

A.L.P.S. News

ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS | GHAQDA EX-STUDENTI LICEO

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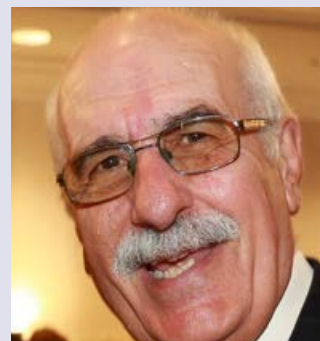
November 2021

FROM THE ALPS PRESIDENT'S DESK

Today, I wish to write about people's lives after coronavirus. We probably don't know the right answers or the right questions right now. However, the changes that this unexpected pandemic brought on indicate that this is the time for something new. Let us explore how it changes people's lives at their core. Work for example, has changed tremendously in the past months. From going to the office every day and sitting at the desk, people had to drastically switch to sitting at home and managing their own schedule. Some were even left without a job, looking for new solutions for financial security. All this, without a doubt, created a new definition for work and life balance. And this of course made the world start to show a much bigger appreciation for the essential workers and the frontline staff such as teachers, doctors, health workers, delivery drivers and supermarket employees and the like. As the work habits changed for many, so did the rhythm of life. Many employees were vulnerable to losing their job, and others were forced to risk being infected rather than lose their income. The virus exposed many of us 'everyday people' and made working from home the standard for millions. From flexible hours to virtual meetings, and I believe many will continue to maintain this new

work-and-life balance. To reduce the workers' risk of exposure to Coronavirus, many companies, organizations and countries took steps to facilitate remote working where applicable. If employees did not have to be physically present for the company to operate and to complete their tasks, they were allowed to work from home. Not only did many adjust to this, but they actually prefer it now. It reduces time and money spent on commuting and lunches. There shall be less travelling expenses and if using own car, less fuel and wear and tear. This brings me to what the Association of Lyceum Past Students had to do. We have been silent for a good number of months during 2020, but then a sudden suggestion put forward by a very keen ALPS member by the name of Carlo Farrugia, things have started to change and we were introduced to virtual council meetings once a month. This has proved to be a great success not only to enable the association to continue to exist but at the same time creating newer challenges which make us ever so proud to be able to come forward and plan ahead for life after the pandemic. Covid-19 has effected even the people's preferences and hobbies and the chances are that this may continue after the pandemic. People have now found many

new hobbies for themselves since they were prevented from leaving their homes, hanging out with others, and travelling. At a time when people are quarantined or distancing socially, things such as, virtual education, and DIY projects are more attractive than ever. It is perhaps worth mentioning that we may have all formed some new habits in the era of COVID-19, some intentionally and some without noticing. Since the quarantine disrupted most of our day-to-day patterns, we had to adjust and make new habits. To give an example, we made a habit of taking great care of our hygiene, much more than before. If we were careless about what we consume, who we meet with, how we communicate, we may have certainly become more careful now. There's also the habit of shopping, of course. After a time when people had to shop online for most things, some industries and especially the food outlets with their Take-Away service, have thrived more than ever. Since Covid-19 started, we are relying mostly on technology to get what we need. We also do our food shopping less frequently, and plan more carefully for what we want to eat. Thanks to the 2021 technology that we are blessed with, life could be made a little simpler and much more manageable during the pandemic. I wonder what we could



have been doing without internet and mobile phones and virtual communicating between ourselves. We thank the Lord for giving us this opportunity to live through such innovations and progress.

Dear members and friends of ALPS, unfortunately the long awaited ALPS holiday cruise around the British Isles during September of 2022, had to be cancelled for obvious reasons. The cruise ships had stopped operating and with the difficulties of quarantine that started to be observed by many countries and the travel ban on elderly persons under lock down, all bookings had to be cancelled. Some people preferred to take refund of their deposits whilst others were quite happy to transfer and keep on hold any monetary sums that could be re-used on another holiday booking in future months after the pandemic. It is with much pleasure therefore,

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The ALPS Yuletide Week-End Stay at The Radisson Resort Dec 2021

Many of you have been asking us over the past weeks, what is in store for this coming Christmas 2021. Much that we would have wished to share this wonderful time of the year with you as we have been used to before, we are still not yet out of the woods with Covid-19. Daily reports of infections keep happening and this will of course make us aware that we must continue to be careful and observe health regulations not only for ourselves, but also to safeguard those around us. Nevertheless, after having experienced such a miserable Christmas last year in 2020 segregated from our traditional family lunches, we are looking ahead for this Yuletide season with greater enthusiasm and planning for you dear members and friends, a week-end at The Radisson Golden Sands Resort with a great difference of course. Here's hoping we may get together in the first week-end starting on Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th December 2021, ending with exchange of Christmas Greetings and the celebration of Holy Mass on Sunday 5th December at the same

resort around 11.00 am. Because of table distancing there will not be the usual CHRISTMAS DINNER inside the ballroom because, knowing that you always frequent this special time of the year in large numbers, the hotel will not permit that we be seated in big numbers and we simply have to abide with the health authorities rules and regulations. Dear members and friends, we all know how to enjoy ourselves when we are together and this year 2021 is not going to be any different. Arrangements have been made for dinner in Flavours but with different sittings. On checking in, please book your 'dinners at Flavours restaurant on Friday 3rd December and also Saturday 4th December... Just choose your preferred sitting for dinner on 3rd & 4th December. There are two timings either at 19.00 or 20.30hrs. Hereunder, we are listing for you special prices that have been negotiated with the Radisson management. Bookings & payment MUST be made strictly direct with the hotel. You can pay on line or at reception on Check-In.

DOUBLE ROOM FOR 1 NIGHT HB BASIS
4th to 5th December

€160

DOUBLE ROOM FOR 2 NIGHTS HB BASIS
3rd to 5th December

€320

SINGLE ROOM FOR 1 NIGHT HB BASIS
4th to 5th December

€110

SINGLE ROOM FOR 2 NIGHTS HB BASIS
3rd to 5th December

€220

3RD ADULT SHARING ROOM HB BASIS
Per Person per Night

€65

3RD ADULT SHARING ROOM HB BASIS
Per Person per Night

€65

CHILDREN (12-16YRS) SHARING ROOM HB BASIS
Per Child per Night

€35

CHILDREN (0-11YRS) SHARING ROOM HB BASIS
Per Child per Night

FREE

BUFFET DINNER AT FLAVOURS RESTAURANT
Per Person

€35

DOUBLE ROOM ON B&B BASIS PER NIGHT
From 5th December (subject to availability)

€90

SINGLE ROOM ON B&B BASIS PER NIGHT
From 5th December (subject to availability)

€90

3RD ADULTSHARING ON B&B BASIS PER NIGHT
From 5th December (subject to availability)

€30

CHILDREN (12-16YRS) SHARING ROOM B&B BASIS
From 5th December (subject to availability)

€25

CHILDREN (0-11YRS) SHARING ROOM B&B BASIS
From 5th December (subject to availability)

FREE

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS:

1. Contact number 23561000 - Ask for Reservations Dept and make booking with ALPS group
2. When booking, guests are asked for the credit card details to confirm bookings and payment would be done directly at the resort on checking in.
3. Bookings by e-mail reservations.goldensands@rdlmalta.com
4. Bookings with payment can be made by cheque giving details of names of guests, number of nights and type of accommodation chosen
5. Cheques are to be made payable to: Golden Sands Resort Ltd
6. And sent for the attention of Ms Daniela Said Ebejer
7. Reservations Department - Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Golden Sands Golden Bay I/o Mellieha MLH 5510
8. Bookings can also be made by direct bank transfer to the resort

Due to limited seating spaces in restaurant & due to health directives, the hotel advises that all guests booking for the ALPS Yuletide event 3rd to 5th Dec and for any extra nights to book the time of the dinners at flavours restaurant both on 3rd. And 4th Dec and for extra nights when effecting bookings with payments in advance and/or when checking in at the hotel reception. Guests staying at the hotel are kindly asked to have available the Covid-19 vaccine certificate for any eventual use.

Members are kindly asked to effect bookings at the earliest possible. Any special requests for accommodation will be subject to availability and run of house system any dietary preferences must be notified to the hotel when booking your dinners.

All booking and payments of any of the above accommodation options are to be made direct to hotel.

Keeping Maltese communities abroad connected with Malta

Frank Scicluna, who was born in Birgu (Vittoriosa), Malta, has dedicated years to fostering the Maltese communities in Australia and across the world.

A retired teacher of Mathematics and Languages with the South Australian Education department for 35 years, Frank is the editor of the 'Maltese e-Newsletter – A Journal for the Maltese Diaspora'.

This free, bilingual and non-political journal, which has spread around the world like wildfire, is Australia-based and distributed not only in every state and territory of Australia but also in many countries where other Maltese reside.

Since the demise of The Maltese Herald, the only Maltese Newspaper in Australia, the Maltese Journal has become one of the only concrete and effective digital contacts with Malta and the Maltese. It is keeping the Maltese communities connected with Malta and with its language, history, culture and heritage.

The electronic newspaper is also printed and distributed to residents of several Aged Care Facilities, schools and to



members of Maltese associations in Canada, Australia and USA.

The journal is preserved at the Malta Migration Museum in Valletta and at the Maltese-Canadian Museum in Toronto as well as in several libraries, on Facebook, Twitter and on his website – www.ozmalta.com. One can also read the journal on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Frank's pro bono work is supplemented by large community contributions as Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia and as Justice of the Peace.

Both Maltese and Australian governments have acknowledged Frank's achievements, dedication

and services to the Maltese communities in Australia. In December 2018 the president emeritus Marie Louise Coleiro-Preca awarded Frank Scicluna the Gieh ir-Repubblika medal (MQR). The Australian Federal Government acknowledged his work by honouring him with the prestigious award of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his services to the Maltese community in Australia and also for his work in education and multiculturalism.

He was also given the South Australian Governor's certificate of 'outstanding achievement' in community service, education and multicultural affairs. In 2013 he received the award of 'Citizen

of the Year' by the Mayor of Prospect, Dr David O'Loughlin. The Prime Minister of Malta also appointed him a delegate for the Council of Maltese Living Abroad.

Frank, who is fluent in Maltese, spent over 30 years as principal of the Maltese Language School of Adelaide and was elected the first national president of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools in Australia and of the Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations.

During these last several years he has visited Malta regularly, where he actively participated in the annual council meetings and in the Conventions of Maltese Living Abroad.

Frank is the author of several books including 'Malta And The Anzacs – The Nurse of the Mediterranean', which was published during the centenary of World War I and launched by the Governor of South Australia H.E. Hieu Van Le in 2015.

In his bi-weekly E-newsletter, Frank often features ALPS activities.

To subscribe in the e-newsletter, you may send Frank an email on maltesejournal@gmail.com.

FROM THE ALPS PRESIDENT'S DESK

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to announce to you readers, that a nice cruise is offered to ALPS members with family and friends. The period shall be 8th to 18th September 2022 aboard the luxurious Norwegian ESCAPE for an interesting trip entitled Pearls of the Mediterranean that will be visiting Messina, Naples, Livorno, Rome, Santorini, Athens, Mykonos and Corfu. Quite a varied trip travelling east and west of the Mediterranean and enjoying the best facilities of a much renowned cruise liner. Bookings have already started rolling in. There are some more cabins still available for ALPS members at advantageous and attractive pricing. Trust you may avail yourselves and come join us on this holiday trip that should enable us to again share some wonderful experiences when we are together. As you may have observed through local or foreign media, travel has already started to get better now that the measures

have reduced across the world. This was expected because we were all locked down for too long with the monotony of the same people, routines, and even the same spaces. Now that it's safer to travel, even though not entirely safe just yet, people have been booking their vacations all across the globe. We definitely need some travel at this point, so this industry that suffered a huge hit due to the Covid-19, is probably going to thrive once the pandemic is brought under control. May be, conditions are still not ideal for some people. Perhaps for the immediate future, we won't be able to travel as freely as before. Some of the countries still have restrictions in place, and others have rules like accepting only vaccinated people and requiring tests upon return. One must not forget of course, there's the matter of economy. Due to the pandemic, many people's finances have been struck, which affects the travel on a global level. No one can really

tell us what will happen if/when the pandemic comes to its end. In fact, no one can tell us when this is expected to happen – or how. What we can know is that life as we know it will no longer be the same. People have changed their habits, their ways of living, their thoughts and actions due to this unexpected change. Whether it is for better or for worse, we shall have to find out. The most important thing is, we managed to get through the most unexpected health crisis our world has ever seen - As an Association of Lyceum old boys, we wanted to keep in touch with e-mail announcements over the recent past months. The ALPS newsletter has also been published two or three times already over the past one and a half years and that of course is a good sign that we are here, waiting to start again where we have left. Unfortunately, not all of our members will be joining after the pandemic. Some have not been so fortunate and may have succumbed to Covid-19.

Others had some of their family members that also have been struck and lost their battle... Nevertheless, life has to go on and we are here to serve you and to create for you dear members and friends, the best of what can be expected for our future days. **The Association of Lyceum Past Students** will certainly not waste its time lingering and this is why we encourage you all to be bold and determined, that this pandemic will pass. We shall all come out triumphant and definitely with better ideas how we may spend the rest of our days to socialize more and to share many of the annual functions as we are known to have done in past years/ Good luck to you all dear colleagues in ALPS. All the best of health and happiness to you and your loved ones

Very sincerely
George dei Conti
Stagno Navarra
President – ALPS

Down Memories Lane

Oreste L. Aquilina writes from Australia

Every student, particularly those who attended the Hamrun (next to the MMU) and later the Valletta Lyceum must have some great memories of their teachers, whether by their name or by their nickname, who helped develop each student's talent in the particular subject be it languages, mathematics, science, religion, history, the arts, and sports. The Lyceum has always taught the right values and many prominent people emanated from the Lyceum ranks, to be great Maltese leaders. Memories of some particular event which brought together a sense of loyalty and friendship, a bond between two persons or a group of people.

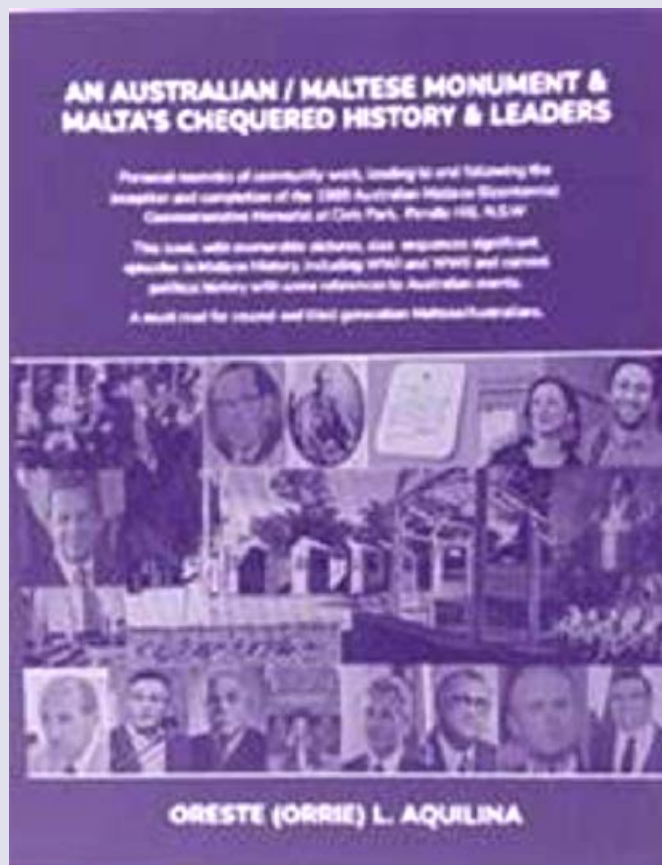
The formation of the association by the founder Dr Guido Saliba in 1994 meant the bringing together the various individuals or small groups to unite in a body of friendship and social, welfare activity. Over the years, under the founder's, Dr Saliba leadership and that of the present strong leadership of President George Stagno Navarra and the Secretary General Alex Borg, the Association flourished and has grown from strength to strength. Meanwhile, I regret to say that due to reasons particular to the Australian geographical nature our Sydney Branch which we had started in 1998 could not stay functional for many long years. Despite having some memorable functions such as the Fenkata at La Valette and the visit by the Zammit brothers from Rabat reunion members were spread all over greater Sydney suburbs and the Branch had to more or less dissolve. I have tried to keep the branch remnants for a few years, and still hold the Lyceum banner I had designed and sewn by my good wife as well as the records of the NSW Branch meetings. I have now through ZOOM meetings

been honored to be co-opted as a Councilor within the **Association of Lyceum Past Students** - in Malta

It has always been a personal pleasure for me whenever I had a chance to visit Malta to meet my old school mates. During my first short visit to my island of birth, in 1978, through my niece Marlene Lia, who worked at the time in the Education Dept., she made it possible for me to meet some of my old schoolmates who were professional educators, these were Frederick Fearn, Arthur Sammut, Frank Vella and Alfred Camilleri. At the time there was no formal Association established yet.

In 1999, my next visit (as they say it's a long time between drinks) I had the pleasure to tour Malta and sing Beethoven 9th. Symphony at the Teatru Manoel with the Beethoven Society of Australia Choir together with the Santa Monica Choir with Soloist Tenor Joseph Aquilina, who later also sang in Sydney and for CHOGM in Perth. During that visit, five years after the ALPS foundation I arranged for a small group from the BSA visitors to join the ALPS large group of a heritage visit to St Elmo and St Anne's Chapel there. That was a very enjoyable visit and established some long-time friendships with the newly formed association. That year I'm proud to say that I also sang with the great Tenor Luciano Pavarotti in Stockholm, a triple memorable occasion. I also think that during the same visit, I attended a dinner held by ALPS to commemorate Imnarja at one of the members lavish residence. (I have a feeling it might have been at Joe Bugeja's villa in Mellieha)

When I visited in 2012 with my wife Margaret, we had the pleasure to attend a beautiful dinner held at the Radisson Hotel. We also had the pleasure to attend to Alex



and Sonia Borgs' son, Matthew's wedding ceremony with a grand reception on Manoel Island on the picturesque open terrace of the Exclusive Yacht Club overlooking Marsamxetto harbor and the Valletta bastions, where we met and made good friends and enjoyed the company of members of the Association and their spouses. During another visit I had a very pleasant lunch organized by Captain George Kissau, with some 12 class B (French) members whom I had not seen for a lifetime.

These visits have left some beautiful memories. Over the past years, I have been in regular contact with both the President and the Secretary General of ALPS by email. I also maintain contact with other Council members via Zoom despite the time difference between our two countries.

It is truly a great sacrifice for me

to stay awake when there is an ALPS virtual meeting being held. This permits me to also meet and chat with other council members present at such meeting. Time zones between Malta and Australia create some discomfort and are a little tiring. Nevertheless, it is worth staying awake and joining a happy bunch of Liceo old boys like me, whose sole aim it is to keep the name of The Lyceum alive. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has turned the world upside down. Needless to mention, that Australia was badly hit with this killer virus. Consequently we suffered long periods of lockdown across the country, leaving us sometimes speechless and frustrated. We all wish to get on with our lives but because of the many restrictions and measures that are in force, we feel somehow isolated and cut off from the world around us.

Up to our next AGM the ALPS Council for 2021/2022 is made up as follows:

With pleasure we announce, ALPS council has been enlarged and now includes 2 members who look after the association interests away from the Maltese shores, where many hundreds of LICEO past students have emigrated in the past years:

ALPS PRESIDENT: George Stagno Navarra

DEPUTY PRESIDENT/SOCIAL-CULTURAL COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON: Joseph D. Buttigieg

SECRETARY GENERAL: Alex Borg
ASSISTANT SECRETARY / PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: Peter Tortell

HON. TREASURER: David R.

Abela

LYCEUM SCOUTS CO-ORDINATOR & YOUTH -LYCEUM AFFAIRS: Joseph Micallef

CHAPEL ST. ANNE CO-ORDINATOR: Anthony Buttigieg
CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

FOR ALPS AFFAIRS IN CANADA and USA: Milo Vassallo

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER FOR ALPS AFFAIRS IN AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND: Oreste Aquilina

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS : Carlo Farrugia

ALPS SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: Fr. William Bartolo

Some News from Kappella Sant'Anna -Pwales St Paul's Bay

For those members and friends of ALPS who have made it to the Pwales Chapel on the 23rd October, thank you for your continued support. Your participation has been a tremendous success after one and a half years being absent from the chapel. The pandemic has disrupted our regular visits to this quaint chapel. Thanks to the protective inoculations and booster jabs that many have already received, a sizeable congregation has gathered on the chapel parvis for a first occasion post pandemic. There were no kisses nor hugs after being away from each other for so long but many smiling faces and the elbow bumps have certainly confirmed the great unity that continues to exist between ALPS members and friends. We know how to



be happy and make others feel united when we are together. In spite

of Covid-19 and long absence from Kappella Pwales, the same friendship continues to exist amongst us to this very day.

If you missed mass at Pwales on 23-10-2021, try making it to a next gathering (*weather permitting of course*) that is planned for the **20th NOVEMBER 2021**.

Let's make it a special

occasion to meet again in a larger number and renew our friendship in The Association of Lyceum Past Students.

Let us offer mass for our founder President Dr. Guido Saliba who passed away on the 7th December 2004 and for all dead members and friends of ALPS. May they rest in peace.

Holy Mass will again be celebrated at Pwales chapel on the **13th December 2021 at 11.00am** ALPS President delivers a short message and Christmas carols will be sung during mass.

Pencil both dates in your diaries for November and December. Do come along bringing family and friends with you to enter into the Yuletide spirit together, whilst exchanging Christmas and new year greetings

Assistant Secretary Peter Tortell Writes

I am writing quite an unusual article which I have never written before, describing my experience when I had to spend 23 days in Mater Dei and at the Simblija Care Home to undergo an operation called ENDARTERECTOMY.

I was 85 years old when I had a stroke which left me stranded on the floor where I fell in my study. I could not get up from the floor for two hours despite my efforts. I do have Telecare but I never used to wear it which was my downfall. I certainly recommend to you all over 60, who do not yet have Telecare Home Help, to install at the earliest possible. Better be safe than sorry... I am a widower since my dear wife Louise passed away 12 years ago. Immediate attention may be called for when a similar emergency occurs. Luckily, my daughter Angela called in to see me and found me after two hours trying to get up from where I was. Angela had the fright of her life when she saw me and after she had made me as comfortable as possible she called her brother John. They called an ambulance which arrived soon after. Questions about what happened were put to me and I replied as best I could before they put me in a wheelchair and I was conveyed to hospital. I was admitted at Mater Dei on 18 May 2020. In the evening and the first stop was in the Accident and Emergency Unit. Doctors and Nurses examined me thoroughly

although my speech was very weak. A report with the clinical details was prepared before I was transferred to the Day Care Unit Surgery where I stayed up to 24th May after having daily visits from doctors and nurses as well as other staff with meals, cleaners and helpers. Every day checks were made and details kept of the many medicines and any other items which are too many to mention. I was deemed fit for discharge on 24 May, had a Swab taken which was found negative and I was then transferred to Simblija Care Home at Naxxar for a further period of convalescence.

During my stay at Simblija Home, I had to prepare for my return to Mater Dei on 31st May. Again I was not allowed any visitors because of Covid-19 and I was literally feeling alone. Not even my own brother and his wife were permitted to see me. All medicines continued to be administered as had been prescribed by Mater Dei doctors without fail. I returned to Mater Dei on 31 May 2020, to prepare for my operation on 1 June. Before the operation, I was seen by Prof. Kevin Cassar who explained to me what he was doing to ensure all went well. The operation was a success although I had to be taken back to the theatre with a minor problem causing a slight delay. I was then transferred to the ITU which is normal, where I stayed for one night until I was taken back



to surgical ward 3. Eventually, I got discharged on 4th June and again returned to Simblija after further tests were carried out to ensure everything was returning to normal. Unfortunately, before I left I was approached by the senior Nurse advising me that I had to stay for an extra night as they had lost my swab and I could not return to Simblija Home with a Negative Swab report. I was back at Simblija on 4th of June where I had to stay in quarantine until I was finally discharged on the 13th June, 2020.

When I returned back to my home in Tigne/ Sliema I was greeted by DOM who is now my

excellent personal Carer. He looks after me nearly 24/7 and is extra careful in ensuring that I take my daily medicines and keeping to a balanced diet as prescribed and recommended by doctors. Daily walks with Dom around the Sliema Front never fail, thus giving me the chance to breathe some fresh air

I still encounter some minor difficulties with my handwriting because the fingers on my right hand are still weak. Physio therapy and other exercises are proving to be quite satisfactory and hopefully I can be back to normal in the not too distant future. Praise be to God for such recovery from my May 2020 ordeal.

Treasured Memories from the Past

by Secretary General Alex Borg

It was the 20th March 1994 when a dream of many Lyceum past students came true. This became a reality with the initiative of Dr. Guido Saliba a Lyceum past history master and ex Lyceum student himself, by putting forward the idea of 'The Association of Lyceum Past Students [A.L.P.S.]'. It all started through his weekly columns 'once upon a dream' in the Sunday Times of Malta. About seventy past students met inside the Lyceum of Hamrun. Suitable space was offered, courtesy of then headmaster Mr. George Grech. During that time Dr Saliba was also the president of the Lyceum School Council. A steering committee was formed and went through a lot of preparation for the first general meeting to be held on 3rd. October 1994. Hence, the first council of administration of ALPS was confirmed. From that year onwards, I was appointed as secretary general and continue to hold this post to this year 2021. With many ups and downs, things had started moving. A statue was drafted with the help of then treasurer Alfred Micallef Attard.

Dr. Saliba himself was seeing to all legal aspects of the association. Soon things started moving and frequent council meetings were held with not less than one monthly meeting. Ideas were put on table and various events started to be organized. They were mostly philanthropic, cultural tours and educational events. At that time, the Lyceum headmaster Mr George Grech accompanied by a good number of young enthusiastic teachers, had created a philanthropic event which was entitled 'Il maratona bir Roti'. ALPS immediately offered to collaborate and to help where necessary in such a worthy cause. This event went on to become a yearly fund raising occasion under the guidance of various headmasters. The unfailing collaboration by ALPS council members during this annual event was always appreciated. Many thousands of pounds were collected by creating various means of revenue, such as lottery tickets, sponsored meals and snacks handled by the Lyceum Scouts and assisted by the ALPS members. Funds from the Maratona Bir-Roti event were donated to various societies in need. ALPS also encouraged

to re-vamp the Lyceum Scouts by appointing on its council of administration, a co-coordinator Joe Micallef who at that time was also a Lyceum teacher who continued to promote the Scouts group within this famous secondary school. Unfortunately, there was a period when a new headmaster came along, who terminated the organizing of 'maratona bir Roti'. He then forbid the ALPS council of admiration to hold its monthly council meeting at the Lyceum board room. However, such actions did not discourage the enthusiastic president and his team of council members, to continue the way forward and making ALPS bigger by the day. As a substitute remedy, the ALPS council started to hold their monthly meeting, at the secretary general's private office in San Gwann until the headmaster was replaced and things then taking a sudden turn for the better..

As a matter of fact, the new head of school very happily welcomed ALPS back to the Lyceum. The association became stronger and many Lyceum past students continued to enrol as new members. Newer events continued to increase and ALPS started to organize overseas tours and cruises for its enthusiastic members and their families. This included a very interesting and educational trip to Russia and many other tours to Europe North Africa and Canada, Alaska and America. Time passed and members discovered that ALPS were organizing interesting events too, which included annual reunions for all past students with special invitation to those students who commenced their secondary education at the Lyceum fifty years before. The annual foundation day concert was also a yearly event in the ALPS calendar of events organized for many years under the baton of two very active and keen members namely Lino Gatt and Joe Fenech. The latter was also organizing and leading the ALPS choir which included a good number of the association members. This choir was active during the year and included many visits to homes for the elderly entertaining the residents with popular songs and classic lyrics bringing smiles to their faces and making them join the chorus especially when war songs were presented. Years passed and in 2004 ALPS Founder President



Dr...Guido Saliba passed away. The presidency of ALPS was then inherited by another dynamic person a Lyceum past student George Stagno Navarra. From that year onward he remains uncontested. With the passing of another active council member Laurie Vella who was responsible for the ALPS news-letter, the president also took the role as an editor for the publication of the bi-monthly issue of ALPS NEWS that is sent free to all members and friends of ALPS. One of the main civic ventures by ALPS was its acceptance for the day to day running of a dilapidated Pwales chapel dedicated to Sant Anna.. A major restoration program was taken in hand. Members rolled up their sleeves and helped in what was necessary to bring back this chapel to its original splendour. It is being used monthly where Holy Mass is celebrated. Exception to Covid-19 that has brought along a total shut down we have always celebrated in July the feast of Patron Saint St. Anne. With great respect I am mentioning by name some of the past council members who worked hard over the years at Kappella Pwales.

These have now passed away but their memory lives on. I would like to mention Founder President Dr. Guido Saliba, George Grech, Joe Fenech, Lino Gatt, Tony Borg Cardona Alfred Zammit Montebello, John Curmi and Charles Calleja. The council of administration of ALPS, always had keen council members and for the last twenty years were led by George Stagno Navarra who continues to promote and keep the association active and bigger and run even more professionally to the benefit of its members and friends and to the Maltese society at large. The association is made up of Liceo past students who live in Malta and abroad. Through the

right contacts ALPS managed to have a representative branch in Canada led by Milo Vassallo and in Australia led by Oreste Aquilina who respectively take care of Lyceum past students who have emigrated years ago in search for a better career. These two gentlemen have from the September 2021 monthly council meeting, been co-opted and now started to take part in decision taking and the formation of new ideas to the benefit of all. I must not forget to mention two grand tours to Canada where a special reunion was held between a sizeable number past Lyceum students from Malta and another good number of ex Lyceum students who are now residing in Canada. Both re-unions in 2007 and 2016, were made possible with the help of our friend Milo Vassallo who for many years held the post of Hon. Consul General of Malta for Canada. The list of successes is rather long because ALPS hold so many feathers in its cap for the great success in organizing many events which at the same time, have always in some way served as reunions where those attending could reminisce from their good old day at the Lyceum. Events that for sure continue to be remembered by many ALPS members who attended with their spouses and friends, shall be the organised visit to the Vatican City and being so close to His Holiness Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square Rome. The various events organized every fifth birthday of the association, the last being the 25th anniversary which was the best ever organized, having His Eminence Cardinal Prospero Grech (deceased), celebrating Holy Mass at St John's Co Cathedral and a reception that was held afterwards at the old Lyceum premises in Valletta. The list of many successful events in the history of ALPS seems to be unending. As Lyceum past students, we have been blessed by having the best secondary school with many dedicated teachers who instilled in us good teachings in many different subjects. We should therefore all feel proud to have this Association of Lyceum Past Students that keeps us together. Let us all look forward to have more Lyceum past students to enrol and become members of ALPS.

As always our motto remains 'NIL-MEDIOCRITER'

Captured Memories from Yesteryear

written by Council member
Anthony Buttigieg

It is said that time flies and somehow it seems to go faster as we grow older. Recently I remembered that it has already been sixteen years since the day I happened to be on a flight back to London (where I had been living), when I noticed in 'The Times of Malta' an announcement which directly involved me. It was about a 50th year Anniversary Reunion for those students who had entered Form One of the newly built Lyceum at Hamrun in 1955. This of course was being organized by ALPS, The Association of Lyceum Past Students, which I must admit I had never heard of before.

A sense of regret befell me when I realized the reunion was to take place in a couple of weeks-time. I thought it was really too soon to fly back to Malta after a recent long holiday spent there. As I pointed this out to my wife sitting next to me and started to express my sadness, she immediately retorted that I should not miss such a once in a lifetime opportunity. Needless to say with the wife's blessings we returned to Malta for the Reunion. And what a Reunion it turned out to be. It was such a pleasure meeting up with my old classmates, some of whom still recognizable, albeit with a few more wrinkles. There was certainly a lot to talk about the pranks we got up



to at school or about the careers we followed after we left The Lyceum. It was an experience never to be forgotten which is still so vivid in my memory.

Like many others, I enrolled as a member of the Association that same evening and like all members I started to receive the quarterly newsletter listing the various events the Association had prepared for its members. These included weekend breaks, outings, cultural tours or simply attending mass once a month at the Pwales chapel. Mass is usually followed by a natter and a chatter with other

members over tea and biscuits on the chapel parvis. While still living in the UK and since by then I had retired from work, my wife and I very often planned our frequent trips to Malta to coincide with such events making it a point never to miss a weekend break at the Radisson be it for Valentine's night or the Yuletide celebrations

A few years later as we had by then retired to Malta for good I ended up being co-opted to join the council of administration. It was a time to come face to face and be humbled by the determination and dedication carried out behind the

scenes by such an administration especially by our President and our General Secretary. Without any doubt the last eighteen months have been the most dreadful for all of us. Our association had to cancel all its functions! However far it may still be from reaching the end of the Pandemic's dark tunnel, a glimmer of light is beginning to appear. So much so the council is already planning to resume, with caution being a priority, some of the popular events, always as long as the Health authorities permit. By the grace of God, hopefully, our plans will come to fruition in the not too long future.

Dear members and friends of ALPS. Annual renewal & enrolment fees/ subscriptions have not been increased since the time of changing into Euro currency. They remained the same. But, in view of forthcoming legislation that Banks are going to impose from the year 2022, the minimum amount permissible for payment by cheque, is going to be not less than €20. To facilitate matters and not increasing the annual fees, ALPS council will continue accepting cheques that should be to a minimum sum of €24.00 for a two year renewal of subscription. That is to say your renewal falls due every two years. (not annually as before) For those of you who would like to make a payment by REVOLUT, we can also offer this facility. Our Co-opted council member Carlo Farrugia will accept your payment and redirect it into the ALPS bank account. His mobile number is 9945 3434 / e-mail: carlo@carlofarrugia.com.

Alternatively you may also pay your subscription renewal by internet banking and we are listing hereunder details of the ALPS Bank of Valletta account as follows: Account No. 40017112381 / IBAN: MT96VALL2201300000040017112381



**PLEASE INFORM
ALPS OF ANY
CHANGE IN YOUR
E-MAIL OR HOME
ADDRESS:**

Kindly inform ALPS so that messages and other material may continue to come to your home address or your In-Box. Would you send a one liner message with e-mail address to alpsmalta@gmail.com or oscgalea457@gmail.com Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated. We ask you to help us to be up to date with our data base. If you find any difficulty to connect, you may call Oscar Galea on Tel: 2189 6293 / or Mob: 7989 6293.

A Lifetime of Memories



written by
co-opted Council Member
Milo Vassallo from Canada

Friendships I made throughout my life in Malta, started with elementary school, St. Joseph's Convent, Sliema (1942 – 1946) and secondary school, The Lyceum, Hamrun and Valletta, (1946 – 1951). Lifelong bonds were established and are still evident today. My working career at Cable & Wireless too gave me the chance to forge "forever friends".

I never lost touch with most of these friends and I had lots of opportunities to travel back to Malta and reacquaint myself with and catch up on the happenings of our lives.

One episode I recall fondly during my Lyceum years, is that in 1950 (fil-quarta tal' Liceo) elections were held to form

a committee to represent the students of "Quarta, Quinta, Sesta". Many of my friends lobbied in my favour and I was elected to be on the Board of a Student Council headed by Paul Xuereb a student in the same grade, (now Dr. Paul Xuereb, Librarian). Our regular meetings were held at the residence in Valletta of Mr. Burgess (il-Begiga) our geography teacher.

The Committee was formed to discuss matters arising from various grievances and important matters that pertain to students and their work. Suggestions were forthcoming from many pupils to help improve relationships between teachers and themselves.

My tenure on this committee, lasted until June 1951, when I had successfully applied and was accepted to join Cable & Wireless as a telegraph operator.

Many years passed and in 1979, married for ten years and with a six-year old daughter I took a bold decision to immigrate to Canada. This ultimately was the best decision we took as I had the honour and pleasure to represent Malta as Consul General (1988 – 1996) and reappointed (1999 – 2006). Here I also formed friendships with wonderful people both in the diplomatic circle and within the Maltese Canadian community.

On one of my diplomatic trips

to Malta in 1994, I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Guido Saliba, founder and first President of ALPS. At this time I became a Life Member of the Association and attended events held by them any time I was visiting Malta. I kept in touch with the Council of the Association and have established close friendships with all the Council members.

In 2007 a group of ALPS members and their spouses travelled to Canada and my wife and I had the opportunity to host them at a buffet dinner at our home. During their stay here in Toronto I also organised a dinner at a private club and invited other ALPS past-students, living in Ontario. This was a very successful event and many new friendships were re-established.

In 2016 the ALPS committee organised another trip to Ontario on their way to other cities in North America and once again my wife and I opened up our home and invited the group for a meal. Being a Sunday we started off by having an open-air Holy Mass in our garden. The setting was beautiful and a lovely buffet was set out. I also organised a dinner at the Marriott, a downtown Hotel, where I invited a former Lyceum student and prime entertainer, Enzo Guzman, who enthralled all with his rendition of Maltese, English

and Italian songs. It was a very nostalgic evening for all.

My aim for the Association is to promote membership with past pupils living here in Ontario and many have shown great interest and overseas membership has increased. The Council was extremely appreciative of my dedication and enthusiasm and to show gratitude they decided to co-opt me as a Council member where I can now join their monthly meetings via Zoom. I am honoured to form part of this Council who work very hard to keep the Association healthy. This came as a surprise to me as I always worked with good intentions never expecting anything in return.

The next item on my agenda is to be interviewed by our local Maltese Television program "Lehen Malti" which is televised throughout Canada, and this will give me the opportunity to reach many other past Lyceum students.

Being a Life Member of this Association has made me look back on my student years and made me realize that having spent five years in the best school in Malta, with excellent teachers and forming lifelong friendships have prepared me and given me values and principles which I greatly treasure.

Viva L'Liceo, Viva is-Serduq.

ALPS' Members Database

Oscar A Galea

Ever since the formation of the Association of Lyceum Past Students, the Administrative Council kept a comprehensive list of its members. Membership over the years continued to increase steadily almost right up to the present day, though not at the same rate.

In the last twelve years or so, the Council began to feel the need to upgrade the system and introduce an electronic database instead. During one of the ALPS Council meetings the advantages and disadvantages of an electronic database were discussed at length; it was finally unanimously agreed that

the introduction would indeed be most beneficial. This was a step in the right direction as the database provided the Council with better management and an improved and easy access to the members' information.

Having agreed on the issue, there arose the problem as to who was to take charge; the President asked for volunteers, but since most of the members had already been assigned other tasks, they were hesitant to volunteer. Being relatively new on the Council and with little engagements I volunteered to take the challenge, to the relief of the rest of the Council members.

The creation of the database was of course no mean task, it

required time and patience; the information included:

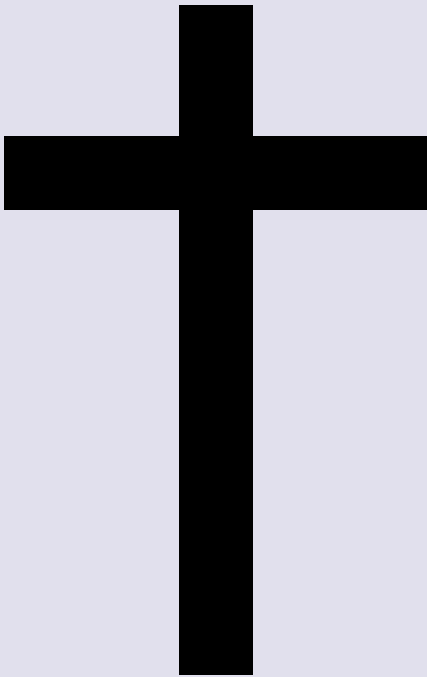
Membership Number, Status, Name & Surname, Address, Telephone & Mobile Numbers, Email Address, ID Number and Year of Entry to the Lyceum of each member. Similar data was captured for 'Friends of ALPS', except for the year of entry. The email addresses were then transcribed to the Gmail Account.

The Secretary General sends me a monthly review regarding membership for updating. This includes, information on new members, change of addresses and other personal information, deceased and/or resignations of members. The Gmail account is likewise amended.

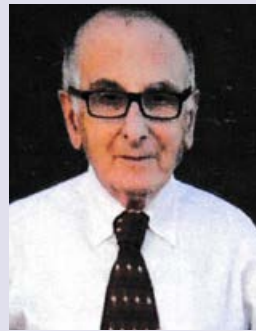
Contrary to my wish I had to resign from the Council for health reasons, nevertheless I asked the President and Council members if I could continue to maintain the ALPS database and to offer my assistance to other matters whenever the need arose; my request was acceded to.

Lastly, but equally important, it has been noted that some members have changed their email address and any ALPS messages, circulars and other notices are returned back as 'undelivered' or 'marked as does not exist'. I therefore appeal to you to inform us of any such changes as early as you possibly can, it would certainly help us immensely.

IN MEMORIAM



COMM. SALVATOR MOUSU



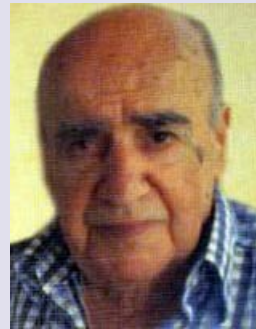
ROGER AQUILINA



PERIT MANUEL AGIUS



JOSEPHINE AGIUS



MARIO MIFSUD BONNICI



YVONNE BONELLO

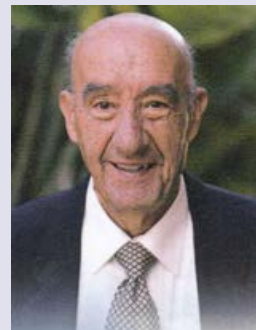
Very sadly during the months of the pandemic, a number of members and friends of ALPS have passed to Eternal Life. It is therefore our duty to keep remembering them in our prayers.

Our Founder President:
Dr Guido Saliba LL.D., died on 7th December 2004

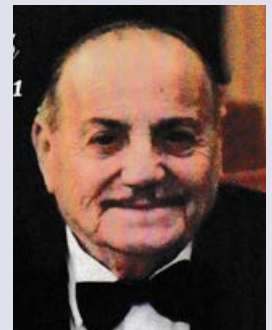
Irene Bartolo
John Zahra
Alfred Griscti
Louis Cuschieri
Albert Schembri Wismayer
John Mifsud



MARY DESIRA



BENEDICT GRECH



RONALD PUGLISEVICH

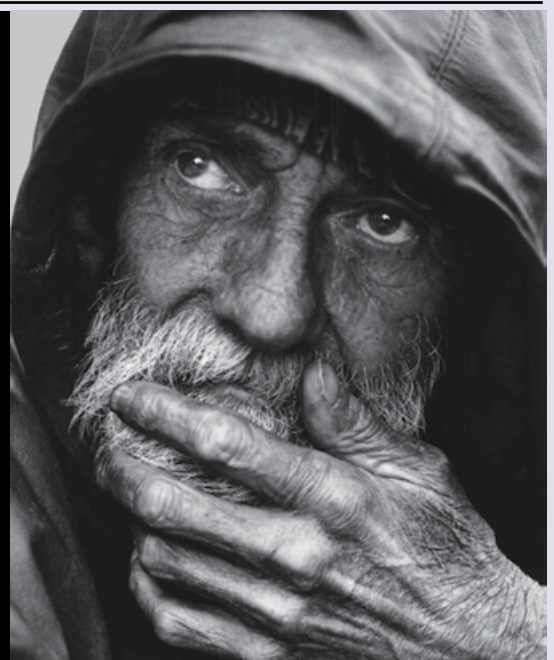
LET US NOT FORGET TO PRAY FOR ALL COVID-19 VICTIMS RIP

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...

*Happiness is like a kiss
You must share it to enjoy it
A kiss is a lovely trick by nature to stop
speech when words become superfluous
A kiss makes the heart young again
and wipes out the years
The sound of a kiss is not so loud as that of a
cannon but its echo lasts a great deal longer*



World Wide Web Accessibility & The Use of ALPS Website

In line with many other local and international associations and in an increasingly digital world, **The Association of Lyceum Past Students** has recognized the need to connect with its members and friends on-line.

In this manner while extending the association's reach on line, we slowly grow the membership numbers too. The ALPS web-site can and is actually accessed all around the globe. Lyceum past students have emigrated to far away countries and the use of

ALPS web-site of course will enable them to stay in touch with their past schoolmates. Many a time we receive a good number of hits from countries like Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada, China, Japan and many other places where it is quite possible to find a LICEO past student who may have found his country of adoption but he still yearns to remain in touch with his birthplace and more so, with the Lyceum school where he received his secondary education before graduating to

even higher Studies.

The Association of Lyceum Past Students is run by an energetic team, always exploring ways and means to reach out to as many as possible Lyceum past students. Do spread the word with all your family members and friends residing away from Maltese shores and who in their youth, were also Liceo students.

It you are reading this message and do not yet form part of the ALPS family, we recommend that you do so at the earliest

possible. For easy/quick contact:

THE ALPS WEB-SITE:
www.alpsmalta.com

THE ALPS E-MAIL:
alpsmalta@gmail.com

THE ALPS SECRETARY GENERAL: Alex Borg - 9988 8579 / after 19.00 hrs. 2258 7418

WEB-SITE DEVELOPER: Joseph D. Buttigieg josephdbtg@gmail.com / Mob: 9922 2787

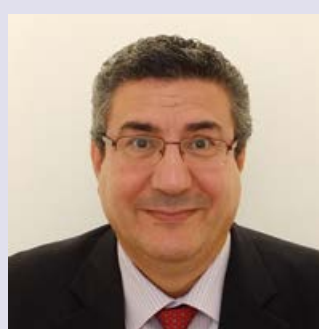
The introduction of virtual meetings of ALPS

The COVID pandemic has affected each and every one of us at an individual, family, country and global level. It has changed our way of life and has impacted our quality of life due to the virus itself and the large number of restrictions imposed on all of us in order to control the spread of the virus. Now we are in a much better situation than we were last year due to the vaccine and decreasing number of infected persons and most of all the drastic reduction in deaths.

During these difficult times, over the past months since March 2020, many things have

evolved especially with relation to technology that has stepped in very well by increasing opportunities to hold all types of meetings and sessions online. This does not substitute meeting in presence, face to face, but it is an acceptable solution until things get better for all.

One of these online technology is known as ZOOM which is a cloud-based video communications app that allows persons to set up a virtual video and audio conferencing, webinars, live chats, screen-sharing, and other collaborative capabilities. It has now become very popular together with TEAMS and SKYPE and are being used for all types of meetings. One of the most important and popular reasons



Carlo Farrugia

for using Zoom is the quality of the participants, and not only their members, but also the moderators. Some companies need remote help, and when there are difficulties in finding the right people for a job, they use Zoom. This application is also very popular with teachers who were using

ZOOM in the worst period when it was not possible to meet to hold lessons and keep in touch with their students.

ALPS also decided to make use of ZOOM for its Council meetings over these last months and meetings are now being held regularly every month and all council members participating very willingly and actively. In this manner the ALPS Council continued with its meetings and could dedicate time to the association during this difficult time in its history. ALPS is also ready to organise meetings for its members if the latter are interested and remain open to any suggestions coming from the members to recreate that human contact which is very important for all of us.

The ALPS cruise holiday after the pandemic...

The clock keeps ticking and the days are passing. More of our members have already booked for the cruise on a very luxurious ship. An attractive offer as shown on the back of this newsletter, has been specially prepared for members and friends of The Association of Lyceum Past Students. Come and join us for an interesting cruise aboard one of the NCL vessels **the Norwegian Escape** with its exceptional dining, entertainment, bar and club options that abound. We are confident that there would be something for everyone. It is a ten days Malta to Malta cruise holiday for the period 8th to 18th September 2022. We shall be cruising to East



and West Mediterranean ports of call, with shore excursions that can be most interesting for all who decide to come. The chosen vessel "Escape" is ideal for people looking for theater entertainment and variety shows. There are many bars and restaurants onboard. Feel

sure that if you are coming on this interesting cruise, you may probably have to sail twice to try out everything. You are assured to find something that appeals to your taste. The ALPS group will be sharing the ship primarily with couples and groups of friends, from different parts of the world.

And that should integrate us and let us be happy to again be living our life as we have always known it to be pre-Covid-19. The freestyle cruising experience will for sure enable you to bring back unforgettable memories of many shore excursions during the cruise which is very adequately named "Pearls of the Mediterranean" Cabin reservations remain open through SMS Orange Travel Group subject to availability of cabins. Please contact at earliest Ms. Victoria Battistino at 311 Republic Street Valletta Tel: 2277 6018 or visit vbattistino@smsmondial.com.mt.

Inside & outside cabins at different levels of NCL Escape are awaiting your booking. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Please Help Me Sustain the ALPS Finances

by David Abela
ALPS Hon. Treasurer

I'm sure that, like me, you must be all looking forward to the resumption of ALPS activities which had to be placed on the back-burner due to the Covid 19 pandemic, in the interest of our members and their partners.

These past 18 months have been tough for all concerned, but especially so for us senior citizens, compelled to 'house arrest', literally, to the extent that a lot of us ended up communicating with our dear ones exclusively on social media. The council meetings, of course, were no exception but, thanks to the support of (freshly – co-opted council member) Carlo Farrugia, we could still meet, albeit virtually.

Fortunately, things have started looking up once more and the Council is therefore hard at work, planning different ways of getting us to meet up with each other and our respective spouses, under the auspices of the local health regulations.

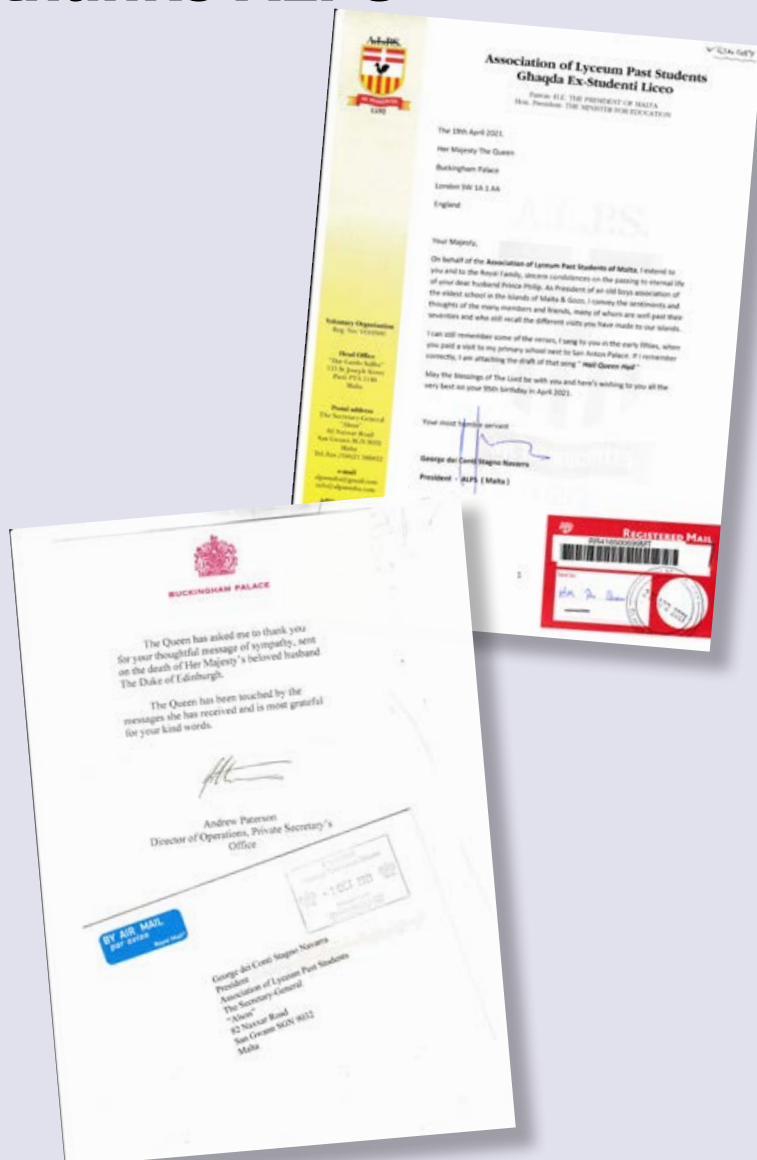
Of course, the absence of functions has left the piggybank high and dry, because income has been



at a total standstill, whilst expenses relentlessly continue to be incurred and, of course, paid for. A major expense has been, as you all know, the publication of the latest edition of the Chanticleer, on top of which was the cost of postage to distribute copies to all members in Malta as well as overseas. Thanks to the generous donations by a good number of members (alas not all) the expense starts to be partially offset.

It is an honor for me to look after the organization's finances and I am therefore eagerly looking forward to recovering some of the losses incurred since March 2020. With this in mind I appeal to those members who have yet to pay their membership fees to do so as soon as possible. A small number of you have a couple of years or so, to catch up. The subscription is unlikely to break the bank but it is, of course, our lifeblood. In thanking you all in anticipation, for helping me to manage the ALPS purse, I wish you good health.

Her Majesty the Queen thanks ALPS



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PEARLS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

VISITING: MESSINA, NAPLES, LIVORNO, ROME, SANTORINI, ATHENS, MYKONOS & CORFU



DATE	PORT	ARR	DEP
Day 1	Valletta, Malta		22:00
Day 2	Messina, Sicily, Italy	08:00	18:00
Day 3	Naples, Italy	06:30	16:30
Day 4	Livorno (Pisa/Florence), Italy	08:30	20:30
Day 5	Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy	06:00	17:00
Day 6	At Sea		
Day 7	Santorini, Greece	13:00	22:00
Day 8	Piraeus (Athens), Greece	07:00	18:00
Day 9	Mykonos, Greece	07:00	14:00
Day 10	Corfu, Greece	12:00	20:00
Day 11	Valletta, Malta	13:30	

BONUS OFFER

FOR THE FIRST & SECOND GUEST IN TWIN OCCUPANCY*

PLEASE CHOOSE 1 FREE PICK FROM THE BELOW OPTIONS (MUST BE SAME PICK FOR BOTH GUESTS)

SPECIALITY
DINING PACKAGE
INCLUDING 3-MEAL SPECIALITY DININGSHORE EXCURSIONS
CREDIT
\$50 PER PORT
SHORE EXCURSION CREDIT PER CABINWIFI
PACKAGE
250 MINUTES INTERNET PACKAGE
PER CABIN

*Triple & Quad Rooms automatically receive a higher reduction in fare compared to other dates, therefore Bonus Offer does not apply.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 10 Nights Cruise on Full Board Basis on the Norwegian Escape
- Premium Drinks Package for the first and second guest
- Soda Package for 3rd & 4th Adults
- Daily entertainment and use of onboard facilities
- Port Taxes & fees
- Protection by the Insolvency Fund

NOT INCLUDED:

- Gratuities at \$15.50 per person per day, which can be prepaid or paid on board
- Travel Insurance (optional) but highly recommended
- Shore Excursions

ALPS are not responsible for any bookings before, during or after the trip

	INSIDE			OUTSIDE			BALCONY			CHILD	INF
	TWIN	TRIPLE	QUAD	TWIN	TRIPLE	QUAD	TWIN	TRIPLE	QUAD	2-17YRS	UNDER 2YR
08 SEP	1679	1479	1379	1979	1779	1679	2279	2079	1979	299	199

Prices are per person and in Euro (€). Child & infant rates are applicable when sharing with 2 Adults. Infants must be under 2 years on the return flight. T1 (Studio) cabins for solo traveller - 60% Supplement on Inside rate. Single Use in Inside/ Outside/Balcony - 80% Supplement on applicable category

smsmondial

For Bookings kindly contact Ms Victoria Battistino
at our Valletta Branch on 22776018
or on vbattistino@smsmondial.com.mt