

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:

Joe DeBattista
650-438-2561

Vice President:

Mary Borg Smith
650-692-0413

Secretary:

Mary Vella Gomes
415-468-3747

Assistant Secretary:

Carmen Micallef
415-586-2597

Treasurer:

Joseph Vella
650-619-4565

Asst. Treasurer:

Ninfa Pace
650-697-1079

Parliamentarian:

Rose Borg
650-873-3187

Sergeant-At-Arms:

George Borg

Auditors:

Mona Vella Nicholas
Louis Vella

**The Next General
Membership Meeting is
Sunday, January 26th,
at 10:30 a.m.**

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends, at the last General Membership Meeting on December 30th, seventy-six (76) were present. A pretty good number indeed. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Joe Tanti's sister, Michelina Bosso and long-time members George Attard and Albert Vella, who was the manager of the Bank of Valletta in Canada. Albert was a great benefactor to our Club. May they rest in Peace.

On December 14th, the Club held the Children's Party. Many thanks to Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause, a.k.a. George and Rita Borg, Joe Micallef for setting up the most beautiful Presepju (Nativity Village), the children that participated in costumes as the Drummer Boy, shepherds, angels, Joseph and Mary, the volunteers who helped the kids put on the costumes and guided them during the procession. Thanks also to Evelyn and Dennis Simmons who took a lot of pictures and posted them on the Club's web site, those who cooked the hot dogs and made the popcorn, those who went shopping for the gifts, all who set up and decorated the hall, wrapped the gifts, passed out the food and goodies to the children, and those who cleaned the Club after everyone went home.

As you can see, a lot of work is done by many volunteers at every function that is held at the Club. Most of the work is done by the same volunteers every time. If you are reading this and you have not offered to volunteer in the past, maybe it's time to do so. This being the last meeting of 2019, an election for President and Vice-President needed to be done, so I yielded the floor to the

Rest In Peace

*Our deepest sympathy to
the families of
George Attard, Albert
Vella and Manuel
Vassallo*



*Eternal rest grant unto
them O' Lord and may
perpetual light shine
upon them. May they
rest in peace*

Grievance Committee

The names of the 2020
Grievance Committee
Members cannot be
published until they are
approved by the members
at the February General
Membership meeting

~ ~ ~ ~

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,
January 20th ...Observed on
the third Monday in January,
MLK Day is a federal holiday
designated as a national day
of service in order to
encourage all Americans,
young and old, to volunteer to
improve the lives of others and
also their communities

*"Not everybody can be
famous but everybody can be
great because greatness is
determined by service... you
only need a heart full of grace
and a soul generated by love."
Martin Luther King*

Election Committee. The members of this Committee were Joe Tanti, Pauline Henderson and Maryann Milla. Running for President were Joe Debattista and Celina Gomes and for Vice President Bart Borg and Mary Borg Smith. All four candidates gave a short speech. After the voting was closed and the ballots counted, Joe Debattista was elected as President, whilst Mary Borg Smith was elected as Vice-President. I thanked the Election Committee for a job well done and dissolved the Election Committee. I also thanked Joe and Mary for stepping up to the plate and congratulated them. I also thanked Celina Gomes and Bart Borg for offering their services to the organization.

The members of the Board of Directors for the year 2020 are: President: Joe Debattista, Vice-President: Mary Borg Smith, Secretary: Mary Vella Gomes, Assistant Secretary: Carmen Micallef, Treasurer: Joe Vella, Assistant Treasurer: Ninfa Pace and Parliamentarian: Rose Borg. Sergeant-At-Arms: George Borg. Mona Nicholas and Louis Vella are the auditors. The assembly ratified the Board of Directors by acclamation.

This was the last meeting of 2019, and my last meeting as President of our Club. I served the Club for six consecutive years, from 2014 to 2019. No other President in the history of our Club has served six years in a row. Let's hope that the next President will break this record. In these six years, the Club has celebrated two Anniversaries, the 85th in 2014 and the 90th in 2019. In 2014 we welcomed Dr. Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta and in 2018 we welcomed H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta. In 2019, the Ambassador of Malta for the United States, Mr. Keith Azzopardi visited and Debbie Scerri, an accomplished Maltese singer, came from Malta to entertain us during the 90th Anniversary of our Club.

In these past six years a lot of improvements was done at the Club. A new roof, a new water heater, the dance floor was refinished, the kitchen was deep cleaned, and at the end of 2018 a refrigerator/freezer was bought to replace the old one which was beyond repair. A flagpole was also installed on the facade of the Club. Most of these things were accomplished by the skills of the volunteers and with the generous donations from the members.

Upcoming Maltese Community Events

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We will be having a Casino Trip in February but date not yet confirmed. All of the events for 2020 are currently being planned. Additional information will be made available in the February Newsletter.

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Entertainment Committee

The names of the 2020 Entertainment Committee will be published in the February 2020 Newsletter.



Women's Social Committee

The committee meets at 6:30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, except August. All the women members of the Club are welcome and invited to join.

These six years were not all clear sailing. In April of 2017, the Maltese Club and myself were sued in Court by a member who was expelled from the Club. He alleged that the Club and the President violated his rights. The Judge decided that his rights were not violated by the Club or by the President, and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

The Family Bowling Nights and The Second Harvest Food Collection Program were started during these six years thanks to Karen Borg.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, the Sergeant-At-Arms, the Auditors as well as all the volunteers and the benefactors who helped me run the business of the Organization. Without their unwavering support, I would have never been able to do it by myself. Thank You

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th at 10:30 am.

Dear friends, it has been an honor for me to serve the Club as President for the last six years. Although the year has already started, on behalf of my wife Carmen, the Board of Directors, Sergeant-At-Arms, and the Auditors, I wish you and your loved ones, a Happy and Healthy New Year filled with Joy, Prosperity, and God's Blessings.

Saħħa u Grazzi lill-kulħadd
(Good-Bye and Thanks to All)
Brian

A MESSAGE FROM THE *Honorable Consul General of Malta*

Hon Consul (HC) Vella greeted everyone present. Due to the lengthy process of the election of a new board of directors, auditors and Sergeant-At-Arms, the Hon Consul limited his remarks to only a few comments.

Hon Consul Vella reminded everyone that a representative from the Embassy of Malta in Washington DC is scheduled to visit his office in Millbrae to process applications for Maltese passports. The visit will be on Thursday February 6th, Friday February 7th and Saturday February 8th. Anyone interested needs to have all

Club Hours

Sunday and Holidays

9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Monday, Wednesday

Saturday

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.

Library



Take some time and
visit our library on
Sundays from
10:00 am to 12 Noon.
Mona Vella-Nicholas,
Librarian and
Historian, can be
reached at
650-589-4578.

documents in order before being approved for a Maltese passport. An appointment is needed. Please contact the office of the Hon Consul of Malta, if interested. Appointments slots are filling up fast.

Hon Consul Vella congratulated everyone present but in particular those members who are running for a position on the 2020 Board of Directors as well as those who are volunteering to step up to conduct the day to day business of the Maltese Club. It takes courage, patience and dedication to keep an organization such as our Club running for 2020 and beyond. The Maltese Club is an integral part of the Maltese Community in California and it is up to each and every one of us to make sure it keeps going strong and forward in the right direction. Good luck to all.

Mr. Vella on behalf of Mrs. Vella and the office of the Hon Consul of Malta in San Francisco took the wonderful opportunity to extend to every member of the Maltese Club, the Maltese Community, their families, friends and all those they hold dear a splendid New Year full of good health, peace, love and prosperity and the very best for the new decade which is just about to start on January 1st 2020.

Grazzi Hafna, Is-Sena T-Tajba,

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

Entertainment Committee

A big thank you for the generous donations of food throughout the year. They were very much appreciated by Second Harvest Food Bank as were the self-care items by Home and Hope. Plans for the 2020 events will start in January. A casino trip is planned for February but date not yet selected. Details will be provided when the date and place are confirmed.

Women's Social Committee

The women enjoyed a wonderful dinner in December at the Basque Social Club. In January, they will be planning the year's events and in February they will experience a night of painting and wine sipping.

Support Our Advertisers

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

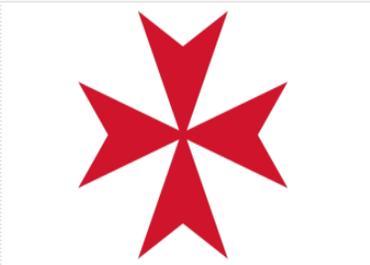
Origin of Maltese Last Names

Porter

Is your last name **Porter**? If so, you may be interested in learning where your last name comes from. **Porter** is of English origin. It is an occupational name, referring to a doorkeeper or gatekeeper. In Medieval times, it also referred to someone who carried or transported goods from one place to another. It comes from the Latin noun "portarius", meaning "door" and the Latin verb "portare", meaning "to carry."

DECEMBER IN MALTESE HISTORY

by Mona Vella-Nicholas



*Visit us online for
a look at pictures
of memorable
moments,
information about
the Club and more*

[http://maltese-
americanscsf.org/](http://maltese-americanscsf.org/)



December 20, 1850 --- A child is born to Isabella Abela of Rabat, Gozo. The infant dies of a hemorrhage shortly after birth. Two months later, on February 14th, 1851, Isabella is charged with infanticide. The prosecution argues that she brought about the baby's death by not tying the umbilical cord properly after birth. She is accused of negligence and the prosecutor asks for the death penalty. The charge is later changed to burying the infant after death. The defense attorney argues that Isabella had not buried the child, but simply placed it under a box. The child's body is found inside the house and not buried, so the jury finds Isabella not guilty. She is the first woman in the 19th century to be charged with infanticide in Malta.

December 11, 2015 --- Antoine Borg Micallef writes an article stating that there are seven reasons why the Gozo Tunnel Project is a bad idea. The major reason he gives is that the rural and tranquil nature of Gozo will become more of a Malta, with its bustling lifestyle. In spite of this reservation and that of numerous others, Parliament approves the Malta-Gozo tunnel link in April, 2019. In August, bids for building and operating the tunnel are opened. The tunnel is expected to be operational by 2024.

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

New members of the Maltese American Social Club are always welcomed. Please encourage your family and Maltese friends, young and old, to become members and attend our functions.

Maltese websites that may be of interest to the Bay Area Maltese Community:

www.timesofmalta.com
www.tvn.com.mt
www.gozotv.com/home
www.visitmalta.com
www.airmalta.com
www.gozonews.com
www.maltatoday.com.mt
www.independent.com.mt
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY491bN_xQ4
<https://www.maltaproducts.com/>

A Message from the Secretary

Please remember that Membership dues must be paid by January 31st. I am asking once again to please be sure to provide your email address to me, unless you have already done so. May 2020 bring joy, peace and happiness to you and your families.

Correspondence

Except for payments, all correspondence must be addressed to the attention of the secretary, Mary Vella Gomes

Payments

Payments for dues and all functions must be made by check only (NO CASH), payable to Maltese American Social club or MASC and sent to the attention of Ninfa Pace. Payment for functions must be made by the deadline date. IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE DATE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND. PAYMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE NOR AT THE DOOR ON THE DAY OF THE FUNCTION. Please provide separate checks for each function.

Hall Rental

The hall is available for rent to members only. Please call Joe DeBattista at 650-438-2561 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 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