

h o l i

C U L T U R A L M A G A Z I N E



IN
PVERO SPES

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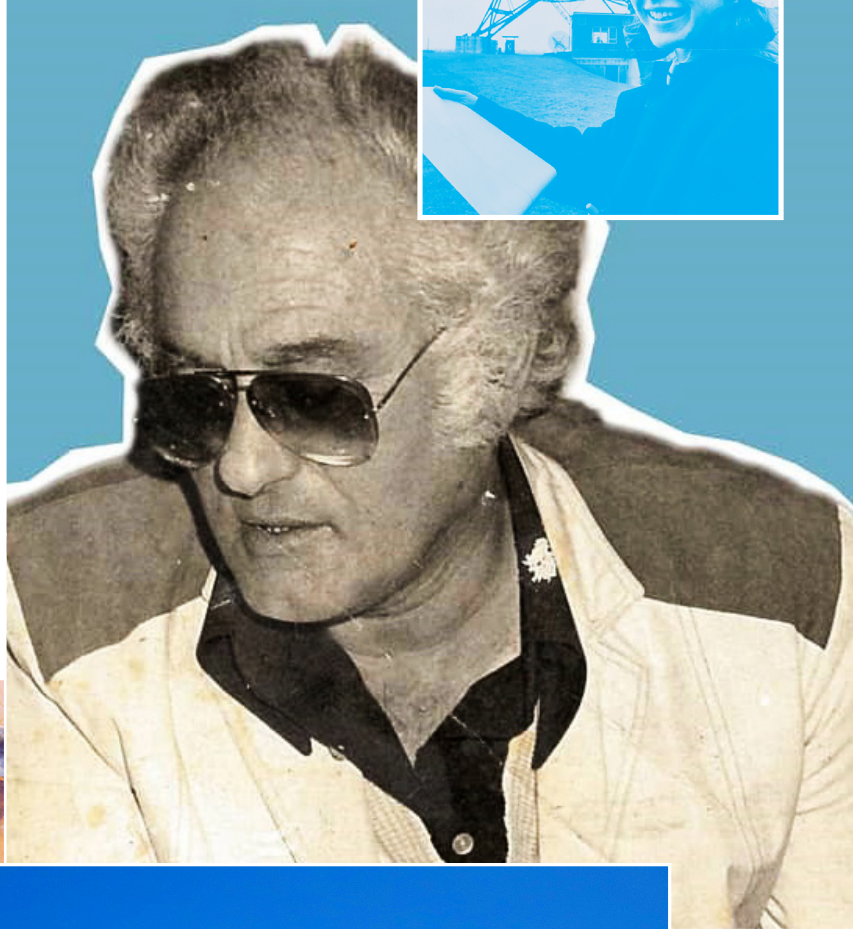
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MEETING POINT

Any biographical aspects you want to share with Haoli readers?

As you know I have now retired from work altogether. I finished senior school at 16 and enrolled for a two-year secretarial course at the Polytechnic in Msida (Junior College now). My first job was summer part time clerical work with a notary. I also worked for some months at the Hotel Verdala in Rabat and later as a secretary/receptionist with an Audit company in Floriana. During that time I got married and stopped when I got pregnant with our twin boys. We later had a girl. Although I stayed home, this did not mean that I stopped working altogether. While my in-laws babysat I used to take in young students and help them with their homework and studies. In the meantime I also set for and obtained a diploma as a beautician. I opened my own salon at home so I could still look after my kids.

When was it you decided to work as Secretary at De La Salle College 6th form? Why exactly?

When I realized that my children were old enough to take care of themselves I decided it was the time to start working outside home so I took a course in computing. I applied for the vacant position as Sixth Form Secretary at De La Salle and remained there for 22 years. In the meantime my children all got married and I am proud to say that I am a grandmother of 2 boys and 3 girls.

An interview with Marisa Xuereb, Ex-Secretary at De La Salle Sixth Form College, MALTA

How do you describe your experience as Secretary during all these years at the college? Any particular moments you'll never forget?

I loved working with the teenage students at De La Salle. For me it felt like they were all my children. I was always sad when they graduated after their two-year stint at the college. I don't recall names but I can always tell the ex De La Salle Sixth Formers. I hardly ever missed Lasallian Nights or World Nights. It was such a pleasure watching the students in their roles of performers. Their talents are amazing. I will forever remember the occasions when the staff entertained the students and my helping out in the fundraising activities.

What is the last book you read? Reactions to it?

The last book I read was No Child of Mine by Susan Lewis. It is a sad story about a social worker whose job is about helping people, especially children. She cares about them passionately and does everything in her power to rescue them from those who mean them harm. The story centres round a three-year-old girl who was rescued by this social worker from her father who was a paedophile. The story is utterly compelling and deeply moving.

What are your pastimes/free time activities?

Reading is my main pastime. I read books, magazines, newspapers and I use my tablet mostly for reading and looking up information. I am passionate about food and travelling. I like to keep fit and go regularly to aerobics

and zumba. I have more time on my hands now so I try to walk every morning. I also love solving puzzles like crosswords, sudoku, codebreaker, alfabodo etc. I find them so relaxing.

What's next on your bucket list?

Traveling to far-away places is on my bucket list. I would love to go to Australia and New Zealand, maybe Malaysia and Thailand, places I never had the opportunity to visit. I have been on a helicopter tour, I have tried rafting, sledging, now I would like to try ziplining. My greatest wish is to stay healthy so that I can enjoy life in peace and watch my adorable grandchildren grow up into responsible adults.



FRANCIS EBEJER

IR-RIFORMATUR TAT-TEATRU MALTI

Alfred Camilleri hu għalliem
tal-Malti fil-Kulleġġ De La
Salle College Sixth Form.

Il-palk Malti sa diversi snin wara t-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija kien għadu tradizzjonali fil-kwalita` tax-xogħlijiet li kien itella'. Id-drammi li kienu jinħadmu kienu ta' żewġ għamliet: jew tad-daħk (fares) jew tal-biki (melodrammi). Jew kont toħroġ mis-sala mgħawweġ bl-uġiġħ bid-daħk jew inkella b'maktur f'idejk tixxotta d-dmugħ. Donnu kien hemm ferita psikoloġika fil-valuri letterarji tal-palk Malti.

Francis Ebejer (1925-1993) ma kienx kuntent bil-qagħda li fiha sab lit-teatru Malti ta' dak iż-żmien. Hasso li kien wasal il-waqt biex it-teatru lokali jinqata' minn din il-faži tradizzjonali tiegħu. Hasso ukoll li ma kienx għad fadal aktar lok li l-udjenza tidhak bil-karattru Malti fuq il-palk propju

għax jipprezenta ruħu bħala l-injurant. Għalhekk kellu jkun dak id-drammaturgu li jgħib bidla radikali fit-teatru Malti b'tali mod li jibda jimxi fuq l-istess linji tal-barranin.

Ir-riżultat ta' dan kollu kien li Ebejer ntefa' b'ruħu u ġismu għall-kitba tad-drammi u xogħlijiet letterarji oħra. Uħud mid-drammi li għamlulu suċċess kienu: *Vaganzi tas-Sajf* (1962), *Boulevard* (1964), *Menz* (1967), *Il-Ħadd fuq il-Bejt* (1971) u *L-Imnarja Żmien Il-Qtil* (1973). Dawn huma kollha xogħlijiet imfassla fuq il-linji tat-teatru barrani kontemporanju.

Mario Azzopardi jiddeskrivi lil Ebejer b'dan il-mod: "Ebejer huwa d-drammaturgu straordinarju li qiegħed lit-teatru Malti ras im'ras mal-movimenti sperimentali ta' żmienna". (Mario Azzopardi, *It-Tieni Volum tad-Drammi ta' Francis Ebejer*, L-Orizzont, 26 ta' Nov 1970, p. 9) Charles Flores jikkummenta hekk: "Francis Ebejer reaches his 'people' with a series of absorbing plays which have opened new horizons to the local art of playwriting." (Charles Flores; *The Fountain in the garden*, Malta News, 26/11/1970, p. 7).

L-isfortuna kienet li l-udjenza u n-nies b'mod ġenerali ma kinux imħejjija għal din l-istruttura ġdida fil-kitba għall-palk. Il-biċċa l-kbira ma bdew jifhmu xejn u donnu ftit kienu daww il-maturi li kienu jifhmu l-messaġġi li ried iwassal Ebejer. Madanakollu, in-nies xorta kienet toħnoq it-teatru Manoel kull darba li kien jittella' xi drammi ta' Ebejer.

Jolqtuni ħafna żewġ osservazzjonijiet interessanti tal-mibki iżda qatt minsi Fr. Peter Serracino Inglott dwar l-udjenzi ta' Ebejer:

"The Maltese public welcomed Ebejer's plays because they obviously struck a chord in its own heart. I think however, that this appreciation was due to a subconscious realisation of what Ebejer was saying which very few were capable of bringing to the surface of consciousness."

"I think the attitude is one of admiration mixed with puzzlement, provoked by the fact that Ebejer achieves a paradoxical expression corresponding to the dilemma which they unconsciously feel. His work is an intellectual quest which raises problems and lays one open to risks, while its objective is in achieving peace and simplicity."

(Peter Serracino Inglott, *Maltese Literature in the Sixties*, Hyphen, Spring 1978, No. 3, p. 48)



Francis Ebejer (1925-1993) ma kienx kuntent bil-qagħda li fiha sab lit-teatru Malti ta' dak iż-żmien. Ħass li kien wasal il-waqt biex it-teatru lokali jinqata' minn din il-fażi tradizzjonali tiegħu.

Kull min xi darba kellu sehem fil-produzzjoni ta' xi drammi Ebejerjan, jgħidlek li kien ikun mimli tensjoni dwar x'kienet se tkun ir-reazzjoni tal-udjenza għad-dramm, xi haġa li kienet imprevidibbli għall-aħħar.

Ebejer aktar kien jinteressah l-istil avantgardista li hu kontinwament juża għall-kitbiet tiegħu milli jhossu mxekkel u limitat jekk jagħżel li jaddotta l-istil konvenzjonali lokali. Għalih ma kintix importanti r-reazzjoni tal-udjenza għax-xogħlijiet tiegħu. Darba qal hekk dwar rumanz li kien għadu kif ippubblika: "miktub fi stil avantgardista... niddubita x'mertu kummerċjali se jrin jaraw fih... Għaliha huwa l-aħjar haġa li qatt ktibt; u nibqa' ngħid hekk ukoll jekk qatt ma jiċċaqtaq minn fuq l-ixkaffa." (George Attard, Palkorama, Malta, 1966, p. 17)

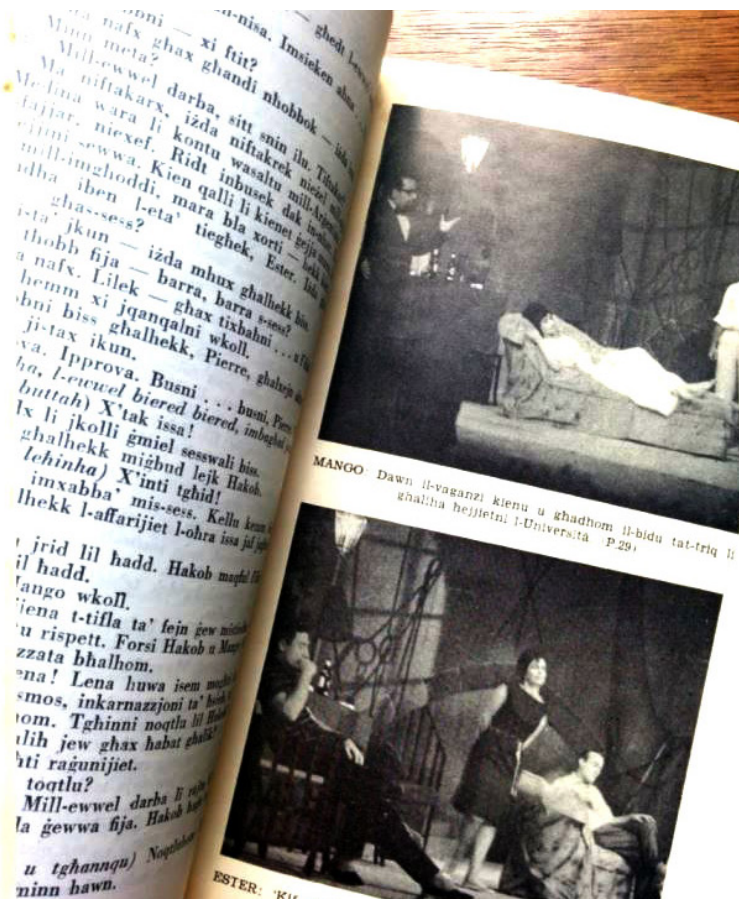
Għalkemm Francis Ebejer bena d-drammi tiegħu fuq generi teatrali kontemporanji barranin, ma jfissirx li kkopjahom. Huwa użahom biex holoq stil li hu tiegħu, holoq timbru sħiħ u awtentikament tiegħu.

Ġuże` Aquilina għandu dan il-kliem qawwi fuq Ebejer: "Nistgħu ngħidu li Francis Ebejer, kunjom u isem flimkien, daħlu fl-istorja tat-tijatru Malti ta' żmienna bħalma fi żminijiet oħra daħlu fl-istil ġdid tal-poeżija l-ismijiet ta' Ġuże` Muscat Azzopardi u Dun Karm." (Ġuże` Aquilina, Lill-Qarrej, għall-ktieb Id-Drammi ta' Francis Ebejer, Vol. I, Lux Press, Malta, 1965, p. i)

Għal Francis Ebejer, il-ġrajniet li jsejtnu fuq il-palk mhumiex importanti fihom infushom. L-aktar li jinteressah hu l-mod ta' kif dawn jiġu interpretati

mill-udjenza. Għalhekk l-udjenza trid tmur lil hinn mill-fatti partikulari u tapplikahom fil-ħajja ta' kuljum. Mela l-effett li jhalli d-dramm ta' Ebejer huwa wieħed ċerebrali u mhux viżwali.

L-importanza ta' Francis Ebejer fil-letteratura Maltija hija doppja. L-ewwel nett kien hu li refa' d-dramm Malti mit-tradizzjonalizmu esagerat li kien jinsab fih. It-tieni nett, huwa rnexxielu jagħmel din it-taqliba kollha bis-saħħa ta' drammi miktuba bil-Malti biex weraw li l-Malti mhux lingwa inqas mill-oħrajn jew inkella limitata fil-vokabularju u fl-idjoma, anke meta trid tfisser ideat u ambjenti barranin.



MEETING THE PRESIDENT

VISIT BY HER EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA MARIE LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA

From the moment she was appointed, in April of 2014, President of Malta, Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca has symbolised the dawn of a new era for this country. Only the second female Head of State in Malta's history, Her Excellency has made the participation of women in the highest levels of our workforce one of her main objectives of her five year tenure. This became all the more clear during her courtesy visit to our school on the 11th of October, 2018, during which she enthusiastically engaged in an open discussion with a mixed group of sixth formers.

This brief, yet immensely beneficial, visit was part of an initiative from the President's Office aimed at promoting the importance of women's involvement in decision-

making roles. Her Excellency, a seasoned politician who served in Malta's highest institution for an impressive 16 years, epitomises women's potential at assuming executive positions of a certain calibre. Throughout her political career, she insisted on the importance that women be present at the table, and that they get the sufficient representation they deserve. Her Excellency explained to us the various policies she had implemented within her party's structure, ideas which were seen as revolutionary at the time, but which over the years have proved to be tremendously effective and have since spread on a national level, and not exclusively within the political sphere. In fact, politics is one of the areas in which a lot of work has yet to be done in this regard. The President noted with evident disappointment that only

13% of our parliamentary representatives are women, a miserable figure which is not very different to those regarding executive positions in companies and NGOs.

However, perhaps the most baffling statistics are those regarding women and education. The President explained that at post-secondary and university level, there is practically no discrepancy between male and female students. At this point, a student posed a question which is extraordinarily complex in its simplicity. Why do the numbers drop so drastically when it comes to jobs and executive roles? Her Excellency promptly responded by sharing with us her views on the Maltese culture, and on our mentality as a nation about women's active participation in all levels of society. She reiterated that, unfortunately, the patriarchal system is still in force in Malta, especially amongst the older generations. She went on by passionately expressing her encouragement that we, the younger generation and the future of Malta, take it in our stride to achieve true gender equality, and hence create a society which can finally 'exploit' its human resources to the full and maximise the benefits at stake, economic, cultural and social amongst others.

Another student followed up by asking what can be done, in practical terms, to improve the dire situation we currently find ourselves in. Her Excellency's reply was proof of her extensive knowledge

on the subject. She outlined two practices which, when adopted as transitory policies, can bring about long-term, tangible change. Positive discrimination and quotas are two rather controversial ways by which women's involvement is encouraged. However, Her Excellency insisted that they can never be the long-term solution, and are only beneficial when adopted as transitory procedures. The real solution, and the only

way forward, is a complete and total change in mentality, a culture which does not look down on women, but which understands and appreciates the priceless contribution women can give to our society.

One hopes that such initiatives are not a one-off, and that our female students embrace the President's wise words of encouragement. Malta certainly needs more young women following in the

footsteps of Her Excellency, a woman who was never fazed by the seemingly insurmountable odds against her, a woman who truly seeks to make a lasting, positive impact.

Matthew Camilleri







INTERVIEW

An interview with Michela Pulis about her interest in and passion for writing.

1. When and how did you become interested in writing?

I had not been an enthusiastic reader or writer until Form 3 came around and slapped me in the face. My mum would make me read books that taught one how to best illustrate a piece of writing and would have me read books in my free time. Until Form 3 came around and a particular teacher helped me see the beauty within writing and reading; the way someone is able to express themselves through such a work of art. Having anxiety and many other past experiences definitely helped me to endeavour in

such activities. Moreover, two years ago I had a Maltese teacher that helped me to attain certain knowledge with regards to literature. He has also been the backbone to many of my writings by helping me edit most of my work. He has enlisted me in competitions, publications and open mics ever since.

2. What is your favourite medium? Poetry, short story writing, prose in general? Why?

To be honest, I feel that I write poetry best in Maltese and short stories in English. I have not yet tried my hand at prose.

I do believe that the Maltese language can sound beautifully poetic. I find it much easier to find short words that define what my mind is trying to portray in a particular poem in Maltese rather than in English. On the other hand, I do love metaphoric writings as well as reflective ones and I must admit that I find myself doing that best in English as I like to take the longer road in such cases.

3. Who are your favourite local/ foreign writers and which works do you like most?

I must admit that I do not tend to favour one author or the other only because that same author might not always produce the same kinds of writings. However, a year or so ago I stumbled upon a book of Leanne Ellul 'GRAMMA' and I must admit that it touched me in the most beautiful way it could. The raw material within it about the eating disorder anorexia still tightens my throat. There is also the poetess Nadia Mifsud who was born in Malta but currently lives in France. She is also brilliant. Writers such as Nicholas Sparks, Trevor Zahra as well as Rita Saliba and William Shakespeare are renowned for their amazing work.

4. Writing takes time. Is this so for you? From where do you get your inspiration?

I do not believe that writing takes time, no. However,

editing does. Most of my pieces are written during bus/car rides, while waiting or in the midst of the night. I get my inspiration from the experiences I have been through, listening to other people, continuous reading, my surroundings etc. Personally, writing is the easy part but when editing comes around it takes a lot of work of constant judgement from oneself and others. I usually reread my writings aloud for ages until they sound right. In the meantime, I try to find expressions that are not commonly used and search for new ways how I may express myself.

5. When is the best time for you to write? Why?

As for time, I think that night time is my prime time since I am slightly tired and everyone is fast asleep. However, I have found myself writing

during times when I might feel slightly troubled. Anxiety also helps me write because it gives me inspiration. During exam time, I tend to come up with tons of ideas since my mind is consuming so much knowledge at once.

6. Did you ever have the opportunity to participate in writing/poetry competitions? Would you consider becoming a full-time writer or teaching literature at university level? Why? Why not?

As for competitions, I have submitted three of my poems for two competitions, both organized by the organization 'Inizjamed'. Through the second competition I will have one of my poems 'Kmamar b'katnazzi' published in "Lehen il-Malti" (issue no. 37). This organization has also given me the opportunity to take part in open stages. While I have thought about becoming a full-time writer or teaching literature at university level I have come to notice that I would rather study to become a doctor and maybe later on a surgeon. This is only because I see writing as a hobby which I would like to keep pursuing. Having said that, if opportunities do arise I will definitely consume them.



Michela Pulis
photo by Katel Delia, INIZJAMED

#300

Brother Superior Robert Schieler announces the #300 Lasallian celebrations commemorating the founder's legacy.



15 May 2018

Dear Students and all members of the Lasallian Family,

I am very pleased to inform you that the Holy See has declared 2019 a Jubilee Year in honour the 300th anniversary of the death of Saint John Baptist De La Salle.

The Jubilee Year will begin on 17 November 2018, when we recall the dedication of the sanctuary of Saint John Baptist de la Salle at the Generalate in Rome. The Jubilee Year will conclude on 31 December 2019, the end of the Tercentenary and Year of Lasallian Vocations.

A Jubilee Year offers the opportunity to express our faith through concrete actions in favour of those most in need. I invite all of you to celebrate the jubilee through practical acts of kindness and service to young people yearning for mercy and compassion.

Traditionally a Jubilee Year is also an occasion for pilgrimage. The goal of a pilgrimage is to visit places imbued with spiritual significance and the experience of God's presence.

I encourage each of you to become a pilgrim during the Jubilee Year. Let your pilgrimage take you "beyond borders" to places that inspire you with a sense of God's presence and to poor and vulnerable people who are occasions to encounter Jesus Christ.


Pope Francis reminds us that:

Our existence is a pilgrimage, a journey. Even those who are inspired by simply human hope, perceive the allure of the horizon, which urges them to explore worlds they do not yet know. Our spirit is a migrant spirit. We do not become mature men and women if we do not perceive the allure of the horizon: that boundary between earth and sky which demands to be reached by a people that walks.

Let us joyfully celebrate the Jubilee Year as an expression of our commitment to live the Gospel and the Lasallian Mission united as Lasallians with one heart, one commitment, one life.

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC
Brother Superior





“ I am a prison. I can
only see shadows now. ”



THE MIND

• • • • •
Short creative
writing by
MICHELA PULIS

This morning I woke up and I was a garden. Strong like the trees whose leaves rattle with the echoing wind. They say that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence but this morning mine was the greenest. The birds inside me danced their way through every vein in my body. The voices in my head where almost peacefully silent. The smell inside me made my mouth water and my nostrils sniff a little harder.

However, the world, the garden inside me cannot shine forever. This afternoon I turned around. I saw myself drowning inside a prison cell. My life turned from

lucid to horrific. In this dream the voices in my head screeched my blood into curdles. They echoed through me and filled my veins. My heart couldn't pump my cloths through. It was giving up on me the same way people do.

Through my prison cell I am not able to see the light. I am not able to illuminate myself. The gates inside me are now my broken strength. The faith I hold cradles me. Nothing seems to dance anymore for all I can do is lie down on the harsh floor beneath me. I am weak. I am not able to hold myself instead prison holds me in its arms. It captures me and steals me from the garden I was this morning.

I am a prison. I can only see shadows now. I wonder if these shadows are the ones which will haunt me and kill me. I wonder if the next breath is my last one or if this is. I am scared for I have never enclosed myself so much in my own body. I have never set my barriers this high! Will you help me? Please don't let me die!

I ask you to help me and take down these barriers for me. I ask you to open my own gate for I am too weak and my capabilities have vanished. I ask you to save me from this excruciating pain for I will not be able to take it for much longer. I ask you to take me out of my prison and to hold me with you for I don't wanna die... will i survive?

TRAVEL

Sixth Form Lasallians and Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education at De La Salle Sixth Form is basically about experiential learning. It gives students the opportunity to discover new places in Malta and beyond. For well over a decade both first year and second year students have been offered the opportunity to join a course based on outdoor activities which eventually leads to an overseas excursion.

First year students take part in a programme that is essentially about hiking and basic outdoor skills. The final phase of this programme is a hiking excursion in the Italian Alps. The excursion also includes a city visit and cultural elements.

Second year students are offered a slightly more demanding programme which includes both hiking and camping. Participants are expected to become proficient campers as well as hikers and at the end of the course students take part in an overseas excursion either in the Lake District in England or the Highlands in Scotland. Once again, the overseas excursion offers a cultural component closely related to the British and Scottish outdoors.

Both first and second year programs offer innumerable opportunities for

students to enhance their personal skills and experience the true benefits of teamwork and co-operation. The programmes also give participants the opportunity to pick up and practise several competences that ultimately help us all to grow and improve as human beings, citizens of Malta and citizens of the world.

Both outdoor programmes also offer extensive travel experience to participants. Students are asked to participate actively in every part of the programme, making the entire experience much more meaningful and long lasting.

Synoptically, we can say that Outdoor Learning is about learning through what you do, what you encounter and what you discover. In a nutshell, you learn about the outdoors, about yourself and about others. Additionally you learn outdoor skills. This kind of learning helps you develop some of the most important learning skills including; enquiry, experiment, feedback, reflection, review and cooperative learning. Finally, it helps you increase your level of endurance and your overall ability to face the many challenges that life offers.

The Outdoors Education Group is co-ordinated by Mr. Konrad Pirotta, Biology Teacher and De La Salle College Sixth Form.





An interview with Frank Zammit about Maltese Literature.

Nhar it-28 ta' Mejju 2018, il-kittieb u poeta Malti minn Sydney fl-Awstralja, Frank Zammit, iltaqa' mal-istudenti tal-ewwel sena fis-6th Form tal-Kulleġġ De La Salle li qed jistudjaw il-Malti f'livell avanzat. L-għalliem tal-Malti u Taljan Patrick Sammut għamillu intervista qasira.

Inti wieħed mill-Maltin u poeti li emigraw lejn l-Awstralja snin ilu. X'gaghlek thalli lil pajjiżna? X'inhi dik il-ħaġa li ġgaghlek tirritorna kull tant żmien u regolarment?

Ħallejt Malta f'Jannar tal-1965, immedjatament wara l-kisba

tal-Indipendenza, flimkien ma' eluf kbar ta' Maltin oħra, meta l-futur ta' pajjiżna kien incert wisq u meta pajjiżna kien politikament mifrud u mifxul fil-ġlieda politiko-religjuża.

Malta hi Art Twelidi u Ommi u għadni nħoss il-ġibda lejha daqs qabel.

Naf li fl-Awstralja hemm interess fl-ilsien Malti u anki fil-poeżija Maltija, għallinqas fost l-ewwel generazzjoni li llum qed tonqos. Kemm hu minnu dan? X'tip ta' ħajja jgħixu l-Maltin fl-Awstralja? Kif jgħixu ż-żgħażaġh Maltin tamar l-istudenti tagħna hawn (16 sa 18-il sena)?

L-interess fl-ilsien Malti għadu ħaj fl-Awstralja u l-Malti huwa mitkellem u maħbub, forsi aktar milli hu f'Malta stess. Veru li l-Maltin tal-ewwel generazzjoni qegħdin jonqsu fl-Awstralja għaliex barra li x-xjuħ qegħdin imutu, aktar qegħdin jirritornaw Maltin lejn Malta mill-waħdiet li qegħdin imorru l-Awstralja.

Il-Maltin fl-Awstralja jgħixu ħajja normali, izda l-magħġoranza jimpenjaw ruħhom f'għaqda kontinwa ma' ħuthom Maltin. Għalhekk f'dawn l-aħħar 60-70 sena organizzaw ruħhom f'għaqdiet diversi li jirriflettu kull settur

tal-kultura Maltija, inkluż r-Reliġjon. Għalkemm iż-żgħażaġħ jinteressaw ruħhom fil-lingwa u l-kultura Maltija, l-impenji tagħhom fl-istudju, pedamenti ta' karriera, ħsieb ta' bidu ta' familja u kisba ta' dar, f'it li xejn iħallulhom ħin għall-istudju tal-lingwa Maltija u attivitajiet kulturali. B'danakollu jeżistu skejjel tal-Malti f'Sydney, Melbourne u postijiet oħra fejn għadd ġmielu ta' tfal, żgħażaġħ u kbar jitgħallmu l-Malti fi skejjel apposta. Bħal f'Malta stess, l-interess fil-poeżija mhux wisq popolari, iżda f'ħafna kitbiet fejn il-poeżija tkun spjegata hemm interess u apprezzament minn bosta.

Meta huma daww il-waqtiet meta tħoss il-ħtieġa li tikteb il-poeżija?

It-tqanqil tiegħi għall-kitba ta' poeżija jimxi id f'id mal-andament tal-ħajja. Fil-każ

tiegħi aktar ikolli diżappunti milli sodisfazzjonijiet, allura bilfors li nitqanqal aktar minn waqtiet ta' ħasra, kemm tiegħi personali u aktar minn esperjenzi tat-tbatija minn tant membri tal-umanità.

X'differenza tħoss meta tikteb poeżiji bi stil tradizzjonali, oħrajn bi stil modern u ħieles, u l-ħajku? Liema stil tippreferi?

Ngħid b'wiċċi minn quddiem li l-poeżija tradizzjonali tissodisfani aktar minn dik moderna, għax naraha aktar spontanea u sinciera. Inħobb ukoll il-poeżija tajba ta' stil modern, sakemm tasal biex tkun mifhuma minn min jaqraha. Xejn ma togħġobni jekk tinkteb biex min jiktibha jagħmel sforz imqanżah sempliċiment biex ikun differenti!

Nies bħalek li telqu minn Malta, u forsi ma jżurux

lil art twelidhom daqsek, kif jaraw lil Malta minn kontinent daqstant 'il bogħod bħall-Awstralja?

Personalment jien nara lil Malta bħala "Miraklu Ħaj" dwar bosta aspetti u fatti – bħaż-żamma ta' Isien uniku, ir-rikkezza ta' kultura fenomenali, l-eżistenza ta' djaletti fi gżira żgħira, l-arkitettura diversa mibdiya eluf ta' snin ilu u żviluppata parallela mal-oġġna pajjiżi tad-dinja. Diżgrazzjament ma' dawn il-fatturi pożittivi kollha hemm imħallta ħafna negattività, li kultant iġġegħelni nibki, u l-aktar li ttini ġewwa hija l-letargija tal-gvernijiet meta bi sforz żgħir u b'regolamenti stretti fi proġetti żgħar ħafna jistgħu jagħtu lil Malta tagħna dehra wisq, wisq aktar sabiħa milli hi. Ma nistax nifhem kif dan il-fatt ma joffrix sfida kontinwa lil kull min ikun f'pożizzjoni ta' tmexxija! Mhux l-għadd iżda ż-żamma tar-regolamenti li jgħodd!

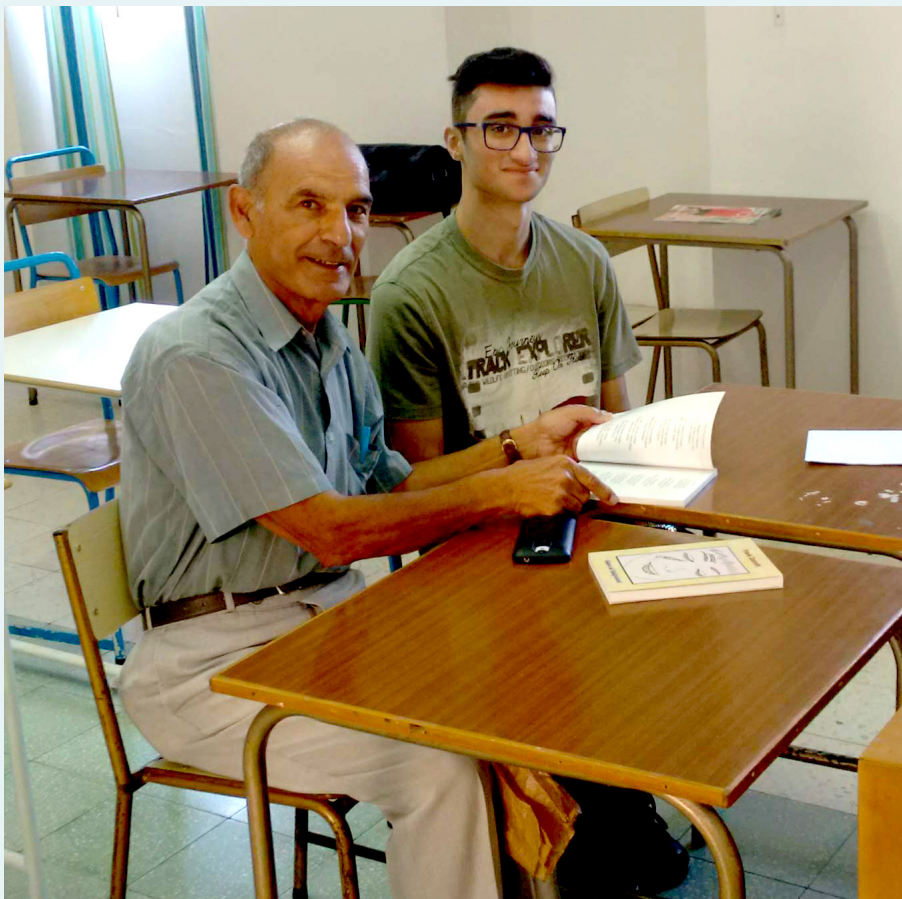


Il-klassi tal-Malti Avvanzat 2017-2019 flimkien ma' Frank Zammit

Bosta jikkellmu dwar l-utilità ta' dak kollu li hu materjali. X'taħseb li hi l-utilità tal-poeżija?

Il-bniedem hu magħmul minn ġisem u ruħ, jew materja u spirtu. Hu stabbilit min-natura umana li dawn jgħixu flimkien. Jekk ibati wieħed tbat i-oħra u viċe-versa fil-każ ta' tgawdija. Dawn isostnu lil xulxin. L-arti ġenerali tidhol fin-nofs u tgħaqqqadhom flimkien. Il-poeżija hija forma waħda minn din l-arti li tista' sserraħ lir-ruħ (jew l-ispiritu) u b'hekk igawdi anki l-ġisem. Altru li l-poeżija hija utli fil-ħajja ta' bosta bnedmin!

David Abela jintervista lil Frank Zammit



Talba Maltija

Frank Zammit

Fit-talb miġbura,
Maltin u Għawdxin,
jingħaqdu qlubna,
f'tamiet ħelwin.

Lill-Gzejjer Tagħna,
fiż-żmien li ġej,
żomm int, Marija,
qrib il-Mulej.

Fuq ħutna f'Malta,
l-Art ta' San Pawl,
nitolbu l-barka
tal-għaqda u dawl.

U fuq il-Gzejjer
ġid u ħarsien,

biex jibqa' jsaltan
sħiħ il-ħelsien.

Fost l-emigrati
fil-bogħ'd dejjem,
O Alla, xerred
il-wens u s-sliem.

Mulej, fi ħsiebek
l-ulied Maltin,
biex kull fejn jgħammru
jaqduk henjin.

*Minn Bejn Żewġ Gżiriet, Gozo
Press, 1995*



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WON \$3 MILLION?

Ray Zammit is A-Level Physics teacher at De La Salle College and is a Visiting Assistant lecturer at the University of Malta.

This is the kind of question that many would have posed themselves at some time or another in their lives. It is also the kind of question which we are constantly bombarded with in various media. We are constantly urged to gamble in order to gain quick access to the kind of wealth that many of us will not see during a lifetime of hard work. We are constantly bombarded by the lifestyle of multi-millionaire media personalities and influenced to believe that we should aspire to have similar lifestyles. Many of us will never have to really worry about this. Yet some individuals really are faced with such a dilemma. What people actually do when they come in possession of such a sum of money says a lot about the character and beliefs of the person concerned.

Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell is one such 'lucky' person who has

just won the sum of \$3 million. Prof. Bell Burnell has been awarded the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. This was announced by Breakthrough Prize founder Yuri Miller on 6th September 2018. She has been awarded this prize for her contribution in the discovery of neutron stars in 1967 and for a lifetime of inspiring leadership in the scientific community. On the contrary to those who became millionaires by the winning of a lottery ticket or a big win at some Las Vegas Casino, Prof. Bell Burnell's had to work pretty hard to win the \$3 million prize. In fact her journey started over 5 decades ago.

Cooking, needle work and the courage to stand up

Back in the 1960s, Jocelyn Bell was a graduate student working towards obtaining her doctoral degree at the University of Cambridge and it is here that

she made a major breakthrough in our present understanding of modern Astrophysics. But her journey to Cambridge was not without its hitches and blips. She was born and raised in Lurgan, in Northern Ireland, on the 15th of July 1943 and received her first education at the local Lurgan College from 1948 to 1956. At Lurgan College she was not permitted to study science simply because she was a girl and was offered 'domestic science' (cooking and needlework) classes instead. At one point during the 'domestic science' class, Jocelyn and two of her friends got up and told the teacher that they were in the wrong class and asked to be transferred to the science class. The teacher and school administration eventually agreed and Jocelyn and her friends were rewarded for their bravery and started studying science. During the first term the class was doing Physics and Astronomy, subjects that would eventually accompany Jocelyn for the rest of her life.

At the age of 13 Jocelyn was sent to a Quaker boarding school in York, North East England. In those days it was very difficult to get good science teachers to work in an all-girls school and Jocelyn ended up having very bad Chemistry and Maths teachers. However, she was lucky enough to have a great Physics teacher who had come out of retirement twice to teach Physics. This Physics teacher, Mr. Henry Tillot, was an old Yorkshire man who suffered from severe arthritis, but was very enthusiastic about teaching Physics and was a great inspiration. Jocelyn soon realised that she was rather good at solving physics problems and at explaining them to her peers, and this, coupled with Mr. Tillot's enthusiasm, drew Jocelyn more and more towards Physics.

Of Little Green Men

Her passion for the subject led her to complete a degree

in Physics at the University of Glasgow. She was one of the very few women following a Physics course at the time and the environment was extremely hostile. Many of her female peers would seriously question why she was studying Physics at all, why she didn't change course and some even asked her if she could actually do Physics. To add to this, there was a 'tradition' in Glasgow that whenever a female student entered a Physics class all the males in the room would bang on their desks, stomp, whistle and catcall. Female students were made to sit at the front of class and it was common to get the loud stomps, whistles, catcalling etc. whenever a women asked a question, especially if it was a good question. The noise and general ruckus was much louder and accompanied by booing when Jocelyn scored the highest mark in the subsidiary math exam, an occasion during which Jocelyn admits to having felt scared.

After finishing her undergraduate degree she started working on her 3 year doctoral degree (Ph.D.) at the University of Cambridge under the tutelage of Anthony Hewish. The first two years of her Ph.D. were mostly spent in a large field building a radio telescope. This involved being outdoors for long hours in the cold, the wind and the rain driving wooden posts into the soil and lots and lots of wiring. She spent so many hours outdoors that she got a tan (in England!) and people were asking her if she had been on a skiing holiday. She had become so physically fit due to the intense labour that she started to excel at playing hockey. Eventually the telescope was complete and she started using this telescope to analyse radio signals towards the start of her 3rd year as a Ph.D. student. Her main objective, as planned out by Anthony Hewish, was to record signals called scintillations produced by very distant, extremely bright galaxies

called Quasars. Most of the radio signals being received were a mix of these scintillations and locally generated noise made by a variety of sources including welders, police radio and illegal radio stations among others. Her main challenge was to differentiate between scintillations and noise. During one of her night-time research investigations, she noted a signal which was neither local interference nor scintillations from Quasars. As a true researcher she simply put a question mark on the chart next to these signals. She called these signals 'scruff' which is Irish slang for untidy. These 'scruff' signals were highly regular, highly unusual and totally unexpected. Jocelyn started to worry that something was wrong with the



wiring of the telescope. She had spent two of her three year course building and wiring the telescope and the success of her Ph.D. depended on how well she had constructed the telescope. Her Ph.D. and possibly her future scientific career were on the line. But Jocelyn and her supervisor persisted on measuring this 'scruff' and devoted a lot of energy trying to decipher it. It was a very regular and fast paced signal, almost like something produced by an intelligent being. It was dubbed "little green men"(LGM), a phrase meaning extra-terrestrial alien civilizations

in 1960s Britain. At that time the LGM signal was considered a nuisance for a number of reasons; her research funding would run out in a few months' time, she was engaged to be married and couldn't complete her original thesis about Quasars because of the interference of these pesky "little green men". Eventually she detected similar signals originating from different parts of the Universe. It was concluded that the source was a natural one, since it was highly unlikely that a number of alien civilizations from different locations in the Galaxy were all trying to communicate with a little blue planet at the same time and using a very simple and similar code.

The "little green men" hypothesis was abandoned and eventually replaced by the pulsating neutron star or pulsar hypothesis. Finding all these neutron star signals involved going through literally miles of chart paper, looking for signals which had not been deemed important during the previous months. All the data analysis paid-off and Jocelyn Bell and Anthony Hewish could finally conclude that they had discovered a new type of astronomical object. They had discovered Pulsars (pulsating neutron stars), the rapidly rotating remnants from the explosions of a dying star. A rapidly rotating pulsar is what remains when a very large star explodes in a dramatic event called a super nova. Their discovery was very significant because it allowed for the testing of theories related to the formation and eventual demise of stars.

No Bell

Soon after this great discovery, she got married to Martin Burnell and as was customary in those days she was expected to become a house wife and cease her scientific career. Martin Burnell was an ambitious public worker and applied for

promotions in different parts of Britain every few years. This meant that Jocelyn and her young son always followed Martin and moved house regularly. For this reason Jocelyn could not settle at a University and keep on conducting her research. Her scientific career was mostly done part-time until her son was older. She was also overlooked by the Nobel committee when in 1974 Anthony Hewish was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of Pulsars. However, the Nobel award to Hewish allowed her to apply for a variety of part-time jobs all over the UK while following her husband's career. Contributing to a discovery worthy of the Nobel Prize was a great addition to her CV!

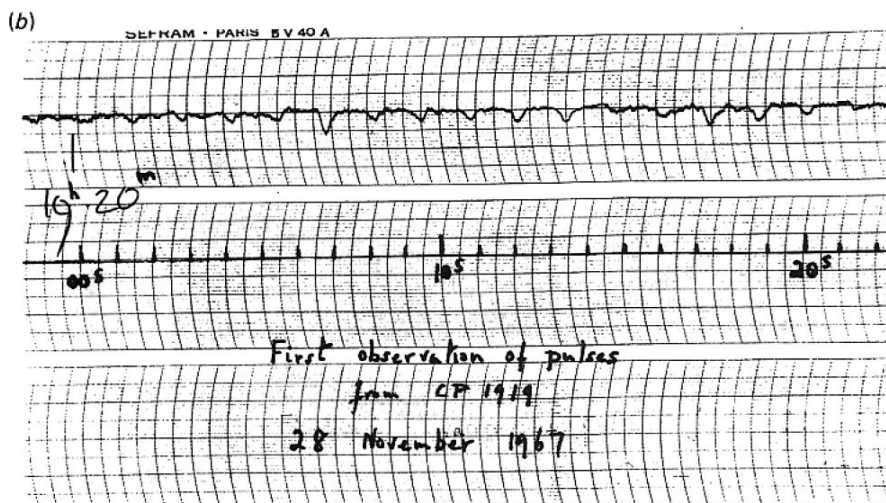
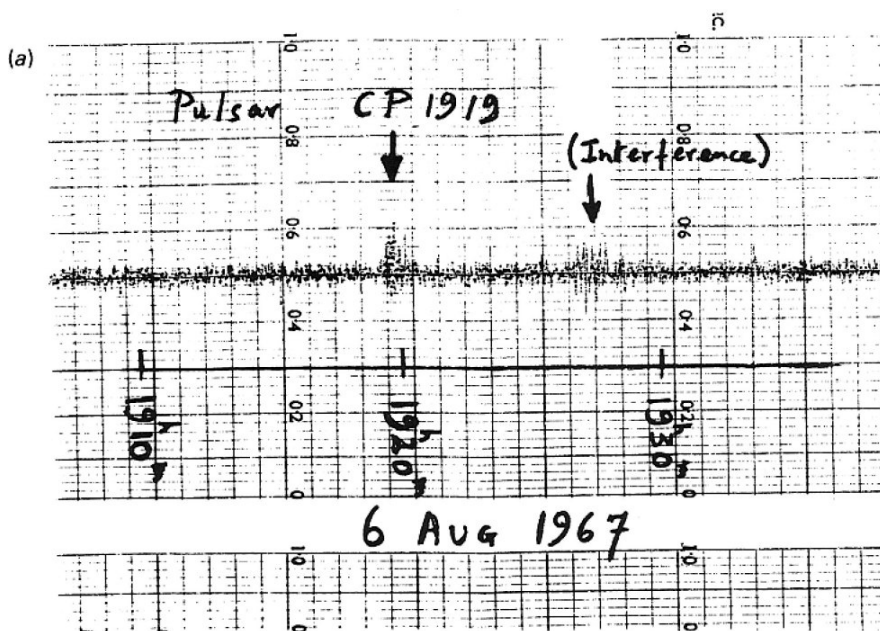
In 1991 her son turned 18 and

went to University and for the first time in nearly two decades Jocelyn Bell Burnell could finally work full-time. She was appointed professor at the Open University in Milton Keynes, a position she would hold until 2001. By taking this position she ended up being the kind of inspiration to female scientists that she had never had herself. After her appointment as Professor of Physics at the Open University, the number of female Physics professors in Britain doubled! Apart from her scientific research achievements she was a passionate teacher and an active leader bringing about change in the scientific community. She was the first female president of the British Institute of Physics and The Royal Society of Edinburgh. She also helped set up the Athena Swan

programme which helps improve the lives of Women in scientific research.

So tell us what did she do with the \$3 million?

Professor Bell Burnell was somehow overlooked by the Nobel Committee but she has been awarded numerous other during her career. It would have been unfair to comment on what she decided to do with the \$3 million Breakthrough prize without having first given a general background about her early education and scientific achievements. She has had a passion for Physics from an early age and always followed her passion irrespective of how difficult it was and without any guarantee of a steady income, a successful career path or recognition by society. The \$3 million will be used to set up a fund used to finance Physics research scholarships for students from underrepresented groups in society, in the hope of increasing the diversity of people who specialise in Physics research. Over the years Jocelyn Bell Burnell has done much to make Physics more appealing for Women who are grossly underrepresented in Physics research and it is somewhat curious that a female Physicist, Donna Strickland, has shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2018. Up till her Nobel award Dr. Strickland was not deemed to have made sufficiently important scientific discoveries to have her own Wikipedia page. Great strides have been made since the days when a young Jocelyn Bell was humiliated each and every time she entered a Physics lecture room in Glasgow in the 1960s but Dr. Strickland's Nobel award has highlighted the fact that more needs to be done in order to have a truly inclusive scientific community.



LOVE YOURSELF

Sara Abela

It is not worth losing your identity for the sake of feeling a sense of belonging. Feeling you belong somewhere is what every human being strives for. It is in our blood. In every cell of our body.

No human must ever feel alone. We are all needed. Maybe we may not fit into that puzzle. But no jigsaw piece is made to stand on its own. Somewhere out there – you may not be seeing it right now – there is your puzzle, with an empty space just for you, in which you fit perfectly.

A puzzle made for you.

A puzzle you actually complete.

So if you haven't found your puzzle yet, it is out there somewhere. Don't give up and look closely at your surroundings. You'll eventually understand where you really belong.

If you can't feel belong, it is first important to feel belonged in your own body.

Are you comfortable in your body? Or do you use it like a shell in which you hide from the world? Don't be a snail that hides in its shell. You'll never see what life has in store for you if you hide away forever. Where does hiding ever get us?

You might hate the way you look. You might hate the way you talk, or the way you smile or ... whatever! Just know that it is okay to have these feelings.

It is okay.

It really is okay.

It is your own opinion of yourself. It is the way you decide to see yourself. It is okay to have your own opinion of yourself. However, what you do need to be careful of is that you don't let these self-opinions get in the way

of your self-love; because everyone, including yourself, deserves to be loved.

I get it; your hair never looks right. Your nose is too big. Your eyes too small. Your cheeks too chubby. Your jaw too pointy. Uneven dimples. Blemishes. Insecurities. Judgements. Horrible past experiences. Scars. Bruises. Non-symmetrical. Too fat. Too thin. Talentless. Jobless. Incompetent. Stupid... Whatever bothers you.

You are not alone because we have all been there. For some, these thoughts only come up at particular moments in their

life, whilst others seem to can never get rid of them. Either way, we can all understand each other. So why do we sometimes feel like we are misunderstood?

It's because we are all naturally inclined to judge others based on how we judge our own selves.

I believe we should change that. Be kind to the world. Love is a deep appreciation of something or someone. Kindness deepens that appreciation and hence helps our love to properly flourish. They say 'treat others as you would treat yourself'.

However, we do not always treat ourselves the way we should. So instead, I say 'treat yourself and everyone else like how you would treat the people you truly love'.

Love yourself because a Ford drives you as far as a Bentley and you are worthy of being loved no matter what.

Love yourself inside out. Smile at the person in the mirror and accept the whole package with all its wonders and imperfections. That, my friend, is when the sun starts shining in the midst of the storms of life.



WELCOME BBQ

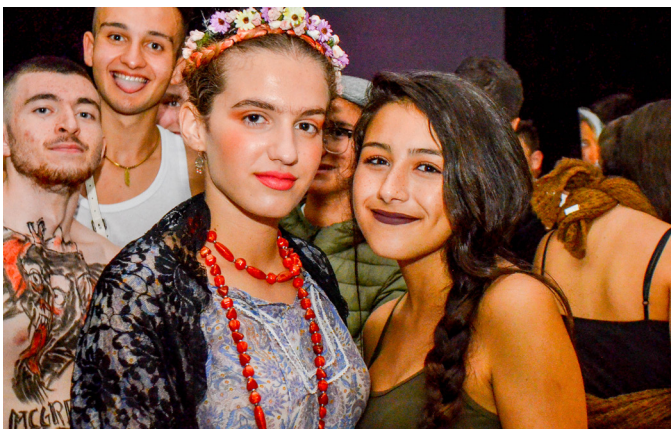


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