

# Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.

924 El Camino Real  
South San Francisco, CA 94080



Telephone: 650-871-4611

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Brian Ciappara  
650-952-7970

**Vice President:** Joe DeBattista  
650-438-2561

**Secretary:** Mary Vella Gomes  
415-468-3747

**Assistant Secretary:** Carmen  
Micallef 415-586-2597

**Treasurer:** Joseph Vella  
650-348-1545

**Asst. Treasurer:** Ninfa Pace  
650-697-1079

**Parliamentarian:** Michael Pace  
415-760-3329

**Sergeant-At-Arms:** George Borg

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**Auditors:** Louis Vella  
Mona Vella Nicholas

**THE NEXT GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>  
at  
10:30 a. m.**

## **DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

### **A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Members and Friends, I hope that your Thanksgiving celebrations with your families were nice and enjoyable.

At the November General Membership Meeting, fifty-three (53) members were in attendance. If you have not attended a meeting lately, I invite you to come over and join us at the meetings. The meetings are very short and very informative. It was very nice to see Honorary Member Nazzareno Vassallo and Jane Micallef who were visiting from Malta. Many thanks to Nazzareno for his generous donation of \$500.00 to our Club.

The Casino Day Trip to Graton was a lot of fun. Thanks to Ninfa and Nick Pace who organized it, to the people that attended and to those who brought goodies that were shared by all. I heard that a few people did pretty well; sorry to say that I was not one of them, but maybe next time!

Big thanks to Karen Borg who organized a fun filled Bowling night at Sea Bowl in Pacifica. This is the second bowling night that was held this year and the number of people attending was sixty (60) which is double that of the first bowling night. Well done Karen!

Thanks also goes to Danny Catania for the 4 shot glasses and bar plaque he donated to the club.

The dance floor at the Club has been refurbished. I ask everyone to please **not to** drag the chairs on the hardwood floor. The carpet will be cleaned right after the Children's Christmas Party.

After reading the names of the members who were nominated by the Nominating Committee to form the Board of Directors, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Auditors for 2018, the Nominating Committee was thanked for their diligent work, and the committee was dissolved.



*During Christmas time, churches and homes are decorated with lights and nativity cribs. We say "Preseppju" for the word crib. The cribs are decorated with figurines called "pasturi". The "pasturi" figures represent Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, angels, villagers and cows, donkeys and sheep.*

## Upcoming Maltese Community Events

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### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

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### NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

*During this holiday season and throughout the year, always give love, be kind and share...life is too short to live any other way*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy 2018!*

The floor was then opened for nominations. After reading each officers position and asking if anyone wanted to nominate anybody for that office, no one was nominated, so a motion was made and seconded to close the floor for nominations.

The following members will be forming the Board of Directors for the coming year 2018: President- Brian Ciappara; Vice-President-Joe DeBattista; Secretary-Mary Vella Gomes; Assistant Secretary-Carmen Micallef; Treasurer-Joe Vella (Burlingame); Assistant Treasurer-Ninfa Pace; Parliamentarian-Celina Gomes. The Sergeant-at-Arms is George Borg and Auditors are Mona Vella Nicholas and Louis Vella.

Many thanks to Michael Pace for the service that he rendered to the Club as Parliamentarian for 2017. Michael did not accept the nomination because of his employment work load. A warm welcome to Celina Gomes who is our newest member of the Board of Directors, occupying the office vacated by Michael Pace.

**Please note that since only one person accepted the nomination for each Board of Directors position, Sergeant-at-Arms and Auditors, there is no need for an election to be held at the December 17<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting.**

The Christmas Children's Party will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Please don't forget to register your children on the form that was attached to the last newsletter and mail it in as soon as possible.

Come and bring your family and friends to the Club's NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. Let's say goodbye to 2017 and welcome 2018, enjoy great food and the good music provided by the D.J. that played a lot of good music at the last St. Patrick's Day party. The flier is attached. Please send your reservations in as soon as possible so that preparations can be finalized. Thank you.

I hope to see you before Christmas and New Year's Eve to wish you all the best for the holidays personally. For those of you who I will not get to see for one reason or another, my wife Carmen and I would like to wish you and your loved ones **"A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR FULL OF GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSINGS"**

**IL-MILIED IT-TAJJEB U IS-SENA IT-TAJJBA MIMLIJJA HENA, GID U BARKA T'ALLA.**

Sahha  
Brian

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## Grievance Committee

Rose Borg  
Barbara Fenech  
Charlie Catania  
Bart Borg  
Mary Anne Fassler

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## Entertainment Committee

### CHAIRPERSON:

Karen Borg

### CO-CHAIRPERSON:

Jennifer DeBattista

Rose Borg  
Kathy Borg  
Mary Vella  
Carmen Micallef  
Ninfa Pace  
Rose Vassallo  
Laurie Scribner  
Mary Anne Fassler

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*Thank you to the  
many members who  
volunteer their time  
and talents so that we  
can all enjoy the many  
activities at the  
Maltese American  
Social Club*

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE

## *Honorable Consul General of Malta*

Hon Consul General (HCG) Louis J. Vella greeted everyone present and congratulated all for the numerous attendance. HCG Vella spoke about the month of November and the "Remembering Our Loved Ones" celebration that was organized for the Maltese Community the Sunday before. A nice warm round of applause was expressed as a recognition to Mrs. Rose Vassallo who at the "Remembering Our Loved Ones" event became this year's recipient of the prestigious Maltese Cross Foundation Award for her volunteer work in our community. A big thank you was also expressed to the president and other members of the Maltese Club who actively participated to make the event one of the most successful in recent years.

HCG Vella went on to say that it is proven time and time again that when everyone cooperates and helps each other and when Maltese groups and organizations assist other Maltese groups and organizations, the entire Maltese community benefits. Just like when a rising tide lifts all boats so does the entire Maltese Community gain if everyone participates and cooperates with one another.

Hon Consul General Vella then introduced Ms. Antonella Bajada, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Malta in Washington D.C. Ms. Bajada was visiting the SF Bay Area for a few days to help with the collection of data for the issuance of new and renewal of Maltese passports. The mission was being held at the office of the Hon Consul General of Malta in Millbrae. Many people were taking advantage of this unique opportunity and, at the same time, save themselves from having to travel to Washington DC or to Malta to obtain a new Maltese passport. HCG Vella then invited Ms. Bajada to come forward to present Certificates of Maltese Citizenship to 3 young children of Maltese descent, who successfully completed the Maltese Citizenship application process. These 3 young children have, therefore, remained citizens of the United States of America but they are also considered Citizens of the Republic of Malta and the European Union. HCG Vella explained that, by obtaining Maltese Citizenship, a person who is a citizen of the United States would still retain his/her US Citizenship with no changes whatsoever. Some older and maybe even senior American Citizens of Maltese descent may not have a desire to reinstate or obtain dual Citizenship with Malta. However, they also need to keep in mind that by becoming Dual Citizens with Malta they will be opening the door for their children and grandchildren to do the

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## Club Hours

### Sunday and Holidays

9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

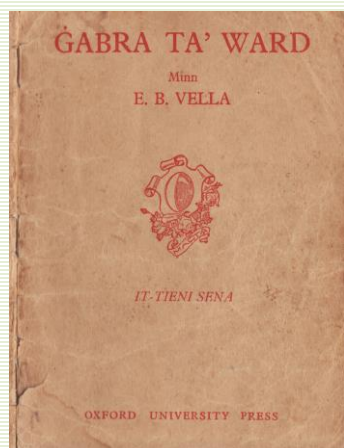
**Monday and  
Wednesday  
CLOSED**

**Tuesday**  
Closed except  
for the second  
Tuesday of  
the month

**Thursday**  
5:00p.m. to  
11:00p.m.

**Friday**  
5:00p.m. to 1:00a.m.

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### LIBRARY

Take some time and visit  
our library on Sundays  
from 10:00 am to Noon.

Librarian, Mona Vella-  
Nicholas, can be reached at  
650-589-4578.

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same. Thus, presenting their descendants with more options to travel and maybe study or work abroad, particularly in Europe.

In order to continue to have an active and engaged Maltese community we need to pay attention and nurture the continued participation of Maltese people of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation and beyond. These young members of our community are very eager to be part of the Maltese Community if we give them the chance. They may not know much about Malta but when asked they will immediately say they are Maltese, even though they are of course first and foremost Americans. Like many other ethnic groups who are proud of the country where their parents, grandparents or great grandparents came from, our Maltese younger community is equally as proud of their Maltese ancestry.

Always remember that, *it is not what we take but what we give that make us rich.*



### THIS MONTH IN MALTESE HISTORY

*by Mona Vella-Nicholas*

### NOVEMBER IN MALTESE HISTORY

*November 1942 --- After two years of relentless bombing by Italian and German aircraft, the attacks on Malta begin to ease. This is due to intense fighting in North Africa between the Allied and Axis forces. The Germans and Italians turn their attention to defending their holdings there and away from Malta.*

*November 2011 --- A census is conducted in Malta showing a 2.7% increase in population over the previous census in 2005. The 2011 census records 416,055 men, women, and children living on the islands.*

### Origin of Maltese Last Names

*Falzon*

Is your last name **Falzon**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Falzon** comes from the Italian word "falso", which means false or deceitful. In spite of its origins, **Falzon** is one of the oldest last names in Malta. It appears on records dating back to 1299! It is also a name shared by many land-owning families as far back as the 15th century.

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## ***Support Our Advertisers***

*Please be sure to check the advertising pages and remember to mention the Club when you patronize these businesses.*

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**Visit Us Online**

[www.maltese-americanSCSF.org](http://www.maltese-americanSCSF.org)

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*New members are always welcome. Encourage your family and Maltese friends, young and old, to become members of the Maltese American Social Club*



## ***Entertainment Committee***

*Our Bowling night was a success with double the amount of people than the 1<sup>st</sup> one. The Graton Casino Trip was a lot of fun for everyone. The Children's Christmas Party is on December 16<sup>th</sup> and our last function for 2017 is the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance.*

## ***Women's Social Committee***

*At the November meeting, the women enjoyed a movie and an ice cream social. There will be an exchange of gifts at their December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

## ***GoFundMe Kid Heroes***

*Walt and Naima Sutton, children of Celina Gomes and grandchildren of Mary Vella Gomes, have been honored by GoFundMe for a previous campaign 2 years ago and are now raising money for St. Anthony Foundation. They have been on NBC Nightly News and will be on CNN on New Year's Day. For information and/or if you would like to donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/waltnaimawintershelterwish>*

## ***Correspondence***

Except for payment of functions and/or dues, please remember that all correspondence must be addressed to the attention of the secretary, Mary Vella Gomes. Payment for all functions must be made by check (No Cash) and sent to the attention of Ninfa Pace. If paying for more than one function, please provide separate checks. Thank you

## ***Hall Rental***

The hall is available for rent to members only. Please call Brian Ciappara at 650-303-6900 for information and pick up a form and guidelines from the Club

## ***Non-Responsibility Declaration:***

All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored by the Maltese- American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc. are for the convenience and pleasure of 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 of the or their property in any matters pertaining to said activities.

*Newsletter is created by Mary Vella Gomes with the approval of the Board of Directors.*