

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.

924 El Camino Real
South San Francisco, Ca 94080



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

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

President: Mary Vella Gomes
president@maltese-americanscsf.org
415-517- 5533

Vice President: Terrie Smith Aquino
terrieaquino66@gmail.com
650-438-5579

Secretary: Maryann Ciappara Milla
secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org
415-218- 6329

Assistant Secretary: Mary Borg Smith
smithborg@sbcglobal.net
650-692-0413

Treasurer: Rita Borg
Luftymom2000@gmail.com
650-483-3957

Assistant Treasurer:
Ninfa Pace
ninfapace@aol.com
650-619-4565

Parliamentarian: Mary Anne Fassler
nunnafaz@aol.com
650-477-0793

Message from the President

Happy St. Paddy's Day to all! It looks like we are going to have a good turn-out for our dinner on March 15th. Don't forget your green!

On March 2nd, Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb, his wife Kay, consul generals from different states and also some people representing businesses in Malta. It was a very nice affair and there were many people who attended. The general consensus was that they were very impressed with the Club and the members. Some people were presented with their Maltese Citizenship Certificate and/or their Passport. Thank you to all who made it a memorable event.

Representatives of In-N -Out have been in contact with us and the Commission met to discuss on Sunday, March 9th. Most important topic at this time is the use of the back door. They will be drafting a proposal and sending it to the Commission. The proposal will be reviewed and if the parties agree, we would then need to have approval from several departments including but not limited to the Fire Department, South San Francisco Planning Department. As more information is received, we will keep you informed.

The hats many of us brought from Malta this past year were very well received

and many people purchased them. If anyone is going to Malta and can bring some back, it will add to our supply. You will of course be reimbursed. If you have any questions regarding which ones to purchase, please contact me or Pauline Henderson. We would like to be able to have them available here at the Club for purchase and also at the Car Show and Picnic.

The Malta Day Committee has met twice so far this year and you will soon be receiving a Save the Date Flyer. While September seems far away, it will be here before we know it. Mark your calendars for September 20th.

Zelle is now available to use when paying for dues and functions. It is a very simple process, which I am sure many of you are familiar with. There is no additional fee when using Zelle. You will be using the Club's telephone number 650-871-4611 to make your Zelle payments from your bank to the Club. **If you are using Zelle, please remember to send in your Zelle payments at least 4-5 days prior to the deadline date and then for functions that require a response, please send to Ninfa Pace as you normally would.**

Square is also available to purchase merchandise, such as the hats, and at the bar. You will be able to use your credit/debit cards but please note that there will be a fee. The fees will be determined by the amount spent. Cash is always welcomed! If you have any questions, please contact Rita Borg.

Attached you will find flyers for our Rummage Sale and Family Bingo in April. Please be sure to RSVP by the

deadline dates. If you have any questions regarding the Rummage Sale, please contact Rita Borg. The Elders' Luncheon will be held on May 18th after the General Meeting. Invitations will be sent by the Maltese Historical Society.

The proposed Bylaws are being mailed and some of you have received them personally while at the Club. Please review them and make notes regarding any questions you may have. **Please do not email or call us to discuss. An Information Meeting will be held on Friday, March 28th at 6:00.** The purpose of the Information Meeting is to review the changes in the proposed Bylaws and give you the opportunity to ask questions. The Board of Directors will address any questions you may have. The Directors will have the current Bylaws with them to compare any changes. It is important that you attend if you have any questions regarding the proposed Bylaws.

This month's General Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 30th and will be starting at 10:30 a.m. Please plan to attend as we will be voting on the Proposed Bylaws at that meeting.

Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta

Greetings dear friends of the Maltese American Social Club and the Maltese Community in California. Another wonderful group of members attended the monthly meeting in February. The number of members in any organization is crucially important but it is equally important that members try to attend membership meetings and functions to the best of their ability.

It is most appropriate that during the month of February that has just passed, we talk a little bit about the feast of St. Paul of the Shipwreck. In Malta this is one of the most popular and ceremonial of all festas. It is celebrated in a big way in Valletta and among those attending usually we find, the president and prime minister of Malta and many cabinet members. Also, in attendance there are usually many members of the highest courts and other dignitaries. The festa Mass is celebrated every year by the archbishop of Malta. Our church dedicated to St. Paul of the Shipwreck located on Jamestown in San Francisco is without a doubt, a Maltese church dedicated to the patron Saint of the islands of Malta. The procession with the historic statue of St. Paul and the celebrations in the streets of Valletta, this year took place a day later because of inclement weather. The City of Valletta was totally en fe'te in a major way. It is written that in the year AD 60 St. Paul together with 274 men sailing from Crete to Rome on board a large wooden ship, were caught in a violent storm. After 14 days battling the seas, the ship ran aground in Malta. And according to historical accounts Malta became a Christian country because of this unplanned but yet historic visit by the apostle Paul. Malta is still a Christian country to this day, almost 2,000 years later.

Carnival in Malta 2025: This year Carnival was yet another spectacular event. The artisan craftsmanship is indeed a marvel. Many huge parade floats all decorated with synchronized lights, music, and dance troupes traversed through the streets of the capital city to the cheers and admiration

of thousands of Maltese people and visitors. The tradition of the carnival dates to the time of the Knights of Malta over 500 years ago. It is growing stronger and bigger every year. Weather permitting Carnival in Malta and Gozo is truly worth a visit.

Visit by Ambassador of Malta: As was announced in previous communications, the Ambassador of Malta, Dr. Godfrey Xuereb paid a visit to our club. This was his very first visit and the large crowd that packed the building is a testament of the vibrant Maltese community we have in the SF Bay Area. All other Maltese organizations were also in attendance as a show of support and cooperation. The comments received were extremely positive and encouraging. The Ambassador, his wife and the accompanying delegation were also highly impressed by the fantastic reception he and his group received WELL, DONE.

Maltese Scholarships: The annual Maltese scholarship program has been launched earlier this year. There are several weeks left until the deadline, but time waits for no one. The scholarships are open to students of Maltese descent who are High School seniors or College freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. Anyone interested please check the Face Book page of the Maltese Cross Foundation of California or contact one of the board members of the MCF of CA.

In-N-Out Burger: As was announced in previous communications and at membership meetings, a Property Development Commission has been established. The purpose of the commission is to work on behalf of our club and to safeguard the club's interests as the new development right next door

and to the rear of our club moves forward. The Commission is continually in contact with the In N Out Burger development team.

Festa Season during the month of March in Malta & Gozo: The festa season is slowly ramping up as the weather in Malta warms up. March starts with the feast of Jesus the Nazarene in Sliema, followed by the feast of St. Gregory the Great in Ta' Kerzem in Gozo, St. Joseph in Rabat, Malta, then Palm Sunday followed by Good Friday and Easter Sunday celebrated all over Malta and Gozo and ending with the feast of the Risen Christ in Pembroke.

Freedom Day is a public holiday and is celebrated on March 31st. On Freedom Day Malta celebrates the official and peaceful departure of all foreign military forces and navy from the islands on March 31, 1979. IL-Festa it-tajba:



Message from the Secretary

If you have changed your phone number, or you have a landline and are **not using it 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. Also, remember to notify me of any changes to addresses and email address. It is very important that when send in your RSVPs by USPS mail make sure to put your return address on the envelope. If you have any questions, please contact me at secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org or call me at 415-218-6329

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 is 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m or contact Mona Vella-Nicholas, Librarian and Historian, at 650-589-4578 for an appointment.

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

Missing Library Books

Mona Nicholas has advised us that there are two copies of the book *The Kappillan of Malta* by Nicholas Monsarrat missing from the library. If you have them please return them by placing them on the desk in the library or checking them out by filling out the log located on the desk. Remember only Club members can check out books by filling out the information on the log.

Facebook

Many of you may not be aware that we do have a Facebook page which is maintained by Mary Anne Fassler. If you do use Facebook, you can reach it by searching Maltese American Social Club on Facebook or also with the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064530946528>

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

Maltese History Month

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian*

February 15, 1113 --- The Order of St. John is officially recognized by the Catholic Church by Pope Paschal II. This means the order is now protected by the Church and is allowed to elect its own leaders (Grand Masters) without answering to any other institutions. The order, founded in Jerusalem in 1099 during the Crusades, later becomes known as the Order of Malta and its ranking members as the Knights of Malta.

February 5, 1966 --- Derek Rossi is born in Toronto, Canada, the youngest of five children of Fred and Agnes Rossi, who immigrated to Canada from Malta. After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees in molecular biology from the University of Toronto, Rossi goes on to study in Finland, where he receives his Ph.D. from the University of Helsinki in 2003. For the next four years he does post-doctoral research at Stanford University and then takes a position at Harvard University as an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School. His most well-known claim to fame comes in 2010 when he founds *Moderna*, the biotech company we all know today for developing a COVID vaccine used extensively during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2019-2022. Although no longer considered a disease of pandemic proportions, COVID is still active worldwide. *Moderna* has updated

the vaccine several times to date to account for mutations which have occurred over time, helping to save countless lives.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian*

Is your last name **Zahra**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. **Zahra** is of Arabic origin. It is a female name which means "blossom" and is used in reference to a beautiful girl or woman. In Malta, the name dates back to at least the Middle Ages, i.e. the 1400s. It is sometimes spelled without the "h".

Statement of Purpose

Please note the attached Statement of Purpose that was drafted by Charles E. Xuereb and Adopted by the General Membership on 27 March, 1981.

Women's Social Committee

The Women's Club meeting will be held on March 11th at 6:00 p.m. Dessert and Bingo are on the Agenda!

Grievance Committee

The names of the 2025 Grievance Committee members are Paula Ebejer Moffitt (Chairperson), Mary Ann Fassler Charlie Catania, Peter Abela and Rita Goldberg

Entertainment Committee

Co-Chairperson(s): Karen Borg: kb99karebear@aol.com Dorothy Falzon: dorothyanderson59@sbcglobal.net.

Members of the Committee: Sina Borg, Brian Ciappara, Mary Vella Gomes, Emma Magarrell, Ninfa Pace, Gracie Lacey, Lina Agius, Mary Smith, Betty DeBattista, Gracie Aquino and Pauline Henderson. Volunteers for our functions are always needed and welcomed! If you

are interested in volunteering for the upcoming events in 2025, please contact: Karen Borg and/or Dorothy Falzon.



Rummage Sale 4/12-41/3
Family Pasta Bingo 4/26

Support Our Advertisers!

Please take the time while reading the newsletter to check out our advertisers who support our Club. Remember to mention the Club when patronizing these businesses.

If anyone would like to advertise in our monthly newsletter or knows of a business that would like to, please be sure to contact Terrie Aquino via terrieaquino66@gmail.com or at 650-438-5579. Advertising in the newsletter helps offset the cost of printing and postage and reaches almost 300 households.

Payments (No CASH)

Payment for dues and all functions can 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**.

Zelle is also now available to use when paying for dues, functions or making a donation. You will be using the Club's telephone number 650-871-4611 to make your Zelle payments from your bank to the Club..

Functions that require a response, whether paying by check or Zelle, please send response to Ninfa Pace as always.

All payment for functions must be made by the deadline date. **If you are using Zelle, please remember to send in your Zelle payments and responses at least 4-5 days prior to the deadline date**

Hall Rental

EMMANUEL MICALLEF HALL

The hall is available for rent to members only. Please contact Mary Vella Gomes at **415-468-3747** or **415-517-5533** to schedule a meeting to arrange for the rental and to review the Contract

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

