

APRIL-2022-NEWSLETTER'



Message from the President

We had a great turnout at our March General Meeting with some great information, interaction, and discussion.

The St. Patrick's Dinner and Dance has come and gone and was a lot of fun. Those attending enjoyed the food, music and mostly the company of friends that they had not been able to see for quite some time. There are many pictures that have been posted in the glassed bulletin board as you enter the hall. A big thank you to all of those who helped make it such a successful first event for the year!

We are looking forward to our Family Pasta Bingo on April 9th. Historically, it has always been such a fun event. We have received many, many prizes for the raffle and can't wait to hear the familiar sound of Bingo being yelled out when someone has won!

Our Mother's Day Dinner Dance will be here before we know it. It is always so nice to see family members attending with their mom and/or Nanna. A flyer is attached so please send in your reservations as soon as you can. We are also including a Save the Date flyer for Malta Day which will be held on September 24th.

As I mentioned at the meeting, our Wi-Fi has been reinstalled.

The network name: ATT-WIFI-obu5 – Password: aoubx5Uu

We are looking for a few people that would be willing to work on a committee to complete the process that had already started to amend the By-Laws a few years ago. Much of the process has been completed and we would like to see it done soon so that the amended version can be reviewed by the Board of Directors and can then present to the membership. Please contact me if you would like to serve on the committee.

At the March meeting, Dr Charles Vella, Ph.D. spoke to the members about the Maltese Immigration to the San Francisco Bay Area website he has compiled. It is essentially a genealogy of all Maltese Americans and their descendants who have lived in the Bay Area. The website is very interesting and there are thousands and thousands of names. You can contact him via email at: charlesvella@comcast.net Take some time to visit the website he has created: [http://www.charlesjvellaphd.com/Maltese % 20Immigration](http://www.charlesjvellaphd.com/Maltese%20Immigration).

The Elder's Luncheon, which is hosted by the Historical Society, is being revived after a 2-year absence due to Covid and is scheduled after the General Meeting on May 22nd. The Board has approved and is sponsoring the Luncheon as we have in past years.

At the first meeting in January, some of you expressed an interest in learning Maltese. I have been in contact with a woman, Rose-Mary Curmi, who teaches Maltese via Skype. She is from Malta but lives in Brisbane, Australia. If you would like any information, please send me an email and I will help coordinate our classes.

2022 Board of Directors

President

Mary Vella Gomes
415-517-5533

Vice President

Richard Azzopardi
925-683-3310

Secretary

Maryann Milla
415-218-6329

Assistant Secretary

Carmen Micallef
415-586-2597

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Joseph Vella
650-619-4565

Assistant Treasurer

Ninfa Pace
650-697-1079

Parliamentarian

Bart Borg
415-264-8357

Sergeant-At-Arms

George Borg
Auditors

Mona Vella Nicholas
Louis Vella

Club-Hours

Sunday & Holidays

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

Closed on Tuesdays

Except:

Second Tuesday of the Month

Women's Committee Meeting

5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday

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

Closed Monday, Wednesday,

Thursday & Saturday

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Librarian & Historian

Mona Vella-Nicholas

650-589-4578

HCG Louis Vella is still able to meet with those who would like to continue learning the National Anthem. The first session was held after our February General Meeting, and it is hoped that we can hold a 2nd session soon.

Tony Spiteri has generously donated several novels that are written in Maltese and can be found in our library. Thank you, Tony!

We have another three new members this month. Welcome Mary Pirotta, Josephine Mallia and Charles Spiteri! We hope to see you at our meetings and functions.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 24th at 10:30am. After the meeting, we will be having an Ice Cream Social. The cost will be \$3.00 (cash). Be sure to stay a while and enjoy a scoop with friends.

Happy Spring! Sahha



Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta

Greetings and best wishes for more good health and happiness to all our fellow members of the Maltese Club and the Maltese-American Community in California. It was so gratifying to see a good number of members in attendance at the March meeting. As long as health warnings are still in effect, we need to continue to be prudent and use caution when gathering in large groups. Having said that, it was such a breath of fresh air to see and hear people communicate and giving their reports during the meeting without a cover over their mouths. Let us hope that the health and safety of our community continue to move in a good direction.

Innu Malti* – Maltese National Anthem:** As was mentioned in previous meetings and in past newsletters, we have been teaching the Maltese National Anthem – ***Innu Malti in the Maltese language. Learning the Maltese National Anthem is a very noble and proud achievement. Taking this first step will give us the confidence

to learn more Maltese words and phrases. As a Maltese-American community it is a very commendable that we are knowledgeable and comfortable singing both the Star-Spangled Banner as well as the Maltese National Anthem. Anyone interested in learning the Maltese National Anthem in Maltese please send an email to: malteseconsulate@yahoo.com

General Elections in Malta: On the day of the membership meeting on Sunday March 27th the most anticipated news from Malta were the results of the general elections. The results started coming in around 2:00am California time. From the very first indications it was clear that as anticipated and as the recent election surveys indicated, the Labour Party was on its way to a large victory and a clear mandate to govern for another 5 years. Everything progressed as expected although the turn-out of voters at 85.5% was the lowest in over 60 years. The election results were received with a lot of celebrations, but they were calm and peaceful.

Learning Center: Consul Vella stressed again the need that we should strive to use our club's premises as a learning center to assist our members become more knowledgeable and more prepared to face the many aspects of our lives. There is a plethora of topics that could be presented and discussed. Some of the presentations we could bring to make our premises closer to a learning center could be Aspects of Long-Term Care, Wills & Trusts, Care of our family elders, Medical Insurance, Managing our finances or those of our elderly relatives and many more.

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 by contacting: malteseconsulate@yahoo.com There are many opportunities where young aspiring writers of Maltese descent could have their writings published.

Festa Season in Malta: During the month of April in Malta & Gozo the most popular Maltese *fest*

and celebrations are observed in many different towns and villages and are all related to the devotion for Our Lady of Sorrows, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. *IL-FESTA IT-TAJBA*

I 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. We continue to hope and pray for better days ahead.

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

Maltese History Month

*By: Mona Vella-Nichols
Librarian and Historian*

March 29, 1565 --- A fleet of 181 ships sets out through the Bosphorous Strait, the narrow body of water which separates Europe from Asia. The ships are flying the Turkish flag and on them are thousands of fighting men. They are also carrying huge amounts of cannonballs and gunpowder, along with the heavy cannon and guns needed to shoot the ammunition. The fleet is accompanied by eleven merchant ships, carrying tents, food, water, and medical supplies, among other necessities. The fleet heads south through the Bosphorous until it reaches the open sea of the Mediterranean, then heads west to its destination --- Malta. The goal is to wrench the island from the hands of the Knights and claim it for their sovereign, Suleiman the Magnificent. They are confident of a quick victory. They have no idea what lies ahead....

March 3, 1797 --- Bishop Vincenzo Labini is bestowed by the Pope with the title "Bishop of Malta and Archbishop of Rhodes." His successors maintain the title until 1928, when the title is changed to "Archbishop of Malta." The population of Malta in 1797 is estimated to be 96,534 people. This does not include some 500 Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, later known as the Knights of Malta.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Axiaq

Is your last name **Axiaq**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. **Axiaq** is of Arabic origin. It comes from the Arabic word "ashaq", which means "lover." In Malta, a form of that name appears on the Militia list of 1419. It dates back even earlier in Sicily, 1095 to be exact, where it appears on a list of Muslim serfs at a time when Sicily and Malta were under Norman rule.

Women's Social Committee

All who attended, last month's Baked Potatoes Fixings night had a great time! Next month's meeting – pizza and salad will be provided. Meetings are held on the **2nd Tuesday** every month @ **6:30p.m.**, **except the month of August.** Functions *may be held* on different days. All the women members of the Club are welcome to join!

Entertainment Committee

Rita Borg (Co-Chair), Ashley Tanti (Co-Chair), Brian Ciappara, Sina Borg, Pauline Henderson, Emma Magarrell, Carmen Micallef, Maryann Milla, Ninfa Pace.



2022 Event Calendar*

Ice Cream Social will be held after General Meeting) April 24, 2022 - **\$3 each CASH payment only; no RSVP required!**

Just a *few* upcoming dates to put on your calendar!

Mother's Day Dinner Dance:	May 7
Rummage Sale :	May 21
Casino Bus Trip:	June 4
Father's Day Brunch:	June 19
Annual Picnic:	July 24

***Dates may be subject to change**

Grievance Committee

Mary Ann Fassler (Chairperson), Charlie Catania, Barbara Fenech, Paula Moffitt and Victor DeBono.

Library Hours

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



Condolences

Thoughts and Prayers are being sent to the families of Dolores Busuttill and Joe Micallef who recently passed away. May they rest in peace.

New Members – Welcome!

Mary Pirotta, Josephine Mallia and Charles Spiteri. --We hope to see you at meetings and at our upcoming functions!

Message from the Secretary

Please contact me via email or phone call if you wish to advise me of any important information. Thank you

David Ghiglieri

E7 Master Sargent Air Force Reservist, David GHIGLIERI, son of member Josephine and Steve Ghiglieri and grandson of deceased members Joe and Carmen Spiteri will be deployed to Iraq on April 3, 2022, for 6 months. This is his 3rd deployment, as he served in Iraq in 2006-2007 and Afghanistan in 2010. This time, he is leaving his wife and 3 children. Please keep him in your prayers. Thank you, Steve and Josephine Ghiglieri

Support Our Advertisers!

Please be sure to check the advertisement pages and remember to mention the Club when patronizing these businesses.

Tristan Viviani

Diane Debono Viviani sent us this article about her grandson, Tristan, who is Michael Viviani's son. The article is in Maltese and English. We look forward to hearing more about him in the future. Good luck Tristan! 🏆

[Replay \(Net Television\) March 23, 2022](#)

Wiċċ gdid għat-tim nazzjonali Malti ta' taht it-18-il sena hekk kif issejjah għall-ewwel darba d-difensur ta' dixxindenza Maltija Tristan Viviani.

Viviani jilgħab bhala left full-back u fi Frar għalaq 18-il sena. Hu twieled u ghex fl-Istati Uniti, fejn jilgħab għal [San Jose Earthquakes](#), u gab passaport Malti minhabba li ġej minn familja Maltija.

Viviani hu wiehed mill-plejers ta' taht it-18-il sena msejha mill-coaches nazzjonali Alessandro Zinnari u Stefano Grima biex ikunu parti minn kontingent li se jivvjagga lejn Ċipru.

Il-Maltin se jilgħabu żewġ logħbiet ta' hbiberija kontra l-iskwadra nazzjonali ta' taht it-18-il sena ta' Ċipru, nhar il-Gimgha u l-Hadd li ġej.

This is the translation...

A new face for the Maltese under-18 national team as first-time Maltese-born defender Tristan Viviani is called up.

Viviani plays as a full-back left and turned 18 in February. He was born and lived in the United States, where he plays for the San Jose Earthquakes, and obtained a Maltese passport because he comes from a Maltese family.

Viviani is one of the under-18 players called up by national coaches Alessandro Zinnari and Stefano Grima to be part of a contingent traveling to Cyprus.

The Maltese will play two friendly matches against the national under-18 team of Cyprus, next Friday and Sunday.

Correspondence

Except for payments for dues and functions, please remember that all correspondence must be mailed to the attention of the **Secretary – Maryann Milla**

Payments (No CASH)

Payment for dues and all functions should be made by CHECK payable to: Maltese American Social Club (MASC) and sent to the 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 DATE -ATTEMPTING TO PAY AT THE DOOR, THE DAY OF THE EVENT, WILL BE DENIED

Hall Rental

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

