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Newsletter
November 2010



Old Glory now waves proudly in **Kemper Memorial Park** every day. Installation of the new 30-foot flagpole early in May made this year's Memorial Day ceremonies even more special. Part of the ceremony at Mamaroneck High School on May 25th included Tony Marsella raising the flag that once draped his brother John's casket. John Marsella is one of the Kemper honorees who was killed during the Battle of Anzio.

A pristine 6' x 10' flag flew at half mast during the Memorial Day ceremony in Kemper Memorial Park on May 30th. According to tradition, the flag was raised to full mast at noon. Solar lighting enables us to fly this flag around the clock.

This year's Veteran's Day ceremony at Mamaroneck High School will include a formal dedication of the flagpole at which time a plaque bearing the names of the flagpole's donors will be unveiled. The plaque reads as follows:

THIS FLAGPOLE WAS GIFTED BY:

American Legion Post 90 – Mamaroneck	Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree
American Legion Post 347 – Larchmont	Cardinal Farley Assembly
Mamaroneck Knights of Columbus 2247	Tony & Josephine Marsella
Veterans of Foreign Wars David Potts, Jr. Post 1156	Joel & Carmella Robins
	Mary Cronin

**WITH ETERNAL GRATITUDE
TO OUR FALLEN HEROES**

*We are grateful to the
Mamaroneck School
District for assisting
us
with this project.*

Ken Wachtell visited the Normandy American Cemetery in St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France this summer. This photo shows Ken kneeling at the gravesite of U.S Navy Specialist Third Class Timothy J. Manning of Mamaroneck who was listed as "Missing in Action" as of October 31, 1944.



10th Annual Richard M. Kemper Memorial Essay Contest

Memorial Day ceremonies at Mamaroneck High School included the readings of the winning essays in this year's Richard M. Kemper Memorial Essay Contest. The complete texts of MHS junior Patricia Cassidy's essay titled: **"Is America Honoring Her Veterans?"** and MHS sophomore Max Gude's essay titled: **"The Many Faces of Freedom"** are posted on our website: kempermemorialpark.org

In addition to the prizes it awards annually, this year the Kemper foundation also presented a plaque to the Mamaroneck School District bearing the names of all of the essay contest winners to date – with plenty of room for future winners. The plaque is now mounted in the lobby of the main entrance to Mamaroneck High School.



From left to right: Superintendent Dr. Paul Fried, Richard Cantor, Patricia Cassidy (winning essayist), MHS Principal Dr. Mark Orfinger, Max Gude (winning essayist), Westchester County Legislator Judy Myers, MHS teachers Adam Sobel and Mary Cronin, Paul Cantor.

2010 Memorial Day Parade



The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund marched in Mararoneck's Memorial Day Parade again this year. Along with our marchers, several motor vehicles, including a World War II era jeep, chauffeured World War II veterans along the parade route. Pictured above is U.S. Coast Guard veteran Irene Stone whose original uniform still fits her perfectly.

Thanks to Phyllis Young

Last spring, we asked artist and longtime Larchmont resident Phyllis Young if she would be willing to paint a watercolor of the Kemper Memorial for us. A few days later, Phyllis called Jan Northrup to tell her that the painting was ready. Furthermore, Phyllis made it clear that she would not accept any payment for her work. With Phyllis's permission, we have created note cards featuring her beautiful watercolor painting. These note cards are currently on sale at Anderson's Book Shop (**\$10 for a package of 5 cards**). All proceeds from the sale of these note cards will be used solely for the Kemper Memorial Park beautification project.

Phyllis's painting is beautiful. Her skill as an artist is evident. But even more evident is the beauty of Phyllis's gesture. Her generous contribution will be a catalyst for additional contributions. We are hopeful that Phyllis's gift will encourage others to keep on giving, and we are most grateful for her support.

Display Cases Receive Rave Reviews

Our new display cases at Mamaroneck High School have received great acclaim from the school community. Last June, in an e-mail to Jan Northrup, MHS senior and KMPPF's 2009 World War II Scholar Derek Ward said:

It was great hearing from you! Also, I saw the display set up at the high school, it looks great! I have heard many good comments on it from classmates. I am so glad to see it up.

Derek Ward

Many teachers and administrators have also commented that the display presents a "living history" of World War II and its impact on the Larchmont/Mamaroneck community.

Two of the four cases contain a history of Kemper Memorial Park, photographs of the Kemper honorees and a map designating where each of them once lived. The other two cases currently tell the story of John J. Marsella, who was born and raised in Mamaroneck, attended Mamaroneck High School and was killed in action during the Battle of Anzio. The photographs, letters and other documents related to John Marsella's story offer students an intimate look at what life was like for someone their age who lived in their community during a different time.

This part of the display will be changed periodically to focus on other individuals and other World War II battles. The next display will tell the story of the only female honoree, "Kay" Cullen, who was killed during The Battle of the Bulge. Once again, students will have an opportunity to learn more about World War II and how it affected their community.

Please stop by to view our exhibit whenever you can!

Wreaths Across America Program will include Mamaroneck again this year

We are pleased to announce that the Wreaths Across America Program will once again be able to include Kemper Memorial Park as one of its stops during its journey from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery. Last year, due to a special stop at Ground Zero in New York City, there was not sufficient time for the wreath-laying ceremony in Mamaroneck. Plans are also being made for increased student involvement this year. Further information will be forthcoming through our website:

<http://kempermemorialpark.org>

A New Day for Kemper Memorial Park

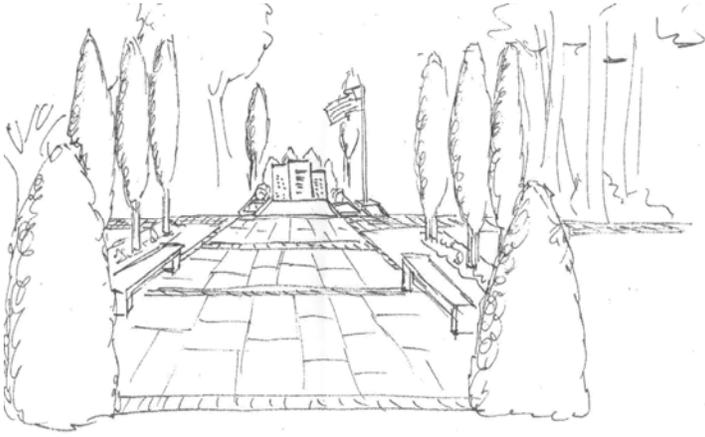


This beautiful photograph, titled: “This Morning at the Kemper Memorial” was taken by Mike Scully, who has been a member of The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund for several years. In many ways Mike’s photograph symbolizes our vision of the dawning of a new day for Kemper Memorial Park.

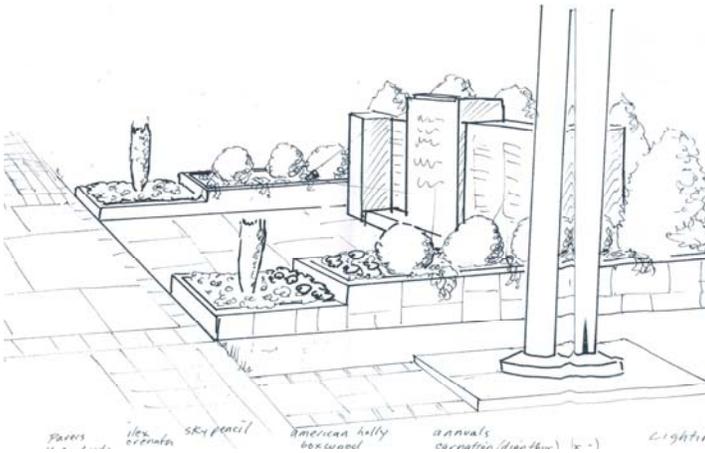
Bathed in early morning sunlight, the memorial itself seems to be reaching for the sky as the roll call of names begins anew. Among the first names in focus is that of Solomon Blechman. Ironically, only a short time after this photograph was taken, our president, Jan Northrup, was able to contact Solomon Blechman’s sister, Ruth Blechman Sokol, who has resided in Israel for the past sixty years. The e-mail correspondence that Jan subsequently received begins with this paragraph: **“First of all, I would like to thank you for your letter. It is not every day or every year that someone wants to remember my long-deceased brother. That was a heart-warming, very emotional surprise that sent both my husband and me into tears; at our age it is allowed.”** Ruth goes on to describe Solomon’s childhood growing up in Mamaroneck where their father was a rabbi. She tells of Solomon’s dreams of becoming a journalist, his service as a combat correspondent with the United States Marine Corps, his death during the invasion of Guam and his burial at sea. Her words convey the pain of loss felt by her family and the young woman whom Solomon hoped to marry some day. But her words also convey the comfort she derived from knowing that her brother’s sacrifice was still remembered and appreciated. It is our hope that the restoration of Kemper Memorial Park will reaffirm to past and future generations that we will never forget those who sacrificed so much for us.

An American flag emerges from the bottom of Mike’s photograph. It represents the ceremonies that will be held throughout the coming years to continually renew our commitment to preserve the memory of our veterans. Like this flag, countless others will be planted by students and community members to symbolize our respect and gratitude. We hope to emphasize this respect and gratitude even more strongly through the realization of our planned improvements to Kemper Memorial Park.

The shadow of past memories and the light of new dreams combine as the new day for Kemper Memorial Park begins.



Our vision for Kemper Memorial Park is beginning to take shape. Continued support from the Mamaroneck School District and ever-increasing community involvement assure us that we will succeed. Some things are still in the planning stage – like the ideas being proposed by local landscape designer Catherine Wachs, who continues to donate her time and talent to our cause. Other things are more tangible – like the beautiful watercolor rendition of the Kemper Memorial, painted by local watercolor artist Phyllis Young, who also contributed her time and talent to our effort. Contributions like these convince us that our community recognizes the importance of Kemper Memorial Park to its history and its future.



No matter how small or large your contribution may be, it will bring us closer to achieving our most important goal. We were reminded of that goal two years ago on a Sunday afternoon in June when a man with two young children stopped to view our display at the Mamaroneck Harbor Festival. The man pointed to the photograph of one of the Kemper honorees - **U.S. Army Air Force Lieutenant Hamilton Morris**. As the young boy, who was about four years old at the time, stared at the photograph, his father said: “That’s your great uncle Ham. You’re named after him.” Perhaps someday that young boy will want to know more about his great uncle and we want to help him understand why our community honors his great uncle’s sacrifice and why he should be proud to bear his great uncle’s name. You can help us do that through your monetary contributions. No contribution should be considered too small because every contribution conveys the same important message.

A sampling of the preliminary sketches drawn by Catherine Wachs to illustrate some of the proposed enhancements to Kemper Memorial Park



Watercolor painting by Phyllis Young

Checks payable to:
Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund, Inc.
 should be mailed to:
 Mark Schumer
 3 Highland Road
 Larchmont, NY 10538

The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit. **All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law** and will be matched by a generous supporter of the Richard M. Kemper Park.



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

80 North Chatsworth Avenue
Larchmont, NY 10538

kempermorialpark.org

2010 Veterans Day Ceremonies

American Legion Post 90

Thursday, November 11—11 a.m.
Veterans Memorial on Prospect Avenue
(Between Mamaroneck Ave. and Mt. Pleasant Ave.)
Village of Mamaroneck
Flag Retirement Ceremony Afterwards

American Legion Post 347

Thursday, November 11— 5 p.m.
American Legion Post 347 Hall
Flint Park
Village of Larchmont

Mamaroneck High School

There will be a brief ceremony in recognition of Veterans Day on **Wednesday, November 10, at 3:15 p.m.** at the Richard M. Kemper Park, Mamaroneck High School, Boston Post Road. Speakers will include Dr. Robert Shaps, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. John Goetz, Principal of Mamaroneck High School as well as representatives from the Board of Education and the MHS faculty.

This year's ceremony will also include the formal dedication of the Park's new flagpole.