



FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mary Vella Gomes (415 517-5533); **Vice President:** Pauline Henderson (650 992-5966); **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:** Terrie Smith Aquino (650 692-0413); **Auditors:** Mona Vella Nicholas and Louis Vella

Message from the President

Our Installation Ceremony and the General Meeting was held on January 29th. Thank you to all who came and who also stayed for the reception. We welcomed Fr. Jose Cilia who joined us. He has spent many years in Peru and Bolivia, and I know many of you enjoyed visiting with him after the meeting. Fr.

Jose was also kind enough to give my mom, Theresa Vella, a special blessing, as it was her 90th birthday that day. Thank you for coming and joining us for the first meeting of the year.

The Entertainment Committee has been formed and Rita Borg is the Chairperson. The hard-working committee includes Ninfa Pace, Carmen Micallef, Brian Ciappara, Pauline Henderson, Emma Magarrell, Sina Borg, and Richard Henderson. The committee has planned many functions for this year and the Social Events Calendar is attached. In addition to a third Bingo that has been added for this year, you will find several other new functions that have been suggested. Please take a look and plan ahead to save the dates and attend.

I encourage all of you to please think of ways to volunteer for events or other opportunities that come up. There is always something that is of importance needing to be done. We should not have to rely on the same individuals time after time. Invite friends to attend our functions with you and, if they are not members but are eligible, encourage them to join. Be boastful about who we are and our history. Everyone's involvement is necessary if we are to continue to thrive.

The flyer for our St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance is attached and will be held on March 11th. Please send in your reservations asap and make sure you let your family and friends know about it. Once again, it will be catered by Esposito's who provided us with an excellent dinner last year. As noted in the flyer, this year we will be having a band!

Non-members will now be paying a slight bit more when they attend our events. As most of you know, other clubs and organizations do charge a non-member more to attend a function as, frankly, it is only right that a member should have the benefit of paying less. The Board of Directors has approved this change. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or telephone call.

The Grievance Committee is being chaired once again by Mary Anne Fassler and the entire committee will be presented to the members at the February meeting for approval. Brian Ciappara will continue to update us with any Safety information that is important for us to be aware of. Manuel Micallef, as always, will provide us with information regarding repairs or other issues in the building that need to be addressed. Ninfa Pace will continue to keep us informed of the Women's Committee activities and Carmen Micallef, for Welcome and Well Being, will continue to make sure acknowledgements are sent to those who have suffered a loss or are ill.

We have begun preparations for Malta Day and have had one meeting thus far

with another meeting scheduled for this month. Please contact me if you would like to join the committee and/or if you have any questions.

A reminder that Frank Falzon, former SF homicide inspector, will be present to speak to us at the General Meeting this month. He will also have his book available for purchase and he will be doing a book signing. I encourage all of you to attend and give Inspector Falzon, who is known nationwide and in many parts of the world, a warm welcome from our Maltese community.

After several unexpected delays, Charles Vella, PhD will be speaking after our General Meeting on March 26th. The topic will be Brain Fitness: Keeping Your Brain Healthy and Avoiding Dementia in Your Future. Please be sure to mark your calendar. This presentation is not limited to the members so, if you would like to, you are welcome to invite friends.

Welcome to Matt Goldberg who is our newest member! There are several more new applications that the Board will be reviewing for approval this month. I am pleased that so many new members joined last year. I am hopeful that all of our members recognize the importance of attending our meetings and also the events we have planned.

Do not hesitate to contact me with suggestions, questions or issues that are of concern to you. As the saying goes, "my door is always open." We can only continue to progress with everyone's help and ideas. Change is inevitable but, with all of us working together, the Club will

continue to be a place that welcomes all of us.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 26th at 10:30am.

Happy Valentine's Day! Take care and stay safe (Hu hsieb u ghoqod sigur)

Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta

Malta – United Nations Security Council: Starting January 1st, 2023, Malta began its term as a member of the UN Security Council. As most know, Malta has two embassies in the United States. One is located in Washington DC which deals with government affairs, trade, consular duties etc. The other embassy, which is referred to as a mission, is located in New York and it deals primarily with the United Nations. Within the United Nations we find the UN Security Council. The main role of the security council is international peace and security. On February 1st, 2023, Malta will take over the presidency of the UN Security Council. This is of course a huge honor for Malta but at the same time it is a tremendous responsibility and enormous challenges. We wish Malta the very best as it embarks on this new role.

Maltese Club Executive Board - Installation Ceremony: For the second consecutive year an installation ceremony of the entire board of directors who will run the business of the Maltese club in 2023 was held at the club's

premises. A sizeable crowd was in attendance, and it was a very memorable occasion. Running the day-to-day operation and business of any organization could be a daunting and sometimes unappreciated experience. Starting the year on a high note will set the tone for a more pleasant and successful outcome. We all wish the new board of directors, good work, dedication, and success as well as lots of fun.

Scholarships 2023: For those who may have thought there are scholarships for other ethnic groups but not for Maltese, think again. The annual scholarship program for students of Maltese descent who are seniors in high school or freshman, sophomores or juniors in college is once again available. Students in Northern California who are of Maltese descent are eligible to apply. Please contact the Maltese Cross Foundation of California for more information.

Maltese *Presepju* (Nativity): Many have provided very encouraging comments on the Maltese Nativity *presepju* that has recently arrived and is presently stored at the Maltese club. Generous donations have started to arrive, but more are needed to cover the cost of acquiring and transporting it from Washington DC to South San Francisco. A group of volunteers, Friends of the Maltese *Presepju* has already been formed and anyone who is interested in Maltese artisan work associated with Christmas is more than welcome to join. Donations for this project are most welcome. Please make donation checks payable to:

Maltese Community Network and mail to: **Maltese Community Network, 2773 Hastings Avenue, Redwood City CA 94061.** Plans for an even bigger inaugural event to exhibit this newly acquired museum caliber Maltese *Presepju*, are already in the works for later this year. More information will be forthcoming.

Festa in Malta: During the month of February in Malta & Gozo, the religious festa season calendar will slowly start to pick up. The main religious festa is the festa of St. Paul Shipwreck which is one of the most popular festa in Malta. It is celebrated in Valletta and in St. Paul's Bay. The colorful Maltese Carnival also happens in February and this event continues to grow and to get more elaborate, festive, and celebratory.

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



Just a reminder that, if you **have not paid your membership dues**, they were

due on January 31st. Please send in your check asap to **Ninfa Pace**.

New Members

Welcome to Mathew Goldberg our newest member of the Club!

Information Form

If you have not yet turned in the attached form, please be sure to complete and return asap. The form allows you to update any of your information but also to choose how you would like to receive the monthly newsletter: via **email OR USPS Mail**. We will be inputting changes to the mailing lists – please email or turn in by dropping in the Club's mailbox addressed to my attention.

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.

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

February Fun Fact:

Every February 2, the world's most famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil rises from its burrow in Pennsylvania for Groundhog Day to give the prediction on what type of weather the U.S could expect to see in the coming weeks: **6 more weeks of winter!**



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 5:00-10:00 p.m.



It's Friday night, you're home and the kids are bored, no new shows on TV.... Here's an idea! Get the family in the car and head over to the Club! Have a pizza delivered to the Club and you're good to go for a night of fun! **OR bring a few friends to head over to the Club! We have the BEST Bartender in the Bay Area.** There are games to be played and fun to be had! Forget the TV, iPad, phone, or the play station...just have fun with board games, cards and get a competitive game of billiards!

Condolences

Thoughts and prayers are being sent to the families of Filomena Scerri and Joe Chetcuti. May they rest in peace.

Origin of Maltese Last Names

Is your last name Galdes? If so, you may be interested in where your name comes from. Galdes is of Spanish origin. It is a form of the Spanish last name "Galdos," which in turn comes from the male first name "Galdo." So, people with this last name are descendants of someone named "Galdo." The English version of this name is "Waldo," which comes from the Germanic word "walda," meaning "power."

Maltese History Month

By: Mona Vella-Nicholas

Librarian and Historian

January 11, 1693 --- Malta is struck by an extremely strong earthquake lasting an incredibly long four minutes. The epicenter of the quake is southern Sicily, but it is felt as far as Calabria to the north and Malta to the south. Although there is no Richter scale at this time, it is believed to have reached a magnitude of 7.4, even triggering a tsunami in Sicily. Miraculously, there are no deaths in Malta, but about 600,000 people die in Sicily. Damage to buildings is widespread in Malta, however, including such iconic buildings as the Cathedral in Mdina and the Citadel in Gozo. Justifiably frightened, most Maltese spend that night and several which follow out of doors, some even choosing to take refuge on ships moored in the harbor. The event comes to be known as the 1693 Sicily earthquake.

January 16, 1941 --- Several squadrons of German airplanes take off from a base in Sicily. Their destination is Malta, and their mission is the complete destruction of the British aircraft carrier *H.M.S. Illustrious*. The carrier is already damaged after being bombed at sea while east of Malta. It is now anchored at a harbor outside of the Three Cities. In relentless attacks over four days, Birgu, Bormla, and Senglea are badly damaged, with Senglea being completely destroyed. Dozens of people are killed but. Ironically, the *H.M.S. Illustrious* does not sink, thanks to vigorous anti-aircraft fire aimed at the attackers from the ground. Although Italian planes have attacked Malta

previously, this is the first German attack of World War II on the island.

Library Hours

NEW Library hours: The last Sunday of each month from 11a.m. to 1p.m or contact Mona Vella-Nicholas, Librarian and Historian, who can be reached at 650-589-4578 for an appointment.

Entertainment Committee

The 2023 Entertainment Committee under the umbrella of Mary Gomes consists of the following volunteers: Carmen Micallef, Ninfa Pace, Brian Ciappara, Pauline Henderson, Richard Henderson, Emma Magarrell, Sina Borg and Rita Borg. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Maryann Milla.

Women's Social Committee

Meetings are held on the 2nd **Tuesday** of every month, (*except in August*), at **6:30 p.m.** Functions *may be held* on different days (an email will be sent to the members if there are changes to date and time for meeting). All 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.* **The first meeting of 2023 will be held on Valentine's Day Tuesday, February 14.** There will be discussions on planning for the 2023 calendar.

Grievance Committee

The names of the 2023 Grievance Committee members cannot be published until they are approved by members at the February General Membership meeting.

ZOOM (Information)

Here is the information you will need to join in via Zoom the next meeting.

If you have had any problems joining the meetings in the past, please be sure to let Mary know Via email or call to 415-468-3747 at least a few days before 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 Mary via text at 415-517-5533

**Topic: General Meeting February 26th
PART ONE**

Time: 10:30 AM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9354070734?pwd=YVZ2bE1Pamp1KzVkeWtxSnpXWkYrQT09>

Meeting ID: 935 407 0734

Passcode: 3tnBuP

**Topic: General Meeting February 26th
PART TWO**

Time: 10:00 AM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76916292295?pwd=qgZKUrG0ji8PuYVQLXbTWSakaxNakW.1>

Meeting ID: 769 1629 2295

Passcode: mF9zim

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 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 Director

