

# Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.

924 El Camino Real  
South San Francisco, Ca 94080



650-871-4611  
<http://maltese-americanscsf.org/>

## JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

---



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Mary Vella Gomes  
(415-517- 5533)  
**Vice President:** Pauline Scerri Henderson  
(650-245-1774)  
**Secretary:** Maryann Ciappara Milla  
(415-218- 6329)  
**Assistant Secretary:** Mary Borg Smith  
(650-692-0413)  
**Treasurer:** Joseph Vella  
(650-619-4565)  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Ninfa Pace  
(650- 697-1079)  
**Parliamentarian:** Terrie Smith Aquino  
(650-438-5579)

### Message from the President

Summer is right around the corner and with that many of you will be vacationing. Have fun and stay safe wherever your travels take you.

After the May General Meeting, the Historical Society Elder Luncheon was held and everyone attending enjoyed socializing and a very tasty lasagna lunch.

Attached to this Newsletter is the flyer for our Annual Membership Picnic being held on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Raffle tickets are also included. Please be sure to send in your reservation and include your choice of meal. As always, the members do not pay for their meals but all guests will pay.

The Malta Day invitations will be mailed out in early August. The hotel has blocked rooms for us at a discounted rate. The invitations will provide information regarding room discounts, parking, etc. If you are interested in booking a room, you do not have to wait for the invitations to arrive. Should you wish to stay the night and not drive home, the link to use for room reservations is [bit.ly/maltadayrooms](http://bit.ly/maltadayrooms) Please make sure to plan ahead if you are thinking of attending. We would like to see as many of you as possible celebrating our Malta's

history but we are limited to the number of people.

The date for the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner is confirmed and will be held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. As a reminder, this is separate from the Malta Day Celebration in September. The Entertainment Committee will be planning the event and will keep us updated on the preparations. We hope you will make plans to attend both celebrations.

The Bylaws Committee has completed working on the Bylaws and they will be ready for the Board of Directors to review by the end of June. We will be presenting them to the members at several meetings so they can be reviewed and discussed properly. We are still on track for the process to be completed by the end of the year so that the new Bylaws can take effect on January 1, 2025.

The logo that Consul General Louis Vella and Charles Catania drafted is ready to be used on correspondence that will be going out for the remainder of the year. Thank you to the both of them and also to Karen Borg who made one little change at the Board's request.

At our May Board Meeting, we approved two new members: Mark Pirotta and Christi Grech Wieden. It is great to see new members that have been participating in our activities and volunteering. Thank you to all our members for the continued support you give to the Club.

**A General meeting will NOT be held in June. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**

## Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta

Greetings dear friends of the Maltese American Social Club and the Maltese-American Community in California. Because of the Memorial Day holiday weekend, the monthly meeting for the month of May took place a week earlier than usual. It was rewarding to see everyone.

**Memorial Day:** By the time you receive this newsletter Memorial Day 2024 will already be in the history books. Nevertheless, it is always inspiring to remember and it is never too late to reiterate and reflect about the significance of this very important and special day. At 3pm on Memorial Day all Americans are encouraged to pause for a moment of silence. For many this day is considered as the beginning of Summer and vacations, although the weather was not too summery this year. More importantly though, it is a day of commemoration. It is a day dedicated to those who sacrificed everything to protect and defend every one of us and our country. Its origins date back to the Civil War. It was initially referred to as "Decoration Day." On this day we honor especially our military personnel who lost their lives while serving in the US armed forces. Let us also remember Maltese and other service people of Maltese descent who perished while serving in the US military to protect our freedom and our way of life.

**Elders lunch:** On Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> the Maltese Historical Society organized yet another successful lunch for our Maltese elders. As a Maltese community we are one big family. Like good families, we do not forget those who laid the foundation for the Maltese community we have

today. It could be our parents, grandparents, great grandparents or other relatives and friends. Even though this section of our community may not be as active or we may not see you as often as we used to, please know, we still remember you and we want to extend our small appreciation to your contribution to our community. Once a year usually around May, our elders are invited to meet, greet, share memories, and some good laughs. Thank you also to the Maltese American Social Club and the volunteers for their unwavering support. Your participation is truly appreciated. We look forward to the elder's lunch in 2025.

**Maltese Community in the greater Bay Area:** A community is not simply a large group of people or some families that get together every now and then. A community like our Maltese Community is one that besides having a fairly large number of people who identify themselves as Maltese and people of Maltese descent, we are a community because we congregate, organize events, celebrations and we help and support each other. We seek each other and we celebrate each other. As a vibrant community we are also lucky to have various Maltese organizations that carry different mind-set, have different missions, and seek different interests, but they all work in harmony with each other. Those of Maltese descent searching to learn more about where they came from, or where their ancestors came from can easily support one or more of these Maltese organizations. These groups work tirelessly to keep Maltese heritage, culture, social fabric, history, customs, traditions, cuisine, and many other aspects of life in Malta,

strong and healthy. Many Americans are proud of their ancestral origins and heritage and so is our Maltese community. We too are honored and proud of our Maltese origins.

**Maltese Organizations in the SF Bay Area:** Many ask about Maltese organized groups in our region and so I thought I list those who are active, but if there are others who are not included in the list below, please let us know. The office of the Consulate of Malta in San Francisco is interested in you and is here to help and to support all Maltese and Maltese-American groups and organizations. Here is the list of organization the Consulate of Malta is proud of and supports: Maltese American Social Club of SF; Maltese Cross Foundation of California; Maltese Heritage Association of the SF Bay Area; Maltese Historical Society; St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church Maltese group; St. Elizabeth Maltese Society; Millbrae-Mosta Sister City Commission; and the San Francisco–Valletta Sister City Council; It would be so rewarding and beneficial to future generations, if young Maltese-Americans could organize themselves and show off their Maltese heritage and their Maltese pride.

**Festa Season during the month of June in Malta & Gozo:** The festa season is in full swing in Malta and the hot Summer-days are just around the corner. Almost every week there is a festa in some town or village around Malta and Gozo all the way until September. During the month of June we have the following main festa days: Corpus Christi – Ghasri, Gozo and Rabat, Malta; Our Lady of Fatima – Gwardamanga, Pieta'; St. Joseph – Ghaxaq; St. Philip of Agira – Haz Zebbug; Sacred Heart of Jesus – Fontana Gozo;

Our Lady of Lily – Mqabba; St. Catherine – Zejtun; Our Lady of Lourdes – Qrendi; St. John the Baptist – Xewkija, Gozo; St. Peter & St. Paul -Nadur, Gozo; Immaculate Heart of Mary – Burmarrad; St. George – Qormi; St. Nicholas of Bari – Siggiewi; IL-Festa it-tajba

We continue to encourage everyone to keep their families, friends and loved ones constantly in their 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.

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 the landline number 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. Please remember to notify me of any changes to addresses, phone numbers, and email address. You can reach me at 415-218-6329 or via email: [secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org](mailto:secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org)

### 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](mailto:secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org)

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAY!!!

Congratulations to  
**Mary Azzopardi**  
on her **100th Birthday!**  
Mary is mom to members Lena Agius  
and Josephine Muscat!

### Membership

Welcome to our newest members:  
**Mark Pirotta and Christi Grech**  
**Wieden!**



**Annual Membership Picnic:**  
**July 21st!**  
**Coyote Point Recreation Area**

### FUN FACTS

**Did you know** - Malta has two Guinness World Records, achieved by Maltese people in 2011:

First it hosted the **largest gathering of people dressed as storybook characters!** It was 453 people and was achieved by Chiswick House School (Malta) in San Gwann, Malta, on 4 March 2011.

The second is not a big surprise for those who knows the Maltese obsession with Fireworks: Malta built the **largest Catherine Wheel** in the World, measuring 32 m (104 ft 11.84 in) in diameter! It was built by Lily Fireworks Factory, in Mqabba, Malta, on 18 June 2011. This Catherine wheel holds the Guinness World Record and as of July 2021, has not been beaten

### 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](http://maltese-americanscsf.org/member-services.aspx)

### Club Hours

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

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

**CLOSED**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday -**EXCEPT**: The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **11a.m. to 1p.m** or contact Mona Vella-Nicholas, Librarian and Historian, at 650-589-4578 for an appointment.

### Origin of Maltese Last Names

#### Lanfranco

Is your last name Lanfranco? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. Lanfranco is of Italian origin. It is made up of two words --- "landa", which means "land" and "franka", which means "free." This last name can be found mostly in northern Italy. In Malta, it dates to at least the 17th century.

### Maltese History Month

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas  
Librarian and Historian*

May 1551 --- Ottomans and Barbary (North African) pirates begin a series of attacks on eastern Sicily and Malta. They are led by Sinan Pasha and Turgut Reis, known to Europeans as "Dragut." The attacks are in revenge for the capture by the Knights of Malta of the town of Mahdia in Tunisia a year before, in which the population of the city was

massacred. Dragut had been using Mahdia as the headquarters for his piratical activities. The Knights invaded Mahdia because Dragut's pirates had attempted to invade Malta in 1547, so the 1551 invasion was Ottoman revenge for the Knights' revenge for an Ottoman attack! This continual revenge for revenge continues, leading up to the Great Siege of Malta fourteen years later, led on the Ottoman side by Dragut himself.

May 4, 1595: Fra' Huges Loubenx de Verdalle, the 51st Grand Master of the Knights of Malta, dies at the age of 64. He is elected Grand Master in 1582 and six years later is summoned to Rome by Pope Sixtus V, where he is promoted to Cardinal. Now the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the official name of the Knights, is a lay order, like the Knights of Columbus today, so its members don't have to be priests, and most are not. However, there is no rule in the Catholic Church that says a cardinal must be a priest first, although in practice most are. Upon accepting the promotion, Grand Master Verdala returns to Malta and takes up the reconstruction of a hunting lodge used by the knights at Boschetto (today known as "Buskett Gardens."). When completed, the hunting lodge is named "Verdala Palace," the name by which it is known to this day. Grand Master Verdala's remains are in the crypt of St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

### Grievance Committee

The names of the 2024 Grievance Committee members are Mary Ann Fassler (Chairperson), Charlie Catania, Barbara Fenech, Paula Moffitt and Peter Abela.

### Women's Social Committee

Meetings are held at 6:30pm on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** of every month. Functions *may be held* on different days (members will be contacted if there are changes to the date and/or time for the meeting). On **Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> a night of dessert and Bingo will be enjoyed!**

### Entertainment Committee

The Entertainment Committee consists of the following members: Rita Borg (Chairperson), Karen Borg (Co-Chairperson) Sina Borg, Brian Ciappara, Mary Vella Gomes, Emma Magarrell, Ninfa Pace, Beverly Dennehy, Rose Agius, Maryann Milla, Gracie Lacey, Lina Agius, Carmen Micallef, and Pauline Henderson. Volunteers for our functions are *always needed* and welcomed! **If you are interested in volunteering for the upcoming events in 2024, please contact Rita Borg at [luftymom2000@gmail.com](mailto:luftymom2000@gmail.com)**

### Support Our Advertisers!

Please take the time while reading the newsletter to check out our advertisers who are supporting 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 MICALLEF HALL

The hall is available for rent to members only. Please contact Mary Vella Gomes (**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 Director*

