

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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650-619-4565

Asst. Treasurer:

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Sergeant-At-Arms:

George Borg

Auditors:

Mona Vella Nicholas
Louis Vella

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends, I would like to thank Vice-President Joe Debattista who, in my absence, conducted the General Membership Meeting on Sunday, September 29th. As most of you know, I was on vacation in Mexico and unable to attend.

I would like to thank all those people who worked so hard to make the 90th Anniversary of the Club/Malta Day event such a wonderful and enjoyable celebration. Special thanks goes to the Board of Directors. who were all involved in the planning of the event, as well as performing other duties related to the function, to the Planning Committee under the leadership of Mary Smith, to Debbie Scerri who entertained us with her beautiful voice and to Pauline and Richard Henderson who hosted Debbie while she was here. Thanks to Evelyn Simmons who made the nice photo collages, took a great number of photos at the gala and uploaded them onto the Club's web site. Thanks to Rita Goldberg and Mary Ann Milla who sold a great number of raffle tickets at the event. Thank you to Mary Smith, Betty Debattista, Jennifer Debattista, Karen Borg and Rose Borg for making the beautiful center pieces. Thanks to Jennifer Debattista for playing the message that the President of Malta sent to the Honorary Consul General Louis Vella. Thanks to Honorary Consul General Louis Vella who loaned us the American and the Maltese Flags stands. Thank you to Karen Borg who donated the invitation packets and also took care of the printing. Thanks to Barbara Fenech and her sister, Margie Belluomini, for donating the wine and to the others who made

**The Next General
Membership Meeting is
Sunday, October 27th
at 10:30 a.m.**

Upcoming Maltese Community Events

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FAMILY PASTA BINGO NIGHT OCTOBER 12TH



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ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE OCTOBER 13TH



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MALTESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 26TH



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FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT OCTOBER 27TH



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THUNDER VALLEY CASINO NOVEMBER 2ND



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**Happy
Halloween!!**

monetary donations. Thanks to Joe Debattista who coordinated the Color Guard and to the five gentlemen that carried the flags: Manuel Micallef, Joe Vella, Eddie Smith, Rich Henderson and George Borg. Thank you to those who brought food from Malta to make the Maltese Food baskets that were raffled. Thanks to all those who decorated the hall and cleared the hall after the event was finished and, of course, to the people that attended the function. We had people attending from Canada, Texas, Colorado, Nevada and from far away cities in California. Last but definitely not least, I would like to thank all those who helped in some way to make the celebration so wonderful. **Thank You.** I hope that I did not miss thanking anyone but, If I did, I apologize and please forgive me.

A letter from the Prime Minister was received but, unfortunately, it did not arrive in time for the celebration. The secretary read it to those members who attended the September meeting.

I would like to thank Pauline Henderson, Carmen Micallef, Mary Ann Milla, Bart Borg and Joe Vella for accepting the nomination to be part of the Nominating Committee.

The following social events are coming up: the Family Pasta Bingo on Saturday, October 12th, which will be held at the Club; the Italian Heritage Parade in San Francisco on Sunday, October 13th; the Bocce Ball Tournament on Saturday, October 26th which will be held at the Orange Memorial Park Bocce Ball Courts in South San Francisco; the Family Bowling Night on Sunday, October 27th at Sea Bowl in Pacifica; the Thunder Valley Casino Day Trip will be held on Saturday, November 2nd. The flyer for the Thunder Valley Casino Trip is included but the flyers for the other events have been included with previous newsletters.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday October 27th at 10:30 am.

Saħħa lill kulħadd
Brian



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.

Grievance Committee

Rose Borg
Mary Anne Fassler
Barbara Fenech
Bart Borg
Charlie Catania

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Welcome Autumn!

A MESSAGE FROM THE *Honorable Consul General of Malta*

Hon Consul (HC) Vella greeted everyone present and welcomed all who were returning from their Summer vacations especially those coming back from Malta.

Mr. Vella began his address by remarking that September, the last month of Summer, is quickly coming to an end while reminding everyone how important September is in Malta's history. This year in particular, September started with a meeting of World leaders who congregated in Poland on September 1st in the town of Wielun where the invasion of Poland and the first day of WWII began 80 years ago to the day. The President of Malta HE Dr. George Vella and Vice President Mike Pence of the US were among the world leaders present.

In September, we also celebrate the National feast of *Il-Vitorja*. Besides the religious feasts celebrated in Senglea, Naxxar, Mellieha and Xaghra, Gozo honoring Our Lady of Victories, *il-Vitorja* or Victory Day is a commemoration of the great victory of the Maltese people and the Knights of Malta over the Ottoman Empire in 1565. One of the most important and significant conflicts in the world, as it was known then. Towards the end of September, the Prime Minister of Malta addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York and later visited the Maltese communities both New York as well as in Toronto, Canada.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, we also had our share of celebrations to commemorate Malta Day. The Maltese Club held a very enjoyable evening in San Mateo. We also had our annual raising of the Maltese Flag from the balcony of the office of the Mayor of San Francisco at City Hall. The Maltese Heritage organized a wonderful wine tour to Sonoma Valley in honor of Malta Day and we also received messages and well wishes on the occasion of Malta Day from the office of the President of Malta and the office of the Prime Minister.

On Tuesday October 8th the City of Millbrae, during its regular City Council meeting, will be presenting a Proclamation

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

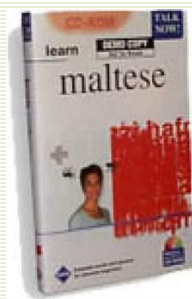
Thursday

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.

honoring Malta on the occasion of the 55th Anniversary of its Independence at 7:00 PM inside the Council Chambers at City Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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.

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.*

Entertainment Committee

Looking ahead we first have the Family Pasta Bingo Night on October 12th. Donations are still being accepted. Also, in October, on the 27th, we are having our always fun Family Bowling Night. Luck will hopefully be the word for the day on November 2nd, the day of our Thunder Valley Casino trip.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Picchi

Is your last name Picchi? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Picchi** is of Italian origin. It is a shortened form of the last name "Piccolo." The name means "small" or "short" in Italian. Different forms of this last name have existed in Malta since the 17th century.

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 for a look at pictures of memorable moments, information about the Club and more

<http://maltese-americanscsf.org/>



SEPTEMBER IN MALTESE HISTORY

by Mona Vella-Nicholas

September 7, 1831 --- Illegal marriages become criminal, thanks to a law passed on this day. At one time, the Ecclesiastical (Church) Court and the Civil and Criminal Courts had been united, but they were eventually separated. As a result, the number of illegal marriages grew to a troublesome level and which court would have jurisdiction became an issue. This law settles the question, making the problem of illegal marriages a case for the Criminal Courts.

September 21, 1845 --- The statue of St. Paul, located on St. Paul's Island in St. Paul's Bay, is "officially inaugurated." Erected on the island a year earlier, the statue is the work of Segismondo Dimech and Salvatore Dimech. **Din l-Art Helwa**, an organization dedicated to preserving Maltese culture, has restored the statue several times since its original inauguration. Visitors today can take a boat tour to St. Paul's Island from Bugibba.

Women's Social Committee

At the upcoming October meeting, the women will be planning for their Christmas celebration which will be held at the Basque Cultural Center

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.

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/>

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