

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/>

JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mary Vella Gomes (415 517-5533); **Vice President:** Pauline Henderson (650 992-5966); **Secretary:** Maryann Ciappara Milla (415 218-6329); **Assistant Secretary:** Carmen Micallef (415 586-2597); **Treasurer:** Joseph Vella: (650 619-4565); **Assistant Treasurer:** Ninfa Pace (650 697-1079); **Parliamentarian:** Terrie Smith Aquino (650 438-5579) **Auditors:** Mona Vella Nicholas and Louis Vella

Message from the President

Hello everyone. It was good seeing many of you at the May General Membership Meeting.

Included with this newsletter are flyers for the Family Pasta Bingo being held on July 8th and also our Annual Membership Picnic on July 23rd. Please make sure you send in your responses as soon as possible. The Bingo night will be limited to 150 people. There is also a flyer for our Car Show on October 7th. Mark your calendar to stop by and see all the beautiful cars, listen to the music and just having a nice day out. We have also included the notice with the

Immigration Story Prompts that Mona Vella Nicholas spoke about at the April and May meetings. We all have immigration stories, whether about ourselves or those of us born here, so take some time and share yours.

While those of us who attended the Mother's Day Dinner had a great time, we only had a little over 40 people. Surprisingly, our Cinco de Mayo event had more people. It was disheartening to see such a low turnout for a function that usually has at least 100 people attending. We understand that cost may be a factor for some, but the reality is that everything has gone up in price, no matter where you go to eat or shop. It is disappointing to even think about, but we are going to have to take a look to see if we have to cancel any functions. This is certainly not something we want to do. Our Father's Day Brunch is on June 18th... please make plans to attend.

We are still planning to have the old carpet removed and the new carpet laid starting in August. Unless there are any changes, no one will be able to enter the hall and, of course, the hall will not be rented as of August 14th. It is estimated that the work will take approximately

one month. We will also not be able to hold our August General Meeting. The bar area and bathrooms will be accessible. Volunteers are needed, especially for the carpet removal, so please contact Manuel Micallef, if you can help.

An important date to remember is September 23rd when we will be celebrating Malta Day. A Save the Date flyer has been sent to you on several occasions and the formal invitation will be mailed to everyone in early August. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

I have continued to connect with Julian Galea regarding the film Brothers from Malta. They tried to get the film screening in the theaters here but, unfortunately, they did not have any luck. More than likely, it will be possible for us to screen the film at the Club, but we would need to purchase a screening license from Julian. Several people have already shown interest in attending and we hope that there are more of you that would like to see it. We will need to charge to cover the cost of the license and the cost will be determined by the number of people attending. Please email me or Maryann Milla if interested in attending and/or if you have any questions.

While Dennis Simmons continues to update our website, he has made some more changes at my request. When you have a minute take a look. If you have any suggestions for any additions or changes, please be sure to let me know. The website address appears on the

newsletter, or you click the link to reach the home page of the site: <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>

If you are interested in renting the hall, please contact me as we have quite a few people already doing so through the end of the year.

We welcome our newest member, Todd Fekete. We hope you will join us at our meetings, our many events or just drop by on a Friday night or Sunday. Merħba!

Please be advised that I have called for a **Special General Membership Meeting**, to be held at the Maltese-American Social Club, on **June 11, 2023** at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to re-address the motion regarding non-membership costs to attend functions that was presented at the April 30, 2023, General Meeting. The legitimacy of the motion and subsequent vote, by the raising of hands, was brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. We do not have an accurate count of the votes and, therefore, are unable to confirm that the motion was passed with a majority. On June 11th, there will be another vote taken but, this time, it will be done by means of a secret written ballot. The votes will be counted, and the results then conveyed to the members present. I urge all members to attend this very important meeting and cast your vote.

Please do not hesitate to send me an email with any suggestions, questions or issues that are of concern to you. If you prefer, you can drop a note in the suggestion box. You do not have to include your name if you would rather not. Thank you.

The Special General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 11th at 10:30 am.

**Message from the
Honorable Consul General of Malta**

Greetings dear friends of the Maltese American Social Club and the Maltese Community in California. Summer is around the corner and with it comes the planning of vacation and maybe a trip to our lovely island of Malta. I wish everyone safe travels and enjoyable vacations.

His Excellency the President of Malta: Earlier this year we received word that His Excellency, Dr. George Vella, President of Malta was planning a visit to San Francisco. Preparations were already on the way, but unfortunately the travel schedule could not accommodate the added time needed for the President to fly to the West Coast to visit us. The President had to limit his visit to Detroit, New York, and Toronto. The Maltese communities in those regions have really stepped up and gave the President of Malta a most warm and wonderful welcome and grand receptions. The Maltese communities arranged for visits to very interesting places such as the Henry Ford Museum which has a lot of connections to Maltese workers at the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, the September 11 Memorial in New York, and many other interesting sites. Hopefully our great and terrific Maltese community in California will have a chance to do the same in the future.

Maltese Passports and Maltese Citizenship: Every month we continue to take the time to repeat the announcement that Maltese Citizenship and Maltese passport applications will be processed at the Consulate office in Millbrae. Around the middle of the month of July, if all goes well, an official from the embassy of Malta, in Washington DC, will visit the office of the Consulate of Malta in Millbrae. Those of us who are of Maltese descent are entitled to apply for Maltese citizenship without jeopardizing their US Citizenship. A long waiting list of names of individuals seeking Maltese Citizenship or Maltese passports keeps getting longer. Those interested please contact the office of the Maltese Consulate malteseconsulate@yahoo.com If you think you are on the waiting list but are not sure, please contact the Consulate of Malta at the email address listed above. Only applications on the waiting list will be processed.

Membership and Organizations: Our Maltese Club is slowly approaching 100 years since it was first incorporated in November 1929. It is without a doubt one of the Maltese organized groups around the world with the longest history. The Maltese club has its doors open to everyone however since it is a membership organization, its primary attention needs to be towards its members that sustain it and keep it in operation. We are blessed that the Maltese Club has members who have been members for decades, in fact, some go as far back as the nineteen sixties and seventies. We owe these members our

gratitude and respect for their contributions particularly when they were younger and had more time and energy. Most of these old timers may not have the strength or the opportunity to visit the club or to lend their support like they did in the past. However, our club is always appreciative and thankful of their many contributing years. This brings us to a most noble initiative which the Maltese Historical Society plans and organizes every year at the club, namely, the Elders lunch.

Elders Lunch: For several years, the Maltese Historical Society has planned and organized a nice lunch for our elders at the club's premises and with the generous support of the club. One such event took place on Sunday May 21st. The purpose of this lunch is to bring back to our club at least for one time during the year, our Maltese elders where they can meet and reconnect with other Maltese elders. Some may not have other opportunities to do so during the year. One other reason for the elders' lunch is to show our former and older members our appreciation for the time they supported the club in the past. And yet one other reason is to have children or grandchildren of this elderly group to bring their parents or grandparents back to the club and for this younger generation to become more familiar with our club. On Sunday May 21st it was most evident that the elders had a wonderful time socializing and reminiscing. It was truly a joy seeing them have a great time while enjoying a warm meal and some home-made Maltese pastries. It would be fantastic if

the elders' lunch will not only continue, but it will also grow both in popularity and in numbers.

Festa Season during the month of June in Malta & Gozo: In June, the Malta Festa calendar is full and the warm weather will kick in. Here are some of the main religious *festi* celebrated in towns and villages around Malta and Gozo: *Our Lady of Fatima* – Gwardamangia; *St. Joseph* – Ghaxaq; *Holy Trinity* – Marsa; *Christ the Saviour* – Ghasri, Gozo; *St. Philip* – Haz-Zebbug; *Christ the Saviour* – Rabat; *Sacred Heart of Jesus* – Fontana, Gozo; *Our Lady of the Lily* – Mqabba; *St. Catherine* – Zejtun; *St. John Baptist* – Xewkija, Gozo; *Immaculate Heart of Mary* – Burmarrad; *St. George* – Qormi; *St. Nicholas* – Siggiewi; *St. Peter & St. Paul* – Mdina and Nadur, Gozo. IL-Festa it-tajba:

We continue to encourage everyone to keep your families, friends and loved ones constantly in your 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 better days ahead.

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

Message from the Secretary



Welcome to our Newest Member who joined the Club this month:

Todd Fekete

June – Fun Facts

World Milk Day - June 1; National Donut Day - June 3; Yo-Yo Day - June 6; National Best Friends Day - June 8; National Iced Tea Day - June 10 - Peanut Butter Cookie Day - June 12; Flag Day - June 14; Sushi Day - June 18; National Pink Day - June 23; National Bingo Day - June 27. Also, for those accordion lovers: June is accordion awareness month!



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

Friday Night - GAME Night!

For those of you who would like to do something different on a Friday night why *not come to the Club on a Friday* and invite a few friends, have drinks, hang

out, order pizza and team up to play some board games, cards, or a competitive game of billiards!



Thoughts and prayers are being sent to the family of Sylvia Pignati who recently passed away. May she rest in peace.

Maltese History Month

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian*

May 30, 1920 ---- The foundation stone of Ta'Pinu Sanctuary is laid in Gharb, Gozo. The official name of the sanctuary is the "Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu." The name Ta' Pinu, which means "of Phillip", comes from a man named Pinu Gauci, who in 1611 gave money for the restoration of the original church, which was in danger of being torn down because it was in a state of disrepair. Pinu also paid an artist named Amadeo Perugino to paint a picture of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin for the main altar. Over the years, many healing miracles have been attributed to prayers to Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. A room at the back of the church contains numerous artifacts, especially crutches, contributed as a testament to miracles by those who have been healed.

May 8, 1945 --- VE (Victory in Europe) Day. The Germans formally surrender to the Allies in Berlin, marking the official end of World War II. General Wilhelm Keitel and two others sign for Germany, while representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, the

Soviet Union, and France sign for the Allies.

Between June 1940 and November 1942 Malta endures relentless bombing by air, first by the Italians and then by the Germans. The tide turns in December of 1942, when the Allies gain the upper hand both in the air and at sea. The fighting continues for two more years, beginning with Axis defeat in North Africa, thanks to the choking off supply lines by Allied forces, followed by the surrender of Italy on May 2, 1945. It ends with the final blow, the destruction and fall of Germany's capital city, Berlin, to forces of the Soviet Union. The Battle of Berlin begins in April 1945 and ends on May 2nd, the same day as the Italian surrender. Six days later, the unconditional surrender of the German forces is signed.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Is your last name **Kelly**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. **Kelly** is of Irish origin. It was originally a first name and means "warlike" or "troublesome." It is very common in Ireland, but not common in Malta, where it dates to just the 19th century.

Women's Social Committee

Meetings are held on the 2nd **Tuesday** of every month, (*except in August*). **Meeting time - 6:30 p.m.** Functions *may be held* on different days (members will be contacted if there are changes to date and/or time for the meeting). At the June meeting, the women will enjoy a few games of BINGO and dessert!

Entertainment Committee

The 2023 Entertainment Committee consists of the following volunteers: Rita Borg (chair), Sina Borg, Brian Ciappara, Pauline Henderson, Richard Henderson, Carmen Micallef, Emma Magarell, Ninfa Pace. Anyone who is interested in joining, please contact Rita Borg.



July 8, 2023

Family Bingo & Pasta Dinner

July 23, 2023

Members' Appreciation & Annual Picnic

Grievance Committee

The 2023 volunteer members are Mary Ann Fassler (Chairperson), Charlie Catania, Barbara Fenech, Paula Moffitt and Peter Abela

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 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) 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

