

Newsletter

November 2015

President:	Jan Northrup
Vice President:	Mary Cronin
Secretary:	Margot Chrystal
Treasurer:	Mark Schumer
Directors:	Susan Amlicke, Burt Corwin, Deirdre Black Corwin, Ed Cofino, Richard Darcy, John Esposito, Tony Marsella, Michael Scully,
Editor:	John Esposito



Anyone could see that it wasn't just a job; it was a labor of love for these two men. As Jeff skillfully maneuvered the backhoe to tear up the old asphalt, Joao was already planning an artistic design for the different types of concrete that would be used. Collaboration was consistent throughout the month of July and, for two people who had never worked together before, they were a dream team. Even the weather cooperated to make this summer the most productive phase of our beautification project thus far. The end result was the impressive new pathways that you see in Kemper Memorial Park today. Joao DeSouza (left) owner of Masonry Works Construction, Inc. and Jeff Gibson (right) the Mamaroneck School District's head groundskeeper are rightfully proud of their accomplishment and we, as a community, are deeply grateful to them for their efforts.



Jeff Gibson attacks the old asphalt

We are also grateful to Mariano Capparelli, President of M.C. Group Corporation, for donating the concrete materials and Tommy and Mathew DeRosa for their assistance with the soil screening. Their contributions made it possible for us to achieve our ambitious goal with our limited resources.



We have already received numerous compliments about the Park's appearance and we always respond by letting folks know that we aren't done yet. The final phase of our beautification project will include the installation of additional plantings and garden areas as well as benches to replace those that were part of the Park's original design.



Joao DeSouza creates the new design

What we have accomplished so far would never have been possible without the generosity of our supporters and we look forward to thanking them once again at an informal gathering immediately following this year's Veterans Day ceremony at Mamaroneck High School on Tuesday, November 10 at 3:00 p.m.



We hope you too will join us on November 10th to honor our servicemen and servicewomen or just visit Kemper Park sometime soon to see firsthand how we are progressing toward our goal to: **"Make Kemper Memorial Park everything it deserves to be."**



JOHN ALGER MACDONALD

For the past fourteen years, the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund has been actively researching the honorees of the Richard M. Kemper Park. But, despite our extensive efforts, we still have not located photos for all of the honorees. Many, many thanks are due the Larchmont Historical Society for forwarding to us the photo it recently received of PFC John A. MacDonald from MacDonald's nephew, former MHS graduate Keith Perkins (Class of 1962). As are all of the stories of the honorees, MacDonald's story is a touching one.

PFC John A. MacDonald was an aspiring writer when he was a student at Columbia University. According to another nephew, Doug Babington, he had "written numerous short stories and radio scripts, some of which he sent to NBC". However, while still a student at Columbia, on February 5, 1943, he received his Order to Report for Induction. He was only 18 years old. He went through basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, and then, after passing a rigorous exam, was sent as an ASTP student to the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. (ASTP stood for the Army Specialized Training Program, "which selected the best and brightest draftees for technical and professional education in civilian colleges".) With the impending invasion of France, the ASTP program was curtailed and MacDonald was sent overseas with the 94th Infantry Division, where he served in the 376th Infantry Regiment, Company K, 1st Platoon.

MacDonald's unit landed at Utah Beach on September 8, 1944. Tragically, PFC MacDonald was later killed while on a foot patrol near Bouvron, France. Bill Montgomery, first cousin of K Company's Jack Marsden, writes that K Company "was involved in a combat patrol on a drizzly cold morning on November 11, 1944 when the first platoon was sent into Bouvron to assess the German strength. The object was to engage the enemy, then withdraw, hoping that the Germans would follow. The third platoon was guarding the flank hoping to catch the Germans in a crossfire. After an intense firefight the patrol withdrew with a single casualty - PFC John Mac Donald was killed." At the time of his death, MacDonald was 19 years old. He is buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

On Human Rights Day, December 10, 2015, *The Kemper Human Rights Education Foundation* will award a \$1,000 prize to the winner of this year's essay contest and an honorarium of \$100 to the teacher or person who encourages the student to enter. Further information regarding the essay topic and the contest rules can be obtained at the Foundation's website: khref.org



Veterans History Project

Their meetings this summer were a look back in time for both MHS freshman Jackson Bayer and World War II veteran John A. Esposito. As this year's KMPPF intern, Jackson participated in the Veterans History Project, sponsored by the Library of Congress, by videotaping his interviews with the centenarian whose experiences had taken place more than 70 years earlier. Time seemed not to have dulled the memories that were shared with Jackson on those days and in his thank you note Jackson wrote: *"I am writing to thank you for volunteering to participate in the Veterans History Project interview. Without your cooperation this project wouldn't have been possible and definitely wouldn't have been as interesting. I really enjoyed working with you and hearing some of the great stories from not only wartime, but the rest of your interesting life. Your participation in the interview allows for your legacy to be preserved for generations to come. Your stories and testimony have changed the way I think about the lethal combat of World War II. This has been a great and memorable experience for me and I hope it was for you too."*



Camp Lee, Virginia 1941



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

80 North Chatsworth Avenue
Larchmont, NY 10538

kempermemorialpark.org

VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES - NOV. 2015



We are grateful to the cadets of the Washington Greys Military Academy for their participation in this year's Memorial Day Ceremony in Kemper Memorial Park.

American Legion Post 90

Wednesday, November 11 – 11 a.m.
Veterans Memorial on Prospect Avenue

American Legion Post 347

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

Mamaroneck High School

There will be a ceremony in recognition of Veterans Day on Tuesday, November 10, at 3:00 p.m. in front of the Vietnam showcase, located on the main concourse of Mamaroneck High School. Immediately following the ceremony, *The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund* will host a Thank-You Reception for its supporters.

Please join us at the Larchmont Village Center on Sunday, November 15 at 3:30 p.m. for The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund's next presentation, hosted by The Larchmont Historical Society.