

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.

924 El Camino Real
South San Francisco, Ca 94080



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<http://maltese-americanscsf.org/>

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

President: Mary Vella Gomes
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Vice President: Terrie Smith Aquino
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650-438-5579

Secretary: Maryann Ciappara Milla
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Assistant Secretary: Mary Borg Smith
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650-692-0413

Treasurer: Rita Borg
Luftymom2000@gmail.com
650-483-3957

Assistant Treasurer: Ninfa Pace
ninfapace@aol.com
650-619-4565

Parliamentarian: Mary Anne Fassler
650-477-0793
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Message from the President

There has already been a lot of activity this year and it is almost hard to keep up!

Our Fourth Installation Ceremony of the Board of Directors and the General Meeting was held on January 26th. Thank you to Mona Nicholas and Louis Vella for their roles in the Ceremony. Thank you to those of you who came and who also stayed for the reception following the General Meeting.

On behalf of the Board and the Members of the Club, a gift was given to Joe Vella thanking him for the 27 years he served as Treasurer and for all he has done and continues to do for the Club.

The Grievance Committee members for 2025 were approved by the members present at the February General Meeting. The committee includes Paula Ebejer Moffitt (chair), Mary Anne Fassler, Charlie Catania, Peter Abela and Rita Goldberg. Thank you for volunteering to serve on the committee this year.

Thank you to Laurie Scribner for organizing a very successful Blood Drive and to Mary Anne Fassler for her assistance. Donating blood is extremely important and we hope to make this an annual event.

Many members attended the Community meeting on January 13th and after presentation by In-N-Out, those who were there were able to ask questions and make comments. Many spoke up, including our members. Prior to the meeting, several members of the Planning Commission met with 4 different individuals associated in some capacity with In-N-Out. Along with our traffic concerns and other issues, we made it very clear that the exit door we have in the back is essential. Honorary Consul General Louis Vella let us know that when the City Planning Commission meets it will be a public meeting which we can all attend.


Thank you to all who have helped at the Bar. If you can cover for Gillu or assist him on Friday nights and Sundays, please let me know so we create a schedule. You just need to be a member of the Club and 21 years old.

If you are interested in joining the Malta Day Committee, please contact me. Our first meeting will be held at the Maltese-American Social Club on February 18th at 5:30.

I encourage those who can lend a hand to talk to Larry Meliak. Your talents and time are always welcomed.

Our first event this year is a **Graton Casino Bus Trip on February 22nd**. There are still a few seats left so if you are interested in going, please contact Mary Smith asap at 650-692-0413. Payment should be sent to the Club, ATTN: Ninfa Pace.

Attached you will find a flyer for our St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance. Please be sure to RSVP by the deadline date. Hope

to see you all there...after all, everyone is Irish on St. Paddy's Day!  Also attached is an invitation to the visit from Ambassador Xuereb's on March 2nd.

This month's General Meeting will be held on February 23rd and will be starting at 10:30 a.m. Please plan to attend

Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta

Greetings dear friends of the Maltese American Social Club and the Maltese Community in California. This year, so many things have already taken place including disasters on land and in the air. It will be so nice if we could have a break from the bad and sad news that captured the news so quickly in 2025. We continue to hope and pray that the rest of the year will bring us lasting peace first and foremost in our hearts and among our families especially, our Maltese-American family, as well as peace and cooperation outside our homes, our State, our nation and throughout the world. By the time you receive this communication it will be around the feast of St. Paul Shipwreck which is celebrated in all churches all over Malta but particularly in Valletta. It will also be Carnival time in Malta.

Carnival in Malta this year will take place from February 28th till March 4th. The Malta Carnival continues to gain in popularity among residents in Malta and Gozo as well as tens of thousands of visitors. If you have a chance and the time to look at some videos or online images of Carnival in Malta, I have no doubt you will be impressed with the artisan skills and the intricacies and details of the Carnival parade floats, costumes, music, singing, dancing

troupes, lights, colors, and anything anyone can imagine to celebrate the crazy carnival days in Malta.

First Membership Meeting of 2025: On the last Sunday of January, our club organized the now annual installation ceremony of the new Board of Directors, Auditors and Sergeant at Arms for the new year. The meeting was once again well attended, and it was an impressive and enthusiastic beginning of a new and exciting year at the Maltese Club. Our members are increasingly realizing and appreciating the work of those who dedicate personal time, talents, and resources to run the business of not only the Maltese-American Social Club but all other Maltese-American organizations operating in California. Well done indeed. Thank you to everyone who took part in a beautiful and well-attended event. It was indeed an outstanding and all-around pleasant morning, fitting for a new beginning.

Artistic Maltese Presepju – Nativity: In January, the Friends of the Maltese Presepju disassembled this delicate work of art and carefully had it stored for the next Christmas season. A special thank you to the members of the “Friends of the Maltese Presepju.” Peter Xuereb, Joe Vella, Emmanuel Micallef, Johnny Falzon, Teddy Borg, Charlie Mizzi, and Charlie Grima for their expertise, time, and talents.

Embassy Official Visit: Plans are in the works for a visit from an official from the Malta Embassy in Washington DC to the Maltese Consulate office in Millbrae starting on March 3rd. Those who will be included on the list of invitees will need to have all their documents in order and approved by the embassy in advance.

Sunday March 2nd: On the first Sunday in March, the Ambassador of Malta in Washington DC, His Excellency Dr. Godfrey Xuereb, his wife Dr. Kay Xuereb, and a small delegation will be visiting the Maltese Club in the morning. This will be the very first visit of Ambassador Xuereb to our club and we are planning a most fitting welcome. We would like to see everyone there and we are sure the Ambassador will return to DC and to Malta singing our praises. Let us make this an occasion for the history books and ones to remember.

In-N-Out Burger Project: As many if our members know, In-N-Out Burger corporation is working with the city of South San Francisco to build a new burger place to the North and adjacent to the premises of the Maltese Club. A property development commission of the Maltese Club has been set up and is working very closely and diligently to make sure that our club will not be negatively affected by the new development next door to us.

Festa Season during the month of February in Malta & Gozo: After the festivities of Christmas and New Year, the Festa calendar in Malta in February is somewhat calm except for Carnival of course. The feast of the Shipwreck of St. Paul (San Pawl Nawfragu) in Valletta and St. Paul’s Bay, Conversion of St. Paul in Mdina. IL-Festa it-tajba:

We continue to encourage everyone to keep their families, friends and loved ones constantly in your thoughts and prayers. *Always remember, it is not what we take but what we give that makes us truly rich. So, give without remembering and receive without forgetting.*



Message from the Secretary

If you have changed your phone number, or you have a landline and are not using it for your contact, please let us know so that we can update the membership phone list! Many members have gotten rid of landlines, and we may not have your cell number. We rely on making phone calls to members, and the phone number list needs to be current. Also, remember to notify me of any changes to addresses and email address. It is very important that when sending in your RSVPs by USPS mail make sure to put your return address on the envelope. If you have any questions, contact me at: 415-218-6329 or secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org

Newsletter Mailing

Reminder that the Newsletter will be sent via email, unless you notify me by either mailing back the Information Form that was provided to everyone, at secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org or at 415-218-6329. If you advise me that you do want a hard copy, it will continue to be mailed to you. If we are not notified, the Newsletter will be sent via email.

Valentine's Day

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270ce by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend,

the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love. Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

Website

Visit us online for a look at the memorable moments through pictures, information about the Club and more. maltese-americanscsf.org/member-services.aspx

Facebook

Many of you may not be aware that we do have a Facebook page which is maintained by Mary Anne Fassler. If you do use Facebook, you can reach it by searching Maltese American Social Club on Facebook or also with the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064530946528>

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 from 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m or contact Mona Vella-Nicholas, Librarian and Historian, at 650-589-4578 for an appointment.

Annual Dues

Final Reminder

If you have not paid your 2025 dues, they are now considered delinquent. Please be sure to send your payment to the Attn of Ninfa Pace if you intend to remain a member of the Club. If you have any questions, please contact Ninfa Pace.

MASC Blood Drive

Laurie Muscat Scribner

Hello Maltese community -I would like to thank those that donated for the blood drive that I hosted with the kind help of Mary Anne Fassler on February 1, 2025. 57 units of life saving blood overall were donated to the Vitalant blood bank. It was a HUGE success! Please consider donating at the next Blood Drive.

Advertisers

If anyone would like to advertise in our monthly newsletter or knows of a business that would like to, please be sure to contact Terrie Aquino via terrieaquino66@gmail.com or at 650-438-5579. Advertising in the newsletter helps offset the cost of printing and postage and reaches almost 300 households.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

By: Mona Vella-Nicholas

Librarian and Historian

Is your last name Xiberras? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. Xiberras is of Sicilian origin. It probably originated at the time of the Arab occupation of Sicily and Malta. It is a place name and comes from the Arabic "xa'b er-ras," which means a high point of land hanging out over a large body of water. An alternate spelling of the name is "Schiberras."

Maltese History Month

By: Mona Vella-Nicholas

Librarian and Historian

January 10, 1941 --- German Airfield Marshal Kesselring is chosen by Hitler to be the commander of all Axis forces in the Mediterranean. He is to be headquarters in Sicily. Mussolini is insulted. He resents having the Germans run the war in the Mediterranean from Italian soil, but Axis ships are being intercepted and sunk when attempting to bring supplies and troops to Axis positions in North Africa. British airplanes and submarines working from Malta are responsible for these interceptions. Kesselring has a plan to stop them.

Just after midnight on January 1st, 1942, the Germans begin a series of bombing raids intended to bomb Malta to bits. The plan is to follow these raids by an invasion of Malta by German forces. Although the "bombing to bits" part of the plan comes very close to being successful, fortunately for the British forces and the Maltese population, the invasion part of the plan is never realized.

January 23, 1958 --- Rediffusion House in Guardamangia is officially opened. This is the first building in Malta dedicated to broadcasting to the public. Prior to the launch of the Rediffusion, the only form of broadcasting on the island came from the naval stations for military purposes. By 1958, the Rediffusion has been in operation for three years, but without a building of its own. Rediffusion House later becomes what is known today as the "PBS Creativity Hub."

Entertainment Committee

Co-Chairperson(s): Karen Borg: kb99karebear@aol.com Dorothy Falzon: dorothyanderson59@sbcglobal.net.
Members of the Committee: Sina Borg, Brian Ciappara, Mary Vella Gomes, Emma Magarrell, Ninfa Pace, Gracie Lacey, Lina Agius, Mary Smith, Betty DeBattista, Gracie Aquino and Pauline Henderson. Volunteers for our functions are always needed and welcomed! If you are interested in volunteering for the upcoming events in 2025, please contact: Karen Borg and/or Dorothy Falzon.



Graton Casino Bus Trip 2/22
St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance 3/15

EVENT REMINDER

GRATON Bus Trip is coming up soon - February 22. If you are interested in having a fun trip to a great casino, please call Mary Smith: 650-692-0413

Women's Social Committee

The women will have a Potluck at their meeting on February 11th. and will also play Bingo.

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 our advertisers who support our Club. Remember to mention the Club when patronizing these businesses.

Payments (No CASH)

Payment for dues and all functions should be made by CHECK payable to: Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco (MASC) and send it to the attention of **Ninfa Pace**. Please be sure to provide **separate checks for each event**. Payment for functions must be made by the deadline date. **IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE DATE, ATTEMPTING TO PAY AT THE DOOR ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT WILL BE DENIED.**

Hall Rental

EMMANUEL MICALLET HALL

The hall is available for rent to members only. Please contact Mary Vella Gomes at (415-468-3747 or 415-517-5533) for information and to pick up a form and guidelines from the Club.

Non-Responsibility Declaration

All activities arranged for 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 or their property in any matters pertaining to said activities.

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

