

What the World needs now is Love sweet love



Dear readers as many of us are about to celebrate a time of joy, that is Christmas 2023, the start of 2024 and our summer holidays, the Editorial Team thought it timely to present you with an overview of the world today, from an aspect of war and conflict, for us all to reflect upon.

There have been over 250 major wars in the world since the end of World War 2 in 1945, in which 23 million people have been killed, tens of millions made homeless, and countless millions injured and bereaved.

Well over 37 million people have been killed by these wars in the 20th century. Three times more people have been killed in wars in the last 90 years than in all the previous 500 years.

There are over 35 major conflicts going on in the world today. In armed conflicts since 1945, 90% of casualties have been civilians. 3 out of 4 fatalities of war are women and children.

In the wars of the last decade, more children were killed than soldiers, child victims of war include an estimated 2 million killed, approximately 5 million disabled, 12 million left homeless, and more than 1 million orphaned.

There are approximately 300,000 child soldiers in the world.

Landmines maim or kill approximately 26,000 civilians every year, including approximately 9,000 children. At least 75% of landmine victims are civilians. It is estimated that there are more than 65 million landmines in the ground in at least 70 countries.

More than 500 million small arms and light weapons are in circulation around the world. In major conflicts since 1990, they have caused 4 million deaths, 90% civilians of these 80% women and children.

There are approximately 30,000 nuclear warheads in the world, with some 5,000 on 'A-trigger alert', ready to be launched on a few minutes notice.

Current global military spending is approximately \$800 billion per year; more than the total annual income of the poorest 45% of the global population.

Genocide and other mass murders killed more people in the 20th century than all wars combined. Approximately 70 million people have been killed in genocides in the last century. And approximately 350 million people have been killed, by democide (officials acting under the authority of governments) in the 20th century, apart from war.

Well! Let's not forget the many other problematic issues that currently exist in the world relating to human rights, social justice, poverty, over development, disregard for the environment and sustainability.

Whilst all of the above is unfortunately true, to assist us in not spending the joyous time ahead in a state of

depression, we recommend you listen to the beautiful ageless song, with the words all so true, by the late and great Louis Armstrong's - *What A Wonderful World* on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqhCQZaH4Vs>.

Furthermore to assist us in reflecting on all of the above, and hopefully in our contribution towards a better world, we recommend you listen to the also ageless beautiful song by the late John Lennon - *Happy Christmas with the Harlem Boys' Choir* - on Youtube: bing.com/videos.

Finally, despite your beliefs, we wish you and your families, a Happy Christmas, Happy New Year and most enjoyable holiday period, in the best of health.



Editorial Team/Ref. Worldrevolution.org



The President and Committee of Management of the Sardinian Cultural Association wish all Members, friends and readers of Sa Oghe a very joyous Christmas, A Happy New Year and a safe holiday season.

chent'annos po Attilio Boi



There are five so-called **Earth Blue Zones** where people are known to consistently live to 100 years and Lanusei, Provincia Nuoro in Sardinia happens to be one of these zones.

Attilio Boi, a long-time member and supporter of the SCA was born in Lanusei on 20 August 1923.

The fourth of 7 children and the only one to reach the 100year milestone, Attilio completed his schooling and learned the art of watchmaking from him father.

After 4 years in the military during the 2nd World War and following his discharge, he moved to mainland Italy and opened a watchmaker shop in Pisa where he stayed for around 6 years.

But one day in 1952 a friend said he had a ticket for an around the world cruise and was unable to go and offered the ticket to Attilio and being an adventurous person, jumped at the chance and so he sailed off. The ship stopped at many ports along the way and eventually arrived in Melbourne. The ship sailed off but Attilio did not, he chose to remain in Melbourne and has been here ever since.

He began looking for work as a watchmaker and did some repair work for another watchmaker, picking up the watches, taking them home to repair and then returning them fixed, something he did for a very short while.

Later that same year, 1952, Attilio was introduced to a young lady, Mary, and after a courtship of around 7 years they married in 1959. They have two children, Steven and Suzanne and four grandchildren. This year, 2023, they celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary, a milestone that was acknowledged, receiving congratulatory cards from King Charles and Queen Camilla and also from the Governor General, David Hurley and his wife.

In the late 1950's he began looking for place where he could open his own Jewellery/Watchmaker shop and Footscray was suggested as there were many Italians living in that area. By chance he went into a little shop in Barkly Street and asked the shopkeeper if he knew of any places in the area he could rent, to his surprise the shopkeeper told him that he was thinking of closing up and offered the shop to him.



Attilio was always very good with his hands so he set about constructing the benches and cabinets required for the shop, painted the walls and when it was ready, in 1960 he opened his Jewellery/Watchmaker shop where he remained until his retirement 33 years later.



When the shop was refurbished and all was going well he decided to buy a holiday house in McRae on the Mornington Peninsula. Then he began work on rebuilding an old caravan that he had purchased and when that was finished, he got to work on building a 21foot (6.4Mt) cabin cruiser from scratch, installing and adapting the motor from an old Dodge car as an inboard motor, a labour of love that took 18 months to complete.

Attilio was always ready to respond to requests for any item of jewellery for the major SCA (and its predecessors) functions, Mother's Day, Father's Day and so on. Attilio and Mary to this day still regularly attend SCA lunches and it is a pleasure to see him and his great smile.



A Ledda



From the President...

And so this is Christmas

On the 25th of December, all the Christian faithful will celebrate the joyous holiday of Christmas. Therefore, I thought it a good idea to give you my ideas and views of why Christmas is important to me.

Christmas is one of the biggest celebrations of the year, and for good reason. However, the real reason for the celebration has for some time got lost amongst all the shopping and, as we are told by Governments of all persuasions, the importance of consumerism to the economy. Therefore, it is easy to get caught up in all these things which, I acknowledge aren't inherently bad.

In view of the above you many may be wondering, why is the real reason for Christmas that important?

Christmas is important to me because it is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Son of God who came to redeem all mankind, Christmas is a day of remembrance and worship.

Christmas doesn't have to get lost and can be integrated into, not what many call in terminology which I find very offensive the 'silly season', but holiday season spent with family, friends, and loved ones following all our individual traditions.

Going back to what is the true meaning of Christmas? And why we celebrate this every year? I thought

I would give you the following that in my view are my 'top ten' reasons:

1. Jesus Christ was born;
2. God's promise was fulfilled;
3. We recognize what Jesus came to accomplish;
4. We remember the religious aspects of Christianity as a whole;
5. We follow individual Christmas traditions which should bind families together;
6. We think and, where possible, give generously to the less fortunate;
7. We exchange gifts and spread happiness, as did the three wise men;
8. We should slow down;
9. We feast and enjoy special foods that are only prepared at this time;
10. We should maintain traditions, such as children's anticipation for Santa Claus coming to visit them on Christmas Eve.

Finally, I am sure you have many more reasons as why it is important to celebrate Christmas therefore, all that is left for me to thank all of those, many who are no longer with us, who have supported the SCA over a long period of time, many who are still doing so, and wish you a

Merry Christmas/Buon Natale !

Written by Paolo Lostia - Ref. JustDisciple.com/Home.Faith&Family.com



In anticipation of the birth (my crib)



After the birth

We meet an old friend

Paolo Lostia (President) and Iole Marino (Committee Member) of the SCA recently had the pleasure to meet, for lunch at the Veneto Club, Saverio Minutolo, an old friend of the SCA.

Saverio, who returned to Italy in 2016, after having firstly arrived to 'check out' Australia in 1999 before settling in 2001, was the Researcher and co-author with the late Pino Bosi, of the academic book titled *Ajò In Australia/ Let's Go To Australia*. The book provided a history of Sardinian Immigration in Victoria, including the story of the SCA and that of many families.

The widely read book, jointly funded by the SCA and the Italian Australian Institute, was published in collaboration with La Trobe University in 2012.

Saverio, who now lives in Bologna is the former husband of past SCA Committee Member, Christina Maras, who also returned to Cagliari in 2016. For those who may remember they have a 20 year old son named Romeo who now studies in Torino.

Paolo and Iole caught up with Saverio whilst he was on holidays in Melbourne and Tasmania to, in his own words "revisit past locations for which I have fond memories".

During the pleasant lunch Saverio stated that since returning to Italy he had worked on many Projects, including assisting new arrivals, including refugees, to settle in Italy. And since 2020 he has held the position of Administrative Manager for the Association called Art Therapy Italiana, founded in 1982 with the aim of promoting the practice of Art and Dance Movement Therapy.

Both Iole and Paolo were pleased that Saverio had made contact for a catch up and that he had resettled well in Italy.

Finally, Saverio who sends his best wishes to all those involved in the SCA, affirmed that he had very fond lasting memories of his time spent in dealing with the SCA.

Well done Saverio and, as they say, **"In Boca Al Lupo/Good Luck."**



Addio - Salvatore Masala



Purtroppo, proprio mentre veniva distribuita l'edizione del Settembre 2023 di questa Newsletter, Salvatore Antonio Masala, Socio fedele di lunga data, a cui nel 2020 è stata concessa l'iscrizione a vita del nostro Circolo, è defunto il 22 Agosto 2023 circondato dalla sua amata famiglia.

Salvatore, nato a Pozzomaggiore (Prov. SA) in Sardegna e arrivato in Australia nel 1949, era molto amato dalla SCA, partecipando a numerose manifestazioni sia con i mezzi pubblici, sia con il taxi o con il suo autista personale, Iole Marino.

Salvatore mancherà molto alla SCA, così come alla sua famiglia, che ha affermato "Ha dedicato la vita alla sua famiglia attraverso sacrificio, lavoro e impegno. Un padre, nonno e bisnonno molto amato. E defunto pacificamente circondato da familiari, e ci mancherà, ma rimarrà per sempre nei nostri cuori."



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