



CLUB NEWS



NEXT MEETINGS are scheduled for Wednesday March 6 and Wednesday March 20 commencing at 6.30 p.m., at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Sliema. The meeting on March 20 will followed by a talk by a guest speaker. Members can invite guests for the talk which usually starts at 7.30 p.m. After the talk members and guests can stay on for a meal at the hotel.

CULTURAL VISIT: Unfortunately due to the inclement weather on Sunday February 24 the visit to Palazzo Parisio at Naxxar had to be cancelled. Arrangements are being made to have the visit on another Sunday morning. Members will be announced of the new date.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: The annual fund-raising Alex Mangion golf tournament will be held on Tuesday March 19 in association with the Royal Malta Golf Club. Tee off is at 0900 but members can be present for the prize giving ceremony around noon. Those wishing can stay over for lunch at the club.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2019: The Convention is being held in Milano (Italy) between July 5 to 9. A few members of our Club will be attending this event which after ten years is being once more being held in Europe. It is a unique occasion for European Lions to attend this Convention. Members can still register with Lions Clubs International Headquarters at Oak Brook, Illinois, USA while the registration fee is \$150 before it goes up by end of March, and while hotel bookings are still at moderate prices before these are increased.

LC SLIEMA/LC BOSCO MARENGO EXCHANGE:

Discussions are ongoing between the two Clubs to host a Maltese youth to visit a botanical garden in Alessandria (Italy) and an Italian youth to visit Malta. The proposal was made by our Italian Lions. Imm. Past President Lion George O. Attard is liaising with our twinned Club. It is hoped that this exchange will succeed. More details later.



FEBRUARY 2019

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SERVICE IS A JOURNEY

When we became Lions, we embarked on a journey together. We all started down a path of service, sharing kindness, bringing hope to our communities, changing the lives of the people we serve, and changing our own along the way.

But in many respects, the service itself is a journey. It isn't something that comes together in a single day and it doesn't end when the event is over. It is a cycle of learning and doing and celebrating, so that we can continue evolving our work and expanding our capacity to serve.

We learn of a problem - perhaps it is an epidemic of diabetes in our hometown or a local population in need of medical care—and we begin to think of ways in which our club might help. We do some research, we reach out to people who know about the issue, and we learn more about the needs and the obstacles in our path. This is the learning and discovering that comes before the doing. And this makes the service we do that much better, because it is more informed, and more prepared, and ultimately more effective.

Reporting what we do and sharing our stories is also a key component to keeping the movement going. It is one thing to perform a good deed. It is another to perform a good deed and share the story of your service with others who may champion your cause or even join you in service - all because they were inspired by your story.

Remember, we are all on this journey together. We are all heading towards one goal - a better world - yet we are all taking different paths to get there. The process of getting there is just as important as the destination. What is your path?

SERVICE IS OUR JOURNEY

Guðrun

Yngvadóttir



YOUTH EXCHANGE AND CAMPS



The Lions Youth Exchange Programme was founded in 1961 with the participation of just a few countries. It immediately met the interest of the whole Lions' movement and in 1974 was officially adopted by Lions International.

Youth Camps are organised in various countries. In Europe there are several Lions Districts or Clubs which organise a youth camp lasting normally two weeks. Youths from various countries outside Europe participate in these camps thus enabling them to learn about the way of living in the country where the camp is organised and also exchanging ideas with their counterparts.

In nearby Italy at least seventeen (17) district or inter-district host about twenty youngsters each. For this reason, every year about 300 children go abroad and 300 are hosted in Italy. This is a huge movement that has no equal in other countries. It can be affirmed that, excluding the United States, where, however, the activity is less structured and coordinated centrally, Italy is the country with the highest number of youngsters participating in the camps. Moreover, it is important to underline that Italy is perhaps the only nation in the world that can also count 3 camps for disabled children, a national one and 2 other related to districts.

The Lions Youth Exchange programme is a growth opportunity for the young people but also for the host families and for all clubs who help and support the initiative every year.

in contact with the Camp Organisers to send a Maltese youth to Naples Lions Club Sliema has, in the past, organised a successful youth camp which attracted youths from several European countries. The Club also sponsored Maltese youths to attend similar camps in Cyprus, England and Sicily. The Club has discussed the possibility of sending a youth to Campo Vesuvius this summer. The problem is to find a host family to reciprocate the visit by hosting an Italian youth for a week. Hopefully we will succeed and go ahead with the project.

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Besides the merchandise, the second most valuable item to be seized from a captured ship was the passengers and crew. These would be ransomed or sold in the Maltese markets. It was therefore in the corsairs' interest to kill or maim the prisoners. Sadly not all abided by this and some were well known for their cruelty.

A few names of families who started out as corsairs are the Pretsiosi, Natale, Bardon and Lorenzi. However Maltese residents also became corsairs such as the Spiteri, Caruana, Demanuele and Barbara.

Corsair activity started to decline when the Knights were expelled from Malta by Napoleon Bonaparte. At this time the Ottoman Empire started to decline and the pirates of North Africa were bombed out by the American, British and Dutch navies after a series of wars to become known as the Barbary Wars.

During his presentation Mr Mallia signalled out corsair Gugliermo Lorenzi (1735-1799) of Corsican descent. Lorenzi was operating from Malta in 1759. He was known to be fearless, courageous and ambitious. He first settled in Senglea and later moved to Valletta. Lorenzi was very successful in capturing enemy ships. In fact he was reported to have "impoverished the East, accumulating impressive wealth".

Lorenzi lived a life of peril. It was his destiny to be killed by a firing squad along with Dun Mikel Xerri on 17 January for participating in, or being the leader, in the insurgency against the French.

(The series "The Maltese Corsairs" will be screened on local television in the autumn of 2019.)

Editor's Note:

The above article was written by Second Vice President Lion Margaret Frendo. Thanks Lion Margaret for a very informative and interesting writeup. Members are invited to contribute articles regarding Lions and their activities, or send comments and suggestions regarding our newsletter. All opinions are welcome.

"WE SERVE"



LIONS DAY

WITH THE UNITED NATIONS



Every year Lions worldwide are invited to the United Nations to meet the Secretary General and other dignitaries. This year's events will be the 41st time that these events will be held.

Originally the event was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. However in recent years two events are being held since another meeting is also held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Lions Clubs International highlights three facts why Lions worldwide should attend the events, namely:

1. To connect with UN Representatives, Lions, Leos and other leaders in service.
2. Learn how Lions Clubs International and the UN are working together with a shared theme of "*Protecting our future. The Health of our Children*".
3. Discover new and innovative ways to serve and support future service leaders.

This year's events are being held on Saturday March 9 in New York and on Wednesday April 10 in Geneva. Interested Lions can book with the Lions Clubs International Headquarters in Oakbrook, USA.

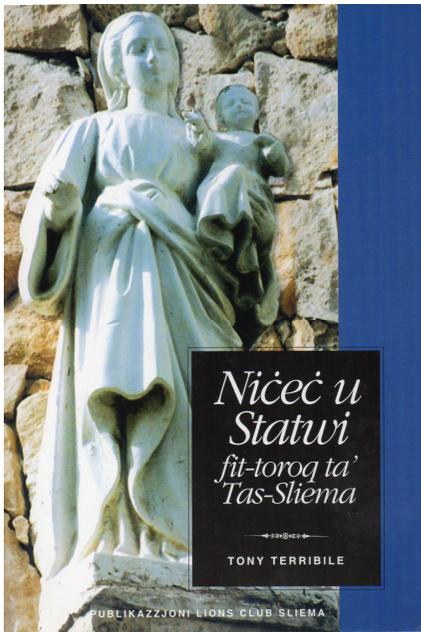
The New York event also serves as an occasion to present the winner of the Peace Poster Competition with his/her prize. Usually the winner and runner-ups are invited to attend the ceremony. The Peace Poster Competition which is held annually is recognised by the United Nations as a means to encourage children of all nations to think of peace and understanding amongst the world's youngsters. It is normal for the United Nations Secretary General or one of his deputies to be present for the annual event.

Note: Once again our Club will be organising this year's Peace Poster competition amongst the Maltese school children. Lion Louis Sciberras will once again be the organiser of this event.

A PAST PROJECT CORNER NICHES & STATUES IN SLIEMA

Walking along the streets of Sliema one can notice various niches and statues at street corners of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and various Saints. Some of these niches have been in street corners for ages and a few needed restoration.

Several of our Club members live in this town and hence our Club when celebrating its silver anniversary in 1999 set up a project to restore several of the niches and statues adorning Sliema. .



Lion Alfred Micallef Attard, the Club President at that time, made the restoration of some of the niches one of the main projects during his presidency. As part of this project the Club also published a booklet, in Maltese, to highlight the number of niches and statues found in Sliema.

In the booklet Mr Tony Terribile, a resident of Sliema, gave a brief history of each of the niches and statues restored. Photos of 24 niches restored were included in the publication. This publication covered a few of these works of art which are found in the parishes of Stella Maris, Saint Gregory, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, The Sacred

Heart of Mary and Jesus of Nazareth.

By publishing this booklet our Club fulfilled one of the objectives of Lions namely *"to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community"*.

MONTHLY TALK - "THE CORSAIRS OF MALTA"

The February guest speaker was Salvu Mallia. Mallia is well known to the public through his television programmes about Maltese historic events in various towns and villages. When introducing himself he explained that he is not a historian, nor a scholar, as he bases his knowledge on other authors' research.

The talk was about "The Corsairs of Malta". He started by explaining that the geographic position of the Maltese Islands, in the middle of a vast sea, made the inhabitants a seafaring nation. Going through the various rulers of Malta, one perceives that all were involved in naval activities. He then put the question: "Who were these corsairs? What made a corsair different from a pirate?"



A corsair is an individual granted a licence by a sovereign to fit out a ship, fly his flag, to attack the sovereign's enemy. The enemy in the case of Malta was all the Muslim ships. A pirate was an individual who, as the corsair fitted out a ship to attack the enemy, but operated on his own initiative. However, there were instances when Christian corsairs attacked Greek Christian ships. In such instances, these cases ended up in a lawsuit. As it could take a long time to settle, many cases were settled out of court.

Vice President Margaret Frendo presenting Club bannerette to Mr Salvu Mallia

With the arrival to Malta of the Knights Hospitaliers of St. John, corsairing became institutionalised. The Order organised yearly caravans in which every young man aspiring to join the Order had to participate. So profitable was the prize from this activity, that many corsairs came to settle in Malta, many of them from Corsica. The area around Malta provided a limited potential prospect for a profitable prize, therefore corsairs from Malta operated in the Levant, around the Greek islands, where Turkish ships operated carrying merchandise between one country to another.

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