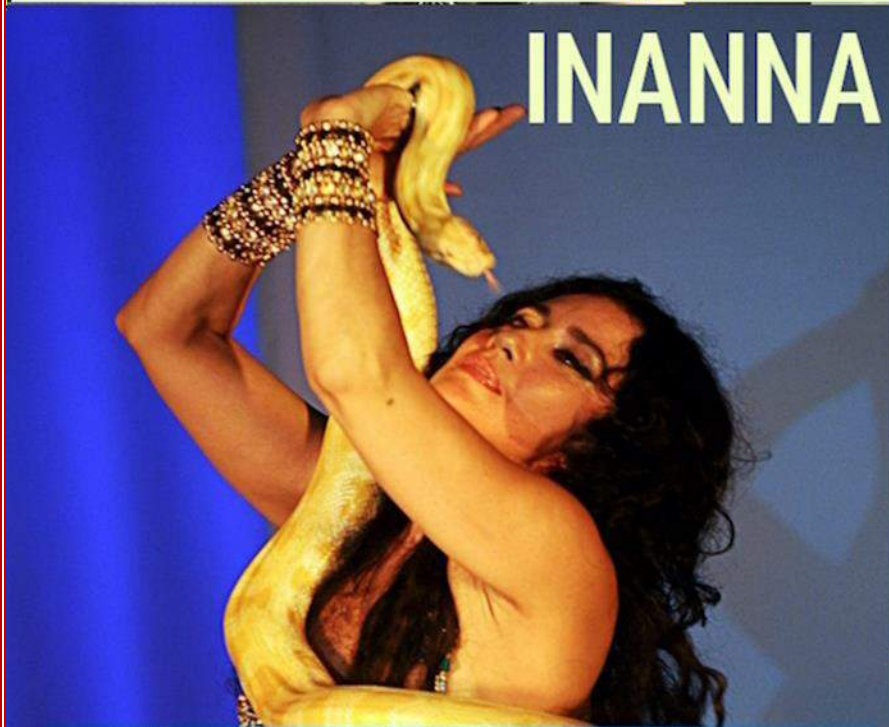




JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



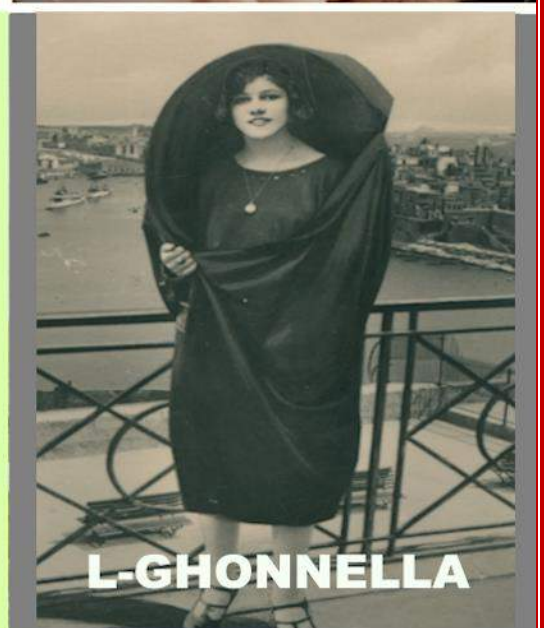
Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com



INANNA



**LINDA
PEEK**



L-GHONNELLA

**The Rising Goddess
of Malta**

LUMINARIA

Friday, 28 June 2024

Teatru Manoel, Valletta at 8pm

Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

*The History of Maltese Emigration has the power
to Educate, Reflect, Inspire and Unite us*





President asks if the Maltese are ready to work jobs for which Malta has turned to foreigners for help

June 20, 2024

The fourth edition of the State of the Nation conference included four panels with 20 speakers from different sectors who discussed various aspects of this year's theme on Malta's current economic model, and whether there are alternatives to it.

The conference closed with speeches from the country's highest authorities, including the President of Malta Myriam Spiteri Debono.

The President of Malta Myriam Spiteri Debono said that the survey of the fourth edition of the state of the nation, is an eye opener and provides several answers, but it also gives rise to more questions.

Regarding multiculturalism, she asked whether the Maltese people are ready to do the work that the country is currently relying on foreigners' help to be carried out.

At the end of the State of the Nation conference, President Spiteri Debono said that in the country there is a certain affluence that came from the openness in education for the people and for the children of the lower classes provided by various Governments. She added that there was also the contribution of the unions and certain salaries increased, with the result that our children are not looking at sectors that do not give them a certain standard of living.

"If the economy has provided work, and if it provided a type of work that our children nowadays feel that it is below them, because that is the truth, but they then expect the work to keep going. So who will do the work?"

GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

WHILE WE SALUTE AND THANK THE PAST AND PRESENT PIONEERS OF THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD WE URGE THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF THEIR FOREBEARERS - MALTA

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora





Foreign health workers who learnt to speak Maltese

tvmnews.mt/en/news/watch-foreign-health-workers-who-learnt-to-speak-maltese/

A lecturer who teaches the Maltese language to professionals in the health sector believes that once students start communicating, they will feel more confident and will integrate much quicker.

TVMnews spoke to some of those who along the years followed courses offered by the Department of Maltese at the University of Malta and obtained a certificate. In the last 9 years, around 2,000 foreigners who work in the health sector, including doctors, nurses, and carers followed courses by the Department of Maltese and obtained a certification in the Maltese language. The courses are offered to students from around the world who work in the medical sector. In fact the course is specifically designed for professionals and workers in the medical sector.

Jien mill-Greċja, ilni Malta sena u nofs, naħdem fi sptar f'Għawdex, people are very friendly and helpful speċjalment meta nitkellem bil-Malti.

I'm from Greece, I have been in Malta for a year and a half, I work in a hospital in Gozo, people are very friendly and helpful, especially when I speak in Maltese. Vasileios Tzimas

Jiena naħdem bħala carer f'residenza ġewwa l-Furjana, jiena noqgħod hawn mal-familja tiegħi, il-lingwa Maltija mhux sempliċi ta!, il-lingwa Maltija tgħinni nifhem aktar il-pazjenti tiegħi.

I work as a carer in a Floriana home. I live here with my family. The Maltese language is not easy! Maltese helps me to understand my patients better. Kathrina Paz

The Health Ministry requires, through the employment contract, that foreign doctors and nurses follow the course in Maltese language during their probation year.

Thomas Pace, one of the lecturers for these courses, explained that the way and speed at which one learns the Maltese language frequently depends on the country the student hails from.

He said that, along the years, he has observed that once students start communicating, they feel more confident and integrate more quickly.

When a foreigner enters the ward and tells the patient “bongħu”, “kif inti?”, (“good morning, how are you?”), the patient immediately feels at ease, and it narrows the cultural chasm between the two, and the patient will feel more confident to speak to whoever is providing the service. Thomas Pace

Jiena infermiera u naħdem fl-isptar Monte Carmeli, jiena tgħallimt nitkellem mal-pazjenti.

I'm a nurse and I work at Mount Carmel hospital. I learnt to speak with the patients. Zarish Zafar

Jiena naħdem Monte Carmeli, il-Maltin kollha orrajt, naħdem fl-isptar, ilni 9 snin, noqgħod Ħal-Qormi, ir-raħal tiegħi hafna sabiħ.

I work at Mount Carmel, the Maltese are all nice, I work at the hospital, I've been there for 9 years. I live in Qormi, my town is very beautiful. Austin Azaim

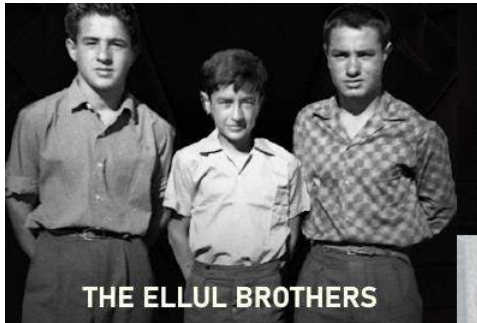
The courses start with basic elements of grammar and vocabulary which is used a lot by the Maltese, and designed for those who have no knowledge at all of the language.

The course then continues to focus on typical expressions in the medical context, from words related to anatomy to illnesses and common symptoms, with the aim of improving communication between medical professionals and clients or patients.

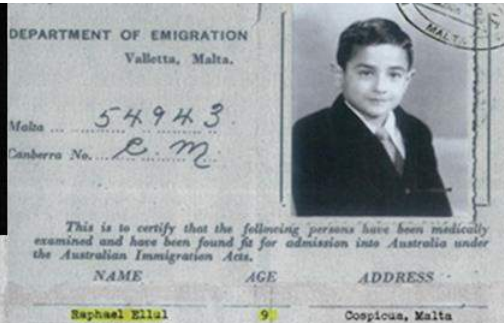
I have been a reader of the Maltese journal for several years. I live alone and your newsletter keeps me in touch with Malta and Gozo (where i was born 75 years ago) and with other Maltese living abroad. I pray that you keep producing such a wonderful and useful journal. We need it and we love it.

Jason Camilleri – Michigan - USA

Destitute, then traumatised: documentary reveals life of Maltese child migrants in 1960



THE ELLUL BROTHERS

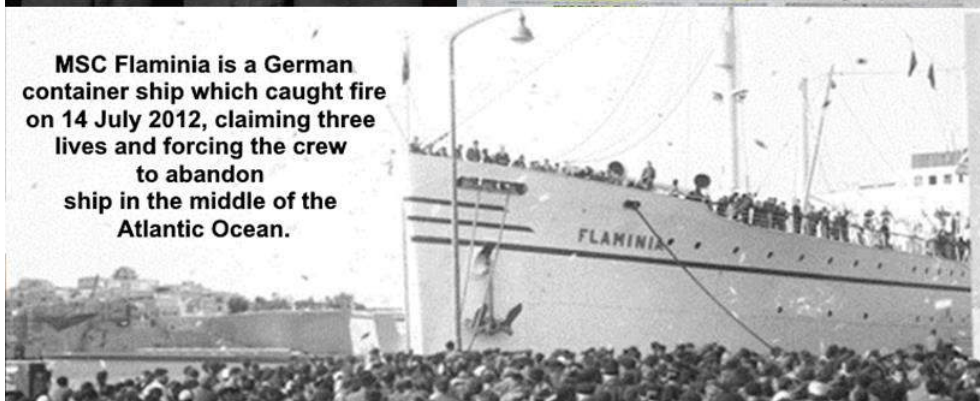


Film tells fate of three brothers who were part of 1960s emigration scheme | [Times of Malta](#)

Raphael (nine), Manny (13) and Peter Ellul (15) found themselves on a ship to Australia in 1960.

In the 1960s, three brothers from Malta were separated at a young age. They ended up in Tardun, Western Australia, as migrants forming part of a child migration scheme.

Their story forms the basis of *Who Would You Tell?*, a documentary by Dery Sultana that will be screened in Gozo on June 21 and 23, with a Q&A screening taking



MSC Flaminia is a German container ship which caught fire on 14 July 2012, claiming three lives and forcing the crew to abandon ship in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

place on June 21.

Co-produced by Fish Isle Films and Strada Reali, the documentary tells the brothers' story as the trio - Raphael, Peter and Manny - reflect on their stolen childhood and how the sexual, emotional and physical abuse they experienced shaped their entire life. What was supposed to be a second chance turned into a lifetime of regret, pain and missed opportunities that deeply affected their journey to adulthood, says the director.

“We often hear many success stories of migrants who found their fortune in Australia, yet there have also been many other less fortunate migrants to Australia, not least of all the Tardun brothers,” says the director.

“These young boys were shipped to Australia by the Catholic Church to help them escape the ravages of Malta – which was the most bombed nation in World War II. What was meant to be a paradise with a bright future turned out to be a living hell filled with exploitation and constant abuse. “What happened to them as children devastated their lives.”

Child abuse should never be swept under the carpet

Sultana noted that shining a light on the brothers' suffering did not make their memories any less traumatic, but through their testimony there is hope that one can prevent these abuses from happening again.

Driven by his own experience of clerical abuse suffered as a boy, combined with the fact that he is himself a Maltese migrant, Sultana has documented this dark chapter in Maltese-Australian migration history.

“At long last these three scarred individuals have the opportunity to share their childhood ordeals with the world,” says the director.

Child abuse is one of those issues that's very difficult to talk about, enshrouded in guilt and shame. While child abuse may be committed behind closed doors, Sultana believes they should never be swept under the carpet. Tardun in Australia where the boys were sent as children. Through interviews and archive materials, Sultana navigates back through their memories of abuse, homesickness and severed family ties.

Their story unravels the historic failure of a scheme backed by two governments and the broken promises of the Catholic Organisation that received them. The documentary features historian Henry Frenzo, former prime minister Lawrence Gonzi, and the late monsignor Philip Calleja

The untold story of Malta's child migrants



February 2020

Paul Calleja

A group of boys before leaving Malta in 1950 and making their beds in a dormitory (bottom).

On Sunday, March 1, 2002, I witnessed the unveiling of the child migrant monument that now adorns the Pinto Wharf in Malta's Grand Harbour. I was there with the late Prof. Plowman and two other members of the Child Migrants of Malta (CMOM), courtesy of the government of Malta. The unveiling

marked the end of a six-year endeavour by the CMOM committee to achieve important outcomes for the former Maltese child migrants.

Many within Malta and its diaspora believed then (and still probably do today) that they had the complete body



of knowledge of Malta's child migrant narrative. Those still believing this are mistaken. In reality, what they have is just the skeletal component which, on its own, projects a distorted image of the true story.

A skeleton needs the fleshy bits to clad it before the accurate image can emerge. Unfortunately for those who want the complete picture, much of the fleshy bits can only be found in the Maltese child migrant's digital archive that I retrieved recently from my computer.

The archive is important for Malta to establish a correct and complete collection of historical material on this

significant and unique chapter of its history and is equally important to those who write this history for much the same reasons.

The archive contains material from a broad variety of sources under an extensive range of headings. These include documents and correspondence from the Australian and Maltese governments, High Commissioners of Malta, the Christian Brothers and a host of other religious orders, Perth's archbishop, Geraldton's bishop, the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Migrants & Refugees, the International Association of Former Child Migrants, the Battye Library of Western Australia's Migrant Communities Archives, Malta's Migrant Commission, Senator Andrew Murray and Chief Justice David Malcolm, to name a few.

Also held in the archive are newspaper articles from the now defunct Maltese Herald, Times of Malta, The Malta Independent on Sunday, L-Orizzont and more. Newsletters of CMOM and Christian Brothers Ex-Residents and Student Services (C-Berss) plus oral histories (C-Berss produced) featuring 10 former Maltese child migrants in addition to CMOM's photos collection and information of a host of other topics further enhance the archive.



Two sections can be identified in the archive. The first covers the period from 1990 to 2002 and the second from 2002 to 2008.

Materials of the first section – 1990 to 2002 – originate from research I conducted for a book I was writing on the history of Maltese settlement in Western Australia. The book was titled The Maltese of the Western Third.

The 'Western Third' refers to Western Australia. This state occupies one third of the entire Australian continent and is so large that it can accommodate seven countries the size of the UK or five the size of France.

Materials of the second section – 2002 to 2008 – commence with my 'light-bulb' moment that resulted in the formation of the Child Migrants of Malta. Its subject matters are broad and abundant.

These include the contrasting level of support by three Malta High Commissioners of CMOM between 2002 and 2008, the magnitude of support from Church, State and the community, CMOM's origin, CMOM's committee and their individual contribution to the cause, CMOM's influence in the Australian Senate child migrant inquiry and finally the catastrophic Clontarf bus tragedy that killed one Irish child migrant and severely injuring six Maltese – one of whom lost one leg, the other two.

The archive has always been in my possession because I built it during an 18-year period from researching a book from 1990 to 2002 and as CMOM's secretary from 2002 to 2008.

Now I feel obligated to make this archive available to migrant organisations and institutions working for migrants and preserving migrant records and other forms of information. To that end, I will forward the archive to Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad, Malta Emigrants' Commission and the University of Malta.

It is my genuine hope that, at one point in the future, a Maltese historian or PhD student will write a complete account of Malta's child-migrant era and publish the results in a book. I believe there would be strong interest in Malta, Australia, Britain, New Zealand and the USA to purchase the book.



This memorial is to honour and to commemorate the contribution made by British and Maltese girls and boys who left their country to find a new life in Western Australia.

The life-size bronze statue of a young boy and girl carrying all their worldly possessions in a small suitcase apiece serves as a perpetual reminder of the experiences of nearly 3,000 unaccompanied children who were shipped to Western Australia from Britain and Malta over a period spanning more than 50 years

The front plaque

This memorial is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Western Australia Governments and is dedicated to the Maltese boys and girls who left their homeland to brave an unknown future in Western Australia

Hardships were endured, benefits were derived

These child migrants provided valuable contributions to Australian society in diverse ways as parents, workers, and citizens. Australia is better for their coming.

L-Imnarja

A Celebration of Maltese Food, Traditions and Customs

by Chiara Micallef

A sticky, balmy, summery celebration that falls on the 28th and 29th of June, L-Imnarja is a national holiday that has been part of Malta's identity for aeons. It's also our much-awaited yearly excuse to gorge ourselves on mouthwatering Maltese delicacies. From wondrous night-time picnics in Buskett to flavoursome culinary marvels, it's no wonder that this is one of the most anticipated feasts of the year.

Pagan Roots and Archaic Festivities

This wondrous two-day celebration has strong pagan Roman roots. It is said that L-Imnarja originated from Luminaria, an early summer feast where villagers lit their towns with torches and bonfires. While we sadly do not know much about Luminaria, this feast falls close to summer solstice celebrations and Vestalia – A Roman feast in honour of the hearth goddess, Vesta. Both of these festivals were celebrated by lighting fires in honour of bountiful harvests and pagan gods.

Deep Catholic Origins

The feast of St. Peter and St. Paul is celebrated in Nadur, Gozo – a much-awaited feast for the residents of this lovely town, as it celebrates their patron saints. This day is greeted with enthusiasm, zeal and heaps of fireworks – a deserved celebration for two such important figures in the Catholic faith. L-Imnarja initially took place outside of St Paul's Grotto – a place that is of high significance to our country's religious identity and a fitting spot since the saint took refuge in this cave when his ship wrecked in Malta on its way to Rome.

Culture, Folklore and Bygone Traditions

Declared a national feast by the Knights of St. John, L-Imnarja is a significant date in the Maltese cultural calendar. It provides us with the perfect opportunity to learn about our forefathers' customs and to show gratitude for the generous harvest our land and agricultural community nourish us with. This two-day bonanza also gives us the chance to discover, hone and cultivate our culture and quasi-bygone customs – it is thanks to L-Imnarja that most of our traditions have been conserved.

The nighttime celebrations of this fabulous feast have always been favoured by locals, so much so that newlyweds used to attend the Mnarja celebrations as a honeymoon of sorts. This is why nowadays L-Imnarja celebrations kick off with a customary parade where all participants are clothed in traditional wedding attire.

L-Imnarja Races By the early 17th century, the festivities were moved to Mdina, where a torchlight procession, along with the firing of petards, took place in the Cathedral square. On the day, numerous races took place for horses, men, boys and slaves.

The Mnarja races were so popular, that in 1696, Grandmaster Wignacourt commissioned the Loggia tal-Palju, located just below the Saqqajja Hill in Rabat. This loggia was designed by the illustrious Lorenzo Gafà and constructed by Salvu Borg, a master builder from Siggiewi. The Grand Master, along with members of the Order's Council, watched the races from this comfortable and shady spot. The Loggia tal-Palju still stands to this day, and on its interior, one can find an inscription which commemorates its inauguration.

The race winners were presented with fancy multicoloured brocade flags (palji) at the end of the race on the Loggia tal-Palju. These flags were later presented to the winners' parish church to be used as an altar cloth.

It is interesting to note that races were a rather common feature in Maltese celebrations, particularly during Parish feasts. While nowadays this tradition has died out, the Mnarja horse race still takes place and is split into three different categories, the bareback, Serkin and trot varieties.

L-Imnarja At Buskett

By the late 17th century, the Mnarja celebrations were relocated to Buskett, which at the time was utilised by the Knights of St John as their private hunting grounds.

When the Knights ruled Malta, rabbit hunting was prohibited for ordinary people, as it was only the Knights themselves who were allowed this pleasure. However, just on this one day, the Maltese people were permitted to hunt for and eat wild rabbits. This is where the tradition of eating fried rabbit and having late-night picnics in Buskett during Mnarja stemmed from.

Prize-Winning Agricultural Exhibitions



The first Mnarja agricultural contest was established by William Reid, the British Governor in charge of the islands in 1854. It is said that Reid was so keen to see his idea blossom into a triumphant endeavour, that he presented £50 in award money from his pocket.

Maltese farmers were urged to attend the festivities and compete with their produce

and animals to win the prize. Over time, l-Imnarja pivoted into an opportunity for local farmers to meet, show off their produce and trade farming techniques, animals or harvest – a purpose which it still serves to this day, to a certain degree.

Agrarian Displays and Maltese Traditions

The Mnarja celebrations start with a traditional bandu (announcement) – this custom has been carried on since the 16th century and is still practised to this day. The main celebrations start on the 28th of June, as a procession of intricately decorated carriages and carts are displayed from Rabat to Buskett. At Buskett, one would find a collection of stalls offering a range of traditional Maltese food accompanied by a fruit and vegetable exhibition. This is typically followed by farm animal contests – with uncommon creatures like the striking hmar tas-salib, the Maltese goat and fancy chickens.

During l-Imnarja one can discover numerous Maltese crafts and customs such as reed weaving, lace making and wickerwork. Several shows are also performed, from folk dancing to ghana tal-fatt (storytelling), ghana spirtu pront (freestyle) and makkjetti (humourous).

What makes L-Imnarja stand out, is how it evolved and changed in a manner that reflects the transformations which occurred in the Maltese social and cultural atmosphere over time.

The feast has been celebrated on the island since pagan times and its characteristics evolved and merged with those of the social and cultural fabrics present throughout our history.

Each ruler and influence this country had, left its mark on l-Imnarja – from the Romans to the Knights and the British – traditions from conquerors who rather than squashing local customs, enhanced them in a way like no other. This wondrous feast celebrates our culture and identity in a uniquely outstanding manner.

Make sure you don't miss out on this year's festival which will be held between the 28th and 29th of June in Buskett.



Maltese Fruits That You Should Try

Curious about Maltese Fruits? Here's a list of 12 seasonal fruits in Malta that I think you should try while visiting.

Not all of them are endemic, and many are available in other countries, but these fruits are all cultivated here, so they obviously taste better than the ones you can find in supermarkets around the world!

PRICKLY PEARS – BAJTAR TAX-XEWK

This weird looking fruit is growing on cactuses, and you will see them in plenty while traveling around Malta. They are everywhere, and from July to October, they are ready to be eaten.

Pick them gently though (I suggest using a tong), and before eating them you need to carve the prickly pear, remove the seeds and then you can enjoy them

BLACKBERRIES - TUT

These delicious berries are available in plenty from May to July!

Season: May to July

LOQUATS - NASPLI

While this fruit is native to Asia, the sunny climate of Malta is great for loquats as well.

And during spring, you can enjoy this mouthwatering Maltese fruit. **Season:** April to May

FIGS - BAJTA - TIN

Another treat that visitors and locals can enjoy are figs, and they come in two varieties in Malta. These are Farkizzan and common figs, and the sunny climate makes them very juicy.

From July to August, these are very cheap and there will be plenty of them in fruit markets.

Season: July to August

ORANGES - LARING

With more than 300 days of sunshine, the oranges are destined to be delicious, and from October to April you will find local oranges in plenty and for cheap prices per kilo.

BAMBINELLA

Also known as Small Maltese June Pear. A particular type of pear that is native to Malta that you should definitely give a try.

The Bambinella has been cultivated here for thousands of years and they are in season from June to August. **Season:** June to August

APRICOTS - BERQUQ

Another summer fruit in Malta that grows in other countries as well, but is particularly juicy here.

Apricots are available from May to July.

CHERRY PLUMS - CIRASA

The Maltese name for Cherry Plum is Ghanbaqar, and this fruit was introduced in about 500 years ago. Since then, locals and visitors have enjoyed this delightful fruit in the months of July to September.

STRAWBERRIES - FRAWLI

Strawberry plants require 6-10 hours a day of direct sunlight, and that's certainly not an issue here. Maltese strawberries are very tasty and have a rich red colour. They are usually available from November to July.

The Maltese diaspora has a rich history of migration, with significant emigration throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Maltese people and their descendants settled in various English-speaking countries, including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States

It is a fact no one can deny that the Maltese community in South Australia is rapidly disappearing. Although Maltese migrants arrived in Adelaide centuries ago, the great influx of migrants happened between 1948 to 1970. Since that time very few Maltese arrived here to settle in South Australia.

All those who arrived here during that period were either single or newly married with small children. Many of them either passed away or are in their 80s and 90s.

When the Maltese community was young and vibrant, there were several clubs, associations and religious groups



1. Maltese Community Council of SA,
2. Melita Soccer Club,
3. Maltese Philatelic Club,
4. Maltese Guild of SA,
5. RSL Maltese sub-branch of SA,
6. Senior Citizens Association,
7. St. Carine Society,
8. 5PBA Blue Grotto Maltese Program,
9. 5EBI Maltese Community Program,
10. Maltese Language and Culture School – Beverley
11. Maltese Language School at Salisbury.
12. Folk-dancing Group
13. Maltese Angling Society
14. Queen of Victories Band,
15. Maltese Aged Care Association of SA
16. Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group
17. Maltese Society of Christian Doctrine
18. St. Peter in Chains Committee
19. Maltese Diocesan Chaplaincy – Maltese Franciscan Priests
20. Maltese Franciscan Sister of the Heart of Jesus.

The few groups that are left are struggling to survive or amalgamated with other societies. We have very few options left – we either unite to survive, help and support each other and work together, encourage our young ones to take over our committees or close down altogether. We are nearing the end of a chapter in the history of the Maltese Community in Adelaide.

I must give praise and thanksgiving to those leaders of the community who passed away for their hard work and dedication and the same to the few leaders who are still involved. I remember a decade or two ago we used to organise festivals, dinner-dances, national feast days and other social and cultural activities nearly every week attended by hundreds of enthusiastic members.

The Maltese Senior Citizens Association of South Australia

**This society is continuing the solid work of the late President Frank Grima,
We thank MAC, John Mangion, Jane Grima, the committee, volunteers and members
The Community Hall at Kilburn opens every Tuesday from 10am till 3pm
for lunch, social and cultural activities. Everyone is welcome.**

www.joannedancer.com/inanna-production



A 90-minute multi-media, dance, circus, animation projection and an original musical soundtrack. A mix of folk rock and Islamic scales brings the sounds and performance of the East meets West together in this production that celebrates Malta's prehistoric culture and circles around Malta's goddess of fertility story for a contemporary audience.

Coming Again Soon! Live in Theatres Malta/Gozo
Europe 2024!

INANNA

The Rising Goddess of Malta

INANNA the Rising Goddess of Malta celebrates Malta's prehistoric culture for a contemporary audience. This 90-minute film production is based on the epic poem of INANNA's most famous myth "The Descent of Inanna" which was found written on a cuneiform 5500 years ago.

Meet INANNA! The Goddess of life - who predates ancient Greek mythos.

This Art project was funded as a live Theatre production by the Canada Council for the Arts. Covid made it impossible to have this story produced Live therefore we switched over to filming this tale as if it were a live performance and will be followed by a Q & A.

My vision following this Canadian screening is to combine our 3rd rendition of the Live Theatre and Live Orchestra Band Spectacle presented at the MOD Club on Nov 14th, 2014 with this 4th rendition's storyline and animation presentation this Nov 5th, 2022. My dream moving forward is to take this project to present Live at the Goddess's Temples on the Island of Malta and Gozo.

Then following the Malta tour to bring this old tale full of symbolisms to Canada and transport back the goddesses' excitement to present in theatres in Toronto.

INANNA a Goddess of Love, Beauty, Sex, Desire, Fertility, War, Combat, Justice, and Political Power, the 5500 - year - old tale of the Goddess INANNA embodies a celebration of womanhood.

Female deities were worshiped and adored all through Prehistoric history, but the Goddess who outweighed,

overshadowed, and outlasted them all was the Goddess INANNA.

The goddess Inanna has roots as far back as the Neolithic era. Her worship was widespread in the prehistoric Mediterranean and Sumerian cultures, and Malta is particularly rich in ancient representations of her and sites devoted to her. In an attempt to save her ego, Inanna mistakenly kills her sister's husband, instead of Gilgamesh (her past lover). To right this wrong, Inanna must admit her fault and beg forgiveness from her sister, the guardian of the Underworld. As Inanna descends to her sister's realm, she is challenged to change her selfish ways at each of the 7 gates by removing her 7 degrees of the divine representing the chakras, increasing her enlightenment at each passage. When she reaches the underworld, her sister does not forgive her, and Inanna is killed.

Inanna is brought back to life, but for her to leave the Underworld, someone must replace her. Damuzi, her current lover, proves to be unfaithful and is sent for six months of the year. When Damuzi and Inanna are apart—that is, in fall and winter—the land is infertile. When they are together—in spring and summer—the land becomes fertile and fruitful. This Sumerian myth parallels the Greek myth of Persephone and Demeter.

www.joannedancer.com/inanna-production

About Joanne

Joanne is a Toronto based Performer, Producer, Instructor and Choreographer in Middle Eastern Arts and Performance Arts in various Dance realms. In 2006 Joanne founded her dance school "Vivace studios" in Toronto. She is in her 9th year Directing Staging and Choreographing her Theater Production of INANNA. Since the year 2000 she has been managing entertainment and entertaining as a regular day and evening performer at the Sultans Tent and Cafe Morocc, and at the Berber Lounge in Toronto and other venues across Canada, US and Malta and Italy in Europe. With Highlights that include: Fall View Casino, Niagara Falls, Maltese International Day San Francisco, Women's Health Matters Expo, and for Corporate Events like Toyota, Sun Media, Ministry of Gov. Services, Weston Hotel in Malta Europe, Doctors without borders , numerous Fashion Shows and more...

Joanne has been cast in film and performed in many television shows including: A perfect Christmas, The Listener, Alliance Atlantis History Launch, Much Music, Breakfast TV, and Famous Peoples Players. She has made appearances' in Reality TV shows like Rich Bride, Poor Bride, I Do , Let's eat, So Chic, City TV, Dinner at the Sultan's Tent-The Makeover. Joanne has performed in Live Theatre at The Living Arts Centre, The Rose Theatre and Canadian Stage.

Features of Traditional Maltese Houses



Malta enjoys a robust history of cultural and architectural influences from around the globe. Drawn mainly from Sicilian, Arabic, and Baroque customs, these many influences can be enjoyed in Malta because of its geographical location, being at the crossroads of different historical Mediterranean civilisations, with some of the buildings being older than the Pyramids of Giza. Whether you are on the lookout for a new property or are just looking to add some Maltese influence to your interior, here are some of the notable features of traditional Maltese houses that the style is known for.

TRULY INSPIRATIONAL TILEWORK

One of the most unique features of Maltese townhouses is the distinctively patterned tiles. This tradition can be traced back to the Ottoman tradition of mosaic tiling and is considered one of the newer architectural adaptations to the area, being implemented in townhouses only around 300 years ago. Traditionally, the tiles are made by filling a sectioned cast with a mixture of pigment, marble dust, and cement as the face on the first layer of the tile. This is then covered with sand and cement to create the body of the tile. These tiles are laid in intricate patterns that convert a home floor into a work of art.

BRIDGING THE GAP WITH A BALCONY The balconies of Malta are thought to be inspired by the Arab *mashrabiya*, which is a piece of architecture found in many Islamic homes that allows a woman to look outside without being seen by passers-by in the street. For this reason, the *mashrabiya* is often a small room tucked onto the end of the house, where it also serves to create a cross-breeze through the house and aids in airing out a home. Maltese balconies, or *gallarija*, project from upper levels of buildings and are fully enclosed in wood and glass. Like the eastern *mashrabiya*, *gallarijas* also provide cross-ventilation and a way for people to see out while staying unseen, making these balconies a unique union of Eastern and Western architecture.

DOORS FOR ALL The doors of Malta are each as unique as the inhabitants behind them. While modern doors come in a rich variety of colours and adornments, these doors were traditionally made from solid wood and had brass or iron features. Many of the doors in Malta still have their original metal parts, like the *skudett* (key-plate) and the *serratura* (keyhole), holding onto much of their authenticity and value. Traditionally, door knockers were a symbol of status and wealth and, in the past, wealthier families often displayed their success through the use of extravagant Baroque motifs.

DISTINCTIVE ROOFS AND HIGH CEILINGS Homes in Malta often feature distinctive roofs made of stone slabs (*xorok tal-qasba*) that are laid to rest across a ceiling on corbels, or load-bearing struts protruding from the top of the wall. Other roofs feature arches (or *hnejjet*) that support the stone slabs, with wooden or iron beams providing additional support to a very weighty ceiling. Maltese architecture places a lot of focus on the use of space in homes, and this is evident in the high ceilings of most houses, with the oldest being the best example of this. Using natural means to provide light and ventilation was the only option a few hundred years ago, so the higher a ceiling, the more ventilation and light could be brought to a room. Rooms with higher ceilings could also accommodate larger windows, which meant better light and ventilation.

WELLS IN EVERY HOME In the 1500s, the Knights of St. John took over in Malta. These knights passed a law that required all houses that were built to have an accessible well on the premises to ensure fresh water supply to all people. Surprisingly, this law remains in place today, so most houses in Malta feature a well in the backyard or courtyard, or even an indoor well that is tucked away inside a kitchen or cellar. Maltese wells are often covered with a large stone on top called a *herza* to stop people from accidentally falling in. These stones have a hole in the centre large enough for a bucket to pass through so that the stone doesn't need to be removed with each use.

LIMESTONE WALLS AND FLAGSTONES Limestone has long been one of Malta's most renowned natural resources, with its influence being felt quite heavily in the architecture of the region. The golden-hued stone was used in the construction of some of the most beautiful temples, churches, and chapels in Malta, where it not only adds decadence to the facade of the buildings, but its thick, robust, and adaptable properties are also well suited for Malta's climate. The oldest properties in Malta feature limestone flagstones in place of the painted tiles that became popular in recent centuries, so it is often easy to tell the age of the building based on which style they employ.

Maltese architecture is both distinct and beautiful, whether it is in Malta itself or recreated in homes around the world. And, because of its rich history and cultural influences, Malta and its homes feature a little something for every taste. With their bright doors and patterned tiles, high ceilings, and limestone facades, Maltese homes feel unique and full of character and are a must-see for any architectural aficionado.

An Interfaith event at the Presidential Palace 2024

by Imam Laiq Ahmed Atif, president Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta



On Friday 31st May 2024, an interfaith event was held at the San Anton Presidential Palace Malta, where religious leaders in Malta had the opportunity of reading out their messages of peace-building. The event was moderated by Dr John Berry and was concluded with heartfelt Address of **Her Excellency Myriam Spiteri Debono**, President of Malta. Her Excellency emphasized the need of peace-building not only for

own communities but for the entire humankind. Her message of **'Hope'** is truly a way forward in promoting peace and harmony within our societies and around the globe.

During this august event, Imam Laiq Ahmed Atif, president Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta also read hi message.

Your Excellency the President and Apostolic Nuncio, esteemed religious leaders and distinguished guests,

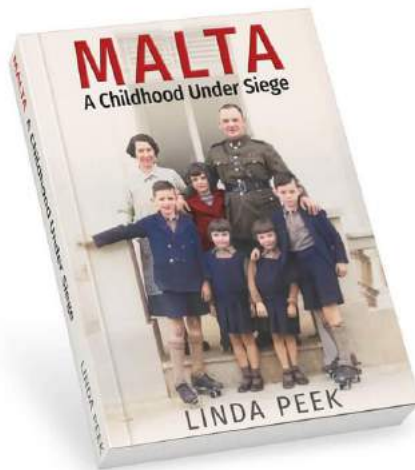
Asslamoaleikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatohu — may Peace and infinite blessings of Almighty Allah be upon you all. In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

'All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of all the worlds, the Gracious, the Merciful, and Master of the Day of Judgment.' (Quran, 1: 1-4) 'He is the Sovereign; He is Pure and purifies others. He is safe from all impurities and safeguards others. He is the Source of Peace for all.' (Quran, 59:24) 'Allah calls to the abode of peace, and guides whom He pleases to the straight path.' (Quran, 10:26) 'Surely all believers are brothers. So make peace between brothers, and fear Allah that mercy may be shown to you.' (Quran, 49:1)

We believe that: **God is love, God is peace! Love can never beget hatred, and peace can never lead to war.** Therefore, our message is: **LOVE FOR ALL — HATRED FOR NONE.**

Arabs from North Africa spent nearly 200 years in Malta at a time when Islam was the predominant religion on the island. Today, Islam is considered a minority religion in Malta, where the number of Muslims is estimated between 6,000 and 12,000, representing more than 1 percent of the total population.

The constitution provides for full respect for beliefs and freedom of worship, provided that public safety, order, morals, health, and the rights and freedoms of others are not violated. The state prohibits discriminatory treatment based on religion or belief. What reflects the Arab Islamic heritage in Malta is that the Maltese language includes many Arabic words and vocabulary, and many names of cities and places in the country are Arabic.



MALTA A Childhood Under Siege LINDA PEEK

"Air raid warning, air raid warning. Shut your doors and windows."

The Rediffusion blared out in English and then in Maltese, at 6:55am on the morning of 11 June 1940.

This was the first of many times we would hear that warning. The day our lives changed.

Malta

A childhood Under Siege

Peek's new book explores family resilience during WWII
Australian author Linda Peek was in Malta to launch her book *Malta: A childhood under siege*, a compelling memoir of the childhood of her mother, Margaret Staples, in war-torn Malta during

World War II.

Linda introduced her book to Maltese readers, in a poignant event supported by Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna and the High Commission of Malta in Canberra, at the Lascaris War Rooms, in Valletta. This historic site was specifically chosen for this event as it was there that her grandfather Sam Staples, as Garrison engineer, oversaw construction works.

The book vividly portrays the relentless bombardment and siege that Malta endured due to its strategic position in the Mediterranean. Linda's narrative skillfully interweaves historical events with personal stories, shedding light on the daily challenges, fears and triumphs of the Maltese people, showcasing their incredible resilience and unity.

Through the lens of her mother's vivid memories, Linda captures the essence of Maltese life during one of its most challenging periods. From the deafening sounds of air raids to the scarcity of daily necessities, the book provides readers with a firsthand account of the indomitable will of the Maltese people. The narrative pays tribute to the courage shown by civilians in wartime, especially the women and children who faced unimaginable hardship.

During the event, Linda shared "although my grandparents were not Maltese, they developed a connection with the people and the island itself. Their bond was so strong that when my grandfather suggested we evacuate to Egypt or South Africa, as many others were doing, my grandmother stood firm and refused to leave. She said, 'if the Maltese can take it, so can we'".

Certainly! You can purchase "Malta: A Childhood Under Siege" by Linda Peek from the following sources:

Amazon Australia: The book is available in paperback format on Amazon.com.au

Booktopia: You can also find it on Booktopia

Amazon UK: If you prefer a Kindle edition, you can get it on Amazon.co.uk

Feel free to explore these options and enjoy the touching narrative of survival and resilience

About the author



She currently lives in Canberra, Australia.

Linda Peek is a writer, blogger and businesswoman. Born in the United Kingdom, she has been involved in international diplomacy through her husband's work as an Australian diplomat. Linda has lived in Switzerland, Israel, Malaysia, South Africa, Chile, France and Denmark, with postings in Canberra, Australia in between.

While living in Chile, she was Food Editor for an English newspaper, writing a popular weekly column called "The Good Life." She was a member of the Circle of Gastronomic Writers of Chile and a food judge. She runs her own business, which handles imports and exports of food ingredients. Since 2011 she has been writing about food in her weekly blog Café Cat.



Wayne Marshall playing the National Anthem for guests at the Manoel Theatre

From left: Muriel Rutland, HSBC Malta head of wealth and personal banking; Michel Cordina, executive director and head of business development; Manfred Galdes, chairperson; President Myriam Spiteri Debono; CEO Geoffrey Fichte; and Joyce Grech, head of commercial banking.

HSBC Malta celebrates 25 years with exclusive summer concert

Event at the Manoel featured performance by British conductor and organist Wayne Marshall

Press Release

HSBC Malta recently celebrated its 25th anniversary with a special summer concert at the renowned Manoel Theatre in Valletta. The exclusive event, followed by a reception at the historic Grand Master's Palace Courtyard, was attended by top customers and premier clients.

The evening featured a musical performance produced and conducted by esteemed British conductor, organist and pianist Wayne Marshall. Known for his versatility and exceptional musicianship, Marshall has held prestigious roles, including chief conductor of WDR Funkhausorchester in Cologne and principal guest conductor of the *Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano* Giuseppe Verdi.

The event provided a great opportunity for HSBC Malta to engage with its valued clients and celebrate the strong relationships built over the past 25 years. Guests enjoyed a night of exquisite music and conviviality, reflecting the bank's commitment to fostering close connections with its customers.

Geoffrey Fichte, CEO of HSBC Malta, expressed his gratitude, saying: "Celebrating 25 years in Malta is a significant milestone for HSBC. Over the years, we have built strong relationships with our customers and the local community. This concert was our way of expressing gratitude to our top and premier customers for their loyalty and support.

"We were excited to share this memorable evening with them. HSBC Malta remains an active participant in the local economy and we are committed to continue offering the best service both to our customers and to the community we serve."

Reflecting on the occasion, Manfred Galdes, chairperson of HSBC Malta, said: "As we mark the bank's 25th anniversary in Malta, we can together reflect on this journey and the bank's lasting impact on the community. HSBC's commitment to excellence and innovation remains steadfast, as we look forward to many more years of growth and meaningful partnerships. This remarkable summer concert gave us the opportunity to show our appreciation to our customers for their continued trust and confidence in us."

Thanks for your donation
A PRINTED COPY OF THE JOURNAL IS SENT TO ALL DONORS

My bank details are Bank Commonwealth (Australia)
BSB- 065106 Acc No - 00502597
Name - Frank Scicluna

Cycling

Joe Bajada from Malta National Time Trial Championship 2024 Second race

Aidan Buttigieg and Marie Claire Aquilina maintain a winning start
Aidan Buttigieg of D Sports Lab and Marie Claire Aquilina of Team Greens also won the second race of the National Time Trial Championship. Aidan Buttigieg continued to defend the title that he



won the other season where he ended up dominating in the Elite Category. At the same time, Marie Claire Aquilina did the same and won the Category reserved for Women', which races were held on Sunday 16 June 2024 at the Fleur-de-Lys circuit. Each lap was 2.5km where the Elite, the Under 23's, the Masters, the Women and the Juniors did 10 Laps, meters the other categories did: the Under 12's (2 Lap), the Under 14's (4 Lap), the Under 16's (6 laps).

Aidan Buttigieg finished first in the Elite when he finished his race in a time of 34:16.52, an advantage of two minutes and 10 seconds over John Camilleri of B'Kara SJ (36:26.76). Clive Bugeja of Mosta CC finished in third place (37:21.87). The Women's race resulted in one dominated by Team Greens cyclists, with Marie Claire Aquilina finishing first at 41:20.35, an advantage of 3 minutes and 11 seconds over her partner Diana Muscat (44:32.24). Michelle Vella Wood also of Team Greens finished third (45:07.74).

Luke Borg of The Cyclist-Agones won the Under 23 Category in a time of 37:48.06. Two Mosta CC cyclists finished behind him, Jacob Schembri (38:09.79) and Clyve Chetcuti (38: 48.88). The Masters 40+ Category was again won by Luis Joaquin Rojas Guzman of Team Greens in a time of 36:41.77. Mark Zammit of Mosta CC (38:28.32) and David Cushing of B'kara St Joseph (40:49.94) followed respectively. Kevin Muscat of Mosta CC won the Masters 50+ Category in a time of 41:00.78 in front of Joseph Caruana of Team Greens (46:26.91).

Ryan Gatt of The Cyclist-Agones won the Under 16 Male Category in a time of 24:47.56. Zia Fuji of Shamrock Stars won the Girls' Under 14 Category when she completed her four laps in a time of 18:17.69 ahead of Nina Debono also of Shamrock Stars (19:25.52) and Katie Vella Wood of Team Greens (20:32.38). Goban Gao of Mosta CC won the Under 14 Boys Category in a time of 17:12.27 in front of two cyclists respectively from Shamrock Stars, Liam Daly (17:17.48) and Jake Refalo (17:24.88). Ria Debono of Shamrock Stars won the Under 12 Girls Category in a time of 10:54.25 ahead of Amy St John of Mosta CC (11:11.71) while Ethan Cumbo of Mosta CC won the Category of -Under 12 Boys in a time of 09:02.89 in front of his friends Zacchery Vella (10:58.43) and Timothy Grech (11:00.56).

After the races, the winning cyclists were presented with medals by Joe Bajada, Secretary General of the Maltese Cycling Federation. The next race will be next Sunday 23 June 2024, the third one of the same Time Trial Championship. It will be held in the Quarter of a Mile in Hal Far and will start with the first children's race at 8:00 am



DATE: 28/06/2024 TIME: 8:00 PM till 9:30 PM

LOCATION: Teatru Manoel, Valletta

Simon Schembri Soloist Alan Chircop Conductor

Programme

Charles Camilleri *Maltese Dances*

Joaquin Rodrigo *Concierto de Aranjuez*

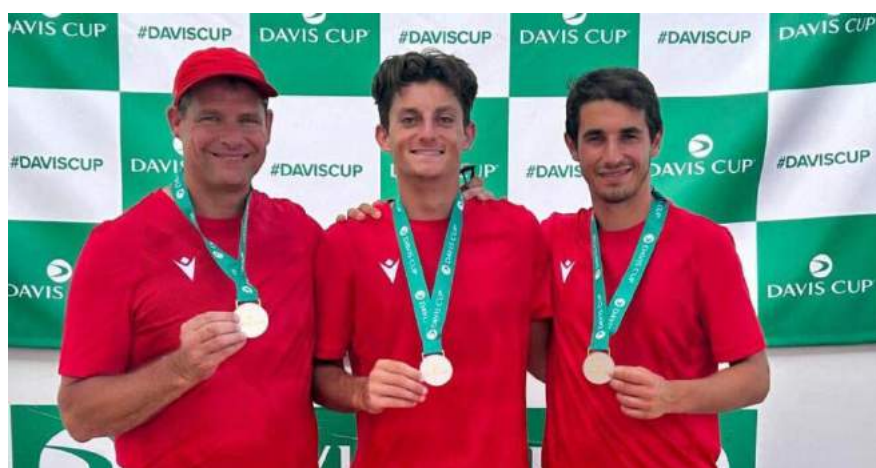
John Galea *Ġgantija Suite*

Felix Mendelssohn *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Incidental Music*

The MPO directed by Alan Chircop presents a sublime concert showcasing Maltese heritage and folklore, history and myth. The programme includes captivating works by celebrated Maltese composers, Charles Camilleri's tribute to folk music *Maltese Dances* and John Galea's evocative symphonic poem *Ġgantija Suite*. Featured is also Rodrigo's elegant *Concierto de Aranjuez* featuring guitarist Simon Schembri. An exquisite selection of Mendelssohn's entrancing incidental music *A Midsummer Night's Dream* transports the audience into Shakespeare's magical world.

Onto Group Three: Malta Secures Davis Cup Promotion

By [Ana Tortell](#)



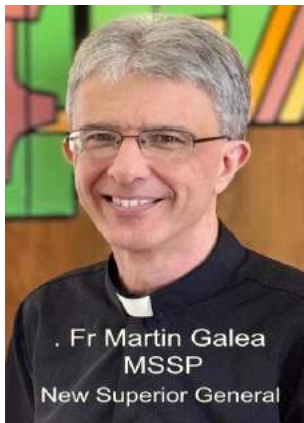
Malta has progressed to Group Three in the Davis Cup following outstanding performances by top national players who won the promotional playoff against Lichtenstein yesterday.

Liam Delicata started the tie with a comfortable win in straight sets 6-3, 6-2 to secure the first point of the

day. He was followed on court by Alex Degabriele who went the distance, eventually grinding out a difficult win 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 in two hours and 33 minutes.

Both players have been in excellent form recently and did not lose a single match throughout the whole competition. They were accompanied by Captain Mark Gatt who did an excellent job and who is no stranger to Davis Cup Competition. Malta will now be promoted to Group Three Davis Cup in next year's competition.

Well done! Lovinmalta.com



The General Chapter 2024 of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSSP) is pleased to announce the election of the new Superior General, Rev. Fr Martin Galea MSSP.

Fr. Martin Galea hails from Paola, Malta and is 53 years old. He professed his perpetual vows on October 22, 1995, and was ordained on June 26, 1998. Fr. Martin has extensive experience, having served as a vocation minister and formator for many years, as well as the College chaplain in Malta. He has been part of the General Administration for 18 years and, in recent years, was responsible for the International House of Formation in Manila.

Intercontinental Archaeology Melite Civitas Romana Project



The Australian High Commissioner for Malta His Excellency Matt Skelly organised a reception at his residence for the members of the Intercontinental Archaeology- Melite Civitas Romana Project.

They were very pleased to be greeted by Matt wearing the project's "We Dig Malta" shirt! The Australian High Commissioner has always shown great interest in the project and it's team members. A wonderful time was had by all.





The bank hold-up killing that shocked Malta 50 years ago today

Joseph Spiteri, 18, was shot point blank at Barclays Bank in Mġarr

The hold-up murder victim being taken away in a police hearse. (Times of Malta)

A bank clerk was shot dead in a botched hold-up which saw both tragedy and heroism, on this day 50 years

ago.

The dramatic episode unfolded in May 1972 at the Mġarr agency of Barclays Bank when three hooded men, one of them armed with a gun, barged into the office as staff were preparing for business. The robbers cut phone lines and ordered the staff to hand them cash.

Times of Malta reported at the time that the staff offered no resistance. But one of the robbers suddenly shot Joseph Spiteri at point-blank range with a sawn-off shotgun. The 18-year-old from Zejtun was hit in the chest and fell to the floor. The thieves then made for cash they saw in a drawer- the equivalent of €2,800.

At that point, a male customer walked into the bank. Realising what was happening, he grabbed the man with the shotgun and managed to wrest it off him. The customer, known as *Neriku tal-pastizzi* then dashed off with the gun into the bank's toilet.

The robbers grabbed a few hundred pounds and fled in a Ford Escort getaway car. It was later found burnt in Burmarrad.



Police inspect the burn out Ford Escort getaway car.

A neighbour raised the alarm by calling the police from a neighbouring bakery but it was too late to save Joseph Spiteri, who died on the scene.

Governor-General Sir Anthony Mamo was among those who sent messages of sympathy to the Spiteri family.

"The terrible news of the tragic death of your son Joseph, killed in the prime of life while performing his duties at his place of work shocked us and filled our hearts with sorrow," Sir Anthony wrote, also on behalf of Lady Mamo.

Four men were taken to court a few days after the case. Two, Thomas Moran and Emanuel Zammit, pleaded guilty to armed robbery and were jailed for 18 years after the charge of murder against them was dropped. Frank Frendo was convicted by a jury of armed robbery and manslaughter for having pulled the trigger and killing Spiteri. He was sentenced to nine years imprisonment with hard labour. John Gatt was found guilty of participating in the robbery and jailed for eight years.

The jury found that Frendo was guilty of armed robbery and involuntary homicide because his firearm had gone off through his negligent and imprudent handling, causing death.

The judge remarked that Frendo was a lucky young man. He explained that whereas the penalty of life imprisonment had been established for the crime of theft qualified with the aggravating circumstances of willful homicide, no section of the law had provided for any penalty in respect of theft aggravated by manslaughter. Moreover, the court was unable to penalise the accused for two separate offenses with which he had not been charged in different counts of the bill of indictment.

At least two other men are known to have died in botched bank robberies in Malta.

Police Constable Roger Debattista, a father of two, was shot dead while on security duties at a Bank of Valletta branch in Qormi in 2001.

Messenger Alphonse Ferriggi was killed while depositing a bag of documents - which robbers thought contained cash - at Bank of Valletta in San Ġwann in September September 2000.



Maltese Historical Association

Meet up with other like-minded individuals who have a passion or curiosity to learn more about Maltese history, stories, people and more.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87512634194?pwd=NheeZbFHgk0zlkG3qPlzmyqRZ8e1xn.1>

Meeting ID: 875 1263 4194 Passcode: 607412

Best regards Mario Bonnici

Dear MHA Members and Friends

This is a reminder that this month's presentation by the Maltese Historical Association will be held on **Tuesday 25 June**, starting at 7.20pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

As previously advised, our presenter this month is the renowned Maltese photographer, Daniel Cilia. He will be discussing Malta's Neolithic Temples, particularly their history and significance in Maltese heritage.

The link below allows you to join the meeting.



On Sunday, 21 April, 2024 a Mass dedicated to St George the Martyr was held at St Paul's the Apostle Church in Toronto with the participation of the Festa San Gorg Association. The Mass was celebrated by Pastor Roy Farrell, assisted by Deacon Ray Frendo together with the readers Miss Carmen Galea and John Vella and accompanied by the very talented St Paul's Choir. Shown in the picture is the Consul General of Malta Ms Denise Demicoli who was in attendance and accompanied by three delectanti from Qormi, Joe Sherri, Fred Cini and Tony Xuereb.

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TO KEEP IT ALIVE AND FLOURISHING**