

Welcome to the new look and feel of The Gate Post!

Over the decades, the GP layout has continued to evolve (see page 7 for examples of earlier designs). This issue marks the next step in that evolution.

The Other Side of the Creek: MacArthur Park *Arden Michael Blum*

Editor's note: "The Other Side of the Creek," is an InMenlo series designed to capture the life and spirit of the shared landmark — San Francisquito Creek — that separates Menlo Park from more southern communities. Article by Arden Michael Blum appeared originally InMenlo.

The graceful, red-roofed structure that houses MacArthur Park at 27 University Avenue is a place where the air seems to change as soon as you step inside. Sunlight filters through high windows to illuminate Julia Morgan's signature exposed-truss ceilings, and the massive brick fireplaces stand as silent witnesses to a century of gathered neighbors.



Photo Credit: Image courtesy of "inMenlo"



Photo Credit: Image courtesy of "inMenlo"

To many of us today, it is simply a beloved Palo Alto institution, a convenient landmark just steps from the Caltrain station where the scent of oak-grilled ribs greets commuters. However, if you look closely at the history etched into its timber, you will find that this building is actually a traveler. It is a survivor of a lost city and a physical manifestation of the deep, often invisible ties that bind Menlo Park and Palo Alto together across the waters of San Francisquito Creek.

To understand the soul of this building, we have to look back to 1918, when the map of our community looked radically different. During World War I, Menlo

Park was transformed into Camp Fremont, a sprawling military city that housed nearly 27,000 personnel. This was not a collection of permanent brick and mortar, but a temporary landscape of wooden barracks and dusty drill grounds that stretched across the Peninsula.

In the middle of this masculine, utilitarian environment, the YWCA saw a desperate need for a touch of humanity. They commissioned Julia Morgan, California's first licensed female architect, to create a "Hostess House". Her mission was to design a sanctuary where young soldiers, many away from home for the first time, could meet their mothers, wives, and sweethearts in a setting that felt dignified and warm rather than cold and clinical.

Morgan did not merely build a room; she built a protective living room for an entire generation. She used the Craftsman style to create a sense of permanence and domesticity, focusing on the hearth as the emotional center of the space. For a few intense months in 1918, the Hostess House sat on Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park, serving as the heart of the camp.

It was a place where the harsh realities of war were briefly held at bay by the simple comforts of a shared meal and a comfortable chair. But when the Armistice

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GATE POST

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays
Noon–2:00 pm

Located in the Merrill
History Room
(MP Library basement level)

MPHA is a registered 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization.



Have you ever wondered about the original Menlo Gates that inspired our logo? See back page.



President's Message

Living in Menlo Park offers a unique blend of natural beauty, rich history, and strong community spirit. Our tree-lined streets, vibrant downtown, and abundant parks create a setting that feels both welcoming and inspiring. With easy access to open space and a mild year-round climate, residents enjoy an exceptional quality of life.

What truly sets Menlo Park apart is its sense of connection. Neighbors support one another, volunteers strengthen local organizations, and community events bring us together. This shared commitment to civic life helps preserve the character of our neighborhoods while guiding thoughtful growth for the future.

We are also fortunate to live in a city that values its heritage. Historic homes and landmarks remind us of the generations who shaped this community. At the same time, innovation and excellent schools ensure that Menlo Park remains dynamic and forward-looking.

As we look ahead, let us continue working together to protect what makes Menlo Park special—its beauty, its history, and most importantly, its people.

With appreciation,
Sandy Pachaud, *President*

Tribute to Lydia Dioli Cooper

Earlier this year, our dear friend and colleague, Lydia Dioli Cooper, retired from the Board of Directors of the Menlo Park Historical Association.

A lifelong resident of Menlo Park, Lydia has devoted her time, energy, and heart to MPHA in countless ways. During her tenure, she served as Treasurer, Membership Chair, Co-Chair of Office Operations, Gate Post Editor, member of the Downtown Displays Committee, and a key contributor to numerous special projects, including the Annual Dinner and Annual Business Meeting planning teams.

Lydia's steady leadership, practical wisdom, and commitment to "keeping things simple and getting things done" have strengthened this organization and inspired fellow board members.

More than that, her kindness, authenticity, and unifying spirit have helped keep MPHA moving forward in a positive and visionary way. On behalf of the Board and the entire Association, we extend our sincere gratitude.

Thank you, Lydia, for your service, your friendship, and your lasting impact.

Meet your Newly Appointed MPHA Officers

We are pleased to announce that Joanne Ward has been appointed Treasurer of MPHA and Tom Merson has been appointed Secretary of MPHA. Joanne and Tom, both recent additions to the Board, have stepped right up to the plate and joined your leadership team.

Thank you, Joanne and Tom !!

The Other Side of the Creek: MacArthur Park continued from page 1



was signed, the “temporary” city of Camp Fremont began to vanish as quickly as it had appeared. While other structures were sold for scrap or pulled down, the Hostess House was recognized as something far too precious to lose.

In a remarkable act of civic foresight, the building was purchased by the City of Palo Alto for the symbolic price of one dollar. In 1919, the structure was painstakingly moved from its original site in Menlo Park, crossing the San Francisquito Creek to its current home near the railroad tracks. This move was more than just a relocation; it was a transformation. It became the first municipally sponsored community center in the United States, proving that the building’s purpose – to provide a safe and welcoming space for the public – transcended its military origins. It eventually served as a veterans’ hall before becoming the restaurant we know today, earning its place as California Historical Landmark No. 895.

Today, the Hostess House stands as the only remaining structure from California’s World War I Army training camps. It serves as a living bridge between our two cities, shaped by the wartime needs of Menlo Park and preserved by the civic imagination of Palo Alto. When you next visit, take a moment to look up at the ceiling or run your hand along the brickwork. It is a reminder that San Francisquito Creek is not just a line on a map that separates us, but a seam that stitches our shared history together. The building serves as a testament to the idea that when we value beauty and community, we can save the best parts of our past and carry them with us across the creek into the future.



Did You Know?

- What we now recognize as El Camino Real (CA Route 82) was earlier known as:
 - Federal Highway 101
 - The “Highway”
 - The County Road
- John “Jack” Lyle Memorial Park, located on the former site of the Fremont School, is named in honor of the only Menlo Park Police officer killed in the “Line of Duty” (1960).

- There are no fewer than 16 recognized neighborhoods in Menlo Park. In the Belle Haven neighborhood you’ll find Newbridge Street; named for the “New Dumbarton Bridge” that had recently been constructed in 1927.

- Fremont Park was originally called Fremont Memorial Park and was formally dedicated on November 11, 1938 – the 20th anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. The ceremony featured remarks by former President Herbert Hoover and a dedication address by former

*Photo Credit:
“Redwood City Pulse”*

U.S. Senator Samuel M. Shortridge, following a parade through downtown Menlo Park honoring the approximate 40,000–43,000 soldiers who trained at Camp Fremont from 1917–1918 during WWI.

- Back in time there were four dedicated movie theatres in Menlo Park – the Park, the Guild, the Menlo, AND... the theater located on the grounds of Camp Fremont. Today there are none.



*Theater located near
Camp Fremont*

- The Allied Arts Guild opened in 1929. In the 1930s, renowned photographer, Ansel Adams, served as the “photographer of record” and photographed the courtyards and architecture, helping document and elevate the Guild’s artistic reputation.

Photo Credit: Images courtesy of Tim Johnston, MPHA, unless noted otherwise.

The Story Behind the Stained-Glass Art in the Downtown Kiosks

Editor's Note: This article is excerpted from an article, written by Board Member Emeritus, Jim Lewis, that appeared in the January – February 2008 issue of TGP, "Treasures of the Downtown".

The Gini McAfee story is an integral part of modern Menlo Park, while honoring the "long ago" Menlo Park.

In the early 1970's, kiosks had been built with inserts of paper and cloth to add some color. On a "curbside" conversation between Marilyn Carrel, of Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, and Gini McAfee, it was decided that there was a better way: stained glass.

With an idea and an artist, and later with the help of generous donors like Mayor Ira Bonde, George Hirzel Jeweler, Flegel's, Draeger's and others, the idea took root and Gini went to work.

Gini speaks of her time these days handling broken glass, being exposed to lead poisoning and the fumes of exotic chemicals. It took two years to complete the project. In 1982 twenty kiosks representing Menlo Park's past were installed along both sides of Santa Cruz Avenue and "have withstood the test of time and look as gorgeous today as they did when they were first installed. Some consider the stained-glass windows true treasures of the downtown area and the community".

These kiosks... "can be seen in person, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, along Santa Cruz Avenue. At night they are lit and take on a whole different appearance than they do during the day. Either way, some say, they are delightful to view... A lot of history can be found in these stained-glass windows".



Photo Credit: Images courtesy of Tim Johnston

If you'd like to view the full color gallery of the stained glass art, click on the QR code or go to <https://www.mphistory.org/stained-glass>.



Historical Associations of San Mateo County – Meeting Highlights

On January 18th Mary Ergas, MPHA Board Member, represented MPHA at the Historical Associations of San Mateo County quarterly meeting. Topics addressed included: how associations will commemorate upcoming, notable national, regional, and local anniversaries – USA 250th, Dumbarton Bridge (2027); the use of electronic databases to record and save historical data and artifacts; and strategies and tactics used in recruiting new members and volunteers.

The next meeting will be held at the Coastside History Museum, 505 Johnston St., Half Moon Bay, on April 12 at 1:00 pm. If you plan to attend, please email your RSVP no later than April 12 to: Perky Ramroth at dchgsecretary@gmail.com.

Everyone is welcomed to attend!

Volunteers needed

The MPHA Board loves it when members ask to create or assist with projects. A MPHA member recently prepared a walking guide tour.

We need assistance keeping the office open on Tuesdays from noon to 2pm. We are also looking for members to get involved with creating QR codes, organizing photographs, filing, etc.

Help us, we need you!

Email mphistorical@yahoo.com



2026 Events

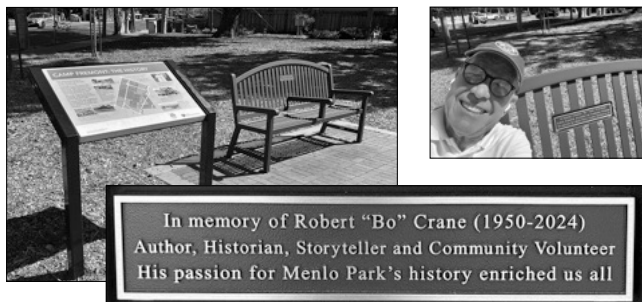
Summer Picnic/BBQ*

Held at Frank Merrill home, May 2026

Ice Cream Social*

Summer 2026

In early March, the Bo Crane Memorial Plaque was installed on one of the Fremont Park benches adjacent to the two story boards. A dedication ceremony will take place at a later date.



Photos by Tim Johnston

Honoring Menlo Park's 100th Anniversary

We welcome ideas on how to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Menlo Park's incorporation in 2027. Please call or email us with your suggestions: (650) 330-2522 or MPhistorical@yahoo.com

The latest information about our events can be found by visiting our home page at: <https://www.mphistory.org/>

*Details to follow.

Members' Stories

Do you enjoy writing?

Do you have a story to tell?

The Gate Post invites MPHA members to share short stories connected to Menlo Park's history – perhaps about a family member, a personal remembrance, a former home or building, or another meaningful local connection.

Submissions should be 100–250 words and may include a photo.

Interested? Email MPhistorical@yahoo.com.

Thank you for supporting MPHA!



MPHA wishes to thank the following members who have renewed their membership for 2026.

Fran Albrecht	Mary McGuire
George Andrews	Richard & Mary McLinden
Linda Ashcroft	Patrick Moran
Rebecca Barfknecht	Maura Morey
Tony Bautista	Kelly Muenzen
Gail Blesi	Marc Norton
Lynne Branlett	Jerry Peters
Bob and Tana Budelli	Elena Reese
Jeanie Buscaglia	Angie Robbiano
Lydia Cooper	Walter Robinson
Paul & Charo Eisenman	Dennis & Linda Ronberg
Mary Ergas	Harold Schapelhouman
Wallace Esshleman	Charles Schmuck
Peter Hoddie	Rudy & Claire Scholz
John and Freddy Howell	Barry Smith
Kathy Klebe	Sara Tanke
Susan Larson	Ann Treadwell
Adreane Maestrini	Corrine Tremaine
Mark and Lane Maloney	Sandy Walker
Barbara Mason	Michael Whitlock
Terry McCaffrey	

And we welcome these new members.

Susan & Giulio Accornero	Ann Englert
George Campbell	Greg & Darcy Gamble
Lynn Cornish	Lynn Hartnett
	Douglas Stevens

Donors

Mark & Lane Maloney	Lynn Bramlett
Greg & Darcy Gamble	Harold Schapelhouman
Barbara Mason	



Keegan Leary

Keegan – MPHA's webmaster and his wife, Heather Leary, with baby Finn Yi-Ning Leary. Born Dec 1, 2025. The first grandchild for our president, Sandy Pachaud. *Congratulations!*

World Renowned – ‘The Goose’ at 60 – has Unwritten Volumes

Originally a beer drinking destination for Stanford students beyond the one-mile limit, like the Oasis and The Alpine Inn (formerly Rosotti’s Roadhouse), the Dutch Goose (formerly the Busy Bee) has survived, evolved, and flourished from beer dive to local landmark. Personally, it has always meant peanut shells, carved initials, deviled eggs, underage drinking, then overdrinking, company sports team post-game wrap ups and then kids’ team parties.

Early on, some of my Oak Knoll elementary school teachers met at the Busy Bee every Friday after school. I caught them while picking up burgers with my dad. ‘Dad – why are they here so late?’

Later on, it was a legitimate Stanford Business School hangout. As an undergraduate at Berkeley, we had a Fortran (antiquated computer language) textbook written by a Stanford prof. In it, there was a word problem asking us to calculate a route to the Dutch Goose from anywhere in the world, written in Fortran.

My 50th MA reunion asked us to meet at the Goose – *no directions necessary*.



After Pete Eccles bought it in 1966, and named it after a Kansas City bar where he had his first beer, called the Dutch Goose, owned by a Mr. Gooseheim. He hired Barry Anderson (local Daily Post celebrity) to design the logo. Designed at his Hip-O-Potamus Creations studio in San Francisco in 1970, today it still flies high outside. It is on a framed Army shirt on the wall by the “elevator”, near The Duck Blind. Barry remembers – “The back area where the Duck Blind is,

used to be a parking area and the Moroney Room (banquet room now), used to be a back open air patio with picnic tables in the sun. Pete Eccles hired me and a friend to cut “candle holders” out of sewage pipe with a blow torch to decorate the tables – ahhhh – Pete had some class!”



Menlo Park Business Anniversaries

In 2026, several downtown businesses will celebrate significant milestone anniversaries, ranging from 10 to almost 100 years of service.

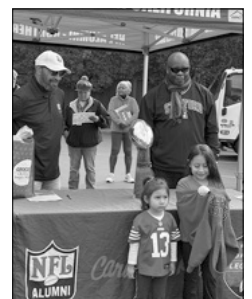
Mademoiselle Colette	12	West Bay Model Railroad Association	76
Feldman’s Books	30	Dutch Goose	80
Trader Joe’s	38	SRI	80
Peet’s Coffee	55	Safeway	88
Lorist Watch Repair	59	Cook’s Seafood	98
Round Table Pizza	66		
Draeger’s Market	71		
Baskin Robbins	72		
Kepler’s Books	72		

Super Bowl LIX in Menlo Park

Super Bowl LIX was in Santa Clara on February 8th – but the real history was made in Menlo Park on February 7th, at the NFL Alumni Grocery Giveaway at St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room. Heroes from the NFL Alumni of Northern California teamed with Grocery Outlet and local volunteers to bring food and football fans together. Menlo Park’s St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room (www.paduadiningroom.com) recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, of welcoming all guests to free hot meals six days a week, as well as groceries and clothing. It has served > 5 million meals, always making diners feel welcome.



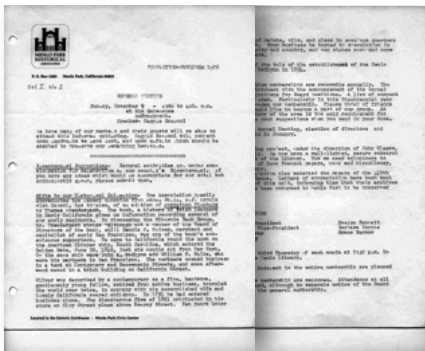
Menlo Park’s own 49er alumnus John Paye joined Maria Lloyd and her father Jim Steidel, a 95 year-old 49ers fan, at the event.



The Evolution of the Gate Post Newsletters

Even though the Menlo Park Historical Association was organized in 1971, it was not until April 1975 that the first issue of the *Newsletter* was published. It was a way of keeping in touch with its members. The editor of the *Newsletter* was probably MPHA's Secretary, and it was likely typed on a manual typewriter. I, as a former editor, found it interesting to read these early issues, giving me a greater appreciation for MPHA. Fortunately the manual typewriter has gone the way of the Model T, and today's technology allows our editor and designer the liberty to be creative.

We welcome your feedback – please email us at board@mphistory.org with the subject line: GP Feedback.



In 1975 MPHA produced two issues of the *Newsletter* – one in April and the other in November. And until December 1978, the “*Newsletter*”, as it was called then, was sporadic. There was no “editor”. The issues were one to two pages and reported what took place at meetings or just general MPHA news.



In February 1979, V5 #2, Jean Bone was President of MPHA. The *Newsletter* had a cleaner look which leads us to believe that she used an IBM Selectric typewriter (which is still in MPHA's office). In formatting her copy she literally had to cut and paste paragraphs to fit on the page. What was amazing is that she was able to publish the monthly *Newsletter* using the trusty Selectric typewriter.



From 1980-1998 the *Newsletter* came out monthly and in 1995 with a new name, “*The Gate Post*” with the same general appearance as today. In June of 1999, Jean resigned as editor and *The Gate Post* was taken over by various people, Margarette Paponis, Ed Austin, and sometimes no editor. Jean took over in 2000 as a temporary editor. Tim Goode took over April between 2001 – 2013. It was somewhat sporadic again, either coming out every other month to only two issues in 2005.



In June, 2007, Lydia Dioli Cooper started working with Tim Goode and in 2008 *The Gate Post* was published four times a year.



January 2026. The change begins.



April 2026

All previously published newsletters can be found on the MPHA website at <https://www.mphistory.org/newsletters> or by clicking on this QR code.





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TIME DATED MATERIAL OR CURRENT RESIDENT

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose for which this association is formed is to collect, preserve, and disseminate historical data, information, relics, and objects or records of historical interest relating to the City of Menlo Park and environs.

To All Members

Please send all inquiries to mphistorical@yahoo.com.
Remember to check junk/spam folder for group emails.



www.mphistory.org



www.facebook.com/MenloParkHistoricalAssociation

Become a Member of MPHA

Simply send a \$30 check made out to:
"MPHA" and mail to:
MPHA, 800 Alma St.,
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Please include your mailing address. Also, consider including your email address to help us save on postage costs and to receive documents electronically. You can also join through our website: mphistory.org, and click on "Become a member".

Annual Membership/Renewal

Residential\$ 30
Business.....\$ 100
Lifetime\$200



Are you aware of the history of the Menlo Gates? Erected in August 1854 by Irish immigrants Dennis J. Oliver and D.C. McGlynn, the original Menlo Park gates were a massive wooden archway marking the entrance to their 1,700-acre estate on El Camino Real. Modeled after a gate in Menlo, Ireland, the structure inspired the naming of the nearby train station in 1863, effectively naming the town. The original gates were destroyed by a car in 1922.