

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

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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

650-619-4565

Asst. Treasurer:

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650-697-1079

Parliamentarian:

Mary Borg Smith
650-692-0413

Sergeant-At-Arms:

George Borg

Auditors:

Mona Vella Nicholas
Louis Vella

NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and friends, at the last General Membership Meeting held on Sunday, October 27th, forty-seven (47) members attended. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Alfred Rapa, who passed away earlier in the week. Freddy, as he was popularly known, was a renowned Maltese singer and was from Ghajnsielem, Gozo. He entertained the Maltese Community with his singing at Malta Day in 2017. May he Rest in Peace.

Congratulations are due to Briana Gearhart who passed the Bar. Briana is the daughter of proud parents Diane and Gary Gearhart and the equally overjoyed Nanna and Nannu, Carmen and Manuel Micallef. **Congratulations Briana...you make the Maltese Community proud.**

On the newsletter that was sent out for the month of October, there was a mistake that Staples, who prints our newsletter, made. Staples printed the same President's article that was in the September newsletter. Although no one from the Club is to be blamed for this mistake, I would like to apologize, nevertheless.

The following is a summarized version of the article that was supposed to be printed. I thanked Vice President Joe DeBattista for conducting the September General Membership Meeting since I was on vacation in Mexico. I thanked each and every one who helped in one way or another to make the 90th Anniversary of the Club/Malta Day such a nice and memorable celebration. A tremendous amount of time was spent by the volunteers,

**The Next General
Membership Meeting is
Sunday, November 17th
at 10:30 a.m.**



*Those we love
don't go away,
they walk beside us
every day...
unseen, unheard
but always near.
Still loved, still
missed
and very dear.*

Author unknown

*Eternal rest grant
unto them O' Lord and
may perpetual light
shine upon them. May
they rest in peace.*



Grievance Committee

Rose Borg
Mary Anne Fassler
Barbara Fenech
Bart Borg
Charlie Catania

~ ~ ~ ~

*Give Thanks...
Happy Thanksgiving!*

beginning a few months ahead of the event and ending a month after the event. Ladies and gentlemen, your dedication to the organization is greatly appreciated.

At the September meeting, the following members accepted the nomination to form and be part of the Nominating Committee: Pauline Henderson, Mary Ann Milla, Carmen Micallef, Bart Borg and Joe Vella. I want to thank these five members for accepting to serve the Club on this important committee. According to our Bylaws, Section 3 (a) these members are to nominate at least one member in good standing for each of the seven offices that make the Board of Directors. By no later than forty-five (45) days from their nomination, which happens to be November 13th, they are to submit a letter to the Secretary. The letter should contain the names of the members who will be running for election to the Board of Directors for the year 2020.

On Saturday, October 12th, a very profitable Pasta Bingo Night was held at the Club with over one hundred people attending. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all those who worked so hard to make this event so much fun for all. Thanks to those who took the reservations, to those who set up the hall, to those who cooked the delicious meal under the watchful eyes of Jimmy Frendo, our master Chef, to those who served the food, the bartender, to those who sold raffle tickets, cherries and daubers, to those who collected the money, wrapped the gifts, those who donated the gifts, the Bingo Caller, who got big smiles from those who won and dirty looks from those who did not. Thanks also to all those who attended the Bingo and to those who cleared the hall and cleaned the Club after everyone went home. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

The Fire Suppression System in the kitchen hood and stack has been maintained and inspected by a contractor. This system has to be inspected and maintained every six months. The South San Francisco Fire Marshal did the final inspection and certified the system. Now we are in compliance for the next six months. An emergency light that is in the bar area was replaced by Joe Vella.

On Saturday, December 14th, the Club will be holding the Children's Christmas Party. The flier for this event is attached. Make sure that you register your children, 12 years of age and

Upcoming Maltese Community Events

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Maltese Cross
Foundation's
"Remembering Our
Loved ones"
November 10th*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Children's Christmas
Party
December 14th*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*New Year's Eve
Dinner Dance
December 31st*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Entertainment
Committee*

Karen Borg
Jennifer DeBattista
Rose Borg
Kathy Borg
Carmen Micallef
Ninfa Pace
Mary Vella
Betty DeBattista
Mary Borg Smith
Rose Aquilina
Mary Ann Milla
Rita Goldberg

Women's Social Committee

The committee meets at 6:30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, except August. All the women members of the Club are welcome and invited to join.

under, so they can take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus and, of course, receive their gift. Please note that only the children of members in good standing will receive a gift. Grand children will receive a gift if their grandparent is a member in good standing and a fee is paid for each child. Please check the flier.

The New Year's Eve flier for the festivities on December 31st is attached. Get your reservations in early as we prepare to kiss 2019 goodbye and welcome 2020 with open arms.

Please Note: The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17th at 10:30 a.m. and not on the last Sunday of November. This change is necessary because, according to our Bylaws, Sections 3 (b) and (d) stipulate that thirty-eight (38) days before the annual (December) General Membership Meeting, the floor has to be opened for nominations so within no less than 10 days from the December Meeting the Secretary can inform the members of all the names of the candidates for each office nominated by the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor may be made at the November general meeting.

Saħħa lill kulħadd
Brian

A MESSAGE FROM THE *Honorable Consul General of Malta*

Mr. Vella began his address by continuing on a previous presentation during the meeting that mentioned a brief period of history when the French occupied Malta. HC Vella, as a matter of interest, mentioned that a marble statue of the bust of the French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, can still be found today in the office of the Malta Minister of Foreign Affairs in Palazzo Parisio on Merchant Street in Valletta.

Mr. Vella talked about the successful Bocce Ball tournament held the day before, organized by the Maltese Historical Society. It was very well attended and a lot of fun. Talks have already started to find ways on how to continue to improve this annual event.

The tragic fires in Northern California, was the next topic of discussion. Mr. Vella told us that he sends regular reports to

Club Hours

Sunday and Holidays

9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Monday, Wednesday

Saturday

CLOSED

Tuesday

Closed except

for the second

Tuesday of

the month

Thursday

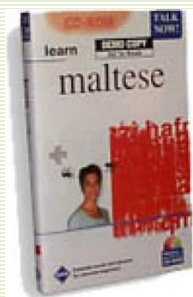
5:00p.m. to

11:00p.m.

Friday

5:00p.m. to 1:00a.m.

Library



Take some time and
visit our library on
Sundays from

10:00 am to 12 Noon.

Librarian,

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

Malta on the conditions and the progress of these tragic events. Although Malta cannot do much to protect Maltese or Maltese Americans affected by these horrific events, nevertheless, it is a demonstration of solidarity, care and thoughtfulness which is immensely appreciated by victims or those who are displaced by these tragic incidents. HC Vella has reached out to several Maltese & Maltese American families in the region, most of whom had already or were in the process of evacuating. Many homes and other structures were already destroyed by the devastating fires but thankfully, up until Sunday, there were no reports of injuries or loss of lives. Prayers and all kinds of assistance are desperately needed.

Mr. Vella talked to us about a good friend, Mr. Alfred Rapa, who sadly passed away a few days prior. We fondly remember Alfred Rapa, who at one time, was very popular in Malta in the 1970's and 80's when his songs were played regularly on local radio. Alfred also made a number of appearances on TV Malta and he participated in a number of song festivals. One year, Alfred Rapa won the prestigious Malta Song Festival with a very melodious song he composed himself. This was probably the highlight of his entire successful singing career. Alfred continued to entertain many Maltese communities in the US and Canada. Mr. Vella told us that he is working with the main TV Station in Malta to do a special feature about Alfred Rapa, his life and his music.

Hon Consul Vella reminded us that if we know of anyone who might be interested in participating in a group to improve communication and relationship between the City of San Francisco and the City of Valletta, Malta to please contact him at 650-631-8200 or at malteseconsulate@yahoo.com Thank you to those who have already responded. Others are still welcomed.

To those Maltese and Maltese-Americans who are asking about Maltese passports, Hon Consul Vella told us that during the second weekend of February 2020, he will have a representative from the Embassy of Malta at his office to process new and renewal of Maltese passports.

Grazzi Hafna

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

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information about
the Club and more*

[http://maltese-
americanscsf.org/](http://maltese-americanscsf.org/)



Entertainment Committee

Family Bowling Night on October 12th had to be cancelled due to a conflict at Sea Bowl. Thunder Valley Casino Trip on November 2nd. After the November meeting, coffee and cookies will be served to celebrate the actual 90th Anniversary. The Children's Christmas Party and New Year's Eve Dinner Dance will be here before you know it. Someone is needed to play Santa. Last time to donate food and self-care items will be in November.

OCTOBER IN MALTESE HISTORY

by Mona Vella-Nicholas

October 28, 1798 --- Four months after invading the Maltese Islands and expelling the Knights of Malta, the French surrender Gozo to the English under Captain Alexander Ball. Rather than taking over governance of the island, Ball turns it over to the Gozitans, who establish self-government, independent of Malta. Gozo continues to be an independent island for two years, rejoining Malta only once the sister island becomes a British Protectorate in 1800.

October, 1853 --- The Crimean War begins, pitting the British, French, and Turks against the Russian Empire. Malta serves as a hospital island for injured British soldiers and sailors. The casualties are treated in one of four military hospitals located on the island, but the numbers of those needing treatment are so overwhelming as to make the existing accommodations inadequate. Only after the Crimean War ends in 1856 are the necessary expansions made.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Pirotta

Is your last name **Pirotta**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Pirotta** is the feminine singular form of the Italian last name "Pirotti." It is a diminutive form of the last name "Piro." Diminutives are like saying "Johnny" instead of "John", for example. "Piro" is in turn a form of "Pietro", or "Peter" in English

Thank you to the many members who volunteer their time and talents so that we all can enjoy the various activities at the Club

New members of the Maltese American Social Club are always welcomed. Please encourage your family and Maltese friends, young and old, to become members and attend our functions.

Maltese websites that may be of interest to the Bay Area Maltese Community:

www.timesofmalta.com
www.tvm.com.mt
www.gozotv.com/home
www.visitmalta.com
www.airmalta.com
www.gozonews.com
www.maltatoday.com.mt
www.independent.com.mt
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY491bN_xQ4
<https://www.maltaproducts.com/>

Women's Social Committee

Women's Mystery Trip included a fun day of Bocce Ball at Campo di Bocce and Dinner at Aldo's. Pastizzi, salad and dessert were enjoyed at the October meeting. At the upcoming November meeting, the women will play Bingo and plan their Christmas party.

Correspondence

Except for payments, all correspondence must be addressed to the attention of the secretary, Mary Vella Gomes.

Payments

Payments for dues and all functions **must be made only by check (NO CASH)**, payable to Maltese American Social club or MASC and sent to the attention of Ninfa Pace. **Payment for functions must be made by the deadline date. IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE DATE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND. PAYMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE NOR AT THE DOOR ON THE DAY OF THE FUNCTION.** Please provide separate checks for each function.

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 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 of the 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