

A.L.P.S. News

ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS | GHAQDA EX-STUDENTI LICEO

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FROM THE ALPS PRESIDENT'S DESK

Every cloud has its silver lining

The proverbial saying "every cloud has a silver lining" is used to convey the notion that, no matter how bad a situation might seem, there is always some good aspect to it. This expression is usually said as an encouragement to a person who is overcome by some difficulty and is unable to see any positive way forward. 'Clouds' and 'Silver linings' were referred to often in literature citing Milton and usually referring to them as Milton's clouds. Somebody once said, "There's a silver lining to every cloud that sails above the heavens if we could only see it"

The Association of Lyceum Past Students (ALPS) sees the silver lining as an element of hope or a redeeming quality in our otherwise bad situation. We sincerely hope that past are the Covid / Omicron peaks that have hit the world populations and were the cause of a great number of mortalities too. People who became infected and have recovered from any one of the Covid / Omicron viruses, talk about positive things they learned from their personal encounters.

Anxiety and fear were amongst the worst worries when young and old had started feeling their symptoms and were running temperatures for days in a row.

And the silver lining I am writing about, arrived with the start of the inoculations against the virus. First and second dose were administered to the Maltese & Gozitan population. Then came the booster jab and now two years from the start of lockdown, social distancing and sanitizing our hands, a 2nd booster has given that extra piece of security. People are starting to re-build their confidence and want to again be living the life they have known pre-pandemic.

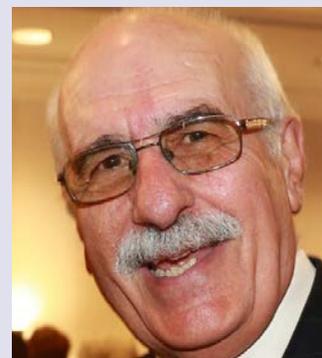
To relieve the stress and the boredom during the pandemic and isolation even from our closest family members, we might have picked up new hobbies and many do-it-yourself indoor activities inventing home baking and cooking special food recipes.

Tutorial videos and lessons for school children who were at home with the family, as well as virtual work methods, became the order of the day. With no church attendance and thanks

to modern methods of media communications, we followed our daily Holy mass from our own home. A lot of help was offered on many occasions. In general one can say that people have expressed more kindness and affection to each other during the worst days of the pandemic. Food and medicines were delivered to our door by family members or neighbors or friends who could venture out of their homes. Family bonds could be felt with even a simple phone call every day that was felt as balsam to parents and grandparents. We missed the embrace of our younger generation when grandchildren could only be seen from across the road or through a balcony or window... These episodes we have all lived and they shall remain in our hearts and minds.

In such difficult times, The Association of Lyceum Past Students, wanted to play its role too with the issue of frequent e-mail messages to all on the ALPS data base. And, with great difficulty, we have also managed to prepare and print some copies of the ALPS newsletter.

Our members and friends just



needed that ray of hope and encouragement whilst awaiting for better times to arrive and to return to our normal lives.

With much pleasure and satisfaction, I can today address this message to you our readers. Here's hoping that you are keeping well and thinking that the future brings us together again for nicer times, full of joy and happiness and with many new ALPS functions and activities to your satisfaction. Courage dear members and friends. That silver lining has finally arrived and awaits us. Let us all be bold and courageous to grab the chance and embrace such opportunity with one sole aim of living happily again in the future

Sincerely
 George dei Conti
 Stagno Navarra



Thanksgiving Mass at Pwales on the 13th December 2021

On a bright, cold, sunny morning of 13th December 2021, a sizeable number of ALPS members and friends got together for Thanksgiving Mass at the Pwales chapel. Looking at the surrounding fields in the country side where the chapel is situated, one could see the greenery all around, with agricultural products being grown in the fertile soil that for many years has been the means of livelihood to many farming families, who still work the land. One might say that Sant

Anna tal-Pwales is always there to protect that piece of countryside that in this day and age, is becoming truly rare to find.

The ALPS members accompanied by their family members and friends as well as some of the Pwales neighbours, all sat around the altar that was set on the chapel parvis. This was more of a precautionary measure to create social distances and avoid being closed inside the chapel. As one can observe from the photos herewith, the

sunny day was most inviting and although the wind was cold, the congregation were well protected in winter clothing that kept them warm throughout the ceremony. As always, Fr. William Bartolo delivered one of his sermons and ended holy mass by auguring to everyone, all the best for Christmas and the New Year. God willing and if the pandemic continues to decline, we should again hold mass at Pwales in December 2022 and hoping for better times to come for us all.

Gozo Day Tour on Saturday 25th June 2022

A day tour to the sister island of Gozo was on the ALPS almanac as one of the much preferred outings that has not been held since 2019. An interesting program was arranged for participants who quickly responded to an e-mail announcing this event. The program for the day was:

08.15hrs: Group meet near San Gwann parish church

8.30hrs: Coach leaves from near San Gwann Parish Church to Cirkewwa

09.15hrs: Coach arrives at Cirkewwa ferry terminal

09.45hrs: Departure of ferry from Cirkewwa terminal to Gozo

10.15hrs: Arrival of ferry at Mgarr harbour Gozo

Meeting of coach for day tour with guide Chev. Joe M Attard

Proceed to Magro Food Village /sit and watch Savina products being made and a short lecture with factory tour and products tasting and shopping

Coach takes us from Magro Village to Victoria for another guided tour of the recently



refurbished Astra Theatre/ Band club in Victoria/Rabat Time permitting a short walk around in piazza indipendenza it-Tokk

12.15hrs: Coach takes the group for lunch at Marsalforn 12.30: Arrival at Lantern Restaurant Marsalforn for lunch

14.15hrs: Coach leaves from Lantern Restaurant and proceed to Ghasri

14.45hr: Rev. Fr Dominic Sultana meets the group on arrival at Ghasri

15.00hrs: Holy Mass at Ghasri Parish Church

15.45hrs: Coach leaves Ghasri and proceeds to Dwejra for sightseeing

16.45hrs: Coach leaves from Dwejra to Mgarr ferry terminal

17.15hrs: Arrival at Mgarr ferry terminal

Board ferry back to Malta at the first ferry available

Envisaged to arrive at Cirkewwa at approx 17.45hrs

Approx 18.15hrs coach arrives near San Gwann Parish Church / parking area

Our next edition of ALPS newsletter hopefully sometime in October this year, we shall report on this event and perhaps even also some photos.

Pre-Valentine Weekend 11th- 13th February 2022

Prices were negotiated by ALPS for superior rooms and suites with country view (2 persons) 11th-13th February on Bed & Breakfast-With Covid/Omicron pandemic still looming over our heads as well as the precautionary measures that continued to be observed, you were all asking.

“WHAT IF THE ALPS VALENTINE’S DINNER IS AGAIN CANCELLED THIS YEAR 2022!”

You did understand our decision to announce to you dear members and friends that being still in a pandemic, we could not organize a get together with dinner as we have been used to do over a good number of years. Unfortunately, we were not this year handing out to the ladies who usually attend for Valentine’s dinner, the individually wrapped RED CARNATION... However, we still managed to send to every one of you and your ladies, our Best wishes for Valentine’s day. Instead of one single flower,

we had chosen this year a full bunch as shown with this message. It came to you from the Council of Administration of ALPS. We treasure your company and we shall definitely be looking forward to next year’s Valentine Week-end in 2023. We promise you a great time. Until then, look after your health and stay safe all of you. May be you can write to us and tell us if you managed to make a booking during February this year. We would love to know how it went and this helps us to improve for the future, to your satisfaction of course. ALPS remains at the forefront to be there with each one of you. Let us treasure our friendships and make the best of everything while it continues to last. The Association of Lyceum Past Students gives you the support and encouragement to come together as often as possible. For Valentine’s celebration next year, we are already preparing the fields for the carnations to grow and to bloom in time for the occasion

ALPS planned activities in the coming months

Let us immediately take you on a wonderful tour of planned activities that are in the pipeline and which can bring back many smiles and relaxed feelings to our members and friends. Many of you keep asking when we are starting again with cultural and social events.

Indeed the ALPS council of administration has prepared for you the following :

1. Full day tour to the island of Gozo on the 25th June 2022.**
2. Festa Sant Anna at Kappella Pwales on the 9th July 2022
3. ALPS summer barbeque at Radisson Golden Sands on 29th July 2022
4. Cabins still available for ALPS 7 nights Meinschiff 5 Cruise 11th-18th Sept 2022
5. Reunion Holy Mass /reception

hopefully with Bishop Emeritus Gorg Frendo

6. Cultural tour to war museum and lunch in Valletta during November 2022
7. ALPS Yuletide week-end 2nd to 4th December 2022 at Golden Sands resort

More details shall follow with exact dates and prices and we are certainly hoping to see many of you who will join us for most if not all of these announced activities. You have waited far too long and now the time has come to be together again and share some quality time, remembering the good old days whilst entertaining your dear wives and other family members and friends who will join you and who are more than welcome to be with the ALPS Group.



The ALPS Manresa Retreat in Gozo

20th to 22nd May 2022

After a long two years wait, 2022 Manresa retreat was another success. We had forgotten what it feels to be together, sharing some quality time.

This year, we have kept a tradition of an annual retreat that went very well. The group consisted of 31 participants and the chosen spiritual director was

Fr. Dominic Sultana who was recently installed parish priest at the small village of Ghasri / Gozo. Manresa house hosted the ALPS group for a full week-end of recollection. The chosen theme for this year mainly focused on Our Lady of Ta' Pinu and the great devotion existing after apparitions to Karmni Grima. Friday evening's introductory session and the Saturday morning gatherings, created much inspiration and happiness, with sharing of personal experiences. This alone, really and truly opened the hearts and minds of all those present. The ALPS group was invited for evening mass in the quaint village of Ghasri. A tasty hot chocolate with a balsamic aroma was served before holy mass. The church was very nicely decorated with red damask as if to welcome the ALPS group. When mass was ended, Fr. Dominic then asked the



ALPS president to address the congregation from the ambone. George Stagno Navarra said he was honoured to be addressing the Ghasri community as he gave a brief description about aims and purposes for the creation of The Association of Lyceum Past Students. A word of thanks was said to the church congregation who spontaneously applauded.

This year's retreat at Manresa went exceptionally well for all who have attended. A thank you note is merited to the directors and all staff of this Manresa retreat House at Gozo. The clean rooms were very nicely prepared and so was every meal that was served to us. A token money collection was made prior to leaving from the participants and the Kitchen staff were ever so thankful for such gesture.

Let us therefore look ahead for many more interesting ALPS events that can see the members and friends getting together in the future. Keeping fingers crossed the Covid-pandemic departs from our shores, so that we may get on with our lives. The association of Lyceum Past Students is already making advance booking with new dates for the year 2023 Manresa retreat. Details shall follow at a later stage.

Let us talk to you about Kappella Pwales

During the period whilst the chapel was closed and we could not celebrate Mass, our friends from the neighbourhood continued to look after, clean and maintain the place for us. Last December 2021 we were there for Christmas mass but with the increase in covid cases between January and March this year, we felt that it was prudent to be careful not to bring a number of persons into the small chapel thus avoiding the risk of catching the virus. Thanks be to God and as the number of infections continued to decrease, we therefore celebrated mass on the chapel parvis during April and May. Come the month of June, we are also looking forward to meet again and weather permitting, our spiritual director Fr. William Bartolo will be celebrating mass on Saturday 18th June 2022 at 16.30. Do come along and enjoy

the countryside whilst listening to the chirping of birds and the cascading water into the reservoir under the chapel parvis. A month after, we intend to again keep with the tradition of celebrating Festa Sant Anna;

The 9th day of July 2022 will again see the Pwales chapel 'en-fete' with the usual celebration of Holy Mass at 18.00 hrs. Light refreshments will be served after mass, to everyone who intends to join us on that day. After an absence of two years, we must therefore celebrate the feast of Sant'Anna with greater joy and happiness. Let us gather around the altar and pray to our patron Saint to protect all the ALPS members and friends.

During the hot months of August and September the chapel will be kept closed and our appointments at Pwales shall resume on 22nd



October and 19th November @ 16.30 hrs, provided that the pandemic numbers remain under control with few or no infections. Furthermore, thanksgiving mass

is planned for Tuesday the 13th December 2022 at 11.00 am. Carols will be sung during mass in preparation for the Christmas festive season.

The ALPS Annual General Meeting 2022

The annual general meeting this year 2022, was held in February via Teams. Council members and some of the ALPS members have joined in the discussion and presentation of the association accounts for year 2021/2022. Secretary General Alex Borg presented an administrative report for the closing year, (it was taken as read) , Then, Mr. Peter Griffiths from the auditing firm Messrs. Griffiths and Associates, addressed the AGM and gave a brief resume of the financial standing of ALPS. He explained that the lack of activities during the pandemic, precluded ALPS from organizing fund raising events that could earn some money. However, Mr. Griffiths assured all who were taking part at this virtual meeting, that the association is still going strong and continues to be directed to better times.

Before closing Mr. Peter Griffiths again confirmed his intention to continue to audit the ALPS accounts. This was met with applause to everyone's delight. The president George Stagno Navarra was next to speak and he expressed a word of thanks on behalf of the association to Mr. Peter Griffiths and to the firm Griffiths and Associates who, year after year continue to offer their kind services Pro-Bono.

This year 2022, was to see the election of a new council of administration. However, with no nominations received because of the Covid restrictions and the lack of facilities to hold our usual meetings, the secretary announced that for the current year, The President and Deputy President as well as Secretary General, Hon. Treasurer and all council members will be retaining their present positions

for another year up to the next AGM in 2023.

The Council of Administration continues to be formed as follows:

- PRESIDENT:**
George Stagno Navarra
- DEPUTY PRESIDENT:**
Joseph D. Buttigieg
- SECRETARY GENERAL:**
Alex Borg
- HON. TREASURER:**
David R. Abela
- ASSISTANT SECRETARY:**
Peter Tortell
- LYCEUM YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR:**
Joseph Micallef
- CHAPEL ST. ANNE CO-ORDINATOR:**
Anthony Buttigieg
- SOCIAL MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR:**
Carlo Farrugia

ALPS CO-ORDINATOR IN CANADA:
Milo Vassallo

ALPS CO-ORDINATOR IN AUSTRALIA:
Oreste Aquilina

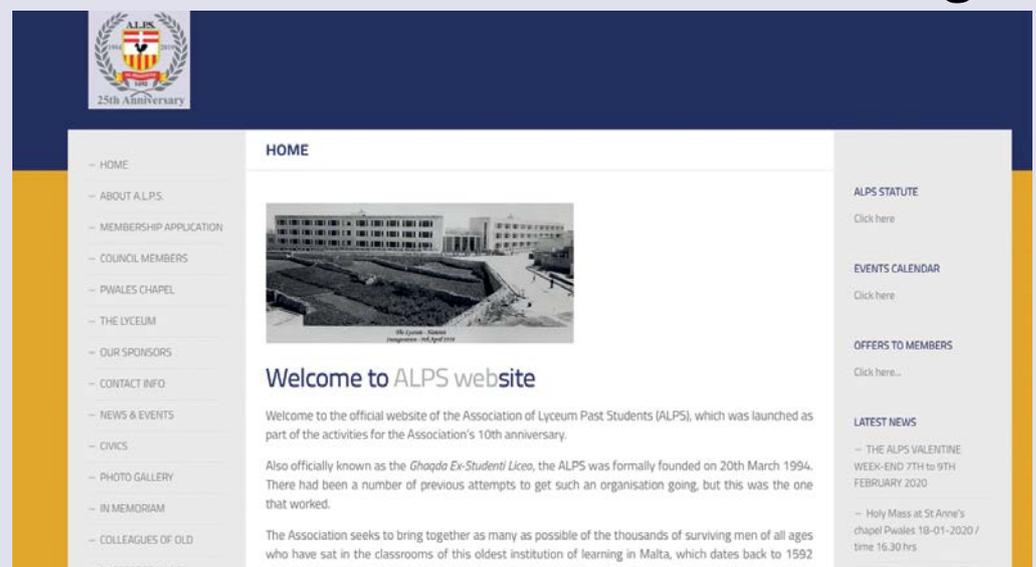
ALPS SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:
Fr. William Bartolo OFM., Conv.

EX-UFFICIO DATA BASE CO-ORDINATOR:
Oscar Galea

There being nothing further to discuss, the President George Stagno Navarra thanked all council members present for virtual meeting. He said a special thanks to Carlo Farrugia who circulated a Teams link for the AGM. Whilst congratulating the newly formed council of administration for year 2022/2023, he finished by thanking everyone else who participated to this years' ALPS annual general meeting.

The ALPS Website & the ALPS Facebook Page

A discussion ensued during the last virtual meeting in May, when the participants expressed their thoughts about promoting the association and its activities by means of introducing a Face Book page. For this initiative, the ALPS president prepared a number of captions that could attract attention to those who follow their face book every day and who may have been Lyceum past students. This can be a means of getting them interested and ask more about The Association of Lyceum Past Students. Deputy President Joseph Buttigieg who is already very much involved with maintaining the ALPS web-site, is also presently uploading one at a time the eye catching captions (Joseph prepares each one in an attractive frame towards the end of each month) During the discussion, newly co-opted council member Mark Darmanin, spontaneously offered to create an attractive



Face-Book page. He promised to continue to look after and maintain all incoming hits from those who become interested in our association. There is bound to be a follow up course if we have an ALPS Face Book page and we can now thank Mark.

If nothing is ventured, nothing

can be gained and the fact that ALPS will now be having its Face-Book page gives an impetus for wider promotion to our dynamic association. Meanwhile, Joseph D. Buttigieg is revamping and bringing up to date the ALPS web-site that needs to be continuously updated with changes to

its various sections. ALPS members and friends both locally and from abroad, will certainly be pleased to note the latest news that is regularly included therein. Our service provider E-Business Systems are also to be thanked for their sterling work to the ALPS website.

29th July 2022 - Make sure you do not miss the ALPS Summer BBQ



ALPS has made a firm reservation of the open terraces on the water's edge at Radisson Golden Sands resort at Ghajn Tuffieha, for celebrating the long awaited summer B-B-Q. Lock downs and wearing of masks and other many pandemic restrictions hopefully become things of the past and we look ahead for better times.

For two years running we missed this event and many of you are looking forward to spending a summer evening enjoying some tasty food specially prepared for

the occasion. The menu is attached and we recommend that you place your bookings early with payment @ €38.00 per head. Gift prizes will be drawn and shall form part of the fundraising at this event. This year, make sure to attend in larger numbers and bring along with you family members and friends. For those of you who are wishing to dance the night away, there will be live music played during this summer B-B-Q. A welcome drink starts to be served from 19.30 hrs and by 20.00 hrs all must be seated.

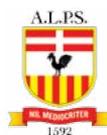
BOOKINGS FOR BBQ WITH NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS AND INCLUDING PAYMENT CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ALPS

TO BE ADDRESSED TO:

**SECRETARY GENERAL, ALEX BORG,
82, ALSON, NAXXAR ROAD SAN GWANN SGN 9032**

(Please indicate any special dietary preferences, so that the Radisson kitchen may be informed before the event)

In case of more clarification you can send an E-mail to:
alpsmalta@gmail.com or phone Alex **Mob: 9988 8579**



Summer Barbecue



Welcome Drink

Individual Antipasto Platter

Aubergines and ricotta involtini, Marinated tiger prawns, Green shell mussels, Pulled pork terrine served with a petite salad

Plated Pasta

Garganelli with sundried tomatoes, black olives and goat cheese finished with tomato fondue

BBQ Station

Grilled Tuna with lemon gremolata
Chicken, pineapple and peppers kebabs
Beef medallions with garlic butter
Grilled Maltese sausages and frankfurters

Accompaniments

Rustic Kaponata
Corn on the cob
Grilled half potatoes
Natural salads

On a sweeter note

Raspberry curd with blueberry and milk chocolate ganache, set on a fragile biscuit, mandarin semi freddo

Beverages Included

2 glasses of Local Wine | Half bottle of Water | Freshly Brewed Coffee

KIDS BUFFET

Chicken nuggets, French Fries, Potato Smiles
Pasta with tomato and cheese
Juices and soft drinks

Charges

€38 – price per adult
€20 – price for kids up to 12 yrs.

Gentle Reminder to settle ALPS Membership Renewals

Thank you for being part of The Association of Lyceum Past Students. This is a gentle reminder in case that your membership with ALPS was due for payment in the past/current year and inadvertently remained unpaid. We hope you will take the time to renew your membership as we kindly invite you to make your payment and remain part of our association.

From the beginning of this year 2022, you could effect payment : EITHER

1. BY REVOLUT SYSTEM through ALPS Council member (stating your membership number) Carlo Farrugia - mobile to mobile +356 9945 3434, Email: carlo@carlofarrugia.com. Skype: carlo.farrugia1 OR

2. Via E-banking, details of our Bank of Valletta account as follows:
ALPS account number 40017112381/IBAN T96VALL22013000000040017112381 OR

3. By Cheque made payable to ALPS; for past/present renewals payment of €24.

This will certainly not effect your subscription rate that continues to remain unchanged. ALTERNATIVELY, if you will decide to become a Life Member you make a once only payment of €70, that offsets outstanding renewals and for all future years.

POST to Mr David R Abela Hon Treasurer ALPS, "JUNIPER" Triq Ganni Vella, Tal-Qattus B'Kara (Mob. 99020845/ 21487693)

4. The Friends of ALPS are also being



asked to use the same method of payment, either by REVOLUT, E-banking or if made by cheque it has to be for €21, covering a two year renewal.

Life members and those who are up-to-date with membership renewals, we say "THANK YOU" and we ask you to please ignore this reminder..

ALPS Summer Cruise onboard Mein Schiff 5 Malta-to-Malta

For many people, a cruise holiday would be a dream come true. It is something that is greatly anticipated for months and months in advance. It certainly requires planning and savings, while efforts should be made to stick to an agreed itinerary with pre-booked dates and a map of the places to visit. Then out of the blue, something happens and the cruise dates and the ports of call will need to be changed. Believe it or not and rather unexpectedly, the long awaited ALPS holiday cruise from 2020 that had to take us round the British Isles, was then changed to a 2022 cruise called Pearls of the Mediterranean, has yet again run into some difficulty. This has taken the participants of this cruise by surprise and necessitated switching our cruise ship with change of departure date and even with different ports of call. Not wanting to be disheartened, a determined ALPS group have quickly put on their thinking hats and decided to utilise all the money they had already paid for their chosen holiday and now opted for a different



cruise also Malta to Malta as before. The group will start their cruise holiday from Sunday the 11th September 2022 aboard the MEIN SCHIFF 5 with a chosen ultra all-inclusive trip that will be stopping at Crete-Greece, then onto Bodrum -Turkey and then proceed to visit Mykonos and Piraeus in Greece before returning to Malta harbour on the 18th September 2022. The will and the spirit is there to share and enjoy this long awaited holiday cruise. There are shore excursions that await the ALPS group to go round and explore places we may not have visited before. The ship will be offering all-inclusive drinks on board, all

port taxes and even gratuities that are normally paid extra by each passenger. All in all, we consider ourselves lucky to also be having an English speaking tour guide during this holiday trip. This gives The Association of Lyceum Past Students, the satisfaction of knowing that everyone joining this tour, may enjoy some sun coming in through his cabin window whilst admiring the scenery as the ship sails from port to port. This is the type of holiday that we all look forward to whilst sharing dinners and evening drinks hopefully under a moonlit sky.

Let us take this cruise with one sole aim in mind, to put behind our backs the pandemic, the lock-



DATE	PORT	ARR	DEP
Sun	Valletta, Malta	-	22:00
Mon	At Sea	-	-
Tues	Chania (Crete), Greece	08:00	18:00
Wed	Bodrum, Turkey	08:00	19:00
Thurs	Mykonos, Greece	07:00	19:00
Fri	Piraeus/Athens, Greece	05:30	19:00
Sat	At Sea	-	-
Sun	Valletta, Malta	04:00	-

down and the social distancing we all had to observe because of Covid-19. Many of us if not all, have taken their full inoculations but of course we will continue to observe certain health protocols that can be for our own safety. Some cabins aboard the ship can still be available for last minute bookings that will also benefit from favourable rates. Enquiries through SMSMondial Republic Street Valletta Tel: 22776010 and ask for Head of Sales Ms Irene Vassallo

After a long period of time we shall start travelling again. We all need a break

Laughter is the best medicine

A lady started hearing a squeak in her wardrobe and was getting irritated. Apparently the noise came every time that a bus was passing under her window but she just could not understand why this was happening. One fine morning the lady calls the furniture company who had manufactured the wardrobe and demanded that a carpenter came along to examine the noisy wardrobe and find a remedy.

The carpenter comes along and thoroughly checks and finds nothing is wrong with the wardrobe. Then the lady burst out saying the squeak happens when a bus drives past her window. Not wanting to disappoint the lady, the courageous carpenter asks her to remove some of the clothes from inside the wardrobe as he intended to enter the cabinet and close the door to listen to the squeak when a bus passes under the window.

Whilst the carpenter was inside the wardrobe, the lady of the house went downstairs to prepare for him a coffee. Then, the husband returns from work walks straight upstairs to the bedroom, opens the wardrobe to fetch clean clothes and finds the carpenter crawled inside....

"And what may I ask are you doing inside the wardrobe of my bedroom."

Shocked the carpenter replies

"Would you believe me if I told you I was waiting for the bus."



Give us your correct E-Mail Addresses for our Data Base

We often hear, that some members or friends of ALPS may not be receiving communications by way of e-mails, that announce the various events and occasions that are circulated by E-Mail.

It is our pleasure to reach you where ever you may be in Malta or abroad but, it is important for you to send to us a correct e-mail / or home address (if you have effected any changes in the past years).

Help us to keep our data base up to date and you will be helping yourselves to continue receiving our communications. We

announce monthly Holy Mass at Pwales, all cultural or social events and indeed

we also ask for members and friends to offer prayers when someone may be undergoing difficult times.

The Association of Lyceum Past Students wants to stay in touch with each and every one of you. Hit the send button with a correct e-mail address and forward to oscgalea457@gmail.com / mob: 7989 6293

Please stop for a minute and comply with this simple request that is certainly to your benefit.



The Tragedy of Ukraine

(as reported from world media and news bulletins)

It is becoming even more clear, that Putin isn't stopping. His deadly drums of war grow louder every day. As terrified families hide underground, their daughters, sons, fathers, mothers and even their grandparents are risking everything to stop his deadly advance.

Hundreds if not thousands have been killed already and millions of refugees are on the run. But as Putin puts nuclear weapons on high alert, his vicious war could drag the whole world to the gates of hell. Appeals have been made worldwide to help Ukrainian people at this hour of need. The Association of Lyceum Past Students was from the very beginning of this cruel conflict, appealing to all its members and friends to show solidarity with the stricken population of a country that is being destroyed by Russia.

Millions of us are getting emails every day and if just a tiny fraction donates, we can supercharge our SOS Ukraine campaign to help end this senseless war. ALPS has already contributed with a donation from its own funds as well as from individual donations, to send a sum of money to a local organisation who have purchased medicines



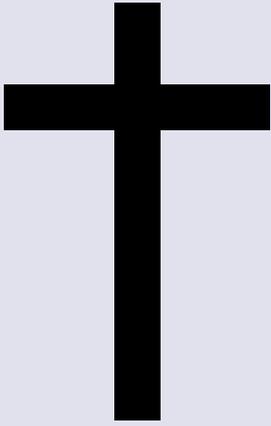
and smuggled them into Ukraine at great risk to the lives of volunteers, who offered to drive these needed requirements to people who are really desperate for help.

If perhaps monetary donations cannot be made possible, we urge you at least to offer prayers. His Holiness Pope Francis urges the people of the world to pray for Ukraine. He made an appeal to the Patriarch Kiril to also show

solidarity and intervene with the powers that be in Russia to stop this senseless war. We should help get aid to refugees, support rights defenders and civil society across the region. Prayer does not cost money. It comes straight from the heart of every individual who cares for fellow human beings who are in need. None of us wants this war, but democracy, freedom, and human rights are under attack.

Let's take a bold, defiant stand for Ukraine and the world we dream of. A special fund is made available by ALPS to receive and pass on to the right organisation, anything that you might wish to donate. Let us pray and hope this war does not spill over into other countries, as we could be facing conflict and tragedy beyond our worst nightmares.

IN MEMORIAM



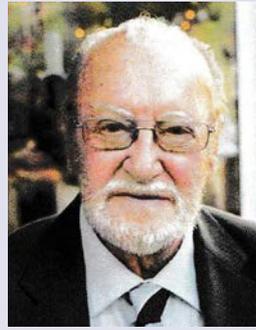
As truly befitting, we remember the dear departed members and friends of the association who were with us on many of the ALPS events. May they all Rest in Peace. Prayers are also recommended for our Founder President Dr. Guido Saliba who passed away on 7th Dec 2004.

And other recent bereavements who are needing our prayers include:

- Dr. Joseph Spiteri Gonzi
- Mr. Louis Cilia
- Mr. Anthony J Alexander (Australia)
- Mr. Andrew Saliano
- Mr. Henry Zammit Cordina
- Mrs Lucienne Aquilina (wife of ex-Council member Tony Aquilina)
- Mr. Victor Gruppetta
- Mr. Maurice Lubrano
- Mrs. Adelia Ellul (sister of Council member Oreste Aquilina)
- Dr. Eddie Turner (died in April - Columbia, Canada)
- Mr. George Saliba (Ph.D., - founder member of ALPS)

Covid 19 has been the cause of great heartache to a number of families who suffered the loss of a loved member. It could have been a father, mother, husband, wife, close family relative or friend who left a great void. The Association of Lyceum Past Students always remembers them and offers prayers whenever we gather at the Pwales chapel for Holy Mass.

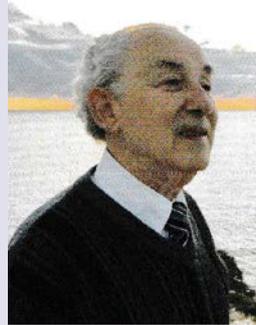
And last but not least, we always remember those members and friends of ALPS who are now confined to their homes and not driving any more, or may have moved into a care home. They too continue to form part of the ALPS family. We promise to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. We also recommend that those of you who are in good health, to dedicate some time every week to make a phone call to some one of these past members, who now have mobility difficulties. Give them a call and crack a joke and bring a smile to their face. Break that solitude they could be enduring because they all deserve to be remain part of the happy ALPS family. Never forget that ALPS was created to bring more and more LICEO past students together. Yes we do get older every day but remain zaghzagh tal-bierah... (yesterdays' youths)



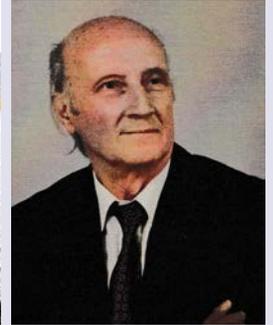
JOSEPH SPITERI GONZI



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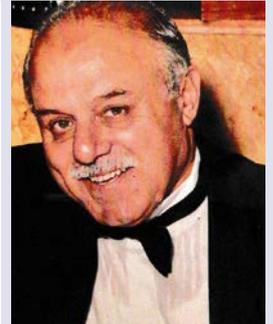
ANDREW SAPIANO



HARRY ZAMMIT CORDINA



LUCIENNE AQUILINA



VICTOR GRUPETTA

LET US NOT FORGET TO PRAY FOR ALL COVID-19 VICTIMS RIP

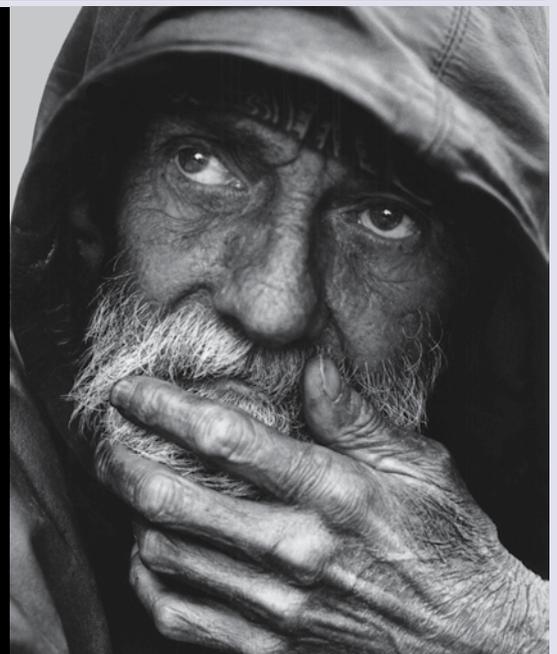
We show solidarity with the stricken families who have suffered the loss of a family member or even a friend as a result of Covid-19. They deserve to be remembered in our thoughts and prayers. *May they all Rest in Peace Amen*

And let us be remembering our dear friends in ALPS, who are sick or in a senior's home or in hospital. We keep them always in our thoughts and prayers. When health restrictions may be relaxed and most things return to normal, we resume the home visits. Send to us a note that we may know who to visit. Meanwhile we include them in our prayers, when we can celebrate Holy Mass at the Pwales Chapel.

A Thought for this Month...

*I can't change the direction
of the wind,
But I can adjust my sails
to always reach
My destination*

by Jimmy Dean



ALPS Yuletide Event at Radisson Golden Sands was another success 3rd to 5th December 2021

A rather stormy week end with strong winds and heavy rain, did not scare the ALPS members and friends from attending in a largish number for the year 2021 Yuletide event at Radisson Golden Sands Resort.

The Association of Lyceum Past Students likes to see this yearly occasion bringing people together to enjoy themselves whilst entering into the Christmas spirit. Many guestrooms were booked. Because of the Covid restrictions, we could not have our usual Christmas dinner in the ballroom. Nevertheless, we still managed to see our members and friends enjoy their evening by dining at Flavours restaurant in different sittings, observing social distancing and waving to each other from one table to another whilst still feeling cheerful at this occasion.



Sunday the 5th December saw a sizeable congregation for the celebration of Holy Mass inside a

big hall that was made specially available to the ALPS group. When mass was ended, there

was the traditional exchange of Christmas season's greeting before everyone left the resort.

And what about the ALPS Yuletide Event for 2022!

As the world continues its fight against new variants like Omicron and Monkeypox and God knows how many other viruses that may be wanting to spring into the air we breathe, we ask ourselves perhaps what we are truly expecting to happen for the Christmas festivities this year 2022. Will we still be masked up and worrying about a new variant, or will the coming Yuletide Season be a joyful Covid-free occasion with the usual hugs and kisses exchanged between family and friends!

Indeed Omicron may have forced us back behind our masks for travel and / or indoor settings but in the coming months between now and December we may just be hoping that we can be leaving our homes without covering our faces. As customary each year when colds and flu start circulating especially when the weather turns colder, we all have to feel sensible and be socially responsible.

We should definitely think positively and tell ourselves, with people around the world where we all live in, accumulating lots more of immunity, Covid and Omicron can start to be referred to as the



winter viruses too. Time is moving so fast that sometimes we could be thinking that Christmas has only just finished. But believe me, there is no better time to start making plans for the coming next December 2022. The tinsel and the Christmas decorations we may have recently put into storage with little thought that already half of this current year is gone and soon

we shall bring them all out again to decorate and make our plans for celebrating Christmas with family and friends as we have always known it to be pre-Covid.

The Association of Lyceum Past Students has gone into its planning mode and already made reservation at The Radisson Golden Sands. The chosen dates shall be 2nd to 4th December 2022. We

promised that what you lost in 2020 and 2021, we want to make it up to you.

The Grand Ballroom will again come alive with the ALPS crowd. You have waited far too long for this and therefore, we expect that you pencil your almanac and be prepared to place your room bookings when we announce the full details of the Yuletide festivities. Let us once again commemorate the birth of Jesus. What better way can there be than entertaining your loved ones to a superb week-end

of true relaxation in great style, at one the most luxurious resorts of Malta. We maintain, that each one of you members and friends of the

Association deserve nothing but the best and after such a long period of solitude and deprivation, let us all meet and be happy. The merrymaking with raffle draws, music and dancing, are certainly on the agenda because we want to leave nothing out that can bring smiles and happy faces to our members and friends. Bring your children and grandchildren and tell your close friends to join you for this unique event. Christmas comes but only once a year.




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