

NEWSLETTER MAY 2013



Almost a decade ago, the fate of Kemper Memorial Park was uncertain and the positions taken by opposing sides seemed irreconcilable. The School Board's proposal to create a new athletic field required the relocation of Kemper Memorial Park. Plans for the new field and the new park were truly impressive - clearly indicating that, despite the controversy, there was still common agreement on one thing: Regardless of its location, Kemper Memorial Park should be a dignified and well-maintained setting to reflect our community's commitment to honor its veterans.

The welcomed compromise that produced the new field our athletes currently enjoy and allowed Kemper Memorial Park to remain in its original location was largely due to community involvement. Private donations provided the funds for things like artificial turf, lights and drainage. Further improvements are planned, and the end result will be a field as impressive as the one shown in the Board's original proposal. Likewise, the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund has endeavored, through private donations, to enhance the appearance of Kemper Memorial Park. Thus far, these donations have enabled us to erect a flag pole, install stone planters, repair damage to the monument, correct names that had formerly been misspelled and engrave the names of two additional honorees. Many more improvements are planned, and it is our hope that Kemper Memorial Park too will someday look as impressive as the Board once envisioned.

Recently, our landscape architect, Catherine Wachs, unveiled her plans for the Park's new pathways and perennial gardens. Ironically, her design was similar to the Board's original plan, even though Catherine had never studied those plans. In both cases the pathways emphasize the monument as the Park's focal point, and in both cases the Park is portrayed as a place for somber reflection as well as an inviting space for campus and community activities.

Our desire to make Kemper Memorial Park **EVERYTHING IT DESERVES TO BE** is stronger than ever and we value the School Board's partnership to achieve this goal.

Prize-winning poster for last year's Kemper Memorial Essay Contest painted by MHS sophomore Jaileen Reyes



Thirteenth Annual Richard Kemper Memorial Essay Contest

Kemper Human Rights Education Foundation has, once again, sponsored two essay contests: one that was open to all high school students in Westchester County and one specifically for MHS students. The winner of each contest will receive a \$300 prize and be invited to read his or her essay at a Memorial Day Ceremony at MHS on Thursday, May 23.

The following topic was offered only to MHS students:

- 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?

The following topic was offered to high school students throughout Westchester County:

- American soldiers who died in World War II were not just defending our country, they were defending certain values that are today embodied in many human rights documents and it is their defense of those values that most distinguished them from the Germans and Japanese they were fighting against. Therefore, on Memorial Day when we remember them, we should remind ourselves of the universal principles that, along with our country, they were defending. In your view, what were the most important of those principles?

The deadline for all entries was May 7, at which time the judges began the difficult task of selecting this year's winners. Please join us at the upcoming ceremony to be held in the MHS tiered- classroom on **Thursday, May 23 at 3:00 p.m.** Also at this time, a \$100 prize will be awarded to the MHS student who created the best poster to advertise this year's contest (see last year's winning poster above).

Mark your calendars and look forward to hearing the essays, seeing the poster, congratulating the winners and realizing once more that the sacrifices made by our veterans have not been forgotten.



**Daisy Troop
1793**

Dakota Webber, Erin Jaeger, Samantha Moore



Audrey Adorno

Chloe Burt

Spring cleanup for Kemper Memorial Park began on Friday, April 19, when a contingent of girl scouts from Troop 2525 arrived with gloves, garden tools and enough Girl Scout Cookies to provide some extra energy for the work they came to do. Once the girls had received their instructions, weeds were pulled, winter debris was removed and soil was turned in the planting areas around the monument and the flagpole in preparation for the flowers that would be planted on Sunday, April 21, by the group of 1st graders from Daisy Troop 1793, who had also volunteered to help make Kemper Park shine for Earth Day. We are grateful to all of the girls who participated in this project and they can proudly say: **Mission Accomplished!**



Ava Menachery, Mackenzie Coyne, Michaela Gualano, Corin Snyder

**Girl Scout
Troop
2525**

Jadalyn Ortiz, Darcy Tyler, Ruby Odierna

MHS DISPLAY ON BLACK SUNDAY, PLOESTI, ROMANIA

In 1943, the hub of the Axis oil supply was located in Ploesti, Romania. On Sunday, August 1, of that year 178 B-24 Bombers left Benghazi, Libya, to attack the Nazi refineries there. Our new display at Mamaroneck High School tells the story of this risky mission through photos and two framed prints of the raid that are on loan from Bill Fraser. Almost two thirds of the planes were lost or severely damaged. One of those that continued to fly was "The Duchess". Proudly, Dom Rigano, MHS Class of 1937, served in the 93rd Bombardment Group (Heavy) as a mechanic and was on the ground crew of "The Duchess" after this mission. Dom still lives in the Village of Mamaroneck and celebrates his 95th birthday on May 20. We honor and thank him for his service.



Dom Rigano graduated from Mamaroneck High School in 1937. Although Richard Kemper was the only one in the class of 1937 who was killed in World War II, 4 members of the class had siblings who lost their lives and one member of the School Board lost her son.



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

80 North Chatsworth Avenue **kempermemorialpark.org**
Larchmont, NY 10538

Memorial Day Ceremonies 2013



WW II Veteran, Tech. Sgt. John A. Esposito
Lance Corporal John Ramos, USMC
Driver: Bill Fraser

Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

Thursday, May 23 – 3:00 p.m.

Multi-tiered classroom at MHS
Followed by short ceremony outside
In Kemper Memorial Park

Village of Larchmont Parade

Thursday, May 23 – 7:00 p.m.

Line up at 6:45 p.m. in elevated parking plaza (Lot #3,
Larchmont train station).

Tompkins Park Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 27 – 9:00 a.m.

hosted by VFW David Potts, Jr. Post 1156

Myrtle Park Ceremony (Post 347)

Monday, May 27 – 11:00 a.m.

American Legion Post 90

Thursday, May 30 – 1:00 p.m.

Kemper Memorial Park
(In case of inclement weather-
move to MHS Auditorium)

Thursday, May 30 – 7:00 p.m.

Annual Mamaroneck Post 90 Parade –
Line up at Mamaroneck Avenue School at 6:30 p.m.
March from Mamaroneck Ave. School
to American Legion Bldg. in Village