



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 3/18/2019  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Menlo Park Library**  
**800 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025**

**A.** Chair Leep called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Present:** Bugna, Chambers, Cohen, Hadrovic, Leep, Pandey  
**Absent:** Lemons  
**Staff:** Interim Library Services Director Reinhart, Assistant Library Services Director Szegda

**C. Public Comment**

The following public comments were received during the meeting:

- Pam Jones thanked the Commission for their robust discussion of the BHNLC issue. Ms. Jones shared her opinion that BHNLC should remain a distinct committee. Ms. Jones suggested that the Commission contact the Complete Streets Commission and ask them how their merger went.
- Jim Lewis thanked the Library staff for their efforts to assist in the dedication ceremony for the Menlo Gates. Mr. Lewis distributed a packet of articles and photos about the ceremony to the Commission (attachment A).
- Lynne Bramlett shared her view that the staff report ignores Council feedback on keeping BHNLC as a separate committee. Ms. Bramlett suggested that the Commission's work plan should be conveyed to the City Council without filters from the staff.

**D. Regular Business**

**D1.** Approve the minutes from the February 25, 2019 Library Commission Special Meeting

Commissioner Hadrovic clarified that she did not attend the Oversight and Outreach meeting for the Parks and Rec Master Plan, but was providing a report on the meeting's content.

**ACTION:** Motion/second (Pandey/Chambers) to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

**D2.** Belle Haven Library Space Needs Study and Recommended Next Steps

Interim Director Reinhart gave a brief presentation on the draft recommended building program for the new Belle Haven Branch Library. He noted that the draft recommended program incorporates all of the functional elements highly rated by neighborhood participants in the Space Needs Study:

- An enclosed space where children can receive homework help after school,
- An enclosed, sound-insulated room dedicated for use by teens,
- A 110-seat dividable community meeting room,
- Multiple sound-insulated small study rooms for 2-4 people each,
- Quiet reading areas and seating options geared for adult visitors,
- A space for computer classes, and
- A dedicated floor space for early childhood education activities like storytimes.

Interim Director Reinhart reported that the City Council will receive an information item on the study at their March 26 meeting incorporating Commission and public feedback, and that the final study is scheduled to be presented to the Council at their April 16 meeting (to be held in Belle Haven at the Senior Center).

Chair Leep asked staff to keep in mind community member comments before the Commission that favored the Onetta Harris campus as the site for the new branch library.

Interim Director Reinhart replied that extensive outreach during the preliminary design phase would be made in the neighborhood in order to help determine siting for the new branch library. Staff will consider all available options for siting and present them to the Council.

**ACTION:** Motion/second (Leep/Pandey) to recommend that the City Council receive the Belle Haven Branch Library Space Needs Study and recommended building program and authorize staff to proceed to the project's preliminary design phase and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural preliminary design services passed unanimously.

- D3. Discuss Library Commission Semi-annual update to City Council.  
Commissioners suggested the following edits to Chair Leep's draft update presentation:
- Refer to the Space Needs Study as "completed" (for update in May)
  - Change the tense used to refer to the affiliate updates
  - Note that members of the Belle Haven neighborhood have expressed concern about the merger of the Library Commission and the BHNLC because of the historically inadequate representation for Belle Haven and the unwieldy-ness of larger advisory groups
  - Regarding the proposed merger – "should the City Council so decide to merge BHNLC and the Library Commission..."
  - Remove high school commission representative from the report
  - Include current status of Commission 2-year work plan development
- D4. Discuss Updates to Library Commission Two Year Work Plan
- Commissioners agreed that a new Belle Haven branch library should remain their top priority goal, and improvements to the main library should remain their second priority goal.
  - Commissioners requested copies of the current City Council work plan and the Library's Strategic Plan Update be made available for their review (Assistant Director Szegda will send).
  - Commissioner Bugna suggested the term used to refer to library "partner" organizations be changed to "associates". Interim Director Reinhart suggested the term "affiliates".
- The Commission will review the Council's work plan and the strategic plan update and continue their work at their April meeting.
- D5. Review and update: Library Commission agenda calendar
- Commissioner Hadrovic requested that exploring options for youth involvement with the Commission remain on the calendar.
  - Chair Leep made a motion to change the location for the April 2019 Commission meeting to the Belle Haven branch.

**ACTION:** Motion /second (Leep/Hadrovic) to change the location of the April 2019 Library Commission meeting to the Belle Haven branch library at 413 Ivy Drive passes unanimously.

## **E. Informational Items**

- E1. Update on the proposed merger of the Library Commission and the Belle Haven Neighborhood Library Advisory Committee

Assistant Director Szegda reported that City Council took no vote on the proposed merger, and instead formed a City Council subcommittee of Councilmember Nash and Mayor Pro Tem Taylor to explore the issue further.

Staff will update the Commission as new information becomes available.

*(Commissioner Pandey left the meeting at 7:36PM)*

**E2. Library staff updates**

- Interim Director Reinhart reported that 26 applications had been received for Little Free Libraries. Funding from the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation will cover the purchase and installation of 20 Little Free Libraries. The Library will cover the costs for the additional applicants. The installations should begin in May.
- The deadline for entering the Youth Poetry contest, which is co-sponsored by the Foundation and the City, is March 25. The awards ceremony will take place at the City Council meeting on May 7.

**F. Commissioner Reports**

**F1. Individual commissioner reports**

No reports.

**G. Adjournment**

Chair Leep adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**Attachments:**

- A. Written public comment submitted to the Commission by Jim Lewis.

Minutes approved at April 15, 2019 Library Commission meeting

**From:** InMenlo <noreply+feedproxy@google.com>

**To:** jimlewis <jimlewis@aol.com>

**Subject:** InMenlo: "Menlo Gates officially dedicated, fittingly on St. Patrick's Day" plus 1 more

**Date:** Sun, Mar 17, 2019 6:05 pm

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## InMenlo: "Menlo Gates officially dedicated, fittingly on St. Patrick's Day" plus 1 more

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### Menlo Gates officially dedicated, fittingly on St. Patrick's Day

Posted: 17 Mar 2019 04:55 PM PDT



The reproduction of the historical Menlo Gates near the library was officially dedicated this afternoon, recalling Menlo Park's Irish roots.





The construction of the Gates was a project of the Menlo Park Historical Association (MPHA) and members Jim Lewis (bottom photo) and Jym Clendenin (pictured speaking) made brief remarks today along with Mayor Ray Mueller (pictured right). About 50 people attended.

If you're unfamiliar with Menlo's Irish roots, here's a little background discovered in a book by Stanley Pierce published in 1974:

"Up to the coming of the railroad the little town [Menlo Park] had grown hardly at all since 1851 when a pair of Irishmen invested one dollar an acre to launch a 1,700-acre farming project to the north of San Francisquito Creek which they named 'Menlough' in sentimental remembrance of their birthplace [in County Galway]. A few years later they erected a high wooden gateway at the entrance to their farm, and it was the existence of this structure that prompted the San Francisco & San Jose Railway Company to make Menlo Park a station stop when the line came through, and to build the station four years later.



"The 'Menlo Park Gate,' almost as conspicuous a landmark as the the towering redwood tree, 'Palo Alto,' a couple of miles to the south, was an elaborate wooden structure with a wide center arch through which any conveyance could pass, and with smaller arches over footpaths at each side. Around the topmost center arch in foot-high letters were the words 'Menlo Park' and in the centered keystone was inscribed, 'August 1854.' Above the arches were the names, 'D.J. Oliver' and 'D.C. McGlynn.'





"In seeking to immortalize themselves, the sentimental designers of the ornate gateway had intended that 'Menlough' (a Gaelic word meaning 'Lakeside') would go on one side of the keystone and 'Park' on the other. However the itinerant sign painter engaged to do the lettering immediately demonstrated the lopsided appearance that would result, and Oliver and McGlynn were faced with making a decision. The keystone was already in place; moreover, it set the whole thing off, and certainly the date was essential. They finally were driven to sacrifice the spelling of their beloved home town in Country Galway for the phonetic spelling, 'Menlo.'"

More information about Menlo's Irish roots can be found on the MPHA website.

*Photos by Robb Most (c) 2019*

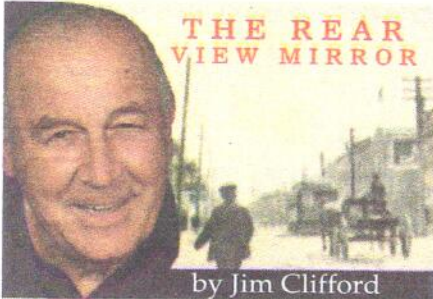
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**An Ides of March miracle: firefighter rescues kitten stuck deep in drain pipe**

Posted: 17 Mar 2019 01:54 PM PDT



## A St. Patrick's Day present for Menlo Park



THE REAR  
VIEW MIRROR

by Jim Clifford

**M**enlo Park, which traces its roots to Ireland, will have a lot to celebrate this St. Patrick's Day when it dedicates a replica of a welcoming 19th century gate emblazoned with "Menlo Park" across its top, replacing the original that was destroyed in a 1920s car wreck.

Mayor Ray Mueller will be one of the keynote speakers at the 2 p.m. March 17 ribbon cutting ceremony for the gate adjacent to the public library at 800 Alma St. The gate is actually three gates; a large one in the middle, flanked by smaller ones on either side. The middle arch looks big enough to accommodate passage of a carriage, which the original did when it was built in 1854 by two Irish pioneers who hailed from Menlough, a village in County Galway. The Palo Alto Times reported in July 7, 1922, that the first gate was "completely destroyed by two speeding cars filled with singing passengers."

According to Bo Crane, an historian who specializes in all things Menlo Park, the initial gate, weakened by several winter storms, toppled in 1905. It was righted and became known as "The Portals of Early Days" until it was hit by the cars and collapsed in a splintered heap. As Crane puts it, the gate "became a phantom, existing only in old pictures and some hand-drawn maps" until a few years ago when members of the Menlo Park Historical Association formed a Menlo Gates Committee "to faithfully reconstruct the iconic structure."



A gate welcoming all to Menlo Park.

The committee decided to make the gates of redwood, just like the original, but to give the wood surface an aged look to replicate how it might have appeared when first built. Deciding on the location for the new gate was difficult because the original site on El Camino Real is now a storefront sidewalk. Finally, the city offered a space on the library corner of Ravenswood Avenue and Alma Street facing the railroad depot.

According to Crane, Menlo Park's Irish heritage goes back to the 1850s when Irish immigrants Denis Oliver and Daniel McGlynn acquired 1,700 acres of land thick with oaks along a stagecoach road and built the gate, but the two men let the property revert to the mortgagee and they went their separate ways. Crane, the history association's secretary, is the author of "The Streets of Menlo Park/Origin of the Street names," a book that reports on what Menlo Park streets are named for. Irish names

aplenty include: Donohoe, Doyle, Fitzpatrick, Kelly and Maloney, among others.

Menlo Park isn't the only Peninsula city that has streets with Irish names. East Palo Alto has several street signs that display the city's Irish origins. The names include O'Connor, Donohue and Kavanaugh. Each year, the area's Irish heritage is recalled with a corned beef and cabbage lunch at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Pastor Larry Goode says jokingly that he and fellow priest Father John Coleman are the "two Irish men in East Palo Alto." Don't expect

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## HISTORY

Continued from page 3

Irish singers and dancers at the event on Saturday, March 16. "Irish dancers and singers became costly and hard to get," Goode said. "For years we've tapped into local talent featuring Hispanic and Tongan singers and dancers."

A few Menlo Park residents have visited Galway, Menlo Park's sister city, returning with stories about the ties between the two cities and the traces left by Oliver and McGlynn. Among other things, the Menlo Park Hotel in Galway features a restaurant named "Oliver and McGlynn." The visitors note that Ireland has two towns named

Menlough, which means Little Lake in Gaelic. To confuse matters further, there is a Menlo Castle in Ireland. How did Menlough get shortened to Menlo in California? Something may have become lost in translation, but at least one story is simple: The sign painter ran out of space on the first gate and Menlough became Menlo.

There is also the matter of that other Menlo Park, the one in New Jersey that was the home of inventor Thomas Edison. That Menlo Park was named for "a village in the County of San Mateo" in California, according to a 1941 program marking the dedication of a fire station in the New Jersey town.

*The Rear View Mirror* by history columnist Jim Clifford appears in the Daily Journal every other Monday. Objects in The Mirror are closer than they appear.

THE DAILY JOURNAL

Monday · March 11, 2019

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### **Annual Membership**

Residential	\$20.00
Business	100.00
Lifetime	200.00

Make checks payable to MPHA

### **Menlo Park Historical Association**

800 Alma Street

Menlo Park, CA 94025-3445

(650) 330-2522, Email: [mphistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:mphistorical@yahoo.com)

Website: [sites.google.com/site/mphistorical](https://sites.google.com/site/mphistorical)

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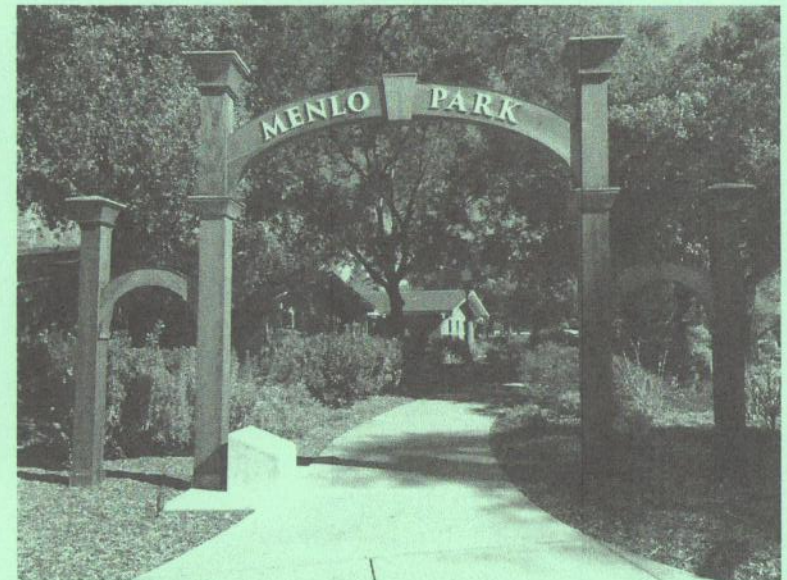
## **Menlo Park Historical Association**



### **Menlo Gates Dedication**

**St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, 2019, 2 pm to 3 pm**

**Ravenswood Avenue at Alma Street**



Menlo Gates 2019



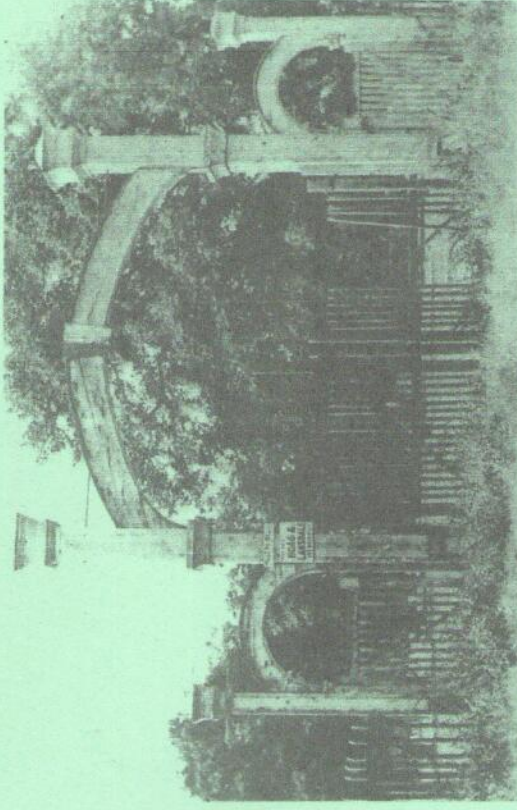
## History of Menlo Gates

In the early 1850s, two young Irishmen, Dennis Oliver and Daniel McGlynn, acquired a large tract of land on the west side of County Road (today's El Camino Real) with the goal of raising cattle for the San Francisco market. Oliver remarks in his diary that because the landscape reminded him of the village of Menlo, "...a lovely place on the banks of Lough Corrib two miles from the Town of Galway..." where he grew up, he named the ranch Menlo Park. In 1855 a gate at the entrance to the ranch was completed with the name Menlo Park across the top. A decade later, when the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad was built, it was decided to put a stop near the San Francisquito Creek and name the station after the nearby ranch. Initially the entire area between Redwood City and the creek and between the bay and the foothills was known as Menlo Park. Wealthy San Franciscans built their summer homes in the northern part (incorporated as Atherton in 1923), while the workers' village that grew up around the train station was incorporated in 1927 as Menlo Park. The Gates themselves survived numerous storms as well as the era of Camp Fremont, but in 1922 were destroyed by "a speeding automobile filled with singing passengers."

Galway, Ireland, which now includes the Village of Menlo, and the City of Menlo Park, California, signed a Friendship Agreement in 2013, and became Sister Cities in 2016.

## Program

- 2:00 pm Introduction – Jim Lewis, MPHA President
- 2:10 pm Menlo Gates Committee – Jym Clendenin, Chair
- 2:20 pm Introduction of guest speaker – Lydia Cooper
- 2:20 pm Guest speaker – Mayor Ray Mueller
- 2:30 pm Ribbon Cutting/Dedication



Menlo Gates ca 1900. The Gates were located on the west side of El Camino Real approximately 500 feet south of Santa Cruz Avenue



**MENLO GATES DEDICATION  
JAMES LEWIS – OPENING REMARKS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019**

Good afternoon and welcome to the Menlo Gates dedication ceremony. Thank you for attending this historic event on this beautiful St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2019.

I'm Jim Lewis, this year's President of the Menlo Park Historical Association.

The Historical Association dates back to the year 1971, but the Menlo Gates project dates back over 150 years when two Irish immigrants named Dennis Oliver and Daniel McGlynn traveled from Galway, Ireland to New York, then later to Menlo Park, California when this story began.

Before getting started with today's program, I'd like to recognize several folks in the audience. They are Menlo Park City Council Members, Mayor Ray Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem Cecelia Taylor and Council Members Drew Combs, Betsy Nash and Catherine Carlton.

I'd also like to recognize City Staff, including Sean Reinhart, the Interim Library Services Director, Justin Murphy, Public Works Director and Brian Henry, Assistant Public Works Director, who along with Council Members Cathertine Carlton and Peter Ohtaki chose this very spot for the Gates.

Thank you all for coming today and sharing this historic moment in the city's history.

Many years went into the making of these Gates. In that spirit, I'd like to recognize current Board Members from the Menlo Park Historical Association, being Michael Demeter, Vice President, Lydia Cooper, Treasurer, Bo Crane, Secretary along with Jym Clendenin, immediate Past President and webmaster, Frank Helfrich, Emeritus, Martha Lancestremere, Office Manager, Greg Mellberg, Menlo Gates Dedication Committee Chair, Pamela Jones and Bobbie Carcione.

I'd also like to recognize prior members that also had a significant hand in this project, being Gil Workman, Tom Carter, Dick Angus, Carol Schumacher and Ester Bugna.

In addition, many community members and local organizations gave generous donations to help with the construction costs of the project. You will be hearing more about this from Jym Clendenin, Chair of the Menlo Gates Committee, in a few moments.

All-in-all this has been a team effort by many persons collaborating to make this possible. Allow me to suggest a round of applause in appreciation.

For those not familiar with the Menlo Park Historical Association, allow me to share some information about us. We began nearly 50 years ago in 1971, as a non-profit 501 ( c ) 3 organization. Our mission "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".

During the year we provide a number of community events open to our members and non-members. Some of these include an Annual Dinner at the beginning of the year, an Ice Cream Social and participating in the Menlo Park – Downtown Block Party during the summer, providing walking tours during the year such as the Holy Cross Cemetery, which is Menlo Park's only cemetery, along with an annual General Membership meeting, with a keynote speaker held at the end of the year.

The Historical Association was also instrumental in developing a formal Friendship and later full-fledged Sister City Agreement with Galway, Ireland. The Friendship Agreement was signed in year 2013 by former Mayor Peter Ohtaki and the Sister City Agreement was signed 3 years later in year 2016 by former Mayor Richard Cline.

Several people in Ireland have commented on this project. One of them was Gerry Hanley who traveled to Menlo Park in year 2012 to see for himself what Menlo Park was all about. A year later he returned with the Galway Mayor when the Friendship Agreement was signed. In a letter recently received, he wrote "May I congratulate one and all on bringing the Menlo Gates Project to a successful conclusion. A work of art in its own right and fitting representation of the historical link between our cities, regions and peoples."

Also commenting on the Gates project is this year's Galway Mayor, Niall McNelis. He stated "Please accept my apologies in not being able to travel on this occasion to celebrate our national holiday.... and to celebrate the construction of the Gates."

Today's program consists of my opening remarks, followed by the Chair of the Menlo Gates Committee and then we will hear from this year's Mayor, Ray Mueller. So, without further ado, allow me to introduce and welcome the next speaker, Jym Clendenin.