



... Since 1971



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P.O. Box 1002, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA, 94026-1002

650/330-2522

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ANNUAL CHINESE DINNER

Once again the Menlo Park Historical Association will be hosting the annual **Chinese Dinner** and invites all members AND their guests to help celebrate the Year of the Tiger. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 28, 2009**, at **5:00 p.m.** and join us at **Ten Fu Restaurant**. Again for a very reasonable price of \$20.00 per person, tax and tip included, guests will enjoy not only an enticing dinner but time to share each other's company. There will be delectable items from which to choose, but one thing for sure, we never leave hungry.

The Ten Fu Restaurant is located at 1352 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, near the intersection of Valparaiso Ave. There is ample parking in the back of the restaurant using the El Camino Real entrance.

A reservation form for the dinner is found on the last page of this newsletter. We encourage you to respond quickly in order to provide the restaurant early notice.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, the 28th of February and plan to join us for an evening of good food and good company.

KEEP IN MIND

If you were born in 1926, '38, '50, '62, '74, in other words, every 12 years, you were born in the year of the Tiger.



Advantages of Tiger people: Powerful and strong, competent, charming, courageous, capable of great love, carefree life, deep thinkers, highly respected are just a few of your admirable traits.

Disadvantages of Tiger people: Be aware, though, that you can be fierce, sensitive and emotional, aggressive, unpredictable, a risk taker, stubborn to others' opinion, slow to make a decision, mistrustful of others, resentful of those in authority.

Committees

Membership

Frank Helfrich

Newsletter

Tim Goode

(650) 325-3001

Lydia Cooper

(650) 327-7556

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Menlo Park Historical Association Board wishes you a very happy and healthy 2010. We ended our 38th year with a wonderful turnout at our Annual Meeting in November with Fire Chief, Harold Schapelhouman, giving an interesting and at times funny history of the Menlo Park Fire Department.

Welcome to the newest member to the Board—Tom Carter—long-time resident and former fireman with the Menlo Park Fire District. He responded to a call for volunteers to join our Board. Thank you Tom.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Annual Chinese Dinner. Let's have a good turnout.

As a reminder, we have a great organization and hope that with your efforts we can increase our membership. We presently have approximately 250 members. We can surely do better than this. Share your Newsletter with your family and friends encouraging them to join. Remember, dues are very reasonable. Also, MPHA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Keep us in mind when making your charitable gift giving list.

Finally, a call is going out to you for volunteers. If you enjoy filing (oh no), researching for Newsletter articles, keyboarding, or just helping out in the Association office, please contact Lydia Cooper by e-mail (ldioli@yahoo.com). We could use a helping hand. It doesn't even have to be on a weekly basis. AND WE HAVE COOKIES!!!

Again, thank you for being a part of our organization.

ANNUAL DUES

Included in this issue of the Newsletter is an envelop for annual dues. Please note on right hand corner of the address label a date which indicates the last time you paid your dues. Some members have let their dues lapse. Let's try to become current—2010.

Your tax-deductible membership dues to the Association not only helps defray computer and office expenses incurred during the year, but helps pay for preserving information about the history of Menlo Park. We thank you for your continued support and hope that you will continue do so in the future.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 28	Chinese Dinner	July/August	Menlo Park Block Party
June	Ice Cream Social	November	Annual Meeting/Guest Speaker

THE CHIEF and the ANNUAL MEETING

Guest Speaker, Chief Schapelhouman

By Tim Goode

Fire Chief Harold **Schapelhouman** came prepared to the Annual Meeting for a power point presentation. Even though the Recreation Center was unable to accommodate him, the chief demonstrated his unflinching character, immediately changed plans and delivered a family, Menlo Park fire and global history in engaging vignettes. In his personal history of responding to emergencies, this was not even a miniscule blip on the chief's radar. After responding to the Oklahoma bombing, the Twin Towers, Katrina, the Loma Prieta earthquake, fires and floods in Los Angeles, Taiwan and Hawaii as part of the National Emergency Response Team, he and his men are always prepared for any kind of emergency.



His talk began with an explanation of his connection to world history and his motivation to help people all over the world. His father had been a political prisoner in the Netherlands during World War II. After the war, his family moved to Canada where he was born, and just recently the Jewish community honored his father. His family's experiences during WW II motivated him to dedicate his life to helping people facing world emergencies.

Furthermore, his love of history has extended to the Menlo Park fire history, for which he has been a 28 year veteran. He began collecting artifacts and records to keep the early history alive, but has had this work interrupted by national and other emergencies. He is presently back at work on this project.

The meeting, hosted Board, was as always an informative event. The members and friends again business meeting led by **Angus** and continued to the partaking of an array of camaraderie of old friends those enjoying this annual generations of **Kavanaugh's, Lil**, her daughter and grandson, **Kathy Christensen** (?), **Jack Parkhouse, Mary Cague** and her son **Tom, Tom Carter, Jean and Joy Carter and Joe and Eleanor McLoughlin.**



beautifully by the MPHA entertaining and very crowd of over fifty enjoyed a very short Board President, **Dick** enjoy the annual finale, tasty desserts and the and neighbors. Among tradition were three



Catharine McMahan, Jane Andrews

Tom Carter,
Dick Angus,
Harold, Bill
Weseloh,
Roger Cooper



IF YOU REMEMBER...

If you remember the following, then you are a long-time Menlo Park resident (euphemism for old-timer):

1. The gates of the Sharon Estate (designed after the gates of Harvard University) and the Fraser Estate (of oriental design) both on Avy Avenue west of the Alameda.
2. The McGinnis Estate with the old cable car and railroad passenger car all located on Arbor Road.
3. The all steel houses on Lemon Avenue.
4. Watching the yearly ladder demonstration at St. Joseph's School of the firemen of the Menlo Park Fire Department scaling the three story wooden building.
5. Painting Halloween scenes on stores on Santa Cruz Avenue.
6. The Lunch Wagon



In 1927, where Ravenswood intersected El Camino Real stood a lunch wagon on wheels where hamburgers sold for fifteen cents. It was built in Worcester, MA and originally brought to San Francisco. The wagon roved the streets offering patrons carriage and curb service. After the earthquake of 1906, the wagon was parked behind the Examiner building where it served hundreds of homeless people. Jack Dempsey was a regular customer for years. In 1927, owner Charlie O'Neal

moved the wagon to Menlo Park where it continued to serve the public until the fifties.

HISTORY MUSEUM

Looking for something to do on a cold, rainy day? Visit The San Mateo County History Museum located at the Old County Courthouse on Broadway in Redwood City. This building will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2010. A good place to start is the **Living the California Dream** or **Land of Opportunity: The Immigrant Experience in San Mateo County** exhibits. A trip worthwhile.

LOSS OF OUR LONG-TIME FRIENDS

Recent passing of members of the Menlo Park Historical Association:

Louise Barbour
Rita Walker
Charles Vernon Parker

ECHOS OF THE PAST

1870 Charles N. Felton builds Felton Gables on the north side of Encinal Road near the railroad tracks in Menlo Park. Few local residences would be as prominent. It is visited by U.S. Grant, Rutherford Hayes, and Benjamin Harrison. Edward, Prince of Wales, who later rules England as Edward VII is also entertained there.

1875 Thomas H. Selby, one-time mayor of San Francisco and a wealthy merchant, sells his farm and property in Fair Oaks to James C. Flood who occupies the home until his own palatial mansion is completed five years later.

1880



Linden Towers, James Flood's palatial mansion, is completed along Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. The place gives new meaning to the word ostentation. It is the largest single dwelling yet built on the Peninsula. It is a three-storied, 43 roomed mass of turrets, cupolas and gables capped by a 150 foot tower which rises to a height of seven stories. The building is glaring white with gold decorations; the roof is patterned black slate. Said to have cost the silver king \$1 million, critics term it a "beautiful atrocity." Locals refer to it as "Flood's wedding cake." One newspaper reporter declares that it is a "typical home of a self-made millionaire."

RESERVATION FORM CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER--YEAR OF THE TIGER

Sunday, February 28, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

**Ten Fu Restaurant
1352 El Camino Real
Menlo Park, CA**

Number _____ @ \$20 each Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Address _____

I would like Transportation _____ Telephone _____

**Please make checks payable to:
Please send check and form to:**

**MENLO PARK HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
MPHA
Box 1002
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

For more information, call: (650) 330-2522.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

ANNUAL CHINESE DINNER, FEBRUARY 28, 2009

TO CONTACT THE MPHA

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: mphistorical@yahoo.com

Articles or letters may be addressed to Tim Goode or Lydia Cooper



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