

NEWSLETTER May 2017

Successful Fundraiser Launches Final Phase

Thanks to a generous donation by Jennifer Jakic, among the things we were able to auction off at our November 12 fundraiser were several vintage issues of *The Saturday Evening Post*, featuring cover illustrations by Norman Rockwell. One of them (pictured at right) portrays the joyous homecoming of a young soldier during World War II. The painting captures a variety of emotions: excitement, curiosity, trepidation, but most of all joy, as expressed by the mother standing on the back porch with open arms to welcome her son home.

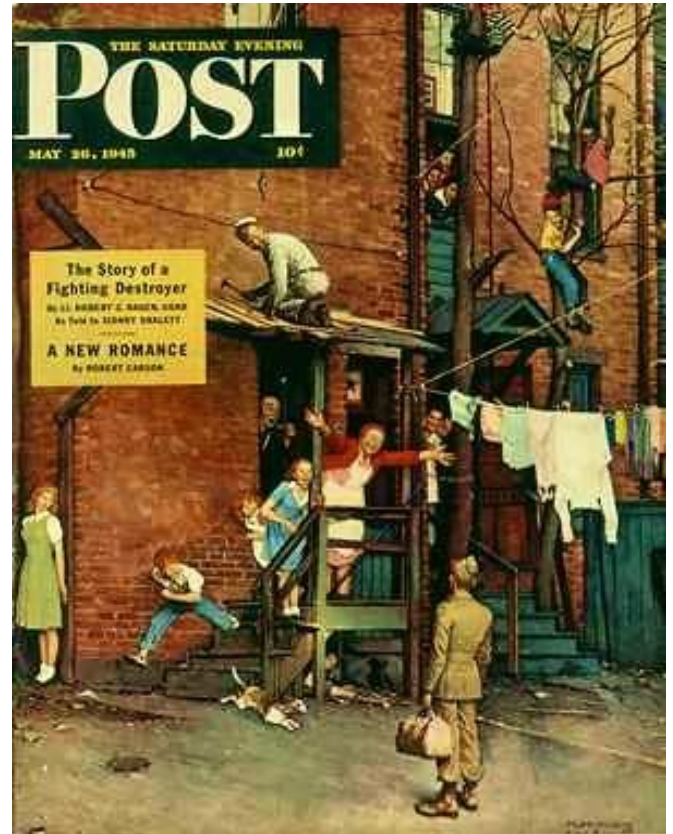
You can't help but feel happy when looking at the scene, but when viewed in the context of our cause, it serves as a reminder of all the joyous homecomings that never took place. Although we can never compensate for those lost homecomings, we can mitigate their absence by remaining true to our goal to never let the sacrifices of our honorees be forgotten.

Toward that end, our recent fundraiser netted over \$1,800, proving once again that our supporters have not forgotten and remain true to our pledge to:

Make Kemper Memorial Park everything it



Rebecca Bitondo & Tasha Gross of *Two Shoes, No Shoes*



Joy was in the air throughout the evening as **Rebecca Bitondo** and **Tasha Gross** performed a medley of songs to the audience's delight. These talented young ladies had volunteered to provide free entertainment to facilitate our fundraising efforts for the **final phase** of the **Kemper Memorial Park Beautification Project**. When the show ended, and we expressed our gratitude for their generosity, their response was truly heartwarming. They said that just watching how much World War II veterans Sheldon Evans and John Esposito were enjoying the show made them want to continue playing forever. What more can we say about these two very special young ladies?



The name of Mamaroneck High School's football field has been changed from two words to three – and for good reason. Many people did not know that it was originally called MEMORIAL FIELD to honor the men and women who served in World War II and The Korean Conflict. Now, thanks to the combined efforts of The Mamaroneck School Board, The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund and VFW Post 1156, it has been renamed: VETERANS MEMORIAL FIELD.

The monument bearing the field's original name was donated by MHS's 1946, 1947 and 1948 graduating classes and the family of 2nd Lt. Owen A. Norton, USMCR who died in Korea on September 5, 1952. Over time, it became less noticeable due to the large shrubs and fencing surrounding it. During the past year, the fencing was rerouted and the shrubbery was removed to make the monument more visible. Recently, a new plaque, donated by VFW Post 1156, was mounted on the side of the monument facing the Post Road. The plaque bears the field's new name, but the original inscription on the opposite side of the monument remains intact. Lighting and landscaping have also been added to enhance the monument's appearance even more.

We realize that, for brevity's sake, the field's name may someday shrink to only two words again. We hope those two words will be: VETERANS FIELD.

Kemper Memorial Park Contest

*"Without heroes, we are all plain people
and don't know how far we can go."*

Bernard Malamud

Malamud's words were the inspiration for this year's contest question:

How does service to country allow the ordinary man or woman to become heroic?

Once again, students may respond to this question by writing an **essay** or **poem**; creating a **drawing, painting, photograph, video, sculpture** or by composing a **musical piece**. Based on the quantity and quality of last year's entries, we anticipate that the selection of only four winners will again be very difficult. Nevertheless, prizes of \$250 each will be awarded for the four best entries from any of these categories at a special Memorial Day Ceremony on **Thursday, May 25**. The **Awards Ceremony** will begin at **3:00 p.m.** in the multi-tiered classroom off the lobby of the main entrance to **Mamaroneck High School** and then move outside to Kemper Park.

Last year's contest evidenced our students' creativity and their ability to express it in many ways. It also showed us how seriously they took the challenge to address the question we had posed. Their inspiration came from many things. If they need inspiration for this year's challenge, they need look no further than the names on the Kemper Memorial for examples of how service to country allows an ordinary man or woman to become heroic.

The recently installed garden areas and benches will make Kemper Park an even more attractive setting for this year's Memorial Day ceremonies and we hope to see you there.



KEMPER MEMORIAL PARK PRESERVATION FUND
Preserve Our Memorial *Preserve Our Community*

80 North Chatsworth Avenue <http://kempermemorialpark.org/>
Larchmont, NY 10538

Memorial Day Ceremonies



Poppies made by Hommocks students decorate Kemper Park

Village of Larchmont Memorial Day Parade **Thursday, May 25 – 7:00 p.m.**

Chatsworth to Palmer to Larchmont Avenue. Parade ends at Village Hall for the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Veterans of Foreign Wars **David Potts, Jr. Post 1156**

Monday, May 29 – 9:00 a.m.

Ceremony at Tompkins Park,
Boston Post Rd., Village of Mamaroneck.

American Legion (Post 347)

Monday, May 29 – 11:00 a.m.

Ceremony at War Memorial on Myrtle Boulevard and Murray Avenue. (In the event of rain, ceremony will be held at Flint Park Headquarters).

Richard M. Kemper Contest Awards Ceremony **Thursday, May 25 – 3:00 p.m.**

Ceremony begins in the multi-tiered classroom off the lobby of the main entrance to Mamaroneck High School then moves outside to Kemper Memorial Park.

American Legion Post 90

Village of Mamaroneck Parade:

Tuesday, May 30 - 7 p.m.

Mamaroneck Avenue. Following the parade, the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at American Legion Post 90 Hall on Prospect Avenue.

Kemper Memorial Park Ceremony

Tuesday, May 30th – 1:00 p.m.