



MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



2023

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Message from the President

Hello everyone. So sorry to have missed our April General Meeting but it took place only a few days after my shoulder replacement surgery. A big thank you to

our Vice President, Pauline Henderson, who did a wonderful job in my place.

Pauline let me know that a motion was made regarding non-members paying slightly more when they attended our functions. After a discussion, a vote was taken and, as a result, our members will no longer have the benefit of paying less for functions. The results of this vote will be effective as of June 19th.

We had a very successful Rummage Sale and the proceeds will go towards the Children's Christmas Party. Thank you to all who helped get ready for the sale and for the two days spent during the two days of the sale. By the time you receive this, we will have celebrated Cinco de Mayo and our Mother's Day Dinner is just around the corner. Attached is a flyer for the Father's Day Bruch and also for our Car Show.

We will begin work on installing the new carpet after Santa Maria. Because there are no functions being held at the club during September, this should work the best to allow the work to be done. We will not be renting the hall during that time and no one will be able to enter the hall while the carpet is being ripped up and the new carpet laid. The bar area and bathrooms will be accessible.

A reminder that Malta Day will be held on September 23rd at the newly reopened Elks Lodge in So. San Francisco. We hope that you will come and celebrate this important day in our history. A Save the Date flyer was included in last month's Newsletter. If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to let us know if you are planning or not planning to attend. Your response will help give the Planning Committee an idea of how many people to expect.

We welcome back Alessio Camilleri and Dominic Borg and also welcome our newest member Denise Gilmore who also made a generous donation of \$500 when joining. We hope you will join us at our meetings, our many events or just drop by on a Friday night or Sunday. Merħba!

Please send me an email with any suggestions, questions or issues that are of concern. You can also drop a note in the suggestion box and it is not necessary to include your name

I look forward to seeing all of you again soon.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21st 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. The month of April is quickly slipping by and with it the beautiful colors of the Spring season arrive. The severe storms and heavy rains seem to be all behind us while the

much-awaited warm weather is around the corner.

April in Malta: Holy week and Easter in Malta returned to their normal traditions and were celebrated again in a big way. The weather cooperated and those who visited Malta during this time of year had a wonderful experience. Although Good Friday and Easter dominated the calendar, in April we commemorate two very important events in the history of our ancestral country.

On April 9, 1942 while a congregation of around 300 parishioners were praying at church and waiting for Mass to begin, all of a sudden a 110-pound bomb was dropped by a German Luftwaffe airplane on the church. The bomb pierced the dome, entered the church, bounced off one of the interior walls, fell on the church floor and rolled on the marble surface until it came to a stop at the opposite side of the church. As faith would have it, the bomb did not explode. Miraculously, no one was hurt. Every year, on April 9th at 4:00pm local time, the church bells toll to commemorate what is referred to as the miracle of the bomb.

On April 15, 1942, in solemn celebration, Malta commemorates the award of the George Cross. The George Cross is the civilian equivalent to the Victoria Cross which is the highest British military honor that can be bestowed. The symbol of the cross was added on to the Maltese flag and it can still be seen today on the top right-hand corner of the white half of the flag. The George Cross was awarded to Malta by King George VI who was the father of

queen Elizabeth II and grandfather of the present King Charles III. The message that accompanied the George Cross medal read, “ *To honour her brave people, I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history,*”

Maltese Passports and Maltese Citizenship: Every month we are taking the opportunity to repeat the announcement that Maltese Citizenship and Maltese passport applications will be processed at the Consulate office in Millbrae. The month of July will most probably be the time when 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 looking to apply for Maltese Citizenship or Maltese passports already exists. Those interested in applying, please contact the office of the Maltese Consulate at malteseconsulate@yahoo.com If you think you are on the waiting list but are not sure, please contact the Consulate of Malta on the email address listed above.

Festa in Malta: Throughout the year many localities in Malta celebrate their traditional festa. Some are referred to as secondary festa but some of the others are celebrated on a larger scale. Traditionally though, the festa that is synonymous with the opening of the big festa season, is the festa of St. Publius in Floriana and celebrated in April. The

President of Malta, the Prime Minister, the leader of the opposition and many others Maltese dignitaries are usually in attendance at this first festa of the season.

Festa Frawli: In April, another very popular festival that has grown through the years and has now established itself as one of the most celebrated festivals in Malta, is the famous FESTA FRAWLI (Strawberries Festival) This festival is a must see. Thousands of people from all over flock to the small farming town of IMgarr Malta to enjoy a day of celebrations, music, dance, folklore, art, dining, crafts, and artisan work, and much more. And needless to say, the mouth-watering savoring of delicious strawberries freshly harvested from the fields to the table. One will also find a huge variety of products, pastries, and delicacies all made with strawberries. This is not your typical religious festa but it has certainly earned a place in the Maltese Festa Calendar. It is normally celebrated the Sunday after Easter Sunday.

The other religious festa celebrations that follow during the month of May are *St. Joseph The Worker* – Birkirkara; *St. George Preca* (the only Maltese Saint) – Swatar; *Annunciation* – Tarxien; *St. Rita* – Valletta; *St. Paul Shipwreck* - Munxar 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 Dominic Borg, Alessio Camilleri and Denise Gilbert our newest members of the Club!

Information Form

The "Information" form can be found in the lobby bulletin board. This form allows you to update your personal information and gives you a choice to receive the monthly newsletter via **email OR US Mail**. We will be inputting changes to the mailing lists soon. If you are making changes, please send me the form via email secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org or by mail to the Club Attn: Secretary.

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.



Get Well Wishes
To Mary Gomes

June Fun Facts

National World Milk Day **6/1**; National Doughnut Day **6/3**; National Yo-Yo

Day **6/6**; National Best Friends Day **6/8**; National Peanut Butter Cookie Day **6/12**; Flag Day **6/14**; National Sushi Day **6/18**; Juneteenth **6/19**; National Pink Day **6/23** + **National Bingo Day 6/27**

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.



Thoughts and prayers are being sent to the families of Frances Mizzi, Zaren (Reno) Vella and Paul Mifsud, who have passed away. May they rest in peace.

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!

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). **On May 9th** all the women of the Club are invited to attend an evening of Mother-Daughter Tea (daughters, grand-daughters, and god-daughters). We are asking for everyone to please bring a plate of "finger foods" for all to enjoy with our tea. Please be sure to R.S.V.P. to Ninfa Pace ninfapace@aol.com if you plan to attend.

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 Magarrell and Ninfa Pace. Anyone who is interested in joining, please contact Rita Borg.



Father's Day Luncheon: 6/18

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Is your last name Jackson? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. Jackson is of English or Scottish origin. It means "son of Jack", Jack being a diminutive form of John. As is the case with many last names, Jackson is used today as a first name as well. The name appears relatively recently in Malta (during the mid-1800s) and was obviously brought to the islands by someone from either England or Scotland.

Maltese History Month

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian*

April 15, 1942 --- King George VI awards the George Cross to the people of

Malta. This is a particularly difficult time during World War II, when the islands are enduring incessant air raids, giving Malta the sad distinction of being the most bombed place on earth. The raids result in the destruction of tens of thousands of buildings and over 5,000 civilian casualties. The George Cross is a new medal, having been instituted only a year and a half earlier. It is meant to be awarded for bravery to individual civilians, so it is an extraordinary honor that it should be granted to the entire civilian population of a country.

April 28, 1942 --- Just thirteen days after the awarding of the George Cross, the church of St. Publius in Floriana is bombed in a German air raid, resulting in the destruction of the structure, and killing nine people. Construction of the church began in 1733, when Antonio Manoel de Vilhena was Grand Master and Floriana was a small new suburb of Valletta. St. Publius was the first bishop of Malta, as well as its first saint since he died a martyr. He is the patron saint of Floriana and the church, which is later rebuilt, is the city's parish church.

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 sent 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

