

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.

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

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AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well as someone said to me, can you believe August is here? I would say it is vacation season for most of us.

We just got back from Hot August Nights up in Reno and it was great to have the family all together. The week before I enjoyed a trip to Pendleton, Oregon with my son to attend a car show revival and driving for 12 hours through California and Oregon it makes you appreciate what a beautiful country we live in. We also hit rain in Oregon and it felt exciting; hoping California get its share soon.

As always, it seems vacations feel so short, but regardless, I hope you all enjoy your travels no matter what.

The Board and I decided to cancel Santa Maria due to a small response, which made it impractical to hold the event. With the new Delta variant, we see that Covid is starting to rear its ugly head again and, with that, indoor mask requirements are back. So, we hope that members can comply with this requirement so we can keep the club legitimately open. Please continue to be safe out there.

It is fire season in California and what a season it has been already. Our hearts go out to those who are having to cope with these horrible events. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers for everyone's safety. Also, thank you to the firefighters and other first

**General
Membership
Meeting scheduled
for August 22, 2021**

Rest In Peace

*Our deepest sympathy
to the family of
Frank Tanti*



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

Grievance Committee

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



*The August birth
flowers are the poppy
and the gladiolus.
The poppy represents
luxury, imagination,
success, strength and
calmness, while the
gladiolus represents
infatuation, integrity
remembrance and
also calmness.*

responders on the front lines of these fires. The Embassy has asked if we know anyone up in the fire zones, that has been affected and needs help, to please let us know.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer; we will keep trying to make the most of these situations as best we can.

I wish all the kids a safe and successful year back at school.

See you at the club.

Joe

A MESSAGE FROM THE

Honorable Consul General of Malta

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

When we all thought we are coming out of the virus danger, in come the new safety guidelines. Inviting people to gather in groups or small crowds is still a big challenge and we need to continue to follow health guidelines not only because of what we know but mostly because of what we do not know. Caution and patience are needed more than ever. Together, as a strong Maltese-American community and by supporting each other, we will overcome anything that is thrown our way.

Our friends and members of our community are slowly returning from their vacations. Those who were lucky to travel safely to Malta are bringing back news that the Maltese public continues to stay guarded and concerned about the recent waves of pandemic cases. Let us continue to hope and pray the worse is indeed behind us.

Olympics Games-Tokyo: The adventure of Maltese athletes in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Games, came to an end rather quickly. Malta presented 6 athletes and they competed with the best of the best each sporting event has to offer. It was truly a proud moment when we witnessed the Maltese contingent being introduced as they walked into the stadium during the opening ceremony. Almost every Maltese athlete improved on their personal best performances even if their best may not have been good enough

Upcoming Maltese Community Events

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Nothing planned
at this time

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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

Women's Social Committee

Meetings are held at 6:30 on the 2nd Tuesday, every month, except in August. Planned 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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to move far into the competition. Winning medals and hearing the National Anthem may be too much to expect from small nations, but the spirit of competing at the world stage remains high and steadfast.

Summer Travel: The requests for information about travels to Malta have started to decrease. We are still in the middle of Summer but by the time we receive this newsletter the scholastic year would be right around the corner and traveling would have slowed down somewhat. Trips outside the United States is still under an umbrella of caution. Make sure you research reliable and up-to-date health guidelines before you make reservations for a journey.

Passports: Normally I write about Maltese passports which, incidentally, I am still accepting names of Maltese citizens who are interested in renewing or obtaining a Maltese passport. This month, however, I am writing about US passports. Please know that renewing an expired US passport or obtaining a new one is not as expedient as we've grown accustomed to in the past. People have shared some very disturbing and alarming stories about excessive delays getting a new US passport. Some waited between 12 to 18 weeks before they received their new passport. Please make sure you check the expiration date of your US passport and plan accordingly.

Festa Season in Malta: As we share every month, the traditional *festi* season in Malta will continue all through Summer. The *festi* have been scaled down until new health directives are announced. During the month of August the main *festi* in Malta and Gozo are celebrate as follows; *Madonna of Pompei* – Marsaxlokk; *St. Peter* – Birzebbugia; *St. Joseph* – Qala Gozo, & Manikata; *Our Lady of Lourdes* – S. Gwann; *St. Dominic* – Valletta & Vittoriosa; *Is-Salvatur* – Lija; *St. Lawrence* – Vittoriosa & San Lawrenz Gozo; *San Gaetano* – Hamrun; *Santa Maria* – Attard, Dingli, Ghaxaq, Gudja, IMgarr, Mosta, Mqabba, Qrendi, Rabat Gozo, Zebbug Gozo; *St. Pius X* – Santa Lucija; *Santa Elena* – Birkirkara; *Stella Maris* – Sliema; *St. Leonard* – Kirkop; *Our Lady of Loreto* – Ghajnsielem Gozo; *Maria Regina* – Marsa; *St. Paul* – Safi; *San Giljan* – St. Julians; *IL-FESTA IT-TAJBA*

I continue to encourage you all to keep your families, friends and loved ones as well as the entire Maltese-American Community

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

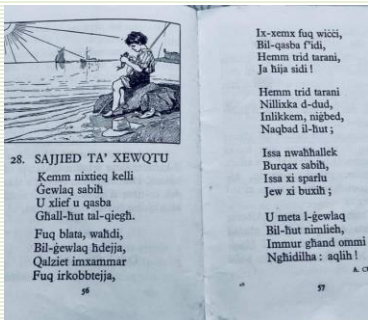
Thursday

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

Friday

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

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.

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

Unfortunately, due to the fact that there was not much of a response. the Santa Maria Dinner had to be cancelled. There are no immediate plans for any other functions at this time.

Women's Social Committee

Hopefully, the committee will be able to meet at some point to determine what plans they can make for the rest of the year.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Zahra

Is your last name ZAHRA? If so, you may be interested on knowing where your last name comes from. Zahra is of Arabic origin. It comes from the Arabic word for "blossom", especially an orange blossom. In Maltese, we have the expression "Ilma Zghar", which translates to "orange blossom water" in English. In Arabic, it was also used as a pet name for a pretty girl. Although not as common as some surnames, it is an old name, dating back to at least the 15th century in Malta.

JULY IN MALTESE HISTORY

*by Mona Vella-Nicholas,
Librarian and Historian*

July 2, 1571 --- The parish of St. Dominic in Valletta is officially established, three months after the laying of the first stone. The Dominican-run parish replaces a small chapel which the Dominicans had administered previously. The present building is the second built on the same site, after the first structure is closed due to storm and earthquake damage. The new church, which opens around 1805, is raised to basilica status on March 25, 1816.

July 19, 1967 --- Malta and the Republic of China (Taiwan) establish diplomatic relations.

Support Our Advertisers

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

Message from the Secretary

Hello everyone. It is so hard to believe that summer is coming to an end. It seems like we were just welcoming 2021 and hoping for a better year.

As President DeBattista mentioned, please be sure to let us know if there is anyone in the Maltese Community that has been affected by the fires.

We are planning to hold our General Meeting this month on August 22nd. Should there be any changes, we will contact you as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that the September General Meeting is a very important one as we will be forming a Nomination Committee in order for us to have an election in December.

I can be reached by email at secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org or at the number listed on the first page of this newsletter if you ever have any questions and/or concerns.

The following is a message from Charles Vella, PhD, about his Maltese Immigration to the Bay Area website which can be found at <http://www.charlesjvellaphd.com/Maltese%20Immigration/> I have also added his website to the list of others listed on the last page.

"I believe it is a major contribution to the history of the Maltese in our area. I have been working on this project for 5 years now, initially triggered by my being on the Maltese Historical Society." "It is based on public records available to anyone, listing births, marriages, deaths, and obituaries of all the Maltese people in the Bay Area from 1850 to the present. It now contains 10,000+ listings of Maltese individuals and is easily searchable. Partially, my request is in the hope that people may help me edit the duplicates that I may have in the database and to help me connect family relationships, where I have a married surname of a woman but not the maiden name. The California Birth index lists birth information under the woman's maiden name; here I need help discovering who the father is. My privacy policy is that I will remove any information that an individual requests. Any contributions, corrections and additions are welcome. Hope to hear."

Charles can be reached at charlesvella@comcast.net or 415-939-6175

Thank you Charles.



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

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



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

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.

These are just a few of the many 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/>
<http://www.charlesjvellaphd.com/Maltese%20Immigration/>

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.