

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



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Message from the President

Our most recent General Meeting took place on July 27th. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us.

On July 20th, over 200 people attended our Annual Membership Picnic. A big thank you to the Entertainment Committee and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it a success. There were so many helping hands—I hesitate to name names, as I know I'd unintentionally leave someone out. From start to finish, it takes a tremendous amount of planning to create the kind of day we all enjoyed, and we are truly grateful to everyone who played a part. Congratulations to Margaret Jonasson, who won \$895 from the 50-50 raffle!

In this edition of the Newsletter, you will find an update regarding the In-N-Out Burger project. I would like to sincerely thank the Board of Directors and the members of the Property Development Commission—Karen Borg, Louis Vella, Charlie Catania, Larry Meilak, Joe Vella and Manuel Micallef for their dedication and efforts on behalf of the Club's interests. The attendance of our members at the most recent SSF Planning Commission meeting was extremely significant and effective. Thank you to everyone who was able to come out in support of the Club.

Thank you to Larry Meilak and Manuel Micallef for repairing the tile in the front of the building!

A reminder that the Santa Maria celebration is being held on August 16th. As we have done the last couple of years, in addition to the procession with the statue of the Madonna, we will also be having a Celebration of the Mass. Following the Mass, we can mingle and enjoy appetizers, coffee, tea and dessert. There is no charge for this function. We just ask that everyone bring an appetizer to share and enjoy with everyone. While there is no charge, please make sure to send in your response so we will have a count of how many people will be attending. The flyer we sent last month provides all the information you will need.

By now you should have all received your formal invitation to the Malta Day Gala on September 20, 2025. If you have not received yours, or if you know someone who would like to attend, please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know. On behalf of the Malta Day Committee, we would love to see as many of you as possible join us for this special time to come together as a community and celebrate Malta's rich and vibrant history. If you are not able to attend, we hope you'll consider supporting the event by purchasing raffle tickets and/or making a donation.

Included in this Newsletter is a flyer for our Holiday Market and Craft Fair that is happening on November 15th. There is no charge and everyone is welcome so bring your friends and family to explore a wonderful variety of handmade crafts, gifts, treats, and more. It's a great way to

find some special treasures! Should you know of anyone interested in being a vendor, please have them contact Karen Borg at kb99karebear@aol.com

In addition, there are a couple of Maltese Community events coming up. The St. Elizabeth's Maltese Society is hosting its Champagne Bingo on Sunday, September 14th. You should have received a flyer by email, but if you have any questions, just reach out to Jeanette Sant Santos. The Maltese Heritage Association is also getting ready for their annual Wine Tasting event on Saturday, September 6th. Details were sent by email as well, and if you need more info, feel free to contact Dorothy Falzon or Cat Nelson.

If you are interested in renting the hall, please be sure to contact me. As the end of the year approaches, availability may become limited as we have many functions coming up in the next few months.

This month's newsletter includes our current advertisers, who are supporting the Club through July 2026. Please keep them in mind when you are in need of the services they provide. Thank you to Terrie Aquino for reaching out to old and new sponsors and thank you to Karen Borg for designing the layout.

This month's General Meeting will be held on August 24th at 10:30 a.m. instead of the last Sunday of the month due to the Labor Day weekend. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

**Message from the
Honorable Consul General of Malta**

Greetings dear friends of the Maltese American Social Club and the Maltese American Community in California. August is one of those busy months during the year where many travel domestically and internationally. People traveling to Europe are going to be surprised with how hot the weather is this year. Malta is no exception. The temperature surpasses the one-hundred-degree mark on a regular basis. Local Maltese take their reprieve from the hot weather by spending more time at the beach or immersing themselves in the local festa celebrations. The spirit of the local Maltese festa makes one forget the discomfort of the hot weather as well as eases the aches and pains of everyday life. The festa of Santa Maria is by far the largest and most popular festa in Malta and Gozo. It is celebrated in 9 different localities in Malta and 2 in Gozo. For almost the entire month of August ceremonies, celebrations, concerts, and many other religious and festive events take place on-a-daily basis. Fireworks are a constant reminder that the festa of Santa Maria has arrived once again.

The Santa Maria Convoy: The horrors of wars do not only begin and end with who drops the most bombs or who shoots the most guns or who has the largest military; there are many other casualties of war and sufferings by the multitudes of civilians, young and old. One such travesty is hunger due to shortage or lack of food supplies, scarcity of fuel, medication, and other life sustaining necessities. During WWII, Malta found itself in a such a dire situation when in August 1942, our island was only a few days from

surrendering to the enemy, because of the unbearable starvation and depleted supplies. **Operation Pedestal** was one last ditch effort to save Malta by bringing life-saving supplies so Malta can continue to live and defend itself. Out of more than 85,000 tons of food supplies, fuel and other necessities that were headed to Malta, only 32,000 tons made into the Grand Harbor. However, as a result of careful rationing and discipline, the supplies were enough for Malta to survive another crucial month which proved to be the saving grace. The Convoy of ships and supplies arrived in Malta between August 10 and August 15 which is why it has always been referred to as the **Santa Maria Convoy**. The most well-known ship that although listing badly to one side and supported on either side by two other vessels while a third acted as its rudder was the famous **SS Ohio** from America.

Festa Season during the month of August in Malta & Gozo: In August the festa calendar is in full swing with the hot weather and all the colors, fireworks, and festivities. Below please find some of the main religious festa celebrations in towns and villages around the Maltese islands... *Christ Our Saviour (Salvatur)*, Lija; *St. Peter in Chains*, Birzebbugia; *St. Joseph*, Qala, Gozo; *St. Dominic* – Valletta; *Our Lady of Lourdes*, San Gwann; *St. Lawrence*, Vittoriosa (Birgu); *St. Maxiaaamillian Kolbe*, Qawra; *San Gaetano*, Hamrun; *Assumption of Our Lady (Santa Maria)* Attard, Birkirkara, Ghaxaq, Gudja, Mosta, Mqabba, Qrendi, Victoria, Gozo, Hal-Muxi, Zebbug, Gozo, IMgarr, Dingli; *St. Helena*, Birkirkara; *St. Leonard*, Kirkop; *Our Lady of Lourdes*, Paola; *Our Lady Star of the Sea (Stella Maris)*, Sliema; *St. Pius X*, Santa

Lucija; *St. Dominic*, Vittoriosa; *Our Lady of Loreto*, Ghajnsielem, Gozo; *St. Bartholomew*, Ghaghur; *St. Joseph*, Manikata; *Marija Regina*, Marsa; *Conversion of St. Paul*, Hal Safi; *St. Juli*, St. Julians; IL-Festa it-tajba:

We continue to encourage everyone to keep your families, friends and loved ones constantly in your thoughts and prayers and to watch out for each other. One never knows the last time we are able to do so. We continue to hope and pray for lasting peace and a brighter future.

Message From the Secretary

As a reminder, if your **contact information has changed**, including your **address, phone number, or email**, please notify me at secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org. If you have provided a landline number you no longer use, please let me know. We rely on accurate information when sending mail or making phone calls, so keeping our member list current is essential.

Correspondence

Except for payments for functions and dues, please remember that all correspondence, and any important information that may need to be put in the newsletter, should be addressed to: secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org.

Club Hours

Sunday: 9:00 -5:00p.m.

Friday: 5:00 p.m. -1:00 a.m.

CLOSED:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday -EXCEPT: The 2nd Tuesday of the month for the Women's Club Meeting from 6:30-10:00 p.m.

Library Hours

The last Sunday of each month is 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m or contact Mona

Vella-Nicholas, Librarian and Historian, at 650-589-4578 for an appointment.

Website

Visit us online for a look at the memorable moments through pictures, information about the Club and more using the following link: <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/about-us.aspx>

Facebook

If you do use Facebook, the Club has a **new Facebook page!** You can reach the Club's page by searching Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco on Facebook or also with the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578673141986>

In-N-Out Neighboring Development

Update from Louis Vella: The Property Development Commission and the Board of Directors of the Maltese Club continue to negotiate and to keep a close watch on the planning and development of the parcels of land to the North and the East of our premises. This new development will have the most significant impacts to our club in the 30 years that we have been occupying and enjoying the use of this building. The next step is for the project to go in front of the SSF City Council. Anyone who wants to comment on the In-N-Out Burger project can still do so. However, **if anyone is speaking on behalf of or regarding the Maltese Club, please check with the Board of Directors first before expressing opinions or submitting comments.**

Our main concern has always been, and will continue to be, the emergency exit from the rear of our premises and the emergency escape ladder from the second floor. As long as we have been

occupying the building, emergency evacuation has always been a challenge. However, since we have been given a Pass during our annual safety inspections this issue has remained unresolved since we purchased this property.

In an effort to make the best use of the opportunity that has presented itself, we now have a chance to correct this situation and render our club safer than it has ever been ever since we moved in here.

After the club obtained a Draft License Agreement that allowed emergency exit through the property to the rear of ours, we were also successful in obtaining a promise that the surface of the landscape section in the exit pathway will be a hard surface. This was by far the most difficult to negotiate but yet again the club was successful in gaining this safety benefit as well.

Even though the Emergency Exit is indeed the most important and critical issue, it is not the only concern the Club brought forward. Other issues such as the restoration of the metal flashing, the repairs of defects and/or damages to our property, the issue of the exterior wall exposure, parking, security, traffic, etc were all brought up and will be kept on the front burner during all phases of construction. A traffic signal is in the plans to be installed on El Camino Real at the nearest intersection to the Maltese club which will exponentially increase the safety of pedestrian crossing of El Camino to come to or leave our club.

It is crucial that we all stay engaged. If anyone has questions or wants to know more about this new development please

contact members of the Board of Directors or the Property Development Commission

Origin of Maltese Last Names

By: Mona Vella-Nicholas

Librarian and Historian

Is your last name Formosa? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. Formosa is of Italian origin. It is the feminine form of the word "Formoso" which means "beautiful" or "plump." Forms of this name date back to the 15th century in Malta. Although the Asian island of Taiwan was previously known as "Formosa," that name was originally from the Portuguese and is coincidental, having nothing to do with the Maltese last name,

Maltese History Month

By: Mona Vella-Nicholas

Librarian and Historian

July 23, 1801 --- The leaders of the civil and military branches of the Maltese government issue a proclamation stating that murder cases involving foreigners in Malta are to be subject to Maltese laws, rather than the laws of any other country. A month later, a Maltese man named Salvatore Zammit is murdered by a British soldier named John Allary. In spite of the month-old proclamation, the English military commander Pigot insists that the soldier must be tried in a military court. The case is therefore heard by a military tribunal on August 19-20. Allary ends up being freed due to lack of evidence. Sometime after the hearing, Allary is accused of assaulting some Maltese. He appears again before the military court, but this time he is found guilty and is sentenced to six hundred lashes.

July 22, 1924 - Fr. Joseph Diacono dies at his home in Xaghra, Gozo. After becoming a priest, he spends ten years as the parish priest of Qala, after which he is transferred to Xaghra. While there, he uses his own funds to open Casa Pia Industriale, a house where girls of age five and older can learn domestic work, hygiene, weaving, and lace making, as well as school subjects and religion. This is a unique venture, the like of which does not exist anywhere else in Gozo or Malta at this time. In addition to his groundbreaking work as a champion of poor women and girls and a philanthropist, Fr. Diacono is best known as the founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The church and convent of the house of the sister's mother house, located in Victoria, Gozo, is also built according to his plan

Entertainment Committee

Co-Chairperson(s): Karen Borg: kb99karebear@aol.com Dorothy Falzon: dorothyanderson59@sbcglobal.net

The members of the Committee are Sina Borg, Brian Ciappara, Mary Vella Gomes, Emma Magarrell, Ninfa Pace, Gracie Lacey, Lina Agius, Terrie Aquino, Mary Smith, Betty DeBattista, Gracie Aquino and Pauline Henderson. Volunteers for functions are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen or Dorothy.

Santa Maria Celebration 8/16

Malta Day Gala 9/20

Car Show 10/4

Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner 10/18

Formal invitations to the **Malta Day Gala** on September 20th were mailed to everyone. If you have not received yours, please be sure to contact Mary Vella Gomes or Dorothy Falzon. This is a special opportunity for our members and the broader Maltese community to come together and celebrate the rich history and cultural pride of Malta. The Deadline to send in your reservation is September 7th. As with our other events, you will have the option to pay by **check** or **Zelle**. However, no matter which payment method you choose, **you must return the RSVP card**, as it includes important information such as your entrée selection and guest names.

Women's Social Group

The Women's Social Group will NOT have a meeting in August. The next meeting will be on September 9th and arrangements are being made for a Sip and Paint class!

The *Sistine Chapel Exhibit*, which has been shown around the world, is currently on display at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco (located at Gough and Geary).

The Women's Social Group is planning an outing on **Saturday, September 6th**, as the exhibit ends on September 14th. This outing is for women only, including your friends and family members who would like to join us. We will be driving there individually and many of us will likely be able to carpool. Ticket Prices are \$27 for ages 55 and over and \$29 for adults under 55. **If you are interested in attending and/or have any questions, please contact the president, Mary Vella Gomes, via email at president@maltese-americanscsf.org by August 17th.** More information about the exhibit can be found at [SF Archdiocese Event Page](#) and [Sistine Chapel Exhibit – Official Site](#).

Upcoming Maltese Community Events:

The St. Elizabeth Maltese Society will hold their Champagne Bingo on Sunday, September 14th and the Maltese Heritage Association Wine Tasting will be on September 6th. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Santos at 415-225-5315 regarding the Bingo and for the Wine Tasting, please contact Dorothy Falzon at 415 515-3841 or dorothyanderson59@sbcglobal.net

Grievance Committee

The names of the 2025 Grievance Committee members are Paula Ebejer Moffitt (Chairperson), Mary Ann Fassler Charlie Catania, Peter Abela and Rita Goldberg.

Support Our Advertisers!

Please take the time while reading the newsletter to check out the advertisers who are supporting our Club through July 2026. Your acknowledgment of the Club when patronizing these businesses is greatly appreciated and helps reinforce our valued partnerships.

Payments (**No CASH**)

Payment for dues and all functions can be made by check payable to: Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco (MASC) and sent to the attention of: **Ninfa Pace**. Zelle is also available to use when paying for dues, functions or making a donation. **Please use the Club's telephone number 650-871-4611 to make your Zelle payments from your bank to the Club.** Please be sure to provide **separate checks or Zelle payments for each event.**

If a written RSVP response is required for a function, whether payment is made via check or Zelle, the response MUST be sent to Ninfa Pace, as always.

When making reservations for a function, please review all information carefully. The cost per person is always clearly listed. Guests who are not members of the Club must pay the non-member rate. In fairness to all who have followed the payment guidelines, no exceptions can be made to this policy. **All payment for functions must be made by the deadline date.** If you are using Zelle, please remember to send in your Zelle payments and responses at least 4-5 days prior to the deadline date.

Hall Rental

EMMANUEL MICALLEF HALL

The hall is available for rent to members only. Please contact Mary Vella Gomes at **415-468-3747 or 415-517-5533** to schedule a meeting to arrange for the rental and to review the Contract

Non-Responsibility Declaration

All activities arranged for or sponsored by the members and their guests who desire to participate. The Maltese American Social Club does not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in any matters pertaining to said activities the Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc. are for the convenience and pleasure of.

This Newsletter is created by Secretary, Maryann Milla, with the approval of the Board of Directors

