



MCCCV newsletter

477 Royal Parade
Parkville
Victoria 3052
Australia
Phone: (03) 9387 8922
Fax: (03) 9387 8309
Email: mcccv@alphalink.com.au
Editor: Dr Edwin Borg-Manché

No: 103

September-October 2010

A Tribute to President de Marco

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria mourns the loss of Prof. Guido de Marco, a great leader who gave exceptional service to his country and the Maltese people in various roles: President of Malta (1999-2004), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice and Home Affairs and Deputy Leader of the Nationalist Party. He always led by example and never feared to fight the cause for justice throughout his long and distinguished political life and professional career.

The Maltese community in the state of Victoria fondly remembers Prof. de Marco's visits to Australia where he met many community members and friends, who had left the Maltese shores but remained very proud of their origin and heritage. Many of us are thankful that we were able to renew our acquaintance with him recently at the Convention of the Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta in March 2010.

The sad news of Prof. de Marco's passing away on Thursday 12 August 2010 reached Australia as soon as it was announced in the media in Malta, thanks to the instant means of communication of the internet.

Prof. Guido de Marco was born at Valletta on 22 July 1931, son of the late Emanuele and Giovanna née Raniolo. He was educated at St. Joseph High School, St. Aloysius College and the University of Malta. He graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1952, in Philosophy, Economics and Italian and in 1955 as a Doctor of Laws. Since 1967 he has been a lecturer and later a Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Malta.

Pope Benedict XVI, who had greeted de Marco personally during his apostolic visit to the island last April, proposed the former president of Malta as an example for politicians. The Pope classified Guido de Marco as a fine statesman, Vatican Radio reported. A state funeral was held on Monday 16 August. At the end of the ceremony a papal telegram was read, signed by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Holy Father's secretary of state.



The Papal message noted the "significant contribution [de Marco] made not only on the level of Maltese internal issues, but also to the life of the international community, in particular during the period he was president of the United Nations General Assembly." The Holy Father recalled "with esteem" that De Marco "distinguished himself in the service of the Maltese nation for many years." He "gave witness of his faith in Christ in the exercise of political life." In this regard, the Pontiff proposed "that many of those involved in politics be inspired by his example."

Prof. de Marco will be sadly missed but never forgotten. The MCCV and its affiliated associations extend their sincere condolences to his wife, Mrs Violet de Marco, and to his son, Mario, and two daughters, Gianella and Fiorella, all members of the legal profession, and their families. □

Inside this issue

Interview with Ann Zerafa	2
Malta Paintings Exhibition at Maltese Centre	3
Maltese in the Australian Media	4
Reskeon Seniors Group's	5
L-Għaqda Kulturali Maltija	6
Meta d-diski jirrakuntaw Storja—Jay P	7
Community Announcements	8

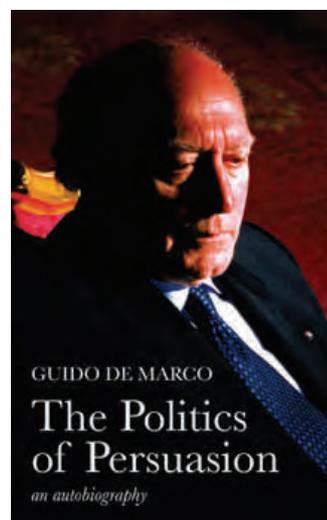
The Politics of Persuasion – an autobiography

In 2007 Prof. de Marco published his autobiography in Maltese and in English.

The book provides an insightful personal account of Malta's recent political history through the eyes of one of the main protagonists.

Prof de Marco weaves in all his accounts his strong belief in the politics of persuasion.

The memoirs also bring out the colourful personality of Guido de Marco.



Interview with Ann Zerafa — in a series of “hidden treasures”

By Helen Heaney

Reproduced from Issue No: 769 (19 June - 03 July 2010) of T'n'T, the newsletter of St. Leonard's Parish, Glen Waverley, with the kind permission of the Editor and author.

Annetta (Ann) Zerafa is a well known identity at St Leonard's having been a parishioner for over 30 years. She celebrated her 90th birthday in January 2010.

Were it possible to cast aside the passage of time and look back more than 80 years, we might catch a glimpse of a young schoolgirl busily engaged in mixing and rolling dough at her parent's bakery in Qormi, one of Malta's larger cities, before racing off to classes. After school came more duties in the bakery, perhaps helping her brothers to load dough into the big ovens. Then there was always the mixing of food for the horses - no motor delivery in those days. Hard work was an accepted part of Ann's childhood. She was always anxious to help her mother who had borne eighteen children of whom only nine survived. "My mother worked like a man all her life," she recalls sadly.

After Ann turned eighteen, a relative met with her father to discuss the problem of finding a wife for his son, Carmelo (Charlie). Together they decided that Ann was a good candidate. Her mother asked her if she would marry Charlie and despite the fact that she had never met him, Ann agreed.

What were her first impressions of her husband-to-be? "He was very quiet, not very big but a good, hard working man," she recalls in a matter-of-fact manner.

After 6 months of chaperoned meetings, the young couple were married and moved to a rented house near the bakery owned by her husband's family.

When asked if she missed her own family, Ann reveals what seems to be an ongoing philosophy of her life. "I didn't look back, I just kept going".

Over the next perhaps fifteen years, Ann and Charlie had eleven children, one of whom died at about six months. WW2 had come and gone, often Charlie would come home from bakery rounds with the latest news about who was migrating to Australia on the 10 pound (\$20) assisted immigration scheme. Because Malta was a colony of Great Britain at the time, Maltese citizens were eligible to apply. Ann was anxious to go to Australia, but she said nothing, wanting her husband to make up his own mind about leaving their homeland.

Eventually the decision was made to leave Malta, the paperwork completed and then came the wait to be accepted. Ann has a strong memory of their last meeting with Australian Immigration; she, Charlie and their 10 children are sitting around the office table with the official talking to Mary, the eldest daughter - the only one who could understand English. "You have been accepted - you can all go to Australia."

Within two months the Bakery had been sold and Charlie and their oldest son Tony left for their new country. Ann and the other nine children followed six months later.

The voyage to Australia took about six weeks. One memora-



Marriage photo 7th August 1938

Ann Zerafa

ble night Ann was awoken by the screams of the children; the ship was listing from one side to the other and water was pouring through the porthole. The family thought they were in danger of drowning. Ann managed to restore calm and investigation found that the steward had not allowed for the heavy seas and had forgotten to lock the porthole window. The family passport was later discovered floating in a drawer full of water.

When the Zerafa family was finally re-united in Melbourne they decided to travel to Morwell where Charlie found work with the SEC. Tony worked at the Morwell Bakery. Sometime later he told his parents that the business was up for sale. Ann urged Charlie to make an offer.

Continued on page 6

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MCCV NEWSLETTER

The MCCV Newsletter is published every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and information from all affiliated associations, which would be of interest. Contributions are invited from affiliated associations and may include:

- Notices for forthcoming community events
- Brief reports and photos on community events that took place since the publication of the previous newsletter
- Short articles of interest to the Maltese community

Contributions should be forwarded to the Editor either by email at mccvpro@gmail.com or alternatively by post to:

The Editor
MCCV Newsletter
Maltese Community Council of Victoria
477 Royal Parade
PARKVILLE 3052

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:-

- November-December Newsletter: **Friday 22 October 2010**
- January-February 2011 Newsletter: **Friday 10 Dec 2010**

Maltese Paintings Exhibition by Brian Kewley at the Maltese Community Centre

On Saturday 21 August 2001 His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone, the Malta High Commissioner to Australia, inaugurated an exhibition of paintings of Malta created by artist Brian Kewley at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.

Opening the proceedings, Mr Victor Borg, MCCV President, welcomed Brian Kewley to the Centre and said the MCCV was delighted when approached by Mr Kewley who was interested in putting on an exhibition of his paintings of Malta. Mr Kewley was in Malta in 1983 and he found Malta 'very paintable'. "It is fantastic to see an artist going through this effort and presenting to us his special skills and special distinctive style, which is something new to us," said Mr Borg.

In 2006 Mr Peter Apap Bologna had contacted Mr Kewley about one of his paintings, *Valletta the Golden City*, and asked whether he had any more paintings of Malta as he wanted to sell them in Malta to raise funds for the St Bosco Salesian Brothers.

event. Brian and his wife Gretchen have travelled around the world but when he arrived in Malta they were blown away by its beauty, the wonderful colours, the stone, the glittering harbour, the brooding forts, the scattered boundaries. For 10 days his wife was left an artist's widow as he painted and drew all the views he could see.



Brian Kewley (above) has been painting for more than fifty years. He started painting at eighteen, when he was a first year law student at Melbourne University. From the first time he took a sketchbook and some watercolours to the Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne, there was no doubt in his mind that he would be a painter. Since then, he has painted continuously, combining his life as an artist with a successful legal career.

Brian Kewley paints vigorous oils, gouaches and enamels, and is well known for his colourful paintings, mainly landscapes and seascapes, some from an aerial perspective. He has had 27 solo exhibitions in Australia, mostly in Melbourne, but also in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Canberra. In December 2006, his paintings of Malta and Gozo were exhibited at the Palazzo Parisio in Valletta. He is represented in the National Gallery of Victoria and the State Gallery of Queensland, and in the Reserve Bank of Australia collection, Artbank, and many corporate and private collections in Australia and overseas, and he has won a number of awards.

Below are a couple of the paintings of Malta on display. □



Marsaxlokk



In his speech H.E. Mr Tabone (above) said that "we Maltese are very proud of our heritage. Malta's landscape attracted the attention of Brian Kewley when he visited Malta in 1983. It was this overwhelming intensity and character that drew him to put brush and paint to canvas. Like other artists before him, he was seduced by its magnificent impact." He thanked Brian for the exhibition and the MCCV for holding the event and for, once again, bringing Malta closer to the Maltese in Victoria through the paintings of the island.

Mr Tabone presented Mr Kewley with a book about *Malta Fortress 360 degrees* as a token of appreciation.

Mr Kewley thanked Mr Tabone for coming down from Canberra to launch the exhibition and the MCCV for holding the



Entrance to Valletta Harbour, Malta

Maltese in the Australian Media

Carmen keeps giving

By Belinda Nolan
1 June 2010

What a treasure ... Carmen Testa has spent the last 57 years volunteering to help Maltese migrants adjust to life in their new country. She's won numerous awards including a Medal of the Order Of Australia and now she's been named one of Brimbank's Living Treasures.

A BATTLE with jaw cancer may have slowed her speech but it hasn't dampened Carmen Testa's community spirit.

Since arriving in West Sunshine from her homeland in Malta in the early 1950s Mrs Testa has strived to improve the lives of those in her community.

After retiring from teaching 25 years ago, Mrs Testa founded the Western Region Maltese Community Council Women's Group, to help break down the barriers experienced by culturally isolated women.

Mrs Testa has also chalked up thousands of hours volunteering for other community organisations including the Maltese-Australian Welfare Association, the Maltese Elderly Citizens of West Sunshine and St Paul's church in Sunshine.

Her tireless dedication to the community has bagged her numerous awards including A Medal of the Order of Australia, the Council of the Ageing Senior Achievers Award and an award from the Prime Minister of Malta.

And at 76, the West Sunshine resident shows no signs of slowing down.

Two years ago she was diagnosed with jaw cancer, a crippling disease that took its toll on her health.

Even today, Mrs Testa continues to have difficulty talking but after 10 operations and chemotherapy, has been given a clean bill of health.

"It's been a very difficult time for me but I have been determined to stay involved in the community," Ms Testa said.

She was recently honoured for more than 50 years of community service when she was dubbed one of Brimbank's "Living Treasures."

Her remarkable story will feature in a new exhibition at Deer Park's Hunt Club.

Despite the honour, Mrs Testa remains humble about her achievements.



Mrs Carmen Testa
Picture: Sarah Matray

"I'm just doing what I've been doing for 57 years," she said.

"I'm just trying to do what I can to help the community. I don't feel that I have done anything special but I feel very proud to be recognised."

Source:
<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/>

Len's ready to bowl up again for Malta

By Lance Jenkinson
04 August 2010

ALTONA Bowls Club lead Len Callus was there the first time Malta sent a team to the Commonwealth Games in his home town of Melbourne in 2006.

The 56-year-old is ecstatic to again be able to answer his nation's call and go for gold in India later this year. "I'm over the moon just to get picked," he said. "I'm the only Maltese player in Victoria to make it." Callus will partner with Michael De Bono and Joe Saragozza in the triples event. The Premier division player believes his team is capable of winning the title.

"It's only bad luck that will stop us coming away with the medal," he said. "I know we've got a very big chance." Callus missed out on a medal by the narrowest of margins four years ago. Competing in the pairs, his team was knocked out in a thrilling tie-breaker by pre-tournament favourites Scotland. It still hurts

when he realises how close he was to medal glory. "We were pretty stiff last time," he said.

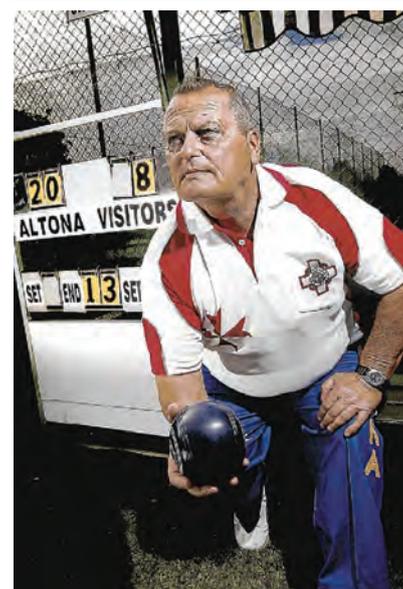
"If we had won that game, the next game we would have been playing for gold or silver. We've got to grab it by the throat this time."

Callus eventually bowed out to his adopted nation Australia. His team lost to Nathan Rice and Barrie Lester in the bronze medal playoff. "There were 35 countries that participated in it and we finished fourth," he said. "With an ounce of luck we could have got a bronze medal."

Callus was raised in Australia from the age of six after he was born in Malta. He has settled into Altona - a short walk from the bowling green. "I practice four or five hours a day," he said. "If we go down it's not through a lack of practicing."

■ Callus is looking for sponsors to fund his trip to Delhi. Contact 0412 932 584 to support a local sports star.

Source: <http://www.themail.com.au/>



Len Callus

Reskeon Seniors Group's Father's Day Luncheon

Members of Reskeon Seniors Group celebrated Father's Day with a luncheon. The venue was Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, on Thursday, 12th August. Just over 160 members attended.

MC for the day, Edwin Baldacchino, greeted all those present and the distinguished guests: The Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr. Charles Mifsud and Mrs. Anna Maria Mifsud, Fr. Dr. Victor Shields, mssp; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Dr. Clemente Zammit and Mrs. Mary Zammit; and the Vice-President of the Maltese Community Council, Mr. Guy Deguara and Mrs. Mary Deguara.

Instead of the normal playing of the Maltese and Australian National Anthems, Edwin Baldacchino lead the singing and all those present joined in and sang both anthems in one voice.

Then the meals were served. Entrée was a serving of fish with rice, followed by large serve of lasagna. The main course was grilled chicken and beef with roast potatoes and vegetables on each plate. Red and white

wine, beer and soft drinks were served all day. Dessert was cassata ice-cream and a fruit platter, followed by tea/coffee and continental cakes.

Mario Sammut and his Moods Music provided the entertainment for the day and kept members on the dance floor all day.

Coordinator Caesar Vella gave his special message for Father's Day. Then he invited Mr. Charles Mifsud who spoke about the history of Father's Day. Both Caesar and Mr. Mifsud wished all a Happy Father's Day and

reminded everyone to remember the dead fathers in their prayers.

Angelo Farrugia, the Coordinator of the competition presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up of the Men's Bocce Competition. Winner was Edwin Baldacchino. First Runner-up was Joe Camilleri and Second Runner-up, Charles Galea.

A good day was had by all those attending this function. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this luncheon a very successful one.

Paul Vella



Maltese in the Australian Media (cont.)

Continued from p. 4

Vella bid to redeem himself

By Robert Fedele
24 August, 2010

FOR Australian clay target shooter Adam Vella, the notion of getting it right on the day is all too familiar.

Vella, a Commonwealth Games double gold medallist and an Olympic bronze medallist, is fronting up for his third Commonwealth Games in New Delhi and is out for redemption.

The 39-year-old Keilor resident admits he's hoping to erase some of the demons stemming from his poor performance at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in his hometown Melbourne.

"I didn't have a very good run in Melbourne. I got caught up in the home-crowd stuff. It put me on a different level of expectation," he says.

"If I had it all over again I'd definitely do it differently. I'd try to shoot for myself and not for everyone else."

Vella has been shooting for 26 years. In Delhi, he'll compete in the pairs event with Michael Diamond and individually in the men's trap.

"We've won the gold in the past two Commonwealth Games so the pairs gold is what we're going for."

Vella's preparation for the Games will include competing at several international events before heading to India on October 3.

Ultimately, though, he says shooting is more mental than technical.

"It's a target sport. It's on the day. Anything can happen in shooting. You wake up in the morning and if you wake up on the right side you'll hit everything and if you don't you'll miss.



On target: Adam Vella is relishing the chance to represent Australia once more at the Commonwealth Games.

Picture: Scott McNaughton

"The practice side of things is not the biggest element; for me it's the mental side. When you've been shooting as long as I have it comes as second nature."

Asked how long he will continue in the sport, Vella says professional shooters by nature live in "four-year blocks" in the hope of making major competitions.

His goal is to make the 2012 London Olympics squad. Then he will reassess.

Source: <http://www.the-advocate.com.au/>

Interview with Ann Zerafa

Continued from p. 2

She had made an astute judgment that the man who sold flour to the Bakery might possibly lend them money to buy the business and says, "I had the courage to ask him for a loan."

Gradually a picture is emerging of this amazing woman - a hard working mother, a woman who doesn't look back, a woman of courage. When asked what she sees as her greatest achievements in life, apart from her family, she has no hesitation in answering, "I am a business woman; always, I love business."

Although she never worked in the family businesses in Australia she was the driving force in their success. They sold the Morwell Bakery after a few years and bought a Petrol Station with a Super Mart attached in Traralgon which did very well. They moved on to Springvale, then Clayton running a family Petrol Station in Warrigal Road, Moorabbin, as well as a Delicatessen in Balaclava.

Ann thrived in the business environment with her never-look-back attitude while Charlie, always a hard working man, suffered frequent periods of homesickness. They eventually moved to St Ronan's Court, Glen Waverley where they lived for over thirty years. Some years later Charlie had a stroke from which he never fully recovered. Ann looked after him for eleven years until he eventually needed nursing care and moved into Cumberland View Nursing Home where he died, about 14 years ago. Ann now lives at Oaktree Hill Retirement Village across the road from her old home.

When asked about her happiest or saddest memories Ann looks rather bemused. She doesn't view life through the prism of happy or sad. She enjoys the present and looks confidently to the future. Yet as we sift through her memories there is sadness in the recollection of baby Paul's death. "We treated sickness ourselves then; didn't take our children to hospital." And there is unmistakable regret that, when leaving Malta her brothers would not let her kiss her mother good-bye.

They thought the women would become too emotional and so they kept them separated. This sadness remains, compounded by the fact that her mother died before she was able to return to Malta for a visit. Happier memories revolve around family achievements and business successes but Ann doesn't believe in dwelling on the past. "I just keep going," she smiles.

Her Catholic faith has always been an important part of her identity. "I grew up Catholic and will never change," she says, "I go to church every day." This seems a pretty amazing effort even for such an exceptional 90 year old, and I ask, "How do you get there?" "Oh I walk," she replies, enjoying my astonishment. After a minute or so she dissolves into laughter. "No I don't walk. I drive myself. I got my licence when I was 58 years old." she adds proudly. No mean feat in itself, but Ann brushes aside any admiration. "I've told you many times, I have courage." she reminds me.

Ann has 10 children, 32 grandchildren and 66 great grandchildren, with two more on the way. She is a modern-day matriarch who talks of the need for firmness in raising children, all the while with a twinkle in her eye. She believes that children today have too much, and refuses to buy toys for her great grandchildren. But she shows me a beautiful rug that she is crocheting for a great granddaughter - her giving now is of her talent, time and energy.

With a generous spirit and great sense of humour she has allowed her fellow parishioners to see part of the rich tapestry of her life. Her memories weave through time and events and too often, because of time constraints, she has had to draw back with regret saying, 'but that's another story.'

Thank-you Ann for the story you have shared and for the inspiration of your positive approach to life. We at St. Leonard's acclaim you as another of the 'hidden treasures' of our parish.

□

L-Għaqda Kulturali Maltija ta' Victoria

L-Għaqda Kulturali Maltija ta' Victoria ikolla l-għana kull nhar ta' Hamis fil-għaxija gewwa iċ-Ċentru Kulturali t'Albion li qiegħed 27 Talmage Street, Albion.

Iċ-Ċentru ikun miftuħ mis-sitta ta' fil-għaxija, imma waqt li l-għana generalment tibda għal ħabta tat-tmienja, sa kemm tibda l-għana nuru xi video fuq il-big screen.

Il-kċina u l-bar ikunu miftuħin u jkun hemm menu varjat bi prezzijiet moderati ħafna. Hemm ukoll għad-dilettanti mejda tal-billiard 'full size', kif ukoll hemm min jilgħab it-'table tennis'.

Kullhadd huwa mistieden biex igawdi dawn il-passatempji, speċjalment il-folklor ta l-għana tradizzjonali Malti.

Numri tat-telefon għal aktar tagħrif:
Ċentru Albion fuq 9311 4750 jew mobile segretarju Joe Zammit fuq 0404960425.



Il-mużiċisti u l-għannejja waqt sessjoni ta' l-għana Malti

Meta d-diski jirrakuntaw Storja

minn Doris Azzopardi

doris.azzopardi@media.link.com.mt

Dan l-artiklu għe ppublikat fil-gazzetta "Il-Mument" tat-18 'April 2010 u qed jiġi riprodott bil-permess gentili tal-awtrici

Kemm hu sabih meta tiltaqa' ma' persuna li ghadha kapaċi tikkomwovi ruhha. Li ghadha tapprezza l-affarijiet sempliċi li toffri l-hajja u li thares lejn il-hajja b'mod pozzittiv. Dan hu rifliss fid-diski li jkanta u jikkomponi Joseph Portelli, in arte Jay P, kantant li twieled l-Awstralja, trabba Ghawdex u reġa' mar l-Awstralja fejn ghadu jghix sal-lum.

Ghadha ż-żmien minn mindu Fr Karm Refalo, illum Arcipriet tax-Xagħra, issuggerielu li jitgħallem il-kitarra. Beda jdoqq fil-knejjes diski bhal Tini Idejk u Ġilju Bajdani. Intant il-mużika baqgħet dejjem f'qalbu u ddecieda li jikteb l-esperjenzi tal-hajja u jkantahom. Ġabarhom f'cd album li għib l-isem ta' 1565 – *patiently waiting* li nieda s-sena li għaddiet, u issa qed idur id-dinja b'mod partikolari minhabba l-fatt li nħatar Ambaxxatur għal Alzheimer Disease International (ADI) permezz tad-diska *How the times have changed*. Din id-diska titratta din il-kundizzjoni li laqet lil missieru, persuna tant għażiza għalih.

Jay P halla lid-delegati emozzjonati u silenzjużi waqt l-ikla tal-25 konferenza internazzjonali tal-Alzheimer organizzata f' Thessaloniki l-Greċja. Dan il-kantant qed jahdem bla heda u jdur minn pajjiż għal ieħor bl-iskop li jzid l-għarfien dwar l-Alzheimer permezz tal-lingwa universali li hi l-mużika.

Dikjarazzjoni ta' apprezzament

Id-diska tiegħu, *How the times have changed* inkitbet propju bhala dikjarazzjoni ta' apprezzament lil missieru li jbat minn din il-kundizzjoni u lil ommu li kostantament flimkien ma' Jay P u wahda minn hutu l-bniet li tgħix fit bibien 'il bogħod minnhom fl-Awstralja, iddur bih. Jay P minn ftit taż-żmien 'l hawn qed jesejgwi r-rwol ta' Ambaxxatur tal-ADI.

Hu kanta wkoll din id-diska f' Singapore, New York, Londra, l-Awstralja u ovvjament f' Malta. Dan, fil-waqt li hu mistieden biex ikanta f'Wellington, New Zealand f'Mejju li għe.

Izda ha nibdew pass pass u mmorru lura fl-1973 f'Melbourne l-Awstralja fejn twieled. Għadu kif għalaq 37 sena. Ta' hames xhur il-ġenituri tiegħu gabuh Malta, propjament Ghawdex.

Attenda l-iskola primarja Laura Seguna, l-Għasri u għamel hemm sa ma kellu disa' snin.

"Dejjem ngħid li dawki kienu l-aktar snin memorabbli ta' hajti. Jekk il-ġenna hi bhal dak iż-żmien li għamilt hemm, allura rrid imur issa stess. Il-hajja mhix hażina miegħi llum izda dak iż-żmien kien eċċezzjonali."

Hekk jiddeskrivi t-tfulija tiegħu li ghadha temozzjonah sal-lum. Inkomplu, izda, fejn naraw li ta' disa' snin il-ġenituri tiegħu regghu lura l-Awstralja izda sadattant Ghawdex twieldu żewġ hutu bniet. Il-familja, izda, reggħet lura Ghawdex meta kellu hdx-il sena. "Fl-Awstralja tista' tgħid li ma kellniex familjaġ mhux listess nista' ngħid għal Ghawdex.

"Kien diffiċli għalija li nidra hemm. Meta rġajna għejna bdejt immur fil-boarding school tal-Kulleġġ De La Salle. Għamilt tliet snin fejn bdejt nimmissja xi affarijiet mill-Awstralja. Insomma, sibt ruħi f'sitwazzjoni li ma nafx jien iniegh Ghawdx jew Awstraljan u fejn nixtieq ngħix l-aktar.



Tista' tgħid li sal-lum ma nafx lil liema pajjiż nappartjeni. Immaġina, ta' erbatax ergajna morna lura u bqajna hemm sal-lum."

Petrol station spiritwali

Jay P li f'Ghawdex għandu lil wahda minn hutu bniet, jgħid li meta jiġi fi xtutna bhal donnu jerġa' jiehu l-fuel, jiċċarġja ruħu.

"Hawn inqisu bhala l-petrol station spiritwali tiegħi. Hawn inħoss li qiegħed l-aktar qrib ta' dik il-persuna li kont meta kelli disa' snin. U meta nkun qrib dik ir-realtà nħoss li qed nerġa' nieħu l-enerġija biex ikun nista' mmur fejn hemm bżonn inwassal lili nnifsi u lmużi ika tiegħi."

Ħa niġu issa għall-mużika. Jay P beda jitgħallem il-kitarra meta kellu madwar tnaħ-il sena. Kien il-kuġin ta' ommu, Dun Karm, li meta rah fil-knisja jħares lejn xi żgħażaġ idoqqu l-kitarra qallu biex jagħmel patt miegħu.

"Jien ngħallmek iddoqq il-kitarra b'xejn izda int imbagħad iddoqq fil-knisja b'xejn. Hekk kien qalli u minnufih bdejt nikkonvinci lil ommi biex Father Christmas fil-Milied iġibli kitarra.

"U hekk ġara. Fit-tnax-il Milied tiegħi rċevajt kitarra. Kien Fr Jerry Buhagiar, illum Rettur ta' Pinu, li għallimni l-kitarra u fi żmien tliet xhur bdejt idoqq fi knejjes differenti."

Jay P jgħid li minn dejjem kellu dak is-sens ta' melodija sa minn tfulitu u meta beda jdoqq il-kitarra dan hareġ b'mod naturali bħalma ghadu johroġ illum. Lura l-Awstralja ha l-kitarra miegħu u din kienet dak il-punt ta' riferiment, dik ix-xi haġa li tgħaqqad lil Ghawdex u lill-Awstralja, iż-żewġ realtajiet tiegħu.

Kienet dik ix-xi haġa kostanti f'hajtu. Din ghenitu jaffronta d-diffikultajiet li kif wiehed jista' jimmaġina kellu jaffronta fi tfulija u adolexxenza mhux stabbli. Hu fil-fatt jgħid li l-kitarra kien jizaha biex jesprimi lemozzjonijiet tiegħu. "L-ewwel udjenzi tiegħi kienu shabi li kienu jingabru fil-kamra tas-sodda tiegħi u noqgħod idoqq. Kienu huma wkoll li harġuni mill-kamra tas-sodda tiegħi u għalhekk sibt ruħi ndoqq quddiem udjenza ta' għoxrin, tletin ruħ.

Kollox għe b'mod normali

"Kollox għe b'mod naturali u haġa għib lill-ohra ma domtx biex bdejt nikteb il-lirika u l-mużika biex illum għadni għaddejt f'din il-linja. Probabbilment qed nagħmel dak li twelid biex nagħmel."

Meta ta' 18-il sena Jay P beda diehel fl-industrija tal-mużika hu jgħid li kellu hafna suggerimenti biex jikteb haġa u mhux ohra u jsawwar personagġ u mhux ieħor. Izda Jay P dejjem insista li jkun hu, ġenwin u awtentiku.

"Kieku smajt minnhom u mexxieli nisfronda fil-mużika b'mod artifiċjali kieku ma kontx insaddad. Kont inkun artifiċjali. Bdejt idoqq f'lukanda Melbourne kull nhar ta' Erbgha. Kont idoqq il-mużika tiegħi u minn hemm iltqajt ma' Gary Pinto li talabni demo.

"F'kemm ili ngħid bdejna nirrekordjaw id-diski tiegħi. Kien proċess ta' sitt snin xogħol biex lestejna l-album 1565 fejn l-istess Pinto kiteb miegħi wahda mid-diski bl-isem ta' *Love*."

Jay P jiddeskrivi d-diski flalbum 1565 bhala rakkont ta' hajtu. Il-mod kif hu jħares lejn il-hajja, bhala esperjenzi personali li bosta jistgħu jassoċjaw ruħhom magħhom.

Hu jgħid li hemm linja ta' pozzittività li għaddejt minnha, pozzittività li tiddomina hajtu, wara kollox, għaliex hu jħares lejn il-hajja bhala tazza nofsha mimlija anke fil-mument diffiċli.

Track 10 tal-album ta' Jay P, *Rocking chair*, titkellem dwar kemm hu importanti li meta tasal biex thalli l-hajja tkun konxju li tkun għamilt dak li tassew xtaq tagħmel u mhux dak li s-sistema stenniet minnek. Hu fil-fatt jgħid li bħalissa hu qed jagħmel propju dak li dejjem xtaq jagħmel.

Track 11 imbagħad hi dik id-diska li permezz tagħha qed idur id-dinja. Tittratta l-marda tal-Alzheimer li effettwat lil missieru. "Bħalissa, flimkien ma' ommi li hi infermiera kwalifikata, qed idur b'missieri, Chris, li influwenzani hafna f'hajti. Tagħmel affarijiet f'hajtek li lanqas biss timmaġina fejn se jwassluk."

Hawn Jay P ikkomova ruħu tant li d-dmugh ġelben ma' haddejt u ma hallieħx jgħid kelma ohra. Izda l-istess dmugh kien jgħid hafna. Jgħid kemm ifisser għalih missieru, kif ukoll l-għozza li trabba fiha u l-gwida li tah missieru.

"Nagħmel diversi intervisti u dejjem nispiċċa nibki meta jissemma missieri. Għandu 86 u għallimni hafna. Meta marad, għall-bidu l-familja kollha bdiet tevita li taċċetta x'kien qed jiġri. Ridna nżommuh id-dar għax hassejna li hi haġa privata.

Izda darba kont qed insuq u rajt lil ommi fil-karozza tagħha wieqfa fit-traffic lights. Kienet qed tibki. "Intbaht kemm ilkundizzjoni ta' missieri kienet qed tagħtiha ġewwa. Hemm mort lura għall-kitarra tiegħi u l-uġiħ li hassejt kitbu fid-diska – *How the times have changed*."

Ma riedx jinvolvi lill-ġenituri

Għall-bidu Jay P ma riedx ikaxkar lill-ġenituri tiegħu fil-media izda wara lil fl-2008 beda jdur bil-kunċert Show Compassion kien ikkuntattjat mill-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Alzheimer fl-Awstralja.

tkompli f'paġna 8

tkompli minn paġna 8

“Skoprejt ukoll li hemm diversi persuni oħra bl-istess kundizzjoni ta’ missieri u diversi oħra se jkunu. Intbaht li bil-mużika qed nohloq awareness u issa mhux qed nitkellem biss dwar il-familja tiegħi iżda dwar dawk ilfamilji kollha effettwati.

“Issa nhtart Ambaxxatur għall-Alzheimer Disease International (ADI) u għalhekk din l-awareness qed indawwarha mad-dinja kollha, dejjem permezz tal-mużika.

Permezz tal-kunċerti tiegħi jistgħu jingabru flus li jkunu investiti fi studju u riċerka ulterjuri dwar din il-marda.”

Lura għas-CD ta’ Jay P li fiha 12-il diska. Diski li hu jikkonsidrahom bħala wliedu, ilkoll b’personalità differenti. “Jien inqis ruhi bħala Malti-Awstraljan. Kull fejn immur nirrappreżenta lil Malta wkoll.

Jien inqisni bħallikeieku qiegħed fil-limbu. Iżda naf li d-dixxendenti tiegħi huma Maltin. “Għalhekk għażilt id-diska 1565 bħala l-isem tas-CD. Diska li titkellem fuq l-Assedju l-Kbir, avveniment li nħoss li jixhed il-qlubija tal-poplu Malti.”

Barra l-kant lura l-Awstralja Jay P għandu aġenzija tal-propjetà. Xogħol li jimxi wahdu iżda fl-istess waqt jiddedika hin ukoll b’mod partikolari meta

jkun jixtieq jtiegħed xi ftit mill-mużika. “Xi kultant tkun trid tagħmel xi haġa differenti wkoll.”

“Irrid li kulhadd ikun jaf xi ftisser Alzheimer u Dementia. Irrid inkun strument biex b’mod partikolari l-ġenerazzjoni żagħżuġha tkun taf x’inhil fiex tikkonsisti din il-kundizzjoni.

“Nixtieq li persuni effettwati minn din il-kundizzjoni jgħixu haġa mill-aħjar. F’Settembru li għadda kont New York u waqt ilkonferenza dwar l-Alzheimer kienet preżentata l-istatistika l-għdida – Statistika li tgħid li sal-2015, 115-il miljun persuna tkun effettawata.

Kundizzjoni li se tkun qed tikber b’rata mgħaġġla anke minhabba l-fatt li l-bniedem qed jgħix aktar.

“Hi marda għolja biex tittrattaha u hi piż fuq ilfamilja li trid iddur bil-persuna effettwata.

“Missieri jgħix f’dinja għalih. Illum lanqas jaf jien min jien, jew aħjar rari jagħrafni. Iżda hu għadu jeżisti u ma tistax tpoġġih f’kantuniera u tinjorah. Ahna ninkluduh f’hajjina.

“Fuq il-mejda jpoġġi magħna u nitkellmu u niċċajtaw miegħu. Forsi mhux dejjem jirreagixxi.

“Omni min-naha tagħha tbatil għax meta tqum filgħodu ma għadhiex tista’ titkellem ma’ żewġha, taqsam qalbha u hsibijetha. Bil-lejl tqum hafna

drabi biex iddur b’missieri u matul il-ġurnata tisma’ lil missieri jgħidilha l-istess diskors bħal diska mwahhla.

Stress mentali

“Dan kollu jpoġġi lil omni fi stress mentali, fiżiku, emozzjonali u psikoloġiku. Omni wkoll ikollha bżonn tal-ghajnuna. Oħti, li tgħix Malta, iċċempel lil omni kuljum. Flimkien jtkellmu dwar it-tfal tagħha u affarijiet differenti. B’dan il-mod omni jkollha opportunità li titkellem u tgħix realtà oħra li tagħtiha energija.

“Oħtha li tgħix l-Awstralja toqgħod ftit bibien ‘il bogħod u tgħin kostantement. Hemm il-pożittiv ukoll għax il-kundizzjoni ta’ missieri għaqdet aktar lill-familja u għabitna aktar flimkien.”

Bniedem avżat nofsu armat – qalli Jay P bil-Malti xi ftit imharbat iżda jintgħaraf. L-‘awareness’ għal din il-kundizzjoni hi neċessarja biex wiehed jinduna bl-ewwel sintomi, ikun jaf jgħin u jkun ta’ support ma’ pazjenti bl-Alzheimer jew Dementia u fuq kollox ikun konxju li dawn il-pazjenti għandhom dinjità li trid tkun salvagwardata.

Jay P qed jagħmel dan permezz tal-mużika tiegħu. Hemm modi oħra kif wiehed jista’ jagħmel dan. Jekk kulhadd juża l-ghodda tiegħu l-hajja ta’ hafna tkun ferm aħjar. □

Community Announcements



- **Saturday 13 November 2010:**
 - Dinner Dance at the Luxor Reception Centre, Sydenham Rd/Keilor Melton Hwy, Sydenham
 - From 7.00 pm to 12.30 am.
 - Entertainment by *Just for Kicks* and DJ *Dino* and also *Maltese United Brass Band*
- **Sunday 14 November 2010:**
 - Patron Saint Mass at 4.00 pm at St Martin De Porres Church, Avondale Heights
 - Mass celebrated by Fr Andrew Camilleri and Mario Genuis
 - Procession with statue of St Andrew will take place after Mass.
 - The *Malta-Gozo City of Brimbank Concert Band* will be holding a concert at the same church after the procession

For further information please ring Acting President Katie Falzon on 9366 1747 or organiser Rose Manion on 9390 4232 or Maria Lonigro on 9367 6149

Maltese Literature Group Inc Grupp Letteratura Maltija Inc

- **Il-Hadd 19 ta’ Settembru 2010:**
Lejla Mużiko-Letterarja
- **Il-Ġimgħa 29 t’Ottubru 2010:**
Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali
- **Il-Hadd 12 ta’ Diċembru 2010:**
BBQ u Festin tal-Millied għand Frank u Draga Bonnett, Bulla

Dawn id-dati huma tentattivi u jistgħu jinbidlu

Kull l-aħħar Ġimgħa tax-xahar fis 7.30 pm ikollna l-laqgħat tal-membri fiċ-Ċentru Malti ta’ Parkville

ST HELENA MALTESE / AUSTRALIAN S.C. INC

DIRECT FROM MALTA

Mark Tonna & Debbie Scerri

Sunday 14 November 2010

At the Croatian Hall, Ardeer

Cost is only \$20 per person

Food & drinks can be bought at the hall. For more information please ring: Victor on 0412 99 1325 or Mary on 9370 5164 or any other committee members.



MCCV Annual General Meeting & Council Elections

The President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria advises the all affiliated associations that the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc, will take place at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville on Wednesday, 27th October 2010.

At this meeting the election of the MCCV Executive and Council for the next two years will be held. Formal documents in relation to the arrangements and the election will be forwarded to the affiliated associations in due course.