

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, Inc.



924 El Camino Real
South San Francisco, Ca 94080

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

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Message from the President

Summer is quickly coming to a close and, with that, schools have opened and most have returned from summer vacations. Even so, September and October, seem to almost always provide us with the most beautiful weather.

At our meeting on August 28th, we were pleased to have the Honorable Dr. Angelo Farrugia, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta, visit the Club. He addressed the members during the meeting and afterwards joined us at a small reception for mingling and picture taking!

On August 22nd, Brian Ciappara, Richard Azzopardi and myself met to review the Bylaws and go through the work that has already been done on them. Once we complete the process, we can then present them to the Board of Directors for their review.

Our Santa Maria Dinner in August was not as well attended as some of our other functions but we had a wonderful time and the food was very

good. The dinner was catered by Ulisess Catering who took care of everything, including the majority of the clean-up!

We also had our Bus Trip to Red Hawk Casino in August and those who went had a fun time. It was the first time the Club had gone there, however, from all accounts, it's a very nice place.

By now, all members should have received your invitations for Malta Day, but if not, please be sure to let me know. A big thank you to Rita Borg who created and printed them. Our Malta Day Committee, which includes members from each and every one of the local Maltese organizations, has been working very hard to make sure it is an event that you will all enjoy. There are many Maltese people in the Sacramento area, the North Bay and in the Bay Area. If you know of someone who would like to attend, and is not a member of one of the organizations, let us know. Please do not forget to turn in your reservations by September 11th. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Maryann Milla.

As most of you know, Mosta is one of Millbrae's Sister Cities. Mary Borg Smith has recently been appointed as a commissioner on the Millbrae Sister Cities Committee. Congratulations Mary!

2022 Board of Directors

President

Mary Vella Gomes
415-517-5533

Vice President

Richard Azzopardi
925-683-3310

Secretary

Maryann 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
Louis Vella

Club Hours

Sunday & Holidays

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Tuesdays

Except:

Second Tuesday of the Month

Women's Committee Meeting

5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday

5:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Closed Monday, Wednesday,

Thursday & Saturday

Librarian & Historian

Mona Vella Nicholas

650-589-4578

We encourage everyone who has a classic car, or who knows someone that does, to please enter your car in our Car Show being held on October 8th. We have heard from so many that are planning to show their car but it is important to send in the registration asap. If you have any questions, please contact Pauline Henderson.

Attached you will find the flyer for the Family Masquerade Party on October 22nd! As it says, this is a family event. Bring your children and grandchildren for some fun, food and music. Come in costume...Halloween will be just around the corner!

The Club is open on Sundays and Friday nights. I encourage you to stop by not just for the meetings and events that we have but also to come and socialize. Bring some friends and enjoy an inexpensive Friday night out or a lazy Sunday afternoon!

Due to several conflicting dates, the presentation by Dr. Charles Vella, originally scheduled for September, has been rescheduled for November 20th, following the General Meeting.

New Members Michelle Magarrell, Michael Magarrell and Robert Magarrell were approved at the Board's August meeting. Welcome Michelle, Michael and Robert! We

hope to see you at the meetings and the events.

Unfortunately, at our August meeting, I forgot to let in those of you who wanted to enter the meeting via Zoom, so our first attempt was not successful. However, there were several people who did try to sign on so, hopefully, the next meeting will go smoothly. If you do plan to join via Zoom, please send me an email and let me know, if you can, a few days prior to the meeting.

Topic: General Meeting
Time: Sept 18, 2022 10:30 AM Pacific Time
Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 935 407 0734
Passcode: 3tnBuP

Our next meeting will be held on September 18th. Please note that this is not the last Sunday of the month.

This is an important meeting as we will be selecting the Nominating Committee for the upcoming election. The Nomination Committee must be selected no less than 90 days (September 18th) prior to the Annual Meeting which is being

held on December 18th instead of the last Sunday of the month because Christmas falls on the last Sunday of the month this year.

Grazzi hafna
Mary



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

Greetings and best wishes to everyone. It was so nice to address the lovely crowd that attended the monthly meeting at the Maltese club on Sunday August 28th. It was particularly enjoyable since I was away in Malta for the previous 4 weeks. Because of vacation and other travels, near and far, it is not easy to have a good attendance during a club's business meeting in August, but the members sure rose up to the occasion and it was a real pleasure to see so many wonderful people again.

On Sunday we, of course had a special guest. The speaker of the Maltese parliament, Dr. Angelo Farrugia was in attendance. Mr. speaker and I had talks while I was visiting Malta and it was truly an honor to have him in our midst. He not only talked to us about his role as speaker of the Maltese parliament and the historic event of the 100-year anniversary of the

Maltese parliament but he also had time to mingle and socialize with the many families and members who were in attendance. It was a very memorable morning indeed.

Maltese Youths: If you know of youths of Maltese descent between the ages of 16 years and 30 years of age, please send their names along with their contact information to the consulate office at malteseconsulate@yahoo.com. The reason for this is that on Friday, September 16th we will be trying to connect to a Virtual Youth Forum with youths from Malta. If you need more details, please contact the Maltese Consulate at the email listed above. Thank you.

Weather in Malta: This month I can write about this topic from personal experience. Yes, August was hot in Malta even at night on many nights but that did not stop anyone from going about their lives and enjoying Summer as only Malta can offer. It is customary in Malta that around the middle of August, close to the feast of Santa Maria, many businesses shut down their operation completely for about a week or sometimes two weeks. It is referred to as the Summer shut-down. A large section of the local population and thousands of visitors, flock to the beaches. The water is so inviting and so clear and beautiful. The only threat to swimmers is the

menacing and mesmerizing, yet poisonous, jellyfish, which sometimes invade certain areas of the island. This year I can safely and happily say that I've been in and on the water many times and I did not encounter nor have I seen a single one.

Flag Raising Ceremony: In a few short weeks, a group of Maltese-Americans is invited to visit City Hall in San Francisco to raise the flag of Malta from the balcony of the office of the Mayor of San Francisco, on the occasion of Malta Day. It is always a most memorable event and it is also another important occasion to celebrate Malta and our Maltese ancestors who came to San Francisco from Malta for a better future for themselves and their families. Their future is our present that we happily enjoy. It is up to us now to pass on to our children and grandchildren the gift of being American and also Maltese. Anyone interested in joining us on Wednesday, September 21st at City Hall in San Francisco please send an email to the consulate office at malteseconsulate@yahoo.com

Mosta-Millbrae Sister Cities Commission: For several years the office of the Consul of Malta in San Francisco has been involved with the Millbrae Sister Cities Commission. In recent years the Consul of Malta has been appointed as the liaison to the

commission. It has been a while since we've had a commissioner of Maltese descent but the wait is now over. Congratulations to Ms. Mary Borg Smith who took the Oath of Office as the newest commissioner on the board of the Millbrae Sister Cities Commission.

Nativity (*Presepju*): December may be far from everyone's mind as we continue to enjoy Summer. However, before we know it, the holiday season will be upon us. For most Christians one of the most important features of a Christian Christmas is without a doubt the *Presepju*/Nativity. It is a huge part of Maltese culture especially during the Christmas season. It is also an integral part of Maltese Heritage in general. As was mentioned in previous announcements, an exhibition of Nativities 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, Leli Micallef, Peter Xuereb or John Falzon know and we will be happy to welcome you to this fine group of volunteers.

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 September in Malta & Gozo, the religious festa season calendar starts to slow down in number but not in importance. The most popular Maltese festa and celebrations are observed in many different towns and villages. The most popular ones are: *St. Gregory The Great*- Sliema; *St. Francis of Assisi* – Qawra; *St. Catherine* – Zurrieq; *Nativity of Our Lady (Il-Vitorja)* – Senglea, Naxxar, Mellieha, Xaghra Gozo; *Our Lady Of Graces (Madonna Tal Grazzja)* – Zabbar 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



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



The Club is a “social club” so why not meet a friend for a drink on a Friday night? Need a place to play a game of billiards or cards? Problem Solved!! How about meeting at the Maltese American Social Club!

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

Origin of Maltese Last Names Bellia

Is your last name **Bellia**? If so, you may be interested in knowing where your last name comes from. **Bellia** is of Italian origin. It comes from the nickname "Bella", which is the feminine form of the word for "pretty" or "handsome." It dates back to at least the 1400s in Malta. There is a river in Sicily by that name

Maltese History Month

*By: Mona Vella-Nicholas
Librarian and Historian*

August 20, 1925 -- Monsignor Ignazio Panzavecchia, one of the most illustrious priests in Malta during the first quarter of the 20th century, dies at the age of 69. He is ordained to the priesthood at the age of 24 and by the age of 36 becomes the Catholic Church's representative to British-ruled Malta's Government Council. While on the Council, he speaks out forcefully against instituting civil marriages in Malta. He also champions constitutional rights for the Maltese and even starts a political party, the "Unione Politica Maltese," all the while remaining loyal to British rule. He is buried at the Mdina Cathedral, which is also the beneficiary of his collection of rare Maltese coins.

August 15, 1942 --- An American naval vessel, the USS Ohio, reaches Malta from England, one of only five ships to successfully evade a German blockade of the island. The nine other ships in the original convoy are sunk by the Nazis en route. The Maltese population is near starvation by this time and there is barely any fuel left to allow Maltese aircraft to engage German planes in the air before they can drop their bombs on the island. The Allied ships are carrying enough food and fuel to ward off defeat and allow the determined Maltese to live to fight another day. The significance

of the arrival of these ships on August 15th, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is not lost on the population and serves only to strengthen their devotion to Mary. This month marks the 80th anniversary of this momentous event.

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.



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Alfred "Freddie" Mizzi who passed away on August 11th. Our prayers are with his wife and all his family. Arrangements have not yet been finalized. Eternal rest grant unto him o Lord and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace

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. **Join us for Bingo Night at the September meeting!** 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.* 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!



General Membership Mtg (10:30 a.m.)	Sept. 18
Malta Day Gala	Sept. 24
Car Show	Oct. 8
Masquerade Family Dance	Oct. 22
General Membership Mtg (10:30 a.m.)	Oct. 30
Family Bingo/Pasta Dinner	Nov. 12
General Membership Mtg (10:30 a.m.)	Nov. 20
Children's Christmas Party	Dec. 10
General Membership Mtg (10:30 a.m.) ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/ELECTION	Dec. 18
New Year's Eve	Dec. 31

Congratulations to our very own, Mary Borg Smith, who was sworn in as a member of the Millbrae Sister Cities Committee.



New Members

Big **WELCOME: Michelle, Michael, and Robert Magarrell!** Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and meetings!

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.

Correspondence

Except for payments, 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 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.

