

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.



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South San Francisco, CA 94080

Telephone: 650-871-4611

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
Meetings are
canceled until further
notice**

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

Hello all,

Well, another month has skidded on by. I am beginning to feel like a broken record, repeating that there is not much to report and wishing that I had new, exciting news to share. I do, however, see the glimmer of hope as I hear of more people receiving their first and second doses of the vaccine. Things are progressing slowly, maybe not as quickly as we would like, but eventually we will get there. As I say this, I hope you and your families are doing well and continuing to stay healthy.

Please keep the members we have lost already this year in your thoughts and prayers. We extend our deepest condolences to their families and we remember the wonderful times we have had with them.

Recently, I was contacted by the Maltese Embassy and was asked to forward a message from Agenzija Zghazagh (National Youth Agency of Malta), looking for Maltese youth or of Maltese decent under the age of 30, they are trying to set up communications and interviews.

Rest In Peace

Our deepest sympathy
to the families of
Maria Chetcuti and
Grace Fernandez



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

Grievance Committee

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



San Pawl tan -Nawfragju

Patron Saint of Malta

Interested parties can reach out to Maria Carmela Borg,
maria-carmela.borg@gov.mt.

There is nothing else to report this month, I will talk to you all in the March Newsletter. We all just have to continue to see how our situation progress and can only hope this all ends soon.

Until then, all the best,

Joe

A MESSAGE FROM THE

Honorable Consul General of Malta

Warmest greetings to all fellow members of the Maltese Club and the Maltese-American Community in California. By the time you read this article, the Super Bowl will be way behind us and hopefully everyone enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of football and entertainment, away from the worries of the crazy times we are living. In Malta, hundreds of people watch the Super Bowl every year, even though it would be normally after midnight in Malta on Superbowl Sunday when the game starts.

As some of you may know, I am on the board of directors of a non-profit organization in Malta called "***Stars and Stripes Malta***" and I am also a member of a group called ***Americans in Malta***. I receive up-to-date information about American life and influences as seen and perceived in Malta and Gozo.

Presepu: Last month I shared with you the exhibition of 10 Nativity scenes that are currently still on display at the museum of the bible. I have received a few replies from our readers who are interested in seeing one of these 10 Nativity scenes be brought to the Bay Area instead of it going back to Malta after the end of the exhibition period. We know there are many people in the Bay Area who love the tradition of the Nativity Scene (*Delettanti tal-Presepu*) we would like to hear from more who would like to see one of these exhibits brought over from the East Coast of the US to the Bay Area. The exhibition will soon

Upcoming Maltese Community Events

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**ALL EVENTS HAVE
BEEN CANCELED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE DUE TO
THE CORONAVIRUS
PANDEMIC**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

The Committee meets at 6:30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, except August. All the women members of the Club are welcome and invited to join. **There will be no meetings during the Club closure.**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**"Much love much trial, but
what an utter desert is life
without love..." Charles
Darwin**



be over and these Nativity scenes will be going back to Malta unless we organize a good effort to bring one of them here.

If you are interested in bringing one of the "Presepji" to the Bay Area, please be sure to contact the Malta Consulate office at malteseconsulate@yahoo.com or call 650-631-8200 and let us know that you would like to see one of the *preseppi* brought to the Bay Area. We can then display it at various locations every year during the holiday season.

Travel: Traveling to Europe including Malta is still not considered safe, especially if one makes a stop in London or in Italy. The news of the UK and other similar variants of Covid is making traveling across the Atlantic still risky. Health experts are still insisting that we avoid crowds even small ones, particularly in close quarters and to practice the guidelines issued by health authorities.

Not sure if you had a chance to log on to Maltese newspapers on the first week of February. A photo showing Maltese Ambassadors and Consuls posted in the US including the one in San Francisco, all wearing safety masks in solidarity with health experts and to encourage all Maltese-Americans to continue to practice social distancing and proper hygiene practices.

All Maltese-Americans, especially those 65 years and over, are encouraged to receive the vaccine. Even though we do not yet know the long-term effects, all approved vaccines are so far proving to be the best way to protect ourselves against the virus. Thousands of people in Malta are getting vaccinated every day. By Summer it is anticipated that in Malta, everyone who chooses to, will be vaccinated.

I continue to encourage you all to keep your families, friends and loved ones as well as the entire Maltese-American Community constantly in your thoughts and to watch out for each other. One never knows the last time we are able to do so. We hope and pray the end of the ordeal we are all going through is not too far away.

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

Club Hours

The Club remains closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Sunday and Holidays

9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Monday, Wednesday

Saturday
CLOSED

Tuesday

Closed except for the second

Tuesday of the month

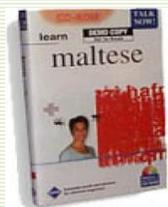
Thursday

5:00p.m. to 11:00p.m.

Friday

5:00p.m. to 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.

Entertainment Committee

Social activities have not yet been planned for 2021 and will be determined when we are able to re-open

Women's Social Committee

The women will not be able to meet until we are able to re-open. Hopefully, they will be able to get together soon.

Message from the Secretary

I hope you are all doing fine. I am sure everyone is as anxious as I am to be able to see family and friends and socializing at the Club. I am happy to say that I have received my 1st vaccine dose and looking forward to my 2nd one! There are more and more sites available so it is hoped that we will have a summer to look forward to. I sent an email to everyone on February 12th which provides some links for a few things that I have read or seen that I thought you may enjoy. Take care and continue to stay safe.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Vassallo

Is your last name **Vassallo**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Vassallo** is of Italian origin. In Italian, the word "vassallo" translates to "vassal" in English. In the Middle Ages, a vassal was a person who was granted the use of land as a tenant in return for pledging loyalty to the lord who owned the land. This included agreeing to do military service under the lord should he need or choose to do battle against an opponent

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information about
the Club and more*

[http://maltese-
americanscsf.org/](http://maltese-americanscsf.org/)



JANUARY IN MALTESE HISTORY

*by Mona Vella-Nicholas,
Librarian and Historian*

January, 1296 --- The Sicilians, who have been promised by King James II of Aragon that they will "remain forever part of the Aragonese empire" feel betrayed. James has made secret negotiations with Pope Boniface VIII to cede Sicily, Malta, and Gozo to the pope in return for Corsica and Sardinia. The Sicilians therefore abandon James in favor of his brother, Frederick. Frederick is crowned King Frederick III in Catania, Sicily, with Malta and Gozo as part of his kingdom. He reigns over this kingdom for 41 years until his death in 1337.

January 21, 1837 --- On the outer limits of Rabat, a 26-year-old man named Felic Ciangura throws his wife, Rozi, down a well. He then proceeds to throw rocks down the well after her. Some people find her and pull her out of the well. She is still alive but is suffering from various wounds to her body and her head. They take Rozi to the hospital, where before dying she tells the police what has happened to her. In the meantime, Felic first goes into hiding and then leaves Malta. A reward of 50 lira (\$150) is offered by the government for information leading to his capture.

After a while, the case is forgotten, but a few years later Felic returns to Malta. When someone recognizes him, he is arrested and charged with his wife's murder. Rozi's deathbed statement is presented as evidence at the trial, which begins on August 8, 1846. Several witnesses testify in Felic's favor, stating that Rozi suffered from convulsions, and therefore may have fallen into the well. The prosecution responds that Rozi didn't die from the fall, but rather from the injuries sustained from the rocks which her husband threw down upon her. Felic is found guilty and sentenced to life in prison with hard labor.



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.

Maltese 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/>

Correspondence

Except for payments, all correspondence must be addressed 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. **Please remember to send in your dues if you have not already done so.**

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.

Newsletter is created by Mary Vella Gomes with the approval of the Board of Directors