

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.



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South San Francisco, CA 94080

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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

650-619-4565

Asst. Treasurer:

Ninfa Pace
650-697-1079

Parliamentarian:

Mary Smith
650-692-0413

Sergeant-At-Arms:

George Borg

Auditors:

Mona Vella Nicholas
Louis Vella

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends, a Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your loved ones. Hoping that 2018 was good to you and that 2019 will be an even better one.

At the December 30th General Membership Meeting, sixty (60) members were present. A moment of silence was held in memory of Nicholas Borg who passed on to Eternal Life. May he Rest in Peace.

On Saturday, December 15th, sixty-five (65) children and a good number of their families participated in the Children's Christmas Party. To make this party very enjoyable for those who attended, a lot of work was done by numerous volunteers. I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Dave Griscti and Mary Frendo), all the children that took part in the procession dressed as the Drummer Boy, Angels, Shepherds, Joseph and Mary with a statue of Baby Jesus, the volunteers that guided and helped the children to get dressed in their costumes, Joe Micallef who displayed his very artistic Presepju, Josie Muscat who donated Beanie Babies and candy to each and every child, Evelyn and Dennis Simmons who took the pictures and posted them on the Club's web-site, Karen Borg and her family, all those who shopped for the gifts and wrapped them, those who decorated and set up the hall, served the cookies and ice cream to the kids, all those that helped to clean up the Club after everyone had gone home and to all those that in one way or

**The Next General
Membership Meeting is
Sunday, January 27th
at 10:30 a.m.**

*May you have a year
that is filled with
love, laughter, good
health, brightness
and hope*

Grievance Committee

The names of the 2018
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 21st** - quotes
from Dr. King:

~ ~ ~

It is cheerful to God when
you rejoice or laugh from
the bottom of your heart

~ ~ ~

The quality, not the
longevity, of one's life is
what is important

~ ~ ~

Somewhere along the way,
we must learn that there is
nothing greater than to do
something for others.

~ ~ ~

Without love, there is no
reason to know anyone, for
love will in the end connect
us to our neighbors, our
children and our hearts.

another helped to see the big smiles on the kids' faces. Although some of them did cry when they approached Santa Claus!

The refrigerator/freezer that we bought is now up and running and the old one was taken to the recyclers. Many thanks goes to Manuel Micallef, Joe Vella, and Tony Caruana who helped me to do the job, as without them the job would not have been done.

At the meeting, the Board of Directors acknowledged Karen Borg as The Volunteer of The Year. Karen was presented with a certificate and she was thanked for all the great help that she gives to the Club. She is a dedicated person who is always there when the need arises. She has a lot of energy and her creativity is amazing. She donates many hours, items and money to the Club and her help is priceless. Thank you, Karen, for all you do.

Gillu Muscat volunteers as a bartender, opens the club every Thursday, Fridays and Sundays and whenever it is needed and cleans the premises for all of us to enjoy. Gillu was presented with a cash gift as a sign of appreciation for his superb services. Thank you Gillu.

Being the last meeting of the year, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors, Auditors and Sargent-At-Arms for helping me run the business of the Club throughout the year. Thanks to all the Chairpersons and Co-Chairs of all the sub committees for their vital support to the Club, to all those who donate countless hours organizing the Social Events, to the bartender, and to all those who donate money and items to the Club, Thanks to all those who perform maintenance to the premises and to all who in one way or another help to make our Club so successful. Without you, the Club will cease to exist.

Since the election for the office of Parliamentarian had to be done, Joseph Tanti, Bob Borg and Mona Nicholas were chosen to form the Election Committee. Before the election was held, Celina Gomes and Mary Smith, who were running for the office of Parliamentarian, each gave a short speech. After that, an election by secret ballot, was held. Mary Smith received thirty-four (34) votes, while Celina Gomes received twenty-four (24)

Upcoming Maltese Community Events

~ ~ ~ ~

Events for 2019 are in the planning stages. More information will be made available in the February Newsletter

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Entertainment Committee

The names of the 2019 Entertainment Committee will be published in the February 2019 Newsletter.



Women's Social Committee

The committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except August. The women Club members are welcome and invited to join.

votes. Mary was congratulated for winning the election and Celina was thanked for her help as a Parliamentarian for the year 2018. The Election Committee was thanked for a job well done and the committee was dissolved.

The New Year's Eve dinner dance was a great success. The D.J. kept the dance floor full of people dancing and having a good time. Everyone had good comments about the food and a big thank you goes to Manuel Micallef who carved the Prime Rib. Thanks to Janet Frendo, Frances and Joe Tanti, Susan and Natalino Camilleri, Josie and Gillu Muscat for the basket filled with goodies they each donated for a raffle. In addition, Karen Borg donated a bottle of wine. This event would not have been so successful without the dedication of Karen and all those who set up and decorated the hall, worked in the kitchen, tended bar, served the food and picked up the dishes, sold the raffle tickets, cleaned the table and put them and the chairs away in their proper place, after everyone went home.

Please mark your calendars and save Saturday, February 2nd so that you can join the St. Elizabeth Maltese Society in celebrating the feast of St. Paul who is the Patron Saint of our beloved island of Malta! Attached to this newsletter, you will find the flier for this event which will be held at St. Elizabeth Church and Gym. Please send in your reservation as soon as possible. Thank you.

This being the last newsletter for 2018, I would like to thank the Board of Directors, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Auditors who helped me run the affairs of our Club, the great number of volunteers that work tirelessly all through the year to make the Club a better place for all, the chairpersons of each subcommittee, the Bartender, those who donated items and money, all those who supported the Club by attending the functions and to all those who in one way or another helped to make our organization so vibrant. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please forgive me if I missed anyone.

Please keep in mind that 2019 is the 90th Anniversary of the Maltese Club. Preparations for events are being made and will be available as soon as they are finalized.

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

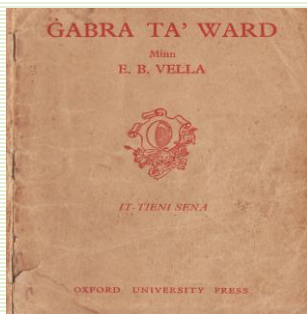
Thursday

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 Noon.

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

Please send the yearly dues of \$60,00 as soon as possible, as they are due. Thank you.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th, at 10:30 am.

Dear Friends, it has been an honor for me to serve as the Club's President for the last five (5) years and I'm looking forward to serving you in the coming year. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Auditors and the Sargent-At-Arms and my wife Carmen, I wish you and your loved ones A Very Happy New Year Filled with Good Health, Prosperity, Joy and God's Blessings.

Saħħa, Brian

A MESSAGE FROM THE

Honorable Consul General of Malta

Hon Consul Vella greeted everyone present on this the last membership meeting of 2018. He made special mention that on that day the membership will be electing a new board of directors and other officials. They and many other volunteers will be overseeing the business of the club for 2019. He continued by saying that we should consider ourselves very lucky that we still have people who are willing to dedicate their time to make sure our club continues to operate year after year. It is not easy and not all voluntary organizations have the good fortune to field a slate of officials who are willing to give up some of their time. We have a lot to be thankful for and we owe these individuals a world of gratitude.

Hon Consul Vella, talked about the wonderful opportunity he recently had when he, and over a thousand people in the audience, attended a fantastic performance by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in New York City. While in New York he also visited the Maltese Center in Astoria NY where he discussed ways how Maltese Organizations from New York and San Francisco, and maybe later on from different parts of the US, can cooperate, share and coordinate their activities to continue to improve and strengthen their existence and their accomplishments.

Support Our Advertisers

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



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

www.maltese-americanSCSF.org



HC Vella talked again about the group trip to Malta he is coordinating with the Millbrae Sister Cities Commission for April 2019. This beautiful adventure is coming along very well indeed. There is already a nice group of people who are confirmed and with flight reservations already booked. He mentioned also that they were able to secure one of the best prices he has seen in years, namely under \$680 for a Return trip SFO-London-Malta during the Easter holidays, no less.

Hon Consul Vella also shared that he is working with the Embassy of Malta in Washington DC to bring a stage play to the SF Bay Area. The play is called "*The Star of Strait Street*" and is based on true events that took place during World War II at "Strada Stretta" in Valletta, Malta in the early 1940's. The play is in English and has received rave reviews, especially among Maltese Communities in Sydney and Melbourne in Australia, in London England, in other parts of the world and of course in Malta.

Hon Consul Vella took the opportunity, on behalf of himself and his wife Lillian, to wish everyone a Happy New Year 2019 and wished everyone a year filled with bountiful blessings of peace, happiness, prosperity and good health.

Grazzi Hafna

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

DECEMBER IN MALTESE HISTORY

by Mona Vella-Nicholas

December 20, 1522--- After a nearly 6-month siege of the island fortress of Rhodes, the Ottoman forces successfully defeat the defending Knights of Rhodes. Their numbers decimated by the long siege, the Knights are forced to surrender. The ruler of the Ottoman Empire, Suleiman the Magnificent, aged 28 at the time, expels the surviving Knights. They leave Rhodes, wandering for a time until they finally settle in Malta, developing their new stronghold into another island fortress and becoming forever known as the Knights of Malta. In their campaigns alone, the Salonika and Gallipoli campaigns, 136,121 sick and wounded soldiers and sailors are treated in Malta.

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

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

www.timesofmalta.com
www.tvm.com.mt
www.gozotv.com/home
www.visitmalta.com
www.airmalta.com
www.gozonews.com

December 28, 1908 --- Sicily is struck by a huge earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale. Numerous buildings are destroyed by the 30-ft. rise in the sea level and 200,000 people are killed. The quake hits Malta at 5:21 in the morning, followed by several aftershocks. As happened in Sicily, the waters rise, flooding the city of Msida for eight hours. Once the waters recede, eyewitnesses describe fish "wriggling in the sand" on what is once again dry land.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Healey

Is your last name **Healey**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Healey** is of English origin. It is a place name, with at least three locations in England bearing the name. The word comes from two words in Old English: "heah", which means "high" and "leah", which means "wood" or "clearing."

Entertainment Committee

The Annual Children's Christmas Party, as always, was so much fun for the children and, of course, the parents and grandparents. New Year's Eve Dinner Dance is the final function of the year.

Women's Social Committee

At the December meeting, a delicious catered dinner was served. The women participated in an ornament surprise by selecting a wrapped ornament from the ones each of them had brought. The 2019 calendar will be planned at the January meeting.

Payments

Membership fees are due. Payments for dues and functions must be made by check (No Cash) 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 AS 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. Thank you.

Some of the Events to
look forward to in
2019 as we celebrate
our 90th Anniversary



Correspondence

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

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 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