

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.

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



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2024



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mary Vella Gomes
(415-517- 5533)
Vice President: Pauline Scerri Henderson
(650-245-1774)
Secretary: Maryann Ciappara Milla
(415-218- 6329)
Assistant Secretary: Mary Borg Smith
(650-692-0413)
Treasurer: Joseph Vella
(650-619-4565)
Assistant Treasurer: Ninfa Pace
(650- 697-1079)
Parliamentarian: Terrie Smith Aquino
(650-438-5579)

Message from the President

September and October typically are the best months of the year, especially in San Francisco. We started October with a

heat wave that seems to be staying with us for at least a few more days. Stay hydrated and out of the sun as much as possible.

I want to thank the Malta Day Planning Committee, which was represented by all of the organizations in the Maltese Community at the Malta Day Gala on September 21st. Their countless hours of planning and hard work, resulted in a successful Gala. I think the majority of people would agree that we had a wonderful time. The Committee will have a final meeting to discuss the night. It is important that we are respectfully presented with any negative observations and, of course, we would also love to hear about what everyone liked. Please contact me **directly** via email or a phone call so that I can bring your thoughts to the final meeting. Michela Pace entertained us with her singing and the dance floor was never empty. Her final song, Viva Malta, was so appropriate as we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Malta's Independence. Thank you also to all the individuals and

all the Maltese organizations that made monetary donations. I also want to thank our Emcees for the evening, Charlotte Micallef and Micheal Pace, who did a wonderful job. Congratulations to Tony (Ninu) Caruana who was our 50-50 Raffle winner this year and received \$900!

On Malta Day not only do we commemorate all of the triumphs and great accomplishments of our country's history but we also look forward to our future. We must continue to share our stories, as those before us did, and we must continue to preserve our culture and language for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We are all connected to those beautiful islands in the Mediterranean and the long line of exceptional and courageous people who worked, fought, and dreamed to ensure bright futures for those of us who followed. By sharing our stories with one another we honor those who paved the way for us.

The 95th Anniversary Celebration
Invitations were mailed on October 4th. Look for them and respond asap. Please note that invitations were only mailed to members in good standing. Of course, if you are bringing a guest they need not be a member.

At our September General Meeting, a Nominating Committee was formed and the members who accepted the positions are Rita Borg, Pauline Henderson, Rose Borg, Mary Vella Gomes and Terrie Aquino. The members present approved the Nominations. The members of this Committee will be contacting each and every member asking if you want to run for a position on the Board of Directors. I encourage all of you to consider doing

so. By November 13th the Nominating Committee must submit in writing at least one name for each position to the Secretary.

Last month, I incorrectly stated that Karen Borg would be coordinating a Blood Drive when it will actually be Laurie Scribner who will be doing so. This is something that the general public will also be able to participate in and we agreed that it would be best to plan it for the beginning of the year.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that one or two people chair the House Committee. While it would not be expected that any and all repairs would be done solely by them, it is important that we have a point person(s) to communicate with. I hope that someone will agree to chair as this is a very important committee.

Thank you to Charlie Chetcuti, Rita Borg and George Borg for hanging the pictures back up in the Bar area. I also want to thank Pauline and Rich Henderson who purchased new glasses for the bar. On November 2nd, the chairs are going to be cleaned.

The proposed Bylaws, along with our current Bylaws, have been sent to Attorney Gerald Lau to review and inform us of their accuracy and any legal areas that we may not have included. Once he has gone through them and they are complete, the members will be provided with copies which will reflect all the changes that are being proposed so that they can be reviewed prior to voting.

As I mentioned at the September meeting, our Secretary, Maryann Milla, recently received emails that appeared to

come from me but didn't. While the first one, at first glance, looked fairly normal, the second one was using the gift card scam that has been going on for many years. Should you receive an email from me and the address shows as president74884@gmail.com please mark as spam and delete it.

Dr. Charles Vella will be giving us a presentation on the topic of Depression after the October General Meeting. Please plan to stay for this very important presentation.

The Family Pasta Bingo Dinner is on October 26th. As everyone knows, this is always a very popular function so send in your reservations early to secure a seat! We also have the Holiday Market and Craft Fair on November 9th. If you or anyone you know is interested in being a vendor, please have them contact Rita Borg via luftymom2000@gmail.com Entrance is free and everyone is welcome to come and see what the vendors have. While it may seem early, enclosed you will find a flyer for the Children's Christmas Party being held on December 7th. As is tradition, Joe Micallef's family will display the presepeju he always had for us every year. We also welcome those who would like to bring their own presepeju for display and Rita Borg can be contacted for details. As always, we will have a procession, so please contact Rita if your child would like to participate.

Someone reminded me that in the early days of Covid, I asked the members to share with each other different events that were being celebrated but that we weren't hearing about. I thought it might be uplifting to do this again. Not everyone gets to hear all the good news

happening to us. So if you would like, please send me an email and share anything from a hello to everyone to something exciting that has happened that your recently celebrated...birth of a child, engagements, promotions, etc. We will then share in the Newsletters

The next General meeting is on October 27th at 10:30

**Message from the
Honorable Consul General of Malta**

Greetings dear friends of the Maltese American Social Club and the Maltese Community in California. As I write, California and especially the Bay Area is experiencing abnormally and extremely hot weather. But by the time you receive this newsletter the heatwave we are experiencing will most probably be over. Cooler October weather will start to set in and the Indian Summer will be behind us. This is why we love living here. Neither hot spells nor cold spells last long.

September in the Maltese Calendar: Throughout history September has always been a very important month for Malta. It is the month when Malta celebrates many significant events that shaped its history and culture. One of the most significant historical events commemorated in September is known as the victory of the Great Siege of Malta in the year 1565. The famous actor Mel Gibson has shown a lot of interest in memorializing this historic event into a TV series. He has visited Malta for this purpose and we hope this project will materialize and will be a huge success. The celebrations on September 8th are known as IL-VITORJA. Every year the president of Malta lays a wreath at the foot of the monument of the great siege

of Malta. This monument is located on Republic Street in Valletta in front of the main law courts. The feast of Il-Vitoria, which is also a religious feast, commemorates the birth of the Virgin Mary or as it is commonly known as *Festa ta' Maria Bambina*. This feast is celebrated primarily in the towns of Senglea, Naxxar, Mellieha, and Xaghra-Gozo. That day is also a public holiday. Being a public holiday, the famous Regatta takes place in the Grand Harbor of Malta. The Regatta is a series of traditional Maltese boat races and a fierce competition between towns in the vicinity of the harbor. The competition is very intense and the drive to win the Regatta shield is held in the highest esteem and regard.

In September, we also celebrate the anniversary of the Independence of Malta. This year like every year a group of Maltese-Americans were invited to City Hall in San Francisco. This is that one major historic event when Malta was admitted as a full member of the United Nations. The flag of Malta was raised from the balcony of the office of the Mayor of San Francisco, we played and sang the Maltese National Anthem, later sipped on some nice champagne in the international room, exchanged greetings and short speeches and mingled with staff from the office of protocol of the SF Mayor in a marvelous setting under the rotunda of one of the most beautiful buildings in California.

Malta Day Gala Dinner: A gala dinner was also organized in Burlingame to commemorate Malta Day. It was a very entertaining and educational evening where we learned a little more about the significance of independent Malta. The planning and organizing team worked

very hard to make the evening a special one. Congratulations to everyone who participated in any way for the success of this wonderful annual gathering.

Festa Season during the month of October in Malta & Gozo: The festa season is calm and quiet during the month of October. The month of October is known in Malta as “Xaghar tar-Ruzarju” or the month of the Holy Rosary. Here are some of the main religious *festi* celebrated in towns and villages around Malta and Gozo in October. Most are referred to as secondary festas. *Our Lady of the Rosary* - Gudja and Marsa; *St. Francis* - Marsa and Sliema; *Our Lady of Consolations* in Gudja 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. Always remember, it is not what we take but what we give that makes us truly rich. So, give without remembering and receive without forgetting.

Message from the 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

Membership:

Welcome to our newest members:
Savior Micallef, Taylor Milla, Margaret Inferrea and Frank Vella

Fun Facts:

Malta was earlier known as Melita: meaning the island of honey, by ancient Greeks and Romans!

Here is one of the most interesting **October facts**: over 50% of the US population buys a pumpkin in October! In fact, the October pumpkin industry sells \$708 million pumpkins each year. Carving jack-o-lanterns is one of our favorite October traditions!

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 you send in your RSVPs by USPS mail that you make sure to put your return address on the envelope. **If you have any questions, contact me at: 415-218-6329 or secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org**

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

If you or someone you know attended the Malta Day Gala and is missing a pair of prescription Prada glasses, we have them here at the Club. Also, Maltese Heritage is missing two books that were on display at the Gala. If you picked them up by mistake, please return them to me so they can be returned to them.

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.



Our condolences to the Frank Azzopardi, Josephine Stellini, Stella Cilia and Lino Pirotta families on the loss of their loved ones.

Maltese History Month

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian*

September 5, 1800 --- The *HMS Northumberland* enters the harbor at Vittoriosa (Birgu) in answer to a request by the Maltese to rid them of the French occupation. The French under Napoleon, having kicked the Knights of Malta out of the country, have set up a harsh military occupation which includes the plundering of valuables in Maltese churches. The population is outraged, leading to a plea to the British government for help. The arrival of the *Northumberland* marks the beginning of a nearly 180-year administration of Malta as a British protectorate.

September 8, 1943 --- The Fascist regime in Italy signs an armistice with the Allied powers. This involves a ceasefire

agreement, which for Malta means the end of the Italian bombardment of the islands. German air attacks continue unabated, however. Today, September 8, besides being the feast of the birth of the Blessed Mother, is a public holiday in Malta in commemoration of the ceasefire. It is also the day that the Annual Dhajsa Competition takes place in the Grand Harbor.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian*

Is your last name **Said**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. **Said** is of Arabic origin. It means "happy" or "successful." It was used as a first name by both Muslims in the early days of Islam and Sephardic (Spanish) Jews. This was probably because both groups lived in Spain for centuries until both were expelled at the end of the 15th century by Ferdinand and Isabella (yes, the same rulers who bankrolled Christopher Columbus). It almost certainly came to Malta as a last name via Sicily, as it can be found there as early as the 12th century the last name originated in Gozo and dates to the 14th century there.

The Maltese Historical Society is writing a book that's all about you! For more information, please contact Mona Vella Nicholas at leprofess@aol.com or Charles Vella at charlesvella@comcast.net Make sure your family isn't left out of this story about Maltese immigration to the Bay Area.

Women's Social Committee

At the October 8th meeting, the women will be having finger foods and dessert. The group will also work on the 95 years In Pictures of the Club display

Entertainment Committee

The names of the members are Rita Borg and Karen Borg (Co-Chairpersons), Sina Borg, Brian Ciappara, Mary Vella Gomes, Emma Magarrell, Ninfa Pace, Beverly Dennehy, Rose Agius, Gracie Lacey, Lina Agius, Carmen Micallef, Maryann Milla and Pauline Henderson. **If you are interested in volunteering for the upcoming events in 2024, please do so by contacting Rita Borg at luftymom2000@gmail.com**



Family Pasta Bingo: 10/26
Holiday Market and Craft Fair 11-9
95th Anniversary of the
Maltese Club 11/16

Grievance Committee

The names of the 2024 Grievance Committee members are Mary Ann Fassler (Chairperson), Charlie Catania, Barbara Fenech, Paula Moffitt and Peter Abela.

Holy Week 2025 in Malta

Carmen Orton and Debbie Ghiglieri would like everyone to know that the Maltese Heritage Association is planning a group tour to Malta and Gozo from April 12-21, during Holy Week. Seats are reserved to view the Good Friday procession that will be held in Qormi. The tour is limited to 25-30 guests. If you are interested, more detailed information can be provided by contacting Carmen or Debbie at carmen.orton@gmail.com, 415-837-8964 dghiglieri13@gmail.com, 650-303-1256

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 send it 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 MICALLEG HALL

The hall is available for rent to members only. Please contact Mary Vella Gomes at (415-468-3747 or 415-517-5533) 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

