

A.L.P.S. News

ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS | GHAQDA EX-STUDENTI LICEO

Editor: G. Stagno Navarra | Tel: 2133 9232 | Mobile: 7971 2222 | E-mail: magestan@maltanet.net
 Alex Borg, ALPS Secretary General, "Alson", Naxxar Road, San Gwann SGN 9032
 Tel: 2138 6812 | Mob: 9988 8579 | E-mail: info@alpsmalta.com
 Voluntary Organisation Act (Article 14) NGO - VO No: 0500

A.L.P.S. Newsletter Volume 16 | No 4

September 2016

Message from the ALPS President

As promised in an earlier issue of ALPS news, I now write to describe to you the wonderful experience of a Grand Reunion with dinner held in Toronto Canada on the 27th August 2016. The event has taken place at a chic and posh hall of the Courtyard Marriott Hotel. Attendance for such a Grand Celebration was near to seventy persons which included Liceo Past Students from Malta, Canada and even from The United States. The evening kicked off with drinks from an open bar, when guests could get together and socialize before being seated and addressed by Master of Ceremonies Joseph Galea who was forming part of the group from Malta. All guests were invited to be seated and Joe Galea announced the arrival of the ALPS officials into the dining hall. These have included Dr. Nazarene and Mrs. Grace Azzopardi, Mr. Alex and Mrs. Sonia Borg (Secretary General), Mr. Milo and Mrs. Rita Vassallo (ALPS President Canada Branch) and last but not least, the ALPS President from Malta, George dei Conti Stagno Navarra and his wife Mrs. Madeleine Stagno Navarra.

Welcoming speech by Milo Vassallo was full of jokes and laughter because our dear friend who is now an octogenarian, never ceases to amuse everyone with his humor. It is exactly with such attitudes that the Association stays young at heart and keeps its members and friends truly

involved and interested, in all that is being presented to them throughout the year. In its 22nd year of existence, ALPS has achieved much and still intends to explore newer avenues that can interest even more members to join this dynamic group. When the welcoming address was over, it was the ALPS Malta President turn to deliver the main address to an attentive audience who were amazed to listen about the LICEO past students' episodes in life, from the class room benches to where each and every one stands today. History has included the Lyceum boys from their youth to their working careers, where they have become involved in lifelong positions of trust and many have even been placed in diplomatic posts that took them across the world making a better name for themselves as well as making our island nation so very proud to have raised its educational standards to greater peaks, all thanks to The Lyceum of Malta. Before ending his speech, the ALPS president made a presentation of a silver icon depicting the Holy Family and with a special inscription on a plaque attached to the back of said icon and which reads, "presented to Milo and Rita Vassallo at ALPS Grand Reunion Toronto, Canada 27th August 2016. A bigger surprise was in store because when dinner was served, a renowned Maltese singer and a Liceo Past student

Enzo Guzman, was seen entering the hall holding a microphone to his mouth and singing to his hearts delight, beautiful arias from different songs in Maltese, English and even in Italian. This went on throughout the dinner. Just before coffee and dessert started to be distributed, the guests were seen leaving their tables and filled the dance floor. Many group photos were taken and for sure the smiling faces were demonstrating the success of this great event. But, in one particular shot, the professional photographer Luca Viorel who was in charge of this function, managed to get the ladies together because, it transpired that many of them had realized that they were at St Joseph School Sliema and some also in the same class. One might perhaps say that many of the ladies, were having a reunion within the ALPS grand reunion. Towards the end of this pleasant evening, toasts were then proposed by the master of ceremonies Joe Galea and all those present rose from their chairs and drank to:

- 1) The ALPS Founder President Dr Guido Saliba.
- 2) All members and friends of ALPS in Malta and overseas
- 3) ALPS Canada President Mr. Milo Vassallo
- 4) ALPS Malta President George Stagno Navarra

When toasts were ended, the National Anthems of both countries



Malta & Canada were sung and the evening closed with much hugging and kissing and promises to repeat such reunion at some future date. Many of the guests were seen leaving with smiles on their faces and sometimes even with a few emotional tears running down their cheeks

Such an occasion, continues to enrich the true meaning of our association. It is exactly with these special events, that the best comes out and the true meaning of ALPS is expressed and amplified, for encouraging many more Lyceum Past Students to get to know us and join our happy group. It augurs for many more years of social and cultural get together. Reunion & ALPS Tour photos are shown in color on the back inside cover of this

Continues on Page 5

BBQ Evening



St Anne Feast in Pwales





CULTURAL TOUR ON 12th NOVEMBER - FORT SANT ANGLU -

Knowing pretty well that all members and friends of ALPS really enjoy our cultural tours, we are organizing another outing in the Birgu area, when we shall be having a guided tour inside the Sant Anglu complex . Because of the ongoing restoration works in progress, some areas are still not open for the public. Nevertheless, the guide on site will be able to explain about the full history of this site and will answer to any questions that may be put forward. For this cultural tour, we will be organizing a private coach that shall be leaving from near San Gwann Church (Msierah) at 09.15hrs sharp.

A coffee break and a mid-day light snack will be served to all the participants.

A contribution of €12.00 per head will cover the full expense.

Around three o'clock in the afternoon, our spiritual director Fr. William Bartolo will be celebrating holy mass either at the lower chapel of Forti



Sant. Anglu or inside the parish church of San. Lawrence Birgu. More details will be announced to all participants on site at the end of the tour.

We are hoping that, in the usual manner we can have a bus full of ALPS members and friends who, from now, are invited to place bookings early because of the limited space up to 50 persons on the coach. Those who prefer to join the tour without using the coach, may speak with Secretary general Alex Borg who is coordinating all bookings. Last bookings will be received by not later than the 9th November 2016. Please send your completed BOOKING FORM attached with this news letter together with payment to: Mr. Alex Borg - ALSON no: 82, Naxxar Road San Gwann SGN 9032- tel: 9988 8579 / 2138 6812 or e-mail: alpsmalta@gmail.com (coach seating is on first come first serve basis).

Pwales Chapel News



Nazzareno Azzopardi

FESTA SANT ANNA 9th July, 2016

ALPS celebrated the feast of Saint Anne at the chapel situated in the middle of Pwales valley. For readers who do not know where this chapel is situated, it is approximately one kilometer inland from Xemxija Bay.

A Brief History of the Chapel

This small chapel was built in the late sixteenth century as a jus patronat by the landowner of the fields of the Pwales valley, the Sant Fournier family and it fell under the jurisdiction of the Naxxar Parish Priest. A document dated 1799 asserting the Naxxar jurisdiction lies in the archives of ALPS.

When Saint Paul's Bay church was built by the dowager Marchesa Bugeja and the curja architect drew the outlines of the parish of Saint Paul's Bay, the Pwales valley was separated from Naxxar parish and transferred to the new one. The Conventual Friars took over possession of Saint Paul's Bay parish and the Chapel of Saint Anne too. They established that the feast day of Saint Anne should always be the Saturday preceding the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows as celebrated by them in the parish. Therefore, the feast day of Saint Anne is celebrated on the first Saturday of July.

Since the year 2000, ALPS have taken under their care, the upkeep and use of the Pwales Chapel. This was made possible through their spiritual director Fr. William Bartolo a Conventual friar. Holy mass is celebrated nearly every month. Many members with their families and friends as well as the residents from the Pwales hamlet turn up for such function to hear mass by the same Fr. William who delivers exceptionally interesting sermons.

FESTA SANT ANNA

ALPS Council Members, take the preparations for the feast rather seriously and a whole programme of activities is planned during the year, so that



all members and the Pwales residents will enjoy a typical Maltese festa.

The approach to the chapel is cleaned of all shrubs by the Lyceum Scouts group whilst ALPS members prepare the electricity lights running along the pathway. After a thorough cleaning of the cangatura flooring, the pews are polished even though not used, as the ceremony takes place on the church parvis.

Close to two hundred people attended this year's Holy Mass celebrated by the Saint Paul's Bay parish priest Father Michael Attard while the Voices of Faith Choir was excellently directed by Veronique Degabriele Ferrante, the daughter of ALPS council member Mr. Robert Ferrante. During last year's festa we had the inauguration of a new bell donated by Mrs. Dolores Dimech, a parishioner. It could be heard ringing before this year's Holy Mass when the people were coming up the hill to attend for the festa. At the end of the ceremony, the evening saw the presentation of two young children to Saint Anne. This is the second year in succession that children of the Pwales community have been presented to the Patron Sant' Anna.

ALPS President made a short speech and appealed to all who were present to assist the association. A collection was made during the feast that now goes towards the necessary maintenance works on the Chapel. It bears to mention that a relative of ALPS member Peter Tortell donated various raw materials that shall be required for this restoration.

At the end of the religious ceremony light refreshments

courtesy of ALPS and prepared by Joe Fenech and some wives of ALPS officials, were later served to all present. As has now been the tradition, the residents of the Pwales community provided complimentary fresh fruit grown in the area and a very enjoyable fireworks display from their fields that are situated just under the chapel parvis.

Calendar of Holy Masses up to the end of this year:

15th October

Holy Mass at 19.00hrs. TO BE HELD AT THE LICEO HAMRUN (Reunion)

19th November

Holy Mass at Pwales Chapel at 16.30hrs. (we remember our dearly departed)

8th December Holy Mass (with Christmas Carols) at 11.00hrs .



THANKS TO MACPHERSON MEDITERRANEAN LIMITED

The restoration works undertaken during the summer months at the Pwales Chapel, are slowly nearing completion.

Thanks to the generous support that ALPS received from the firm "Macpherson Mediterranean Limited" with its Managing Director paying a site visit and recommending the correct products to use for such restoration works, we appointed a team who carried out the necessary works to preserve at

best this old chapel. The donated products have consisted of:

- Exterior Filler for Cracks on Façade;
- Exterior Liquid Flexible Coating in Grey for the fixing of any tears in the roof's membrane sheeting;
- A solvent free, deep penetrating, hydrophobic, clear coating that imparts water repellency and an element of dust proofing for the recently laid flag stones; A White Spirit based Anti-Corrosive Primer for all steel gratings;
- Eggshell Enamels in Brown (Front Doors & Windows), in Black (for steel gratings), in Magnolia (for internal suspended steel beams);
- Vinyl Carpeting for downstairs Toilet and Kitchenette upstairs (of course with some backing adhesive).

We are ever so pleased to have come to know Mr. Andrew Magri Overend through his uncle Peter Tortell, who is an ALPS council member and whose enthusiasm to lend a helping hand never fails to deliver. For those of you reading this message, it might be opportune to know, that the firm who provided the materials for the chapel restoration, have showrooms known as: **Colours & More Paint Centre in Tower Street, Swatar** (that's next door to the HSBC Bank Plc Call Centre - previously the Price Club Supermarket). We are confident, that you may be able to find the right products that perhaps you have for long been searching for, if you need to carry out similar restoration works in your homes. Macpherson Mediterranean Limited, for sure can assist you to choose the correct materials and give you every good advice that you require.



Laughter

is the
BEST
medicine.

A minister of a city church enjoyed a few drinks, but his passion was for peach brandy. One of his congregants would make him a bottle each Christmas. One year, when the minister went to visit his friend, hoping for his usual Christmas present, he was not disappointed, but his friend told him that he had to thank him for the peach brandy from the pulpit the next Sunday.

In his haste to get the bottle, the minister hurriedly agreed and left. So the next Sunday the minister suddenly remembered that he had to make a public announcement that he was being supplied alcohol from a member of the church. That morning, his friend sat in the church with a grin on his face, waiting to see the minister's embarrassment.

The minister climbed into the pulpit and said, "Before we begin, I have an announcement. I would very much like to thank my friend, Joe, for his kind gift of peaches... and for the spirit in which they were given!"

Message from the ALPS President

Continued from Page 1

newsletter. For those of you who may be tempted to watch the full set, you are invited to visit the photographer's web-site namely: luca@yoalcanada.com.

The next day Sunday the 28th August 2016, the ALPS group went on a Toronto Orientation tour. The participants discovered the imposing skyscrapers in the financial heart, Chinatown and the Harbor Front. In the afternoon, the group was then driven straight to Milo and Rita Vassallo's home. Under a hot and bright sunny sky, Holy mass and Holy communion was celebrated in the same garden. When mass was ended, the group was then treated to a complimentary garden party by Rita and Milo Vassallo, with an open bar and everybody had a wonderful time drinking and eating from the specialties that Rita had prepared. Milo Vassallo and George Stagno Navarra were caught cutting a big cake that was prepared specially for this occasion. Milo's family and close

family friends could be noted giving a helping hand during the event in order to ensure that the guests were fully entertained. Before leaving and saying the last goodbyes with more hugging and kisses, the members in the ALPS Malta group made a cash presentation. This consisted of a sum of 700 Canadian Dollars that had been collected between the Maltese group who travelled to Canada and wanted to reciprocate and show their appreciation to the hosts Milo and Rita. The Vassallo's are collecting funds for a special cause that is, a Maltese missionary priest working in Peru. Such a collection may even be matched by the Canadian Rotarians who promised to double the ALPS collection. The coach came to the door but before everyone took his seat, Milo continued to show his warm hospitality and kindness, by giving to the ALPS group, boxes full of Kinnie and water to consume during the road journeys before reaching the American border. Everybody returned to the Sheraton Hotel for overnight and

closing of the suitcases for an early morning start on the 29th August departing to Ottawa. From Ottawa the group proceeded to Quebec, Montreal, Boston and New York before returning to Malta on the 9th September 2016. It would really be too long to write about every place that the ALPS group have visited. However, you must know that with a very jovial and most humorous tour director Harold Vetere of JonView Travel, Canada, who accompanied the Maltese group from Toronto and all the way to New York, we never experienced a dull moment. It was fun and more fun all along. The weather was most kind to the ALPS group. Except for a very mild drizzle of a few minutes at New York, it was bright and sunny most of the way in every place that the group stopped, for one or even more nights. Worth mentioning, that although not included in the group's itinerary, the coach driver was asked and he obliged, by making mini stops at St Patrick's Cathedral and Ground Zero in New York. A short prayer was offered at the site where

many thousands had lost their lives on 9/11. Remembering the souls of those who lost their lives on that unfortunate day, was felt a duty by the ALPS group who prayed in silence whilst paying their respects. May be, for the next ALPS travel vacation outside Malta, we can see new faces joining us and tasting from the pleasant surprises that our association can prepare for you. We try and organize trips to match with everybody's taste but also including a bit of everything so that our tours can be kept lively. We are all young at heart and the more that we practice this feeling, the better it is so that we can remain alert and happy at all times.

A new page is now written in the history of ALPS. It goes without saying the ALPS motto never fails to prove itself to the full: "NIL MEDIOCRITER"

With sincere best wishes:

George dei Conti
Stagno Navarra
President A.L.P.S.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ALPS Grand Reunion at Liceo Malta on the 15th October 2016

Very close to our return from abroad after travelling in Aug/Sept, we shall be organizing another reunion for ALL members and friends of ALPS inside the "LICEO "main hall at Hamrun.

His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Mons. Pawl Cremona (himself a Lyceum past student) has willingly accepted to come and join us and concelebrate Holy Mass for us. When mass is ended, finger food and

refreshments will be served to all those attending. This year, we aim to attract as many as possible of those Lyceum Past Students (even if not members in ALPS), who will be celebrating a 50th Anniversary since 1966, when they first started or ended their studies at Liceo. Let us together enjoy a get together and reminisce from the good old Lyceum Days when we shared the same classrooms and grew up together in a spirit

of friendship that shall never be taken away from us. The Association of Lyceum Past Students will subsidise most of the expenses to organise this event. We are confident, that you may be pleased to offer a small donation of €10.00 per head that will assist us to meet some of the expenses for organizing this event. Wives, partners and/or other family members and friends are more than welcome to join. Think

hard and remember the names of your Lyceum classmates. Give them a phone call and bring them along with you. Of course, there shall be a further announcement on this unique event, and on the ALPS website www.alpsmalta.com. Enclosed find the application form confirming attendance to the reunion on 15th October. This is required for mailing the official invitation and for catering purposes.

'ALPS Yuletide Dinner' & Weekend Break: 2-4 December, 2016

We are pleased to inform you that the ever so popular CHRISTMAS week-end stay with Yuletide dinner, is again booked at The Radisson Golden Sands Ghajn Tuffieha. Your participation each year keeps increasing

in number. Last Year we had a record attendance and we have chosen the same venue because we are convinced that you really enjoy yourselves at the Radisson BLU. It is advisable that you mark your diaries with the

dates 2nd to 4th December 2016. The Christmas dinner will be held on Friday the 2nd December 2016 inside the Grand Ballroom of the Radisson Resort. The rest of the weekend will be spent in a relaxing mood, entertaining

wives and family members and friends who will be joining you. This should be the start of the Christmas festivities for all of us who can be together and share a great weekend in a luxurious location. Holy Mass in hotel Sunday 4th at 11:00am.

Very Successful BBQ Organized by ALPS



Nazzareno Azzopardi

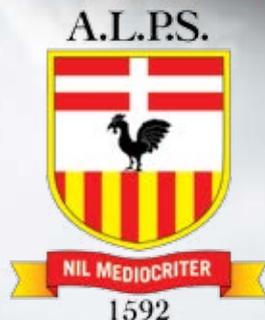
This year, the set-up for the ALPS summer barbeque, attracted a sizeable gathering. There were 143 members with family and friends attending and a wonderful evening was enjoyed to a light summer breeze and soft melodic tunes played on the synthesizer by David Vella. As Master of ceremonies this year saw council member Joseph Buttigieg take charge and directing all that went on for the entire evening. The food was exceptionally tasty and, all thanks to the management



and staff of the Radisson Golden Sands resort, we had what one may term as a GREAT EVENT. Raffles were drawn before dessert and coffee were served. Many were seen carrying the prizes

they had won and left the venue terrace full of smiles and praises. The Association of Lyceum Past Students, is taking such initiative each year to make its members and their families and friends

truly happy to belong to a very active association that stays alive, all thanks to a hard working President and Council Members who assist in all that is prepared throughout the year.



ALPS Yuletide Dinner

Friday 2nd December 2016

Radisson Golden Sands

Welcome Drink

Plated Antipasti

Duck confit and braised root vegetable terrine, dried fruit jam

Cream of chestnut finished with truffle oil

Fusilli with fresh basil pesto cream and roasted pine nuts

Carvery

Roast beef rib on the bone with thyme jus

From the Hot Counter

Pan fried chicken breast with apple and cider cream jus

Grilled swordfish with cherry tomato and caper berry salsa

Vegetable curry

Basmati steamed rice

Steamed panache of vegetables

Oven roasted potatoes

Natural salads: rucola, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber

Festive Treats

Traditional roast turkey with Festive Trimmings

On a sweeter note...

Granny apple mille foglie, roasted almond ice cream,
warm fig and date crumble

Fresh Brewed Coffee & Mince Pies

Beverages Included

2 glasses of Local Wine

Half bottle of Water

2 Night Stay for 2 People including Christmas Dinner on Fri 2nd, B'fast and Dinner on Sat 3rd & B'fast on 4th DEC 16 **€226**

2 Night Stay for 1 Person including Christmas Dinner on Fri 2nd, B'fast and Dinner on Sat 3rd & B'fast on 4th DEC 16 **€171**

1 Night Stay for 2 People including Christmas Dinner on Fri 2nd & B'fast on 3rd DEC 16 **€143**

1 Night Stay for 1 Person including Christmas Dinner on Fri 2nd & B'fast on 3rd DEC 16 **€105**

1 Night Stay for 2 People including Dinner on Sat 3rd & B'fast on 4th DEC 16 **€143**

1 Night Stay for 1 Person including Dinner on Sat 3rd & B'fast on 4th DEC 16 **€105**

Additional rate for 3rd person joining for 2 nights HB including Friday's Christmas Dinner DEC 16 **€110**

Additional rate for 3rd person joining for 1 night HB including Friday's Christmas Dinner DEC 16 **€69.00**

Children 0 -12 sharing with Parents supplement DEC 16 **FREE**

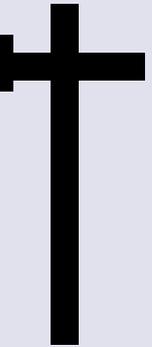
Christmas Dinner only on the 2nd - Adults (not staying in house) DEC 16 **€35.00**

Christmas Dinner only on the 2nd:

(Children not staying in house) DEC 16 **€17.50**

Sunday Buffet Lunch on 4th DEC 16 **€35.00**

In Memoriam



ROMEO FORMOSA
ALPS Member - passed on
June 2016



CARMEN BUTTIGIEG
Wife of ALPS member Tony
Buttigieg - passed on July 16,
2016

JOSEPHINE CREMONA

Mother of ALPS Member
Archbishop Emeritus Paul
Cremona – passed on July 16,
2016

WALTER ANTHONY GATT-

ALPS membership No:60,
also ex-football referee.
Watty was 100 years of age, the
oldest ALPS member – passed
on August 14, 2016

**To the bereaved families,
we offer our deepest
condolences**



ALPS Annual Retreat at Manresa May 5 - 7, 2017

For the coming year, we have already booked at the same Manresa house to hold the ALPS annual week-end of recollection. The dates shall be 5th to the 7th May 2017. Fr. Dominic Sultana has already been approached and he accepted to conduct for us, such a retreat. Make diary reservations and inform Secretary General Alex Borg well before the event, so that he may include your name with the list of all those who are intending to join us (God Willing) in May 2017. Space is limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Let us also Remember and Pray for:

Our Founder President:
Dr Guido Saliba LL.D.,
All ALPS members and/or
their family members who
have passed away since
inception of ALPS in 1994.

The members of families
from the Pwales Hamlet,
who died in the recent past
years.
Let us remember and
pray for the sick and the

aged ALPS members, who
may be house bound or
in an Old People's home.
We promise to keep them
always in our thoughts and
prayers.

*A Thought
for this Month...*

*Kind words can be short
and easy to speak,
but their echoes are truly
ENDLESS*



ALPS Membership Subscription is Due



Alfred Agius

A.L.P.S. sustained membership increases.

Since its inception in 1994, A.L.P.S. has never looked back. In fact, its membership record continued to flourish along the years. Such a positive outcome materializes mainly because A.L.P.S. consistently organizes various types of events and activities during the whole year. Through a sort of ripple effect besides enhancing A.L.P.S. Council members' own determination to pursue their own efforts, it also encourages other Lyceum old boys to enroll as members within The Association of Lyceum Past Students. (ALPS) This fact justifies the compilation and publication of this official newsletter which serves to keep our members well informed and abreast of events and various activities contemplated during the year.



To this effect the Council of Administration of A.L.P.S. has once again taken it upon itself to organize the Annual Grand Reunion of students who, like ourselves had started their Lyceum days either so many years ago or they may be celebrating this year a fiftieth anniversary of their starting or finishing their studies at the Liceo. For the record the 15th day of October is the official date for the YEAR 2016 event.

We wish to see many of you attending. You may of course be accompanied by your dear wives or partners to such a get together. The more the merrier... If your membership renewal is still outstanding, may we gently remind you to write out a cheque and pay your dues. Every Euro counts for us. We want to give to you members and friends of ALPS, the best presentations, the best Newsletter, the best cultural

and social events. This can only be made possible if you will be kind and generous with ALPS by settling soonest for your outstanding subscriptions. For those of you who are always punctual and have effected their payment, kindly disregard this request and keep working for more and more of your Lyceum friends to join ALPS.

One-year subscription remains @ €12.00 per annum.

Life Membership (once only remittance for life) remains @ €70.00

The Friends of the ALPS pay only €10 per annum.

Cheque to "ALPS" can be addressed to

Hon. Treasurer David R. Abela of Juniper, Gianni Vella Street, Tal-Qattus, Birkirkara BKR 4263 (tel: 2148 7693 / mob: 9902 0845 or e-mail: david.r.abela@gmail.com

The ALPS Web Page: Latest



Joseph Buttigieg

We are using this medium to keep all our readers, members and friends adjourned on all activities relating to ALPS, our Association. It has become more user friendly and is available 24/7 to anybody with an internet connection in Malta and overseas. Watch out for innovations and additions to the ALPS web-site as these are introduced for the benefit of our members and friends. Do remember to look us up at: www.alpsmalta.com. We also welcome your feedback and suggestions: write to us at: alpsmalta@gmail.com. Please help us to build a library of photos of Old Lyceum Events. Ideally this gallery would include group photos with the names of those in the photo and the date of the event. Scan your photos and send them as an email attachment to: josephdbtg@gmail.com

Keep Sending to ALPS those E-Mail Addresses Please

The more that you help your association by sending in your CORRECT e-mail addresses, the better it is for us to reach as many of you as possible, whenever we have an announcement to hand out quickly to members and friends of ALPS. Our data base is slowly increasing in numbers but there are quite a few who still need to respond with a ONE LINE ONLY confirming the proper e-mail address. We ask you **PLEASE DO IT STRAIT AWAY**, by sending your e-mail to: Council Member Oscar Galea on oaggalea@maltanet.net. You will be sent a reply by return, to ensure that your message is acknowledged and actioned. Thanks for your support.



THE ALPS GRAND REUNION – TORONTO CANADA 2016

Welcoming Address By ALPS President 27th August 2016, Toronto Canada

Distinguished Guests, ALPS members, Friends, Ladies & Gentlemen, for those of you who don't recognize me, or don't remember me, or perhaps never knew me at LICEO, I am GEORGE STAGNO NAVARRA, from the Liceo years of the late fifties/early sixties. At the Lyceum, I was never a class prefect, nor a valedictorian. I was not really an athlete, or actor in any of the school plays. I do not recall ever being voted as the best dressed student of the time or the most likely to succeed, or the wittiest, friendliest or anything else (perhaps I should have been voted best looking but I do not recall ever being in such race...) Like many of you, I was just a Lyceum Student, interested like we all were... in good times, girls, cars, music and not much else really.

The time I have spent at the LYCEUM was, really and truly the very best of my life years up to the year 1962 when my schoolmates and I, went our separate ways and began our lives as young adults. It was the year of many other beginnings for me and all my friends at that time. Some went to higher studies at university, some had migrated to other countries and, like me some had even started a work career that has seen them advance and build for themselves a name that brought success and satisfaction to their life. The sixties were the years that have seen our Island Nation Malta take a turn for big changes, from a British Services Base, to expanding and exploiting the tourism sector that was still in its infancy at that time. Hence, the Liceo students who had just left their school benches were soon finding opportunities for themselves to enter into the catering trade and more so, into the service industry that was starting to get bigger and stronger. I remember that from 1966 to 1970, there was what we called THE BOOM YEARS when many expatriates had started to come and take up residence in the islands of Malta & Gozo. New factories were opening and the export sector was initiating the first records so that the Maltese economy could become even stronger. Foreign investment started reaching our shores and hence, the Lyceum students who had finished their studies could find jobs in many sectors. Demand in the building industry had become larger and one may term those years as the years of plenty. Some of you here gathered tonight, might also recall the

forties and fifties with the different characteristics of that era too.

Many of us will definitely look back fondly at the FABULOUS LICEO YEARS, as an easier, happier time of our life. However, those years were not totally carefree. Many of us have grown through those years when teenagers first began challenging attitudes and values of their elderly parents. We were setting the stage for decades to come. We lived through a period of time in which striking things happened. We have lived through the years when James Dean, Paul Anka, Elvis Presley, Pat Boone, had become famous and of course, the first bands had formed groups and were coming out with modern music that was pleasant to our ears at that time.

Tonight, we are all here gathered together, to remember those wonderful times we spent at the Lyceum, when we were together almost every day of the week, played together, sat in the same classroom benches together, laughed and perhaps sometimes we even cried together, when we had formed many of the values that we still hold so very dearly with the most intimate, precious and lasting friendships of our lives.

There could be more than half a dozen persons in this hall tonight, who are still amongst my closest friends. Very special persons, who after all these years are dearer to me than ever. Some of my class mates between the forms one to five, I have not seen for 10, 20, 30 or even 40 years. I still have vivid memories of their faces when we were all young. I am nonetheless so very happy to be here tonight sharing with you, this great reunion dinner. I suspect that many of you ex-Lyceum students would share the very same feelings like me. Nine years ago I believe, was a magnificent reunion with non-stop hugging. It was really great, but I can assure you that this reunion tonight is going to be remembered as even better. May I warn each and everyone here with us, that if you are not caught hugging at least fifty persons in this hall tonight, you will not be invited to our next reunion!!

The reason why THE ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS came into being in 1994, was purely to bring more and more past students together. Thanks to our founder President Dr. Guido Saliba (God Rest His Soul), we have made great strides over the past 22 years. We are ever so proud to have managed

to attract into the ALPS fold, a membership that makes us so very proud to belong in a dynamic group of LICEO past students, who remain proud of the school banner & badge from our younger days. In Malta, we continue to be the envy of all other associations. I can assure you that not many schools can boast a past students' association with a membership as great as ours. The Council of administration of ALPS, is made up of a number of enthusiastic persons who work ever so hard to continue to project ALPS in the best possible manner. Our membership is made up from all strata of the Maltese society. That includes Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Republic of Malta, Professors of Law, and Medicine, Dentistry, Architects, Lawyers, Notaries, Bishops, Priests, Monks, Teachers, Nurses, Officials in the Diplomatic Corp, Civil Protection and High Ranking Government Ministers and officials, prominent businessmen and many more who have all studies during their younger days at The Lyceum. I cannot of course miss the Great St. Gorg Preca. He was a Lyceum Boy too. And, I also do not wish to forget the Maltese Cardinal Prospero Grech, another Lyceum past student.

Our dear friend and colleague Milo Vassallo is our strength at this outstation Canada. His untiring efforts to keep the name of our Lyceum still very prominent and popular, is proof enough of the love that WE all belong to a unique ex-alumni association, that is the pride and joy of our hearts. Let this feeling continue to reign in your lives. Nobody can take away from us these wonderful thoughts of a happy childhood when we acquired our education in the best Maltese School - the " LICEO " My dear friends let us never forget the teachers who have taught us at the Lyceum. Let us continue to remember our dear departed colleagues who have not survived to this day. The school bond that started in our days at the Lyceum, shall remain embedded in our hearts. It will never fade away with the passing of time.

I would like to tell you, that in our Lyceum Years, no matter how long ago it has been, we were the greatest heroes, with the coolest ideas. But, most important, we had great fun. Let's welcome one another with hugs to our Lyceum days. Let us promise each other to remain close by means of e-mails

or newsletters periodically issued by ALPS. Those of you who are not yet enrolled, I do encourage you to join, in order to stay closer to all your friends from the Lyceum years. Write to us and send to us photos of your classmates with short write-ups that we may upload onto the ALPS web-site. We dedicate a section entitled 'COLLEAGUES OF OLD' that may surely be enriched with every contribution that you can send to us. Be always proud to have attended the best school in Malta. As a memento to this pleasant get together in Toronto Canada, we are going to give to each one of you, a set of cuff-links with the Lyceum Badge. I want you to wear them often and remember each time that you look at them, of the great Lyceum days from our younger years.

Before I end, I would like to say a word of thanks to the Caterers who have organized this dinner for us. Thanks, goes to the kitchen staff and waiting staff.

Thanks, goes to all my colleagues on Council of Administration of Alps. In particular, I would like to mention Secretary General Alex Borg, whose great enthusiasm amazes me throughout the year. He dedicates a great number of hours each week to ALPS. He is always at the receiving end, for function bookings, payments, dishing out information about the ongoing events and sometimes even receiving the odd complaint from a disgruntled member or friend of the association. It is part and parcel of being a secretary and I thank you heartily dear Alex, for remaining cool and handling every situation in the best possible and polite manner.

To my dear wife Madeleine, I would like to say thanks for the ongoing support and for bearing with me whilst presiding over the Association of Lyceum Past Students.

(ha nghida bil-Malti wkoll. . .

GHAQDA EX-STUDENTI LICEO – VIVA S-SERDUQ TAGHNA TAL-LICEO.)

Thank you my friends and I wish you a most pleasant evening in the company of so many ladies who have joined us to have lots of fun.

May you enjoy your lives in Good Health, Peace and Happiness.

Thank you all, for being such a wonderful audience.

**George dei Conti Stagno Navarra
ALPS President**





NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE®

Malta's Most Loved Cruise Line returns in 2017



**NOW
ALL
INCLUSIVE**

Malta-to-Malta Cruises
STARTING FROM 7 NIGHTS **€999**



Tel: 2277 6000

www.smsmondial.com.mt

NORWEGIAN WILL OFFER 5 DIFFERENT CRUISES VISITING EXCITING PORTS SUCH AS:
Venice (Italy), Koper (Slovenia), Split (Croatia), Dubrovnik (Croatia), Palma (Mallorca), Cagliari (Sardinia), Katakolon (Olympia),
Messina (Sicily), Naples (Pompeii), Civitavecchia (Rome), Corfu (Greece), Livorno (Florence & Pisa), Barcelona (Spain), Cannes
(French Riviera), Marseille (France), Piraeus (Athens), Heraklion (Crete) & Santorini (Greece).

Sponsors of www.ALPSmalta.com



We owe them our support with our business!