MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR

PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Second Symposium in the Presidency Culture Symposia Series

Following the success of the first cultural symposium held jointly with the French Embassy in Malta, the Office of the President shall be holding a second cultural symposium, this time with a focus on the Sovereign Order of Malta. The symposium will take place on Wednesday 13 October, to also coincide with the feast of Blessed Gerard, the founder of the Order in Jerusalem in 1048.

This second symposium will seek to explore the political, cultural, and institutional relationship between Malta and the Order of Malta, with a focus on the history of diplomatic relations and the history of the Order following its departure from Malta in 1798, the artistic and cultural patrimony of the Order of Malta today, as well as the function, role, and purpose of the Order of Malta.

The symposium will be addressed by the President of Malta; the Maltese Ambassador to the Order of Malta, George Buttigieg, who will also be one of the academic speakers, and the Ambassador of the Order of St John to Malta, Augusto Ruffo di Calabria. Special guests to be interviewed during the symposium include Douglas Graf Saurma-Jeltsch, member of the executive board of Malteser Hilfsdienst in Germany and former ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta in Lithuania, as well as Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel, Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion in Obedience. An interesting line-up of speakers will cover various aspects of the historical and cultural ties between the Order of Malta and the Republic of Malta.

The main proceedings will be happening at Sant'Anton Palace although also available in hybrid format via a video conferencing service. A limited number of seats are available on a first come, first served basis. Those interested in participating in person or via the video conferencing service may register by sending an email at **oprculturesymposia@gov.mt**.

Documenting Ghana

documentingghana.com/

Documentig the daily life of a bi-racial family who moved from Malta to rural Ghana

Racism forced me out of my native Malta

Documenting Ghana is an interesting blog written by a Maltese woman, Christine Xuereb Seidu, who migrated to Ghana with her husband and their daughter to escape the racism and ethical ambiguities in Malta and start a new life on the Gold Coast. They have been there since 2017 and have built a new life for themselves there.

Christine Xuereb Seidu has had to leave her 13 year old daughter from her first marriage behind her here in Malta. That must be a good reason to document her new life in Ghana and let Malta know of her experience.documentingghana.com/

OUR ARRIVAL IN GHANA

August 25, 2017Posted in Diary

A few months ago a few activities brought about new plans for the future of our family. We were either going to live a life struggling and living that unhappy life filled with oppression, mainly due to the harsh racism surrounding us in Malta, or we'd make the move to Ghana, the country that stole my heart last year (March 2016) when we made a family holiday trip. I also just couldn't stand everyone accepting the corruption right before our own eyes. Truth be told, Africa was always going to be my final destination and when that was going to happen, I would never know.

My husband built a home for us in Tamale, Ghana, a couple years back. The reason for this was not to move permanently. Anyone who has been to Tamale, Ghana, knows that a clean, comfortable and affordable rent is hard to come by so we needed a place we called home when we visited. The house was built on my mom-in-law's land and the first part was built by my brother-in-law as it was intended for his own family but knowing that we needed a place when we visited, he gave it to my husband.

We knew that because of my eldest daughter Sade, who was born from my previous relationship, it was not going to be easy. Yes, I had full custody and have been the sole provider and carer (together with my husband) but I still had to go through the court to get permission from her birth father. I did all as I was supposed to, expecting to come to an agreement with the 'dad' who did nothing for his kids (unfortunately, another good soul fell victim to this narcissist). It didn't work that way. Miraculously, he got money to pay for a stop order with immigration police (no, it wasn't him- I know exactly who was behind this) and in court, his lawyer made it seem like my plan was to abduct her (all her lies are being accounted for, I've got all the proof and she's going to have to appear before the Commissioner for Administration of Justice). Never did I, or my lawyer, think on looking up whether Ghana ever signed the Hague Convention on abduction of children. When the aim is not there, it's the last thing you'd think of.

It was hard to plan on leaving Malta without my daughter but I had my youngest daughter in mind and the people behind this, who just want to rule our life. We sold all we owned, my husband was already over a month in Ghana setting up his business and we were all separated. It was time to go. Sade is thirteen, old enough to know and read our feelings for her. Thanks to Skype, Whatssapp and all that modern technology has to offer, I believe we can make this work. My mother is to look after Sade while we're gone.

Back to today. After a day flying and in between flights, we have finally made it to the Gold Coast and as we met my husband at the airport, we were ready to catch another flight to the north, Tamale. And then we were home. Looking forward to the day when Tamale airport starts the international flights, an initiative

made by Ghana's previous President, H.E John Dramani Mahama. Together again at last, with Sade on our mind, always

Christine's Blog - First Maltese we met in Tamale

After I dropped off Azara at school, I went home to do some work and then I headed to the Vodafone cafe to send some things via email. Then I went to pick up Azara and headed straight for the Tamale Centre for Photographic Research and Practice.

Yesterday, I agreed with a Judith, an eye doctor here in Tamale, that I would open for her and more of her friends. This would be the third time she'd come, and she would bring friends over with her each time. This time, she was bringing over a Maltese doctor who was visiting from the UK in order to perform some surgeries, on a voluntary basis, together with a colleague of his who is from Northern Ghana himself. They visit Tamale to perform surgeries every two years.

Azara and I arrived at the Centre at 4:30pm. By 5pm, two groups of friends of hers were here- on one hand, there were two from the Shekhinah clinic- a Canadian doctor who visits every now and then- and a Dagomba doctor. Soon after, Judith arrived with Dr Camilleri (the Maltese surgeon who is based in the Uk), the other surgeon based in the Uk but from Northern Ghana, and a young doctor from the United States. It took us 2 whole hours to go through all the photographs and it's mainly because the two Northern Ghanaians were filling us in on all they knew about Northern Ghana, Dagomba culture etc. Again, I learnt much more from the visitors.

On our way home, Azara noticed Basit passing by in the car, but he hadn't seen us. As we arrived by the roadside and started walking home, Basit called and when we arrived, Basit and the family were already eating fufu and light soup. Azara are with them so there was no need for me to cook. After Azara came in and after we had a shower, she asked me to make her a hot chocolate with biscuits. For nothing, as usual, though because she slept before I was done preparing them. There was no way I could wake her up. I was also knackered so as soon as Basit returned from eating outside, we all went to bed.

MALTA - Through the ages

D.O.M. Transport was started by the late Ganni Pace in the early thirties specialising in furniture removals within the Maltese Islands. During World War 2, three of the company vehicles were employed by the military. Whilst people were being evacuated from towns around the harbour due to the heavy bombing Malta was undergoing, Ganni Pace had a short spell of removal with horse and cart.

In 1965 after the demise of Ganni Pace, his eldest son Joe, returned to Malta after spending 13 years in UK and Australia to carry on the family business. At the time Malta had just emerged from a British colony and was attracting British Settlers coming from South Africa and all around Europe.

Shortly after, Mr Gordon M. Steele, vice president of the British Association of Removers, was on holiday in Malta and took a photo of one of D.O.M. lorries which was published in the February 1968 Removals & Storage Journal under the title of "How they do it in Malta G.C." Since 1968 D.O.M. Transport activity concentrated more and more on overseas removals.

Today D.O.M. Transport is still a family run business as it started back in 1930's. Now in it's 3rd generation, committed always to offer first class services which can only be achieved by the wealth of experience on the local and overseas removal business which the family has gathered through all these years. Whilst keeping in touch with times, D.O.M. Transport have always invested heavily in the latest specialised equipment such as multiple outside elevators even reaching up to the 12th floor.

El Adem Tragedy – 60 years on

Sixteen members of the 16th Malta Fortress Squadron Royal Engineers construction company lost their lives on the El Adem airstrip in Libya on 10 October 1961.

The 16 were in a group of 210 sappers, mostly Maltese, from the Royal Engineer Squadron, accompanied by other sappers from Cyprus, who the previous month were sent on a training mission on building emergency roads and airfields in Tobruk, some 20 miles from El Adem.

At around 7.30pm, when they were to start their return to Malta, 39 Maltese sappers under troop commander captain Francis J. Boatright boarded a British Royal Air Force transport command, Hasting 498. The aircraft crashed and burst into flames on take off. One British officer and 15 Maltese sappers were burnt to death and Malta mourned the biggest peacetime tragedy for its servicemen.

The same aircraft had already been used earlier to transport other sappers to Malta. There was a whole mixture of emotions at the Maltese airport that night as families gathered to welcome their servicemen home.

Two British servicemen also died when a Hasting transport aircraft broke in half and burst into flames as it was taking off from the El Adem in Libya on a flight to Malta on October 10, 1961. 22 soldiers survived, although several were badly injured.

The Maltese soldiers were serving in the British army and were returning to Malta after having been involved in the building of a road with the Royal Engineers. .The crash was the biggest single loss of Maltese men in uniform in peace time.

The troop had been selected to fly to Malta that day with the toss of a coin.

"While we have grown old, we continue to remember them young as they were," Col. Raymond Cutajar told *Times of Malta* in a 2011 feature. Col. Cutajar himself should have been on that plane, which was set to send eager soldiers home after five weeks' work on a major Nato project.

A toss of a coin is what saved Col. Cutajar's life that day. Apparently, the left wing of the Royal Air Force Hasting 498 hit the runway upon take-off, causing damage. Col. Cutajar, along with the remaining troops, recalls being "bluntly told the names of the dead soldiers and those severely injured in the plane crash.

Vince Zammit (photo) who lives in Adelaide, recollects how his father, Carmelo Zammit from Birżebbuġa relives this painful memory as told in the "Orriżżont" tabloid of the 10th October 1990. In those days Carmelo Zammit was the Regimental Sargent that lost 16 soldiers in that tragedy. Carmelo, now a pensioner who lived with his wife in Birzebbuġa was one of the first to be informed of the news from El Adem. "Soldier engineers from my company

often went to work in Libja, but on that day I had remained in Malta to look after the barracks at San Gorġ, It was about 3am, when Lance Corporal Cilia knocked on my door to inform me that Colonel Daniels wanted to speak to me". "Hurriedly I got dressed and along the way the Corporal briefly told me about the Libja incident, but the Colonel filled me in completely, saying that there were some fatalities and also some injured". "I was very worried about my mates, and that some had died, and it also dawned on me that my own brother France was there."

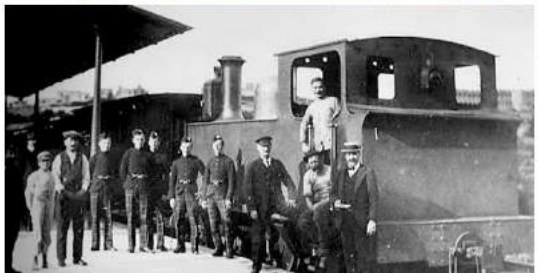
"At daybreak, I got into my uniform and went to the Colonel's house where I found the Officers and their wives in pandemonium. The Colonel handed me the list of victims, twelve of my mates were dead, other soldiers were seriously injured, and even at high risk of dying. "Along with the Colonel and his wife, I now found myself facing the hardest task of my life, we had to go to the victims' families to inform them about their loss. How can you face any one and tell them that their husband or son is dead? I can leave it to your imagination the sorrowful scenarios we had to face; I can vividly recall a widow at Gżira after she was told that her son was one of the fatalities. She opened her arms, and as she faced the heavens, she wept and shouted, My Lord, what have you done to me… I had a husband and you took him away from me in the war, and now you even took my beloved son!'

"After spending the day carrying this gut-wrenching ordeal, I could no longer stand it when we had the last victim's family in Ħamrun, I had suffered enough, I could not make it!"

Remembering the soldiers who lost their lives

These are the men who lost their lives in this 1961 plane crash:

1. Captain Francis Joseph Boatwright (from Britain), aged 35.
2. Warrant Officer Class II Edwin H. Harrison, from Sliema, aged 42.
3. Sergeant Emmanuel Falzon, from Naxxar, aged 37.
4. Corporal Nazzareno Sammut, from Qrendi, aged 31.
5. Lance Corporal Emanuel Fsadni, from Rabat, aged 32.
6. Lance Corporal Nazzareno Portelli from Hamrun, aged 28.
7. Sapper Raphael C. Avallone from Sliema, aged 27.
8. Sapper Edward Barber from Hamrun, aged 20.
9. Sapper Nazzareno Busuttil from Hamrun, aged 36.
10. Sapper Gerald Caruana, from Zurrieq, aged 42.
11. Sapper Paul Cilia, from Hamrun, aged 37.
12. Sapper Francis Galea, from Sliema, aged 25.
13. Sapper Saviour Lia, aged 31.
14. Sapper Joseph Psaila, from Hamrun, aged 29
15. Sapper Michael Stivala, from Naxxar, aged 42
16. Sapper Carmelo Tabone, from Birkirkara, aged 34



Malta Railway

The first proposal to build a railway in Malta was made in 1870 by J. S. Tucker. The main reason was to connect the capital Valletta with the former capital Mdina so the journey time between the two cities would be reduced from 3 hours to less than half an hour. A narrow-gauge railway system designed by John Barraclough Fell was initially proposed. In 1879, this was dropped in favour of a design by the engineering firm of Wells-Owen & Elwes, London. In 1880, the newspaper The Malta Standard reported that "in a short space of time, the inhabitants of these Islands may be able to boast of possessing a railway", and that the line was to be open by the end of 1881.

There were some problems with the acquisition of land to build the railway, so construction took longer than expected. The line was opened on 28 February 1883 at 3pm, when the first train left Valletta and arrived at Mdina after about 25 minutes.

Finances of the railway always proved critical. On 1 April 1890 the first proprietor, the Malta Railway Company Ltd., went bankrupt and the railway stopped running. As a result of this the government took over the railway, invested in its infrastructure and reopened traffic on 25 January 1892. From 1895 on an extension of the line was under work aiming for the barracks at Mtarfa behind the historic city of Mdina. This extension was opened for traffic in 1900.

In 1903 a company was founded which ran tramways on Malta from 1905 on, partly parallel to the railway line, and this competition had a negative effect on the railway's finances. The first buses were introduced in 1905 and became popular in the 1920s. This contributed to the decline of both the railway as well as the tramway. The tram company closed in 1929, while the railway line stopped operating on 31 March 1931.

During the siege of Malta in World War II, the railway tunnel running under the fortifications of Valletta was used as an air-raid-shelter. In 1940, Mussolini proclaimed that an Italian air raid destroyed the Maltese railway system, even though the railway had been closed for nine years.

Over the years, long stretches of the former railway line were surfaced with tarmac and converted into roads. Some of the railway buildings are still in existence.

The line connected Valletta and Mdina and a number of settlements in between. The first two stations, Valletta and Floriana, were underground. The Line extended over 11.1 km / 7 m, climbing 150 meters / 500 feet at a maximum of 25 Per mil. The line crossed roads by 18 level crossings of which 14 were staffed. The roads were chained off when a train was approaching. Originally the line was constructed with rails of 42 pounds per foot and replaced when the government took over the railway in 1890 by those of 60 pound per foot to allow heavier locomotives to run on the line.

During its lifetime the railway had only 10 locomotives. These were built by Manning Wardle & Co. Ltd., Leeds, Black, Hawthorn & Co Ltd., Gateshead, and Beyer, Peacock & Co. Ltd., Manchester. Most of them were 2-6-2 and 2-6-4 engines. They were painted in olive on black frames. None of them are preserved.

The carriages were wooden on iron frames. First and third class was provided. The seats were parallel to the line on both sides of an aisle. Originally illuminated by candles, this was changed to electricity, powered by batteries, in 1900. When the railway stopped running, 34 carriages were in use. One third-class carriage is preserved, was restored and placed beside the former station building of Birkirkara but, as of 2014, is now rather dilapidated. It is now being renovated and will be repositioned near the original location.

A train usually consisted of five carriages, while trains running over the maximal climb before Notabile had only four. After more powerful engines were used, trains up to 12 carriages became possible. During World War I, even longer trains were run using two locomotives. Travelling time inland (that is, uphill) was 35 minutes; downhill, in the direction of Valletta, 30 minutes.

THE MALTESE CENTER NEW YORK USA

The Maltese Center's "IL-MALTIN TAGHNA" interview with visual artist Aaron Bezzina whose work will be on view at the highly anticipated international group exhibition un/mute at the Austrian Cultural Forum New York and Undercurrent DUMBO. Aaron Bezzina is a Maltese based artist who was selected by Arts Council Malta to represent Malta in un/mute-10002 a 3-month online residency. The exhibition runs now to Jan 2022. Click the link below to watch.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqZYe7lcXro

FROM AFRICA - As you know I am in South Africa, having been born and educated in Malta. We do not enjoy the same Maltese relations that you have in Australia, or what we see elsewhere through your Journal. I am dropping you this note merely to state that under no circumstances are you intruding '. How could you even think that? I always look forward to your Journal as it brings many memories back to me. I use to visit Malta annually, but with the Pandemic starting two years back, my visits have been postponed. Unfortunately, South Africa is still red listed. Keep up the good work. Regards Ronald

FROM CANADA - Many thanks. Frank and God bless you always. Over here in Dawson City Yukon Canada, I do not have any Maltese confrere yet sometimes I share the Journal with others who know Malta and they get so interested in learning more about our History, Traditions and Customs. Fr. Manuel

FROM MALTA Thank you for keeping us informed about the activities organised by the Maltese associations in many parts of the world. We like to be connected with our brothers and sisters who live overseas. Joseph Caruana

WEAVING IN MALTA

the People of Malta Facebook

"I am known as the Weaver or else the one with the Loom. The actual word weaver (nissiega) has become obsolete. I am the fourth generation. From great-grandmother to grandmother, then to my mother and subsequently to me. Around fifty years ago it was a common word, similar to tailor. Back in my days everyone was connected to this trade. Till 70 years ago, every family included someone who was able to work a loom.

The loom is the sewing machine, and weaver is the precise word to use for a person who makes textiles. From a simple thread, material is created; from wool, a blanket. Cotton was used for polishing and guilding. Cotton seeds were also used to make oil or as animal fodder.

Here I forget the world. I need to work and make something everyday. This room is full of my work. My mother was the last teacher in Gozo. She used to teach weaving at the trade school. Like her I have continued to teach weaving even in Malta. I grew up with this work and can do it with my eyes closed. In the past this was a very prosperous, established industry. Maltese crafts were sought after by tourists. I try to teach children to give them enough knowledge so that this trade does not die out. Instead of giving children tablets, we should strive to provide them with the abilities to perform a trade or something interesting and educational to keep both their minds and their hands active so that they are unknowingly being given the best and most effective therapy.

The material of the traditional Maltese costume, that of Zepp and Grezz, was also woven, but even that is no longer used. Pity. The Maltese identity is being eroded. Tourists visiting the islands no longer find locally made souvenirs, that which is Maltese and linked to the Maltese." - Alda Bugeja

Winemaking in Malta

"Savour Maltese wines and you will realize how good they are. We have one for everyone's taste. It is unsusual for wine regions the size of our small island to have such a large selection of grape varieties or a vast selection of home-grown wine as we do.

My brothers, Michael and Mario, and I, we are the

fourth generation of Delicata. My great-grandfather had started the business humbly in 1907. He died young and my grandfather Emmanuel took over the business when he was just 18 years old. In those days winemakers used to go street vending wine from barrel with a donkey and cart.

Winemaking in Malta has come a long way in recent years. I feel I grew up in this work: so much so that it has become a natural part of whom I am. The wonderful scents in this fermentation hall take me back to my childhood. You feel the philosophy of a family-owned business here. You cherish it to take it forward and pass on to the next generation. My father, George, still comes here every day.

In winter the vines are dormant. Then they awaken between February and March, depending on the temperature and they are ready for picking in summer. The last grapes to ripen are the ones endemic to our island; they are called Girgentina and Gellewza. These are only found in Malta and Gozo.

But it's these two months now, August and September, that are really crucial because that's when our affiliated grape farmers bring in their grapes which I, the winemaker, process. The grape variety to arrive first is Chardonnay, which is usually ready to harvest in the first week of August. We always co-operate with the growers. In fact, we work hand in glove with them.

The letters DOK Malta or DOK Gozo written on a bottle refer to the origin of the used grapes. It means that the grapes are grown in either Malta or Gozo. It is a guarantee that the wine is a genuine Maltese product. Then there are certain parameters that are required to make it a good quality wine. When they arrive at the winery, the berries are separated from their stalks and crushed. Then the grape must is cooled down to between 12 and 15 degrees Celsius. For white wine-making, all we need is the translucent juice whilst for red wine-making we also need the red skins which are kept together with the juice in a tank to ferment. As a rule of thumb, one kilo of grape bunches is needed to make one bottle of 75cl of dry wine.

They rightfully say good wine is made in the vineyard. In 1994 Delicata had set up a scheme: "Vines for Wines", which is still going till this day, to help our farmers grow quality grapes that are up to our winery standards for quality wine. The biggest challenge is the supply of grapes. Competition from foreign markets follows closely. Notwithstanding all these challenges, we still strive to provide a wide selection of different wines that are on par with wines from the rest of the world. We believe we are successful at this judging by the amount of satisfied customers and the number of international awards that our wines win every year. The most recent is Delicata's Gran Cavalier Merlot that won a silver medal of 92 points at the Decanter World Wine Awards. These awards are endorsements by renowned wine critics and thus another guarantee of the quality of Delicata wines. When somebody buys a local wine made by Delicata they are buying a genuine Maltese product, and hence supporting the agricultural sector of our islands, our 80 employees, about 200 of local vignerons and their families, whilst also helping to keep Malta's scenery green." - Matthew Delicata, Delicata fourth generation family winemaker **The People Of Malta Facebook.**

Mary Muscat – Nurse in WW1

Mary Anne Muscat was born in Mdina, Malta, in 1887. 2nd child of four to Joseph Paul Anthony Muscat (1858-1908) and Teresa Schembri-Torregiani (1855-1922). Joseph's elder sister was Maria Concetta Muscat, who married Edward Tancred Agius in 1873 in Valletta and was mother of the 5 Agius brothers in WW1. Mary's grandfather was Carlo Maria Muscat (married to Giuseppe Cohen, a direct descendant of Giuseppe Cohen who foiled the plot to assassinate Grandmaster Pinto). Carlo was President of the Chamber of Commerce in Malta in 1889 and lived in the house on Strada Reale/Kingsway/Republic Street that is now the La Valette Restaurant and Club.

In WW1 Mary's brothers Joseph Louis Muscat and Charles Muscat both served in the British Army. At first Joseph was with the Kings Own Malta Regiment of Militia at Gallipoli and then with Kings Royal Rifle Corps and Munster Fusiliers. Charles served with the 7th South Staffordshire Battalion , first at Gallipoli and then the Battle of the Somme , when he was awarded his MC for actions during an offensive near Thiepval in July 1916. He later took part in the Battle of Passchendaele near to where his 1st cousin Richard Agius was killed on the morning of 26th October 1917.

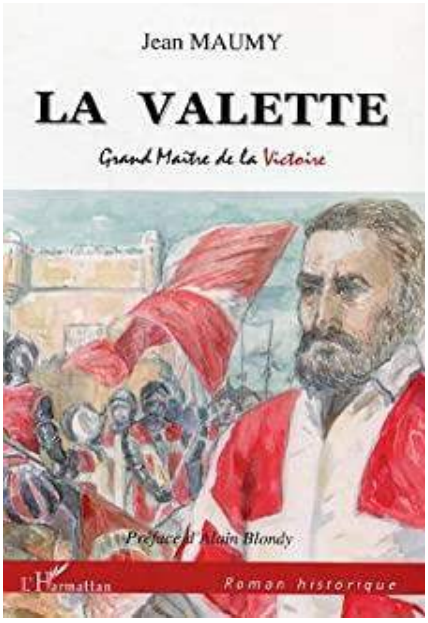
As all the wounded from Gallipoli arrived in Malta in 1915 there was a great expansion of the number of hospitals and a call for more nurses to which Mary responded. She nursed mainly at the established hospital at Cottonera and St Patrick's temporary tented hospital.

Mary made a major photo album of her time as a nurse in Malta in WW1 and thanks to Charles's son John and grand-daughter Anne we are able to publish the album here. The photos include many unique views around Malta and names of a number of soldiers, that

Mary nursed and worked with. St Patrick's Hospital was dismantled in April 1917 and Mary then returned to Cottonera Hospital,
Cottonera Hospital became St Edwards College in 1929 and Mary's friend and colleague Nurse Violet Briffa became a Matron in the school 1930-1965.

Between the wars Mary nursed in London and remained close to her cousins , the family of Edward Tancred Agius in Hampstead. She ran a boarding house in Sheffield Terrace, Holland Park, London, during WW2 , then moved, with her newly married brother Charles and wife Ellen, to her 2nd boarding house in Lexham Gardens, where her nephew, John, was born in 1946.
In 1946 , she returned to Malta leaving the boarding house in Lexham Gardens in the care of Charles and Ellen, but returned 2 years later to help Ellen bring up John and look after Charles, who had become unwell. She sold the lease on Lexham Gardens and opened a new boarding house in Stanford Road nearby , where she welcomed family and any Maltese friends visiting London. She stayed in London until 1957 (after Charles died in 1955) and then returned to Malta where she became a resident at the Regina Hotel, Sliema, always welcoming the many cousins who would visit from England. She was back near her brother Joseph and sister Lily as well as the Agius sisters who had married Maltese men and raised their families in Malta (Inez Cassar , Laura Mompalao De Piro, Mabel Arrigo & Marie Denaro). Mary died in Sliema 22 December 1976.

Such information will improved assessment of geo hazard risks in the central Mediterranean region, including Malta. The research team is made up of scientists from academic institutions in Germany, Italy, Turkey and the UK. The University of Malta is represented by Dr Aaron Micallef.



La Valette: Grand Maître de la Victoire (Roman historique) (French Edition)

Jean Parisot de La Valette raconte comment, à moins de 20 ans, en 1513, il refuse les guerres fratricides européennes et part vers l'Orient pour devenir un de ces rudes chevaliers traquant sans relâche en mer les ennemis de la chrétienté, sur les galères de l'Ordre des Hospitaliers de Saint-Jean-de-Jérusalem. Elu Grand Maître de l'Ordre après 40 ans de combats acharnés, il siège à l'île de Malte. Il va résister en 1565 au terrible assaut de Soliman le Magnifique et sortira vainqueur de la gigantesque bataille du Grand Siège de Malte. La capitale de la République de Malte porte aujourd'hui son nom.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

The History of Emigration is an integral part of the History of Malta
maltesejournal@gmail.com

HELP ME TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE THIS JOURNAL

25 & 26 Sept 2021 PASTIZZI MAKING DEMONSTRATION

Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci

The pastizzi making demonstration was big success this past weekend. This year we held the event over 2 days to keep the classes smaller and easier for everyone to see. We had a very good turn out and everyone really enjoyed themselves. It was great to see so many young people in attendance wanting to learn how to make pastizzi. Just another way we continue to preserve and teach our Maltese traditions here at the club

This year's Owner's Choice Award went to Chris Mizzi owner of the 1956 Studebaker Golden Hawk.
M.A.C.C. ANNUAL CAR SHOW - DEARBORN MALTESE CLUB - USA
Maltese American Community Club - 5th June 2021

Exhibition On Screen: Raphael Revealed

12 October 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Tuesday, 12th October, 2021, 7.30pm
Friday, 29th October, 2021, 6.30pm

Marking the 500th anniversary of Raphael's death, the greatest exhibition ever held of his works took place in Rome. Exhibition on Screen was granted exclusive access to this once-in-a-lifetime show.

With over two hundred masterpieces, including paintings and drawings – over a hundred of which have been brought together for the first time – this major exhibition celebrates the life and work of Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino.

With unprecedented loans from the Louvre, Uffizi, National Gallery of Art, the Prado Museum and more, the exhibition and this film provide an unprecedented opportunity to see the breadth of Raphael's skill, creativity and ingenuity.

Award-winning director Phil Grabsky provides a fresh look at this giant of the Renaissance, and shows why he is considered one of the all-time greats. The film covers his life in Rome, and includes unique footage of the ancient Rome that was such a powerful influence, including rare footage of Nero's Golden House that Raphael himself visited.

More than just a painter, Raphael was one of the most extraordinary artists of the Renaissance but is often misunderstood or mythologised. On the basis of this extraordinary exhibition in Rome, this film allows Raphael, for the first time, to be truly revealed.

Directed by Phil Grabsky

All patrons attending events at Spazju Kreattiv must present full vaccine certification at point of entry. Spazju Kreattiv St James Cavalier Castille Square Valletta VLT1060 Malta

Malta – Tunis Marseille

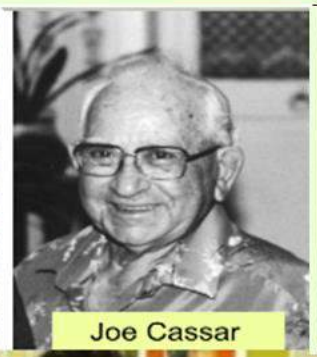
17 September 2021 - 31 October 2021

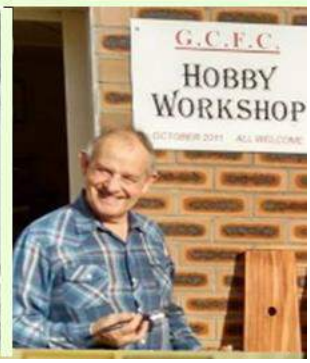
Katel Delia's Malta-Tunis-Marseille exhibition is based on a true story. It explores a Maltese family's complex journey of migration that started one century ago, in its search for a better life.

It is about looking for a space to inhabit that feels like home, and being pushed out again because of external issues. As it echoes the life-story of many migrants, the exhibition asks: Where can you find a shelter when your native country does not accept your return?

Malta-Tunis-Marseille cuts across the Mediterranean Sea and its restless roads of migration. It is an immersive exhibition, and is made of photographs, videos, sound installations and archival documents from the archives. Raphael Vella is its curator.

Artist Katel Delia **Curator** Prof. Raphael Vella





Preserving the Local History – Maltese Community

Workshop for the Maltese Community – Cringila NSW

The Migration Heritage Project held this workshop for the Maltese Community on 15 June 2004 at the George Cross Falcons Club in Cringila. The Maltese community, as it is now, is an ageing population and there is the very real potential that all historical information about the community will be lost unless some measures are taken to ensure that it is recorded and preserved. The new generation is blending with the Australian culture and unfortunately are not aware of their role in ensuring that their parents or grandparents stories and objects are kept. Some are genuinely not really interested. Lorraine Vargas' idea is to get the information and to preserve it. This information can then be accessed by schools, or even the wider community of Wollongong. As with most migrant history settlement in Wollongong, little is held, known or acknowledged by way of records, objects or museums. The George Cross Falcons Club documents are mainly 'club documents' but they also contain information about the Maltese community settlement in Wollongong; for example from the parish priest about the period before the club was built. Answers to questions like what was the migration pattern for the Maltese people can be found in such documents and therefore we now know that like most European migrants the people came before World War I and after World War II. But do you have any idea about who the first families were? How would the history of the Maltese Club help the Maltese community find out about their community? The Maltese Club is the only Maltese place in the Illawarra as a 'centre' for the Maltese. Also the Warrawong church (St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church) is an important focal and historical point for the Maltese community in Wollongong. The Warrawong hall was used as a church during the day and at night for dancing (social functions). The priest was very important. The Maltese built the church and then the club in 1951. St Francis of Assisi is the Maltese church.

Maltese migrants had immigrated to the South Coast of NSW well before World War 2. Many had also migrated to the cane fields of Queensland and northern NSW in the early 1950s and before that there were some Maltese living in Port Kembla and predominately in the Cringila area. In 1951, the Maltese in Wollongong got together and decided to establish a club to help the newer migrants. Many of the newer migrants could not speak English, so the Maltese migrants from Wollongong who could speak English would to go to Sydney Harbour to welcome the new arrivals and bring them to Port Kembla and find them accommodation and employment. Employment was usually found for them at the steelworks. This service was provided to all

Maltese newcomers. Mr Lorry Pave, John Mallia, Joe Cassar, Joe Magro and others decided it was now time to start a proper club so they organised a committee meeting which was held in a tin shed across from the club or otherwise they would meet in each others houses respectively. A fee of 10 cents per week was given by each member which went towards funding for the Club.

In 1953 two block lots were bought for 200 pounds each. In 1955 two basement rooms were built all by volunteers. These two rooms were used as a place where the Maltese Community could meet to play cards and in no time at all the club had a soccer team and joined the business houses competition. A few years later members were asked to donate to the club the sum of 50 pounds for material so that the club can build an upstairs section. Once again, all the work was done by volunteer labour. This work was started in the 1960s and it finished in a few years. This is where the club is today. The club has a billiard table, table tennis, chess boards for everyone to use and it also has a bocci pit. Every Sunday the club has bingo. The George Cross Falcons Club has hosted many Maltese and local dignitaries over the years including a visit in 1992 by Harry Cordina the President of Malta at the time. The years following has seen the exterior of the Club bricked and extensions to the kitchen.The club has experienced some decline in patronage to the point where it was almost ready to close its doors. But, today we are happy to say that we have now got a Welfare Officer available to all the Maltese in the community and the club facilities are still here for everyone to use and everyone is most welcomed to use the club facilities.

This workshop held at the George Cross Falcons Club on Tuesday 15 June 2004 and allowed the Community Worker, Lorraine Vargas, to talk about why the collecting and documenting of records is important and her role in collating all this information. The Chairperson of the Migration Heritage Project, Franca Facci, spoke about the Migration Heritage Project and its overview of collection processes. George Bajjada, President of the George Cross Falcons Club spoke about what support can be expected from the Club and the Maltese Community of Wollongong.

The Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW provided funds for an exhibition of the heritage of a migrant community in the Illawarra and some preliminary work on the heritage of another community. The MHP approached the Maltese community to see if they were interested in being the community highlighted with this funding and they took up the offer very enthusiastically. The exhibition was held 2-16 September 2006 in the foyer of the Wollongong City Council Building in Burelli Street, Wollongong.

Art project inaugurated in public space in Żejtun

Photo: DOI | Omar Camilleri

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg inaugurated an artistic installation project in Żejtun.

The 'Olive Twist' project is the work of Danish artist and architect Rune Bo Jakobsen, and is one of six projects selected following a public competition called 'Art in Public Spaces'.

Borg said that this initiative, in addition to incentivising the creativity of local artists, also offers the opportunity to beautify public spaces in our villages and towns with these artistic installations."It is very gratifying for us to continue investing in these types of projects through which we are even renewing and recalling different traditions around our country that continue to give more life to our localities, which after all are the core of the history of our country ", he said. The 'Olive Twist' project was developed as a community project in Żejtun, in coordination with the local council, Wirt iż-Żejtun and the Malta Unesco Youth Association (MUYA). The main idea of the artist is to express the connection that Żejtun has with the tradition of pressing olive oil. The shape of the sculpture is inspired by the organic shapes of the olive trees that have a strong connection with the culture and history of this village.

Sent to us by Patrick Sammut (Mosta)

ĦAJKU
Diċ-Ċittadella
bil-lejl taraha mdawla:
ġawhra mill-isbaħ.

Hawn fil-quċċata
inħares b'attenzjoni:
pajsaġġ pittura.

Sqaqien imdawla
bibien, turġien u twieqi
ulied l-imgħoddi.

L-eku tal-passi
fuq sfond is-skiet tal-lejla
fl-erwieħ ifakkar.

Hawn nistħajjilni
dħalt f'dimensjoni oħra
fejn id-dwiem jaħkem.

Lura fis-sekli
tqabdu missirijietna,
ulied is-saħħa.

Ġebla Maltija
maħduma b'tant
imħabba
kull fejn l-għajn timraħ.

Hawn biss il-kelma
tingħad minn taħt l-ilsien
u r-ruħ titpaxxa.

Kull rokna tlissen
b'ilsien mill-eqdem nett
storja bikrija.

IF YOUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS JOURNAL, LET THEM ABOUT IT AND SHARE

PAST EVENTS

Maltese-Aborigines community Charles of Valletta set up in Adelaide - Australia

Timesofmalta.com

Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi being presented with an Aboriginal boomerang by Mr Agius. Photos: Austin Tufigno.

That the Maltese get everywhere is a well-worn adage. That one of them manages to single-handedly create a community of about 700 Maltese-Aborigines, however, is the kind of novelty that only rears its head when a Prime Minister is in town.

In August 2007 at the Victorian town hall in Adelaide Council premises, the second stop of Lawrence Gonzi's two-week tour of Australia, siblings Josie and Bob Agius made a point of welcoming the Prime Minister in their three native tongues and presenting him with an Aboriginal boomerang.

The man behind all this, Charles, a Maltese migrant thought to be from Valletta, has long passed away. And so has his Aboriginal wife, Laura. But his Maltese spirit is very much alive and kicking in their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, as well as all the rest.

Bob and Josie's dearest wish now is to visit Malta for the first time, so they can find out where their father lived and where he is buried.

Seventy-two-year-old Bob told The Times: "I would love to walk on the ground where he was born and go to where he was buried. I am half Aborigine and half Maltese. Oh my word, no one could make me say otherwise. No one can change that."

The problem is that neither Bob nor any member of the Aborigine Agius family know where to look, since Charles parted with their mother and returned to Malta. "I think he was well into his 80s when he died, but we don't know the details and would love to find out."

Charles had originally married a Maltese woman in Malta, but emigrated to Australia in around 1930 before marrying Laura in March 1939. They had four sons, followed by three daughters, and he worked in the workshops on the Islington railway before leaving the family.

"I never met many Maltese because I spent much more time with my mother's people. And it was hard for us because of the way the law was back then which separated black Aborigines from whites; the Australians looked down on us and didn't even allow us to speak our language."

However, he was in the company of a few hundred Maltese in the town hall yesterday, and they were all captivated by the development and proliferation of the Agius family. The boomerang he handed to Dr Gonzi was made by a group of Aborigines Bob is affiliated with. "That is a gift from the Aboriginal people of Australia, not from the Australians. My father was a strong man so that Maltese must be strong people," he said.

Whether he realises his dream and makes it to Malta remains to be seen, but he got a bit closer yesterday. And his eyes welled-up with joy when his nephew brought him a picture of him presenting the boomerang already signed by the Prime Minister.

The 'Agius' surname

THE 'AGIUS' SURNAME IN THE PAST.

There were reportedly a dozen 'Agius' listed in the rolls of the militia in the island of Malta at the beginning of the 15th century, approximately doubling towards the end of that century (Wettinger G 1968). In the late sixteenth century, one of the 'Giurati' of the 'Universita' (civilian represenatives in the then capital Citta Notabile or Mdina) was called Michele Agius (Giovanni Antonio Vassallo. Storia di Malta. 1890. p516).

There are references to clerics bearing the surname Agius in Malta in the 17th and 18th centuries. The oldest known substantive written account published by a person bearing the surname 'Agius' were from the linguist and historian Canon Gian P.F. Agius de Soldanis.

Probably his most famous work was that published by him in Rome in 1750. A copy of the frontispiece

of this book is shown alongside. In it Agius describes the grammar of the Maltese language and presents his hypothesis as to the origins of the language from the Punic language of the Etruscans. (Incidentally the hypothesis was incorrect - but at least he raised interest in the subject!)

The surname 'Agius' appears frequently at the time of the French Occupation of Malta (1798 -1800). Thus one of the four physicians dealing with public health in the capital city Valletta and in the 'Three Cities' was Giovanni Agius. Amongst the soldiers fighting against the French occupation were Major Fredric Agius (who had been adjutant of the Valletta militia), Captain Guzeppi Agius, and Sergeant Felic Agius. The liberated portions of the Maltese islands elected representatives to a 'National Congress' - the chairman of the assembly was Judge Dr Luigi Agius, while one of the secretaries was Giovanni Battista Agius. (C.J.Boffa 1998). Earlier still, in Wettinger's account of the Militia List of 1419-1420, the surname may have been listed as Haiuz.

An eminent cleric by the name of Agius was the prelate Archbishop Ambrosio Agius, titular archbishop of Palmira who was assigned papal legate to the Philippines in 1901, by Pope Leo XIII. He had been a member of the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino.

The crest of the 'Agius' surname.

The image shows the Agius crest and consisting of a crowned griffin (griffon, gryphon), standing on its hind legs holding a sword, climbing on a triple mound, and with a star. In heraldic terms, the blazon of arms has been described as:

'Azure; upon a mountain of three, argent, a griffon salient or, crowned of the same and holding in pale a sword of the second with crosspiece and grip of the third and in chief dexter a mullet of six points or'..

'AGIUS'. - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Most people bearing the surname 'Agius' were born in Malta or are descendants of migrants from Malta mainly in the 20th century. There is evidence of a limited degree of migration around the Mediterranean basin in the past but most recent migration took place after the second World War to Australia, Canada and North America. In the Malta telephone directory, about 1.3% of the entries relate to the surname 'Agius'.

It is difficult to tell how many people bear the surname of 'Agius' worldwide- perhaps to the order of about ten thousand. there is even a group on Facebook

in Malta. So if your surname is Agius it is unlikely that you will easily find a common ancestry with another 'Agius' who you may have come across at random.

If you did wish to search for your ancestors, start by getting Public Registry civil status certificates, including Birth, Marriage and Death through certificates online. Get the 'complete' certificates. Unfortunately at present this service will only provide birth certificates as far back as 1863. To go further back you would need to try other means such as the church registers of the parish(es) where your ancestors were born or present yourself in person at the Public Registry office in Valletta.

If you do not have the time and the knowledge that is needed, you might need to search for and engage the services of a genealogist on the internet.

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

For almost 40 years, Antoinette and Charlie Buttigieg have been keeping Little Malta's history alive through the humble pastizz

By Karon Liu

The Malta Bake Shop is a small but mighty presence in the Little Malta neighbourhood along the Dundas Street West strip of the Junction. It's one of the few remaining Maltese-owned bake shops in the GTA still making pastizzi: a savoury snack of accordionlike, paper-thin pastry, traditionally stuffed with ricotta or some combination of cheese and spinach, onions and potatoes, or even apples, as a customer once custom-ordered.

The building itself is a century-old relic and a reflection of the neighbourhood's Maltese roots. Next to the bakery is the St. Paul the Apostle Church, founded in 1930 by the Maltese-Canadian community, and, pre-pandemic anyway, the shop acted as a gathering place for churchgoers.

"People are still scared, especially here since it's more for older people who come after church," says Antoinette.

The tables may be empty now, but if the busy kitchen is any indication, the new generation of Torontonians and nonlocals still have a hankering for Maltese cooking, even if it's not the place to vent for now.

"We had a priest telling us we hear the confessions and problems of people before they did, because before going to church they come to us for a coffee," says Antoinette Buttigieg, who, along with her husband Charlie, has been running the bakery since 1983. "For us, our customers are like the family that we left back home and never had."

The shop has been running in some capacity since 1919, she says, when the original owners Grezju and Cisina Borg bought the property and added an extension to the front of their house to open a store selling groceries and baked goods to the growing Maltese community.

At one point, the Toronto area had the highest population of Maltese residents outside of Malta, especially after a wave of immigration following the Second World War and Malta ceased being a British colony in 1964.

Charlie immigrated to Toronto in the early 70s and got a job at a meat packing plant before returning to Gozo on holiday four years later. While visiting the priest in his village, he was asked to open the gates for Antoinette, who had wanted to light a candle for her late grandmother. He struggled with the locks and she helped. That was in November and they got married three months later. The two moved back to Toronto and took over the bake shop.

The area grew to what's now known as Little Malta along Dundas Street West from Gilmore to Quebec Avenues in Toronto's Junction neighbourhood. As more Maltese-run businesses and clubs moved in, area residents originally from Malta began to form a sense of community. Antoinette also recalls joining other businesses such as the now-closed Vesuvio pizzeria, to campaign and knock on doors to overturn a century-old prohibition law that banned the sale of alcohol in the west end of the Junction (the Junction's east side was the last dry zone in Toronto, having turned "wet" at the end of 2000).

"This neighbourhood is like Malta itself," says Antoinette. "It's small but it has a lot of history."

Located in the Mediterranean Sea, just off the southernmost tip of Italy and east of Tunisia on the North African coast, Malta is an archipelago and the 10th smallest country in the world. Its largest island, measures 246 square kilometres (to compare, Mississauga measures 292 square kilometres).

Despite its small size, Malta is densely populated with more than 500,000 residents. ts cuisine was shaped by centuries of occupation from the likes of the Greek, Roman, British, Arab and French empires as well as proximity to Italy and the North African coast.

Antoinette compares the bakery's most famous offering, the pastizz, to the flaky and layered sfogliatella pastry originating from southwestern Italy. The golden dough shatters into little shards with each bite, a cripsy contrast to the creamy ricotta filling.

But my favourite is the qagħaq ta' l-għasel, or honey ring, a wreath-shaped sweet bread filled with treacle (there's the British influence) spiced with anise and orange peel. It's typically a Christmastime treat but is available year-round here. Almonds are also a common baking ingredient. A bag of biskuttini tal-lewz, fluffy and moist almond biscuits, are the ideal accompaniment to an afternoon coffee break. Ask for the gbejniet, a crumbly, mild and firm dried cheese Antoinette pickles in vinegar and flavours with black pepper. Wash everything down with a can of Kinnie, a bittersweet citrus pop from Malta.

There are other heartier items that aren't on the menu but can be made to order. Rabbit stew is considered the national dish of Malta. There's also timpana, a baked pasta sturdy enough to serve as a free-standing slab (in nearby Sicily, there's a similar pasta dish called the timpano). Ftira, a Maltese bread, is topped with sliced potatoes, olives and tomatoes (think of it as a pizza, says Charlie).

These are the culinary staples that keep generations of people coming back. But with the couple now in their 60s, the question of retirement is never far from mind. In 2018, the Post reported that the Buttigiegs rejected a million-dollar offer from a developer that wanted to turn their building into townhouses.

"At the time we weren't sure what to do but when I closed (the shop) at night, I started crying. I love it here. It's like my baby. It's a part of our family. We have so many people, not just Maltese people, all nationalities saying, 'Please don't sell, please don't sell," she says, adding that their four children (who spent their childhoods helping out at the bakery) and grandkids also want to see the shop continue.

"There are developers pushing us to sell again but we're not ready to sell. We're not young but we've been here for almost 40 years. It's not an easy job, it's a mama and pappa shop that doesn't make a lot of money but when you see the customers, they are part of our family. Their support, it keep us going, and when it was normal times, they used to tell us they feel (like) they are in their living room (here). We miss so much, that time."

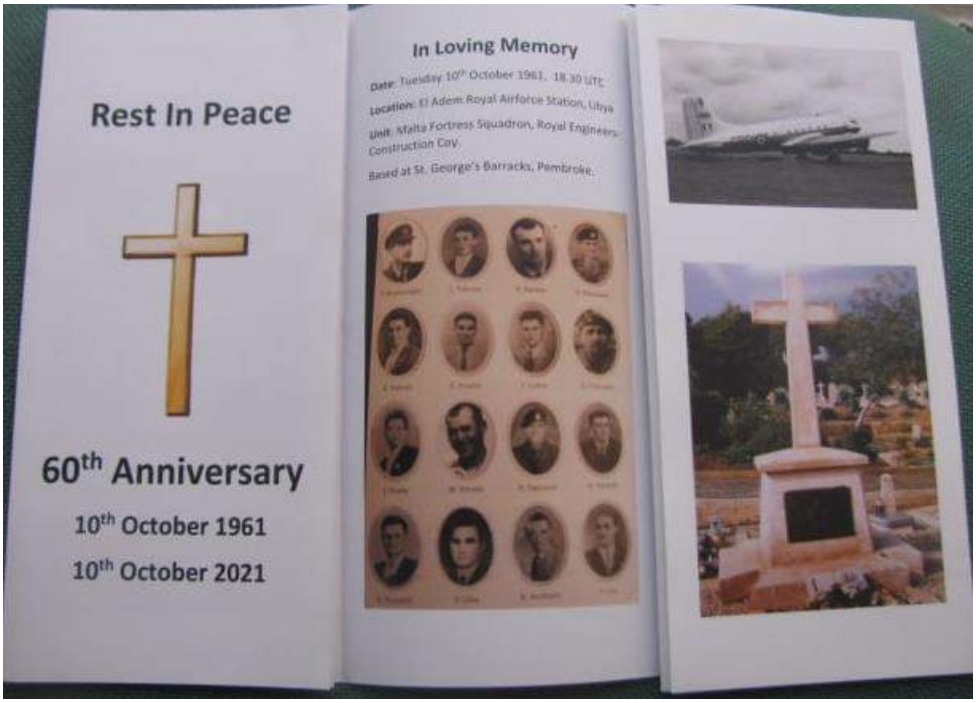
Even though the cafe's dining room has been quiet throughout the pandemic, the couple says they've managed to stay afloat thanks to the frozen pastizzi they started selling years ago. The savoury pastries made in the downstairs kitchen are shipped throughout southern Ontario to certain bakeries and No Frills locations in cities like Whitby, Mississauga, London, Hamilton, Brampton, Oshawa and Orangeville.

At the end of our chat, Charlie goes back to the kitchen to fold pastizzi alongside a fellow Maltese cook, who is preparing the frozen orders. A woman walks in to buy a box of them, and without prompting, Antoinette tells the woman she remembers when her mom would come into the bakery. The customer, just before leaving, tells Antoinette she wouldn't know what she'd do if the bakery wasn't around.

Antoinette's smile can be seen through her face mask as she turns to me and says, "This is what keeps me going."

Corps of Royal Engineers – Malta Fortress Squadron

Every year we remember our friends and brothers in Arms. Thankfully their memory is being kept alive by my very good friend Joseph Farrugia on his Facebook page. Joseph organizes a Mass and other functions in memory of our brothers who died before, during and after the air crash. It has been two years since he could do some of the things because of the Virus. This year is the 60th Anniversary since that horrible day. May they all RIP. Many thanks go to Joseph Farrugia for the photos and all the good work that he is doing to keep their memory alive.



Henry Berry Pakenham Victoria

The Malta Fortress Squadron was a locally recruited Royal Engineers unit based on Malta and on the British Army colonial list prior to Malta's independence. Its history is intimately tied to the succession of engineer and sapper units that were formed and reformed to support the extensive fortifications on the island of Malta. However a distinct Maltese Sapper force is raised in 1892 and remains until 1970.

Initially on the British Establishment, in 1951 it was transferred to the Malta Territorial Force before becoming part of the Malta Land Force on Malta's independence in 1964. The regiment was disbanded in 1970 with its personnel and equipment being handed over to the Maltese Government.

Inset and 1st left Lt George Carroll
UXB Malta, S. A. M. Hudson, ISBN 9780752456355

Malta WWII Hero - Lieutenant George Carroll

George Carroll was known in Malta as Tal-bomba "The Bomb Man". He arrived aged 23 in April 1941 to take charge of bomb disposal for the entire blitzed archipelago. Lt Carroll is believed to have been responsible for tackling more unexploded bombs than any other Royal Engineers bomb disposal officer in World War II, across all theatres of war. "I climbed up to where the bomb was and lay down beside it. Then I took my rake and was scraping away gently to find the fuze. Then suddenly the bomb fell, right in front of my eyes… I died. I was expecting it to explode - and it didn't." Lt George Carroll. A second bomb disposal officer and section were added in January 1942. Between them, the two officers dealt with 600 unexploded bomb reports and with their squad neutralized 500 devices in fewer than four months. Among them was the 500lb bomb that penetrated the Mosta 'Dome' Rotunda on April 9, 1942. Over 7000 unexploded bombs were dealt with by the RE Bomb Disposal Sections in two years. Remarkably, he was the only bomb disposal officer from the Army, Navy and Air Force active during the siege of Malta not to be decorated.

Is-Sur Tonna u martu flimkien ma' wliedhom, Charles, Emily, Dorothy, Rose Marie, Twanny u t-tarbija Martin. Rose Marie u Twanny sfaw maqtulin flimkien ma' ommhom. Dorothy kienet it-tifla kuraġġuża li salvat lil huha Martin waqt li missierhom kien qed iżomm travu li kien qed jiġġarraf.

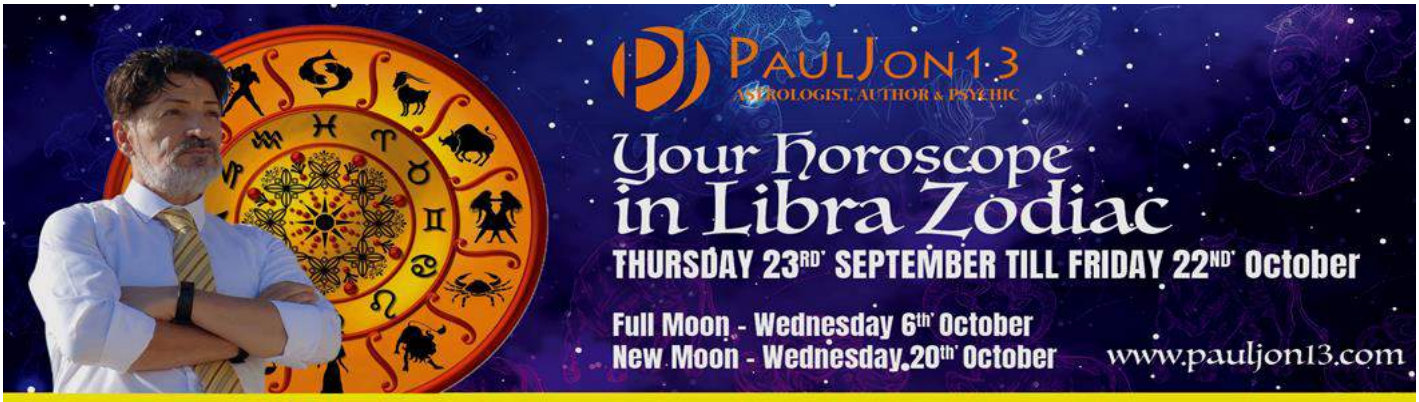
1957 Storm left multiple victims

Spiridione Zahra, a nine year old boy lost his life when he slipped and was dragged by the flood at the Marsa Sports Ground. the water level in this area was over 30 inches. In Valletta, at 3.45 am, two apartments in St Sebastian Street (near Auberge de Baviere) sustained major damage when the upper roof collapsed.

Alice Talkington, 53, lived in the upper floor and after a power outage she tried to light a petroleum lamp. It was said that Emmanuele Tonna, who lived beneath, tried to warn the woman that they were in great danger as he heard the roof tremble and all of a sudden it collapsed.

At the time, Mr Tonna was in the kitchen of the second-floor apartment. His wife, Mary, together with two of her children, Rose and Twanny, were in the bedroom, which gave way under the weight of the floor above. Ms Talkington and three members of the Tonna family – Mary, Rose and Twanny – lost their lives.

Luckily, Dorothy Tonna grabbed her baby brother, Martin, and ran into another room. Charlie Tonna and his sister Emily were sleeping in another room when the roofs collapsed. Two members of the Talkington family also escaped unhurt. According to 'Il - Berqa' (Maltese newspaper) the Tonna family had escaped a similar fate 8 years before when their house was hit by lightning. They lived in 'Triq San Mikiel' in Valletta at that time.



AQUARIUS from 20th January till 18th February
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Aquarius: There's a strong focus on your home and family life, as well paying extra attention to your work. You want to take advantage of increased self motivation to get things done, there can be simmering tension as your personal goals can sometimes clash quite dramatically with your attention to your domestic world. Ambition increases in comfortable ways, you need to put ideas into motion or take action on important matters to overcome obstacles. Namaste

PISCES from 19th January till 20th March
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Pisces: You are ready and willing to perform, more ambitious than usual, as friends may recognize you as a pioneer, or you're connecting with your initiative and pioneering qualities. You can be drawn to details and excited about finding solutions to problems.Personally, transits tend to pull you up and out of yourself, and you can be more willing to take on a challenge in your self-belief. Namaste

ARIES from 21st March till 19th April
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Aries : It's a great time to use common sense in these areas and improve your daily routines, it's time for launching new self- care programs and work project events and tend to point you in the direction of taking better care of yourself. You might come to realize that you're holding onto behaviours that no longer serve you, it's a good time to motivate you to improve your daily affairs. Namaste

TAURUS from 20th April till 20th May
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Taurus: Your communications sector is very active, and there can be times when you're busy to distractions. It's a great time to gather your facts, although there will be times when you could feel a little harried. Alternatives lead you to rethink old problems and concerns, particularly regarding close relationships with loved ones. This is a time when you find it easier than usual to step outside of your comfort zone, and as you do, you boost your confidence. Namaste

GEMINI from 21st May till 20th June
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Gemini: There is a strong focus on your creative, developments or interruptions to lead you to new thinking of directions with your work or routines. This is a time when your psychic radar is working overtime, and you can have an epiphany about your true feelings on a matter or instincts about a project aim to combat a desire in the present, and communicative that can interfere with very real needs for rest and reflection. Namaste

CANCER from 21st June till 22nd July
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Cancer: You might work from or on the home with more enthusiasm, or you're bringing in new ways to enjoy entertainment on the home front and finding creative ways to interact with the people closest to you. It's a fortunate time for friendships, communications, work, health, and group connections. Your ideas, advice, or guidance might stand out as particularly unique and perhaps in demand. Namaste

LEO from 23rd July till 22nd August
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Leo: It's a time for collecting your thoughts, digesting recent experiences, and reorienting yourself. You could be dealing with things behind the scenes, and events can get closure on various matters. You could feel the reason to defend yourself, your values, and the respect you deserve. This is an important time for you to look back and review, process, and digest recent events and take action on improving your attention to healing and rest. Namaste

VIRGO from 23rd August till 22nd September
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Virgo: You can expect more invites or communications from people in your networks. Long term plans look exciting now. Still challenges may very well motivate you to become more self-reliant, which can be something you need at this time in your life as it would help if you had more time to yourself to stay connected with people you care about, you also need to set some boundaries, time for looking within for past and important clues. Namaste

LIBRA from 23rd September till 22nd October
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Libra: As the zodiac progresses, you become increasingly interested in fulfilling happiness goals and less focused on performance your deeper relationships, look for opportunities to express yourself from behind the scenes. This is a time for pivotal discoveries of your feelings for someone or particular projects in your life. Namaste

SCORPIO from 23rd October till 21st November
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Scorpio: Transits encourage you to bring more of the world into your personal life. You could be enjoying new interests or thinking about your plans in a big picture way. reinforced. You are more likely to make happy connections through activities that take you outside of the routine or onto unfamiliar ground. There may become form of recognition for your accomplishments and incentives, benefits that can figure strongly.Namaste

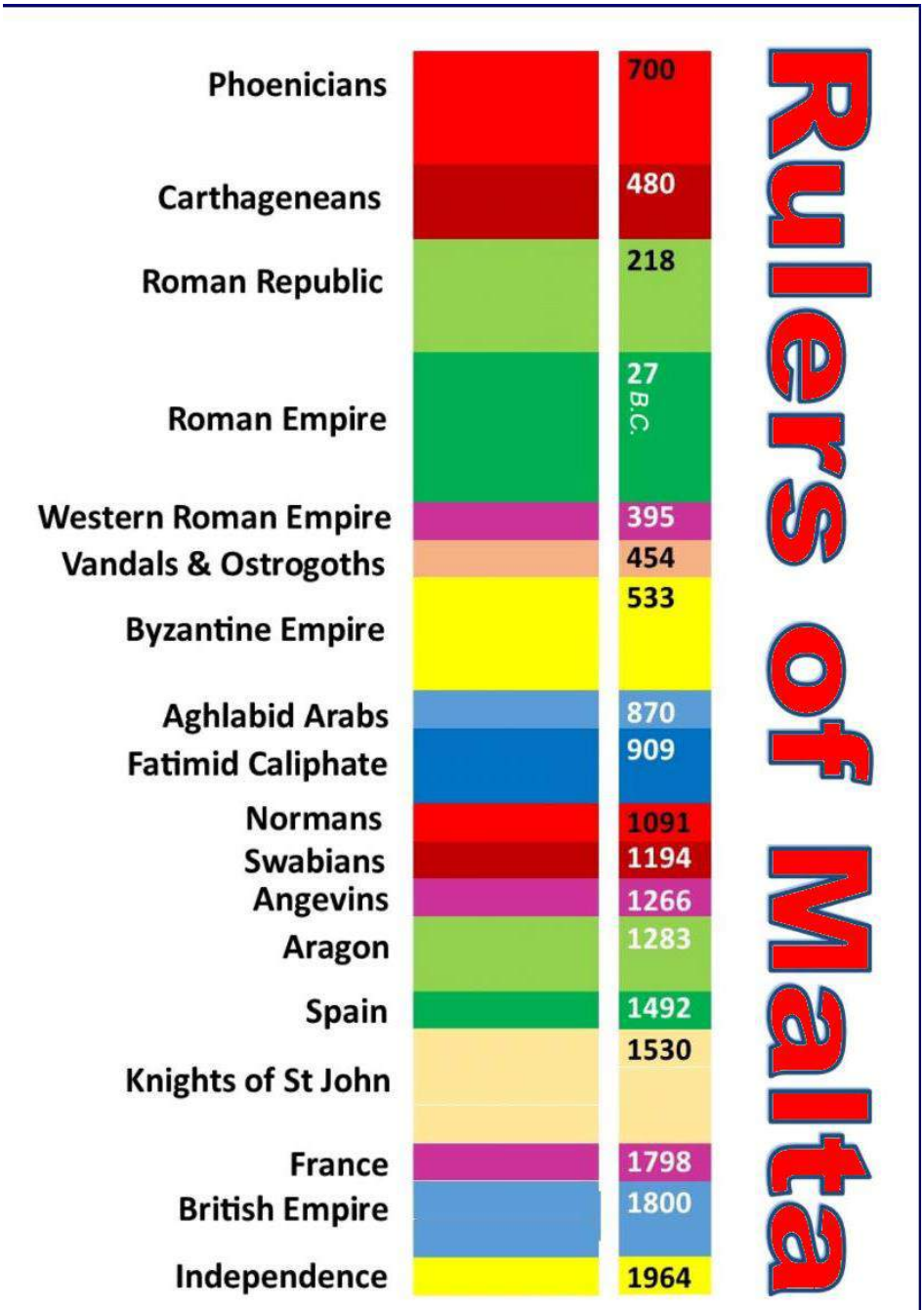
SAGITTARIUS from 22nd'Nov till 21st' Dec
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Sagittarius : Good energy is with you for bringing more excitement, pride, and fun to your interactions. You tend to put forward a solid effort when it comes to relating in positive, rewarding ways, you assert yourself in becoming, healthy ways, and others tend to admire your increasing confidence and verve. It's a great period for getting things done and clearing the path for new beginnings. Namaste

CAPRICORN from 22nd' Dec till 19th' Jan
Guidance for the zodiac sign for Capricorn: You are magnetic when it comes to sharing ideas, reaching out, and communicating. Your ideas are original and progressive, and they excite and motivate you. Managing your expectations is important, and you might need to go over a small hump, due to plans that fail to materialize, but take a cue to fill your life more fully and seek out a better balance. Namaste

HISTORY OF MALTA

The Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo have been ruled by foreigners including Phoenician, Byzantine and Roman aristocrats, before passing to various European monarchies. Foreign monarchical rule over Malta lasted a total of 874 years. The Crown of Malta was "patriated" for the first time in 1964, with the achievement of Independence.

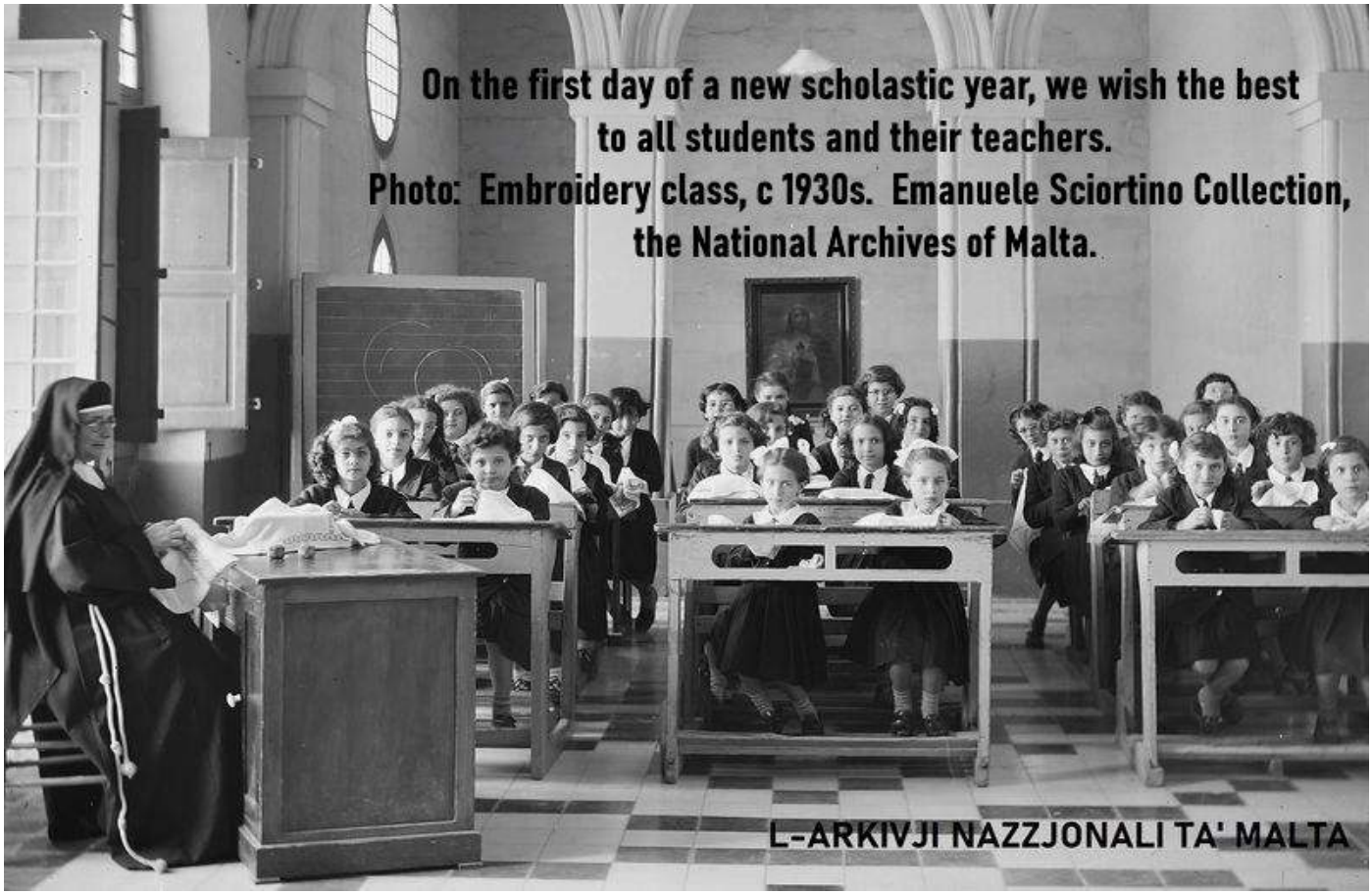
The history, languages and culture of Malta and Sicily share many key events, including occupation by the Fatimids and an invasion by Roger I of Sicily in 1091. The islands parted ways in a decisive and permanent manner in 1799, when Malta became a British Crown colony. British rule over Malta lasted 165 years and for a further 10 years, Malta retained the British monarch as its own independent head of state. Malta adopted a Republican constitution in 1974 and joined the European Union on 1 May 2004.



Kingdom of Sicily and County of Malta[edit]

From the years 1090 and 1530, the Maltese Islands were a non-autonomous part of the Kingdom of Sicily and thus had the same sovereign. At this time the Nobility of Malta resided in or around Mdina. A strong cultural (and, to a lesser extent, political) connection to Sicily survived from 1530 to 1798 throughout the 268-year rule over Malta by the Knights Hospitaller.

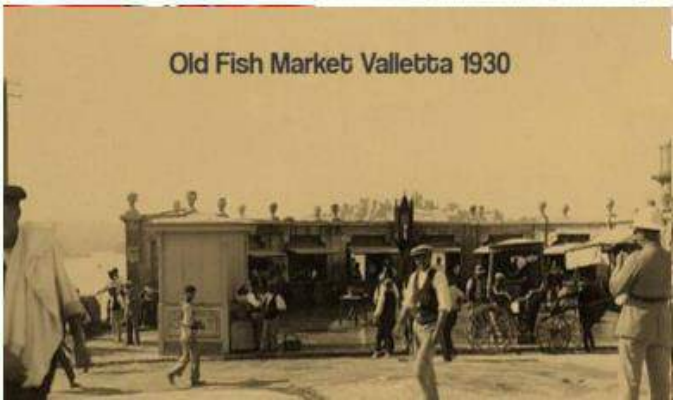
In terms of the regional divisions of the islands, Malta Island was part the *Valle di Mazzara* province, Gozo was part of the *Valle di Demona* province and Comino was part of the *Valle di Noto* province.


On the first day of a new scholastic year, we wish the best
to all students and their teachers.
Photo: Embroidery class, c 1930s. Emanuele Sciortino Collection,
the National Archives of Malta.
L-ARKIVJI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA

Hamrun Train Station circa 1900

Villa Sans Souci
Marsaxlokk

Sa Maison 1920


Old Fish Market Valletta 1930