

"The Kemper Memorial: Honoring Our 101"

On Sunday, November 13, 2016, the Larchmont Historical Society presented what has become an annual November program for our Society. Representatives from the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund, Mark Schumer, John Esposito and Jan Northrup (a past LHS President), spoke to a large audience about the history of the park, how it's used currently and future plans for the memorial. They also shared a new video about the park and told the story of one of the heroes listed on the memorial, Second Lieutenant Hamilton Francis Morris, a young Larchmonter who died as a result of an airplane accident in 1943.

Speaker John Esposito talked about this year's Kemper Memorial annual contest. Students were encouraged to enter in a variety of formats: essays, poems, short films, visual art projects and dance or musical compositions. One of the winners, Emily Morris, performed her original song entitled "I Surrender," a moving piece written from the perspective of the unknown soldier who surrendered his life as well as his identity for his country. Emily, a student at Mamaroneck High School, is related to Second Lieutenant Morris.

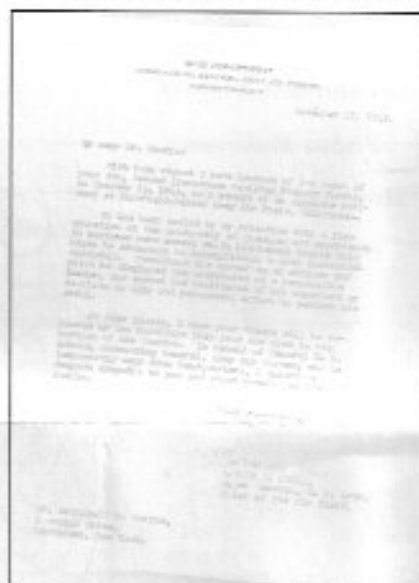
— Dee van Eyck, LHS Board Member



Portrait of Hamilton Francis Morris



Morris family memorabilia on display



Letter sent to the Morris family from the War Department



L to R: John Esposito, Emily Morris, Jan Northrup and Mark Schumer



The restored Kemper Memorial Park as it can be seen today