



months. However, Mona being Mona, is making sure to do anything she can to make sure it is business as usual! Her usual interesting Maltese History article is included in the Newsletter. The Elder's Luncheon which is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, after the General Meeting, will be held as planned. Wishing you a speedy recovery, Mona.

We will be scheduling different speakers for presentations in different areas that are beneficial to our members. Our first speaker will be Dr. Charles Vella, who will present Brain Fitness: Keeping Your Brain Healthy and Avoiding Dementia in Your Future. The date has not yet been confirmed but, once it is, we will inform you. Members and their guests are invited to attend the presentations. I know that there are many areas that would be of interest and valuable to the membership. Please contact the Secretary, Maryann Milla, with ideas for future presentations, via her email address [secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org](mailto:secretary@maltese-americanscsf.org) or at 415-218-6329.

As the Secretary, Maryann Milla should be notified of any important information, questions and/or concerns that a member may have. I want to remind everyone to please make sure to communicate directly with Maryann.

The Women's Social Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. They do sometimes meet for other events, such as the Queen's Tea that we recently enjoyed. If you would like to join, please contact Ninfa Pace. As a reminder, all women members of the Club are welcome.

Patrick Carnes was approved as new member at the Board's April meeting. Welcome! We hope to see you at our meetings and functions.

By now, those of you who have not paid their membership dues should have received a letter from the Treasurer, Joe Vella. If you have any questions, please be sure to contact him.

If you have an occasion you would like to celebrate, remember that the hall is available to rent. Please let me know if you are interested and we can reserve a date

**The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** Please note that the meeting date is not for the last Sunday of the month in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.

Happy Mother's Day... "Here's to strong women. May we know them, May we raise them, May we be them."

Sahha  
Mary



### Message from the Honorable Consul General of Malta

Greetings and best wishes. Today this report is coming to you following a live phone transmission from Malta between Mr. Vella and the Maltese Club. By means of our modern and convenient technology, the Maltese consul was able to participate and deliver his monthly address during our meeting even though he could not be physically present. This initiative was very well received. This is another statement that the business of the Maltese Club and the Maltese community is very important, and we all should do every effort to keep it alive, well, and strong.

April in Malta this year was a very special month, and the Maltese Consul gave us a brief rendition of the events that took place while he was in Malta.

His Holiness Pope Francis made a stop in Malta during the first few days of April. The pope visited several places of worship and devotion throughout Malta and Gozo. On Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the pope together with all the local bishops and a large contingent of clergy, celebrated Mass at Floriana.

*(Fuq il-Fossos tal-Furjana)* Tens of thousands of people were in attendance. It was truly a memorable experience.

On April 9<sup>th</sup> the town of Mosta commemorated the anniversary of the miracle of the bomb when on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1942, a German bomber dropped several bombs over the town of Mosta. One of these bombs penetrated the dome of the parish church. The bomb bounced off a wall and slid through the length of the floor of the church where people were praying. For some unknown reason, the bomb never exploded.

**Good Friday/Easter:** Good Friday in Malta this year was rather strange. Because of the pandemic, during the last two consecutive years, the Good Friday processions throughout Malta and Gozo have not taken place. This year all parishes were very enthusiastically preparing to celebrate this ancient tradition and religious celebration. The weather, however, had other plans in store because on the morning of Good Friday the wind was extraordinarily strong, and rain was coming down at different intervals during the day. All parishes decided that the statues of Good Friday were not going to be allowed to come out of their respective

churches. Needless to say, this was a huge disappointment for many who were anxiously waiting for the return of these very popular and anticipated religious traditions.

Easter was a very beautiful and bright sunny day with blue skies. The traditional processions of the Risen Christ (*Irxoxt*) took place the same way as in the past prior to the pandemic restrictions.

**George Cross:** The Silver colored cross printed on the flag of Malta was also awarded in the month of April. It was April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1942, when King George VI (father of the reigning queen Elizabeth) awarded Malta the highest honor for valor. Inside the memory of many who still remember and those who study Maltese history, April 1942 was probably the worst month Malta had endured during WWII. Air raids after air raids, everyone felt that it was only a matter of time before Malta surrenders, but through sheer courage, determination and resolve, Malta prevailed and never fell.

**Festa Frawli:** Also, in April the famous Festa Frawli (Strawberries Fest) is celebrated. This is when a small village square on the West side of the island of Malta called, IMgarr, is practically covered in red delicious

strawberries. Definitely a must see and experience.

***Innu Malti* – Maltese National Anthem:** As was mentioned in previous meetings and also in past newsletters, we have started to teach the Maltese National Anthem – ***Innu Malti*** in the Maltese language. Learning the Maltese National Anthem is a very noble and proud achievement. Taking this first step will give us the confidence to learn more Maltese words and phrases. As a Maltese-American community there should be no reason why we should not be knowledgeable and comfortable singing both the Star-Spangled Banner as well as the Maltese National Anthem. Anyone interested in learning the Maltese National Anthem in Maltese please call 650-631-8200 or send an email to: [malteseconsulate@yahoo.com](mailto:malteseconsulate@yahoo.com).

**Learning Center:** Consul Vella stressed again the need that we should strive to use our club's premises as a learning center to assist our members become more knowledgeable and more prepared to face the many aspects of our lives. There is a plethora of topics that could be presented and discussed. Some of the presentations we could bring to make our premises closer to a learning center could be - Aspects of

Long-Term Care, Wills & Trusts, Care of our family elders, Medical Insurance, managing our finances or those of our elderly relatives, talks about culture, history, customs and heritage of Malta, Maltese language classes and many more.

**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 via email at [malteseconsulate@yahoo.com](mailto:malteseconsulate@yahoo.com). There are many opportunities where young aspiring writers of Maltese descent could have their writings published.

**Festa Season in Malta:** During the month of May in Malta & Gozo, the religious festa season kicks into high gear. The most popular Maltese *festa* and celebrations are observed in several different towns and villages. The most popular ones are *St. Publius* - Floriana; *St. Joseph the Worker* – Birkirkara; *St. George Preca* (Maltese Saint) – Swatar; *The Annunciation* (L-Annunzjata) – Tarxien; *St. Paul Shipwreck* – Munxar, Gozo; *St. Anthony*-Birkirkara. *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 can 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.*

### **Maltese History Month**

*By: Mona Vella-Nichols  
Librarian and Historian*

**April 9, 1565** -- Knowing that an Ottoman armada had left Turkey on March 30th (see March newsletter), headed for Malta, Viceroy Don Garcia de Toledo of Sicily arrives in Malta to inspect its forts. He promises to send a Sicilian fleet to Malta in June to help fight the Turks. The Turkish armada arrives in May, marking the beginning of the Great Siege. Instead of sending help in June, as promised, Don Garcia waits until September to send Sicilian reinforcements to Malta.

**April 14, 1961**--The first local government is established in Gozo. It is the result of a referendum held in Gozo, the only time in history when only Gozitan citizens are allowed to vote, which allows for the founding of the Gozo City Council. The Council has broad powers, including the power to raise taxes, but this power is never used. When the Labour Party takes over the government in 1971, the Party introduces a referendum to do away with the Gozo City Council. The referendum passes and power shifts back to Valletta. In 1993, local

government is re-introduced to Gozo, this time replacing one Gozo City Council with fourteen separate local councils.

### Origin of Maltese Last Names Meilak

Is your last name **Meilak**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Meilak** is of Siculo-Arabic origin, which means it dates to the time when Malta and Sicily were under Arab rule. It probably refers to a town in Sicily named Milazzo, indicating the person bearing the name was from this town. In Arabic, the word "maylaq" was used for someone who sharpened tools for a living. In Malta, the last name existed exclusively in Gozo for several centuries before finally being found on the main island in the 1600s.

### Women's Social Committee

A fun night was had by all 27 who attended and dined on pizza! Next month's dinner treat will be baked macaroni – *Maltese style* - "imquamun tal forn" – prepared by Bev Dennehy and Rose Agius. Meetings are held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** every month @ **6:30p.m., except the month of August**. Functions *may be held* on different days. All the women members of the Club are welcome to join!

### Entertainment Committee

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

### Rummage Sale at the Club

May 21<sup>st</sup> (9-5)

All proceeds go towards the Children's Christmas Party

Drop off your donated sellable items on: Thursday, May 19 from - 4-8 pm and Friday, May 20 between 4-8 pm

**No upholstery items will be accepted.**

Contact Rita Borg at 650-483-3957 with any questions or email: [luftymom2000@gmail.com](mailto:luftymom2000@gmail.com)

### 2022 Event Calendar\*

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



Rummage Sale	May 21
<b>FAMILY BOWLING*</b>	<b>June 5</b>
Father's Day Brunch:	June 19
Annual Picnic:	July 24
Santa Maria Rabbit Dinner	Aug. 13
<b>CASINO BUS TRIP*</b>	<b>Aug. 20</b>
(*Dates have been changed)	

### Grievance Committee

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

### 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



Thoughts and Prayers are being sent to the family of Honorio (Joe) Verdin who passed away this month. May he rest in peace.

### New Members – **Welcome!**

**Patrick Cairns** – We hope to see you at meetings and at our upcoming functions!

### Message from the Secretary

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

### **Support Our Advertisers!**

Please be sure to check the advertisement pages and remember to mention the Club when patronizing these businesses.

### Correspondence

Except for payments for dues and functions, please remember that all correspondence must be mailed 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 (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 - ATTEMPTING TO PAY AT THE DOOR, THE DAY OF THE EVENT WILL BE DENIED**

### Hall Rental

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*

