

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 32

NOVEMBER 2021



HALLOWEEN DINNER PARTY, MELITA SOCCER CLUB

(Photo courtesy of Mary Ann Piscopo)
(See pages 11-12.)

**The Maltese Presence
in North America
Issue No. 32 November 2021**

Editor

Dan Brock

Proofreader

Mona Vella-Nicholas

Copy Editors

Mark Caruana

Maria Pia Gauci

Contributors to This Issue

CANADA

Ontario

Mary Rose Aquilina

Consulate General of Malta to
Canada webpage

Richard S. Cumbo

Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP

Mary Ann Piscopo

USA

Michigan

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

California

Charles J. Vella, PhD

Evelyn and Dennis Simmons

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Again, material of a time-sensitive nature keeps arriving on an almost daily basis. In fact, I have photo stories for two events having taken place on Saturday, November 13th which, with great reluctance, I'm holding over to the December issue in order not to further delay this issue.

The easing up of restrictions during this current pandemic has led to more ambitious activities within many of the clubs

At least four celebrated Halloween, namely the Maltese Center, NYC, the Malta Band Club and Melita Soccer Club of the Greater Toronto Area and the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn. The most ambitious, however, appears to have been that of the Dearborn club and I have made it the "centerfold" (feature article) of this issue.

The photos on pages 21-25 will give the reader an inkling into the

amount of foresight and preparation which went into this particular event. There was the decoration of the hall, the planning and execution of games and other activities for the children, the various contests to highlight the costumes worn by both children and adults, the meals themselves and the dance thereafter.

In the February 2021 issue, I had an article on the murderer, Carmelo Calleja, who was hanged in 1918, and thus became the only Maltese emigrant legally executed in Canada. Gabrielle Cutaia Caldwell, in the August 2020 issue, told us of Alphonso Cutaia, Jr.'s connection with the death or murder of his aunt/stepmother and subsequent incarceration between the years 1895 and 1912.

In this issue Charles J. Vella relates the trial and sentencing of Julian Portelli for the murder of a fellow Maltese emigrant, John Mifsud in 1888. Like Cutaia, Portelli was sentenced to life in prison but was ultimately released. Portelli may very well be the first Maltese immigrant to North America who was tried and convicted for murder.

The boxed item on page 22, referring to Carmel Abdilla, is representative of the thousands of Maltese who disembarked at a Canadian port since 1935. The Canadian government in its "wisdom", unlike the situation in the United States, has not made public the passenger lists. Basically, there are two ways, however, to do an "end run" and learn who boarded what ship for Canada, at least if the ship sailed for North America from Malta. One source is the Customs records housed at the National Archives of Malta in Rabat and the other are the records of the former Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto now in the National Library of Canada in Ottawa. I have made use of both from time to time.

All issues and the latest "Table of Contents" are to be found on the

web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>.

I may be reached at dbrock40@worldline.ca, be it ideas you wish to share, desiring to be put on the free, bcc, electronic mailing list, etc.

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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.

The True Light

The story of Bartimaeus can be our own story. Because, like him, we too can often be blinded in our lives. (Mk. 10:46-52) Our selfishness, hurts suffered, past experiences and so many other things can blind us from seeing the true light. Like Bartimaeus, let us be humble enough to ask Jesus to have mercy on us and give us the true light.

The Most Important Thing in Life

Loving God with the whole of one's being is the most important thing in life. God has to take top priority in our lives. Jesus wants to make sure, however, that we understand that it is impossible to love God without loving our neighbour. That would be a contradiction, as St John points out in one of his letters....

Our faith is a relationship with God and, like any other relationship, it does not grow unless we listen. Like what happens when I am with someone who I truly love, I listen to God when I am with Him, to His words, to His unspoken message, to His very heartbeat! God's word took flesh in the person of Jesus. What Jesus says and the way He lived His life constantly speak to me in my life. It is this listening that helps me to love both God and neighbour, when He tells me to love and forgive and to reach out to others, and when I see Him willing to help everyone, loving and forgiving even those who did harm to Him.

The act of listening is also very important to our relationship with others. Very often we judge others

without really listening to them and to their stories. Again, unless I truly listen to someone, I cannot grow to really love that person.

Having mentioned the two commandments, Jesus tells us that there is no other commandment greater than these. (Mk. 12:29-32) Of this He gave us ample examples in His life. Whenever He had to choose between strictly observing the Sabbath (by not performing any sort of work) and helping or healing somebody, Jesus always chose the latter. For Him, all the other commandments are there to help us live the commandment of love.

As we continue to grow as disciples of Christ, let us take time to, first of all, listen to Him. His words will surely challenge us and probably expose our weaknesses. There is always room for improvement in our relationship with God. With His help, we too can come to hear those words uttered to the scribe in the gospel. "You are not far from the kingdom of God." (Mk. 12:34)

What Really Matters in Life

This woman in the gospel (Mk. 12:41-44) reminds me of the many people we have in our parishes who give of their time, their energy (whatever is left?), and their resources without much fanfare. No name engraved on brass plaques, no expectations of a public thank you, just silent, hidden gestures often known only to God

Often what really matters in life is not what we do, but why and how we do it.

Jesus' Message Is a Message of Hope

The people to whom Mark wrote his gospel were going through hard times. In Rome Nero was mercilessly persecuting the Christians, from the great fire of Rome in the year 64 onwards. The First Jewish-Roman War was on (66-73 AD), culminating in the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in the year 70 AD. Tensions were also growing between different factions within the young Church itself. It was a time of crisis, and people were justifiably asking "Where are we heading?"....

Sometimes we might find ourselves in the same situation as that of Mark's community. How often have I heard people wondering "Where are we heading?" or lamenting that the world, or the Church, is not what it used to be? Jesus' message is a message of hope, not of pessimism. Without denying the reality and existence of evil (after all, Jesus was really murdered) His resurrection tells us that evil does not have the last word.

**FR. RAYMOND FALZON, OFM
PAYS A VISIT TO THE MALTESE
CANADIAN MUSEUM ARCHIVES AND
VISITORS CENTRE**

Richard S. Cumbo

On October 26th, my team of dedicated volunteers and I were honoured by a visit from Fr. Raymond Falzon, OFM to the museum he helped to found and organize in the mid to late 1980s while pastor of the St. Paul the Apostle Parish.

Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, the present pastor and chairperson of the Museum Archives greeted Fr. Raymond, but was unable to stay for photos later as he had a prior commitment.



**Fr. Raymond Falzon with Richard S. Cumbo
the Museum Archives Curator**



**Front row: Rose Cassar, Debbie Lightfoot
and Fr. Raymond**

Back row: Michael Gouveia

ANOTHER YOUTUBE BY ALFRED FENECH

Dan Brock

The August 2021 issue of this newsletter noted five YouTube videos, pertaining to the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto. Recently, Alfred Fenech has posted one entitled *St. Paul the Apostle Church Maltese Canadian Museum*. Again, this is in the *Djarju Malti* series and again the music is provided by Joseph Micallef.

<https://youtu.be/0Cb15rahppI>



**Front row: Debbie Lightfoot,
Fr. Raymond and Mani Mifsud**

Back row: Michael Gouveia and Richard Cumbo

After an introduction by Alfred Fenech, Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, chairperson of the Maltese Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre, explains the Museum.

Chev Richard Cumbo, KOSJ, its curator, then takes the viewer on a virtual tour, explaining some of the exhibits. One is left in awe at the many and varied artifacts on display, several of which document the history of the Maltese Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. I spotted the model of the former London Maltese Canadian Club's facilities, constructed by the late Stan Mallia and given to the Museum after the building was sold.

Mani Mifsud, one of the volunteers, then speaks about Fr. Raymond Falzon, OFM, who initiated the concept of the Museum and Fr. Manuel Parnis who decided that the Museum should be open to the general public.

**MONTHLY LUNCHEON
HELD IN LONDON, ONTARIO**

Dan Brock

The October luncheon for members of the Maltese Canadian community and their friends in the London area was held at one of the Swiss Chalet restaurants. We were honoured with the presence of the Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr. Raymond Xerri.



**Michael and Helen Ditchfield, Carol Hilton,
Terry Rogers and Lynda & Tony Galea**



**Bob & Janet Peckham, Charles & Janice Vella,
Loretta Brock and Yvonne Lalonde**



Ted & Barbara Gauci and Tessie & Joe Mallia



**Tony Schembri, Tessie Spiteri,
Marlene & Frank Mifsud and Deo Catania**



**Tessie Spiteri, Marlene & Frank Mifsud,
Mary Vella and Raymond Xerri.**



Mary Vella, Elsa Zammit and Madeleine Barrette



Tony & Censa Vella and Doris & Joe Condorato



Joyce Vella, Salvina Said and Miranda Catania



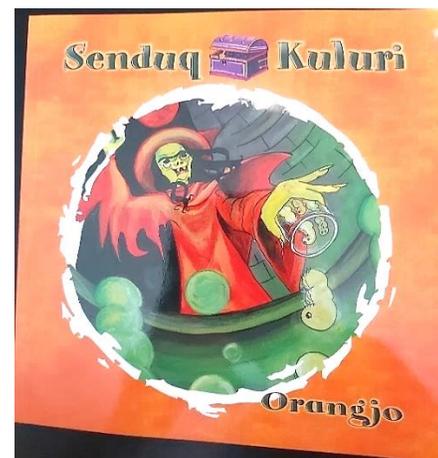
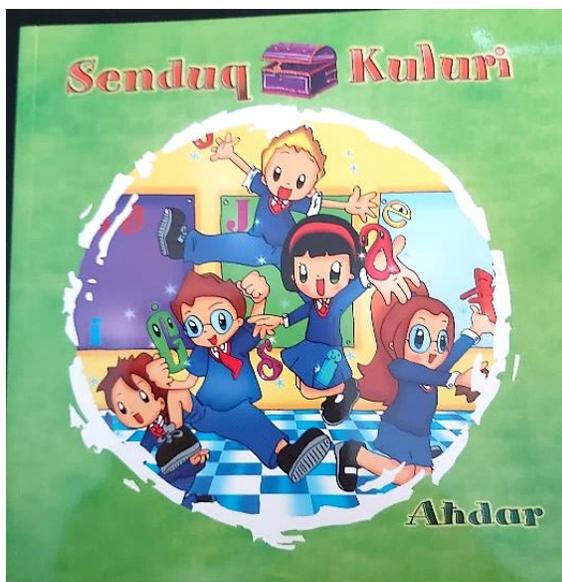
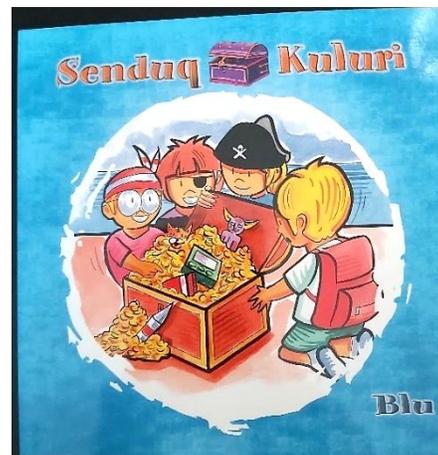
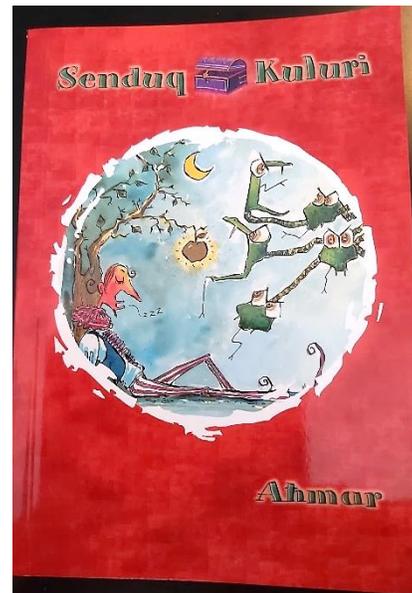
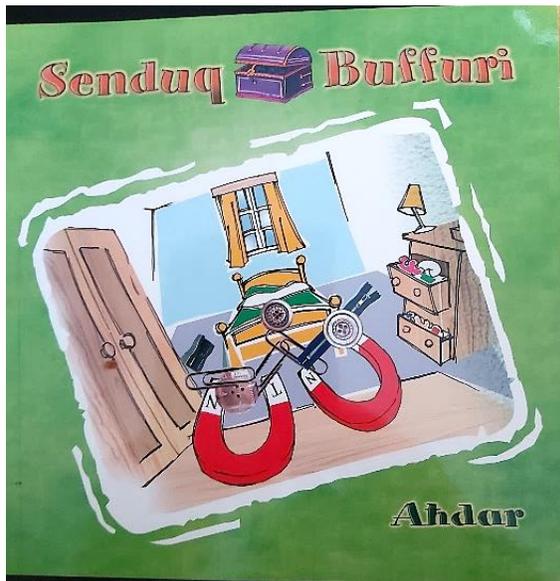
Mary (Pavia) Melvin and Raymond Xerri

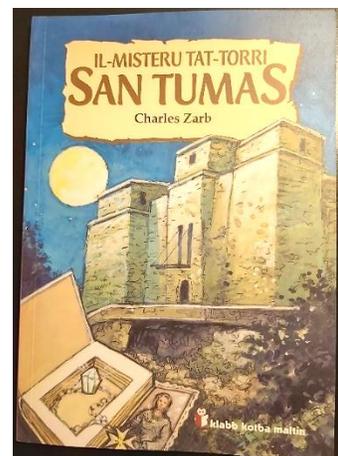
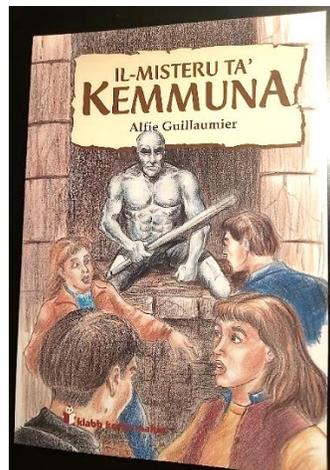
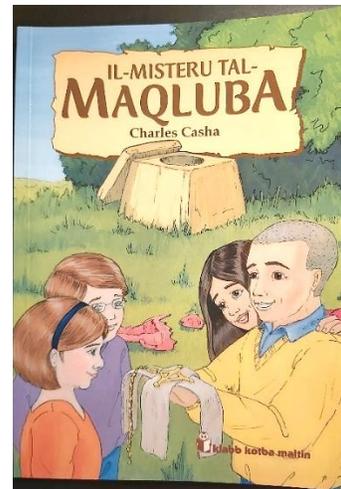
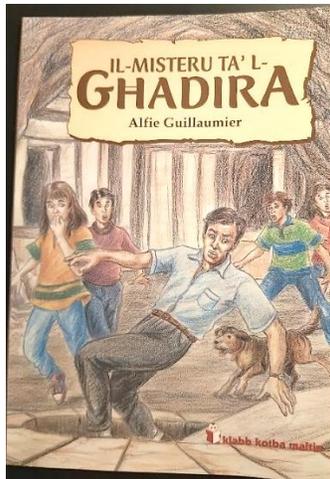
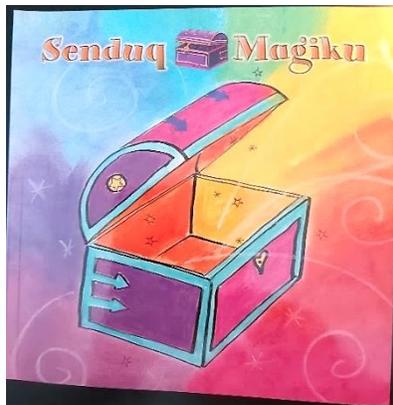
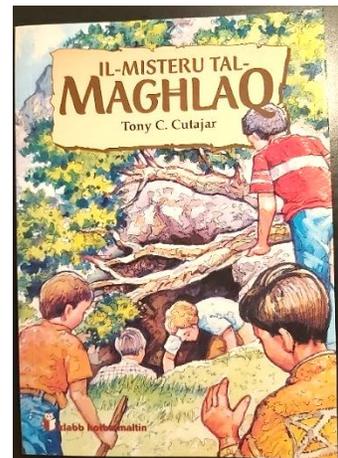
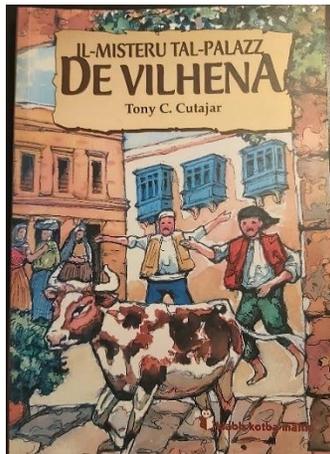
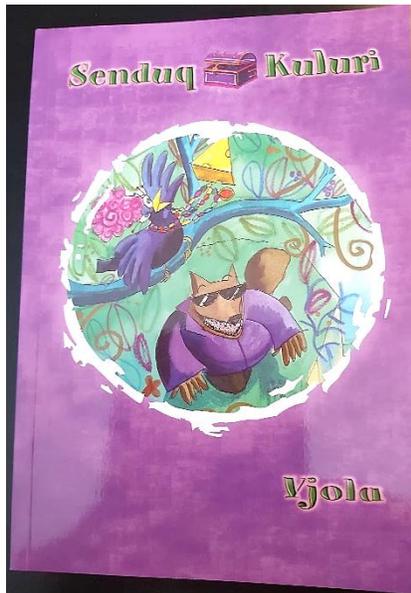
**MORE MALTESE-LANGUAGE
CHILDREN'S BOOKS FEATURED**

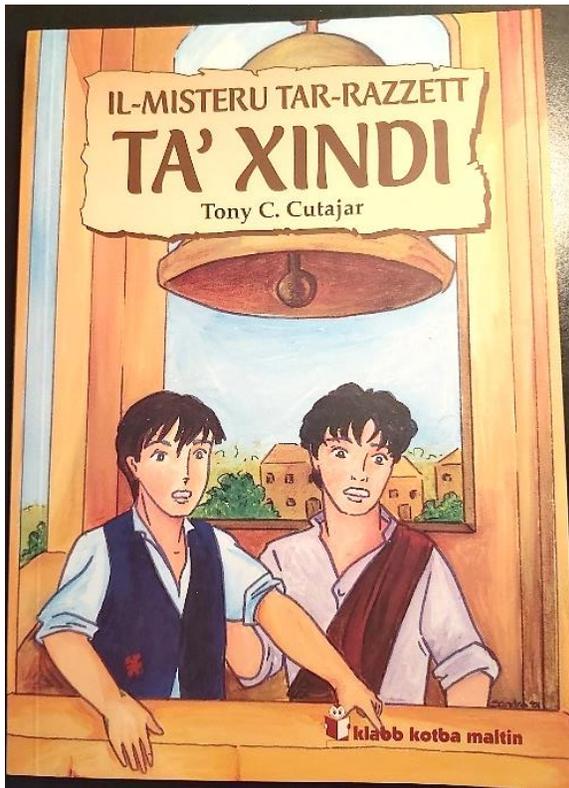
Dan Brock

A number of children's books, written in the Maltese language and donated to various libraries in the Greater Toronto Area by the Consulate General of Malta to Canada, were noted in last month's issue of this newsletter. (See pages 11-12.)

Here are examples of further donations as provided through Dr. Raymond Xerri.







Lately, I have learned of two writers of children's books in the Maltese language, of Maltese birth or blood, living abroad. One of these lives in New York and the other in Melbourne, Australia.

Sylvia Grech was born in Manhattan to Gozitan immigrants and was raised and educated in both Manhattan and Nadur, Gozo. At the age of 20, she returned to New York to pursue education and work opportunities. Most of her career has been spent working as a senior level executive assistant in the corporate, legal and financial fields.



In 2012, as a creative outlet, she began writing children's stories, drawing from her personal memories, experiences and family stories. In 2019, Sylvia signed her first contract, selling her 10-picture book series to BDL Books, Malta. Among the works in this series are the following:



Gioconda S. Schembri, nee Mifsud, was born in Malta. After graduating as a Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta, she joined the public service and, for three years, served as First Secretary at the Malta High Commission in Canberra. For several months she also served as Acting High Commissioner.



Gioconda immigrated to Australia in 2002 and has worked with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Australian Public Service, the Consulate of Malta and as a freelance translator of the Maltese language.

Her first book, *Three Anzacs from Malta, a true story of friendship, love, and loss*, was published in 2017.

Gioconda's children's book, *Il-Milied It-Tajjeb Ta' Ġoġo* (Gogo's Merry Christmas), was published in November 2020.

The setting and plot of this book are as follows: *"Christmas is almost here and while everybody is looking forward to the celebrations, a group of turkeys on a small farm in Malta are not so enthusiastic! Led by Ġoġo and his friend Bebbuxu the cat, they are planning something big that could change the future of Christmas forever! Will humans come on board with their idea so that at last all turkeys will be able to enjoy the Yuletide festivities like the rest of the world?"*

This book is available through Amazon by going to https://www.amazon.com/s?k=gioconda+schembri&ref=nb_sb_noss.

Now here's the exciting part for me. With Christmas

fast approaching, not only is this book a timely read for young children of Maltese blood but by contacting Gioconda, at giocondaschembri@yahoo.com, after purchasing the book through Amazon, she will send the purchaser a pdf of the English translation so that the non-Maltese speaking child or parent can follow the story while looking at the illustrations by Gianluca Spiteri.



Then, when the Maltese-speaking grandparent or great-grandparent visits, the book can be read to the child in its original language and perhaps the child will be interested enough to learn a few words in the tongue of his/her ancestors, even if it be only *qattus* and *dundjan*.

Marthese Fenech's pilot script *Empires of Smoke*, has moved up to being among the top six finalists in the Circa Historical Fiction Screenplay Competition. The top prize in this category is \$2,000.

HALLOWEEN DINNER PARTY

Mary Ann Piscopo



Mary Ann Piscopo is secretary of the Melita Soccer Club

On Saturday, October 30th, the **Melita Soccer Club** of Toronto had a **Halloween Dinner Party**.

The menu was prepared by Patricia Vodovec Xerri and her husband Art. We had garden salad, penne pasta, chicken parmigian, roasted potatoes and veggies.



The cake was made by Stephanie Fidler, Mary and Tony Tanti's daughter.



We had a costume competition. The first prize went to the ghoul, the second to the Spanish female zombie and the third prize to the pirate.



First Prize Winner – Sharon Dalli



Second Prize Winner – Monica Fenech



Third Prize Winner – Jesmond Galea (right) with Lorraine Manarey

Fun was had by all who attended.



Dr. Raymond Xerri Was Among Those in Attendance



HAPPY HALLOWEEN PASTA NITE

Dan Brock

Pasta Nite was held at the **Malta Band Club** in Mississauga, Ontario, on Saturday, October 30th. Among those present were Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of Malta to Canada. Earlier in the evening, he had attended the Halloween Dinner Party held by the Melita Soccer Club. (See pages 11-12.)

The following photos were taken by Alfred Cini.



**LAHAM FUQ IL-FWAR U BRODU
(STEAMED BEEF AND BEEF BROTH)**

Mary Rose Aquilina



Last month's issue featured Mary Rose's Qagħaq tal-Ġulgħien (Sesame Seed Cookies)



Laħam fuq il-Fwar, that is, steamed beef, is a very popular and traditional Maltese recipe. *Brodu* (beef broth) and this dish go hand in hand. I remember my mother preparing this beef and vegetable broth, then taking out this old, slightly chipped, enamel plate, placing the ingredients for the *laħam fuq il-fwar* in layers on the plate, putting it over the pot where the beef broth would be nicely simmering and covering this enamel plate with any lid that would fit.

There is no frying or sauteing involved except to brown the bones and vegetables to extract any bone marrow and vegetable flavouring. It needs little preparation, but is really healthy and delicious! Whenever I cook it over a pot of *brodu*, I serve it as a second dish with simple boiled cauliflower and potatoes and the halved tomatoes that were cooked with the beef. It's also delicious between buttered crusted bread or bun, drizzled with some of the juice as a sandwich accompanying the soup. It's also relatively economical as you do not need a lot of lean beef which is tenderized with the sprinkling of oil and vinegar as it's steamed.

Cattle are thought to have existed in Malta for thousands of years and were the backbone of Maltese agriculture and used more for milking and as beasts of burden rather than for consumption. It is also believed that, as oxen, they were used to work the many structures/equipment that helped with farming the land. This equipment, however, was replaced by tractors in modern times and consequently the cattle population dropped dramatically.

With the commodity of world-wide trading, however, Malta now imports a greater amount of beef both for home cooking and the growing restaurant industry. Home cooks also have better access to it with the

capability of importing it in a quick-frozen form, both when imported and when kept at home. So, it has become more affordable and available to most families.

Nowadays, the agricultural equipment of old may be seen in the Agricultural Heritage Museum, St. Paul's Bay, Malta and the Folklore Museum, Victoria, Gozo.

STEAMED BEEF SLICES (LAHAM FUQ IL-FWAR)

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 large round steak slices (thinly sliced and cut in half)
- 4-5 garlic cloves (chopped to your liking)
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley (dried parsley can be a substitute)
- 2-3 tomatoes (sliced in half crosswise)
- olive oil and red wine vinegar
- salt and pepper



Ingredients



Ingredients, showing meat

METHOD

- In the bottom of a double boiler or a pan/plate fitting over the bottom pot, sprinkle

some of the chopped garlic, some oil, vinegar, parsley, salt and pepper to taste.



Herbs

- Start layering the slices of meat (as many as can fit). Sprinkle each layer with the garlic, parsley, oil, vinegar, salt and pepper.
- Continue layering until the meat slices are used up.
- Add the halved tomatoes on top and sprinkle these with the garlic, oil, vinegar, salt and pepper.



Ready for steaming

- Place the meat pot/plate on top of the pot with the simmering water and cook covered for 20-25 minutes, depending how many layers you have. (They are done when the slices are no longer red but can be slightly pink. They will continue to cook if left on the pot covered till you serve them.



Partially Steamed

- Serve with simple boiled potatoes and cauliflower (which can be boiled in the bottom pot while cooking the meat) and drizzle with the juice that is created while the meat is cooking).



Finished Product

Simple but satisfying. Don't forget the fresh crusty bread to sop up the cooking juices from the plate.

BEEF BROTH (*BRODU*)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. beef bones or beef shank (beef shank will add more flavour and meat to add to the broth)



- 2 large carrots (peeled and diced)
- 2-3 celery stalks
- 1 medium or large onion, chopped
- 1 kohlrabi, turnip and parsley peeled or chopped (or any combination of root vegetable of your choice)
- 2 medium/4 small potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1 large tomato chopped

- 4-6 cups broth (canned, packaged or using beef bouillon/powder mixed with water)
- 2-3 tbsp oil of your choice (not olive oil)
- salt and pepper
- 1/3 - 1/2 cups raw rice or small sized pasta (tubettini or orzo)



METHOD

- In a large pot, drizzle the oil and bring to a medium-high temperature.
- Add all your vegetables and sauté for a few minutes to caramelize but do not let them brown.



- Remove the vegetables temporarily from the pot and add a little more oil and all the bones or beef shank to the pot.
- Sauté for about 5 minutes until the meat on the beef shank or bones has caramelized.



- Return all the vegetables to the pot, stir and add the beef broth

- For the last 10 minutes or so, add the rice or pasta and allow it to cook al dente. It will continue to cook in the hot broth.
- If you have used a beef shank, remove the meat off the bone, cut it up and add to the soup. If you are fortunate enough to also have some marrow in the bone, scoop that out and add to the broth.



- Season with salt and pepper (Remember that ready-made broth may be salty already, so ease up on the salt and taste first.)
- Bring the soup to a medium simmer and then lower to a low simmer. Do not boil hard. Allow the vegetables and beef bones to release their flavours. Cook until the meat is tender and the vegetables are cooked but not mushy.



Valetta Street and **Kingsway Avenue** are two streets, west of Wonderland Road, in the Oakridge Acres section of London, Ontario. The present Republic Street (*Triq ir-Republika*) in Valletta was previously known as The Kingsway.

Antonio Santo, who was boarding on Battery Street in San Francisco in 1888 and was accused by Julian Portelli of the murder of John Mifsud—a murder Portelli himself committed (see pages 28-29 below)—is believed to be the same person as **Tony Sant**, born in Malta circa 1850 and who had immigrated to the United States in 1870. By February 1920, he was living in Livermore, California, was still illiterate and worked as a common labourer. He is believed to have died later in 1920 at the age of 70.

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

**Dr. Raymond Xerri
Il-Konslu Ġenerali/
Consul General**



**Maltese Canadians wholeheartedly visiting
Malta, their families, relatives and friends**

After nearly two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and four lockdowns in Canada, a degree of control of this virus through mass vaccination has made possible the recent wave of travelling of Maltese Canadians to the Maltese Islands. The ease of restriction in both Malta and Canada has made travelling much easier for thousands to visit Malta and their families, despite requiring the COVID-19 vaccination receipt or certificate, filling the digital locator and then downloading into the VERIFLY app on the cell phone.

All this is a sigh of relief for many who have not physically seen or hugged one another for a long time. Others did not yet see their new-born nephews and nieces or, flipping the coin, and missed saying goodbye to a dear family member or relatives of dear friends on their death bed, owing to the pandemic. Or, perhaps this month of November, visiting cemeteries around Malta. All of us pray that this nightmare is over as soon as possible. The light at the end of the tunnel looks stronger and stronger each day.

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada has, over the past few weeks, received and answered thousands of calls, emails and messages, assisted our Maltese Canadian community in making plans and assisted in ensuring the smoothest possible travel to Malta. My appeal goes to the younger generations to assist their parents and relatives when called upon in dealing with the technological dimensions of our present requirements in getting their federal QR Code vaccine certificate, filling the digital locator and VERIFLY app in order to be able travel to the Maltese Islands.

**Visit and meeting with Maltese in the city of
London and town of Strathroy in Ontario along
the 'golden North American Maltese Canadian
route'**

It was a great pleasure meeting a crowd of Maltese in London at the Swiss Chalet Restaurant in the Rio Can Shopping Mall and an equal pleasure meeting the Micallef family when I visited the Sprucedale Care Centre in the town of Strathroy, also in Middlesex County, during the last week of October.



**With Dan Brock (in Blue Shirt),
His Wife and Friends at the Swiss Chalet**

It had been two years since I visited this region and my intentions were to meet the community, see how the Consulate can improve its service to its residents and cater to the increased requests for citizenship and passport applications, amongst other services.

Besides catching up with Dan Brock, the editor of this newsletter, and his wife Loretta, I also met the prominent Maltese Canadian family, Charles, Rose

and Darren Micallef, owners and manager, respectively of the award-winning Sprucedale Care Centre in the town of Strathroy just a 40-minute drive outside London. I was very impressed with what they achieved, the sterling class reached and the awards bestowed on their facility, service and excellent reputation. Keep up the superb work!



With Darren Micallef at Sprucedale Care Centre
(Photos taken by Charles Micallef)

Yes, the city of London in Ontario is one of the cities on two of the 'golden Maltese American and Canadian routes' which in our Maltese Canadian history continued after the Second World War, from Pier 21 in Halifax and Ellis Island in New York where many Maltese Canadians landed before settling in London and St Thomas, Toronto, Hamilton and Windsor and eventually spreading throughout Canada.

I appeal to Maltese Canadians to support our Maltese Canadian parish, clubs and associations

As restrictions are removed and more people are vaccinated, more Maltese Canadian community events are being organised. Support and attend your Maltese Canadian association, club (and parish if in the GTA) by paying your dues and encouraging your family, relatives and friends to attend as many events

as possible. A donation would always help. Bring your children and youth to these events and expose them to their rich heritage and values which I am sure most treasure and wish to pass on to the next Maltese Canadian generations. The list of events for the coming Christmas and New Year months to be organised by the clubs is out and published in this newsletter.

Made in Malta Film as part of the European Union Film Festival (EUFF) 2021 in Canada

November 17th will see the airing of the Maltese-produced film *Made in Malta* as part of the EUFF 2021. The Consulate has a limited amount of free tickets and a number of other reduced price tickets to give out. If you would like to see this film, call the Consulate at 416-207-0922. Once they are distributed then you can purchase your ticket from www.euff.com by clicking on the Maltese film in the list of European films. The airing of this film was made possible thanks to the High Commission of Malta to Canada in Washington D.C. and the Malta Films Commission.

I watched the preview. It's a romance story which takes us to the most beautiful spots throughout our fascinating Maltese Islands. I highly recommend it. Watch and support Maltese film.

Donation from Canada to the Malta Community Chest Fund and *Dar tal-Providenza*

During the months of November and December, the Consulate General of Malta to Canada will direct individuals on how to donate to two of Malta's major humanitarian charities: The Malta Community Chest Fund and *Id-Dar tal-Providenza* (Providence House) This is an opportunity for Maltese Canadians to contribute to two very good causes in Malta. For further information contact me directly at 647-640-2500.

Besides All Saints Day, specifically remembering our departed loved ones the following day, 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 love ones and this year I must mention the families who lost a loved one during another pandemic year because of COVID-19. A number of these families were assisted by the Consulate General during their most disconsolate of times.

We celebrated All Saints Day on November 1st and

The Maltese Presence in North America

November 2021

All Souls Day on November 2nd. Remembrance Day is the day we remembered the end of the First World War at 11:00 am, on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. In Canada, we remember the 100,000 Canadian soldiers who died, amongst them Maltese and Gozitans. As in the Maltese Islands we remember the thousands who died in both wars.

Feasts are back! Apart from remembering our departed loved ones, we celebrate the feast of St Martin of Tours in il-Baħrija, Malta and St. Fortunato in ix-Xagħra, Gozo, both on November 8th and St. John of the Cross in Ta' Xbiex, Malta on November 15th. Other feasts are St. Coronato on November 15th in in-Nadur, St. Fortunato on November 22nd in iż-Żebbuġ and St. Cecilia in Għajnsielem on November 22nd, all three in Gozo.

O Lord, always bless Malta and Canada!

SUPER BINGO

Dan Brock

The Malta Band Club in Mississauga, Ontario, held its annual Super Bingo on Sunday, November 7th. Among those present was Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of Malta to Canada.



**Dr. Raymond Xerri
with Leonard & Doris Grech of Mississauga**



Courtesy of the Consulate General of Malta to Canada

HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE PARTY

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

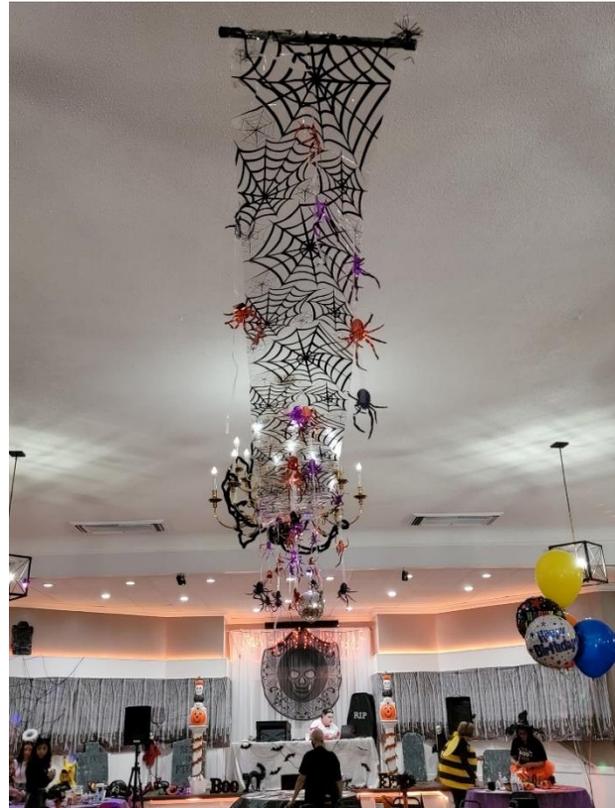
Our Halloween Dinner Dance, held on Saturday, October 23rd, was another roaring success. It was great to party again after a long two-year break. The newly renovated hall was transformed into an eerie Halloween atmosphere with plenty of ghosts and goblins to strike fear into the hearts of even the bravest of souls who dared to enter. A special thanks goes to our Boo Crew volunteers who decorated the hall. They did a spooktacular job!



The Exit from the Hall



The Hall Was Decked Out for the Occasion.



The Front of the Hall



**A Few of the Boo Crew
Mary Micallef, Eve Muscat, Margaret
Muscat-Purdy and Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci**



Some of the Decorations Throughout the Hall



Making Cotton Ball Ghosts



The Kitchen Boo Crew
Marty Micallef, Neil Schembri
and Jason Schembri

There were tons of crafts and games for the kids. Table side trick or treating and the ever-popular toilet paper mummy wrap was enjoyed by young and old alike.

Carmel Abdilla, a white washer, was born in Luqa, Malta on September 4, 1932. A passport was issued to him on August 6, 1951, to proceed to Canada. A visa was issued on March 24, 1954 and he arrived at Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 2, 1954 on board the *Nea Hellas*. He lived in the Toronto area.



Making Slime



Making Trick or Treat Bags



Making Paper Pumpkins



Witch Hat Ring Toss



Playing Witches Broom Sweep Golf



Digging for Treasure

This year we tried something new. The kids got to make their own pizza and it was a hit! The kids absolutely loved it. The adults enjoyed a buffet dinner, but I think they secretly wished they got to make their own pizza as well.



Kids Making Their Own Pizza



Liz Sultana's Cupcakes for Dessert

Halloween themed speciality cocktails were served. A contest for the spookiest dessert provided plenty of sweet treats for everybody to enjoy.



Spooky Dessert Contest Winner Delores Micallef-Durkin



Kids' Balloon Dance Party

Nearly everyone wore the most clever and amazing costumes making it difficult for the judges to choose winners for the costume contest. After all the fun and games, our bellies were filled.



The Mummy Wrap Is Always a Popular and Fun Activity



**Group Winners
First Place: Hocus Pocus
Second Place: The Roaring Twenties**



Kids' Costume Contest
First Place: Maltese Knight
Second Place: Red Dragon
Tied for Third Place:
Voodoo Doll and Cowboy



Carmen Miranda Is the Winner of the Best Singles' Costume

DJ Mario provided the music to dance the night away, long into the bewitching hour.



Couples' Winners
First Place: Bob Ross and His Portrait
Second Place: Dia de los Muertos Señor & Señora (Day of the Dead)



Dancing the Night Away

Melita is an unincorporated community in Clayton Township, Arenac County, Michigan, north of the county seat of Standish.

The first list of Maltese immigrants to Canada, sent to Charles Diedum, President of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, was dated March 9, 1950 and contained 10 individuals: five men, three women and two children. They were travelling on board the *Conte Biancamano* by way of New York.

MALTESE CANADIAN BUSINESS CARDS POSTED ON THE BUSINESS NETWORK WALL IN THE WAITING ROOM OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MALTA TO CANADA DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS





Courtesy of the Consulate General of Malta to Canada

**JULIAN PORTELLI:
A MALTESE AMERICAN MURDERER**

Charles J. Vella, PhD

In my ongoing pre-2000, *San Francisco Chronicle* obituary review of the Maltese in the San Francisco Bay Area, I came across a series of articles in 1888 and 1889 that talked about the two murder trials of a Julian Portelli, a Maltese man who was a gardener and chicken peddler. He was ultimately convicted of murdering his fellow Maltese friend and partner John Mifsud in 1888 and sentenced to 30 years in San Quentin and Folsom prisons in California. He got out early in 1908. A most interesting tale indeed!

Julian Portelli was born circa 1842 in Malta. He emigrated from Malta to the US in 1883. In 1888, Portelli was in San Francisco. He was arrested, that April, for the murder of John Mifsud. As far as I have been able to research, Portelli is the only Maltese individual to be convicted of murder and sent to San Quentin Prison in 1888 and to Folsom Prison in 1889. He was released early on parole in 1908 and then disappears from the historical record.

Julian, the murderer, and John Mifsud, the victim, were first mentioned in a San Francisco newspaper article on April 28, 1888:

“Portelli in Court. Preliminary Examination Yesterday. The Prosecution Proving That Antonio Santo Is Not Implicated In the Murder.

Judge Hornblower was occupied all yesterday afternoon and last evening hearing evidence in the preliminary examination of Julian Portelli, accused of the murder of his partner, John Mefsutt [a misspelling of Mifsud], in his room on the corner of Clay and Davis streets. The courtroom corridors were thronged with long-haired, dusky compatriots of the defendant, who talked volubly among themselves in reference to the mysterious and peculiar circumstances surrounding the tragedy, though they seemed unable to follow the testimony adduced.

Officer Manning was the first witness called by J. H. Long, who conducted the prosecution. He related how the defendant came up to him at 6:30 o'clock on the morning of the 11th last and stated that he thought his partner had been killed, as he found blood all along the building. The witness accompanied him and described the ghastly scene in the room when he entered in terms the same as has already appeared in the press.

Detective [Robert “Bob”] Hogan then took the stand and graphically related to the Court the arrest of Portelli, the various conversations which he had with him and the conflicting statements his prisoner made on every occasion that the witness spoke to him. The witness read a long statement made by Portelli immediately after the arrest, in which he denied all knowledge of the murder. The only thing that he knew of was that several people had threatened his partner and himself and that he was still afraid. The officer was cross-examined at great length by Attorneys [J.A or J.C.] Campbell and [Martin] Stevens, with a view that he had threatened Portelli and badgered him in the Chief’s office in order that he might make a statement implicating himself, and that he was refused an interpreter. These statements were separately and collectively repudiated by the officer, and his Honor remarked that if Mr. Campbell was not more careful in selecting his questions the city would be bankrupted by the shorthand writer’s bill. Henry Wager, an old man who lives in the room adjoining the one occupied by the two Maltese, said that on the night before the discovery of Mefsutt’s body, he heard a noise in their room. It was between 11 and 12 o’clock and he was in bed. He jumped up and the noise ceased at once. He saw the defendant soon after 6 o’clock the next morning by knocking he heard at the door. He said he wanted his basket. Fred Meyer, a saloon keeper, was called and stated that the defendant Portelli used to keep his money with the witness. At the time of his arrest Portelli had \$80 with the witness.

“Was the money discolored? asked Mr. Long. ‘I object’ said Attorney Campbell. “The money will be the best evidence. Let it be produced.” “Yes. I thought so. That’s what the attorney has been after all day. There will be \$10 for each,” retorted Mr. Long, but the money was not produced. Louis Vampool, the son of the landlady, in whose lodging house on Battery Street Antonio Santo lived, was placed on the stand. Attorney Long stated to the Court that he would endeavor to prove by this witness and those who would be called afterward, that Antonio Santo [also a native of Malta and an acquaintance of Portelli] was drunk on the night before the murder, and was also not near the house on Clay at the time of the murder.

The witness stated that Antonio came home drunk between 11 and 12 o’clock on Tuesday night and that he partly undressed and put him to bed. The witness slept in the same bed with him that night and

knew that Antonio did not leave the room until 7:30 o'clock the next morning. The defense made many

futile efforts to have the witness prove himself drunk and not capable of knowing what took place.



Detail from a 1930 Map of San Francisco Showing Battery, Davis and Clay Streets

Antonio Santo, the man arrested on the suspicion of being the murderer and then released, was then placed on the stand. He stated that he had been on a spree from Sunday until the time of his arrest. On the Sunday prior to the murder he was in a saloon with the accused Portelli about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He, at that time, asked Portelli whether he wanted to buy the horse, to which the accused replied that he had no use for it now, as he had split Johnny, meaning the de-ceased. The examination will be continued tomorrow in Judge Hornblower's court."

Portelli was indicted for murder on May 9, 1888.

He and John Mifsud were again cited in a

second newspaper article on October 12, 1888 in the *San Francisco Chronicle*:

"Portelli's Trial.

Damaging Testimony Heard Yesterday. Evidence Connecting Him With the Murder of John Mefstutt Gradually Accumulating.

Julian Portelli, the Maltese murderer, now being tried for the murder of John Mefstutt, was until yesterday a merry man. His mood since his arrest last April has been jocular and impudent. When placed on trial he was even saucy. And at the time preliminary testimony was introduced on the first day of the trial which is now in progress, he laughed at the witnesses and their testimony. Yesterday his

mood changed. He has lost his confidence and impudence, and as the cumulative circumstantial evidence against him is brought out by the prosecution his soberness increases. The testimony that had the most to do with his change in the manner of the accused, and creating also a deep effect on the jury, was that of W. W. Finnis a porter for the commission firm of Larzaller and Witham, whose place of business is one of the storerooms on the ground floor of the building where the tragedy occurred.

Finnis testified that on the Saturday before Mefstutt's murder he heard a noise in the room above, as though a struggle was going on, and soon after Mefstutt and Portelli came down the stairs together. Mefstutt was covered with blood, and when he and Portelli came into his presence Mefstutt immediately complained to him of Portelli's abuse.

"He has thrown me downstairs and whips me all the time. Look at me!" cried Mefstutt. "He not only whips me, but robs me. Isn't he a _____ - ___?"

Finnis said that Portelli laughed and repeated the offensive epithet that Mefstutt applied to him, and said that he was a _____. Mefstutt accused Portelli of having thrown him downstairs, and Portelli admitted it.

Fred Meyers, who keeps a saloon directly across the street, corroborated the witness Finnis as to the quarrel between the men. He heard the noise of the disturbance. and saw them quarreling on the stairs. Later on that night Portelli came to him and left \$80 for safe keeping. The money was in \$20 gold pieces, and they appeared to be mildewed, as though they had been laid away for some time. Meyers said that at another time the accused had given him money to keep, on this occasion leaving \$110.

Just before this money was left with Meyers, the dead man, Mefstutt, had been robbed of the identical amount, \$110. Robbery is one of the motives the State is attempting to show for the crime, and the prosecution will try to prove that Portelli was systematically robbing the murdered man. Private Watchman John Walls, the man who saw Portelli on the awning leading from his room to that of the victim on the night of the murder, about 1:30 o'clock in the morning, took the stand and swore to that fact. He positively identified Portelli, and his testimony was unshaken by the defense in the cross-examination. The prosecution then proceeded to dispose of the suspicion attached to Antone Santo [aka Antonio Santo], the man accused by Portelli of having

committed the crime, and succeeded by introducing the testimony of a number of witnesses accounting for the actions and whereabouts of Santo, and proving conclusively that he had no knowledge of the murder. Santo himself was put on the stand, and swore to Portelli telling him in Bottle Koenig's saloon that he and Mefstutt had had a fight, and were no longer friends nor partners. That was the Sunday before the murder. Several witnesses were then introduced to prove that Alfred Woods, the nineteen-year-old boy, likewise accused by Portelli of the murder, had nothing to do with the crime. Woods is now on the high seas, having shipped last August in a vessel bound for Liverpool. His mother was present and testified to that fact."

Portelli and Mifsud are again mentioned in the *Chronicle*, in a third newspaper article, on November 2, 1888:

"Portelli's Trial. The defendant himself on the stand.

Kaiser, the Police Court stenographer, appears as a friend of Stevens, the Attorney.

The trial of Julian Portelli for the murder of his partner, John Mefstu [Mifsud], which has been in progress in Judge Toohy's Court for a month past, is rapidly drawing to a close, and will doubtless be finished in a few days. Yesterday morning the defense called to the witness stand Fred W. Kaiser, the shorthand reporter in Judge Hornblower's court. Kaiser testified to going to the scene of the murder at the instance of Martin Stevens, one of the defendant's attorneys, and making some measurements and examinations, which did not agree with those made by Detective Robert Hogan. He said he saw the blood on the floor when the door was opened four inches. After he had related all he discovered in the murdered man's room, he stated that he had known Mr. Stevens for over fifteen years, and that he had succeeded Stevens as Police Court stenographer. He had gone to school with Stevens, and they were close friends, and it was on this account that he had gone with him to Mifsutt's room. After severe cross examination, he swore that the visit was made on the afternoon of April 24th between 2 and 3 o'clock, and the day was very bright and sunny. "You approached me on one occasion about this case, did you not?". asked Assistant District Attorney Dunne. "Yes, sir," answered the witness. "State what you said to me about hanging this man and about your friendship with Mr. Stevens. The defense objected, but the question was allowed.

"I asked if you were going to convict and hang Portelli" and you replied, "What about it". I said to you that Stevens, Portelli's attorney, was a particular friend of mine and I should like to see him win the case and I hoped that he would not hang the fellow. You replied we wouldn't if we could get over Bob Hogan's testimony against the accused.

"What else did you say? "I said that while I believed Portelli guilty, I hoped you wouldn't hang him." The Assistant District Attorney explained that this matter was brought out to show that the mind of the witness was "prejudiced in favor of the defendant, solely on account of his friendship for Martin Stevens, his attorney."

Martin Stevens requested permission to take the stand and did so. He explained that his purpose in going to the room was to learn if Portelli had told the truth about seeing the blood through the door. The witness found that he could see the blood himself when the door was sprung four inches at the bottom. Mr. Stevens contradicted Kaiser about the time of the visit to Mefstutt's room, which he said was in the afternoon of April 25th, and not on the 24th, as Kaiser swore.

J. A. Campbell, the leading counsel for the defendant also took the witness stand. He said he had made investigation similar to those made by Kaiser and Stevens, and for the same purpose—to learn if Portelli had told the truth about seeing the blood. Campbell said he had seen the blood when the door was sprung four inches. His visit was made near noonday, on a bright and sunny day.

A Juror asked him if the reason he had given was an honest one, why he had not made his investigations at the same hour Portelli said he had seen the blood, at 6:30 o'clock the morning that the murder was discovered. Campbell answered that he was not in the habit of getting up at that lime. A recess was then taken until 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

When the court reassembled Portelli himself took the stand, He told of his acquaintance with the deceased in Malta, where they both were born, and how they both came to this country, and how he had first met Mefstutt in this city. Several points connected with the lives of the two here, touching their partnership and other relations, were testified to by the accused and he finally told the quarrel that took place between them on the Saturday night before the tragedy. He said that they both had been drinking heavily, and were in Mefstutt's room

together. Mefstutt wanted to go out, to which Portelli objected, and as Mefstutt insisted, defendant pushed him. He fell, striking against a faucet cock that was lying on the floor, cutting his head and causing the blood to flow. They then left, and went to Herman's saloon on Davis street, and then to Meyer's saloon, at the corner of Davis and Clay streets, where Portelli gave the bartender \$80 to keep for him. At this point the court adjourned until this afternoon at 1 o'clock."

On September 9, 1889 Portelli was given a sentence of 30 years in prison.

He was briefly referred to in a fourth newspaper article on September 12, 1889, in the *Chronicle*:

"His Second Trial. Portelli Is Again before a Jury for Murder.

Julian Portelli, the peddler, who, in April 1888, was arrested for the murder of John Mefstutt, a company-ion, which is alleged to have occurred during a quarrel over some vegetables, was placed on trial for the second time yesterday before a jury in Judge [Francis William] Van Reynegom's court. Portelli was tried in October last, and the trial lasted seven weeks. The evidence against Portelli is mainly of a circumstantial character, and the first jury which tried him could not agree upon his probable guilt. The whole of yesterday afternoon was devoted to securing a jury."

The September 24, 1889 issue of the *Chronicle*, again made a brief reference to Portelli:

"The Trial of Portelli

Ex-City Physician Carpenter, with the skull of murdered John Mefstut in his hand, described to a jury in Judge Van Reynegom's court yesterday, the twenty-nine wounds which Julian Portelli is charged with having inflicted, and for which he is now on trial. The evidence of the day was mainly of a professional character necessary to the introduction of the people's testimony. A new juror had to be secured to take the place of the other who was taken sick. The first trial of Portelli consumed seven weeks. The present one will take a month."

He was noted in a sixth newspaper article on October 26, 1889, in the *Chronicle*:

"Portelli's Fate It rests in the hands of the jury.

After being out for 10 hours they return for instructions and are locked up. Julian Portelli, who has been on trial in Judge Van Reynogorn's court for seven weeks for the murder of his partner, John Mefstutt in April 1888, still remains in ignorance of his fate. The

jurors were charged by the Judge yesterday morning, and at 10:30 a.m. retired to consult upon a verdict. Nothing was heard from them until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when they reported through the bailiff that they were unable to agree and that there appeared to be no probability of their doing so. At 8:30 o'clock last evening the jurymen came into court and asked for further instructions.

The defendant at the time was sleeping on the floor in the prisoner's dock but arose with much eagerness and anxiety in his face as the bailiff aroused him by a touch on the shoulder. At the request of the foreman of the jury the shorthand reporter read from the transcript of testimony the statement made by Portelli to the police at the time of his arrest. Information was then requested as to whether a verdict of murder in the second degree could be returned, to which the Judge responded by rereading that portion of his charge referring to the form of the

verdict. The Jurors then again retired and were locked up for the night, taking with them for examination the door of Mefstutt's room, on which so much stress was laid by the prosecution during both trials of the case. It is understood that the jurors stand five for acquittal, with the remaining seven divided as to murder in the first or the second degree."

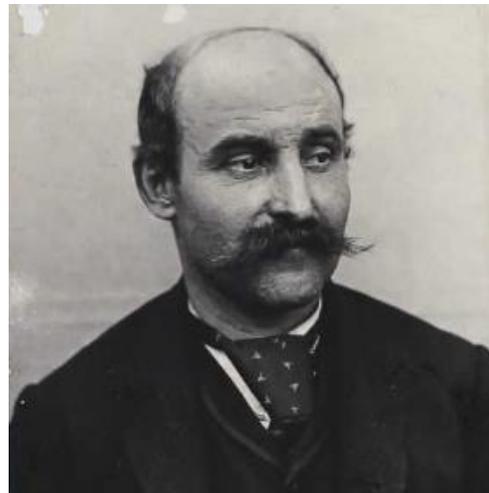
Portelli was finally mentioned in a seventh newspaper article in the November 10, 1889 issue of the *Chronicle*:

"Sentence Day. Portelli to serve thirty years in prison. He creates a scene in court by accusing a witness of perjury.

Julian Portelli, the chicken peddler, convicted of murder in the second degree for killing John Mefstutt his partner, on the 10th of April 1887, was sentenced by Judge Van Reynegom yesterday to thirty years imprisonment at hard labor at San Quentin Prison. The prisoner, when asked by the Court if he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced, created a scene by arising in the dock and saying: "I have been convicted on the perjured testimony of that man." at the same time pointing at the witness, J. F. Malley, who was sitting on the other side of the courtroom. "I am innocent of the murder of which I have been convicted, and I have only Mr. Malley to thank for the fact that I am not a free man today." The prisoner then thanked the Judge and jury for the fair trial they had given him, and calmly received his sentence. J. C. Campbell, attorney for

Portelli, subsequently informed a reporter that he would in all probability carry the case to the Supreme Court, as he was satisfied that the verdict rendered by the jury was contrary to the evidence."

Portelli was in San Quentin Prison, Marin County, California, on November 10, 1889. On March 1, 1890, he was transferred to Folsom Prison, Granite, Sacramento County, California. A Folsom Prison note states the following facts about Julian Portelli: He had been given a 30-year sentence for 2nd degree murder; age 47, a gardener; height 5' 2". He was listed in the 1900 US Census, as being age 58, a prisoner in Folsom Prison.

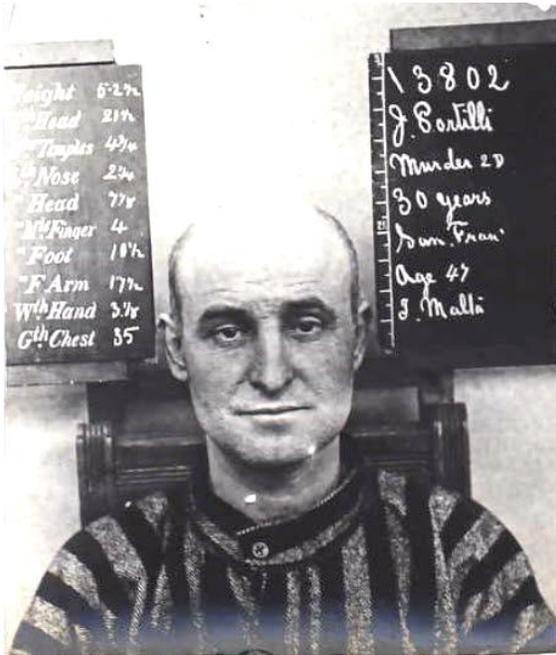


The Above Photos of Portelli Were Taken at Folsom Prison on March 1, 1890

A Folsom Prison note stated that Julian Portelli, convicted of second-degree murder, was released while on parole on January 10, 1908. He is not listed in the 1910 US Census. There is no further information on Portelli after 1908.

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN
THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

Dan Brock



This Photo Was Probably Taken Shortly Thereafter Following the Shaving of the Mustache and Being Dressed in Prison Garb.



This Appears to Be a Later Photo of Portelli.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

A very ambitious and successful **Halloween Dinner Dance Party** was held on Saturday, October 23rd. (See photo story on pages 21-25.)

With November 5th being the **first Friday of the month**, the doors to the Club were opened at 5:00 p.m. Food orders were taken from 5:30, with the praying of the Rosary at 6:40 and Mass at 7:00. Food orders could be placed before Mass and eaten after. As well as Kinnie being available, there was a good selection of seasonal wine, beer and mixed drinks. Frozen pastizzi were also available.

A **Rabbit Dinner** was held on Saturday, November 6th. (See page 40 for photo story.)

A **Craft Show** is to be held at the Club, on Sunday, November 28th. Contact Grace Harris at Grace4glass@yahoo.com or call 313-6890-1966 for further details.

**MALTESE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY CLUB**

Presents its annual

Craft Show

**Maltese Crafts & Merchandise
Food~Pastizzi~Bake Sale**

November 28th, 2021

11:00 A.M - 4:00 P.M

MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB

5221 OAKMAN BLVD, DEARBORN

**Support small businesses
& Support MACC**

On Sunday, November 21st, the Club will be celebrating a **Mass** in remembrance of **ALL** deceased members. The Mass will be preceded by the praying of the **Rosary**. Father Joseph Mallia will celebrate the Mass. During the Mass, the name of each deceased member will be called out and a bell rung after the calling of each name. A **Buffet Dinner** will follow the Mass. A donation of \$15 per person is asked. Prior reservation is required for the dinner.

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center: Astoria

The Center held a **Halloween Party** on Saturday, October 30th

The **Tree Lighting Ceremony** is to take place on Saturday, December 4th with the Centre open from 3:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. A festive day is planned with a **Model Train Show**, **North Pole Mailbox**, a visit from **Santa**, **Christmas Music** and a **Nativity Scene**.

ONTARIO

<p>LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)</p> <p>OMNI 1 - Ontario Saturdays 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. Thursdays 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>OMNI BC Saturdays 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>OMNI Alberta Saturdays 2:00 p.m.</p>

Malta Band Club

Happy Halloween Pasta Nite was held on Saturday, October 30th. (See pages 13-14 For photo story.) This was followed by a **Super Bingo** on Sunday, November 7th (see page 20) and a **Memorial Service** held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday November 14th, followed by a **Bake Sale**.

The **Annual Concert & Roast Beef Dinner** will take place on Saturday, November 20th, followed by the **Children's Christmas Party** on Sunday, December 12th.

The **Members' Dinner** will be held on Saturday, December 19th.

There will be a **New Year's Eve Celebration**, on Friday, December 31st.

The **Annual General Meeting and Elections** will take place on Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Melita Soccer Club

A **Halloween Dinner Party** took place on Saturday, October 30th (See pages 1, 11-12 for the photo story.)

A **Lamb Dinner** was held on Saturday, November 13th. (Photo story in the December issue.)

The **Memorial Service** will take place on Friday, November 19th.

A **Bus Trip to Casino Rama** is to take place on Saturday November 27th.

The **Christmas Dinner Party** is to be held on Saturday, December 11th.

There will be a **New Year's Eve Dinner Party** on Friday, December 31st.

The **Annual Meeting and Election** will take place on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

For further information, contact the Club at 416-763-5317 or Mary Ann Piscopo at 647-290-4856.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

On the weekend of October 9th-10th, the parish collected **non-perishable food items** at all the Masses. Members of the Good Shepherd Refuge then picked up and distributed these items among the neediest in the community.

London

Forty-four members of the Maltese Canadian community of the London area and friends met for lunch at the **Swiss Chalet** in the Rio Can Shopping Mall on Fanshawe Park Road East on Thursday, October 28th for our **monthly luncheon**. Our numbers required the use two adjoining and partially-open dining areas. We were honoured to have with us, **Dr. Raymond Xerri**, Consul General of Malta to Canada.

Following the luncheon and accompanied by Charles and Rose Micallef, Dr. Xerri paid a visit to the **Sprucedale Care Centre** in Strathroy. This facility is owned by Charles Micallef and operated by his son Darren Micallef. (See pages 5-6, 18-19.)

The group's **next luncheon** is to be held at 12:30 p.m., at the **Mandarin**, in the Victoria Place Mall, 387 Wellington Road, on Friday, November 26th.

On Thursday, November 10th, Ted Gauci and Tony and Lynda Galea went to the Cenotaph in Victoria Park to place the London Maltese Community wreath. With us still being in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic attendance at the Remembrance Day Service was restricted and by invitation only.

Thanks for your lovely and informative newsletter.
Paul Vella, Radio 3ZZZ,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Good newsletter once again.
Rene Xuereb, Metro Detroit, Michigan

Thank you so much for the very interesting and informative newsletter. I enjoy reading it from Melbourne, Australia.

Gioconda Schembri

**LEE PAVIA:
LONDON, ONTARIO'S ONLY
MALTESE CANADIAN BAND LEADER***

Dan Brock

When one thinks of London's ethnic band leaders those of Italian heritage immediately spring to mind as we recall such personalities as Guy Lombardo, Bert Niosi and Bernie Venuta. But the Maltese-Canadian community too had its own local representative as a band leader in the person of Lee Pavia.

Emmanuel "Lee" Pavia was born in Żabbar, Malta, on June 14, 1929, one of 23 children of Emmanuel and Maria Stella (Rizzo) Pavia, natives of Cospicua (Bormla) and Senglea (Isla) respectively, and the fourth eldest of six who lived to adulthood. Lee apprenticed as a welder and worked at the dockyards in Malta, but he also was an accomplished musician on the clarinet.



**Ted Gauci and Lydia & Tony Galea
with a Member of the Canadian Legion**

Photo courtesy of Tony Galea

Windsor

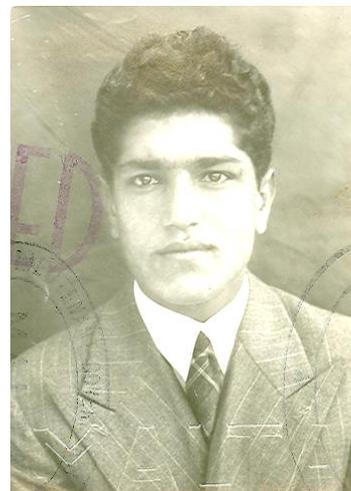
Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

On Saturday, November 20th the Club is holding a **Rabbit Dinner**. Tickets are \$20 for the rabbit dinner or \$10 for the pasta with marinara sauce only.

READER'S COMMENTS

I write to thank you for the latest edition no: 31 of the newsletter **MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA**. It is full of interesting articles that keep the Maltese people united wherever they happen to be around the world we live in. I admire your style of presenting the write-ups together with accompanying photos to add more interest for the readers.

George Stagno Navarra, Malta



Emmanuel Pavia's Passport Photo, 1950

Courtesy of the late Lena (Camenzuli) Pavia

The first large groups of Maltese to emigrate and settle in London, Canada, arrived in 1948. Among the June 1948 arrivals was Lee's older brother John who found work as an upholsterer at the Canada National Railway car shops in East London. He wrote back home in 1950 telling Lee that he had a job for him at the car shops as a welder. Lee came to Canada, by way of New York City, on board the *Brasil*, in June 1950. As was mentioned in the October 2021 issue of this newsletter (page 41), it was while working at the car shops that he was given the nickname "Cisco" which remained with him the rest of his life.

Lee joined The Maltese Association of London Ont, formed in 1948, and no doubt played at some of its functions. He also joined the C.N.R. band. Being unmarried, he was a member of the Regis Club, an organization for young single adults in connection with St. Peter's Parish. It was at the parish hall that Lee first met Gerry Costello, a fellow musician, who was three years younger and played piano at the Club's dances. In 1952, Lee joined the Canadian Army Militia in the First Hussars and was to serve for nine years and nine months. It was while in the First Hussars Band that he made the transition from the clarinet to the saxophone.

Lee had a sweetheart back home in the person of Lina Camenzuli and, after getting established in London, he proposed to her. She arrived in Canada on board the *Saturnia* in January 1953 and they were married the following month on Valentine's Day at Holy Cross Church on Elm Street in East London. The Pavia's were to have two children, Mary and Dean.



**Lee Pavia with his daughter Mary,
His Brother Tony Pavia and
His Brother-in-Law Reno Camenzuli**

Courtesy of Mary (Pavia) Melvin



**Lee Pavia on the Saxophone
with The Golden Notes, circa 1960s**

Courtesy of the late Lena (Camenzuli) Pavia

By 1954 the Maltese Association had ceased to function and was replaced by The Maltese Canadian Club London – Ontario. Lee was among the 56 persons present at its first general meeting on March 21, 1954, held at the Army & Navy Coronation Hall on King Street. By late 1956 he had organized his own band, possibly the Rhythm Rockets. His bands were to play both at some of the Maltese Canadian Club's functions and at that of the later Maltese Canadian Club of London.

Between 1958 and 1968, Gerry Costello managed the Colborne Community Centre (The 3 Cs) opposite Catholic Central Separate School on Colborne Street near Downtown London. Lee Pavia and The Golden Notes and its successor The Lee Pavia Orchestra played at this venue between September 1964 and July 1969. The Golden Notes were also to play at the Polish Hall on Hill Street, the Hotel

London Crystal Ballroom and the Wonderland Ballroom in London and The Stork Club Ballroom in Port Stanley. On the evening of February 18, 1965, the orchestra had a 45-minute segment on CFPL-

TV. The Lee Pavia Orchestra also played at such venues as the Hungarian Club and the Holiday Inn on Wellington Road.



The Golden Notes, Circa 1960s
Bruce Armstrong (guitar), Lee Pavia (sax), Joe Doyle (drums),
Joe Monagna (accordion) and Peter _____ (guitar)

Courtesy of the late Lena (Camenzuli) Pavia

By 1972, Gerry Costello and Lee had hooked up to form The Gerri Lees. As well as playing at dances, wedding receptions and such out-of-town venues as the St. George's Club on Highway 2 and the Oddfellows Hall in Glanworth, the band was a regular at the Knotty Pine Restaurant & Tavern on the southeast corner of Richmond Street and Fanshawe Park Road East and Bondi's Italian Restaurant, Tavern & Pizzeria on the southeast corner of Horton and Waterloo streets. It was the Lee Pavia Quartet which played for the Maltese Canadian Club at the Norton Restaurant, corner of Hamilton and Commissioners roads, on New Year's Eve in 1978.

In later years, Lee was a member of the Swinging Seniors playing at such venues as "Eldon House" on Ridout Street. He also entertained at the Cherryhill

Village Mall and the Riverside Retirement Residence. Lee was a member of the Portuguese Club's Santa Cecilia Marching Band until his death.

Following his stint as a welder for C.N.R., he was hired on at General Motors Diesel where he was employed for 32 years. The Maltese Canadian Club, founded in 1954, appears to have ceased operations in 1961. From the time of the formation of the Maltese Canadian Club of London in 1977 until his death on December 30, 2008, Lee, was an active member and served for a time on its executive as well.

** This article is reprinted in large part from issue 23 (May/June 2009), [4-5] of the newsletter for the Maltese Canadian Club of London.*

MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Festa San Gejtanu 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
desertdancer007@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)
stpatricksmi@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.omnity.ca › shows › lehen-malti>
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue., Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
Contact Person: Joe Sherri
416-571-3944
email .lehenmalti@hotmail.com

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
maltabakeshopltd@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

Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)

c/o Trillium, Sqaq Nru 1, Triq it-Tigrija, ix-Xagħra
Tel: 011 356 21560656
mcagozo@hotmail.com

Maltese Canadian Business & Networking Association (MCBNA), (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-980-1975
mcbna2018@gmail.com

Maltese-Canadian Cruisers

c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L4Z 1R9
416-524-2573
att: Gianni Borg

Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association (Est. 2018)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944
joeshherri@rogers.com

Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944
joeshherri@rogers.com

Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
416-767-7054

Maltese Canucks

c/o 3336 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON,
M6P 2A4
416-909-7357/414-670-2662
carl@isgtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com

Maltese Center, NYC

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102
718-728-9893
info@maltesecenter.com
Opening hours:
Wednesday and Friday 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Maltese Cross Foundation of California

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

Maltese Culture Club of Durham

c/o 124 Ribblesdale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8
289-939-8377
mmpastizzi@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)

c/o 59A Terry Drive, Toronto, ON, M6N 4Y8
Coordinator: Carmen Galea
416-766-5830
gormija@sympatico.ca

Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

c/o leprofess@aol.com

Melita Soccer Club Inc.

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4
416-763-5317
msc@melitasoccerclub.com
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday and
Saturday

	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Friday	6:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6
416-708-8627
www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186
giovanvel@sympatico.ca

St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
647-524-1115
jason.borg@hotmail.ca/sborg@rogers.com

St. Paul's Maltese Choir

c/o St Paul The Apostle Parish
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com
President: Lino Debono

**RABBIT DINNER AT THE MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN,
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH**



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