

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:** 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

Summer is coming to an end and Fall is just around the corner. The year seems to have flown by. September 21st marks the 60th Anniversary of Malta's Independence...Happy Independence Day!

The dance floor has now been refinished so much of the work that we wanted to accomplish has been completed. I want to thank Francis Axiaq for installing the new lights in the bar area. In addition to what we have already done, we will be having the chairs cleaned as they have not been cleaned for quite a long time and definitely need it. Also, we will be cleaning up the back area and dumping what is not needed. While we are not responsible for the property behind us, we will be contacting the City of South San Francisco to find out who is legally responsible to remove the overgrown weeds as this is a fire hazard.

At the August General Meeting, I presented information regarding the planning application that has been filed

by In-N-Out for a new location at 932 and 972 El Camino Real, formerly the Burger King next to the Club. The proposed project for the new restaurant, as [displayed on a city website](#), features outdoor seating and a drive-through window on a 1.5-acre site. The Chief Planner for So SF, Adena Friedman, said staff is currently reviewing In-N-Out's application. Entitlements will need to be reviewed by a design board and then approved by the local planning commission. The discretionary process allows the city to determine if the project aligns with zoning, development and California environmental standards. While this information just appeared in the SF Chronicle on August 6th, we have had some knowledge of this development earlier in the year. During the meeting, many brought up concerns regarding the traffic and how it will impact us, primarily because of the drive-thru. I will be sending a letter to Ms. Friedman as the city should be keeping us informed and providing us with a report since it will impact our area. I will specifically be asking about the traffic concerns.

After the Meeting, Dr. Charles Vella gave us a presentation on the topic of Visual Illusions. It was interesting to see how we all were viewing the same objects but not all of us saw the same thing! Thank you Charles for this enlightening presentation. Dr. Vella will give us another presentation before the end of the year. This time the topic will be Depression and it will be presented after the October 27th General Meeting. Please plan to attend as this is a topic that I think we all will find informative.

Karen Borg will be coordinating a Blood Drive which will be held in front of the

building. This is something that the general public will also be able to participate in.

We still need one or two people to chair the House Committee. The committee is responsible for the maintenance of the Club and to identify any repairs that may be necessary. While the chairperson(s) would be the point person(s), it would not be expected that repairs would solely be done by them. I hope that someone will agree to chair as this is a very vital committee.

The Board of Directors has reviewed and discussed the proposed Bylaws. We will be sending to an attorney to review to ensure that the document is done properly and legally. Following that, the members will be provided with copies which will reflect the changes that are being proposed so that they can be reviewed prior to voting.

There still seems to be some confusion regarding the Malta Day Gala and the 95th Anniversary Celebration. The **Malta Day Gala** is being held on **September 21st** and, while the main focus is Malta Day, the 95th Anniversary of the Club is also noted on the invitations. All of our Maltese organizations participate making it a true Maltese community event. We are so happy that so many of you will be attending. The **95th Anniversary Celebration** will take place on **November 16th** and will be held at the Club. Invitations will be going out to the members of the Club as we get closer to the date.

Included with this newsletter is a flyer for the Family Pasta Bingo Dinner on

October 26th. As everyone knows, this is always a very popular function so send in your reservations early to secure a seat! Also attached is a flyer for the Holiday Market and Craft Fair on November 9th. Everyone is welcome to come and see what the vendors have.

If anyone is planning to rent the hall before the end of the year, please be sure to contact me as there are many functions between now and the end of the year.

This month's meeting will be held on Sunday, September 29th at 10:30 a.m. This is an important meeting so please make an extra effort to attend. We will be selecting the Nominating Committee for the upcoming election and will need five members. The Nominating Committee must be selected no less than 90 days prior to the Annual Membership Meeting which is being held on December 29th. Please consider volunteering to be on the committee and also consider running for office.

Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta

Greetings and best wishes to everyone. It was so nice to address the lovely crowd in attendance on the last Sunday of August. In Malta in almost every week in August there is a religious festa somewhere on the island. In some instances, more than one festa like the festa of Santa Maria where in a span of a week there are about 10 such festa celebrations throughout Malta and Gozo.

The festa scene in Malta is of tremendous significance and importance. It personifies the culture and character of the Maltese people and to a certain extent that of Maltese

Americans. The Maltese character is inherently jovial, festive, friendly, hospitable and loves company. Have you ever heard someone say that when Maltese people are talking, they sound like they are yelling at each other when in fact they are simply expressing their mutual appreciation, enthusiasm, and esteem to one another and to people they know and admire?

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be about halfway into September. The month of September in the Maltese calendar is indeed one of the most important. On September 8 (IL-VITORJA) or Victory Day, Malta celebrates the religious festa of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But on this day Malta also commemorates three very important historical events. The victory over the Ottoman empire during the Great Siege of Malta of 1565 is by far the most important. The second commemoration is that known as The French Blockade (of Valletta) when the Maltese militia and population got rid of the French occupation lasting from 1798 to 1800. And the third historic event is the retreat of the Italian aerial attacks over Malta in September 1942. In September Malta also celebrates the granting of Independence from Great Britain on September 21st 1964 making this year the 60th anniversary. We will be celebrating Malta Day with a Gala Dinner celebration which will take place on Saturday, September 21st at the Double Tree Hotel in Burlingame. Hope to see you all there.

Flag Raising Ceremony: On Friday September 20th a group of Maltese-Americans will meet at City Hall in San Francisco to raise the flag of Malta from the balcony of the office of the Mayor of

San Francisco on the occasion of Malta Day. It is always a most memorable event and it is also another important occasion to celebrate Malta and our Maltese ancestors who came to San Francisco from Malta for a better future for themselves and their families. Their future is our present we are now living, and enjoying. It is up to us to pass on to our children and grandchildren the gift of being American and also Maltese.

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 via email at malteseconsulate@yahoo.com There are many opportunities where young aspiring writers of Maltese descent can have their writings published.

Festa Season in Malta: During the month of September in Malta & Gozo, the religious festa season calendar starts to slow down in number but not in importance. The most popular Maltese festa and celebrations are observed in many different towns and villages. The most popular ones are *St. Gregory The Great- Sliema*; *St. Francis of Assisi – Qawra*; *St. Catherine – Zurrieq*; *Nativity of Our Lady (Il-Vitorja) – Senglea, Naxxar, Mellieha, Xaghra Gozo*; *Our Lady Of Graces (Madonna Tal Grazzja) – Zabbar* IL-FESTA IT-TAJBA

Message from the Secretary

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.** I can be reached via email at secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org or 415-218-6329.

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

Facebook

Many of you may not be aware that we do have a Facebook page which is maintained by Mary Anne Fassler. If you do use Facebook, you can reach it by searching Maltese American Social Club on Facebook or also with the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064530946528>

Membership

Welcome to our newest members:

Georgia Xuereb and Josephine Busuttill Simoncini

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.

Condolences to the family of Rose Michelucci. May She Rest in Peace

Maltese History Month
By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian

August 13, 1942 --- The first ship of the convoy in Operation Pedestal, sailing from England, arrives in Malta at 6:25 p.m. The purpose of the operation is to bring desperately needed fuel, armaments, and food to a country on the edge of starvation and depletion of the supplies necessary to defend itself against relentless Axis bombing. The name of the ship is the *Rochester Castle*. On the same evening, two more ships, the *Port Chalmers* and the *Melbourne Star*, arrive. The *Brisbane Star* arrives the following day.

The American-made ship *Ohio* is the last to arrive --- on August 15th, the feast of the Assumption, simply known in Malta as "Santa Maria." The ship has been hit by German bombs on three separate raids in the days previous to its arrival. It is so badly damaged that it has to be towed into the harbor by three other ships pulling it, one from the left, one from the right, and one from the center. The reason so much more is made of the *Ohio* than the four ships which have arrived before her is that she is the ship which is carrying the fuel which is so desperately needed to keep the air defense airplanes on Malta flying. Fuel supplies have been so low until *Ohio's* arrival that, had the ship been sunk as so many others in the original convoy, Malta would be forced to surrender.

August 12, 1990 --- Daphne Caruana Galizia writes her first political column for the *Times of Malta*. Like all columns at this time, the author's name is not listed. The column receives such good reviews by the public that Daphne insists that she be able to write under her own name. The publisher, Mr. Montanaro, is persuaded. Daphne's second column for the *Times* carries her byline, making her the first independent columnist and the first woman to be named in a Maltese newspaper.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Is your last name **Rapa**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. **Rapa** is of Italian origin. It comes from the Latin word "rapa", which means "turnips." It probably refers to someone who sold turnips. As a matter of fact, the **Rapa** coat-of-arms does contain a turnip. In Malta, the last name originated in Gozo and dates back to the 14th century there.

The Maltese Historical Society is writing a book and it's all about you! For more information, please contact either Mona Vella Nicholas at leprofess@aol.com or 650-589-4578 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.

Entertainment Committee

The Entertainment Committee members are Rita Borg (Chairperson), Karen Borg (Co-Chairperson) 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. **Volunteers** for our functions are ***always needed*** and welcomed! If you are interested in volunteering for the upcoming events in 2024, please contact Rita Borg at luftymom2000@gmail.com



Malta Day Gala: 9/21
MASC Car Show: 10/6
Family Pasta Bingo: 10/26

For those of you who make delicious Maltese delicacies, we are hoping to get some donated so they can be served for dessert at the Car Show Lunch. Please contact Pauline Henderson if interested.

Women's Social Committee

At the upcoming October 8th meeting, the group will work on the photo display for the 95 years in pictures.

Grievance Committee

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

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 or mailed to the Club to the secretary's attention.

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 MICALLEF 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

