



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 47

MARCH 2023

THE TALL AND SHORT OF IT



Jerry Sokoloski and Annette Buttigieg at the Malta Bake Shop, Dundas Street, Toronto
(See page 13 for more information on Jerry Sokoloski.)
Courtesy of Jerry Sokoloski and Antoinette Buttigieg

**The Maltese Presence
in North America
Issue No. 47 March 2023**

Editor

Dan Brock

Proofreader

Mona Vella-Nicholas

Copy Editors

Mark Caruana

Maria Pia Gauci

Contributors to This Issue

CANADA

Ontario

Mary Rose Aquilina

Antoinette Buttigieg

Richard S. Cumbo

Fr. Roy Farrell

Forum Melitense

Tony Galea

Malta Band Club

Jerry Sokoloski

USA

California

Maltese-American Social Club
of San Francisco

Evelyn and Dennis Simmons

Michigan

“Corktown Gerry”

New York

Maltese Center (NYC)

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It's always a pleasant surprise to see how each issue ends up. For me the layout is every bit as important as the content. There are so many twists and turns from the time I start working on an issue until I see the end product. And yes, in all humility, I stand back and say to myself, “Hum. Not bad.” This issue is no exception and, again, it is owing to the many contributors and postings from which I unashamedly borrow.

The first which comes to mind is the photo on the front cover. This, I “lifted” from Antoinette Buttigieg’s Facebook page and wish to thank both her and Jerry Sokoloski for permission to use it in this issue.

Then, there’s the vintage New Year’s Eve Party admission ticket

posted by “Corktown Gerry” and again “discovered” on Facebook. (See page 11.)

Next, through Facebook, I learned of the activities of several Maltese clubs.

Some, I have presented here as stand-alone items, such as the visit of the Hon. Dr. Ian Borg to the Maltese Center (NYC) (see page 9), the Valentine’s luncheon put on for the women by some of the men of the Malta Band Club (see page 16), and the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day by members of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco (see page 12).

Others, I have noted in the usual “Activities within the Maltese Communities” segment. (See pages 7-8.) I wish to draw particular attention to the Way of the Cross Art Exhibit, arranged by the Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton, the informal gathering of the Maltese community to be held in Vancouver, BC, and the services being offered by the Consulate Office in Taylor, MI. Since the outset of the COVID pandemic, little has been known of the activities of these entities.

I’ve found the late C.A. “Camelo” Caruana’s *Forum Melitense/-Maltese Forum* a great resource. The article entitled “A Church in a Vast Wilderness,” relating to St. Paul the Apostle Parish (see page 13), originally appeared in the Spring 1978 issue of *Forum Melitense*. As for this Toronto parish, it is the only remaining Maltese parish outside Malta! (See page 4.)

Again, I would like to publicly thank Fr. Roy Farrell, the parish’s administrator, for permitting me to “cherry pick” items from the Sunday bulletins which I believe to be of interest and spiritually beneficial to the readership.

Conspicuous by its absence in the January and February issues has been a Maltese recipe. This feature is once more back with

Mary Rose Aquilina’s recipe for the Lenten sweet known as *kwareżimal*. (See pages 10-11.)

I would also like to pay tribute to the small group of Maltese Canadians and friends in the London area who, although they no longer have a club, try to come together once a month over a luncheon. (See pages 5-6.)

Thanks to the kindness and efforts of Evelyn and Dennis Simmons of California, all issues and the latest “Table of Contents” are posted on the web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>. Click on to “News & Resources.”

If you have ideas to share or wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, etc., I may be reached at danbrock62@gmail.com. You may also contact me through this email address should you be interested in advertising in this newsletter, which literally has a worldwide circulation and is read each month by thousands.

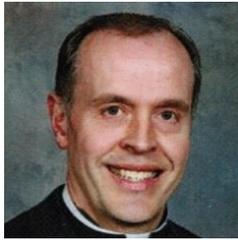
May you and yours have a Blessed Easter.

CONTENTS

2. Editorial Comment
3. From the Desk of Fr. Roy...
4. Only Maltese Parish Outside Malta
5. Some Braved the Weather Regardless
6. Readers’ Comments Relating to the February Issue
7. Activities within the Maltese Communities
9. Meet & Greet
10. *Kwareżimal* (A Lenten Sweet)
11. Knights of Malta Post 129 Canadian Legion Revisited
12. Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day
13. A Church in a Vast Wilderness
13. Jerry Sokoloski: Canada’s Tallest Man
14. Maltese Organizations in North America
16. Ladies Treated to a Valentine’s Luncheon

**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH,
TORONTO, CANADA**

From the Desk of Fr. Roy...



Dear Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle,

Parish Bulletin for February 12th

I'm thankful for the warm reception in the parish hall last Sunday and for the welcome that preceded it. Prior to Fr. Ivano's February 15th departure, I would like to express my gratitude for his priestly ministry at St. Paul and for his many gifts. You were indeed blessed to have him here.

I'm eagerly anticipating the commemoration of the shipwreck of St. Paul at all the weekend Masses and to attend the dinner and dance. Father Massimo Buttigieg will officiate the 10:30 am Sunday Mass in Maltese. I proposed to take on the 11:30 am Mass at his parish, St. Francis of Assisi, since it was hard to locate Sunday replacements.

Wishing you a truly blessed feast day! February 10th has a special place in the Maltese calendar. Malta is the sole nation that commemorates this special event on this day.

The Maltese people's acceptance of Christianity is a one-of-a-kind event for us. In his love and providence, Christ planned that the Maltese people would become his followers. We should feel proud that, through one of the greatest apostles, Paul of Tarsus, 27 years after Christ's death and resurrection we were added to his Kingdom—God's Kingdom.

Although we are distant from the shores of our Home Island, the Maltese Community continues to celebrate this special occasion. It is not a coincidence that the ONLY Maltese parish outside Malta is consecrated to St. Paul.

May the richness and depth of St. Paul's message, apostle and missionary, help us experience our Catholic Christian faith more deeply in our parish community.

Il-festa t-tajba!

Parish Bulletin for February 19th

After bidding farewell to Fr. Ivano on Wednesday at 4 a.m., the goodbye felt so final it was overwhelming. I will forever owe him a debt of gratitude for his hospitality and support since I arrived at St. Paul's on January 5th.

Let us all ask for God's divine protection on him as he embarks on his new ministry in Peru. It must have been difficult to start fresh in a country when the political climate is so unpredictable.

I'm sending my appreciation to the members of the Social Committee for their phenomenal work for the feast of St. Paul. I was astonished by the amount of energy they put forth as well as their devotion to the parish and their goal of creating a strong Maltese community.

Everyone was delighted with the entertainment, and the food was extraordinary. It was an enormous success. Our total revenue will be published in the coming weeks.

Your effort was incredibly appreciated, and we want you to be aware that we have taken notice of your hard work.

Parish Bulletin for February 26th

Lent can be a good time to reflect on the people who mean the most to us and the relationships we hold most dear....

One Lenten family practice might include a daily act of love in our family....

One of the true beauties of Lent has to do with the granting of forgiveness, reconciliation, mercy and healing. This isn't just an issue between Jesus and me. It always has something to do with my family and with my relationships – how we are with each other. What in us needs mercy and healing? What reflection, choices, and actions do we need to take as a family this Lent to stay consistent with the patterns we have set?

Parish Bulletin for March 12th

I would like to emphasize the educational importance of the upcoming Seder Meal, which is scheduled to take place on March 25th....

The Seder Meal was created in order to replace the Passover Supper after the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD. Although we are Catholic, the aim of this meal is not to practice a Jewish ritual, since we are not of that faith. It is to share Old Testament symbolism and explain how their interpretation was realized in the offering of the perfect Lamb, which is reenacted for us in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

THE ONLY MALTESE PARISH OUTSIDE MALTA

Dan Brock

For years, I've been stating the fact that St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto, Canada is the only Maltese parish in North America.

It took Fr Roy Farrell's statement in the Sunday bulletin for February 12th, to come to the realization that this parish is the **ONLY** Maltese parish outside the country of Malta!

Like Doubting Thomas, however, I wanted proof. My first query was to my good acquaintance Mark Caruana, of NSW, Australia. Surely, with more persons of Maltese descent living in Australia than anywhere else outside Malta, there would be several Maltese national parishes.

Mark replied: *As far as I know, there is no Maltese parish in Australia. One must bear in mind, that unlike the USA, the bishops in Australia were reluctant to allow ethnic parishes, as they saw this as potentially divisive for the Catholic Church.*

We had national Maltese chaplains, serving the Maltese community, but not a parish as such.

Maltese have financially contributed in a substantial way to a number of parishes, such as Our Lady Queen of Peace in Greystanes and Our Lady of Victories in Horsley Park; when the Maltese national chaplains left, these reverted to the Diocese. We have a strong Maltese presence. Maltese chaplains have a jurisdiction over a large area which included many parishes.

Presently, we hardly have any Maltese national chaplains at all in 2023.

In a second email, Mark stated: *I am inclined to say that in Toronto you have the only national Maltese parish.*

I read that Australia did not want to fall in the trap of having many diverse ethnic parishes, which Australia felt could be potentially divisive, and developed a reluctance to elevate them to a parish level.

The Catholic Church supports national chaplains through the Catholic Immigration Office, but canonically-speaking (this is a big word) they are not ethnic parishes.

You, the reader, will recall that I put out a query, concerning Maltese parishes outside Malta, along with the February issue of the newsletter.

This prompted a response from Dr. Owen Bonnici, Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government in Malta. He did not know the answer,

but forwarded my email to Mr. Noel Zammit of Heritage Malta.

Ms. Nicole Cutajar responded, on behalf of Heritage Malta, and suggested that I contact Ms. Catherine Sciberras of the Archdiocese of Malta.

Ms. Franica Pulis of the Archdiocese of Malta responded asking "on what criteria would you consider a parish as a Maltese one?" Following my response, Ms. Pulis replied, on February 21st.

I spoke to a priest who used to work in the Migrants Commission. His answer is:

St Paul's Chapel, 19 Stanley Street, East Sydney, Australia and St Paul's Chapel, Parkville, Melbourne Australia. The latter falls under the responsibility of the MSSP. According to him, the Canadian one you have mentioned isn't considered as a Maltese parish anymore.

Well, the chapels in East Sydney and Parkville are chapels so that discounts them as parishes, but to say that St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto "isn't considered as a Maltese parish anymore" is too much to swallow.

In fact I and, I suspect, the parishioners of St. Paul's on Dundas Street, would respectfully disagree with the above statement.

St. Paul's may not have a Maltese-born or Maltese-speaking priest presently but Fr. Roy Farrell is certainly doing his darneest to maintain the Maltese presence in that parish. In fact, I suspect, as in my own case, some have already "accused" him of being more Maltese than the Maltese!

In any case, only the Archbishop of Toronto or his designate can discommission St. Paul the Apostle Parish as a Maltese national parish. As this has not happened, we can proudly and joyfully agree with Fr. Roy that St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto is the only Maltese parish outside Malta!



Malta, Ohio

Malta, Ohio, in the United States, is a village in Morgan County, on the west bank of the Muskingum River, across from the village of McConnelsville. In 2010, Malta had a population of 671. It is 64 miles (103 km) to the southeast of Columbus. About 15 miles (24 km) to the southwest of Malta is Burr Oak State Park, one of the premier state parks in Ohio.

SOME BRAVED THE WEATHER REGARDLESS

Dan Brock

The February luncheon for the usual group in London, Ontario was scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month. Mary Pavia Melvin had arranged to hold it at Archie's Seafood Restaurant on Huron Street. Twenty-eight individuals had indicated that they would attend.



Unfortunately, the weatherman wasn't cooperating and there were warnings of a severe ice storm later in the day. Already that morning some freezing rain had fallen and a few emails were sent my way indicating that there were those who had decided to stay put.

Mary Melvin had emailed me to say that she had decided to cancel the luncheon. But I was at a resort in the Dominican Republic and, to make matters worse, I was unable to access my emails because I couldn't remember my password.

I was, however, able to get her note on Messenger and reply to go ahead and contact as many as she could. While she had the names, she didn't have the email addresses or telephone number of most of those who had originally planned to attend the luncheon.

The long and short of it was that, unaware that the luncheon had been cancelled, 14 individuals thought that the streets were sufficiently safe to drive on as they had been salted and sanded earlier in anticipation of the storms.



In fact, the group had a very enjoyable meal amidst pleasant surroundings and conversation.



Lisa Patton, Helen Ditchfield, Carol Hilton, Mike Ditchfield, and Mary Vella



Ted & Barbara Gauci and Jim McDonald



**Jim McDonald, Elia Zammit, Paul Zammit,
Madeleine Hislop, Terry Rogers,
Lynda & Tony Galea**

Photos courtesy of Tony Galea



**READERS' COMMENTS
RELATING TO THE FEBRUARY ISSUE**

Thank you, Dan, lots of work on your part. Beautiful Issue.

Melrose and Larry Paquet, London, Ontario

Thank you for the latest issue, very thrilled to be featured, and my parents and aunt are super proud!

Nicky Conti, New York City

Another great newsletter to start off 2023 – what amazing news and information – colour and such interesting items. Thank you so much for all the work you do to bring us all this masterpiece you create.

What always goes through my mind when I read your newsletter and see the many surnames, I wonder how many of these wonderful people may possibly be related to me. A very daunting and sobering thought to think that so many of these beautiful people may be members of my family – near or not so near – but related in some way or other. Isn't this amazing?

Marian, Brisbane, Queensland

Where do I begin? This morning I received two e-mails that have really caught my interest. The first was from Brian Groulx regarding an Ancestry match with his family tree. To begin with, I was quite impressed with Mr. Groulx's extensive Maltese genealogy information on his tree. I was astounded by the number of persons in it....

So, when I received Brian's e-mail, I researched the connections, made various notes and put them aside to reply at a later time. Then I received your Newsletter (interesting one) and the editorial section made mention of a Carmel Caruana. Strange I thought, that was one of the names I had jotted down from Brian's e-mail. I made a mental note to ask if he knew that the same name appeared in your Newsletter, and are they the same person?

As I progressed through the articles, I really enjoyed the article on "Nicky Conti" and admired her amazing spirit of adventure, wanderlust and courage to follow her dreams. How many readers probably thought, "I wish I had done that", or, "gone there"?

Then, as I continued reading, I happened on the photos and info on Brian Groulx. I was blown away that he is the same individual from whom I had just received an Ancestry message. I just had to let you know of the reach that your Newsletter has. I know it's trite, however, as they say, due to the diminutive size of Malta, somehow or other many, many Maltese are related to each other. Just do a DNA test and you'll be surprised!

Thanks again for your fact-filled and interesting Newsletter.

Fred Aquilina, California

I want to thank you for your latest newsletter. As ALWAYS, I thoroughly enjoy reading all the articles. Keep up the good work!!!

Carmen Galea, Toronto

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center: Astoria

On the evening of Friday, February 24th, there was an opportunity for a **meet and greet** with the **Hon. Dr. Ian Borg, Malta's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade.**

The **Annual All Members Meeting & Committee Elections** were held in the **Lower Hall** on Sunday, February 26th.

Bingo took place in the **Lower Hall** at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 12th.

Lejla Maltija, consisting of theater, music, food, and more will be held at the Center on Saturday, March 25th.



Fr. Anthony Saliba will conduct an **Easter prayer service** at the Center, at 7:00 p.m., on Saturday, April 1st.

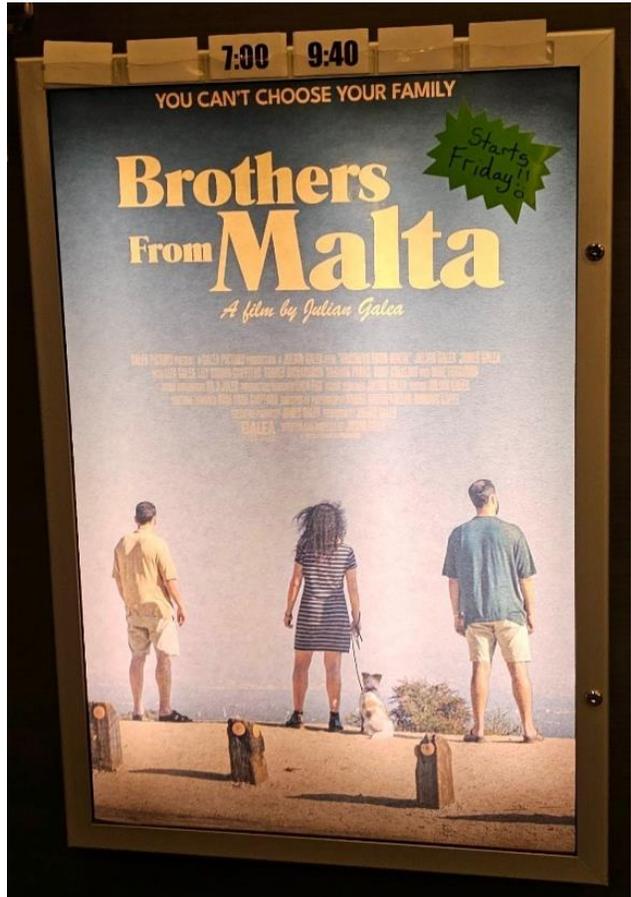
The **Kids Easter Party** will take place on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, April 2nd.



ONTARIO

GTA (Greater Toronto Area)

The hilarious road trip comedy **Brothers from Malta** played at Imagine Cinemas, on Carlton Street in Toronto from Friday, March 10th through Thursday, March 16th.



LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)

OMNI 1 - Ontario
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m.
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

OMNI BC
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

OMNI Alberta
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

After a three-year hiatus, consular services will once again be provided in person to the Maltese in British Columbia. An informal gathering for the Maltese community in that province is currently being organized to be held in Vancouver on Sunday, April 2nd.

Malta Band Club

Casino bus trips took place on Saturday, February 25th and Saturday, March 18th.

Pasta fazool was on the menu for Friday, March 18th.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

This year's Passover Seder Meal is to be held on Saturday, March 26th, after the 8:30 evening Mass.

A Lenten Parish Mission will take place on the evenings of Wednesday, March 29th through Friday, March 31st. The preacher will be Maltese-born Fr. Dominic Borg, OCD

Hamilton**Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton**

The Association is providing the **Way of the Cross Art Exhibit** after all Masses in the Parish Centre Meeting Room of **St. Francis Xavier Church, Stoney Creek** on Saturday and Sunday, March 25th and 26th. The Artist **Joseph Brincat** will display his carvings of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Our Lord.

London

Despite the weather, a few members of the Maltese community and friends ventured out for a **luncheon** at **Archie's Seafood Restaurant**, on Huron Street, on Thursday, February 23rd. (See pages 5-6)

The next luncheon is planned for Thursday, March 23rd at **Tony's Place** on Dundas Street East, opposite the Western Fair District at 12:30 p.m.

Windsor**Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario**

The deadline for ordering **figolli** is Tuesday, March 28th.

METROPOLITAN DETROIT**Maltese American Benevolent Society**

John M. Sultana, a lifetime member and former executive board member, passed away on Friday, February 24th. He is remembered for his faith, kindness, and generosity.



**The Maltese Consulate will be offering
The services for
Passports & Fingerprints / Citizenship**

Location:

Consulate office of Hon. Mr. Paul Borg
Consul of Malta to Michigan

Date and Time:

Monday March 27th - Friday March 31st
From 10am - 5pm

**26955 Northline Rd., Taylor, Michigan 48180
734) 216-0224**

By appointment only
mimaltaconsul@gmail.com

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

On Friday, March 17th, **St. Patrick's Day** was celebrated at the Club with a limited number of corned beef dinners. Fish 'n chips, ravioli, and hot baked cheese pastizzi were also available. There were also drink specials and a 50/50 raffle.

SAN FRANCISCO**Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco**

The Club celebrated **St. Patrick's Day** on Sunday, March 12th. (See page 12)

**MALTA BAND CLUB**

At the annual general meeting, held on Sunday, January 29, 1978, the Malta Band Club members of the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) elected the following officers.

President: Chev. Joseph Gatt

Vice-President: Anthony Attard

Secretary: G. Mallia

Assistant Secretary: Lynda Vella

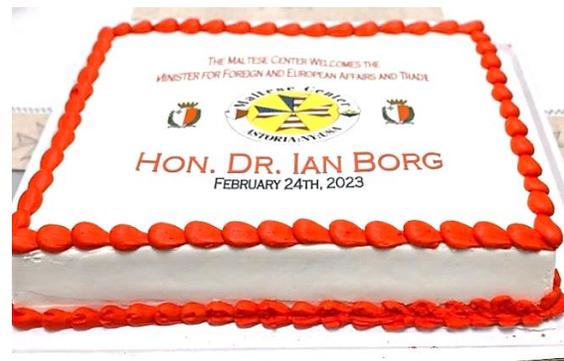
Treasurer: Horace Sapiano

Directors: Sam Attard, Emanuel Camilleri, Carmel Dingli, Paul Sammut, John Sant, and Emanuel Vella.

MEET & GREET

Maltese Center (NYC)

On the evening of Friday, February 24th, the Hon. Dr. Ian Borg, Malta's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, visited the Center. He was accompanied by Mr. Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry and Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative to the United Nations of New York



KWAREŻIMAL (A Lenten Sweet)

Mary Rose Aquilina

Kwareżimal is a traditional Maltese sweet biscuit drizzled with honey and nuts. It is usually baked during Lent and is made with spices and ground almonds. This humble recipe was originally made without eggs or butter because, during Lent, abstaining from eating animal products or animal meat was considered a penance.

It contains flour, sugar, orange rind, and ground almonds (*intrita*). Having them contain no animal protein, eggs, or dairy products also makes them a vegan recipe. The word *kwareżimal* stems from the Italian word *quaresima*, referring to the 40 days of Lenten fasting.

As tradition holds, the *kwareżimal* was developed by the Knights of Malta. At the time, sugar was not restricted during Lent as it is often now, but rather considered a type of spice. In medieval Europe there weren't any restrictions against eating sweets during Lent.

The period of the Knights of St John strengthened the Christian tradition, and Maltese culture and social life are heavily influenced by the Christian faith. Many traditional Maltese sweets and pastries are only available at certain times of the year and bound to the Catholic liturgical calendar. Kwareżimal is one of them.

This is probably the first sweet I tackled in my late teens when I initially started to be interested in actually preparing Maltese cuisine rather than just eating them. Now I make them and share them yearly. They are so simple to make that there is no excuse for them not to be part of the Lenten/Easter traditions for Maltese homes. I do hope you will try them.

INGREDIENTS

- 400g ground almonds
- 200g flour
- 200g ground rice or rice flour
- 400g brown sugar
- ½ tsp cinnamon

- ¼ tsp nutmeg, ginger, and ground cloves
- 1½ tbsp Cocoa powder
- grated rind of an orange
- grated rind of a lemon
- 1½ tsp orange flower water
- ¾ - 1 cup water
- honey, chopped pistachios, or any other type of nuts to decorate the top of the logs

METHOD

- In a large bowl, place all ingredients except the honey and chopped nuts and mix well to bring the ingredients together.



Mixed Dry Ingredients



Adding Orange Flower water to Dry Ingredients



Mix ingredients and water until the dough comes together

- Cover the baking sheet with greaseproof paper, Silpat baking mat, or grease with butter and dust with flour
- Form the dough into pieces which are about 3 inches wide, 6 inches long, and about ½ inch thick and place on the prepared baking sheet, a little spaced away from each other.



Pieces of dough ready to shape

- With the back of a knife, score diagonal lines crisscrossing the *kwareżimal* log.
- Bake in a preheated 350° F (177° C) oven for 20-25 minutes. (No more.)
- Take them out of the oven when baked. Brush with honey and sprinkle your choice of nuts.



Baked Biscuits Drizzled with Honey

- Allow to cool on a wire rack.



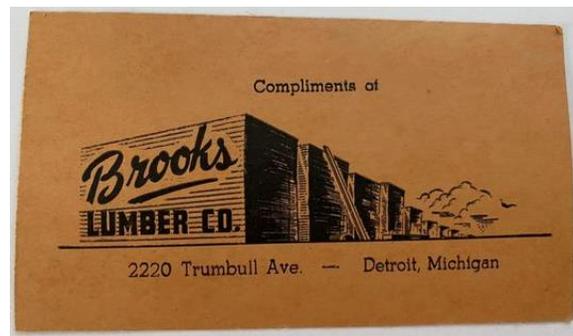
Finished Biscuits sprinkled with Nuts

**KNIGHTS OF MALTA POST 129
CANADIAN LEGION REVISITED**

Dan Brock

In the February 2023 issue, page 13, mention was made of Knights of Malta Post 129 and its founder, Dominic Meilak.

Since then “Corktown Gerry” has posted the ticket below for a New Year’s Eve party at the Post.



Images courtesy of “Corktown Gerry”

A HELPING HAND FROM DETROIT

Early in 1978, while in Malta, Paul Vella, Consul for Malta in Detroit and President of the Friends of Malta Society of Detroit, distributed \$3,000 US among four societies and institutions: the Residential Homes for the Handicapped in Siggiewi, the Emigrants Commission, the Maltese-American Association (Malta), and the St. Dominic Pageant Group Fund. The monies had been raised from among the Maltese community members who patronized chartered flights organized by the five societies affiliated with the Friends of Malta Society. Also, present at Dar I-Emigrant, on this occasion, was Fr. Hilary of the Maltese Community in Detroit.

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY

**Maltese-American Social Club
of San Francisco**

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated at the Club on Sunday, March 12th.



A CHURCH IN A VAST WILDERNESS

Forum Melitense

Editor's Note: The following anonymous in reference to St. Paul the Apostle Church on Dundas Street in Toronto, appeared in the Spring 1978 issue of Forum Melitense, a quarterly edited and published by C.A. Caruana of Toronto. This was a time in which the Franciscan friars were the administrators of the parish and before the arrival of the priests of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

The cosmopolitan wilderness where the Maltese National Church is located is none other than Toronto. Many years ago, we already had found out, just what a church in this particular wilderness actually meant.

Three orderly buildings are placed next to each other on a busy street. All three are indispensable to preserve the cohesion of the Toronto Maltese Community, the largest anywhere in Canada.

The church itself, named after Malta's National Saint, is the focal point of the Maltese Community. It shelters worshippers as they communicate with their God, and brings together the congregation for one common purpose: to unite even more closely with their One True God under the spiritual guidance of their priests.

Two separate auditoriums built one above the other form the second structure. It is a centre for Maltese social life, that includes activities which help to preserve the identity of the Maltese amidst a kaleidoscopically ethnic society surrounding them.

St. Paul the Apostle Rectory, business-like in appearance, is the nerve centre of the Maltese parish. The cloister upstairs is reserved for the community life of the Franciscan Fathers, while the offices on the main floor are used by the good friars to comfort, encourage and help parishioners in life's struggles and sorrows, as well as to rejoice with them on happy, joyful occasions. This is the reason why Maltese immigrants turn to their church and priest in rain and sunshine.

Thanks to their church, the Maltese have abundantly contributed to Canada's spiritual, moral, cultural and material enrichment, while at the same time becoming an integral part of the land of their choice.

All this and more proves beyond any shadow of doubt the beneficial influence St. Paul the Apostle Church has exercised and is still exercising over the Maltese in Toronto and its suburbs.

This is one of the main reasons why the Maltese are good Canadian citizens, and at the same time most worthy sons and daughters of the heroic little Island that gave them birth.



JERRY SOKOLOSKI: CANADA'S TALLEST MAN

Dan Brock

Jerry Sokoloski, who appears with Antoinette Buttigieg on the front cover of this newsletter, was certified in 2008, by *The Guinness Book of World Records*, as the tallest man in Canada. On a television show in 2016, he stated that his height was 7 ft., 7 ins., and that his weight ranged between 450 and 500 lbs. It was also noted that his hand span was 13 inches and his shoe size was 22 or 23, depending on the type of shoe. Of course, all his clothing has to be specially made.

Jerry, a native of Toronto, was 9 lbs., 9 oz. at birth and measured 27 ins. By the time he was in grade 4, he was already 6 ft.

As one would expect he played basketball during his high school years, first for Silverthorn Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke, Ontario, then in Chinguacousy High School in Brampton and Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School in Etobicoke. He also tried his hand at baseball and tennis.

Jerry has a few Maltese Canadian friends and really enjoys both pastizzi and ravioli. He is certainly not a stranger to Toronto's Malta Bake Shop. One of his goals is to travel to Malta and, while there, visit Popeye Village.

Jerry is both a model and an actor. He has appeared in several commercials. One of the films in which he had a starring role was *David and Goliath* (2015). He may be reached at jerryjsoko@gmail.com.

MALTESE-CANADIAN SOCIAL CLUB

The **Executive Board** of this Club, in Guelph, Ontario, in 1978, was as follows:

President: Frank Fenech

Vice-President: John Pavia

Secretary: Vic Cassar

Treasurer: Paul Huck

Directors: Debbie Azzopardi, Mark Cachia, Martin Caruana, Tony Camilleri, Marthese Doerner, Philip Gatt, Hack O'Connell, Joseph Pavia, Jr.

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.omnitv.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, Inc.

1832 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48216
313-961-8393
<http://detroitmaltese.com>
Opening hours:
Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 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 Chilsworthy 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
joesherri@rogers.com

Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944
joesherri@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@isqtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com

Maltese Center, NYC

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102
718-728-9893
info@themaltesecenter.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

maltsheritageassociation@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

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

LADIES TREATED TO A VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

Malta Band Club

Several ladies were treated to a well-deserved Valentine's luncheon, at the Malta Band Club on the afternoon of Thursday, February 16th.



All the preparations for this event were handled by some hard-working gentlemen from the Club in appreciation of everyone's support throughout the year.



The event was a great success and will hopefully become an annual event.