

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: 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
650-348-1545

Asst. Treasurer: Ninfa Pace
650-697-1079

Parliamentarian: Michael Pace
415-760-3329

Sergeant-At-Arms: George Borg

Auditors: Louis Vella
Mona Vella Nicholas

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**MARCH 26TH
AT
10:30 A.M.**

MARCH 2017

NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and Members, At the February 26th, General Membership Meeting, seventy (70) members were in attendance. The Graton Casino day trip, that was held on February 25th, was a very enjoyable one. Many thanks to Ninfa and Nick Pace who organized the trip and took care of us during the bus ride. Thanks also goes to those members that brought treats for all of us to share and enjoy.

At the meeting, some members wanted to know when the "Bylaws Revision Committee" will be formed. The process of amending the bylaws is a very long one which will take months and a great number of meetings. I would like to ask the members to volunteer and be a part of this very important committee. Anyone who would like to commit himself/herself is asked to contact me or any one of the Board members and let us know of their intent. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. The Committee will then be picked and the process will start.

Regarding the status of the dispute that is going on between Joe Attard and the Club, on February 10th, Joe Attard filed an ex-parte (which is when only one side will be appearing in front of the Judge) application to be reinstated as a member of the Club. The Judge turned the request down. On that same day, Joe Attard filed a Writ of Mandate asking the court to force the Club to immediately reinstate him as a member. The hearing is to be heard at the San Mateo County court on March 9th. at 2:00 p.m. More information will be given out as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, I have heard that Joe Attard is sending emails that are full of inaccurate and misleading information to some of our members. Please disregard these emails which are aimed at casting a bad shadow on the Club and the Board of Directors who spend a lot of hours



Upcoming Maltese Community Events

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

March 11th

~ ~ ~

Family Pasta Dinner and
Bingo Night

April 8th

*May your blessings
outnumber
The shamrocks that
grow,
And may trouble
avoid you
Wherever you go.*



taking care of the business of our Club. The insurance company which carries our Directors and Officers insurance coverage has been informed and is working with us.

At the meeting, a ratification (approval) of the decision that the Board of Directors took on December 19, 2016 to terminate Joe Attard's membership, was taken by a secret vote. The ratification passed overwhelmingly.

Our next social event will be a Family Pasta Bingo Night. This will be held on April 8th. Come and bring your family to enjoy the tasty fresh pasta that will be prepared at the Club, try your luck at winning some prizes, and spend the evening in the company of your friends. The flier is attached to this newsletter. Please make your reservations as early as possible.

If you have not paid your annual membership dues, please do so as soon as possible.

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

Sahha

A MESSAGE FROM THE *Honorable Consul General of Malta*

During the February 2017, general membership meeting, Hon Consul General (HCG) Louis J. Vella greeted all those present. He started his report by sharing a very beautiful photo of a very special sword and dagger that were originally presented to Grand Master Jean de la Valette for whom the capital city of Malta, Valletta is named after. The photo was courtesy of Mr. Jimmy Frendo. The picture was later donated to the club's library. The photo shows a close-up of the handles of these ceremonial weapons which are adorned with very precious stones and metals. These were originally gifts from King Phillip II of Spain to Grand Master de la Valette in honor of the historic victory of the Knights of Malta and the Maltese militia over an Ottoman invasion in the Great Siege of Malta of 1565. Every year on September 8th, these ceremonial weapons were paraded in the streets of Valletta to commemorate the anniversary of the Great Siege. In 1797, however, Napoleon Bonaparte of France took over the islands of Malta and claimed these priceless gifts as his. In time, these weapons ended up at the Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

Grievance Committee

Rose Borg
Barbara Fenech
Charlie Catania
Bart Borg Mary
Anne Fassler

Entertainment Committee

CHAIRPERSON:

Karen Borg

CO-CHAIRPERSON:

Jennifer DeBattista

Rose Borg
Kathy Borg
Mary Vella
Carmen Micallef
Ninfa Pace
Rose Vassallo
Laurie Scribner

*Thank you to those
of you who
volunteer their time
and talents so we
can all enjoy the
many activities at the
Maltese American
Social Club*

To celebrate Malta's European Union Presidency the Louvre Museum agreed to allow these magnificent museum pieces to be exhibited in Valletta, Malta between March and June of this year.

HCG Vella also shared with us that the day before, in Atlanta, Georgia the election for the new Chair of the DNC (Democratic National Committee) took place. The significance to us Maltese is that one of the candidates was Maltese. His name is Mr. Pete Buttigieg. Pete's father John, is from Hamrun, Malta and the family travel to Malta often. Pete Buttigieg is a Harvard graduate and a Rhodes scholar. He is also a US military veteran and an accomplished musician. He is the Mayor of the city of South Bend, Indiana, currently on his second term in office. He was elected Mayor for the first time when he was only 29 years old. Pete Buttigieg is an up and coming political force and, odds are, we will be hearing much more about this young Maltese politician in the future.

HCG Vella talked to us also about the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA) which is an organization that connects many Maltese clubs and other organized groups from all over the world. The board of directors of FMLA is made up of people who are active within their Maltese communities in the regions of Australasia, Americas (including Canada) and Europe. An FMLA election was recently conducted and Mr. Brian Ciappara, president of our Maltese Club, was elected to form part of the Board of this Federation. We wish him a lot of good work and great accomplishments.

Hon Consul General Vella concluded by reminding all Maltese families and their friends to continue to participate as much as possible in the activities organized by the various Maltese groups within the SF Bay Area; particularly to mark the calendar on Saturday, September 23, 2017 to attend this year's Malta Day event. Malta Day is the one event in the entire year that brings all Maltese families and their friends together to celebrate our Maltese Heritage. The special guest this year will be the Police Chief of the City of South San Francisco who is also a proud Maltese.

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

Club Hours

Sunday and Holidays
9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

**Monday and
Wednesday**
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 drop in to visit
our library on
Sundays from 10:00
am to Noon.*

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

Entertainment Committee

St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on March 11th. The Family Pasta Dinner and Bingo Night will be held on April 8th. Donations for the door prizes are welcomed. Family Bowling Night is also being arranged.

Women's Social Committee

On March 14th, they will be watching a movie and asked if anyone had a movie to recommend, preferably a comedy.



THIS MONTH IN MALTESE HISTORY

by Mona Vella-Nicholas

FEBRUARY IN MALTESE HISTORY

February 16, 1610 --- Construction begins on the Wignacourt towers, a set of six watchtowers built by the Knights of Malta for the purpose of coastal defense. It takes ten years to complete the project. Four of the six towers still exist today.

February, 1942 --- Sir William Dobbie, the governor of Malta, orders the deportation of 47 Maltese, thought to be Italian sympathizers. They are sent to Uganda, where they are to be imprisoned. The most prominent of those exiled is Dr. Enrico Mizzi, who returns to Malta after the war and becomes Prime Minister in the election of 1950. He dies three months after taking office, becoming the only prime minister of Malta to die in office.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Darmanin

Is your last name **Darmanin**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Darmanin** is of Italian origin. It is a form of the first name "Armanno", which is "Herman" in English. This, in turn, comes from the German word "hariman", which means "soldier."

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

[www.maltese-
americanSCSF.org](http://www.maltese-americanSCSF.org)

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

Correspondence

As a reminder to every member, all correspondence, except for payment of events and/or dues, should be addressed to the attention of the secretary, Mary Vella Gomes.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PAYMENT FOR ALL FUNCTIONS MUST BE MADE BY CHECK, ISSUED TO THE MALTESE AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB AND SENT TO THE ATTENTION OF NINFA PACE. NO CASH PLEASE.

ALL THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES TO NINFA PACE, AS THEY ARE NOW DELINQUENT.

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 by, 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.

Newsletter is created by Mary Vella Gomes with the approval of the Board of Directors

It-Tieqa tad-Dwejra was created after two limestone sea caves collapsed and, for thousands of years, it stood high and proud. Known as the Azure Window, the limestone arch stood on Gozo and was one of the most distinctive sites of the Maltese Islands, attracting thousands of tourists every year. Around 9:40 a.m., on March 8, 2017, the Window completely collapsed. Anyone that has spent any second of time witnessing this piece of nature's beauty can understand why so many are saddened. We have lost a natural treasure which is so much a part of the heritage of Gozo and Malta. The world has lost a wonder.

The Azure Window as we will remember it...



March 8, 2017...Gozo's famed Azure Window falls into the sea...

