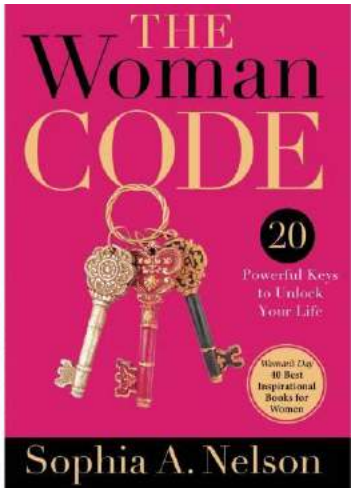
Connecting, Innovating, Transforming

"hope, opportunity and progress"

covid-19

We, the Maltese living abroad, are concerned and worried about the present situation of Malta and Gozo during this Coronavirus pandemic and we pray that this cruel virus will soon be eliminated and life will return to normality

Journalist Sophia Nelson re-releases 'The Woman Code' to inspire women during Covid



Morning Joe host & author of Know Your Value, Mika Brzezinski, pens foreword.

The world has faced unprecedented challenges from the coronavirus pandemic, but it has hit women harder personally and financially, as they juggle multiple roles as professionals, caretakers, mothers and wives—simultaneously.

"Women are the soul of what keeps the world going. We keep our families, our companies, our communities and our nations intact," explains Sophia A. Nelson, acclaimed journalist and author of The Woman Code: 20 Powerful Keys to Unlock Your Life (April 2021, Health Communications).

Named one of the most inspirational books by Woman's Day in 2015 – 2017, this transformative book is updated with new insights about the profound economic and societal shifts that have changed our world since the pandemic. Nelson guides women through living out a powerful life Code that will lead them to purposeful, meaningful and authentically successful lives.

Every woman lives by a Code, whether she realizes it or not. It informs how she treats herself and others and how far she is willing to go in order to find success. Nelson calls on women to examine whether the Code they're living by is truly helping them create the lives they desire. A senior columnist for *USA Today* and a frequent commentator on CNN, Nelson reveals 20 powerful Codes including:

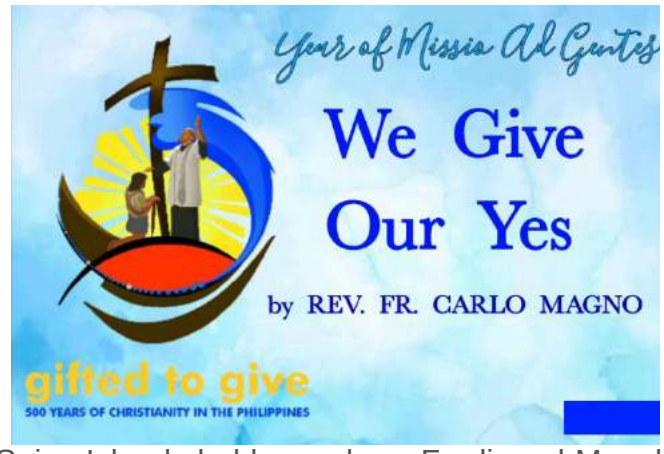
Know Your Value - Be Resilient - Choose Your Thoughts and Words Wisely Lift Other Women as You Climb - Practice Love, Laughter, Loyalty

DR. GEORGE VELLA
PRESIDENT OF MALTA

"Women continue to face numerous structural, cultural and traditional barriers to the realisation of their full potential. From women rights movements of the early 20th century to the present struggles of narrowing the gender pay gap and promoting more inclusive education. On International Women's Day, I join the international community's commitment to address gender bias and inequality and invite you to recognise and celebrate the invaluable role played by women at all levels of decision making, particularly their scientific contribution and leadership to address the health, economic and social effects caused by the Covid-19 pandemic."

"We Give Our Yes" – A song to celebrate 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines

The Catholic Church in the Philippines celebrates its 500th anniversary in 2021. To celebrate this monumental year, they have joined with pop singer Jamie Rivera to release "We Give Our Yes." The song is a jubilant reflection on 500 years of faith, paired with a wonderful music video that highlights the Philippines faith journey.



Did you know that a member of the Order of Malta, Antonio Pigafetta (c. 1491 – c. 1531) was an Italian scholar and explorer from the Republic of Venice was with the explorer Ferdinand Magellan when he brought Christianity to the Philippines?

Antonio Pigafetta joined the expedition to the Spice Islands led by explorer Ferdinand Magellan under the flag of King Charles I of Spain and after Magellan's death in the Philippines, the subsequent voyage around the world. During the expedition, he served as Magellan's assistant and kept an accurate journal, which later assisted him in translating the Cebuano language. It is the first recorded document concerning the language.

Pigafetta was one of the 18 men who made the complete trip, returning to Spain in 1522, under the command of Juan Sebastián Elcano, out of the approximately 240 who set out three years earlier. These men completed the first circumnavigation of the world. Others mutinied and returned in the first year. Pigafetta's surviving journal is the source for much of what is known about Magellan and Elcano's voyage.

Order of Malta Volunteers serve with Emmanuel City Mission in Brisbane

Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV) Australia is dedicated to "Caring for people in need – together". We support different charitable ministries across Brisbane.

On the 21st February 2021, in the spirit of Lent, OMV commenced monthly service #volunteering with Emmanuel City Mission (EMC), in South Brisbane. This Sunday outreach engaged over 50 people in need.

We wish to acknowledge and thank ECM, especially the Curtis family, for providing a welcoming, spiritual and generous daytime sanctuary for the homeless and vulnerable of our city. To explore how you can support ECM please visit https://emmanuelcitymission.com

OMV supports ECM in sharing communal conversation, quality meals and essential care in a safe and clean sanctuary.

We were humbly touched when a gentleman recognised the Maltese Cross and braved his speech impediment to express gratitude for the Order of Malta's "Coats for the Homeless" program.

"Your coats are warm in Winter… water resistant… I use one as a pillow or blanket all year… wanted to say because… I think it should be commended".

Poem
My Covid-19 Experience

Coryse Borg -Sarah Borg | Facebook

While in quarantine, Sarah Borg was inspired to write a poem about her experience and feelings about what it was like to be Covid-positive.

The result is a lovely, touching piece of poetry that she has given us permission to reproduce below. Thankfully, Sarah has since made a full recovery and is, as of this week, Covid-free.

I received the result on Valentine's day…"of all days…why today?!"
Very mild symptoms; still didn't feel okay.
I had exams to face, I felt afraid.
I dare say, I felt betrayed.
"After I made sure to stay safe,
why was it me who'd fallen prey?"

But then I thought, "just appreciate what's still there".
So I sat quietly and became aware
of the many people I know, who really care.
As days passed by, everyone gave their share.

One delivered groceries;
another said rosaries;
one sent a courier with accessories!
I even had support from overseas…

I thought, "it's true, I lost two senses – both taste and smell,
but I have friends and family, who truly wish me well".
I could not get out to run, as I usually do,
but I appreciated my dwelling, all clean and brand new.

I was stuck inside, all alone in my flat;
this gave me time to use my pink mat.
I started to work out indoors, using bodyweight,
and from sixty-nine kilos, I turned sixty-eight!

If we focus on the good,
then we'd have understood
all that living life is all about.
It's not about having it all
but about learning to rise after every fall;

Not about avoiding all the pain,
but about turning a loss into a gain;
not about having sunny days time and again,
but about learning to dance, even in the rain.

Excellent consul general in Toronto

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the consul general of Malta in Canada, Raymond Xerri, for his enthusiasm, constant support and guidance towards the Maltese and Maltese Canadian community here in Toronto.

I am a second generation Maltese Canadian and I am full-time professional choreographer, instructor, artistic director and performer in Toronto. It has been truly wonderful for me and for the arts community in Toronto to have Xerri as our consul general.

Xerri made it possible for me to connect with Malta to potentially produce an artistic project that is connected to Malta's prehistory. I have sourced and researched ways to connect and get closer and better acquainted with Malta vis-à-vis my artistic work but found this very difficult. It was only when I had the opportunity to meet Xerri that I was able to take the necessary steps to connect with Malta.

The work I hope to share with Malta is a 90-minute two act, 14 scene multimedia dance-musical of the story of the Goddess of Fertility. The entire production will feature a professional circus, belly dance, musicians, vocals and narration. My vision was to present this project at the Astra Theatre in Gozo but due to COVID-19 we will present this story here in Toronto on November 18, 19 and 20, 2021, at the Redwood Theatre.

The presentation of the Goddess of Fertility will be streamed live to the world as a 'pay what you can' with proceeds going to the preservation of the Ġgantija Temples in Gozo and Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra in Malta. Xerri has undeniably been an exceptional leader here in Canada, not only to the first-generation born in Malta but also supporting the second and third generation Maltese Canadians.

I look so forward to reaching out further and connecting with Malta's citizens and acclaimed artistic community and to one day presenting what is among the oldest stories in history, the ancient story of the Goddess of Fertility.

I wish Xerri and his hard-working team here in Canada the very best.

JOANNE CAMILLERI
– *Toronto, Canada*

Commonwealth Day 2021 celebrated virtually; Secretary-General delivers message of 'hope'

This year Commonwealth Day was celebrated on 8 March across the world in a series of virtual events, which started on 7 March with a service at the UK's Westminster Abbey.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, will give her annual message on 'A Celebration for Commonwealth Day' during the BBC programme.

Across the Commonwealth, communities will celebrate the day through a range of activities including virtual flag-raising events, online gatherings of civic and faith communities, and school readings, where permitted.

In her Commonwealth Day message, the Secretary-General described this year as one of "hope, opportunity and progress" for the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion people.

She said: "Too often, too many of us can think we are powerless. This is particularly true in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges such as climate change or devastating events like the global pandemic.

"Especially in our current forced isolation and separation from each other, it can be too easy to forget our common connections or our long bonds of friendship and family."

Patricia Scotland went on to say: "So while the challenges may seem insurmountable alone, I know that as a Commonwealth family, though we may be apart, we stand together, united in purpose… Let us work together for a more equal and equitable, a more hopeful future for our Commonwealth and for our world."

The day will be guided by this year's theme 'Delivering a Common Future', which will highlight how the 54 Commonwealth countries are 'innovating, connecting and transforming' to help achieve priority goals such as tackling climate change, promoting good governance, achieving gender equality and boosting trade.

This year Commonwealth Day falls on the same date as International Women's Day. The Commonwealth Secretariat will host a number of events in observance of these days.

Commonwealth citizens are encouraged to join the Secretariat's social media campaign by naming extraordinary women leaders in their communities using #SheLeadsTheWay. (View toolkit here)

Commonwealth Day has been observed every year since the 1970s. This is the first virtual celebration due to COVID-19.

A video of the Commonwealth Day messages from Her Majesty The Queen and the Commonwealth Secretary-General will be available online on the Commonwealth Secretariat's website at 17:00GMT on 7 March.

Secretary-General Patricia Scotland

TRIBUTE PAID TO FRANK SCICLUNA

I would like to express my profound gratitude and appreciation on behalf of myself, my family and the nearly one million Maltese and Gozitan diaspora spread in 190 countries for your steadfast dedication and hard work over the past lifetime, not only the 17 years you have served as Honorary Consul of Malta to our community in the State of South Australia with such love, passion and dedication but to your unique service to Global Malta.

Global Malta is indebted to you and your team for your sterling service by bridging our diaspora communities everywhere. Our 'Maltese E-Newsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora' which you edit, has increased the much needed awareness in the Maltese Islands, in continental Europea and around the world that the country of Malta is not just the population of the Maltese in Malta and Gozitans in Gozo, but we are a Global Malta, a global nation with roots and presence everywhere, like any other country around the world.

Thanks to you and your newsletter, Maltese-Canadians have become aware more than ever before of the importance of learning about their compatriots around the world and you have been key to this development and important step.

Frank, thank you so much for your service, your work as a Councillor on the Council of Maltese Living Abroad when I was Director for the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad, for your friendship and your love for our nation, Global Malta. May God bless you, your family and friends. I sincerely wish you a very happy retirement.

All the best,

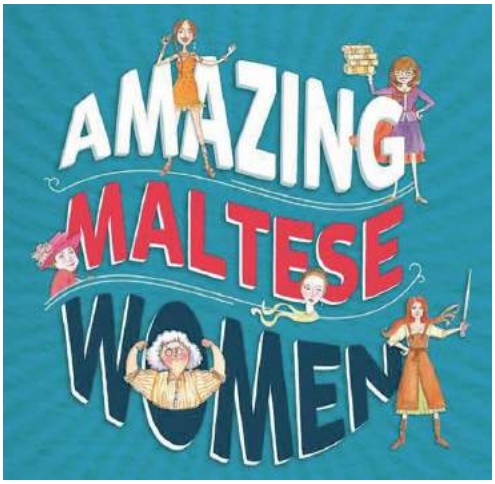
Dr Raymond C. XERRI

Consul General of the Republic of Malta

to the Commonwealth of Canada

Just wanted to thank you for giving a "shout out" to Dan Brock's publication on Maltese Presence in North America. Both of your publications are like a pair of gloves supplementing each other and spreading the culture, history and so much more of the Maltese people. Although transplanted from that environment many years ago, it's still in my DNA to be proud of my culture and to brag about the country of my birth. We have a long and storied history, and like most cultures, it has its greatness and it's weaknesses. But on the scale of histories, the good and the greatness far outweigh its foibles. Thank you to both for keeping the Maltese worldwide informed about the tiny, but mighty country that their roots are attached to. Sincerely,

Fred Aquilina



The 'amazing Maltese women' who made history

Book breaks publisher's pre-order records

Sarah Carabott|

History has been written by men the world over, but in Malta history has finally been written – and illustrated – by two women.

A book about amazing Maltese women by Kristina Chetcuti and Marisa Attard has broken a main local publisher's pre-order records.

From Mary Ellul, who in her flowy dress fished people from rubble during the war, to Irene Condachi, who hitchhiked her way to schools and single-handedly eradicated scabies, 17 women you probably never heard of will this month land on local bookshelves.

The book, aptly called Amazing Maltese Women, will be launched this week.

"We had hundreds of pre-orders through the website, breaking all records. Schools and libraries pre-ordered it via the traditional distribution channels, which is not something that happens often with Maltese books," Merlin Publishers director Chris Gruppetta said.

"What's more, quite a few companies have pre-ordered the book in bulk to give to their female – and in a couple of cases, also male – employees on Women's Day. This was a spontaneous idea, not something we planned or marketed."

Part of the whole point behind celebrating great women is to pull down the traditional barrier that segregates boy-stuff and girl-stuff

Mr Gruppetta hopes that men will take to the book as much as women.

"Part of the whole point behind celebrating great women is to pull down the traditional barrier that segregates boy-stuff and girl-stuff, which is why we're showing women who were adventurous, ground-breaking or did traditionally 'male' jobs."

Some schools have taken it further: the all-boys St Benild's School has invited author Kristina Chetcuti together with referee Esther Azzopardi, who features in the book, to speak about the women.

Another protagonist is the first Maltese woman to pen a political newspaper column: Daphne Caruana Galizia, the journalist who was horrifically assassinated in 2017.

In making a strong statement about the murder, the publishers printed the book on 'Kasco-free paper'.

Kasco Holdings is owned by former chief of staff Keith Schembri who last year faced questioning by investigators working on Daphne's murder case. His name has also featured several times in court proceedings related to the homicide.

Ms Chetcuti told the *Sunday Times of Malta* that both herself and Marisa, the illustrator, are activists against corruption in Malta.

"We worry that for children in Malta, corruption is almost the norm. We wanted children to know there were women throughout history who stood up for what is right – in different fields and each in their own way."

But they also wanted to make sure that they stood by their principles. "I am very proud that the book is printed on Kasco-free paper," Ms Chetcuti added.

Ms Chetcuti started the project with only a handful of women in mind.

I kept telling myself that it can't be that over the centuries we did not have any women who made a difference to society. So, I persevered with research, and over the months, the list started growing, so much so that I had to shortlist."

The most inspiring made the cut, but she is now hoping that people will come forward with tales of other women not featured in the book – even women they know personally – who left an impact on society.

If you know of any women who could feature in the book, get in touch on info@merlinpublishers.com.

Clara La Spatara was Malta's very own blacksmith and sword-maker in 16th century Vittoriosa.

Mabel Strickland's love of her life was the Times of Malta and her editorship was crucial in boosting people's morale during the Second World War.

Mrs M, publicly known as Henrietta Chevalier, had her eldest son arrested by Benito Mussolini but ended up saving thousands of prisoners of war.

DR. OMAR SEGUNA

I am pleased to share with you my new online collection of poems "Ċrieki". https://omarseguna.com/poetry/ This is composed of a selection of poems from "Xehir fis-skiet" my latest publications and also new poems. This collection consists of different styles including concrete poetry. The themes range from corruption, internal politics, the iraqi war, the assasination of Daphne Caruana Galizia, suicide, situation during the pandemic etc. Further to this book you may also be interested in other content within this site. The first section consists of other literary works including short stories, religious articles, link to my doctorate thesis and information about my books. The second section consists of my book review articles, The very sought after section then is about Technology-mediated teaching and learning.

Dr. Omar Seguna graduated with a doctorate in education from the University of Sheffield. His area of research is about the pedagogical affordances and challenges of tablets. He also obtained a Masters in Information Technology Degree. From Cospicua and was born on the 25th July 1977. Education Officer within the Ministry of Education Malta. Worked as a teacher for 12 years, and as an eLearning Department for 3 years on several projects including Internet Safety, and delivered several courses to adults including EU funded courses aimed to provide training in ICT as an entrepreneurial tool in business, for individuals who are employed with or own a microenterprise business, or are self-employed. He also served in the Information Management Unit for 2 years and was responsible for the logistics of the hardware refresh of over 2500 computers in school labs and offices.

Omar Seguna is a poet and published three books: “Mal-Ħoss Qawwi tar-ragħad” (2001), “24, Triq Ħad-Dwieli” (2011) and “Xehir fis-skiet” (2019). Some of his writings also appeared in several anthologies including “Arkadja”, “Il silenzio della montagna e le voci del mare”, “Premi Letterari Citta’ Di Pontinia XIII Edizione”, “Kritika Prattika”, “Minn Fomm il-Kittieb”, “Raddiena ta’ lwien” and in several newspapers. Winner of several poetry contests organized by the Maltese Poets Society (2008, 2009), Citta’ di Pontinia (2008) and also Premio Juan Montalvo (2014) with a photo. Served as vice-president of the Maltese Poets Society and member of “Akkademja tal-Malti”, “Għaqda tal-Malti (Universita’), and The Writers Club. Seguna is the editor of the literary page of the popular local newspaper “It-Torċa”. He is married and father of three children. Passionate about retro computers. Social Activist and interested particularly in narrowing the digital and social gap and environmental issues.

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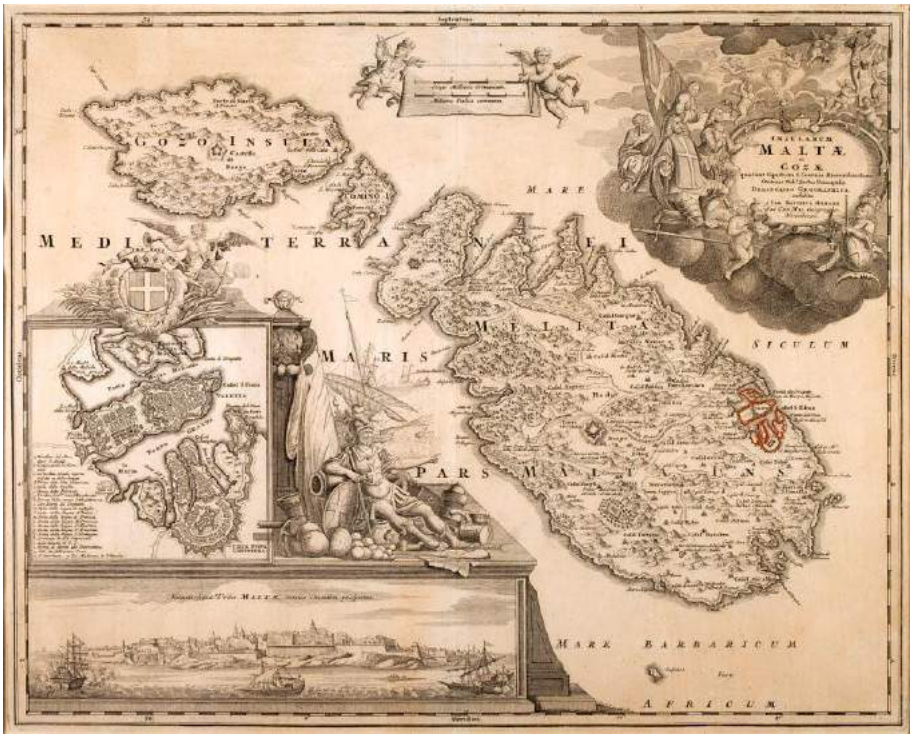
IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL SEND IT TO US AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS



MALTA MAP SOCIETY

The idea for a Malta Map Society was germinated about ten years before, in 1999, during the Proceedings of History Week of that year by Dr Albert Ganado and H.E. Dr Ivan Fsadni. After their meeting, Dr Fsadni compiled various aims and objectives of different map societies or circles from all over the world and prepared a lot of the groundwork.

The foundation meeting of the Malta Map Society was held on the 14th of November 2009 in the Pardo Hall at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Merchants Street, Valletta.

The meeting started with an introductory speech by Dr Ganado who thanked the audience present for accepting his invitation to lay the foundations for the formation of a Malta Map Society. Dr Ganado then proceeded to give a signed offprint of a paper which he had published in *Imago et Mensura Mundi*, and which he had delivered at the *IX Congresso Internazionale di Storia della Cartografia* in Rome. The paper, entitled 'Italy's Sixteenth Century Contribution to the Cartography of Malta', was distributed to all the members present as a memento of this historic occasion.

After the presentation, Dr Ganado dedicated a few words to the memory of his father Dr Roberto Federico Ganado who had instilled in him his love for Melitensia and Maltese cartography. A very keen collector himself, his father must have been, together with Magistrate Dr Edgar Parnis, one of the main collectors of Melitensia at that time. What started as a hobby for Dr Ganado, became a lifelong passion, which has in turn developed into a mission. This has led to the birth of The Malta Map Society.

Dr Ganado then proceeded to pass a motion to nominate an ad hoc committee, which was approved by the members present, to draft a Statute for The Malta Map Society.

The first statutory meeting of The Malta Map Society was held on Saturday, March 6th 2010 at 10.30 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pardo Hall, Merchants Street, Valletta.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ganado, who was nominated for President of the new society. Dr Ganado read out the statute of the new society which was unanimously approved. Members discussed a number of topics, such as the immediate setting up of a website, documenting the numerous antique oil paintings on the island which feature maps and which are found mostly in private collections, the maps kept at the National Library and a number of other topics including the fascinating subject of variants of Maltese maps. Dr Ganado gave a number of examples of these and also revealed that, following the successful Miniature Maps of Malta exhibition in Gozo, a number of new variants had been identified by collectors and visitors.

The first committee meeting of the newly formed Malta Map Society was held on Saturday, March 13th, at 10.30 am at the Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. Dr Albert Ganado was confirmed in his role as President. H.E. Dr Ivan Fsadni was elected Vice-President, Mr Joseph Schirò was elected Hon. Secretary, Mr. Claude Micallef Attard was elected Hon. Treasurer, and Dr Austin Sammut was appointed to act as Public Relations Officer. Dr Ganado and several other members made generous donations to the new society. It was also decided to publish a four-page newsletter on a regular basis.

L-IMNARA, Vol. No. 1 (Issue No. 40), BDL Publishing, 2017.

Up to a few issues, L-Imnara, the organ of the Għaqda Maltija tal-Folkore, used to be published in a primitive cyclostyled format that belied the importance of the valuable and original research it often carried. Its very recent transformation has certainly made it much more attractive, especially since now it can make full use of the technological advances that printing has undergone. More than ever it has become an item to collect and treasure and it also has been able to attract several first-rate contributors.

SCHOOLS George Cassar writes about the primitive state of education in the early years of British rule. Schools of a sort were limited to the cities and practically out of reach for poorer students unless they desired an ecclesiastical career. Middle-class families sent their children to private schools run by individuals, like the school for girls run by Mrs O'Brian in Valletta, which cost 10s a month. On another floor of the same premises, Mr Noble, "a respectable businessman", ran a school for boys.

BIZILLA *Princess Elizabeth watching Betty Grima of Gozo as she makes lace at the first Malta Trade Exhibition in Valletta, 1947*

Cassar provides a wide-ranging overview of the educational situation in the island, which was still quite primitive. The royal commission of 1836 would urge the introduction of important reforms.

Malta's foremost expert on lace and its history, Consiglia Azzopardi, contributes an extensive study dealing with the general history of the subject. The first recorded reference dates to 1619. Lace of the coarser type was at first used in ecclesiastical circles and seems to have been mostly made in convents.

It used to be thought that the British had brought teachers from Genoa to teach the craft of finer lace to young women.

Dun Ġużepp Diacono was instrumental in developing this home-based industry in Gozo.

In 1893 he opened an industrial school in Xagħra, which proved most successful. In the 1930s Lord Strickland reinvigorated the industry on a more professional level.

The doyen of Maltese folklorists, Guido Lanfranco, describes various particular types of devotional rosary beads as recounted to him by old people on a radio programme he used to host. These include rosary beads of St Michael, the Holy Wounds of Christ, the Franciscans, the Souls of Purgatory, Our Lady of Sorrows, the Holy Sacrament, and so on.

IL-BEXXIEXA A bexxiex sprinkling a street with water to dampen the dust, 1880. Photo: Michael Cassar

George Cilia writes about the bexxiexa, which a few veteran readers must surely remember sprinkling local streets to dampen the dust. He also recalls a couple of boyish escapades connected with the arrival of the bexxiexa in the streets to the delight of small boys.

IMNARJA Carmel Vella from Siġġiewi recalls how the Imnarja used to be celebrated in the 1920s. The main attractions were (as they still are) the animal show at Buskett and the donkey and horse races at Saqqajja. As a child in his native village, one of the highlights was the return of the merry-goers who would throw apples, sweets and toys to children at the village's periphery.

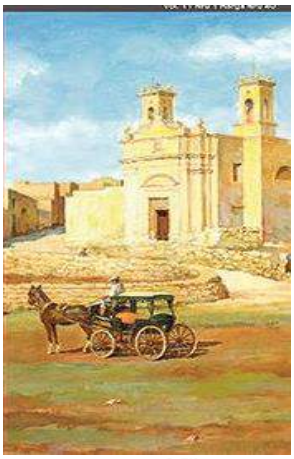
EASTER Anton Attard describes customs connected with the Easter processions in Vittoriosa, where until 1936 the statue of the Risen Christ used to be paraded around the city twice – once on Holy Saturday and once on Easter Sunday. There was a time when even the popular running with the statue was disallowed.

GHAGUZA One custom that has been discontinued is the casting of the għaġuża (old hag) from the steeple of the church of the Annunciation to mark the end of Christ's sufferings on earth.

QUCCIJA The word quċċija, before it obtained its modern popular meaning, meant a sort of semolina cake with raisins, walnuts and almonds, and which according to de Soldanis came to be associated with a similar offering made during the celebration of a baby's first birthday. The Maltese of Tunis seemed to have retained this tradition for the feast of St Lucy on December 13.

CUMIN Cumin used to be a major export from Malta involving notable sums of money. Nazzareno Azzopardi writes about a 1640 document of the bishop's court listing the expenses for carrying the cumin to Spain and the record of a court case to decide how profits from one particular export were to be divided. Ġużi Gatt, the editor of the magazine, adds a great deal of information about how cumin used to be cultivated.

CARNIVAL Joseph C. Camilleri recalls quite a few aspects of how carnival used to be celebrated in Tarxien in the past, beginning on the Thursday before carnival mostly by schoolchildren. It used to be very popular for young men to don sheets and go around the village streets as 'ghosts', very often as a means to 'woo' their sweethearts! Those who wore masks were told by the parish priest that they had a duty to attend the following Ħadd in-Nies pilgrimage in Żabbar to ask to be forgiven.



In an article reprinted from an old issue, Rafel Bonnici Cali writes about several forgotten traditions connected with baptism, funerals and the MUSEUM society.

FIREWORKS Raymond Saliba writes about the history of fire in celebrations and the introduction of fireworks in the Maltese festa, with very primitive ones apparently being recorded in the Castrum Maris in 1429.

KNOW THIS PLACE? For the first time in this issue readers are being asked to have a go at identifying an old photograph of a well-known place in Malta that has changed dramatically over the years. The photograph's colourful depiction by Frank Schembri graces the front cover of the publication.

Maltese Center – New York City

4.611 Google reviews

Social club in New York City, New York

Address: 2720 Hoyt Ave S, Astoria, NY 11102, United States

IL-MALTIN TAGĦNA with member Anita Volpe

Anita is a Vice President & Administrator in a Community Hospital in NYS Anita will give us a snapshot into her many roles and share how she mentors and advises those interested in a career in healthcare.

Time & Location Mar 21, 12:00 PM

About The Online Event info@themaltesecenter.com

Her academic journey started more than 30 years ago in Malta. Dr. Volpe holds a diploma in nursing, a Bachelor's degree in Nursing Science , a Masters degree in Health Care Administration, and earned a Doctorate in Nursing Practice with distinction.

In addition to her role at the hospital she is a part time adjunct professor in the School of Nursing at Capella University teaching Bachelor's degree students and has guest lectured at Columbia University and mentored undergraduates at SUNY Delhi. Anita will give us a snapshot into her many roles and share how she mentors and advises those interested in a career in healthcare.

Old and New Parish Church Lija

I'm starting this week by sharing a rather special photo, from a morning walk a couple weeks ago in Iklin and Naxxar. During this walk I visited the chapel dedicated to St Michael. On the walk out from this chapel, in a break between the trees and buildings, I could see in the distance the two parish churches of the nearby village of Lija. Not too long ago, this part of Iklin was considered a limit of Lija. The two parish churches just happened to line up from this point of view. The new church, finished in the late 18th century, is the larger one further out, with two spires and a dome. I recall, when I was a kid, observing the dedication plaque, and how the year of dedication was 1782, suddenly realising this was just a few years before the French revolution. It's only today, as I was doing a quick bit of research on the church, that I realised it took a long time to completely finish, most of the 18th century in fact. The older church is much less conspicuous; you can barely observe its dome in front of the newer and larger church. This older church, known locally as *is-Salvatur il-Qadim* (literally 'the old Saviour', a rather broken way of saying 'the old church dedicated to our Saviour'), likely dates back to the early 16th century.

It is worth noting that the old parish church cupola is only the second one in the Maltese Islands and the first one to have windows in the supporting structure. I do not know the technical name for it. Also, it is 50 years development of the old parish church of Zejtun which has the first cupola, lower base and no windows.

The cupola was an endeavour to integrate the enlargement of the parish church with the side transcepts, one of which an older chapel standing almost back to back on the right, and aalso a completely new one on the left.

photography, computing, scientific research, and other ramblings by Johann A. Briffa

https://jabriffa.wordpress.com/2018/12/17/old-and-new-parish-church-lija/

Jien perswaz li dan il-Ġurnal li tiegħu int editur, jgħaqqadna flimkien, b'kontenut li jagħmlu lilna bħala ġens, poplu u nazzjon. Din il-ħidma għandha titkompla għax qed tiġbor flimkien il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kemm fil-gzejjer Maltin u pajjiżi oħra. Nawguralek aktar ħidma f'dan ir-rigward u nselli ħafna għalik.

Pierre Mallia Director

Valletta 2018 - European Capital of Culture www.valletta2018.org

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PARLIAMENT OF MALTA

IL BERKA

JOHROG NHAR TA HAMIS.

ASSASSINI.

Ghamil Infumi u Ipocrisija.

1930 attempt on Lord Strickland's life

(left)Il Berka's (The Maltese Daily Newspaper) report on the assassination attempt. (right) Lord Strickland (centre) and members of his government, including Sir Augustus Bartolo (first from left) at an official function. (Reproduced from Strickland House, Book One: 1921-1935, by Victor Aquilina, published by Allied Publications, 2010).

During the 1930 general election campaign, Malta's Prime Minister, Lord Strickland, was at loggerheads with the ecclesiastical authorities. On May 1 the Archbishop of Malta, Dom Maurus Caruana, and the Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Michael Gonzi, issued a joint pastoral letter declaring that it would be a mortal sin to vote for Strickland and his candidates, and for those who support him or his party. On April 17 the Governor, General Sir John Du Cane, had dissolved the Legislative Assembly.

While Strickland was walking along the corridors of the law courts, three shots were fired. The shots had gone astray. He took the matter calmly and went inside to read his morning paper

- Eddie Attard

On Friday, May 23, Lord Strickland went to the Auberge d'Auvergne in Kingsway, Valletta, which then housed the law courts, to attend a sitting of the Court of Appeal, which was hearing a case about the electoral law. While Strickland was walking along one of the corridors of the law courts, three shots were fired, allegedly at Strickland.

The shots had gone astray. The bullets hit a wall and the ceiling and had remained lodged there. Strickland took the matter calmly and went inside the courtroom to read his morning paper.

Police Sergeant Duminku Depares and Constables Giuliano Caruana and George Vella, who were near Lord Strickland, intervened, and the gunman, 43-year-old Ġanni Miller, was apprehended and disarmed. The news of the assassination attempt caused an enormous commotion and quickly spread throughout Valletta.

In a matter of minutes a crowd rushed to the law courts and when it was learned that Strickland was unhurt a section of the crowd began shouting "Long live Strickland and down with Mizzi", referring to Nerik Mizzi, the co-leader of the Nationalist Party and Strickland's political opponent.

However, when Dr Mizzi heard what had happened he sent Strickland a message of sympathy, strongly condemning the attempt. As a gesture of goodwill, Strickland, accompanied by his daughter Mabel, visited the Nationalist Party printing press in South Street to thank Dr Mizzi personally.

Strickland received many messages of support, foremost among them those from King George V and Archbishop Caruana and Bishop Gonzi.

Ironically, about three years earlier, Miller, who at that time was serving a 15-year prison sentence for inciting soldiers to lay down their arms during the1919 riots, had petitioned the Governor for an amnesty. The prison sentence was reduced, and when Strickland came to power in 1927 Miller was released from prison

We thank the Maltese associations, nursing homes and schools for printing our journal and distribute it its members. To connect is beautiful.

Fr Emmanuel Magri, who is remembered for his recording and studying of Maltese folk tales

A number of historical manuscripts unearthed recently in Rome and Palermo have shed new light on the work of Fr Emmanuel Magri, a Jesuit who oversaw excavation works at the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum in the early 1900s.

The manuscripts, including notes of an unpublished lecture and a series of letters penned by Fr Magri - the ethnographer who is remembered for his recording and studying of Maltese folk tales and lore - have been traced by Jesuit student and archaeologist Br Josef Mario Briffa.

Br Briffa found a set of letters which Fr Magri had written to Fr Alfred Louis Delattre between 1901 and 1906. Fr Delattre was a Missionary of Africa (White Father) and an archaeologist conducting excavations in Carthage at the time.

"The documents throw important new light on Fr Magri's archaeological work, particularly in the absence of his notebooks containing observations, which disappeared at his death 100 years ago," Br Briffa said.

Traced in the General Archive of the Missionaries of Africa in Rome, the letters, written in French, show how Fr Magri had discussed his finds at the "Necropolis". He stated that finds, such as bones and broken terracotta, had been thrown in sans ordre (without any order). The bones were very fragmented, and only a few skulls could be saved.

Though later archaeologists thought of the work of Fr Magri and some of his contemporaries as being unscientific, Br Briffa argued that the letters penned by Fr Magri prove that this was not the case at Hal Saflieni, and later judgements on such work had often been made without clear supporting evidence.

"We may safely say - on the basis of archival material - that earth, bones and finds had been found in a complete jumble. Fr Magri didn't simply empty the site of its contents, but did try to understand the context and formation of the site, with the best methods available then," Br Briffa said.

Drawing parallels with the Xaghra Stone Circle, Br Briffa noted how such a complex site is difficult to unravel, even with today's more refined study of stratigraphy. The build-up of different layers of soil and finds is examined to understand better the formation on the site, which is harder to understand where a site is the result of accumulation of burials over a longer period of time.

In other cases, the build-up of deposits may be distinguished in more clear layers, as in the case of the Bronze Age Cremation site over the Late Neolithic Temples at Tarxien.

Fr Magri's correspondence with E.A. Wallis Budge at the British Museum, which Br Briffa traced in 2003, revealed how Fr Magri had been in contact with archaeologists and researchers of his time. Even if lacking professional training of archaeologists in the modern sense, the Maltese pioneers of archaeology who conducted research out of personal love for heritage and history still gave a crucial contribution, Br Briffa argued.

The manuscripts Br Briffa found in Palermo consist of one of Fr Magri's unpublished lectures to the Malta Archaeological and Scientific Society entitled The Temple (Of Proserpina) At Mtarfa, an article on The Ancient Autonomous Coins of Malta, and manuscripts of his writings on Maltese folk tales (belonging to the cycle on the months), as well as his article Ghan-Nies Tas-Sengha U N-Nisa Tal-Gabra

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THE MANCHE' FAMILY FROM MALTA - 1955
Mr and Mrs John Manche with their family of nine children at Circular Quay, Sydney NSW. They arrived from Malta on the migrant ship, Castel Felice, to settle at Wentworthville NSW. The children are Tony 12, Monica 9, Mario 8, Rose 6, Francis 4, George 3, Charlotte 1 and Jeanette 5 months. Date 26 January 1955.
Source Fairfax Photographs

• FESTIVAL RESTORED TO ORIGINAL INTENTION OF SHOWCASING LOCAL COMPOSITIONS

• Dates announced – March 18, 19, 20 2021
• Applications open on October 28

Local singers, authors and composers have a new opportunity to display their talents as Festivals Malta have announced the dates for *Mużika Mużika – Festival Kanzunetta Maltija*, a prestigious event tailor-made to showcase compositions in Maltese.

The festival, which is set to take place on March 18, 19 and 20 2021, saw its origins in 1960 before evolving into the Malta Song for Europe, to reach a wider, international platform.

"Unfortunately, this evolution came with the consequence that the festival somewhat lost its original intent to promote compositions in Maltese, as songs were now being written and composed by international artists in English, and then presented as a recording during the festival itself," festival chairman Mr Raymond Bugeja said.

"This also meant that we lost a unique platform that was reserved solely for compositions in our native tongue. Now, we aim to restore the original spirit of the festival by returning to its roots and to its initial intentions – that of celebrating our Maltese language and offering composers, authors and singers the opportunity to be part of the history of Maltese music," Mr Bugeja said.

Veteran composer Paul Abela and music producer David Borg have been appointed artistic directors of the festival. Mr Abela's name is synonymous with Maltese music, having composed some of the most well-loved classics in the Maltese language, together with epic musicals such as *Ġensna, Taħt Tliet Saltniet, Ali Baba, Bastilja* and 1565 The Musical.

Mr Borg's career is likewise inextricably tied to the Maltese music landscape, having produced shows such as *Ġensna* in Concert (2009); *Ġensna* in Concert – *It-Tokk Għawdex* (2013); *Ġensna* History Rocks (2014); 50 years of Maltese Music in collaboration with FCN; *Djamanti Mużikali* in both the Astra and Aurora Theatres in Gozo; 1565 – The Musical in Concert and The Sound of Music.

The idea to relaunch *Mużika Mużika*, the directors said, was born of a desire to honour our national language while creating new opportunities for local artists and Maltese song by offering only the best showcase to applicants, on a par with other world-class similar festivals

Mużika Mużika, in fact, will include features such as a live orchestra, and a prestigious venue facilitated with modern technology. Moreover, the live orchestra will include a rhythm section as well as backing vocalists which can be used by all applicants.

Applicants will have no restrictions with respect to the sounds that can be used throughout the festival, and modern technology such as a click track will be made accessible.

"Using this type of technology makes it possible for us to re-create a recorded sound during the orchestral representation. In this way, composers taking part in the festival are not limited to one sound. The entire concept for *Mużika Mużika* revolves around opening the festival to different styles and genres. We are encouraging the participation of a diversity of composers and genres, including bands, pop, rock, rn'b artists, etc…," Mro Abela said.

The festival will span over three shows, with the first show seeing 20 songs competing for a spot in the final. The second show will find semi-finalists singing with legendary names from the Maltese music scene.

"By using the latest technology available we will be seeing our semi-finalists perform duets with late veterans, whose voice, together with an on-screen projection, will be accompanying the performing singer. In this way, these legends can be brought back to life through music," Norman Hamilton who, together with Albert Marshall is vice-chairman for the festival, said.

The event comes to a grand finale with the third show, when 12 songs will compete for the final title of best Maltese Song.

Applications for *Mużika Mużika – Festival Kanzunetta Maltija* are open between October 28 and October 30. Interested parties are encouraged to read the regulations available on www.muzikamuzika.org and to submit their applications online.

ARCHDIOCESE OF MALTA

URGENT SCHOOL VACCINATION ROLL-OUT NEEDED SITUATION CAUSING UNNECESSARY STRESS AND TENSION IN SOME SCHOOLS

While welcoming the strong drive towards COVID-19 vaccination for school staff members which is currently underway, the Secretariat for Catholic Education and the Church Schools Association call for greater urgency and a more balanced vaccination roll-out amongst staff in all schools (State, Church and independent schools).

This follows reports that a number of Church schools have still not received any appointments for vaccinations for staff members. This situation is causing unnecessary stress and tension among staff members who feel they are being left out and are questioning the criteria used for vaccination appointments.

As the country faces a serious increase in COVID-19 cases and schools are being asked to remain open in order to ensure the education of students, it is imperative that all staff members feel they are being given the support they deserve. It is not acceptable to have a significant number of staff members in schools kept in the dark about when they will receive their vaccination appointments.

The Secretariat for Catholic Education and the Church Schools Association call on the Ministry for Education and the Ministry for Health to resolve this issue immediately by issuing vaccination appointments for staff members who have not yet received the appointments.

THE GOOD NEWS JOURNAL

WE LOVE AND RESPECT OUR READERS

Association for the beatification and canonisation of Henry and Inez Casolani

Archbishop Charles Jude Scicluna approved the setting up of the Henry and Inez Casolani Association within the Archdiocese of Malta. The association was set up to promote the cause of the beatification and canonisation of the Servants of God Henry and Inez Casolani, a lay married couple who led a simple yet devout and exemplary Christian life. The couple married in April 1944 at the Church of St Augustine in Valletta.

nez Casolani was born in Cospicua in 1915 and was a teacher by training and vocation. Although she gave up the teaching profession upon marriage, she kept on giving free private lessons to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. She predeceased her husband in 1992.

Born in Valletta in 1917, Henry Casolani was an accomplished artist who, nonetheless, never boasted of his talents. During the Second World War, he was seconded to the Royal Army Medical Corps and after the war was engaged as a senior draughtsman with the Public Works Department. He died in 1999.

The spirituality of the Casolani couple was nourished by daily Mass, the frequent reception of the sacraments, prayer, the Rosary, regular visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and daily reflection on the Word of God. Their words and deeds left an indelible mark around them, giving witness to the love of God and neighbour, living wholeheartedly the Christian virtues.

Following their death, many friends and acquaintances of the couple testified to their devout and holy life. Their reputation of holiness increased, as more people ask for their intercession for their needs.

The request to open the cause for their beatification was submitted to the Church authorities in 2007. It was officially opened in 2015 by Archbishop Scicluna, after receiving the *nihil obstat* from the Congregation of the Causes of Saints. Because of the fact that the couple was an active member of the Third Order of St Augustine, the cause was entrusted to the postulator general of the Augustinians in Rome.

For more information about joining the Association and the Servants of God Henry and Inez Casolani, visit **henryandinezcasolani.wordpress.com** or send an email on **henryandinezcasolani@gmail.com**.

The Maltese Newsletter
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora
It's Free, Non-Political, Bilingual and Addictive
We thank you for your kind support
Keep on sending us your comments, emails, suggestions
news and articles. It's your journal!!!!!

MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA MEET EVERY FRIDAY FOR LUNCH AT THE PROGRESSIVE HALL, LEHUNTE STREET, KILBURN FROM 10.am till 3 pm

THE MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA

The MMG Band will be performing prior to the screening of the Maltese movie 'The Golden Calf' being screened at the City of Whittlesea, Mutlicultural Cinema on Saturday 10 April.

If you wish to attend, please contact the City of Whittlesea Positive Ageing Team (9407 5913 or leap@whittlesea.vic.gov.au) book your tickets.

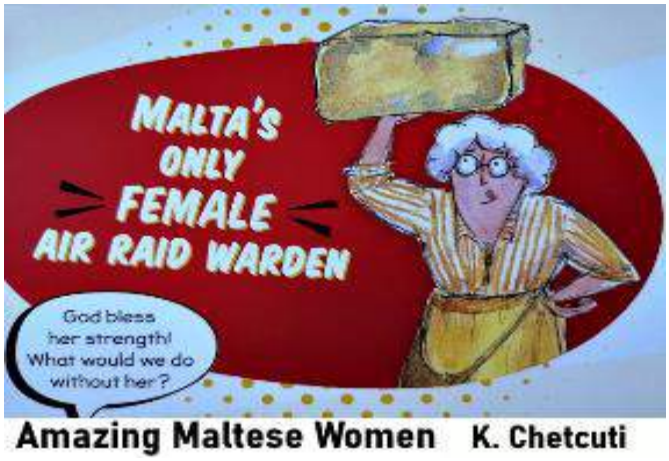
We hope to see you there

ELECTRIC ENTERTAINMENT RELEASES "BLOOD ON THE CROWN" MALTESE FILM

Supported by the Arts Council of Malta, the film reveals a true story of resilience and honor that had been covered up for nearly 100 years.

Production and distribution company Electric Entertainment **will release the Maltese production "Blood On The Crown" (formerly "Just Noise,") on TVOD beginning March 9, 2021**. Supported by the Arts Council of Malta, the film starring Harvey Keitel ("Reservoir Dogs," "Pulp Fiction") and Malcolm McDowell ("A Clockwork Orange," "Mozart In TheJungle") reveals a true story of resilience and honor that had been covered up for nearly 100 years.

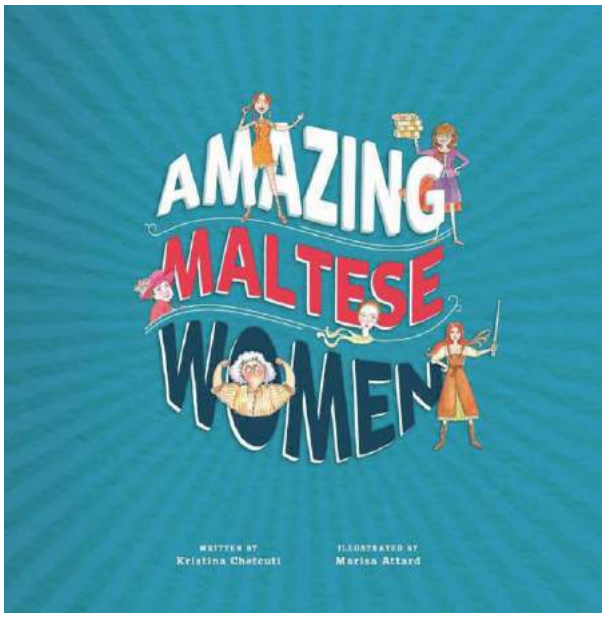
Based on actual events, "Blood On The Crown" presents the concealed account of how Maltese citizens fought for their independence against England in 1919. Immediately following the end of World War I, in a plea for their country's independence, Maltese people from all different walks of life, united to lead an uprising against the British. The Army was sent to quell the riots. Blood flowed when unarmed protestors were brutally killed by the British army. Due to its cover up by the British government in the years following, the revolution is not documented and not widely known. The large number of casualties was an embarrassment to the British army. Over 115 Maltese citizens, mostly teenagers, were blamed for the violence and sentenced to life in jail.



Mary Ellul was a lady born in 1905 with superhero strength! Mary, was popularly known as 'Mary the Man', from Sliema. She was a woman with phenomenal strength, reputed for dealing with rowdy sailors by chucking them into the Sliema sea when she worked as a bouncer after the war. During the war, the white-haired, tall and tanned air raid warden would rescue people from under the rubble and she is mostly remembered by those who survived

During World War II she was the only woman working as an Air Raid Warden. She would help people to go down to the public shelters and after each attack, they would get out of the shelter and rescue people trapped under the rubble of the demolished buildings. And that's exactly what she was doing. She was a true wartime heroine!

New book highlights the 'amazing Maltese women' who made history - K Chetcuti



Book breaks publisher's pre-order records

Sarah Carabott|

Left: - Mabel Strickland by Marisa Attard

History has been written by men the world over, but in Malta history has finally been written – and illustrated – by two women. A book about amazing Maltese women by Kristina Chetcuti and Marisa Attard has broken a main local publisher's pre-order records.

From Mary Ellul, who in her flowy dress fished people from rubble during the war, to Irene Condachi, who hitchhiked her way to schools and single-handedly eradicated scabies, 17 women you probably never heard of will this month land on local bookshelves.

The book, aptly called Amazing Maltese Women, will be launched this week.

"We had hundreds of pre-orders through the website, breaking all records. Schools and libraries pre-ordered it via the traditional distribution channels, which is not something that happens often with Maltese books," Merlin Publishers director Chris Gruppetta said.

"What's more, quite a few companies have pre-ordered the book in bulk to give to their female – and in a couple of cases, also male – employees on Women's Day. This was a spontaneous idea, not something we planned or marketed."

Part of the whole point behind celebrating great women is to pull down the traditional barrier that segregates boy-stuff and girl-stuff

Mr Gruppetta hopes that men will take to the book as much as women.

"Part of the whole point behind celebrating great women is to pull down the traditional barrier that segregates boy-stuff and girl-stuff, which is why we're showing women who were adventurous, ground-breaking or did traditionally 'male' jobs."

Some schools have taken it further: the all-boys St Benild's School has invited author Kristina Chetcuti together with referee Esther Azzopardi, who features in the book, to speak about the women.

Another protagonist is the first Maltese woman to pen a political newspaper column: Daphne Caruana Galizia, the journalist who was horrifically assassinated in 2017.

In making a strong statement about the murder, the publishers printed the book on 'Kasco-free paper'.

Kasco Holdings is owned by former chief of staff Keith Schembri who last year faced questioning by investigators working on Daphne's murder case. His name has also featured several times in court proceedings related to the homicide.

Ms Chetcuti told the *Sunday Times of Malta* that both herself and Marisa, the illustrator, are activists against corruption in Malta.

"We worry that for children in Malta, corruption is almost the norm. We wanted children to know there were women throughout history who stood up for what is right – in different fields and each in their own way."

But they also wanted to make sure that they stood by their principles. "I am very proud that the book is printed on Kasco-free paper," Ms Chetcuti added.

Ms Chetcuti started the project with only a handful of women in mind.

"But I kept telling myself that it can't be that over the centuries we did not have any women who made a difference to society. So, I persevered with research, and over the months, the list started growing, so much so that I had to shortlist."

The most inspiring made the cut, but she is now hoping that people will come forward with tales of other women not featured in the book – even women they know personally – who left an impact on society.

If you know of any women who could feature in the book, get in touch on info@merlinpublishers.com.

Clara La Spatara was Malta's very own blacksmith and sword-maker in 16th century Vittoriosa.

Mabel Strickland's love of her life was the Times of Malta and her editorship was crucial in boosting people's morale during the Second World War.

Mrs M, publicly known as **Henrietta Chevalier**, had her eldest son arrested by Benito Mussolini but ended up saving thousands of prisoners of war

Fascinating new insights into Great Siege legends -1565

"It was never clear whether Darghut was killed by friendly fire or enemy action"

THE DEATH OF DRAGUT: by Sarah Carabott

For many, Ottoman Admiral Dragut died leaning back, propped up by his men, right hand held up to his temple wrapped in a turban, eyes wide open.

In this popular depiction by Giuseppe Calì, which follows the western narrative, the Libya ruler Darghut Pasha, as Dragut is known in Malta, is dying from head injuries.

However, an anonymous drawing at the Islamic Museum, in Tripoli shows Darghut dying from abdomen wounds, as in the narrative by18th century Arab historian Ibn Ghalboun who contests that he died by friendly fire.

There is more than one version of Darghut's end and these details have been penned in a paper by Simon Mercieca and Frans Cassar about the end of Darghut at the siege as recounted by Ghalboun.

"It was never clear whether Darghut was killed by friendly fire, as claimed by the siege witness Francesco Balbi di Correggio, or by enemy action," they say.

Balbi and the 16th century historian Giacomo Bosio share the same view of the cause. Darghut died from internal haemorrhage after being hit by a splinter from a cannon ball hitting the rocks close to where he was.

However, while Balbi claims the splinter was caused by a low cannon shot fired by Darghut's forces on his orders, Bosio said the shot came from Fort St Angelo. Still, in a third narrative by Terence Duggan, from Antalya University, which will be published in the second volume of the papers, Darghut was actually injured when a cannon, which had just been repaired, exploded

Allura is a multi-award-winning arts organisation based in Malta, established to showcase creative talent

My name is Laura Swale. You may know me from my past work as the Arts and Culture Coordinator for the Times of Malta or through the visual arts events run by my company, Allura in Malta.

Allura is an award-winning start-up established just two years ago to showcase Malta's creative talent, with a particular focus on identifying and spotlighting both established and up and coming painters. I am writing with a view to presenting original fine art made in Malta by some of the country's leading contemporary artists. To view the Allura Art collection click here: https://www.allura-art.com

I am contacting you to inquire as to whether you may be interested in featuring Allura Art and the artists it represents in your newsletter or other media outlets, or if you would be open to another form of collaboration.

The Allura Art collection is growing, but currently features ten local painters, each carefully selected following a number of years of knowledge accrued working within the arts sector in Malta. Many of

these artists produce work based on the Maltese landscape or context and all are based in Malta or Gozo. We have chosen artists which look set to be the collectable artists of the future.

Due to its location and size, Malta is known to be a particularly challenging place for artists looking to further their careers, with a tiny fraction ever managing to paint full-time due to its limitations. We would like to help these artists to sell their outstanding work both locally and overseas.

If I may be so bold, and of course if you are impressed with our artworks, perhaps you might also consider recommending Allura to art-lovers in your network or advising us on reaching the Maltese diaspora in Canada, as we would like to approach them to see if they may be interested in purchasing artwork. Ultimately our aim is to provide opportunities for our artists to move closer to their goal of becoming full-time artists by selling work, while at the same time presenting beautiful original pieces worthy of collection. With warm regards, Laura Swale – Canada

I have been mailing Christmas cards and other correspondence to my cousin, Sam Ellul, who used to live in Shellcove, Sydney Australia . Apparently my cousin has moved to another location. We had a very unexpected but very delightful re-union On the island of Malta After more than 40 years Apart. He emigrated to Australia a few years before I came to California in 1977...The mail has not been returned to me; therefore it is being Delivered to a .legitimate address. Please email me at :davidegriscti@yahoo.com. I would like very much to connect with cousin Sam. We hope cousin Sam and family are well. Thanks and God bLess.

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FONDAZZJONI BELT VICTORIA VO/0762

Gozo NGOs Association founding member Pjazza San Ġorġ,
Victoria VCT 1101
info@heartofgozo.org.mt

Media release

Il-Ħaġar museum closed

Due to the new Covid-related restrictions, unfortunately Il Ħaġar museum (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) is now closed.

However preparations are ongoing to show the current exhibits on https://www.facebook.com/heartofgozo and https://heartofgozo.org.mt/. These include Aaron Formosa art, Vella-Friggieri, Crucifixes and Good Friday Procession.

Il-mużew il-ĦAĠAR magħluq

Minħabba r-restrizzjonijiet il-ġodda konnessi mal-Covid, sfortunatament il-mużew Il-Ħaġar (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) bħalissa magħluq.

Iżda għaddejjin sforzi biex l-esibiti kurrenti jintwerew fuq https://www.facebook.com/heartofgozo u https://heartofgozo.org.mt/. Dawn jinkludu pittura ta' Aaron Formosa, Vella-Friggieri, Kurċifissi u Purċissjoni tal-Ġimgħa l Kbira.

PEOPLE OF MALTA

https://www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta/

"Our father was Speditu. We are his twin children. I, his daughter, continued on this line of work and my brother came to help out today. This has always been a greengrocer and the facade has been left in its original state. We have been in this trade for over 55 years. As children we remember our dad going to Ta' Qali, at the Pitkalija (vegetable market) to bring fresh vegetables and fruit. He used to take us and our siblings with him on the back of his pick-up truck to collect vegetables, cauliflower, carrots etc to transport here. Local produce is sought after because it is good. We should be proud because we have genuine products."

Marilyn u Steve, Ta' Speditu

"Every week, every time this place is open, I come to visit my wife. Today I brought her flowers too. I have been doing this for years, she passed away 23 years ago; she was just 40 years old. She left me young, a widower with three children. She departed in less than a week. I had a shop, and she used to work with me too. At the time it was really tough. Its hard to cope with work, bringing up the children, cleaning, cooking and another hundred thousand things. My life was turned upside down overnight. I had to work harder. Moreover it is an injustice to those who are widowed young to be taxed like they are single. I was shocked and astounded how she felt what was going to happen to her and what she would endure. She has always been there for me. How foolish we are to get attached to material things. We are nothing. In life you learn a lot and life teaches you a great deal." - Lippu

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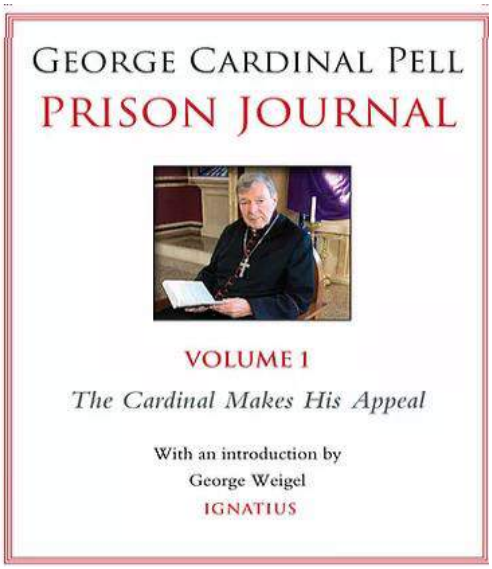

GEORGE CARDINAL PELL, PRISON JOURNAL

Prison Journal, Volume 1: The Cardinal Makes His Appeal was written, **Cardinal Pell** tells Doug Keck on an upcoming **EWTN Bookmark**, to recount his story of unjust incarceration in a Melbourne prison for 13 months, along with the account of his court cases, daily reflection on the Scriptures with his Breviary, and the response to over 4,000 letters on a wide range of topics, from world news to soccer to the Christian's dealing with suffering. "How ordinary people like myself can survive through difficult times," **Cardinal Pell** says, "with the help of Christ's message, is a package that still works. I'm a bit surprised, and grateful, that I got through the whole thing, as unscathed as I did." When a*sked* by Doug what sustained the Australian prelate, Cardinal Pell replies, "Faith, family, and friends who stuck by me through those times, with the support I had all around the world, brought me through." The Cardinal was most aware of the concept of suffering in theory, but as to the practice, he had never encountered such severity, and quotes this from his mother: "To be with a saint in heaven is bliss and glory; to be with a saint on earth, is quite another story!" **Volumes two** and **three** of ***Prison Journal*** will be released sometime in 2021. Meantime, Doug concludes, "pick up a copy of **George Cardinal Pell**'s ***Prison Journal, Volume 1: The Cardinal Makes His Appeal***," at www.ewtnrc.com.