THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA
E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 20  NOVEMBER 2020

SOME OF FR. LAWRENCE E. ATTARD’S WORKS ON MALTESE EMIGRATION
(see pages 11-12)
The Maltese Presence in North America
Issue No. 20 November 2020

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USA
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

We’re now into November and there seems to be no end in sight with this coronavirus pandemic. In fact, this second wave is worse than that of last spring! Still, the world survived the Spanish Flu of 100 years ago and worse pandemics before that. Our faith is in God.

Speaking about God, no doubt this present situation will alter plans worldwide when it comes to visiting the graves of loved ones on November 1st (All Saints Day) and November 2nd (All Souls Day). Ditto for Memorial Masses.

Locally, I plan to send emails to the Maltese community in the London, Ontario area, providing them with the names, dates and place of deaths of their loved ones who have died, worldwide, within the past year so that all of us can take a few minutes to remember and pray for them. Under normal conditions, this would have been done at a Memorial Mass held in the mausoleum at the local Catholic cemetery.

This month’s feature article centres around the late Fr. Lawrence E. Attard, OP. (See pages 1, 11-12) At least three of the contributors to this newsletter have been greatly influenced by and are much indebted to him.

My thanks to Fr. Mario Micallef (page 2), the Consul General of the Republic of Malta for Canada (pages 4, 7-10) and Lisa LiGreci (pages 5-6) for their submissions. Without their input, the monthly issues would be less relevant to the reader.

Hand in hand with these are the emails and Facebook messages received concerning the activities, albeit rather limited under the present circumstances, from the various Maltese associations and government representatives. (See pages 13-14) In this latter instance I would like to single out Her Excellency Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations. Without her alerting me to the Zoom discussion held on October 14th (see page 14) I, and most of the readership, would still be in the dark.

Despite the fact that this newsletter has been in existence for nearly two years some Maltese associations and government representatives in North America still seem to be unaware of its existence or have deliberately chosen to ignore this voice of the Maltese in North America.

I find it particularly irksome that they will notify the two Maltese newsletters published in Australia—half a world away—concerning activities here in North America and yet not inform the editor of a Maltese newsletter published on their own continent!

An article which most should find interesting is the account of a painting executed by Edmund Montague Morris, who was not Maltese, but this work has a Maltese Canadian twist. (See page 15)

Halloween may be over for another year and, owing to COVID-19, may have been celebrated differently than previously. I invite you, however, to go on Charles J. Vella’s webpage “Pumpkins at Halloween.” (See page 14) The work of his family and friends can be enjoyed any time of the year.

I know the video, From Malta to Motor City, on Livin Malta has sparked much interest, especially by the Maltese living in Metropolitan Detroit. I have provided an added dimension to it. (See pages 16-18)

Page 20 shows samples of newsletters, past and present, of North American associations. In a future issue I hope to illustrate examples from other Maltese organizations.

My thanks to the readers for their comments. This motivates me to try even harder.

Again, I would like to wish our American readers all the best in the November 3rd elections and a Happy Thanksgiving on November 26th. As in past issues, I can be reached through dbrock40@worldline.ca, be it ideas you wish to share, etc.

CONTENTS
2. Editorial Comment
3. Pastor’s Thoughts...
4. Notice from the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada
5. How to Brine Fresh Green Olives (Kif Tissalmura Ż-Żebbuġ Aḥdar Frisk)
7. Monthly Message of the Consul General of the Republic of Malta for Canada
10. The Maltese Canadian Club of London’s Presence at the Multi-Cultural Festival, Centennial Hall, London
10. Reader Comments
11. Fr. Lawrence E. Attard, OP Remembered
13. Letter to the Editor of This Newsletter
13. Activities within the Maltese Communities
14. Yet Another Arrival on the Sobieski!
14. “Pumpkins at Halloween”
15. Where Is This Painting Now?
16. From Malta to Motor City and on to London, Ontario
18. Maltese Organizations in North America
GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

PASTOR’S THOUGHTS...

Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, is pastor of St. Paul the Apostle, Toronto, the only Maltese national parish in North America. These “Pastor’s thoughts…” are extracts from his commentaries on the Sunday readings which are published in the Parish’s Sunday Bulletin.

We Are All Called to Be Present in the Father’s Vineyard

As a community of believers, we are all called to be present in the Father’s vineyard. It is our home. Depending on our vocation in life, we are all called to give our share and participate in the mission of Jesus. Whether as parent or grandparents, pastors or friends, the calling is for everybody. There will be times when we do not feel like it, or times when we might feel discouraged. We do go through those moments when we are tempted to give everything up.

We continue to walk on the journey our predecessors have started. They knew that being part of a parish community is different to being a spectator. They gave their part. Like all of us they were not perfect. They made mistakes, but they were good enough to correct and move on….Being a Christian does not mean being perfect!

As a parish community we are called to continue together on our journey of faith. We are called to continue to give witness to our God who is always present and continuously loving. We are called to encourage and help each other grow. We are called to help others experience what we have freely received. Sometimes we might feel discouraged and tempted to give up. These who came before us inspire us to move on. Because, deep down, we know that that’s the right thing to do.

God Continues Sending Us Prophets

[God] never ceases sending us prophets to help us in our lives. Very often we need other people to help us discern what is right from what is wrong. Often, we cannot see our own mistakes and weaknesses. Unless helped by others, we can easily fall into the temptation of those people in Jesus’ times and think that there is nothing wrong with us. Like what happened in Jesus’ times, prophets are very often uncomfortable because they challenge us to change, to move out of our comfort zone. Truth is that conversion is a life-long process. As long as we are alive, there is always room for improvement in our lives.

…it would be a good idea to stop and think who are, or have been, prophets in our lives. Who are those people whom God has sent to help me to become a better Christian, a better person? Even though they might cause discomfort in our lives, deep down we all know that God sent them for our own good. Indeed, they are God’s gifts for us, and for this we should be grateful.

Jesus’ Message is all about Love, Joy and Life

Sometimes people talk about faith as if it were a burden, a series of dos and don’ts to be strictly adhered to, otherwise harsh punishments are to be expected. This is very often accompanied by an image of God whose mission in life is to be ready to judge and condemn us as soon as we do something wrong.

This is very, very different to the God Jesus Christ came to proclaim, and to the kind of life he came to announce. Speaking about his mission on earth, he once said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." He also said that whatever he told us was "so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete." These, and other quotes from the gospels clearly show us that Jesus’ message is all about love, joy and life.

The Image of God

Giving to God what belongs to God is what we did in our baptism. There we died for the world and offered our lives to God. With our baptismal promises we made a commitment to live the rest of our lives according to God’s wishes.

Jesus’ invitation is still very relevant to us today. Like the people in Jesus’ time we, too, have to choose which God to serve in our lives. The idols that might want to allure us in life can be many: money, work, self-image, ambitions. As Christians, we belong to God because His image is imprinted in us. Let us give God what truly belongs to him. If we want to see what the image of God looks like, Jesus’ words come to our help when he told us “whoever sees me sees the Father.” So, living up to God’s image simply means living the same kind of life that Jesus lived – a life of total, self-giving love.

Let us live up to the image that is imprinted in us: God’s own image.

Father Fortunatus Mizzi’s memorandum of July 5, 1916 provides a true insight into the Maltese community in Toronto at the time. This memorandum had been commissioned by Archbishop Neil McNeil of Toronto.
The Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada is seeking to employ a temporary administrative officer on a full-time 18-month contract basis.

Apart from being a keen learner who can handle new challenges, the successful candidate will be expected to provide administrative support and have both organizational and people skills.

Successful applicant must satisfy the following:

1. Be fluent in English; knowledge of Maltese is considered an asset
2. A High School Diploma is required; a University degree is considered an asset
3. Have experience working in an office setting
4. Be proficient in using MS Office, email and general internet usage
5. Be able to work towards deadlines
6. Be comfortable learning and adopting new digital tools/programs
7. Possess strong verbal and written communication skills
8. Possess strong interpersonal skills
9. Have excellent prioritizing skills and experience multi-tasking

Applications should be submitted by post or email by no later than, **Friday, November 20, 2020.** Applications should include a cover letter and résumé (CV).

Applications by post should be addressed as follows:

Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada  
3280 Bloor Street West  
Suite #1060, Centre Tower, 10th Floor  
Etobicoke, ON, M8X 2X3

Applications by email should be addressed as follows: [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt) (Subject: Administrative Officer)

*EDITOR’S NOTE: The above notice has been received from the office of the Consulate General of The Republic of Malta in Toronto. Here is an exciting employment opportunity for someone with both the interest and the skills required. It would appear that this position would be a great future asset on one’s résumé.*
HOW TO BRINE FRESH GREEN OLIVES
(KIF TISSALMURA Ċ-ŻEBBUĠ AĦDAR FRISK)

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

Lisa has become a welcomed regular in the pages of this newsletter with her recipes of Maltese origin.

The olive, or żebbuġa in Maltese, is known by the botanical name *Olea europaea*, meaning "European olive". It is a species of a small tree cultivated in all the countries of the Mediterranean, including Malta. Olives are a major agricultural crop used for the production of olive oil and are one of the core ingredients in Mediterranean cuisine. During the autumn months, olives come into season. If you're like me, olives are a staple at the dinner table. I serve them as an antipasto, add them to salads, or incorporate them in many of my savory dishes. No matter what the occasion, olives seem to make things more festive. I always have a ready supply in my pantry. They will store for up to one year, so when you buy fresh olives for brining, make sure to buy enough to last through the year. Here is my recipe to brine fresh raw green olives.

Ingredients:

- Fresh Green Olives (choose your own amount)
- Water (enough to cover the olives and make the brines)
- Salt (amount depends on how much water is used)
- Olive oil (enough to cover the tops in the jars)
- Flavorings like herbs, spices and citrus fruits are optional

Directions:

1. Start by cracking the olives on a wooden board with a mallet or a meat tenderizer. Drop them in water as you go to prevent oxidation.

2. If you don't want the rustic look of cracked olives, just score a cross on the top of the olive with a paring knife to keep them whole.

3. Put the olives in a crock or large container and fill with enough water to cover them. Make sure you measure the water, as you'll use the same amount for the brine. If you don't have a crock or large container, you can use jars. Just make sure the olives are weighed down to stay submerged.
4. Cover with a piece of cheese cloth or plastic, then place something heavy on the top. This will keep the olives submerged preventing oxidation.

5. Store in a cool place, changing the water twice a day for 10 days. This step is called "sweetening" the olives. It removes the bitterness. The old water will turn dark.

6. After 10 days, it's time to make the brine. The ratio is 8 parts water to 1 part kosher salt. If you are using table salt, cut the amount of salt by one half.

7. The brine should be very salty. Test and see if you used enough salt by dropping a raw egg in it. It will float.

8. Discard the sweetening water and replace it with the salt water brine. Do this in the sink because the salt adds volume. It may overflow.

9. Again, cover with the cheesecloth or plastic, weigh them down, & let them sit in a cool dark place for another 10 days. Do not change the brine during this time.

10. After 10 days, drain & rinse the olives and transfer them to your storage jars. They don't have to be vacuum sealed. I re-use a variety of old jars. Any tight sealing jar will do.

11. At this point you have the option to leave them plain or flavor with herbs, spices or even citrus fruit. I flavored mine with a bay leaf and sliced lemon. Stay away from softer herbs like parsley or basil. They will turn brown and rot over time. Instead, use them to season your olives when they are ready for serving. Stick to heartier herbs like thyme, oregano or rosemary.

12. Make a fresh batch of brine solution and fill the jars leaving room to seal the top with olive oil.

13. Pour in enough olive oil to seal the top.

14. Tighten the lids on the jars and store in your pantry. You can enjoy them now or store them up to one year. You only need to refrigerate the jars you have opened.

Note: They will still have a bit of bitterness. The longer they brine, the saltier and less bitter they get and will take on more of the flavorings if you added them.
MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA TO CANADA

Għaż-Żgħażagh Kanadizzi-Maltin, il-passaport Malti huwa ċ-cavetta ghal dinja ta’ opportunitajiet

Dr. Raymond Xerri,
Il-Konsul Ġenerali / Consul General


Il tqajt mall-Maltin fir-Reġjun ta’ Durham

For Maltese Canadian Youth, obtaining a Maltese passport is the key to a world of opportunities

The phenomenal increase in applications to acquire citizenship and passport applications by Maltese Canadian youths is a testimony of the realisation of how important opportunities are to them and embracing their ancestral heritage. Youths know that a Maltese passport provides them with complete access to ‘another Canada’, another continent which is the European Union. ‘Another Canada’ because the EU is a continent which has a population 15 times larger than Canada’s and the opportunities are far larger. These youths understand that a Maltese passport allows them to live, work, study, open a business and even eventually retire in any EU country they choose, including in the land of their forefathers, Malta and Gozo.

Presently, those who want to go to Malta from Canada must use a Maltese passport since the EU removed Malta from the list of safe countries in relation to COVID-19. This unusual situation has generated further interest in the Maltese Canadian community to apply for Maltese citizenship and eventually their Maltese passport. Because of this substantial increase the waiting time will be longer. My appeal is for patience. Gradually all the appointments and related work will be carried out, despite staff limitations at the Consulate General.

Visit and meeting with Maltese in the Durham Region

It was a great pleasure meeting a group of Maltese in Whitby, in the Durham Region, during the last week of October to cater for the increase of requests for citizenship and passport applications, amongst other services. Thanks to the coordinator of the Malta Cultural Club of Durham, Teresa Bugelli, for ordinating the work related to my visit there. Amongst the prominent Maltese Canadians I met were well-known photographer, graphic designer and artist, Denise Wilkins, wine writer and consultant Chuck A. Byers, and Martez Schembri, a re-

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA TO CANADA

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massaggi a registered Massage, Terapista Craniosacral, professur, lettur u kittleba, ikoll twieldu Malta u ghalmu succcess kbir fil-Kanada.

registered massage therapist, craniosacral therapist, professor, lecturer and author. All are Maltese-born and highly successful in Canada.

Meeting with the Maltese Canadians in Whitby, Ontario

Akaa persunaġġi Maltu-kanadiżi jkomplu jaghml u unur ġill Malta u lill-kanada


Jekk sejjer Malta, issa ghandek bżonn il-passport Malti

Bħalma habbar fut qfu il-Facebook webpage tal-Konsolat Ġenerali għar-Repubblika ta' Malta fil-Kanada, kull min ser jmur Malta mill-Kanada, ser ikun jista' jivvjagġa biss bil-passport Malti. Lil dawk il-hafna li ċemplu u li ghandhom il-passport skadut jew jixtieq jaghml u

More prominent Maltese Canadians make Malta and Canada proud

I begin by mentioning Joseph Camilleri, a super-stoked, ultra marathoner, 70+ who came in the top three or four in Canada in his age category on a vegan diet. Great job, Joseph, you are an inspiration to thousands of Maltese Canadians of all ages who wish they could match your fitness at such an age. I cannot not mention the professional dancer Joanne Camilleri, who runs the dance company ‘In-Nanna On Stage – Goddess of Fertility of Malta.’ With the support of the Consulate General, she will be performing a theatrical presentation about the fertility goddess in Malta and Gozo’s prehistory and the neolithic temples of Ġgantija and Haġar Qim. This musical was scheduled to be presented at a Gozitan opera theatre, but because of COVID-19 it will now be performed at the renowned Redwood Theatre in Toronto on 18-19-20 November 2020.

Maltese Canadian Tenor Victor Micallef has been touring Toronto and parts of Canada visiting homes of the elderly and performing opera pieces to cheer the residents who are behind glass. He has boosted the spirits of thousands of Canadians who are unfortunately shut up in these homes. What a beautiful, altruistic and noble cause!

If you are visiting Malta, you need your Maltese Passport to travel

As I announced on the Facebook page, ‘Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada,’ whoever is travelling through Europe into Malta requires a Maltese passport. To the many many people who called about their expired Maltese passports, no you cannot travel with an expired passport. If you, your family or
friends intend to renew your passports please call to obtain forms and set up an appointment. The waiting time is substantial, in most cases months, owing to pre-COVID-19 cancelled appointments and others accumulated during COVID-19 when we had to shut down services.

**Renovation works at the Consulate General have been completed**

For the past week and a half, extensive repainting, carpet changing and reorganisation of the office of the Consulate General has been completed and has been given a fresh look. I wholeheartedly thank my staff, Karen Zahra and Denise Falzon, for their constant help in continuing the normal appointment schedules during this period without any hindrance and thanks to the public, who had their appointments inconvenienced, for their understanding.

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**Besides All Saints Day, remembering our departed loved ones, November has its list of feasts in the Maltese Islands**

In Malta, Gozo and Canada, the month of November remains the month we remember the departed loved ones and this year I must mention the families who lost a loved one because of COVID-19.

The family donated it to the parish in 1922. The korpsant was restored by the Camilleri brothers of Gharb (Ta’ Wistinu) in 2008.

**The Korpsant (a statue containing relics) of St. Fortunatus (see page 10, top of column 1) is to be found in the right transept of the chapel in the Parish Church of the Assumption of Mary, in Zebugg, Gozo. St. Fortunatus was a Roman martyr whose body had been placed in the Catacombs of St. Agnes in Rome. His relic belonged to the family of the politician Fortunato Mizzi (1849-1905). The family donated it to the parish in 1922. The korpsant was restored by the Camilleri brothers of Gharb (Ta’ Wistinu) in 2008.**
San Fortunatu, Martri, Żebbuġ, Għawdex

O Mulej, bierek dejjem lil Malta u lill-Kanada!

THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB OF LONDON’S PRESENCE AT THE MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL, CENTENNIAL HALL, LONDON

All Saints Day is also celebrated. Remembrance Day is the day when we remember the end of the First World War at 11am, on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. In Canada, we remember the 100,000 Cana-dian soldiers, amongst them Maltese and Gozitans, who died in both wars. Also remembered are the thousands in the Maltese Islands who died in these wars.

Apart from remembering our departed loved ones, we celebrate the feast of St Martin of Tours in il-Bahrija, Malta and St. Fortunatus in ix-Xagħra, Gozo, both on November 8th and St. John of the Cross in Ta’ Xbiex on November 15th; other feasts are St. Coronato on November 15th in in-Nadir, St. Fortunatus on November 22nd in iż-Żebbuġ, and St. Cecilia in Ghajnsielem on November 22nd, all three celebrated in Gozo.

O Lord, always bless Malta and Canada!

While people may know of Joseph Gauci’s Malta Joe’s Baked Goods in Tucsan, Arizona, on Facebook there is a private group known as “Maltese of Arizona.” The 3rd Arizona Maltese Reunion was held on June 2, 2018.

READER COMMENTS

A very big thank you for sending the most interesting October issue. I enjoyed reading it very much and will certainly share it with my religious sisters in Malta. It is great to learn that there were so many Maltese sisters in America….The October Issue will certainly be preserved in our Archives.

Best regards and God bless you and your team.

Sr. Juliette Vassallo, rscj, Malta

Thank you for placing me on the mailing list. Wonderful articles and information around the Maltese communities. I enjoyed the 3-part family story by Carmen Borg. Beautifully done and well done. Keep up the good work….

George Pisani, Sydney, Australia

You do an amazing job!!!!
Wonderful magazine.

Rosemarie Aquilina,
30th Circuit Court Judge, Lansing, MI

Thank you for such a great newsletter. It’s exactly what we Maltese North Americans need, and I really enjoy reading it.

Maria Camilleri, Msida, Malta

Corrections to October 2020 Issue
Page 7, col. 1, para. 1 should read Saline, not Salina, Michigan.
Page 28, near bottom of page should read September 14, 2013, not 1913.
FR. LAWRENCE E. ATTARD, OP
REMEMBERED

Dan Brock

October 5, 2020 marked the fourth anniversary of the death of Fr. Lawrence E. Attard, OP. He was no doubt the most knowledgeable person of the Maltese Diaspora and his name has been mentioned several times in issues of this newsletter.

Between 1983 and 2007, Fr. Attard saw six of his books on Maltese emigration appear in print (see page 1). In 2009, he was invited by the University of Malta to teach in the Institute of Maltese Studies on emigration and overseas settlements and taught four of its three-year courses. In 2014, Fr. Attard was awarded the Premju Gieth Il-Birgu (First Honour of Birgu) for his work on the history of Maltese emigration.

He was 80 years old at the time of his death.

Mark Caruana of New South Wales, Australia had known Fr. Attard for close to 40 years. The fact that Fr. Attard always wrote on migration from the point of view of the working class, rather than the ruling class—the governors, the diplomats and the military establishment—appealed to Mark. Fr. Attard preferred to write about “the poor, the illiterate, the cashless migrant who either made good in his country of settlement or suffered untold hardship, mostly unrecorded for posterity.”

Each time Mark went to Malta, he went to see Fr. Attard at the Emigrants Commission (Dar L-Emigrant), Castille Palace in Valletta. “One’s first impression is that he was a rough diamond, somewhat direct in his speech, with little time for formalities and niceties. But his heart was in the right place.”

I would like to share with the reader a little of Fr. Attard’s background and some of the impact he has had on three contributors to this newsletter, namely Mark Caruana, Richard S. Cumbo and myself.

Fr. Attard, who was part of the Nazarene Parish Dominican community in Sliema, was born in Birgu (Vittoriosa) and did his studies in Dublin where he was ordained a Dominican friar. He earned an Honours BA and an MA in modern history from Oxford University.

For many years he was a member of the Emigrants Commission and for 13 years editor of its magazine, Lil Flutna, “an all-important source of migrant news in print from all over the world.” He coordinated the programme Magazzin tal-Emigranti on Radio Malta for 18 years and was a broadcaster on other stations.

Fr. Attard had visited several communities within the Maltese Diaspora and was one of the main speakers at the Convention of Leaders of Associations of Maltese Abroad and of Maltese Origin in 2000 and the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad 2010, both held in Valletta.

Mark saw that Fr. Attard had a worldwide view of migration. Malta was not the centre of the world and migration did not revolve around Malta, but rather the reverse. He saw the push and pull factors on migration within a holistic view of world events.

Both men corresponded with one another for several years. On one occasion Mark reviewed one of Fr. Attard’s books on emigration and noted some factual errors, areas in need of improvement, etc. The latter responded by saying, “In Malta when I ask for someone to review my published works, they are full of praise and never give you an objective view, seemingly not to
of my father-in-law having been one of the more than 300 men who immigrated to Canada in May-June of 1948. Fr. Attard told me that while still living in Vittoriosa, he could hear the wailing of the women left behind from across the Grand Harbour at the dock beside the Customs House in Floriana, as family members left Malta after the Second World War for places like Australia, Canada and the United States.

Before leaving, I asked Fr. Attard to sign the four emigration books of his which I had recently purchased. This he graciously acquiesced to do.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
OF THIS NEWSLETTER

1 September 2020

Maltese in Canada Are Second Class Maltese for the Government

I moved recently to Malta from Canada where I spent most of my life and have not received my Canadian pension for the past five months since Canada Post has decided to no longer deliver mail to Europe bound for Malta. I have lodged several complaints with Canada Post about this matter and they informed me that the problem is from Malta Post and the Maltese Government.

I have followed the Consul General of Malta in Canada, Dr. Raymond Xerri, about this and other issues over the past months on Facebook. I am convinced that he has done his all to try to solve this issue but he is only a Consul General. I wish he was Consul General when I lived in Canada. Dr. Xerri is the best we Maltese Canadians ever had, but he is powerless in the eyes of [the] Federal Government in Ottawa since he is not the High Commissioner.

I thank the present Government for sending him to Toronto. We are thankful for such a dedicated official, BUT, Malta’s High Commissioner to Canada, His Excellency Keith Azzopardi, based in Washington, DC, has the political and diplomatic power with Ottawa to solve this ongoing problem where many in Malta and in Canada are suffering, not receiving their pension, no cards, no packages and in commerce, my nephew has a business in Malta employing 40 people that depend on deliveries from Canada.

What has this High Commissioner done to solve this matter? We need to have a High Commission in Ottawa. When is the Maltese Government going to decide to open a High Commission [in Ottawa]? We Maltese Canadians deserve better, unless, we are considered by the Maltese Government as second -class Maltese migrants compared to Maltese living in other countries like Australia and the United States of America!

Marija Camilleri, Msida, Malta

Editor’s note: The fact that this letter apparently took nearly two months to arrive reinforces Ms. Camilleri’s opening paragraph. It’s my understanding, however, that normal postal delivery has resumed between both countries.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN
THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

British Columbia

Susan Schembri, who is no stranger to the readers of this newsletter, was one of the individuals instrumental in having the Maltese language television program, Lehen Malti, aired in British Columbia and in Alberta. She is also the sole distributor of Maltese products in British Columbia.

Durham

Maltese Culture Club of Durham

A few members had an opportunity to meet with the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr. Raymond Xerri, in Whitby on the afternoon of Saturday, October 24th. (See photo on page 8.) Three further opportunities will be between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays: December 19th, February 20th and April 24th. Owing to the current pandemic, numbers are limited to 10 and must be pre-booked.

The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario

Lehen Malti

Editor’s note: The Malta Government ordered its first postage stamps on April 30, 1859. The “One Half Penny” stamps were printed by Messrs. Thomas de la Rue in June and delivered in July 1859. The “Half Penny Yellow” was issued for local mail on December 1, 1860.

London, Ontario

The Annual Memorial Mass for the Maltese Canadian Community of the London Area was not held this month
at Holy Family Mausoleum in St. Peter's Cemetery owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Likewise, the laying of a wreath at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park by members of the Maltese Community of London will not take place this year, again owing to COVID-19.

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario
On the evening of Saturday, October 17th, the Society again opened its doors at 6:30, under strict COVID-19 protocol, to serve pastizzi and other food and drinks. Frozen pastizzi, ravioli and Kinnie were also available to take home.

Metropolitan Detroit
Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn
As of the beginning of November the Club will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m. for frozen pastizzi. Cost: $14 per dozen, meat or cheese.

New York City
Maltese Center
The Center is open Friday evenings and all day Sunday with limited capacity outdoors, owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations
On the afternoon of Wednesday, October 14th, Ambassador Vanessa Frazier took part in a Zoom discussion following a virtual tour of the Tarxien Temples and an online presentation of some of the statuary from the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.

The Sleeping Lady, One of the Statuettes Unearthed from the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and Now at the National Museum of Archaeology

YET ANOTHER ARRIVAL ON THE SOBIESKI!
Dan Brock
In the September 2020 issue (page 23) mention was made of Paul Said immigrating to the United States on board the Polish ship the Sobieski in March 1948. Then Carmen Parise of Salene, MI emailed me to say that Paul Said was her uncle by marriage and that her own father, Edward Mercieca, had also arrived at New York Harbor on the Sobieski in March 1948. An account of the Mercieca family appeared in the October 2020 issue (pages 7-9).

Now, Fred Aquilina of California reports that his father and other family members also came out on the Sobieski at this time. Fred’s account of the Aquilina family migrating to the United States can be found in the January 2020 issue (page 17-21) under the heading “Passage to America.”

“PUMPKINS AT HALLOWEEN”
Dan Brock
Dr. Charles J. Vella is no stranger to the pages of this newsletter. Articles by him have appeared in the issue of January-February 2019 and the issues of May, June and July 2020. Some of you have accessed his genealogy webpages, especially that of “Maltese Immigration to San Francisco Bay Area.”

Another facet of his Renaissance personality is his interest in pumpkin carving. For more than 25 years this has been a family tradition which now includes some of their friends. I encourage you to go to Charles’ site charlesjvellaphd.com and scroll down to “Pumpkins at Halloween.” You too will be amazed at both the skill and imagination which went into these works of art over the years.
WHERE IS THIS PAINTING NOW?*

Dan Brock

Sometime after November 15, 2000, this painting, entitled "Indian Encampment" by the Canadian artist, Edmund Montague Morris (1871-1913) was purchased anonymously for $16,000 Canadian.

Since its purchase many reproductions have been printed and are readily available on line.

The original 38" x 47" oil on canvas painting, shown above in its original frame, is said to have been executed in 1912.

But what of its "Maltese" connection?

This goes back to about 1969 or 1970 when Joseph Muscat, a member of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (MCST), showed up at the Society’s premises with the framed painting in question tied to the roof rack of his van. Fortunately, the weather was cooperative! The painting had been discarded by his place of employment and he was given permission to take it!

For the next 30 years this treasured piece of Canadiana was given a place of honour in the Society’s premises.

In 2000 the cash-strapped MCST was in negotiations with the Malta Band Club to purchase the latter’s former building.

In March and April of that year, Richard S. Cumbo, a member of the MCST since 1971 and its public relations director, was authorized to research and find the best means of selling painted of recognized value.

Richard then researched the artist, Edmund Montague Morris, and contacted such art circles as the National Gallery of Canada-Ottawa, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Government of Ontario Art collection and Waddingtons Auctioneers. All initially showed great interest.

In the end Sotheby’s offered to auction it. They had it cleaned and stored at no extra charge to the MCST. Sotheby’s put a conservative value on the painting at $40,000 to $50,000 Canadian. Owing to its size and being in its original frame, however, they figured it would go for a much higher bid.

The evening of the auction was Wednesday, November 15, 2000 at The Royal Ontario Museum’s Samuel Hall Currelly Gallery, Queen’s Park, Toronto.

The painting immediately before that of Morris’, believed to have been by Paul Kane (1810-1871) another Canadian artist, went for between $300,000 and $400,000.

Excitement was now at fever pitch for the members of the MCST in attendance! Then, to the stunned disbelief of both them and Sotheby’s, there was not a single bid on the work by Morris.

A few days later, while the painting was still being held at Sotheby’s, Richard received a telephone call from the auction house. An anonymous person was willing to pay $16,000 Canadian for the painting. After consultation with the MCST Committee, owing to the grave financial position the Society was in at the time, it was decided to accept the offer.

And so, after some 30 years this iconic piece of Canadian art passed out of the hands of the Maltese Canadian community in Toronto and one is left wondering where this painting is now.

*My sincere thanks to Richard S. Cumbo for alerting me to this painting and providing me with the background information.

Joseph Calleja (1924-2018) was a Maltese Canadian visual artist.
FROM MALTA TO MOTOR CITY AND ON TO LONDON, ONTARIO

Dan Brock

On October 24th Lovin Malta posted a documentary entitled From Malta to Motor City. Charlie Cauchi produced and directed this nearly half-hour video which takes the viewer to Corktown, Detroit, the Maltese American Benevolent Society, the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn, Festa Tal-Vitorja celebrated at Most Holy Trinity Church and then back at the Maltese American Benevolent Society and ending with the declaration of Maltese American Heritage Day on September 21, 2017 at the state capital in Lansing, Michigan.

If interested in viewing this interesting documentary go to the following: https://www.facebook.com/LovinMalta/videos/369772594065726

I would like to present some background to this video, as I was informed of it and witnessed the crew at work when in London, Ontario in September of 2017.

In 2016 arrangements were made with Marc Sanko, who was working on his doctoral thesis in history at West Virginia University (WVU), to contact Maltese organizations and individuals in various cities in the United States and Canada and later to play host to the crew from Latitude 36 in Malta.


For a few weeks in September and early October of 2017 the film crew from Latitude 36 was in the United States and Canada to interview individuals who had emigrated from Malta. The crew consisted of Charlie Cauchi of London, England, who conducted the interviews, Sebastian Tanti Burlò of Siggiewi, who sketched some of the interviewees and took still photos, and Ali Tollevy of Brighton, England, who operated the video.

The immediate plans were to produce a documentary to be shown 2018 when Valletta, and indeed all of Malta, was to take centre stage as the cultural capital of the European Union.

Marc, in turn, sent out feelers to various individuals and I agreed to help coordinate interviews in London.

It was decided that the London blitz would take place on Sunday, September 17th. It just so happened that this date coincided with one of the special dinners to be held at The Maltese Canadian Club of London then located on Charterhouse Crescent.

The first interview was held, in the early part of the afternoon at the home of John and Tessie Spiteri. Charlie had a knack about her whereby she could make those being interviewed relax and feel very comfortable about telling of their reasons for leaving Malta, their early experiences in Canada and their present connection with Malta and the Maltese culture.

Later, Charlie, Ali and Sebastian, Marc Sanko and I went to the home of Frank and Marlene Mifsud, who were waiting for us with Frank’s brother, Vince. This interview took place on the back deck.

The final stop was at the Club, which was having its pork dinner. Following the meal, some informal interviews took place.

The first Maltese to come to London, Ontario, after the Second World War was John de Domenico. He arrived in 1947 and helped many of the Maltese men who arrived in the city the following year to adapt to their new surroundings.
Charlie Interviews Charles Vella, Who Is Wearing the Yellow Shirt

Annie (Mizzi) Scicluna of Australia Is Being Interviewed, While Her Sister-in-Law Rose Mizzi Looks On

The Spotlight Is Now on Tony Galea, Working behind the Bar

The facilities of The Maltese Canadian Club of London were sold in early 2018 and the Club itself formally dissolved in December of that year.

Mario Abela Has an Opportunity to Mention His Late Father's Journal, Written During the Second World War in Malta.

Some Felt More Comfortable in Group Interviews

Tony Vella Has an Opportunity, in the Lounge Upstairs, to Relate Some of the History of the Club
In addition to the research done in Metropolitan Detroit and in London, the crew, accompanied by Marc Sanko, also visited Windsor and Toronto, Ontario and were planning to interview Maltese Americans in New York City before heading back home and spending countless hours in the editing process.

Until I happened upon the documentary on *Livin Malta*, I was not aware of what became of the crew’s work in North America in September and October of 2017. Hopefully, we will get to see a similar work on the crew’s visit to Toronto, London and Windsor.

**MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA**

**Festa San Gejtnu Association**
c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON L4Z 1R9
647-232-8845

**Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto**
c/o 36 Sequoia Road, Vaughan, ON L4H 1W6
905-216-8432/416-277-2291

**Gozo Club Toronto**
c/o 1205 Royal York Road, Toronto, ON M9A 4B5
416-231-9710
gozoclub@gmail.com

**Inanna on Stage**
www.joannedancer.com
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1
416-707-2355
desertdancer001@yahoo.ca

**Knights of Columbus - Canada – Council # 12782**
c/o St Patrick’s Church, 921 Flagship Drive, Mississauga, ON, N4Y 2J6
905-270-2301 (Church)
stpatriksmi@archtoronto.org
Grand Knight Amadeo Cuschieri

**Legion of Mary – “Our Lady of the Migrant”**
c/o St. Paul The Apostle Parish
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
Tel: 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-Maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com
President: Mary Vella

**Lehen Malti**
https://www.omnitv.ca › shows › lehen-malti
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue, Mississauga, ON L5B 2R4

**Malta Band Club**
5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9
905-890-8507
www.maltabandclub.com
maltabandclub@bellnet.ca

**Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario**
2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4
519-974-6719
maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com
Opening hours: Saturday 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

**Malta Village Association (Est. 1995)**
c/o 3256 Dundas Street West, Toronto M6P 2A3
Tel: 416-769-2174
Fax: 416-769-2174
maltabakeshopld@gmail.com
att: Antonia Buttigieg

**Maltese American Benevolent Society**
1832 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48216
313-961-8393
http://detroitmaltese.com
Opening hours: Thursday & Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn**
5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126
313-846-7077
info@malteseamericanclub.org
Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10:00 am. – 1:00 p.m.
Dinners served: Friday evenings 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Before and after 7:00 p.m. first Friday Mass

**Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco**
924 El Camino Real, South San Francisco, CA 94080
650-871-4611
contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org
Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
(every 2nd Tuesday of the month only)
Thursday 5: p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Friday 5:00 – 1:00 a.m.
Sunday 9:00 am.- 5:00 p.m.

**Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)**
c/o 381 Fairview Drive, Brantford ON N3R 2X7
mcach1964@gmail.com
The first significant group of Maltese emigrants to leave directly for North America after the Second World War arrived in New York Harbor on July 25, 1947. From there, many made their way to Detroit and San Francisco. Most adults paid fares ranging from £40 to £50.

Tarcisju “Nicholas” Frendo was born in Zebbug, Malta on September 30, 1930. He died in Granby, Quebec, on March 23, 2001 or February 13, 2004, depending on the source consulted. He was interred there in Mgr. Pelletier Cemetery.
SAMPLE NEWSLETTERS OF SOME NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS
PAST AND PRESENT

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
We are happy to report that we did not reach anyone at our 2013 General Membership Meeting.
However, we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who took time off on your day to join us.

THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB OF LONDON NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 39 NUMBER 4 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

THE END OF AN ERA: 1977-2010

VIVA SAN GORG PRECA

In 1907 a highly-ordered young priest was regularly seen ministering to the sick and dying. He was the first pope to be beatified, and his feast day, October 25, is celebrated annually around the world. He is sainted and his feast day is observed in the Latin Rite.

Dun Gorg was born in Malta in 1907 and ordained a priest in 1931. He dedicated his life to the care of the sick and dying, especially children. He established schools and hospitals in his home country and other parts of the world, including Canada.

Dun Gorg is widely regarded as a saint and his feast day is celebrated around the world. He is considered a model of kindness, compassion, and dedication to the service of others.

The Maltese Centre

UPDATE

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