



Since 1971



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800 ALMA STREET, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025-3445

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## Annual Meeting 2018

At this year's Annual Meeting, the program was created by former MPHA President Jym Clendenin. Current President Jim Lewis did the introductions. First off was former MPHA Board Member Gil Workman gave a listing of 2018 accomplishments and notable events by the Board. These included:

- The Annual Dinner March 4
- Karl E. Clark Park Brochure at Renaming Dedication March 15
- Downtown Streets Walking Tour May 12
- Holy Cross Cemetery Walking Tour May 19
- Provide Display in Library Entrance June 1-30
- Lil Kavanaugh Ice Cream Social June 24
- Election of Greg Mellberg to fill Board Vacancy July 10
- Victorian Days Walking Tour of WWI buildings August 5
- Participation in Menlo Block Party August 16
- Fremont Park Storyboard Installation November 9
- Armistice 100th and Fremont Park 80th Anniversaries November 11
- Menlo Park Walking Tour leaflet revision received November 14



Gil Workman

(continued on page 2)

### Board Members

**President**  
Jim Lewis

**Vice President**  
Michael Demeter

**Secretary**  
Bo Crane

**Treasurer**  
Lydia Cooper

**At Large**  
Jym Clendenin  
Pam Jones  
Martha Lancestremere  
Greg Mellberg  
Frank Helfrich, *Emeritus*

### Committees

**Gate Post**  
Bo Crane  
bcrane65@comcast.net  
Pam Jones  
Lydia Cooper

**Web Master**  
Jym Clendenin



## Looking Back and Looking Forward

The year 2018 was one of the most productive for MPHA. Our book sales remained brisk, the walking tours were well attended, and the Camp Fremont centennial was a rousing success. Special thanks go to Bo Crane, author of MPHA's *Streets of Menlo Park/Origin of Street Names*, for his talks and tours regarding the book.

The completion and installation of two new storyboards in Fremont Park in time (just barely) for the 100 year Camp Fremont centennial and eighty year establishment of the park was one more source of pride, following years for their design, funding and approval.

Installation of the Menlo Gates project started the last week of November, following many years of planning. The undertaking of this project is due to the countless hours of hard work and creative thinking by MPHA members, past and present. We could not be prouder of our team for making this happen. The location is at the Civic Center, near the Library, at the corner of Ravenswood Avenue and Alma Street. The formal unveiling of the completed arches is highly anticipated. Special thanks to Jym Clendenin, Chair of the Gates Committee, which includes Mike Demeter and Greg Mellberg. We also recognize Ernst Meissner for beginning the project and Bill Weseloh, both no longer with us, for pursuing it.

What else is in the pipeline for 2019? We plan to continue our usual programs, meetings, and social events, such as the annual dinner in March, the Lil Kavanaugh Ice Cream Social in June and the annual general membership meeting with speaker in November. The Menlo Gates undertaking was huge for us and no such similar projects are planned. However, we do expect to participate in the planning of a new library should that project be resurrected. An enhanced space for MPHA and its professionally archived collections would be a blessing for our needs and a continued asset to our town.

*Best wishes to all MPHA members in the New Year!*

Jim Lewis 🍷

## Annual Meeting 2018 (continued from page 1)

During the meeting, the following four incumbent Board members were elected to 3-year terms ending December 31, 2021: Lydia Cooper, Bo Crane, Martha Lancestremere and Greg Mellberg.

Board Treasurer Lydia Cooper introduced Board Secretary, Bo Crane, as this year's guest speaker, his topic being *The Streets of Menlo Park*, a book he wrote and that MPHA published last year, with almost 300 sales to date, including 95 this year. Bo included the following questions in his talk:

- What four streets are named for U.S. Senators (1 from Nevada and 3 from California)
- What street in the Willows is a combination names of sisters? (Hint: near McKendry)
- What street was named after Marilyn Monroe (maybe)? (Hint: 1953 movie)
- What is the intersection of Fleas and Paradise? (Hint: think Spanish)
- Crane, Partridge and Robin are streets not named for a bird...what street is? (Hint: intersects El Camino Real)
- And finally, what two months are represented with street names? (Hint: their numbers add up to 13, like January 1 plus December 12)

All questions were discussed as part of a PowerPoint presentation. *Streets* books were made available for sale at \$20, tax included, and will continue to be available at MPHA's library office during open hours.

*(continued on page 3)*



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**Annual Meeting 2018** *(continued from page 2)*

After the meeting, a cake and snacks were served. All Board members attended the meeting and assisted as did MPHA members in setting up the event including Pam Jones with the audio system. Three Board positions remain open, as Board Vice-President Mike Demeter reminded those members in attendance, appreciated on a day still with poor air quality readings.

All Members are invited to attend MPHA meetings, always the first Tuesday of the month, 2 p.m. in the library basement office, except December and also excepted for holidays, so January 1 no meeting but the next is January 8, 2019. Come down and see how your Board conducts its monthly business! 🍷



*Come down  
and see  
how your  
Board  
conducts  
its monthly  
business!*

*Top: Jym Clendenin with  
Mary & Matt Kavanaugh*

*Above: Bo Crane's  
PowerPoint presentation*

*Right: Pam Jones and Kathy  
Restaino*



# Armistice Day Celebration

by Bo Crane

On Sunday, November 11, 2018, MPHA was in command of Fremont Park, hosting a 100th Anniversary of the Armistice ending the Great War (WWI) as well as the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Fremont Park. The morning began with an overture of WWI songs and an introduction of speakers by Bo Crane, MPHA secretary. As was done in 1938, Menlo Park's mayor addressed the audience. Mayor Peter Ohtaki gave a brief history of WWI.

Barbara Wilcox, the author of *The Story of Camp Fremont*, related the story of the Camp, highlighting some key figures. She took moment of silence at 11:00 a.m. (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month) to honor not only the Armistice but also all veterans killed in service to our country.

Michael Demeter, MPHA's vice-president, read an editorial that appeared in the Recorder on the day of the dedication of Fremont Park, November 11, 1938. Many of the writer's criticisms of the current day's political situation have not changed in the last 80 years. Michael, who was born in Menlo Park a year after the Park's dedication, asked all veterans to stand, followed by all who had fathers, grandfathers or great-grandfathers who served in WWI.

A Proclamation by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors was produced that recognized Camp Fremont's contribution to the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Former MPHA president and current MPHA Board member, Jym Clendenin, had on Friday represented MPHA at the Supervisors' presentation of the Proclamation. Bo



went onto give a history of how a German immigrant, Jacob Frederick Carl Hagens, acquired the vacant property for Fremont Park. After that the music returned, including a chorus of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," "Over There," and "As the Caissons Go Rolling Along."

Attendees were encouraged to stroll around the park and especially to observe the two new storyboards at the park's entrance, the result of four years work by



Photo by Robb Most taken for *InMenlo.com*; used with permission

Jim Lewis, MPHA president, which included hiring at City expense a graphic artist, Kathy Switky, now a MPHA member. After a lengthy review process with formatting variations, the City finally approved a final version and, through the efforts of Derek Schweigart, Community Services Director, and other City staff members, the new storyboards were installed on Friday, normally a day off for Public Works, two days before the Celebration. The storyboards became an on-line story by Rachel Myrow of KQED who had met after the installation at the park with Jym, who gave her the park's history, Jim and Lydia. Based on this success, MPHA plans to be involved in more storyboard installations targeting the City's history at various locations.

About 90 persons attended included newly elected council members Cecilia Taylor and Drew Combs, plus current council members Ray Mueller, and Peter Ohtaki. Many veterans also appeared, including Doug Hamilton, who wore his father's WWI medal that stated "France." The event was covered by InMenlo's correspondent Linda Gulker Hubbard and photographer Robb Most. Jim Lewis has loaded the day's podium talks onto YouTube: <https://sites.google.com/view/armistice-celebration-11-11-18/home>.

This was MPHA's first major Citywide event in recent memory where we acquired a City Permit to host such a celebration. We hope to have many more such gatherings! Thank you all who attended.

[Added note: As a Fremont Park celebration carryover, Councilmember Ray Mueller invited the MPHA Board to the stage for the annual lighting of the park's Christmas Tree with Board President Jim Lewis throwing the switch.] 🍂



**Armistice Day Celebration** (continued from page 5)



*Newly elected City Council Members Drew Combs with daughter and Cecilia Taylor (with scarf), and husband on her right.*

*Martha Lancestremere MPHA Board member in clear glasses, and Ester Bugna former MPHA Board member in dark glasses.*



*City Council Member Ray Mueller standing, Vice Mayor at the time this photo was taken.*



*Ray Mueller and Jim Lewis*



*Doug Hamilton with his father's FRANCE medal from WWI (detail)*



*Jim Lewis and Rachel Myrow of KQED with one of two Fremont Park Storyboards*

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# Armistice Day Celebration

by Bo Crane

Jacob Frederick Carl Hagens, a San Francisco corporate executive in the 1930s, was key to the creation of the Camp Fremont Memorial Park at the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive. When Mr. Hagens, discovered that the vacant lot on the corner was to be used for commercial purposes, he tried to get the City to purchase the property. When the City failed to do so, Hagens formed a private group to buy the land, putting up most of the funds himself.

Hagens was born in Germany. At age 16, he sailed to the Kingdom of Hawaii, where immigrant Germans had taken prominent positions. The year he arrived, 1887, the Hawaiian king was overthrown by those who established a constitution with a limited monarchy. The kingdom's anthem was rearranged from a Prussian anthem.

In 1890, Hagens married Eliza Kaipoleimanu Hugo, 20, born in Hawaii. The Hawaiian kingdom continued in political turmoil until becoming a U.S. Territory in 1898. He was naturalized, living with his wife along with Kealoha Kekele, Eliza's niece. During the Great War, Hagens served as a U.S. Army captain in the Quartermaster Corp.

As of 1920, Jacob and Eliza were in San Francisco, living with Kealoha, now 24, and also Jacob's niece, 11. Jacob, with a high school education, soon became president of Great Western Electro-Chemical Co., whose president had been Mortimer Fleishhacker of the well-known San Francisco family (brother Herbert founded the S.F. Zoo.) Also living in S.F. was Jacob's younger brother, Henry and his wife, both having also been in Hawaii. Jacob and Henry also are listed as the principals of Hagens & Co. In 1930, Jacob and Eliza's household included Kealoha, Frances and Jacob's two nephews from Germany, ages 19 and 18, serving as clerks in his company. The household was at 984 Santa Cruz Avenue, across the street from the vacant corner lot.

Originally, the rear property line of lots facing University Drive continued as a boundary through the middle of the empty lot that Hagens purchased. Not wanting such a narrow park, the City acquired the adjacent Santa Cruz Avenue lot. The park was extended



to the next house over (975 Santa Cruz Avenue), encompassing the area where the flagpole and monument are now.

Jacob retired in 1938 when Great Western Electro-Chemical merged with Dow Chemical. Camp Fremont Memorial Park was dedicated on November 11 that year, 1938 20 years after the Armistice was signed. Jacob also gifted Menlo Park a library and allowed part of a building he owned to be used as the City Hall. He was the largest donor in town to the Red Cross. Eliza, his wife, died June 26, 1940. Jacob died a little over seven months later, February 8, 1941. His home, across the street from Fremont Park was valued at \$15,000 (now part of the site of Menlo Church, built in 1950).

With his wife passed and without children, Jacob left an estate of \$500,000 to Kealoha Kekele, 53, with a trust paying her \$9,000 a month. He also left money to a former secretary and his chauffeur plus S.F. property to a former employee. Other survivors included Jacob's sister and two brothers, still living in Germany.

After selling the Santa Cruz Avenue house property to the Presbyterian Church, Kekele moved to Palo Alto, where she lived until her death in July 1969, nine days before Neil Armstrong and crew landed on the moon. Born ninety-nine years prior, Jacob as a teenager left his German Empire home for the Kingdom of Hawaii. He immigrated to the States and served in his adopted country's Army during the Great War. He later saw to it that a corner of Menlo Park was dedicated to those troops who had joined the nation's call two decades earlier. 🍷



Since 1971

800 Alma Street, Lower Level  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3445  
(650) 330-2522

E-mail: [mphistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:mphistorical@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/mphistorical>

[www.facebook.com/menloparkhistorical](http://www.facebook.com/menloparkhistorical)

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### Become a Member of MPHA

Join those who care about Menlo Park and enjoy learning about its history. Dues help financially in preserving the archives, publication of the newsletter, and supporting our staff and other activities.

#### Annual Membership:

Residential . . . . . \$ 20.00

Business . . . . . 100.00

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Make check payable to MPHA at the above address.

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### Thank You Business Members!

- Lasky Trade Printing*
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- Waldo Graphics*
- Wetson & Lanctot, LLP*
- Keith Willig Landscape Architecture, Inc.*

*for your contributions and  
dedication to our local history.*

### Thank You to Our Newest Member

Peter Hoddie



Menlo Park  
Historical Association

ANNUAL  
DINNER

**Save the Date!**  
**Sunday, March 24, 2019**

Time to be announced  
(Late afternoon / early evening)

Lawrence Ferlinghetti born March 24, 1919  
Co-Founder of City Lights Bookstore, SF  
Turning 100-years-old