

# Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.

924 El Camino Real  
South San Francisco, Ca 94080



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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **President:**

Joe DeBattista  
650-438-2561

### **Vice President:**

Mary Borg Smith  
650-692-0413

### **Secretary:**

Mary Vella Gomes  
415-468-3747

### **Assistant Secretary:**

Carmen Micallef  
415-586-2597

### **Treasurer:**

Joseph Vella  
650-619-4565

### **Asst. Treasurer:**

Ninfa Pace  
650-697-1079

### **Parliamentarian:**

Rose Borg  
650-873-3187

### **Sergeant-At-Arms:**

George Borg

### **Auditors:**

Mona Vella Nicholas  
Louis Vella

**General  
Membership  
Meeting scheduled  
October 24, 2021**

## OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

October is upon us

We had our September General Membership meeting and I was happy to see all the people that wore masks. While on the subject, I want to clear up our situation on mask, no mask, vaccine or not, agree or disagree. The way we will handle it is we will abide with what the San Mateo County mandate is at the time.

It was a struggle to get five people to volunteer for the nominating committee but we were able to get it done. The Nominating Committee is comprised of Brian Ciappara, Mary Borg Smith, Joe Vella, Larry Meilak and Emma Magarrell. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you are interested in running for office. Numbers for Brian, Mary and Joe are listed under Board of Directors, Emma's number is 415-468-4367 and Larry's is 415-999-3143.

We now look forward to the nominations and hope to get a slate with some new candidates. I will say that new names will bring new ideas and keep the Club moving forward.

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## Rest In Peace

*Our deepest sympathy  
to the families of  
Jane Falzon, Tessie  
Spiteri and Charles  
Frank Vella*



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

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## Grievance Committee

Mary Anne Fassler  
(Chairperson)  
Charlie Catania  
Barbara Fenech  
Paula Moffitt  
Victor DeBono



We had our first well-organized Pasta Bingo Night and we had a nice crowd, with more attending than was anticipated. Thank you to all that attended and helped and I hope it was fun for all. Glad our dining room table shed off its load of baskets, bowls and raffle prizes. Our Madam Vice President, Mary Smith, has provided a list of names to thank and I want to thank Mary Smith and my wife, Betty, for organizing the event.

October will close with Halloween and I hope all enjoy that holiday and be safe.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE

## *Honorable Consul General of Malta*

Greetings and best wishes for good health and happiness to all our fellow members of the Maltese Club and the Maltese-American Community in California.

September is always a special month for the Maltese-American community in the San Francisco Bay Area. In September we celebrate Malta Day. A nice group of Maltese Club members and friends made a trip to the City upon the invitation of the office of protocol of the mayor of the San Francisco. The experience started near the Civic Center Bart station where we visited the granite columns and discussed the significance of the name of Malta chiseled on one of the columns to commemorate when Malta was admitted as a member of the United Nations in 1964. Afterwards the group walked to City Hall and gathered under the dome of the rotunda where we shared stories and history of San Francisco and events that took place at the iconic structure. The group proceeded to climb the majestic stairs and on to the mayor's office where we were greeted by staff of the mayor. With the Maltese National Anthem playing in the background, the flag of Malta was hoisted slowly and proudly up the flagpole from the balcony of the office of the mayor overlooking UN plaza. The group was invited to a champagne reception inside the famous international room where a beautiful display of artifacts and memorabilia from many different countries, including Malta, are housed behind glass

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## *Upcoming Maltese Community Events*

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### **Graton Casino Bus Trip – November 6th**

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### *Entertainment Committee*

Karen Borg  
(Chairperson)  
Jennifer DeBattista  
Rose Borg  
Kathy Borg  
Carmen Micallef  
Ninfa Pace  
Mary Vella  
Betty DeBattista  
Mary Borg Smith  
Celina Gomes  
Brian Ciappara  
Joe DeBattista

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### *Women's Social Committee*

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30, every month, except in August. Functions may be held on different days. All of the women members of the Club are welcome and invited to join.

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cabinets. There were exchanges of addresses to commemorate the occasion as well as a celebration of the ties and cooperation between the city of San Francisco and the Maltese community in the Bay Area. Everyone had a wonderful time and it was indeed a very memorable occasion which was captured in dozens of photos. In 2022 it will be the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Malta day on September 21<sup>st</sup> 1964 when Malta gain its independence and the Maltese community looks forward to another wonderful celebration at San Francisco City Hall.

**UN General Assembly:** Every year in September, all the leaders of all the countries in the world gather in New York to participate in the United Nations General Assembly. The US president addressed the assembly and so did the prime minister of Malta. Visiting from Malta there was also the minister of foreign affairs, who is also the chairperson of the council of Maltese living abroad. This council is the body that encompasses the interests of all those who are of Maltese descent living outside of Malta.

**Valletta:** The capital city of Malta has an ambitious plan to become the first city in Malta to gain the designation as a "Green City" This would mean that the carbon footprint of the city will need to be lowered to a level that will qualify the city as green. Some of the measures that are being proposed are to increase pedestrian areas, reduce fossil fuel cars that are allowed to enter the city, make public transportation within the city battery operated, give incentives to car owners to replace their fuel operated cars to electric powered vehicles, increase rooftop gardens and solar energy and many other measures. The target year is 2030. It will be so different visiting our capital city when Maltese living abroad visit the city built "*by gentlemen for gentlemen*"

**Writers:** If you or anyone you know is interested in writing or is seeking or studying to be a journalist, please let the consulate office know at [malteseconsulate@yahoo.com](mailto:malteseconsulate@yahoo.com) There are many opportunities where young aspiring writers of Maltese descent could have their writings published.

**Parade:** As is in past years, the Maltese American community will be participating in the Italian Heritage Parade which will be organized on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> in the North Beach district of San Francisco. Everyone is invited to attend and participate. Please

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# Club Hours

The Club is open but will have limited hours until further notice.

## Sunday and Holidays

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Monday, Wednesday and Saturday Closed

## Tuesday

Closed except for the 2nd Tuesday of the month

## Thursday

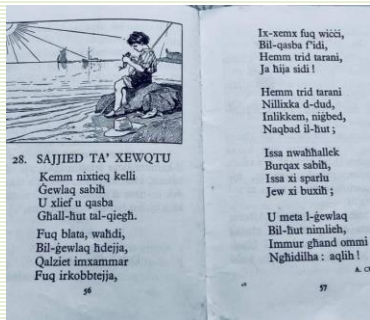
5:00 p.m. - 11:00 pm

## Friday

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

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# Library



Take some time and visit our library on Sundays from 10:00 am to 12 Noon  
Mona Vella-Nicholas,  
Librarian and Historian,  
can be reached at 650-589-4578.

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contact the Maltese Heritage Association who are the main sponsors of the Maltese community participation.

**Passports:** Many have been asking when Maltese passports could be processed again. Unfortunately, we do not yet have a set date but I should be able to notify those who are on the waiting list giving them several weeks of notice so they can plan accordingly. Those members of our Maltese Community who were able to travel outside of the US during these last several months can attest to the advantages of holding a valid Maltese passport. It is also very important that your US or Maltese or any other passport you may carry that it is valid for a minimum of 3 months beyond your return trip date to the US.

**Festa Season in Malta:** As we share every month, the traditional *fešta* season in Malta is now over. However, some smaller religious festivities are still calendared for the next few weeks. During the month of October, the main *festi* in Malta and Gozo are celebrate as follows; *Our Lady of "Cintura"* – Valletta and Gudja; *Our Lady of the Rosary* – Gudja; *St. Francis* - Ghajnsielem Gozo. *IL-FESTA IT-TAJBA*

I continue to encourage everyone to keep your families, friends and loved ones as well as the entire Maltese-American Community 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 that *it is not what we take but what we give that makes us truly rich.*

## Entertainment Committee

A Graton Casino Bus Trip is planned for November 6th . A flyer with all the information is attached. Also, please note the attached from the Committee Chairs regarding the Pasta Bingo Night which was held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Women's Social Committee

The first meeting is being held on Tuesday, October 12th. The Committee will be providing sandwiches. Please be sure to abide by San Mateo County mandate regarding masks. If you have any questions, please contact Ninfa Pace.



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## *Support Our Advertisers*

*Please be sure to check the advertising pages and remember to mention the Club when you patronize these businesses.*

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*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*

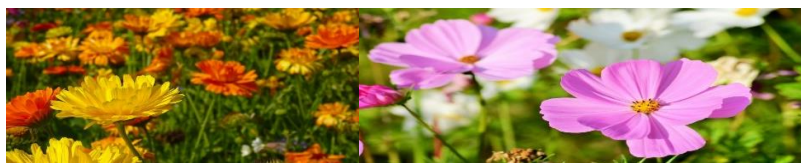
*by Mona Vella-Nicholas,  
Librarian and Historian*

**September 11, 2001** --- Brian Joseph Cachia has just settled down to work as a technical support specialist for Cantor Fitzgerald. His office is on the 103rd floor in the North Tower of the World Trade Center. His grandfather, Joseph, is a Maltese immigrant from Zabbar. His parents are Joe and Sabrina Cachia. At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines flight 11 from Boston, bound for Los Angeles, crashes into the North Tower a few floors below where Brian is working. He does not survive, becoming the only person of Maltese descent to die in the terrorist attack. He is 26 years old.

**September 11, 2001** --- Anthony Gurrera, a New York City firefighter, has the day off. He is of Maltese descent on his mother's side. His grandparents are Joseph and Grace Galea of Zejtun. His parents are Anthony Gurrera and Catherine Galea Gurrera. He is at home listening to the radio when he hears that a plane has crashed into the World Trade Center. Anthony immediately goes to his firehouse, where he joins his fellow firefighters in rushing to the scene of the attack. When one of the two towers collapses, seven of the firefighters from Anthony's firehouse are killed, but Anthony survives. He is 33 years old.

### *Origin of Maltese Last Names Zarb*

Is your last name **Zarb**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Zarb** comes from the Sicilian last name "Zarbo." The Sicilian name comes in turn from the time when Arabs occupied Sicily and Malta. In Arabic, the word "zarb" means a cattle pen or other enclosure.



### *October Flowers...Marigold and Cosmos*

*Marigolds represent strong feelings of love and passion but also symbolize desire for riches, cruelty, grief and jealousy! Cosmos represent order, peace and serenity...very reassuring flower compared to the Marigold*

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

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*The Maltese American Social Club welcomes new members. Please encourage your family and Maltese friends, young and old, to become members and attend our many functions.*

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*These are just a few of the many websites that may be of interest to the Bay Area Maltese Community:*

[www.timesofmalta.com](http://www.timesofmalta.com)  
[www.tvm.com.mt](http://www.tvm.com.mt)  
[www.gozotv.com/home](http://www.gozotv.com/home)  
[www.visitmalta.com](http://www.visitmalta.com)  
[www.airmalta.com](http://www.airmalta.com)  
[www.gozonews.com](http://www.gozonews.com)  
[www.maltatoday.com.mt](http://www.maltatoday.com.mt)  
[www.independent.com.mt](http://www.independent.com.mt)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY491bN\\_xQ4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY491bN_xQ4)  
<https://www.maltaproducts.com/>  
<http://www.charlesjvellaphd.com/Maltese%20Immigration/>

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## *Correspondence*

Except for payments, please remember that all correspondence must be mailed to the attention of the secretary, Mary Vella Gomes.

## *Payments*

Payment for dues and all functions are made by check only (NO CASH), payable to Maltese American Social Club (MASC) and sent to attention of Ninfa Pace. Please provide separate checks for each function. Payment for functions must be made by the deadline date. IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE, 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.

## **Hall Rental**

The hall is available for rent to members only. Please call Joe DeBattista at 650-438-2561 for information and to pick up a form and guidelines from the Club. However, no rental until further notice.

## **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.



*This Newsletter is created by Secretary, Mary Vella Gomes, with the approval of the Board of Directors*



## *Family Pasta Bingo Night*



On behalf of the Entertainment Committee, we would like to thank everyone who attended the Family Pasta/Bingo on Saturday, October 2nd. In attendance, we had 79 members, their families and friends.

We would like to thank the following helpers/volunteers:

- Danny Catania and Devon Ramos who did all the cooking and Joe Vella for washing the pots and pans.
- Josephine Muscat, Rita Borg, Mary Smith and Kathy Borg for selling pull tabs and raffle tickets
- Ninfa Pace, Betty DeBattista and Terrie Aquino for selling bingo cards and raffle tickets and taking reservations
- Mary Anne Fassler for calling the bingo numbers
- Gillu Muscat for tending bar and setting up the tables and chairs on Friday night
- George Borg, Karen Borg, Lori Azzopardi, and Laurie Scribner for serving and helping with the cleaning
- Tony Caruana, Reno Galea, George Borg and Joe Vella for taking down the tables and chairs

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people for their donations to our raffle:

Laurie Scribner, Josephine Muscat, Karen Borg, Chris Grech,  
Ruth Reimche, Terrie Aquino, Sharron Calundan, Anne Abela,  
Rose Borg, Josephine Ghiglieri, Mary Anne Fassler, Betty DeBattista,  
Sharon Fekete and Helen Caruana

A special thank you to Mary Smith and Betty DeBattista for chairing and organizing the bingo. Buying all the food and supplies and raffle prizes and also the many hours of beautifully wrapping over 40 raffle prizes. Thanks to Mary and Betty and all the volunteers, the Club made a profit of approximately \$1800.00 and the bar generated \$260.00.

**A JOB WELL DONE BY ALL!!!**

Mary Smith and Betty DeBattista – Chairs/Family Pasta Bingo

Karen Borg – Entertainment Chairperson