

Also included with this Newsletter is a flyer for our Casino Bus Trip on August 20th to Red Hawk Casino. Win or lose, everyone always seems to have a good time at the casino and on the bus! Please be sure to note the information carefully and send in your reservation by the deadline date. Ninfa Pace will be able to answer questions you may have, and she can be reached at 650-697-1079.

Malta Day plans are moving along, and the committee is working hard to create an evening that is not only memorable but embodies all of us in the Maltese Community as we celebrate Malta. Invitations will be mailed in early August and the date to remember is September 24th. We hope that you will be able to attend.

On June 2nd, I attended, as did quite a few other people from the Club, an Olive Tree Planting Ceremony, which was held at the new Millbrae Recreation Center. Olive branches are symbols of Peace, Friendship and Unity. On the same day, at the same time, a similar ceremony was held in Mosta and in Ramallah, Palestine. Along with Consul General Louis Vella, there were many other dignitaries there as well as in Mosta. The event was well attended, and I was able to meet several Palestinian women who are interested in ongoing communication between our two

communities. We talked about having an event that we can all enjoy together. As such, we will be organizing something that will bring us together to celebrate peace, friendship, and unity.

Many of you may be familiar with A. Silvestri Co which is a family-owned statuary business that has been around for over 60 years in San Francisco. Sandra Silvestri knows several Maltese people and even went to school with some of you. They will be holding an open house on July 30th and will be highlighting some of the beautiful items from Mediterranean Ceramics, a company in Malta. Daniel Grima, one of the owners of Mediterranean Ceramics, will be there and he is looking forward to meeting some of the Maltese people in the Bay Area. A flyer is attached and provides all the information regarding the event. If you plan to go, please note that they would like an RSVP and also you must be over 21. You can view the Mediterranean Ceramics and A. Silvestri Co websites via these links: <https://www.asilvestri.com/> and <https://mediterraneanceramics.com/>

Once again, we have new members. Dorothy Schembri and Charlotte Micallef were approved as new members at the Board's June meeting. In addition, there are more applications which will be reviewed at the July Board Meeting. Welcome Dorothy and Charlotte!

As you can see, we still have a busy year ahead. We hope you can make it to the many events as well as our General Monthly Meetings. Your presence and voices are important.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 31st at 10:30 a.m.

Hoping to see all of you at the Picnic on the 24th!

Sahha
Mary



Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta

Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta Greetings and best wishes. By the time you read this article, 4th of July 2022 will be in the history books. I hope many were able to celebrate and enjoy this very important date in the history of this great nation. It was on July 4th, 1776, when the continental United States of America were declared independent and therefore no longer a British colony and no longer under the rule of King George III of England. It is a very interesting historical fact that anyone who emigrated from Malta to the United States whether they settled in New York or Michigan or California, if they left Malta before September 21st, 1964, they did so as British subject carrying British passports. That means that the United States of America who fought a very long and costly

revolutionary war to separate itself from Britain was in essence welcoming British subjects with open arms and providing them with a brighter future. That is part of the greatness of this country, home to so many Maltese families.

It took a little over 188 years after the United States won their independence from Britain for Malta to gain its independence from England. In 1776 Malta was still under the rule of the Knights of Malta with Emmanuel de Rohan de Bolduc as the grand master. Grand master De Rohan gave the town of Haz-Zebbug Malta its identity and to this day, Haz-Zebbug, Malta is still known as "Citta De Rohan"

Visiting Malta: I receive many inquiries about the current situation in Malta especially from people who are planning a vacation, but also from others who are contemplating moving to Malta or maybe retire there. As I have indicated in my most recent report, the Covid restrictions in Malta have been lifted, similar to what was done in many other countries in Europe and the same as the US. However, the number of covid cases are sadly going up at an alarming rate once again. As soon as people began to socialize and mingle more when the warm weather started, the covid infection cases immediately saw a spike. Hospital beds are also filling up. Some Maltese-Americans particularly those who are at an advance age or those who have medical conditions have cancelled trips outside of the US. This by no means is any indication that tourists are not flocking

into Malta. This Summer Malta is seeing a return of large numbers of tourists and Maltese living abroad who are returning to Malta after staying away for a couple of years. It is always smart, safe and prudent to take whatever precautions you feel is necessary to minimize contact and prevent unnecessary risks for exposure. Many have had their vacation ruined due to exposure to the virus. Keep in mind that it is OK not to shake hands and not to hug even if you have not seen someone for a long time and of course the first reaction would be to a warm greeting. It is not disrespectful to restrain ourselves as long as we respect our own health and the well-being of others.

Olive Tree Planting Event: As was mentioned in our previous newsletters, last month in Millbrae the Maltese community participated with the Millbrae Sister Cities Commission, the Millbrae city council and city officials at a ceremony involving the planting of an olive tree, symbol of peace, friendship and unity. On the same day at the same time an olive tree was planted in Mosta, Malta and yet another one also in Ramallah, Palestine. Through the benefit of social media, we were able to see each other and follow each city's event as they unfolded. It was truly a memorable occasion and well attended by a sizeable crowd of Maltese friends.

New Friendship: After the tree planting event in Millbrae, I was invited to attend a membership meeting at the Ramallah Club of San Francisco. During the meeting I was given the floor to talk about

our Malta, the Maltese in America and in particular the Maltese American community in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since then, the president of the Maltese Club and I have been in contact to find a way to reciprocate and to foster a new friendship with the Ramallah community in the area.

Nativity (Presepju): The Presepju/Nativity is a huge part of Maltese culture especially in the Christmas season. It is also an integral part of Maltese Heritage in general. As was mentioned in previous announcements, an exhibition of Nativities that were created by Maltese artisans was held at the Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. One of these Nativities has been packaged and is in storage at 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 me or Leli Micallef or Peter Xuereb or John Falzon know, and we will be happy to welcome you to this fine group of volunteers.

Weather in Malta: Summer is sizzling. Many of our Maltese American friends are presently enjoying their holidays in Malta. They report that it is extremely hot but parties, gatherings and other festive occasions especially those that are held outdoors are in full swing. Because of the warmer climate, this year, jelly fish appeared in the waters around Malta in greater numbers and earlier in the

season. Hopefully, as summer moves forward, these stingy creatures will be carried out by sea currents away from Malta's beautiful beaches.

Learning Center: It is very gratifying to know that slowly but surely our club's premises will continue to develop more and more into a learning center. The support of our members is essential and we hope that it will continue to increase as presentations and lectures are organized. We live in an ever-changing world. The way we behaved, thought or done things in the past may not be the better way to approach life today. Our community is a smart and bright community. There is however always room for more learning and more knowledge. Let us not miss this great opportunity to benefit from our club as a learning center.

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 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 July in Malta & Gozo, the religious festa season is at full steam ahead. The most popular Maltese festa and celebrations are observed in several different towns and villages. The most popular ones are: Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Fluor-de-Lys, Fgura, Gzira, Valetta, Zurrieq, Balluta; Immaculate

Heart of Mary – Hamrun; St. Andrew – Hal-Luqa; St. Paul – Rabat, Malta; Sacro Cuor – Sliema; The Visitation – Gharb, Gozo; Annunciation of Our Lady-Balzan; Our Lady of Sokkors – Ta' Kercem, Gozo; St. Joseph – Kirkop, Msida, Kalkara; St. Sebastian – Qormi; St. George – Rabat, Gozo; Our Lady of Doctrine – Tarxien; St. Margaret – Ta' Sannat, Gozo; St. Anne – Marsaskala; Christ The King – Paola; St. Venera – Santa Venera; Our Lady of Sorrows – St. Paul's Bay; St. Lawrence – San Lawrenz; Our Lady of Pompei – Marsaxlokk. 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.

Origin of Maltese Last Names Ruggier

Is your last name **Ruggier**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your name comes from. **Riggier** is of Italian origin. It is a form of the name "Ruggiero", the Italian form of "Roger." In turn, the name in German comes from two words which mean "famous spear." The name dates to the 11th century in Northern Italy and to at least the 15th century in Malta, where at least two men with that name came from Rhodes and were employed by the Knights.

Maltese History Month

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian*

June 4, 1838 --- Giuseppe Grech owns a liquor shop in Tunis. His brother, Censu, who lives in Malta, periodically goes down to Tunis to visit him. On one of these visits, an argument breaks out between the two brothers over a card game. The argument leads to a physical fight, during which Censu stabs his brother and a friend named Salvu Fistinelli, who has tried to intervene. Censu stabs them with a penknife, killing them both. He is returned to Malta for trial, where he is found guilty. He is sentenced to death, but the sentence is reduced to life in prison by Sir Henry Bouverie, the Governor of Malta. After nearly 17 years in prison, Censu is released on the condition that he return to Tunis.

June 11, 1940 --- Italy, which has long been claiming that Malta is really part of Italy and thus should be annexed, declares war on the Allies. Wasting no time, sirens in Malta announce the first Italian air raid on the island at 6:55 a.m. The targets are the Grand Harbour, Kalafrana, and Hal Far. A second strike occurs later that afternoon, followed by five other raids, bringing the total Italian air raids for the day to seven. Civilian casualties for that first day include eleven killed and 130 injured. Among the casualties of the first raid are 25-year-

old Nina Farrugia, 5-year-old Ninu, and 4-year-old Joe.

Message from the Secretary



Thinking of meeting a friend for a drink on Friday night? Need a place to play a game of billiards or cards?

Problem Solved!! You have the perfect place to go - your Maltese American Social Club!

Correspondence

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

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

New Members

Big **WELCOME** to Charlotte Micallef and Dorothy Schembri. Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Women's Social Committee

Meetings are held on the 2nd **Tuesday** of every month at **6:30p.m.**, **except for the month of August.** Functions *may be held* on different days. Thank you to all the women who attended and provided appetizers and finger foods for the June meeting. At the July 12th meeting, pizza and salad will be served. All the women members of the Club are welcome but please be sure to note that all those who are attending the Women's Social Committee meetings must be a member of the Club. Please contact Ninfa Pace if you would like to join.

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!



Santa Maria Dinner	Aug. 13
Casino Bus Trip	Aug. 20
Malta Day Gala	Sept. 24
Car Show	Oct. 8
Masquerade Family Dance	Oct. 22
Family Bingo &	
Pasta Dinner	Nov. 12
Children's Christmas Party	Dec. 10

St. Elizabeth Maltese Society Invites You To...Red Hawk Casino Trip (5 hours of Fun!)

Saturday, July 16 – 8:00 a.m.

450 Sommerset Street

(Returning 5:30 p.m.)

\$40.00 (Non-Refundable if cancelled in less than 5 days)

\$15.00 play/\$5.00 food OR \$20.00 play

Jeanette Santos: 415 225-5315

Mary Sammut: 415 467-1686

Tristan Viviani -Update

Here's an update from proud grandma Diane Viviani of her grandson, Tristan Viviani. "Tristan graduated from Sequoia High School on June 3rd and Saturday left for Malta to play again with the Maltese U-19 Men's National Team." The following was tweeted by the Quakes Academy."



quakesacademy Shout out to our very own Tristan Viviani for being called up to the U19 Malta National Team for a friendly against Ireland. 🇲🇹

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.

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 our new layout and **several new** 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 (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 OF AN EVENT, 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

