

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



It wasn't so long ago that Jim Fleming's drawing was created to emphasize that the passage of time should never diminish our commitment to preserve Kemper Memorial Park and to honor the memories of those to whom it is dedicated. "We will never forget" is easy to say, but harder to do.

On May 29, 1947, in a letter to Mr. Adolph Kemper, Hoyt D. Smith, Principal of Mamaroneck Junior High School, thanked Mr. Kemper for ***"having converted an unsightly area into a beautiful park which will be hallowed ground for all time."*** Nevertheless, only a few decades later, after years of neglect, the Park had become so obscure that the Board of Education seriously considered using it to provide additional parking. How could something like this have happened? The answer is simple: People had forgotten, which was evident by the Park's appearance. The once meticulously manicured landscaping was weed-ridden and overgrown, pathways were cracked and crumbling, nine granite benches had disappeared and the monument itself had been scarred by vandalism. Neglect had left Kemper Memorial Park vulnerable and neglect is often the first step toward extinction.

Could it ever happen again? We would like to think it couldn't, but the truth is that we don't know. Aside from the original deed stipulating that Kemper Memorial Park ***"shall be held and maintained in perpetuity as a memorial,"*** there are no legal protections to guarantee the Park's future. Although the current Board of Education supports our efforts to restore and preserve the Park, future Boards may feel differently. Ultimately, the fate of Kemper Memorial Park will be determined by the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Community and the Park's appearance will be indicative of how strongly they feel about honoring the promise to **NEVER FORGET.**

## **HELP MAKE KEMPER MEMORIAL PARK EVERYTHING IT DESERVES TO BE**

Very soon we will launch our drive to raise the additional funds to achieve our ultimate goal of full restoration and beautification of Kemper Memorial Park. We estimate that it will cost approximately **\$100,000** to accomplish everything we hope to do. While it would be wonderful to receive the entire amount from one magnanimous donor, we would actually prefer numerous donations in much smaller amounts. So, we will attempt to raise \$100,000 through five thousand donations of **\$20** each. More donations will mean that more people care. That is what we hope to see, and that is ultimately what will best ensure Kemper Memorial Park's longevity. In the near future, you will see our posters on display asking for your support. Additionally, our website will enable you to express your interest in making a donation. We hope you will consider joining us in our effort to help make Kemper Memorial Park everything it deserves to be.

## **THERE IS NO GENERATION GAP**

Many of our projects during this past year involved working with young people. In all of these endeavors, we were continually impressed by their serious and thoughtful comments about Kemper Memorial Park and its importance. One topic for this year's essay contest asked the following question: *Some people have said that a place like Kemper Memorial Park is not as important to your generation as it was to previous generations because it memorializes events that took place long ago. What would you say to them?* MHS senior Alexa Barrett answered that question this way: *The Kemper Memorial doesn't commemorate just any World War II soldiers; it brings special attention to those who went to Mamaroneck High School. The soldiers who fought and died were from our town. They patronized many of the same stores, they walked the same halls, and they lived in a few of the same houses that we do. The Kemper Memorial gives us, as Larchmont/Mamaroneck citizens, a special connection to our town's history. It allows us an opportunity to bridge the gap we may feel between ourselves and the history of our nation simply by spending a few minutes reading the names of the fallen soldiers with whom we share so much. The idea that history is unimportant because it is "over already," or that memorials aren't important because they commemorate supposedly outdated events is ludicrous.*

That same question was posed to students in the Iona College Mass Communications/Public Relations Class with whom we worked during the spring semester. They too believe that Kemper Memorial Park is a very special place and they took the time to visit it themselves. Their strong emotional reaction to our video on the history of the Park and its honorees was sincere. Some of them even offered to do volunteer work for us in the future. In addition to giving us valuable feedback for improving our website and specific ideas for our fundraising efforts, these young ladies reminded us once again that their generation does, in fact, recognize and value the sacrifices that have been made to ensure their freedom

## **Iona College Mass Communications/Public Relations Class**



**Alisa Tarsa, Lauren Hanglow, Dr. Natalie Redcross, Julie Donato, Rachel Blom, Nicolle Barcia**

Earlier this year, on a spring morning, Boy Scouts from Larchmont Troop 4 and their family members arrived at Kemper Memorial Park to assist us with weeding the planters and clearing the Park of winter debris. They also planted red, white and blue flowers in an artful arrangement around the monument. The participants spanned three generations, but they were equally motivated. There was no generation gap.



**Clockwise from left rear corner:**

Mark Schumer,  
Peter Lawless,  
Jim Lawless,  
Burt Corwin  
Elizabeth Derby,  
Marguerite Lawless,  
John Esposito,  
Jan Northrup,  
Jackson Derby  
Deidre Corwin

**Scout Jackson Derby**

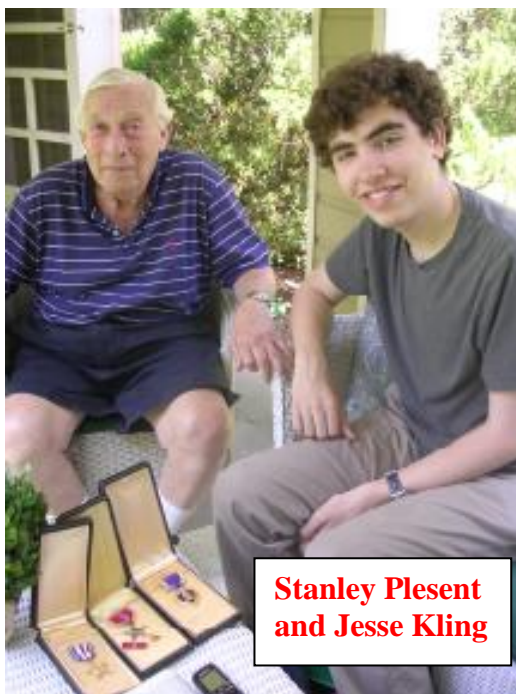


## Linking Past and Future Generations

One young man who has helped to link past and future generations is MHS senior Jesse Kling. Working as this year's intern for the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund, Jesse interviewed four local veterans, John Hanway, Stanley Plesent, Sheldon Evans and Joe Germano, about their World War II experiences. The interviews were taped and submitted to the Library of Congress for its Veterans History Project. Preliminary discussions were followed up with background research on each veteran's experiences. The research helped to refine the questions asked in the formal interviews. After the interviews were taped, they were annotated and submitted to the Library of Congress. Thanks to Jesse's painstaking work, it is now possible for future researchers to go directly to a specific point of interest in each of the two hour interviews.

For Jesse, this project was an enlightening historical experience that covered both the European and Pacific Theatres in World War II. But, perhaps more importantly, this project allowed Jesse to see into the hearts and souls of four young men who served their country and the free world in its time of need.

The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund is grateful to both Jesse and the veterans for their meaningful contributions to the World War II History Project. Their contributions now have a permanent place in our nation's archives and will help to link past and future generations



**Stanley Plesent  
and Jesse Kling**

**If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to visit our website to view the documentary video describing the history of Kemper Memorial Park and its honorees. Simply go to:**

**[kempermorialpark.org](http://kempermorialpark.org)** click on the link: **Tribute to the Fallen 2012**

Presentations by the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund, including the showing of this video documentary, will be held at the following venues:

Monday, **Nov. 11** - American Legion Post 347, **6 P.M.** (Post Hall, Flint Park)

Sunday, **Nov 17** – Larchmont Historical Society, **4 P.M.** (Village Center)





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

**80 North Chatsworth Avenue**  
**Larchmont, NY 10538**

**[kempermorialpark.org](http://kempermorialpark.org)**

## Veterans Day Ceremonies 2013



**Mamaroneck's Memorial Day Parade in May**

WW II veterans: Irene Stone, John Esposito, Sheldon Evans

### **American Legion Post 90**

**Monday, November 11 – 11 a.m.**

Veterans' Memorial on Prospect Avenue  
(Between Mamaroneck Ave & Mt. Pleasant Ave.)  
Village of Mamaroneck

### **American Legion Post 347**

**Monday, November 11 – 6 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 **Thursday, November 7, at 3:10 p.m.** at the Richard M. Kemper Park, Mamaroneck High School, Boston Post Road. Speakers will include: Ms. Elizabeth Clain, Principal of Mamaroneck High School as well as MHS social studies teachers: Peter Greene and Cody Blume.