

# Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.

924 El Camino Real  
South San Francisco, Ca 94080



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

## DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



2022

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Mary Vella Gomes (415 517-5533); **Vice President:** Richard Azzopardi (925 683-3310); **Secretary:** Maryann Ciappara Milla (415 218-6329); **Assistant Secretary:** Carmen Micallef (415 586-2597); **Treasurer:** 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 and Louis Vella

### Message from the President

I hope that all of you were able to share Thanksgiving Day with family and friends.

I want to first thank the members of the Nominating Committee, namely Brian Ciappara, Larry Meliak, Terry Aquino, Bart Borg and Rita Borg who did a superb job. The members that accepted the nominations are Mary Vella Gomes

for President, Richard Azzopardi and Pauline Henderson for Vice-President, Maryann Milla for Secretary, Carmen Micallef for Assistant Secretary, Joe Vella for Treasurer, Ninfa Pace for Assistant Treasurer and Terry Aquino for Parliamentarian. The Committee advised that no one accepted the position of Sargent-at-Arms. Mona Nicholas and Louis Vella accepted nominations for Auditor. The Nominating Committee was dissolved.

The floor was then opened for nominations. There were no accepted nominations for any of the positions of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Parliamentarian or Auditor. However, Lori Muscat Scribner was nominated and accepted the position of Sergeant-At-Arms. Richard Azzopardi asked to withdraw his nomination and his request was accepted. Since there are no nominees seeking election for the same position, there will not be an Election at our 10:30 a.m. Annual General Meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>. **Please note that the meeting is not on the last Sunday of the month as it is Christmas Day. The Club will be closed. While there will not be an election held at the meeting, please make every effort to attend this last meeting of the year.**

After all the committees had given their reports and Mona Nicholas and HCG

Louis Vella presented us with important and interesting information, I once again asked that everyone please be courteous to each other and not disrupt our meetings. During any meeting, the bar will be closed, and everyone should be seated in the hall. No one wants to have to ask people to quiet down, let alone be ignored. Thanking you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Unfortunately, Dr. Charles Vella injured himself and we had to cancel his presentation for the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will be rescheduling for a date early next year, once we have a date, we will let you know.

Honorary Member Nazzareno Vassallo's visited the Club with three of his children. on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a very nice catered reception and I want to thank Joe and Fran Tanti on behalf of everyone for hosting it. I also wanted to thank those who were able to attend. We watched a video taken at the "after party" on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club in 2004. Watching it was bittersweet as there were many friends and family members in the video that are no longer with us. Zaren presented us with a beautiful book and also donated \$500 to the Club. He also mentioned to me that he plans on returning next year after a trip to Toronto. He is hoping that he can arrange for Banda Soċjeta Filarmonika Nicolò Isouard from Mosta to perform for us. We will just have to wait and see if he can make it happen.

Plans are to have former SF Homicide Inspector, Frank Falzon come speak at the Club and also have a book signing in January or February. Once we know the

date, you will be given all the information. If you are interested in purchasing the book, it is entitled *San Francisco Homicide Inspector 5-Henry-7: My Inside Story of the Night Stalker, City Hall Murders, Zebra Killings, Chinatown Gang Wars, and a City Under Siege* and is available from Amazon and other sellers. He will also have them available at the book signing.

We now have a changing table that is available for those who are at the club and have little ones that need attention! Thank you, Manuel, for making sure to put it together for us.

Many of you might be interested in knowing about a series on Netflix called Ancient Apocalypse, which is about investigating civilizations of the past. Norbert Demanuele let us know that the third episode is about Malta. In addition, Maryann Milla's sister, Angie, let her know about a program on Hulu entitled Ancient Aliens. Season 16 is called Giants of the Mediterranean and, during the last 15 minutes of episode 4, Malta is shown.

The gentleman who donated the knights, Fred Aquilana, contacted me about a Maltese priest in Fairfield. His name is Fr. Joe Cilia and he has been in South America for a number of years. He is looking forward to meeting some Maltese people while, perhaps enjoying some Maltese food and is planning to be here on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, we had a very successful Pasta Bingo Night on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way and to all those who attended. Although we did have some technical

difficulties, it was still a great time...especially for the winners!

Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are on sale and the winner to be drawn on New Year's Eve. You need not be present to win. Tickets will be available for purchase at the club through New Year's Eve.

Please be sure to complete the survey that was included in last month's newsletter. I am very certain the Entertainment Committee would love to hear from you.

Our traditional Children's Christmas Party is on December 10<sup>th</sup> and we are looking forward to seeing all the children welcoming the baby Jesus and, of course, seeing Santa and Mrs. Clause!

Hard to believe but it is almost time to ring in 2023! Please send in your reservations as soon as possible for New Year's Eve. Dinner, Dancing, Family and Friends...what a great way to celebrate!

My family and I would like to wish all of you the spirit of Christmas which is peace, the blessing of Christmas which is hope and the heart of Christmas which is Love. May you and yours be blessed with a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Il-Milied it-tajeb u s-sena t-tajba  
Mary



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

**New Board of Directors and officers:**  
Greetings and best wishes to everyone. A word of gratitude and a huge

congratulations to all those members of the Maltese Club who stepped up to take on a position on the board of directors that will run the business of the organization for the next 12 months. Whether an election of officers and other key positions takes place or not makes no difference. The fact remains that for 2023, our club will again have a group of dedicated individuals who will volunteer their time and lend their skills and talents to run the day-to-day operation of the Maltese American Social Club. Each one of them deserves encouragement, congratulations and support from all the members.

**Photo of the Prime Minister of Malta:**

After several tries and a couple of visits to Malta, we finally have a photo of the prime minister of Malta at the club. For many years, in the board room of our club we have always had framed photos of those in the highest civil authority in Malta such as the president of Malta, the prime minister, the leader of the opposition, and Speaker of the house. The prime minister of Malta is the Honorable Dr. Robert Abela. During our most recent general membership meeting, the Hon Consul of Malta presented a framed photo of prime minister Abela to the club which will soon find its rightful place on the wall of the club's board room.

**FIFA-Soccer World Cup:** As everyone knows, during the months of November and December this year the world will be fixated on the largest sporting event on earth that comes but once every 4 years. We are of course talking about the FIFA

World Cup Soccer competition which this year is being held in the country of Qatar. It is not the intent of this article to dwell on a soccer competition, but it is of a huge significance for all of us to notice how proud each nation is to display their national colors, costumes, heritage and culture. One of the most profound moments of every game comes shortly before the game begins when the national anthems of the two opposing teams are played. One follows the other. Players of either side, as well as spectators sing loudly and proudly the words of their respective national anthems with passionate pride and sometimes with tears in their eyes. Maltese Americans are blessed because we have not one but two magnificent national anthems that we are proud of. Both the “Star-Spangled Banner” as well as the “*Innu Malti*” or the Maltese National Anthem are so beautiful. All Maltese Americans are encouraged and should learn and sing both of them every time they are played.

**Maltese November Mass:** After an absence of three years the “Remembering Our Loved Ones” – November Mass at St. Dunstan Church in Millbrae, returned once again. The Maltese American Community attended in great numbers which made the event so much more meaningful. Presidents and representatives of other Maltese groups and organizations were also present including the president of the Maltese American Social Club. Following the flower ceremony, the most prestigious honor that is given by the Maltese community in our region,

namely the Maltese Cross Foundation Award was presented to Mr. Emmanuel Micallef of San Francisco who was present together with his entire family.

**Nativity (*Presepju*):** We are in the midst of the holiday season. When you read this, we will be in December and on a fast track towards *il-Milied* / Christmas. In Malta and among most Maltese families around the world including here in California, one of the oldest traditions is the display of the *Presepju*/Nativity scene. As was mentioned on several occasions, an exhibition of Nativities created and built by Maltese artisans was held at the Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. One of these Nativities is presently stored inside the museum waiting to be transported to San Francisco and to be part of our community. Thank you to those who have stepped up to form part of the “Friends of the *Presepju*/Nativity” Anyone who is interested or willing to volunteer to be part of this group please let Louis Vella, Emmanuel Micallef, Peter Xuereb, John Falzon or Joe Vella know and we will be happy to welcome you to this fine group of volunteers. This group is working very hard to acquire and transport the *presepju* from Washington DC to the SF Bay Area.

**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 by emailing him at [malteseconsulate@yahoo.com](mailto: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 December in Malta & Gozo, the religious festa season calendar is rather quiet. However, there is indeed one of the most popular, traditional and historic festa celebrated through the year in Malta. We of course are referring to the festa of the Immaculate Conception celebrated in a big way in Cospicua (*Immakulata Kuncizzjoni ta' Bormla*). Other festi are: *St. Francis* - Victoria, Gozo, *St. Lucy* - Mtarfa, Malta and Santa Lucija, Gozo. 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. 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.

### Message from the Secretary



#### REMINDER:

**Membership dues must be paid by January 31, 2023.** Please send your \$60.00 check (NO CASH), to the Attention Ninfa Pace payable to: Maltese American Social Club.

Please check out the Club's website to view pictures of events and other important information: <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/>

*Wishing you all a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!***

Feel free to contact me of any important information that may need to be put in the newsletter at [secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org](mailto:secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org)

#### Club Hours

Sunday: 9-5p.m.

**CLOSED: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday**

**CLOSED TUESDAYS:** Except on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month for the Women's Club Meeting from 5:00 -10:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY: 5:00 – 1:00 a.m.**

Don't Forget there are games to be played on Friday Night!



### Origin of Maltese Last Names

Is your last name **Ellul**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Ellul** is the name of one of the months of the Jewish calendar, so some think that the name is of Jewish origin. However, some Maltese families with the **Ellul** last name have traced their origin back to a North African emir (prince) "Hellul", who ruled the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies" (Malta and Sicily) during the Arabic period. The name eventually lost the "H" and became **Ellul**.

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

November 26, 1830 --- The church leaders of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies have been arguing for sixteen months over who should have the right to choose the next archbishop of Malta. As a result, Malta has been without an archbishop for all this time. Finally, Pope Gregory XVI sides with the Maltese in recognizing Francesco Saverio Caruana as Archbishop of Malta. To prevent further discord, he also divides the See of Malta and the See of Palermo into two jurisdictions. Henceforth, the See of Malta will answer directly to the Holy See in Rome.

November 1942 --- Vincent Debono of Hamrun purchases forty bags of flour from government supplies in Qormi. He then tries to sell them illegally on the black market, in conflict with wartime rationing laws. He is arrested, tried, and sentenced to two years in prison. In addition, the flour is confiscated, his license to purchase goods from the government is suspended for a period of time, and he is required to pay a fine of 400 pounds.

**Library Hours**

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

**The Club will be closed on  
Christmas Day**

**Entertainment Committee**

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

**Event Calendar**

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



**General Membership Mtg Dec. 18  
(10:30 a.m.) ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING/ELECTION**

New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance Dec. 31

**Women's Social Committee**

**There will not be a meeting in December.  
The annual Women's Club holiday  
dinner will be held at the Basque  
Cultural Club on December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Meetings** are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Tuesday** of every month, except in August, at **6:30 p.m.** Functions *may be held* on different days. All the women members of the Club are welcome to attend meetings but please be sure to note that *all who attend must be a member of the Club.*

**Grievance Committee**

MaryAnn Fassler (Chair), Charlie Catania, Barbara Fenech, Paula Moffitt and Victor DeBono.

**Support Our Advertisers!**

Please take the time while reading the newsletter to check out **several new** advertisers who are supporting our Club. Remember to mention the Club when patronizing these businesses.

## ZOOM MEETINGS

Here is the information you will need to join in via Zoom for the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**If you have had any problems joining the meetings in the past, please be sure to let me know Via email prior to the meeting date.**

Please note that there are **2 separate start times** as only 40 minutes is allowed for each meeting. Both meeting times have different links, IDs and Passcodes. If you have any questions when trying to join the meeting, please contact me via text at 415-517-5533

**Topic: General Meeting December 18<sup>th</sup> PART ONE**

**Time: Dec 18, 2022 10:30 AM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77411376559?pwd=rmoPg0qgFKHzQLeTZG7JMNBLsKI3Wh.1>

**Meeting ID: 774 1137 6559**

**Passcode: 8tKRTZ**

**Topic: General Meeting December 18<sup>th</sup> PART TWO**

**Time: Dec 18, 2022 11:30 AM Pacific**

**Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78022909248?pwd=QbbgcAOXuSnhNAUgZe4GiOlyM0JZWg.1>

**Meeting ID: 780 2290 9248**

**Passcode: 3NB9dQ**

## Correspondence

Except for payments, functions and dues, please remember that all correspondence 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 of San Francisco (MASC) and sent 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 (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*

