Remembering the victims of COVID-19
Ghajnsielem’s church Gozo - Malta

Dr George Vella
President of Malta

The Maltese From Gozo
ENJOY HIS HUMOUR ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE
PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

‘L-Istat tan-Nazzjon’ (State of the Nation) national survey and conference launched in collaboration with the Office of the President

President urged the public to cooperate in the gathering of information during the survey. He also said that there is nothing wrong if such discussions are also held at the local level in different parts of our country. “This is all part of my vision for this year, which I would like to dedicate to this goal. I am taking these steps so that the presidency creates awareness of historical moments in the shaping of our country, our achievements and, above all, knowledge and appreciation of where we are today,” said the President. “While we continue to be critical of all that is wrong around us, we must cherish all the positive that we have gained wisely and carefully over time.”

Dr Marmarà explained that the survey will be conducted by telephone with no less than a thousand people from among the entire population of Maltese citizens. The goal is to gain a better understanding of who we are as a nation and what we believe in, what defines us, and what shapes our principles. The sample will be selected to reflect the country’s demographics so that before discussing the ‘state of the nation’, the speakers and experts will have a picture of who the nation is and what defines it. In this way, the people will have their voices heard before the discussion.

Mr Bondì announced that the national conference on 4th June, which will be presided by the President of Malta, will be composed of 29 speakers – split into different panel discussions – and six moderators from all walks of life. Among those who have already confirmed their participation are the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Archbishop. “This conference will take place at the right time,” said Mr Bondì. “Apart from being held, hopefully, at the beginning of the end of the pandemic, fundamental and revolutionary changes are taking place on different levels in our country and around us; changes that are giving birth to realities that we have yet to understand what they mean... All of this is leading to a sense of who we are that is no longer as before.”

While thanking in advance all those who are already involved, or will be involved in this initiative, the
The High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg has embarked on a series of courtesy calls on Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Canberra, the first of which saw H.E. Mr Farrugia Borg call on the Head of the EU Delegation, H.E. Dr Michael Pulch; High Commissioners for Cyprus, H.E. Ms Martha Mavrommatis, and for Ghana, H.E. Dr Joseph Agoe; Ambassadors of the Republic of Italy, H.E. Ms Francesca Tardioli, Estonia, H.E. Kersti Eesmaa, Poland, H.E. Mr Michał Kołodziejski, and Spain, H.E. Ms Alicia Moral Revilla.

Executive summary The discussions held with fellow Heads of Mission revolved around the new realities created by the challenge of the ongoing global pandemic, amongst other themes. H.E. Mr Farrugia Borg and colleagues shared experiences with working with and the importance of keeping identities, culture and traditions alive with respective Diaspora and subsequent generations born in Australia. The High Commissioner was also briefed with ongoing activities across political, socio-economic and Research and Innovation engagement between the EU, EU Member States and Australia. The shared histories, commonalities and intrinsic connection with Commonwealth countries and partner countries in the EU were recalled and commitment to putting these cherished connections and links to fruitful use was committed throughout these productive courtesy calls.

The first courtesy calls, in detail: On the first day, the High Commissioner called on H.E. Mr. Michael Pulch, Ambassador & Head of Delegation of the European Union in Australia at the EU Delegation premises in Canberra. Following pleasantries, the conversation revolved around the concerning COVID situation in Malta and the rest of the European Union. The High Commissioner was also briefed by the Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation on current and ongoing activities of the EU Delegation in cooperation with EU Missions in Australia. During the courtesy call paid on the Ambassador of the Italian Republic, H.E. Ms. Francesca Tardioli, High Commissioner Farrugia Borg and Ambassador Tardioli spoke about their previous experiences in serving their countries, and also about their countries' traditional and long standing bond and friendship, emanating not only from their geographical proximity but also due to the similarities in traditions and culture and the common values that Malta and Italy both uphold and cherish. During the High Commissioner’s call this week on H.E. Kersti Eesmaa, Ambassador of Estonia, they spoke about their respective diasporas in Australia and how they focus their work on them.

The second call of the day was on H.E. Dr Joseph Agoe, High Commissioner of Ghana. The High Commissioner was proud to mention Malta’s long-time role as a bridge between Europe and Africa and Malta’s efforts and commitment to a prosperous African continent. The High Commissioner also called on H.E. Ms. Martha Mavrommatis, High Commissioner of Cyprus, where they spoke about their countries’ similar realities and roles as two mediterranean, commonwealth, relatively small E.U. island states.

Later in the day, a call on H.E. Mr. Michał Kołodziejski, Ambassador of Poland, they touched on their common challenge in keeping their respective identities and cultures alive among their second and third generations born in Australia, and what could be done to engage the youth of their respective diasporas.

On the last of a series of courtesy calls for the week, the High Commissioner visited H.E. Ms Alicia Moral Revilla, Ambassador of Spain. They had a very interesting chat about the difficulties and hardships faced by their respective diasporas who left their native countries in search of a better future, and the heartbreaking stories behind thousands of migrants. The High Commissioner and the Ambassador of Spain also spoke about the new realities of today in a world threatened by the pandemic.
Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

THE CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA TO CANADA WELCOMES YOUTH WHO WINS SCHOLARSHIP ON MALTESE CANADIAN MIGRATION

Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich

Maltese Canadian history has been a story of a humble people who left a tiny country in the Mediterranean – The Maltese Islands and became a success story thousands of kilometers away in the second largest country on world - Canada. This story is the history, heritage and identity of 147,000 Maltese Canadians being preserved, unveiled and transmitted to future generations by a commendable initiative of the board of Leħen Malti TV in Canada lead by Chairperson Joe Sherri by means of a scholarship offered to Maltese Canadian youths. The Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri welcomed the winner of this scholarship, Maltese Canadian youth Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich at the Consulate General in Toronto, Ontario. Consul General Dr Xerri augured Mr Klemenčič-Puglisevich for his work and promised the Consulate General's assistance in continuing his research into the Maltese Canadian story and besides the making available specialised research from Maltese Canadian Library available at the Consulate, Consul General Xerri provided Mr Klemenčič-Puglisevich with copies of important publications related to the third and fourth Conventions for Maltese Living Abroad organised in 2000 and 2015 respectively. Mr Klemenčič-Puglisevich thanked Consul General Dr Xerri for welcoming him, offering assistance to enhance his research, for the publications and for the initiative taken by the Consulate General of Malta in establishing the specialised Maltese Canadian migration specialised library.

The Maltese Journal congratulates Mr David Carbon on being confirmed as Malta’s Honorary Consul with jurisdiction over the States of North Carolina and South Carolina.

We invite all Maltese association around the world to send us contributions and advertisements to be published in this journal FREE OF CHARGE
Meghan Markle Visited the Azure Window, wore a Maltese ḡħonnella and ate “Hobz biz-Zejt” and Pastizzi - 2015

Nearly in every newspaper in the world you read talk about Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, following their two-hour interview with Oprah Winfrey.

Whether you agree or not with the opinions presented one thing is for certain, the Meghan loves Malta because actually she is part Maltese. Her great-great grandmother Mary was born on the island. Meghan herself had travelled here in 2015 to explore the localities and her ancestry and to taste the Maltese cuisine and explore Malta’s culture fitting in a piece of the puzzle in her life.

Both the Queen Elizabeth of England and Meghan, Markle expressed on many occasions their love for the Maltese Islands and both visited the Island of Malta.

The last visit of the queen was in to attend the CGOGM Conference and Meghan in 2015, which was made in conjunction with Hello! Magazine.

Meghan was able to truly live her best Maltese life by eating some of the local delicacies like ftira biż-żejt and pastizzi.

She visited the recently collapsed the Azure Window for a bit of a photoshoot – but her most iconic moment on the island was when she wore an ḡħonnella, a traditional piece of Maltese clothing that her bużbużnanna Mary probably wore when she was a young lady.

“BHALA POPLU MAGĦQUD
kapaċi negħlu kull sfida”

IL-PRESIDENT TA' MALTA GEORGE VELLA

#COVID-19
The plight of refugees during the Siege of Malta
MALTESE REFUGEES DURING WORLD WAR 2

J-P Mauro

Citizens of Malta painted the crosses on the front of their homes as a show of support and a pledge of service to refugees.

There are many World War II era photos in circulation that show Crosses of Malta emblazoned on the front of houses on the island of Malta. The Maltese Cross has long been associated with the Knights of Malta, as it was used as far back as the 16th century by the Knights Hospitallers during the Crusades, and the symbol held strong when they became known as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. But what led people to inscribe the image on their street-facing facades?

The Maltese Cross is as steeped in symbolism as it is in history. The figure is recognizable by the way each point of the cross is angled outward, to make eight points. Malta Uncovered points out that these eight points are symbolic of three things: Firstly, as part of a symbol of a “Christian Warrior,” they represent the eight obligations or aspirations of the knights, which are:

“To live in truth, have faith, repent one’s sins, give proof of humility, love justice, be merciful, be sincere and wholehearted, and to endure persecution.”

The eight points are also representative of the eight nations whose countrymen were admitted into the order. Malta Uncovered explains that these include “Auvergne, Provence, France, Aragon, Castile and Portugal, Italy, Baviere (Germany), and England (with Scotland and Ireland).” The site notes that modern teaching holds that the points are also symbolic of the eight “beatitudes” or “blessings” of the order. According to the site:

“A good first aider in service of the Order of St. John [aka. Knights of Malta] is Observant, Tactful, Resourceful, Dexterous, Explicit, Discriminating, Persevering and Sympathetic.”

Now that we know the symbolism behind the Maltese Cross, it seems safe to assume that Maltese citizens were painting crosses on their houses as a sign of solidarity with their protectors. After all, the Maltese Cross is the guiding symbol of their warriors, entrenched in their culture for hundreds of years. While this practice was an obvious show of support, however, it was also a bit of a code.

A report from Television Malta (TVM) reveals that painting Maltese Crosses on the front of one’s house was a way to announce to the community that the household had room to accommodate refugees. The practice started in 1940, when bombs began to fall on Malta. As the attacks targeted their three most populated cities, there were estimated to be a third of their 85,000 people displaced.

In order to protect the citizenry — and keep the fleeing refugees out of the way of the military — the displaced were sent to the more rural towns and villages inland, which were safer from attack. With far too few shelters, however, the people of these small towns took in families to stay through the hardest time of the war.

These private homes that welcomed refugees began to paint Maltese Crosses on their houses to show how many people they were sheltering. The crosses also made it easier for government officials to see where there may be enough space for another refugee family. They simultaneously showed off the generosity of each homestead, while showing that they had more to give, if there was anyone else in need.
Author: Charles J. Farrugia
ISBN: 9789995794231  Hardback
Although silent, archives do speak volumes! Celebrating his 30th year working in the archives, Malta’s National Archivist visited over sixty archives in Malta and Gozo and chose a selection of records from these repositories; it was a long process of engagement with the sources, their guardians and their users.

This personal narrative highlights sources, connections and different archival typologies and media while shedding light on a number of previously unknown archival treasures.

Archives custody the dreams of many. They preserve for posterity ideas and thoughts that often remain on paper. This book holds the author’s choice of items from over 60 Maltese archival repositories, the scope is not for the reader to stop and ponder on the items themselves. Each record is a fragment from a chain of evidence. Its relevance transcends the walls of the archive in which it is in custody.

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Rosary Home is a 50 bed, low, high and respite care, Aged Care Facility, operated by the Dominican Sisters of Malta with well trained and qualified staff. Rosary Home is situated in a very quiet, leafy, neighbourhood, and near to Melbourne Airport, Keilor Shopping Complex and other local venues.

There are 2 bus stops just outside the main gate.

Address: 138-150 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038
Phone number: 03 9367 7722, 03 9367 2748
Mail: admissionenquiries@rosaryhome.net.au
We are open: Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm

Rosary Home is an aged care facility that provides low, high and palliative care. We offer permanent residential accommodation, as well as day and short term respite care. Rosary Home caters for all nationalities and denominations; pensioners and non-pensioners; couples and singles. It is well maintained, clean and offers comfortable and beautiful interior settings.

Mission
Rosary Home is a multicultural facility that welcomes residents of different nationalities and denominations. Rosary Home is planned to provide modern, attractive and comfortable accommodation for the elderly who are capable of basic self-care. Our staff are committed to providing a safe, secure and quality of life to all our residents. Our vision is to acknowledge and respect the dignity of each resident and provide an excellent standard of comfort, homelike environment and health care.

Commitment
To acknowledge and respect the dignity of each resident and provide an excellent standard of comfort and health care.

Aged Care
Discussing aged care service options for an elderly relative and getting the process started can be a difficult and emotional task for many families. Many of us avoid taking action and wait until there is an accident or a health crisis before we seek help, but it is a well-known fact that prevention is better than cure. The signs that an elderly relative may need help can be as simple as struggling to carry the groceries home, or it can be a more significant problem such as frequent memory loss. We all wish for our parents and grandparents to spend their golden years happily and continue to live fulfilling lives, so we’re here to help you find the right level of aged care and get started.
Tony C. Cutajar

Tony C. Cutajar is one of the most prolific authors of the Maltese islands although he also writes in English. He has written well over a 150 published fiction and nonfiction works, including children’s books and textbooks, some of which won national prizes. He also produced the first four e-books in Maltese mainly for young adults and a number of others in English.. Here are two of his publication. We will publish more in coming weeks. They can be bought online worldwide through Amazon, or ordered by email (infinitybooksmalta@yahoo.com) or WhatsApp +356.99532366

CASTELLO TA’ LANZUN

The outbreak of the plague in 1676 not only was the worst in Malta’s history but lay bare the very soul of all the people at large, be they Knights, well-to-do or poor. The city of Bormla was so very badly hit that half of its population got infected.

Wenzu Lanzun lost his wife and three of his children and couldn’t bear to live in his alley house any longer with all its memories. To protect himself and his remaining son he sought greener pastures literally in San Ġiljan where he bought a farmhouse and started a new life.

Little did he know that the Turkish pirates loved this quiet area and often climbed up the valley to see what they could lay their hands on, crops, animals and even people. Wenzu often found sheep or a cow missing and fearing for his life and that of his son he reinforced his property and turned it into a strong tower. Torri Lanzun is still extant and is under the patronage of the ancient and philanthropic Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem.

THREE BROTHER KNIGHTS

This novel could very well have been a love story between a Moslem Princess and a professed Knight of St. John of Jerusalem. But it is a love story between three brother knights, the Princess and a little statue of Our Lady of Liesse. A great devotion developed miraculously in an Egyptian dungeon, moved on mysteriously to France and the Holy Land and thence to Malta.
Flashback: History of Mackay’s inaugural Malta Festival

Steven Pritchard, Mackay Historical Society and Museum Inc.,

A PETITION earlier this year to establish a ‘Maltese Corner’ in Mackay’s CBD as a permanent reminder of Mackay’s Maltese heritage hasn’t been the only attempt to spotlight its heritage in the Mackay District.

Tourism Mackay’s promotional committee representative David Perkins, after identifying the Mackay Maltese community to be one of the largest in Australia, announced Tourism Mackay’s plan to stage ‘The Inaugural Festival of Malta Week’ from May 1 to May 7, 1994 in a Daily Mercury article published on March 6, 1993. It was later to be called the ‘Mackay Maltese Festival.’

The Daily Mercury article stated the Maltese Consulate had been contacted and was willing to seek possible financial or other support from the Malta National Tourism Office.

The chosen date of May 1 was the ‘Feast Day of St Joseph the worker’.

Carrying the Our Lady of Victories are (left to right): Nick Azzopardi, Joe Galea, Dean Camilleri, and Joe Attard. Picture: Contributed

On March 19, the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Malta, Albert Hili, visited Mackay to discuss plans for the proposed festival with members of Mackay’s Maltese community.

While in Mackay, he also met with the Tourism Mackay’s Promotions Committee.

A Steering Committee to organise the festival was later established in Mackay by April 17. Almost 15 months of planning was to occur with Brian Camilleri and David Perkins to design the festival program. The committee’s chairman was Charlie Camilleri.

The first fundraising function for the upcoming festival was a dinner held at the Farview Tavern at Farleigh on June 18. Other fundraising events included a dinner at the Andergrove Tavern; Mackay Electricity Board - Maltese cooking demonstration and cent sale and a New Year’s Eve Street Party.

An art-union raffle, a trip for two to Malta along with the sale of festival candles and maltesers, also helped with the fundraising.

The Maltese President, Dr. Censu Tabone, accompanied by his wife Maria, visited Mackay on June 20. Dr. Censu Tabone attended a civic reception held at the Mackay City Council during his visit. Committee members of the Mackay Maltese Festival committee members and representatives from MCC, Pioneer Shire Council and Tourism Mackay were also in attendance.

On October 4, 1993, Vikki Baldwin was appointed as festival coordinator for the upcoming Maltese Festival. By December 31, 1993, a $10,000 Queensland Government grand had been allocated to Tourism Mackay for a strategic plan to help involve the business community aiming to ensure long-term viability for the upcoming festival.

Some of the many participants (names unknown) in the 1994 Mackay Maltese Festival Procession. Pictured in Gregory St between Victoria and Gordon Sts. Picture: Contributed

It was envisaged that the festival would be biennial with another Maltese Festival to be held later in 1996.

But due to financial difficulties, there have been none held since in Mackay. By April 8, 1994, an information centre for the upcoming festival had been established at 41 Alfred Street, near Taylors Hotel.

The office would be inundated with queries from both residents and visitors.
Seventeen colourful banners incorporating Australian and Maltese themes were hung along Gordon Street on April 22 and April 26. The banners had been prepared on October 8, 1993 during Malta Day Celebrations held in Mackay. More than four months work had gone into the hand-sewn banners. The Mackay Maltese Festival was to be eventually held from April 28, 1994 until May 7, 1994. Among the first events on April 28 was a dance party for under 16s held at Manhattan's Nightclub. Also on April 28, Maltese Dance displays were to occur at the Caneland, Centrepoint and Mount Pleasant Shopping centres as well as the RSL Club. A rest day was to occur on April 29. A photographic exhibition, *Malta at War*, was held during the festival at the Mackay RSL Club in Sydney Street from April 30 onwards. The display featured 90 photographs of Malta during World War II (1939 - 1945). An arts and crafts display including historic profiles was held at the Mackay City Library. The official opening of the festival was held on May 1, 1994, with a blessing held at the St Patrick's Catholic Church in River Street. This was followed by a street procession to the Mackay Showgrounds which featured the carrying of a replica of the Our Lady of Victories Statue. Sharyn Benson, Cassie Pace, and Belinda Galea were three of the many who participated in the Mackay Maltese Festival dancing displays. Picture: Contributed The High Commissioner for Malta, George Busuttil, opened the Mackay festival. A Celebration Official Opening Mass was held at the St Patrick's Catholic Church featuring the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton, Reverend Brian Heenan. A bus tour of pioneering family farms including Glenella and the Richmond Sugar Mill site occurred on May 2 and May 5. A Maltese prayer morning was held at the St Vincent De Paul Home on May 4. A history seminar by Professor Barry York was held at the University of Central Queensland campus at Ooralea on May 5. A blessing of the Fleet occurred at the Mackay Harbour on May 5. A mass was held at St Brigid's Catholic Church and a festival dinner at the Farview Tavern on May 6. Other events held were a wine and cheese night at the Mackay Entertainment Centre on April 30; Greyhound Racing and Soccer Matches on May 2; Martial Arts Demonstration on May 2; Music Hall Night by the Valley Theatrical Players on May 2; Roylen Cruises, Brampton Island Trip on May 3; Trotting Race Program at Ooralea Racecourse on May 4 and also a baby photo competition. A sportsman's dinner was also held at the Palladium on May 4 which featured special guests, rugby league players Martin Bella and Peter Sterling. A Friendship, Lawn Bowls Day was held at the North Mackay Bowls Club on May 6. Two movie screenings occurred during the festival: a screening of Schindler's List on May 2 followed by a screening of the 1941 film *The Maltese Falcon* starring Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor on May 3 - both of which were held at the Mackay City Cinema in Gordon Street. The closing ceremony, which was attended by more than 3500 people, was held at the Mackay Showgrounds on May 7, 1994 which featured a fireworks display. It had been reported on April 22, 1994 that an expected 88 people were to come to Mackay from the Gold Coast, using two charter buses. Some 42 people were also expected from Sydney. Inquiries had also been made from a group in Melbourne as well as from South Australia. National Airlines, Ansett and QANTAS had both assisted with transporting celebrities and special guests for the Mackay festival. The National SBS (Special Broadcasting Service) Radio Network, based in Melbourne and Sydney, broadcasted interviews in Maltese which had helped provide publicity for the inaugural festival. The Mackay Historical Society would like to thank Mrs Carmel Baretta for her help with this article.
Joe Quattromani

Last week we went knocking on Joe Quattromani’s door to check in and ask how he’s been fairing during this pandemic. It wasn’t too hard to spot Joe’s door, as he stood there eagerly waiting for us, punctual as ever. We were greeted with a warm wave, a welcoming smile and an insightful conversation about standing still during what would have otherwise been a busy couple of months. As we spoke he took a moment to make sure we send his regards to all the former colleagues of his that we planned to visit, tell us how his email got mysteriously hacked over Easter and share some thoughts with us about life in COVID-19 times, as part of Teatru Malta’s series #BEZZJONI, a series of door to door encounters with Maltese theatre icons. Joe doesn’t need an introduction with followers of local radio, stage, television and film. Apart from being a popular actor, he is also a drama teacher, a theatre director and producer of various works for the stage and radio. He is truly a veteran in all forms of dramatic art.

“From the very start of the current pandemic I obeyed orders and locked myself in. This wasn't an easy thing for me because I was still active. The activities that I love – radio, stage, television and film – had to come to an abrupt stop. However, from that ‘stop’ I found an opportunity. I looked around me and worked on things that had been waiting for a long time. I even managed to finish writing the story of my life. I can safely say that for me this was a blessing in disguise. #BEZZJONI: Joe Quattromani - Teatru Malta
how lovely to see the first signs of Spring upon us. The air is warmer, the days longer, the sun brighter. I hope you’ve kept well and engaged and active as we continue to navigate these tumultuous seas.

I’d love to hear how you’re doing, what you’re looking forward to, what you’ve been up to, and what you’ve got planned. I’ve been busy teaching English in-person and virtually, taking the dog for more walks than he wants, editing client manuscripts, and revising my own novel, the third installment in my Siege of Malta trilogy, which will be released in Spring 2022—coinciding with the 457th anniversary of the Great Siege of 1565.

I’ve also been working through the modules of a fantastic book-to-script course (more on that later!) And I am delighted to announce the forthcoming release of both Eight Pointed Cross and Falcon’s Shadow in hard-cover edition.

If the lock-down of the past year has provided me anything, it’s ample time to write. But words are not always so forthcoming and compliant. No matter what you create, we all go through a downshift every so often. A few months ago, I wrote a blog post detailing my experience with writer’s block and the strategies I used to overcome it. Here’s my article—and may it help you if you are struggling with a creative slowdown: https://marthesefenech.com/overcoming-writers-block-when-you-feel-uninspired/

Last week, I had the tremendous honour of reciting my aptly-titled poem, “Writer’s Block,” as part of a video anthology in celebration of Nowruz, Iranian New Year. The event was hosted by poet and author, Mansour Noorbakhsh, and featured talented wordsmiths from across Canada, Asia, and Europe, including the sensational Darcie Friesen Hossack, author, poet, and editor of WordCity Monthly. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to appear alongside such brilliant individuals. Click here to check out the virtual event and lose yourself in an hour of exquisite spoken word. https://youtu.be/GGoH59C_ZNM

I’m thrilled to share that Eight Pointed Cross is up for an Author Elite Award, the winner of which is voted by readers. If you could spare a moment and are so inclined, click on the website below, select the Historical Fiction category (page 7 of the different categories), and then select my title, Eight Pointed Cross. No other information required from you! https://authoreliteawards.com/vote/#

For those of you interested in in-depth, accurate, and hilarious book reviews, check out Author Tina S Beier’s Booktube channel: https://youtu.be/89rHkGbQTBo She’s also re-released her awesome post-apocalyptic novel, What Branches Grow.

As always, you have my gratitude for opening my emails, more so for reading all the way through, and extra for clicking on links. Thank you so much. Stay safe and enjoy the sunshine! Marthese Fenech
The symbol of the Order, a white eight-pointed cross on a black background, is an international symbol of first aid. It is known as the logo of St John Ambulance, emblazoned on the sides of ambulances and on the uniforms of its highly trained volunteers. However, the eight-pointed cross was also worn on the robes of those first Brother Knights in the hospital in Jerusalem, and it has remained unaltered through the centuries, as an enduring emblem of humanitarian care, and of a charity that dates back almost 1000 years.

Panorama of Jerusalem, by Tristram Ellis, watercolour on paper, 1897

By 1080, a hospital had been established in Jerusalem by a group of monks under the guidance of Brother Gerard. Its purpose was to care for the many pilgrims who had become ill on their travels to the Holy Land. The men and women who worked there were members of a new religious order, officially recognised by the Church in 1113. Known as the Hospitallers, they cared for anyone, without distinction of race or faith. After the Crusaders captured Jerusalem, the Hospitallers also took on a military role. They became known as the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

When Palestine was recaptured by Muslim forces in 1291, the Order moved briefly to Cyprus and then, in 1309, to Rhodes. The Order remained on Rhodes until 1522, when the Turkish Sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, conquered the island. From Rhodes, the Order moved to Malta. After a famous siege by Suleiman in 1565, when the Knights and the Maltese people survived new capital city, Valletta, was built. The Order ships patrolled the Mediterranean and remained on Malta until 1798, when the island surrendered to Napoleon. The original Ron Catholic Order still has headquarters in Rome full title is the Sovereign Military Hospita Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and Malta. It remains a sovereign entity international law and is engaged in internatic charity work.

The Clerkenwell Priory In the 1140s the Priory in Clerkenwell was set up as the Eng headquarters of the Order. When King Henry VIII split from the Catholic Church and established a new Angli Church, the Order in England was dissolved and all its lands and wealth were seized by the Crown. The Order restored briefly by Henry’s Catholic daughter, Queen Mary, who granted it a Royal Charter. However, on accession of her Protestant sister, Queen Elizabeth I, the Order in England was dissolved for good.

The buildings in Clerkenwell were put to different uses in the years that followed. During the sixteenth century, they were used as the offices of the Master of the Revels. Thirty of Shakespeare’s plays were licensed here. In eighteenth century, the Gate was briefly used as a coffee house, run by Richard Hogarth, father of the artist Willi Hogarth. Dr. Samuel Johnson was given his first job in London at St John’s Gate, writing reports for...
Gentleman’s Magazine. At the end of the eighteenth century, the Gate was used as a pub, The Old Jerusalem Tavern, where artists and writers, including Charles Dickens, used to meet.

The modern Order of St John in England was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Victoria in 1888. Humanitarian in its aims and purpose, the modern Order recognised the need for public First Aid and ambulance transport services as no such system existed in newly industrialised England. In addition, the Order established an eye hospital in Jerusalem, following the principles of the Order’s first hospital, treating all those in need, regardless of faith or wealth. The Order’s full title is The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. Its principal charitable foundations today are the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem, and St John Ambulance.

**About the Museum**  The Museum at St John’s Gate has been welcoming visitors for over a hundred years. The extensive collections include paintings and illuminated manuscripts, rare armour, a bronze cannon given by Henry VIII, ancient coins, decorative furniture, ceramics, silverware and textiles.

Across St John’s Square from the Gate is the Priory Church, with its twelfth century Crypt. The Church and Crypt open to visitors by appointment (click [here](#) for details). The Church’s Priory Gallery features an exhibition on life in the medieval priory and Clerkenwell through the ages. The Church Cloister Garden provides a tranquil space for members of the public to enjoy, and its range of herbs gives an idea of the medicinal gardens that would have been cultivated by the Knights Hospitaller during Medieval times.

In September 2009, the Museum of the Order of St John closed to the public to begin a £3.6 million Heritage Lottery Funded redevelopment. Fourteen months later, it reopened with new galleries and visitor facilities, including dedicated learning space which allows for the provision of various workshops and events for community groups and schools. The re-design has also revealed more of our wonderful Tudor building. Through the use of audio-visual displays everyone will now be able to learn about and enjoy the heritage of the Order of St John.
Fra' Jean "Parisot" de la Valette was a French nobleman and 49th Grand Master of the Order of Malta, from 21 August 1557 to his death in 1568. As a Knight Hospitaller, joining the order in the Langue de Provence, he fought with distinction against the Turks at Rhodes. As Grand Master, Valette became the Order's hero and most illustrious leader, commanding the resistance against the Ottomans at the Great Siege of Malta in 1565, sometimes regarded as one of the greatest sieges of all time.

Lived: 4 Feb 1495 - 21 Aug 1568 (age 73)
Buried: St. John's Co-Cathedral – Valletta, Malta
Previous office: Governor of Tripoli (1546 - 1549)
Rank: Captain General of the Galleys (1554–1557) · Grand Master (1557–1568)

Timeline

1498: Although his birth year is usually given as 1494, both chroniclers of the Great Siege of Malta, Francisco Balbi di Correggio and Hipolito Sans, say he was 67 at the time, thereby implying that he was born in 1498.

1522: Jean de La Valette was present during the Great Siege of Rhodes in 1522, and accompanied Grand Master Philippe Villiers de L'Isle-Adam, after the Order's expulsion from Rhodes by the Ottoman Turks under Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.

1538: After the loss of Rhodes, the Order was granted the Maltese Islands and Tripoli by Emperor Charles V. In 1538 he was imprisoned in the Gozo prison for four months after attacking a man.

1565: As Grand Master, Valette became the Order's hero and most illustrious leader, commanding the resistance against the Ottomans at the Great Siege of Malta in 1565, sometimes regarded as one of the greatest sieges of all time.

1566: After the great siege, he commissioned the construction of the new city of Valletta in 1566, laying the first stone with his own hands.

1568: He did not live to see Valletta completed, as he died in 1568 and was succeeded by Grandmaster Pierre de Monte.

Read more on Wikipedia Freebase
Arthur (Turu) Rizzo, Malta.

Folkestone Open Air Pool. Arthur Rizzo, Malta, 28 year old
Having his pulse checked.
Rizzo entered the 1954 swim and failed in a time of 14 hours 11 minutes; he was half a mile from the shore.
He also entered the 1955, 1956, and 1957 Butlin swims but did not swim.
He was an Auctioneer in Malta and had his expenses paid by the people of Malta.
He made a 30 hour sea endurance test in 1953, and in 1954 swam the Rozo-Malta swim in 12 hours 38 minutes. From the Sam Rockett collection.

Arthur Rizzo Swimming from Malta to Gozo

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KLABB GHANNEJJA F’MELBOURNE

Australian, embrace our culture and have a go. Our local minister of parliament Natalie Suleyman was in attendance and shared her love and pride for the Maltese who have made Australia home away from home - in Natalie’s words "I don't know where our local community would be without the support and hard work that the Maltese has contributed to and the Maltese Klabb is something to be very proud of". We also had performances from Slovenian, Vietnamese, Scottish Heighlands and a local Rock 'n' Roll dancing team. It was a fantastic event and we encourage everyone to enjoy the videos and photos from the day available on the Klabb Ghannejja Maltin facebook page. Nicole Oborne (Victoria, Australia)
"Easter Appeal"

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THE MIRACLE OF MOSTA CHURCH

Written by Gregory Caruana - NSW

April 9, 1942 was the worst day in many locations in Malta. Along with desolation and deaths caused by the intensive bombings on built-up and direct strikes on the shelter openings, four parish churches in different localities were also hit. In the air raid warnings announced by the sirens at 12.45pm, the churches of Hal Luqa and Mqabba were destroyed while church at Hal Kirkop was damaged by a bomb explosion.

It was at 4.40pm, when during another bombardment, the church of Mosta was hit. It is no coincidence that the next day the Commander-in-Chief the Luftwaffe in the south said that in his opinion the attacks on Malta between 1 and 9 April had destroyed Malta as a naval base. The ruins were enormous, but in this sanctuary where the Eucharistic Congress had been held years earlier, where the people were gathered for the usual Thurs adoration, a different page was written from that which darkened the history archives of the other towns and villages.

To this day from so many people from different countries admire the liberation of the church from destruction. Octopus is quite common in Maltese cuisine, you can buy some very fresh at the Fish Market in Marsaxlokk and follow easy recipe to have a real taste of Maltese fishery traditions. This stew may be served hot over spaghetti or as a main course by adding 1 lb of peeled and quartered potatoes at the beginning of cooking time. The worst month of the war for Malta was April.
April 1942 will go down in history as when the Blessed Virgin protected the majestic Rotunda of Mosta and people from great misfortune. Rev. Sammut (nicknamed tas-sinjora) was present in the church when the bomb b up the dome. This holy priest observed that at that time people began to hear the bombs falling around the chu and everyone was feeling it was a heavier attack than usual. During the war, papers were hung on the window: the church. Some of these started to lift and wave. People were scattered throughout the church although m stayed close to the massive walls. One woman grabbed the chair and ran to the sacristy, many others did the sa

At that moment, a blobbing sound was heard, like the sound of a drop of some liquid falling to the ground in silence, "not a loud sound". At that historical moment, Fr Salv Sammut came out of the confessional in the Ag Chapel while people gathered around him requesting absolution as they anticipated an explosion that would them. Fr Salv’s father was hit by a small stone, but was not injured. When this bomb pierced through the dom collided with the face of Christ in the lunette surrounded by the apostles (on your right as you enter the church) continued towards the frame laid below it, and dropped in the middle of the church right in front of Fr Salv’s fall. It then rolled slowly towards the pulpit and settled right in the front of the fourteenth Station of the Way of Cross. According to many of those who were present (including my father), this bomb should have hit us with force.

It so happened that two soldiers entered the church a short time later and told everyone to lie on the ground, beca they thought it was a time bomb. In the confusion, everyone tried to get outside, exiting from the front entry: found several other bombs on the parapet. There were others, including my father, who came out of the sacristy Salv Sammut said that there were over 300 people in the church when the bomb entered the church. Many pec were in awe when at the time the bomb pierced through the dome, inevitably some stone bricks (ċnagen) fell fi the dome but to their amazement and thanks to God, no one was hit.

According to some writings by Mr Frank Calleja, the attack began with a wave of Junkers 88 bombers when t found a barrage of attacks against them. Mosta was hit at 4.40pm. Mrs Marija Vella, born Calleja, sister of Fr. Calleja said she had seen the airplanes approaching from the vicinity of Naxxar. They were a group of about 8 airplanes and one of them pulled over towards the church. This is when she ran to the shelter. She recounts h her brother saw a bomb that just brushed by him. It had hit the bell tower of the big bell and ended up on the para. A horrible experience was that of Mr Victor Delicate, Superior General of the Museum (RIP) who was from Seng but was taking refuge in Mosta with his family. He says that in that confusion and dust all around, he thought bomb was an old lady dressed in the l-ghonnella and went to help her; but when he very soon realized what monster he had before him, he began to say the act of Repentance, which he could never finish due to the sh and fear he felt. The historian from Luqa Fr Giuseppe Micaleff says that the bomb that pierced through the dc of the church weighed 500 kilograms (1100 pounds).

Sir William Dobbie, Governor of Malta, and former Commander-in-Chief of the Fortress, who in his time, M was given the George Cross, saw the bomb hit the church and came to Mosta right away expecting to devastation. But feeling relieved and as a practicing Protestant Christian, he thanked God for freeing this tem from destruction.

This event of the Holy Hour April 9, 1942 gave birth to a tradition of thanksgiving that continued to take place year a year for these last 79 years. Among several dark episodes under grey skies, a lightning bolt lightened up the hearts of Maltese people, and which today is born in our country a glorious event in the bloody conflict of the World War II. Thanks to my friend Anthony Camilleri (R.I.P.)
An oratory without music is like a body without a soul."
Don Bosco

The main objective of the Oratory, better known as ‘Salesjani’ in Sliema is to carry out activities aimed at promoting holistic education of the young. All members are helped to understand that they belong to a family in which they are welcome and to which they have a positive contribution to make. Throughout the years, the Oratory has been able to reach out and animate various young people and help them to develop and implement new ideas by creating new opportunities for them. The Oratory which was founded back in 1908 embraces several sub groups, each with its own specialization to empower young members to become leaders.

This Is My Home, My Family

The Oratory, which was founded back in 1908 embraces several sub groups, each with its own specialization designed to empower young members to become leaders. 2017 was no exception. Throughout this year, 70 young people were lucky enough to have the opportunity to be prepared to become good leaders after due formation sessions. One of the main projects animated by these qualified leaders, is the “Bosco Summer School” which has been going on for the last 18 years. For seven weeks, from mid-July to the end of August, these young leaders were ready to share their creative expertise with 225 children between the ages of six and 13. This year’s theme was “This is my Home, my Family”, an educational journey which ended up with a great and colourful, “Evening of Awards”, where, during a memorable evening, on 31 August, all the children and young leaders, themselves, displayed their style and creativity on stage in the presence of Education and Employment Minister Evarist Bartolo.

In August 2017 a group of 18 young people also had the unique opportunity to unite with other 300 young people from Europe and the Middle East who gathered in Turin, the birth place of Don Bosco, to celebrate a time of sharing known as the “Confronto”. Together with the Rector Major of the Salesians and the Mother General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, they spent a week of activities full of fun, music, dance, reflection and prayer. More opportunities for 2017 were provided by the Creative Communities of Malta Arts Fund through the project “An Introduction to Music Production”. Workshops were facilitated in the already existing Band Room of the Oratory whereby, a number of young people learned how to record a song.

The first presence of the SDBs in the Maltese Islands traces its origin back to 1903, only 15 years after the death of Don Bosco. The first house to open was St. Patrick’s in Sliema. Many developments related to the Congregation in Malta ensued in the following decades, for instance, two different houses which belonged to two different provinces, became part of a single province; and the Maltese delegation pertaining to the Irish province was created, which has been the status quo for Maltese Salesians since.

In the meantime, the Salesian mission flourished throughout the islands, opening the Oratory in Sliema, and later Savio College in Dingli, and our most recent presence in Senglea. Through these communities, as well as collaboration with other branches of the Salesian Family, thousands of youngsters, students, past pupils, parents, and benefactors, have engrained and spread the spirit of Don Bosco in our beloved islands.

Apart from being extremely satisfied with the countless initiatives, opportunities and projects we have accomplished, today we are also gratified and at the same time humbled by a family spirit that welcomes, accompanies and celebrates those drawn to our charism. Our mission is not a mere voluntary organisation or a social service, but an experience that forms the young protagonists and transforms education and evangelisation into a beautiful journey.
STUFFAT TAL-QARNIT (OCTOPUS STEW)

Octopus is quite common in Maltese cuisine, you can buy some very fresh at the fish market in Valletta or Marsaxlokk and follow this easy recipe to have a real taste of Maltese fishery traditions. This stew may be served hot over spaghetti or as a main course by adding half a kg of peeled and quartered potatoes at the beginning of cooking time.

Ingredients:
1 octopus (600 - 800grms)
2 tbsp olive oil
3 onions, chopped
10 olives
2 tablespoons tomatoe pure (kunserva)
3 large tomatoes chopped
1 tablespoon capers
1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint
2 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
250ml red wine and Salt and pepper

Method:
This Mediterranean dish fits in perfectly with the Maltese cuisine. You should prepare the octopus stew only if you have plenty of time on your hands, since it requires long and slow simmering. The end result will be a very tender octopus in a stew which can be served as a main course or as a sauce with spaghetti or penne. A freshly baked and crispy Maltese loaf will come in handy to mop up the sauce.

Freshly caught octopus is readily available in most fish shops and open-air markets in Malta and Gozo. Very often the octopus would still be alive! If you are visiting Malta make sure you check out the Marsaxlokk Sunday open-air market, and you will find lots of freshly caught fish for sale.

1) First clean the octopus by turning the head inside out. Make sure you remove the intestines, the beak and the eyes. You can use a metal hammer to tenderise the octopus meat. Ideally you should ask the fishmonger to clean the octopus for you, if you are not familiar with how it is done.

2) Place the octopus in a pot of boiling water which has already been salted, and bring to the boil again for about 2 - 4 minutes.

3) Discard the water, and cut the octopus into 5cm slices.

4) In another pot, heat some olive oil, and fry the chopped onions and the garlic for about 5 minutes or until they become soft and golden. Add the octopus and fry gently for another 3 minutes.

5) Add the wine and bring to the boil on high heat. Stir well and cook for another 3 minutes. At this point add the chopped tomatoes, some tomato paste (kunserva), some sea salt and fresh pepper to taste and a teaspoonful of sugar. Stir well, cover the pot and leave to simmer for 30 minutes.

6) Now add the olives, the capers, the mint and the parsley and leave to simmer for another 30 minutes.

7) 10 minutes before serving, uncover the pot and turn up the heat to thicken the sauce,
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Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

We have a figolli making class 27 March 2021 tickets can be purchased on our website - mccv.org.au
If you would like to order your open personalised apron $20 or keep cup $26 email nelalami01@gmail.com orders will be ready for collection on 27 March. Limited stock.

If you are Maltese living abroad and have a story to tell share it with others.
Send it to us: maltesejournal@gmail.com
VMr Grand Master Wignacourt commissioned the building of St Thomas Tower out of his own pocket, building it on a plot of land he had bought. It cost him 12,000 skudi, a huge sum for the time and is bigger than other towers built by the Order of St John. The reason is that, apart from guarding the bay, it was also used for storing weapons. The eighteen-meter high tower, which was named after a small chapel dedicated to St Thomas, has four small bastions, one in every corner. The walls are five meters thick and a wide dry ditch runs all-round the tower. A small window in the basement looks over the front battery which was armed with cannons and faced the sea. The tower used to have a drawbridge.

Mr Agius is an ex-president of the RSL Maltese Sub-branch (South Australia).
He wrote – “Reading the Maltese Newsletter which you edit. I was very happy to re-connect with the Maltese with a feeling of being born again. I sat down and enjoyed the contents with great interest. In five months time will make me 97 years old. Michael lives in Mount Carmel Residential, Rosewater SA.”
We wish him well and pray for him.
Cantuccini (Biscotti tradizzjonali tat-Toscana)

Frederick Zammit
-Ritratti: Clayton Brincat

Ricetta ta’ Clayton Brincat.

Ingredjenti
4 bajdiet
250gr zokkor
qoxra maħkuka ta’ żewġ larinġiet
qoxra maħkuka ta’ żewġ lumijiet
3 kuċċarini essenza tal-vanilla
kuċċarina melħ
560gr dqiq plain
2 kuċċarini ħmira
200gr lewż bil-qoxra mfarrak biċċiet kbar

Saħħan minn qabel il-forn għal 180˚Ċ

Metodu
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Ifforma 2 logs (uża dqiq ma jdejk u fuq il-mejda biex ma
teħilx) u agħmilhom fuq karta forn fuq pjanċa tal-
forn. Ahmi għal 20 minuta.
Ohroġhom u qatta’ l-logs f’biċċiet u erġa’ ahmi għal 4
minuti fuq kull naħa (8 minuti b’kollox).

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Maltese Canadian Museum - Toronto, sveral libraries and schools
Maltese Association Premises in Australia, Canada, USA and UK
Website: www.ozmalta.com
AQUARIUS from 25th January till 20th February
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Aquarius in Aries: anything can be difficult, at times, to know the source of irritation or anger with this position, but restlessness doesn't have to drive your behavior. You need to be more patient, strategic, and most importantly, confident. It's more empowering and joyful. Even so, take extra time for rest, as energy levels may not be as high as your needs Namaste.

PISCES from 20th January till 20th March
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Pisces in Aries: April is a powerful month, first for a sense of personal impact, inspiration, and feedback and then later, for building, settling in, and finding your place. Your motivation to pursue your plans for an exciting future is with you to take charge of personal finances and matters surrounding security. Give more attention to your career and reputation sector as these can be your next issues Namaste.

ARIES from 21st March till 20th April
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac of Aries in Aries: seeing you approaching a good time for showing the world your unique qualities and abilities. Opportunities abound in your personal life, with career and in financial business arenas. You feel pleasantly capable, competent, and ambitious. Regarding work and health, you may be waiting on answers or returning to old problems but after which, an end is in sight as solutions are found Namaste.

TAURUS from 21st April till 20th May
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac of Taurus in Aries: this month is better for observing, reviewing, and stirring you up, encouraging you to do something productive, just plain active with family or at home but time can show you more significant changes, and at least you've mentally prepared, you may have missed something important but now is your chance to discover it Namaste.

GEMINI from 21st May till 20th June
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac of Gemini in Aries: now is an excellent time for letting go of limiting circumstances and self-defeating attitudes, or making a break from the past in a meaningful way. You're putting more faith in your intuition and it's a great time to develop more faith in your abilities. You are emotionally courageous and up for a challenge, feel more enthusiastic, filled with resolve and conviction to make changes but watch for pushing a matter too far or too hard Namaste.

CANCER from 21st June till 22nd July
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Cancer in Aries: good energy is with you for networking, friendships, and group activities. You might also find yourself coming to others defense more frequently. Your spirit for making friends is renewed and the desire to do something about regrets or patterns of relating with others is strong. This is a brilliant, illuminating lunation related to your communications, studies, personal interests, making connections and news occurring now can be significant. Power to boost your professional life is strong, provides you with a new start and renewed perspective on your professional life Namaste.

LEO from 23rd July till 22nd August
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Leo in Aries: there can be building ambition and joy regarding work and health routines, as you feel more structured and accomplished. Your zodiac is pumping you up regarding your routines, you have more pride in the work you do, your body, health, and your ability to handle your daily routines. Stay active, but avoid excesses for better mental and physical health Namaste.

VIRGO from 23rd August till 22nd September
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Virgo in Aries: powerful energy is with you for close partnerships, education, travel, as you're filled with determination to improve your life, someone might change your world in special ways with a fresh perspective. Emotions run high, a personal revelation can also occur now. You stand to learn much about yourself and your feelings and it can arrive in the form of a release or happy realization Namaste.

LIBRA from 23rd September till 22nd October
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Libra in Aries: begin with a focus on reorganization, work, and attention to health and wellness. You feel less at the mercy of other people and more equipped to handle your life. While challenges can present themselves, it's an excellent time to address long-standing problems, take action to fix them as you can open the door to new thinking and opportunities that you may not have imagined otherwise Namaste.

SCORPIO from 23rd October till 21st November
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Scorpio in Aries: now it's time to balance between time spent on work and time devoted to leisure activities, time for releases and announcements. There is a sense of moving forward related to an old problem for which you now have some closure, with positive energy that seems to attract the right people. The ability to bend and accommodate is a helpful thing since it allows more room for creativity and magic Namaste.

SAGITTARIUS from 22nd November till 21st December
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Sagittarius in Aries: as the zodiac advances, you look increasingly outside of your circle for feedback, pleasure, and attention. A real sense that you want to move on comes over you at this time. Confidence runs high as you feel that you can achieve something independently, indulge your feelings of kindness towards someone special in your life and take the time to do something similar for yourself Namaste.

CAPRICORN from 22nd December till 19th January
This is the Horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Capricorn in Aries: now is your time to get out more and fully experience life. You're likely to find new forums for creativity and self-expression, however, focusing on your desires is appropriate now, feeling of closeness, with your own heart or to you through your unique self-expression vision Namaste.
In the final days of the First World War, during Malta's revolution for independence, two British officers are tasked with quelling the riots and covering up the bloody encounter, while innocent protesters are jailed and killed.