

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

Thanks to: Larchmont Nurseries

We are especially grateful to **Joanne Grossman**, owner of **Larchmont Nurseries**, for her support of our Beautification Project. Her donation of hundreds of plantings facilitated Robert's project and also enabled us to install a second perennial garden in the area beneath the grove of white pines adjacent to the monument. Many people do not know that the white pine trees were originally donated by Jean Kemper, sister of Lt. Richard Kemper, as a hopeful symbol to the young men and women who would continue to grow and thrive thanks to the sacrifices of her brother and his fellow veterans. Incorporating new plantings into this area is meaningful to us because we see it as a reaffirmation of Jean Kemper's original wish.

Eagle Project Completed



When Robert Britto explained his Eagle Scout Project to the audience on May 30, his pride was evident and the praise he received throughout the day was well deserved. Almost one year earlier Robert conceived his project and during the months that followed he diligently executed his plan. The mahogany flag holders he constructed were used for the first time that day and participants also got their first look at the spectacular perennial garden that he and his fellow Scouts finished installing the week before. As promised, Robert completed his ambitious project in time for this year's Memorial Day Ceremony.

The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund will always be grateful to Robert for his interest in our cause and we are thoroughly pleased with the outcome of his project. In our letter supporting Robert's Eagle Scout candidacy, we wrote:

"It is our Board's unanimous opinion that Robert Britto's Eagle Project exemplifies the work ethic and the character that Scouting strives to instill. We also believe that it will remind others that the sacrifices made by our veterans should never be forgotten. We applaud Robert's efforts and thank the Boy Scouts of America for its part in nurturing this fine young man."

Reminder

"Two Shoes No Shoes"

Benefit Performance

Hosted by

VFW Post 1156

Saturday, November 12 at 7 p.m.

1288 Boston Post Rd.

Larchmont, NY 10538

Free admission & refreshments

100 % of all donations

will go to the

Kemper Memorial Park

Beautification Project

Creativity Abounds in Kemper Memorial Contest Entries

We hoped that including more departments and offering students several options in this year's contest would increase participation and stimulate creativity. The results were so impressive that Social Studies teacher Peter Greene and his team of judges had a difficult time selecting four winners from more than fifty entries.

Students were asked to respond to the question:

Why are war memorials important today?

The question was prompted by former Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement: **"Take the time to remember the good souls whose memories are a blessing to you and your family. Take your children to our memorial parks and monuments."**

Students were encouraged to respond in a variety of formats: essays, poems, short films, visual art projects and dance or musical compositions. On Thursday, May 26, four MHS students presented their works and received their \$250 prizes



Tricia

Helene

Peter Greene

Alia

Emily

Two of the winners, Tricia Ballard and Helene Graham, displayed their artwork. In both cases the artists focused on the transition of students to soldiers and they seemed to be intrigued by the notion that people not much older than themselves were suddenly called upon to make great sacrifices.

Helene illustrated this point by dividing her drawing between a group of carefree students lounging against the Kemper Memorial and a group of soldiers firing their weapons behind a sandbag wall. Although her piece contrasted past and present generations, it also conveyed the haunting message that what happened before could happen again in the future.

Tricia's drawing portrayed silhouettes marching before an unfurled American Flag. A closer look at the figures reveals that they alternate between students carrying backpacks and helmeted soldiers carrying equipment. Tricia explained that she views Mamaroneck High School itself as a memorial to the veterans who once walked its halls as students



Alia Shenasa's feelings about memorials were expressed in her poem titled: **Tempo**. The poem is a series of references to letters to and from the speaker's lost lover. The letters themselves, bound together with a rubber band, have become her private memorial, offering her some consolation for the loss she must endure.



Emily Morris's entry was inspired by a visit to The Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery. She wrote and performed an original song, titled: **I Surrender**. Although the song's title may at first appear puzzling, Emily's message soon becomes clear. She speaks from the perspective of the unknown soldier who has surrendered everything for his country – his life as well as his identity. It is a moving piece, and was made even more so by the emotion in Emily's voice as she sang it.

Obviously, creativity abounds within our student population and we look forward to seeing more evidence of it in next year's contest entries.

A video of the entire ceremony is available on our website. Go to kempermemorialpark.org to read Ali's poem, to hear Emily's song and to view additional artwork.

Honorable mentions included an essay by **Angel Athill**, a three-part oil painting depicting the different stages in the life of a soldier by **Emily Shen**, and portraits of the 101 names on the Kemper Monument by **Kevin Sejdiu**.

Reminder - The Kemper Human Rights Education Foundation is offering a **\$1000 prize** to the high school student judged to have written the best essay in response to the following question:

What do you think is the most important human rights issue the next President of the United States will face and what do you think s/he should do about it?

Submission deadline - November 23, 2016 Award presentation - **December 10, 2016** (*Human Rights Day*)
For contest rules and further information, go to: khref.or



80 North Chatsworth Avenue
Larchmont, NY 10538

kempermorialpark.org

2016 Veterans Day Ceremonies

Memorial Day Parade – May 2016



Tony Marsella and John Esposito in Bill Frazier's Jeep

American Legion Post 90
Friday, November 11 – 11 a.m.
Veterans Memorial
Prospect Avenue

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

Mamaroneck High School
Ceremony in recognition of
Veterans Day on
Thursday, November 10, at 3:00 p.m.
at the Vietnam showcase -
main concourse of
Mamaroneck High School.