



## KENSICO CEMETERY HISTORICAL TOUR

*When you have finished, feel free to return to the Administration Building for additional maps, some water, or use of the restrooms.*

*Please be careful when walking on roadways and stay alert for oncoming cars. Watch your step when walking on the grounds as the lawn can sometimes be uneven. Be sensitive to the fact that you are visiting a burial site by maintaining decorum while on the Kensico Cemetery property. And one final reminder-----please operate your cell phone only in hands-free mode.*

*So let's begin. Press the number you'd like, followed by the pound sign (#). Enjoy the tour!*

## Transcript Kensico Cemetery CELL PHONE TOUR (914) 513-3899

***Welcome** to Kensico Cemetery's historical, architectural, and horticultural tour. We are pleased to offer this free cell phone tour to guide you to 60 points of interest on the Kensico grounds, including the gravesites of celebrities, buildings with architectural interest, and special landscape features. You can combine driving and walking in order to comfortably visit all the sites on the tour. Or visit only those sites that interest you, using the souvenir map as well as this audio to guide you. Although a few of the locations are not visible from the road, all 60 are marked by round green metal tour number sign.*

*Press the number you want to listen to, followed by the pound (#) sign, and your tour will begin. Continue the same function for each number. While listening, if you'd like to advance to another number, just press the new number, followed by the pound (#) sign. If at any time you'd like to pause, just hit the star (\*) key. To resume, press the star (\*) key again.*

### 1. Administration Building

Kensico Cemetery was founded in 1889 as a rural cemetery. Its proximity to the New York Central Railroad provided easy access for funeral parties coming from Manhattan. The administration building served as a private railroad station for the exclusive use of lot owners. Kensico remained a regular stop on the railroad until the early 1980's when the line was electrified north of White Plains. The Queen Anne style building features the original arched windows, reception area, and ticket office and still today remains a symbol of welcome to arrivals.

### 2. Veterans Memorial

Located to the right of the Administration Building, this monument is dedicated to all our war veterans. The bronze plaque mounted on a simple stone honors all branches of our armed forces and is in appreciation of the sacrifices of these devoted men and women.

### 3. Sharon Gardens

*From Kensico's parking area, turn right and proceed southwest on Lakeview Avenue to Sharon Drive---the first entrance to Sharon Gardens. This 76-acre division of Kensico opened in 1953 as a special section devoted to Jewish families, temples and synagogues. We will be directing you to the gravesites of Beverly Sills, Max Stern, Paddy Chayefsky, and Robert Merrill.*

### 4. Beverly Sills 1929 – 2007

*Continue on Sharon Drive for .6 miles. Just beyond the sign for Memory Gardens, look for a peach-colored Greenough/Sills" monument approximately 100 feet in from the road.*



Beginning her career at age four, Beverly Sills performed professionally on the Saturday morning radio program, "Rainbow House", as "Bubbles" Silverman. Later as an accomplished coloratura soprano, she was best known for her title roles in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *La fille du régiment*. Her other famous roles were that of Rosin in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata*. She enjoyed accolades during her opera career, which lasted from the 1950s through the 1970s. In 1971, at the peak of her high-profile career she appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine as "America's Queen of Opera". This was an appropriate title for Sills since she had purposely limited her overseas engagements to attend to the needs of both her children who suffered from birth defects. After retiring from singing in 1980, she accepted the position of general manager of the New York City Opera and in 1994 she became the Chairman of Lincoln Center. In 2005 she left that post and devoted her time to charity work for the prevention and treatment of birth defects.

#### **5. Max Stern 1898 – 1982**

*Continue to the end of Sharon Drive West, turn around in the circle, and drive back .3 miles. Look on the left for the Jewish Center plot. The Max Stern monument is in the first row.*

Max Stern emigrated from his native Germany to the United States in 1926 with five thousand singing canaries. He arrived in New York City, not knowing a single soul or word of English, but he was able to immediately sell the singing canaries to the John Wanamaker Department Store in Manhattan. Max returned to his native Germany again and again, each time bringing back more singing canaries to sell to a growing customer base that included R.H. Macy, Sears Roebuck, and F.W. Woolworth. By 1932, He was the largest livestock importer in America. It was time for him to expand. He started manufacturing packaged bird foods and sold the bird food to the same customers that bought canaries from him. The line of Hartz Mountain pet products was officially born! The company remains a family owned enterprise. As Stern would frequently say, "Only in America!"

#### **6. Paddy Chayefsky 1923 - 1981**

*Continue on Sharon Drive for .2 miles. On the left, facing the road in the second row is the Chayefsky monument.*

Sidney Aaron Chayefsky, born in the Bronx, was dubbed "Paddy" while a soldier during WW II. As the story goes, when he was awakened at dawn for kitchen duty, Chayefsky asked to be excused so he could go to Mass. "Yesterday you said you were Jewish," complained the duty officer. "Yes, but my mother is Irish," answered Chayefsky. "Okay, Paddy," the officer replied sarcastically and the nickname stuck. Awarded the Purple Heart for his wounds, he began writing during his convalescence and in time became a playwright, a screenwriter, and a novelist. He is best known as a proponent of the "slice of life" school of writing and his early plays were produced during the golden age of live television drama on shows such as the Philco Television Playhouse and The Gulf Playhouse. His most celebrated screenplays were for the movies *Marty* in 1955, *The Hospital* in 1972, *Network* in 1977, and his last screenplay *Altered States* in 1980. He received Academy Awards for *Marty* and *Network* and a Golden Globe Award for *The Hospital* as well as a Tony for his play, *The Tenth Man*. Recognize this line? 'I'M AS MAD AS HELL, AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS ANYMORE!' Yes, it's a quote from the movie *Network* by Chayefsky's famous character Howard Beale.

#### **7. Robert Merrill 1917 – 2004**

*Continue .1 miles and stop at the top of the path in Section K. The monument is not visible from the road. Walk down the path approximately 130 paces. The monument faces Commerce Street and is near a stone bench.*

Although a highly regarded opera star, Merrill (born Moishe Milstein) joked that he became more famous as the singer of the National Anthem at Yankee Stadium on opening days. Starting out as a singer for weddings at Catskill resorts, he made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1945. His career at the Met continued for thirty- one consecutive seasons. Merrill was described by *Time* magazine as "one of the Met's best baritones." Reviews were not always so glowing but his recordings were greeted with enthusiasm by opera fans worldwide. Merrill had a warm sense of humor and a generous nature. He always donated his time to the telethon hosted by Dennis James for the benefit of United Cerebral Palsy. His headstone shows an opera curtain drawn open and his epitaph reads: "Like a bursting celestial star, he showered his family and the world with love, joy, and beauty. Encore please."



## **8. Evangeline Booth 1865 – 1950 the US founder of the Salvation Army**

*Leaving Sharon Gardens, turn left onto Lakeview. Make a right onto Commerce Street and stop along the rows of headstones.*

Here, among the uniform rows of grey headstones commemorating the soldiers of the Salvation Army, you will see a flat granite memorial surrounded by hedging marking the resting place of Evangeline Booth. Born in London into the founding family of the Salvation Army, Evangeline assumed a post with the Army at the age of seventeen. She worked in the poorer neighborhoods and soon became known as the "White Angel of the Slums". She continued her work in Canada from 1895 to 1904 when she left to work in New York City. As she advanced in the leadership of the Army, she worked to better the lives of the needy by establishing hospitals for unwed mothers, emergency shelters, soup kitchens, and homes for the aged.

During World War I, she organized a network of canteens where war weary soldiers could find respite. Soldiers could gather at one of these locations to eat a hot meal, have their clothing mended, or find a little touch of home. These canteens were so successful in boosting troop morale that Booth was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 1919. Under her leadership, the Salvation Army grew into one of the largest and most respected service organizations in the world. In 1934, Evangeline Booth was appointed to the Salvation Army's highest post: general of the International Salvation Army. Completely devoted to her work, a male friend once advised her to give marriage some serious thought, Booth responded, "I have considered it. That's why I'm single."

## **9. Salvation Army**

*To your left, you will see an open area with a tall monument surrounded by trees. This is a continuation of the Salvation Army plot.*

## **10. Louis Palma di Cesnola 1832 – 1904**

*Turn right into the main entrance to Kensico Cemetery. Stop at the speed limit sign. About 50 feet up on the hill, you will see a tall column with a cross on top. This is the gravesite of Louis Palma di Cesnola.*

An Italian nobleman from the Piedmont region of Italy, Cesnola was an archeologist and a soldier who fought in the Austrian and Crimean Wars. He immigrated to the United States in 1860 where he taught French and Italian and established a military school for officers. He fought in the Union Army during the Civil War and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his valiant service. In 1865, President Lincoln appointed Cesnola U.S. consul to Cyprus. While there, he undertook prolonged archeological digs and accumulated an extensive collection of antiquities. His collection eventually became the most valuable private collection of archaeological objects from Cyprus in existence at that time. In 1874, the newly established Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City purchased Cesnola's collection. It was the museum's first collection of archeological materials and is still one of the museum's most popular exhibitions on display. Cesnola became the first Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1879 and served in that position until his death in 1904.

## **11. Pinkney - Architectural interest**

*Continue on Tecumseh for .1 miles. On your left, just before the intersection with Mohegan Avenue, you will see on the hill a pink pyramid. This is the Pinkney mausoleum.....the first of several monuments we will be pointing out to you for their architectural interest.*

The only pyramid on the property, this distinctive shape easily identifies an Egyptian influence and reflects the fascination that people had at the turn of the last century with other cultures.

## **12. Danny Kaye 1913 – 1987 and Sylvia Fine Kaye**

*Continue on Tecumseh Avenue, just past the intersection with Mohegan Avenue. On your left underneath a small tree is a stone bench with a bronze plaque. This is the gravesite of Danny Kaye and his wife Sylvia Fine.*

David Daniel Kaminsky was born in Brooklyn in 1913 and took the stage name Danny Kaye while performing in the Catskills region of New York. When his vaudeville act traveled to the Orient, he invented gestures, songs, pantomimes, and facial expressions to communicate with the non-English speaking audiences, and this style of performance made him famous. His fame was secured early on by his show-stopping song "Tchaikovsky" in which he sang the names of a string of Russian composers at breakneck speed without taking a breath. While working in the theatre, he met his future wife, Sylvia Fine, who collaborated with him on many of the witty tongue twisters for which he was noted. He went on to star in the movies including *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* in 1947, *Hans Christian*



Anderson in 1952, and *White Christmas* in 1954. In the sixties he migrated to TV, hosting his own Danny Kaye Show from 1963 to 1967 and later did stints on The Muppet Show and the Cosby Show. In his long and productive career, Kaye proved to be an accomplished dancer, singer, actor and comedian. He also worked tirelessly for UNICEF, was one of the original owners of the Seattle Mariners baseball team, and held a commercial pilot's license. Symbols of these achievements adorn the bench that marks his grave with depictions of a baseball and bat, an aircraft, a piano, a flowerpot, musical notes, and a glove. He once said, "Life is a great big canvas and you should throw all the paint you can on it."

### **13. William Van Duzer Lawrence 1842 – 1927**

#### **Lawrence – Architectural interest**

*Continue on Tecumseh, cross the intersection with Mohegan Avenue and stop. To your left up on the hill you will see a low stone wall with a central arch, said to be a replica of King Arthur's seat in England. This is the gravesite of William Van Duzer Lawrence.*

Having achieved a very successful career as a manufacturer of patent medicines, Lawrence decided to pursue real estate investment. In 1890 he purchased 86 acres of farmland close to New York City and the railroad and hired architect William Augustus Bates to design a planned community of houses and apartment buildings in Bronxville, taking advantage of the natural setting and preserving existing trees. Many of the original buildings are still standing today. Lawrence also used his fortune for philanthropy. After his wife, Sarah, died, he donated his estate and land to establish a women's college in her name, Sarah Lawrence College. He also founded Lawrence Hospital and developed the Lawrence Park District of residences now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

### **14. Ayer - Architectural interest**

*Look to the right of the Lawrence site.*

You will see a lofty monument in the name of **Ayer** topped by a draped woman pointing skyward. The figure is a burial symbol used in Victorian times to signify a belief in the afterlife and a reward for the righteous.

### **15. Weatherbee – Architectural interest**

*Look just beyond the Ayer monument.*

You will see the Weatherbee mausoleum. The sculpted columns are a perfect example of Romanesque influence with its classical stonework and simplicity.

### **16. Schley - Architectural interest**

*Look to the right of Weatherbee.*

You will notice a unique monument under the name of **Schley**. The stone design gives a one-of-a-kind look to this grave. It conveys a sense of protection due to its fortress-like exterior and copper door.

### **17. Ayn Rand 1905 – 1982 and Frank O'Connor 1897 – 1979**

*Continue on Tecumseh Avenue for .2 miles and take the first left onto Cherokee Avenue. Stop at the intersection with Ossipee Avenue. On your left under a maple tree is the gravesite of Ayn Rand and her husband Frank O'Connor.*

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Rand escaped the Bolshevik Revolution with her family by fleeing to the Crimea while she was in high school. The conflict ended but her father's pharmacy was confiscated and the family often faced starvation. While in high school, Rand studied American history and decided that America was what a nation of free men should be. Under the pretext of visiting relatives, she obtained a visa to the US and never returned to her native land. She traveled to Hollywood to be a screenwriter. While working as a movie extra, she met and married a young actor, Frank O'Connor, to whom she was married for fifty years until his death. It was during her professional writing career that she changed her given name of Alisa Rosenbaum to Ayn Rand. Her most famous novels were We the Living published in 1936, The Fountainhead in 1943, and Atlas Shrugged in 1957-----all embodying her philosophy of Objectivism. Eventually she ceased writing novels in favor of writing and lecturing on Objectivism, which she characterized as "a philosophy for living on earth". When she died in 1982, Rand was laid out in a coffin next to a six-foot dollar sign, her favorite symbol. Her husband is buried at her side.



### **18. Tommy Dorsey 1905 – 1956**

*Continue on Cherokee Avenue about another 50 feet. On your left, banked by shrubbery, is the gravesite of Tommy Dorsey.*

The son of a bandleader and music teacher, Tommy Dorsey was born in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania not quite two years after his brother, Jimmy. Both sons received musical training from their father, and Tommy learned to play both the trumpet and trombone. With his older brother Jimmy, Tommy formed one of the best-known and most popular bands of the 1930's. The brothers' relationship was a volatile one, and in 1935, at the height of their fame, Tommy split from Jimmy and formed his own band. Frank Sinatra sang with the Tommy Dorsey band and recorded one of the most popular tunes of the time, "I'll Never Smile Again", which remained #1 for twelve weeks in 1940. In all, the Tommy Dorsey Band had seventeen #1 hits. The smooth style of his trombone playing earned Tommy the nickname the "Sentimental Gentleman of Swing". Later in life, the brothers reconciled and appeared together on the Jackie Gleason Show in 1953. Tommy Dorsey died in 1956 and his brother in 1957.

### **19. Colonel Jacob Ruppert, Jr. 1867 – 1939**

*Continue to the end of Cherokee Avenue. On your right on the hill is the Ruppert mausoleum.*

Best remembered as the owner of the famous New York Yankees, Ruppert was the heir to a brewing company. He was elected to congress and served four consecutive terms from 1899 to 1907. However, it was his stint in the National Guard where he rose to the rank of colonel that gave him the lasting nickname, "Colonel Ruppert". No one referred to him as "Congressman Ruppert". His management of the Yankee team resulted in a group of athletes known as "Murderers' Row" which included Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. He built Yankee Stadium in 1923 to house this dominating baseball team. He presided over the team as president from 1914 until his death in 1939. He had public disputes with Ruth over contract negotiations, but they always remained personal friends. He is fondly remembered as a gentleman and a sportsman dedicated to the American game of baseball.

### **20. Paul Bonwit 1862 – 1939**

*Turn left onto Powhatan Avenue and follow the road .1 miles. Turn right into the circular drive. Continue 1/3 of the way into the circle. You will see the Bonwit mausoleum.*

Born in Germany, Bonwit first relocated to Paris at 16 and then immigrated to the United States at 21. He always wanted his own business and so established a store in New York. Partnering with Edmund Teller, he moved the store several times, and in 1930 the famous Bonwit Teller department store settled on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Sixth Street. It soon became a symbol for fashionable, tailored dressers. Poor health and the death of his wife, led Bonwit to sell the store in 1934. The name was retained and his son, Walter Bonwit, stayed on as general manager. The end to Bonwit Teller came in 1979 when Donald Trump purchased the store to make way for Trump Tower.

### **21. David Sarnoff 1891 – 1971 Robert Sarnoff and Anna Moffo**

*In the center of the circle is the Sarnoff mausoleum. Note the modern design of the stained glass window.*

An amazing visionary and entrepreneur, David Sarnoff is a classic example of a rags-to-riches life. Born in a small Russian village in 1891 and rising from newsboy to leading RCA and founding NBC, Sarnoff had an acute awareness of the value of the communication industry. At seventeen he joined the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America where he gathered his knowledge of electronic communications. He recognized the potential of radio communication to a mass audience. Proof of this potential was the broadcast of the heavyweight-boxing match between Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier in July 1921. Almost 300,000 people listened to that fight, and at once there was an intense demand for home radio. Sarnoff wanted to create the same demand for the newest form of communication: television. He achieved that goal by launching the first television show to air at the opening ceremonies of the World's Fair in 1939. Television in America was born under the name of the National Broadcast Corporation. During World War II, Sarnoff founded Radio Free Europe, an accomplishment that gained him the Brigadier General's star in 1945. From then on, he was known as General Sarnoff. In front of the David Sarnoff mausoleum are the gravesites of his eldest son Robert who succeeded his father as Chairman of RCA and Robert's wife, the opera star Anna Moffo----an American soprano who became a favorite at the Metropolitan Opera, appearing over 200 times, including a legendary portrayal of Liu in Puccini's "Turandot".



## **22. Webber – Architectural interest**

*Exit the circular drive, continue on Powhatan, and notice on your right the Webber mausoleum.*

This is an example of Grecian influence in mausoleum design. The unmistakable Ionic columns frame the rectangular shape of this simple and elegant structure.

## **23. Florenz Ziegfeld 1867 – 1932 and Billie Burke 1884 – 1970**

*Make your first right onto Highland Drive, go past Garden of Serenity and Eastern Gardens. At the top of the hill, bear right around the circle and stop at the large beech tree, about ¼ into the circle. About 100' in from the road are the gravesites of Florenz Ziegfeld and Billie Burke.*

Look for a tall bronze statue of a woman under a large willow tree. This statue is dedicated to Blanche Beatty Burke by her daughter, Billie Burke, who, with her husband Florenz Ziegfeld, is buried directly in front of the statue. Born in Chicago to a nightclub owner, Florenz Ziegfeld was exposed to show business early on. He instinctively understood what audiences wanted. His *Follies* were extravagant, lavishly costumed productions to the music of Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Jerome Kern. These magnificent stage musicals featured what were deemed to be the most beautiful women in the world alongside popular actors and personalities of the time such as Fanny Brice, W.C. Fields, and Will Rogers. Ziegfeld convinced William Randolph Hearst to finance the construction of the Ziegfeld Theatre that opened in 1927 with the remarkably successful musical *Show Boat* which ran for 572 performances and in later years lived on in film. “*Ol Man River*” is one of the most memorable songs from that musical.

Born Mary William Ethelbert Appleton, “Billie” Burke was a well-known stage actress who married the famous impresario, Florenz Ziegfeld in 1914. She was successful as a stage actress prior to her marriage. She loved the stage best but revived her movie career following the crash of 1929 when her family lost its fortune. Hollywood brought her success again, and we remember her best as Glinda, the Good Witch of the North in the movie *The Wizard of Oz* released in 1938. Afterwards, she was typecast as a scatterbrained matron of the upper classes with a high-pitched voice. In actuality she was witty and clever and known for quips such as: “Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese.”

## **24. Daniel – Architectural interest**

*Continue around the circle, take the first right onto Powhatan Avenue and stop. Notice the tall column on your left with the name Daniel at the top.*

This monument is a tall, graceful example of Greek architecture with Corinthian columns set in a symmetrical circular pattern. Take notice of the decorative carvings embellishing the top of the monument.

## **25. Lounsbery – Architectural interest**

*Continue another 100' on Powhatan Avenue.*

This is a beautifully constructed mausoleum with delicately carved symbols of the Byzantine era topped with a domed cupola. It is dedicated to the Lounsbery family.

## **26. Edward Grant Barrow 1868 – 1953**

*Continue another 100' on Powhatan Avenue. Stop when you see this pink-hued mausoleum on a slight rise.*

Recognized for his savvy management of the Boston Red Sox and later of the New York Yankees, Edward Grant Barrow was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1953. As a youngster he was forced to drop out of high school and assume the role of breadwinner due to his father's poor health. He began his varied baseball career first as a sportswriter for the Des Moines *Blade* and then managing a concession stand at Exposition Field in Pittsburgh. He then co-owned and managed an Eastern League team from Toronto. In the following years, he managed the Red Sox and in 1918 the team won the World Series. Two years later, he was hired as the business manager of the New York Yankees. Here, he truly excelled. The Yankee team he built became the greatest dynasty in baseball and included the legendary players Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, and Joe DiMaggio. The team's talent came from trades, the team's farm system, and outright purchases of players all directed by Barrow who had a keen eye for baseball talent. The results were an unbeatable Yankee team that won 14 pennants and 10 World Series between the years 1921 and 1945.



Barrow astutely converted Babe Ruth from a pitcher to an outfielder and is credited with making the Yankees the first team with numbers on the backs of players' uniforms.

## **27. Bell – Architectural interest**

*Continue less than .1 miles. On your right is a wonderful example of the architectural influence of ancient Rome. The gravesite in the name of Bell is on a rise with dignified steps leading to the decorative door. The rounded shape of the mausoleum and the pediment above the entrance are clearly derived from Roman architecture. This is the largest mausoleum in Kensico in terms of square footage.*

## **28. Frank Vance Storrs d.1939 and Amanda Mayer Storrs 1878 – 1954**

*Take the first left back onto Cherokee. Then take next left onto Ossipee. On the left, about half way down the avenue is a screen of trees surrounding a peaceful reflecting pool and a unique white marble statue of a seated woman. This garden-like plot is one of Kensico's most beautiful.*

Born in Ohio, banker Frank Storrs was just twenty-two when he moved to New York City. He had the brilliant idea of combining advertising with printed theater programs. He actually formed a printing monopoly for all the legitimate theaters in New York. What is now the modern day *Playbill* was launched by him in 1884. He married Amanda Mayer and in 1917, during WWI, he decided to change his name from the Germanic sounding Strauss to Storrs. He perceived this as a way to protect his business enterprises from any wartime prejudice.

## **29. Louis Henry Gehrig 1903 – 1941 Eleanor Gehrig 1904 – 1984**

*Continue on Ossipee Avenue, bear right around the circle and stop at the intersection. On your left about 50' back from the road and under a tree is the Gehrig monument marked by bronze doors.*

This remarkable man and even more remarkable athlete earned the title "Iron Horse" for playing in 2,130 consecutive baseball games as a member of the New York Yankees. This unbelievable record stood for 56 years until 1995 when Cal Ripken, Jr. succeeded in breaking it. Everything about Gehrig was exceptional. The only surviving child of three children born to immigrant German parents, his strong willed mother insisted on a good education, and Gehrig entered Columbia University in pursuit of an engineering degree. Because he was on an athletic scholarship, his fate changed. While playing on the Columbia baseball team he attracted the interest of a Yankee scout by hitting the longest homeruns ever seen in collegiate competition including one 450-foot slam which left the park and finally landed on 116<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. In 1932 he hit four homeruns in a single game---the only major leaguer to do so. In 1934 he won the American League Triple Crown, leading all players in batting average, home runs, and RBIs. He holds the record for the most grand slams in a career, twenty-three, and was voted MVP in 1927 and again in 1936. Gehrig's phenomenal strength and playing agility diminished suddenly in 1938 with the onset of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) now referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease. This cruel and debilitating disease robbed the thirty-six year old Gehrig of the final playing days of his seventeen-year career. In 1939, in front of over 60,000 fans attending Lou Gehrig Appreciation Day at Yankee Stadium, he characterized his condition as a "bad break". He went on to say: "Yet today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth". A more self-effacing or courageous man would be hard to find.

## **30. Amos Sulka 1862 – 1946**

*Back on Ossipee Avenue at the curve in the road, you will see on your left the Sulka mausoleum.*

Amos Sulka began as a humble traveling salesman and retailer from Johnstown, PA. It wasn't until he teamed with Leon Wormser, a custom-shirt maker from France that his life changed. He launched his Sulka & Company store in 1895 with a clientele almost entirely of firefighters and police officers. These men could not find shirts to properly fit their husky frames and so had to have their shirts custom made. Eventually, the store attracted wealthier customers and Sulka opened a store in Paris. Soon royalty referred to him as "the haberdasher". One unique feature of the store in the U.S. was its laundry which would shrink fabric prior to manufacture, ensuring a perfect fit. Sulka & Company became very popular with the "carriage trade" a term that referred to those wealthy enough to travel by private coach. Its historic list of clients included the Duke of Windsor, Winston Churchill, Henry Ford, and Clark Gable. The Sulka brand was noted for extravagantly priced menswear made from superlative fabrics. In 1985 a silk smoking jacket was



priced at \$1,500 but as New York Times fashion expert, Anne-Marie Schiro said, "But then nothing from Sulka ever goes out of style."

### **31. Montross Memorial      Franklin Montross, Jr. 1904 – 1993**

*Make the next right onto Lakeside Drive and follow the curve around a beautiful meadow-like area. You will see a pond bordered by blooming plants and tall grasses.*

This serene spot is marked by a simple stone to the memory of this former Chairman of the Board of Kensico Cemetery. Under Montross' stewardship, Kensico's financial stability was guaranteed in perpetuity. He served the cemetery with dedication and compassion for more than fifty years. During Montross's time of service as a director and officer, Kensico became one of the most respected and admired cemeteries in New York State. If you leave your car, walk toward the pond and read the dedication engraved on a bronze plaque attached to a large stone.

### **32. Native plants**

These plantings surrounding the Pond and on the hillside are native to the eastern United States and are examples of what was there before the land was developed as a cemetery. The selection of trees, plants, and grasses are hardy, require less water to grow, are more resistant to insects and diseases than plants native to other areas of the world, and are more attractive and useful for native insects, birds, and animals. These natives were selected in particular for their fall fruits and foliage and the protection they provide for wildlife.

### **33. Peter DeRose 1900 – 1953 and Singhi Breen DeRose 1895 – 1970**

*Continue on Lakeside Drive .4 miles. Make a right at the top of Lakeside Drive onto Tecumseh Avenue. Continue on Tecumseh and stop at the intersection with Katahdin. On your left on the corner you will see a small stone memorial decorated with musical notes.*

Composer of the ever-famous "Deep Purple" and many other popular songs, DeRose learned to play the piano from his sister and at eighteen published his first song. In 1923, he met Singhi Breen while she was performing on the radio with a group called the "Syncopators". DeRose was a composer and a piano player; Breen was known as the Ukulele Lady. They combined their talents and played as the "Sweethearts of the Air" on an NBC radio show. The show proved very popular, lasting sixteen years, and allowed DeRose to introduce many of his compositions to the radio audience. People still recognize his most popular songs such as "Have You Ever Been Lonely", "Somebody Loves You", "Buona Sera", and the timeless "Deep Purple". The epitaph on his grave etched with musical notes says, "Every friend he ever made, he kept".

### **34. Landon – Architectural interest**

*Continue on Tecumseh .2 miles to the intersection with Uncas Avenue. On your left, on the corner, you will see the Landon mausoleum.*

This exquisitely defined mausoleum has all the elements of Egyptian influence. The first things you will notice are the sphinx-like sculptures leading to the memorial that is adorned with Egyptian style columns and carvings on the door. Take a moment to look at the pediment with its winged sun disk --- an Egyptian symbol used to ward against evil.

### **35. Mineola Lake**

*Turn left onto Uncas Avenue. Mineola Lake is one of two water features on the property.*

When Kensico Cemetery was established in 1889, the founders followed what is known as the rural cemetery concept when developing the property. By following the natural contours of the land, enhancing existing lakes and ponds, adding circular drives and wandering paths, the founders created one of America's first parks---open land where families could leisurely visit, share memories, and pay tribute to loved ones in an attractive, pastoral setting that affirmed life and honored the dead.



### 36. Trees of Kensico

As you continue on to Actors Fund, notice the trees lining both sides of the road.

These great hemlocks, pines, spruce, oaks and maples were part of the first plantings and road design over 100 years ago, and are meant to evoke the feelings of peace and escape from city life. Starting in the 1950s, across the road in Sharon Gardens and throughout the Kensico grounds, smaller flowering trees were added to signal rebirth and the beginning of spring. From 1980 to 2000 more flowering trees were planted throughout the property to add color and human scale to the landscape. Then in 2000, an exhaustive tree inventory was conducted and a formalized tree planting program was created at Kensico. Renewing its commitment to old and new trees, the tree program has five objectives: to rebalance the number of evergreen, shade and flowering trees; to add, when possible, plants native to the northeastern United States; to increase the number of trees with an autumn interest; to add trees that are attractive to desirable wildlife and birds; to add rare and unusual trees from temperate regions of the world such as the Maackia from China, cherry trees from Japan, and the Parrotia from Iran----all in keeping with the rural cemetery concept of creating an aesthetically pleasing environment for the remembrance of loved ones.

### 37. Actor's Fund

*Turn left onto Uncas Avenue and go .2 miles. Make a left onto Seneca Avenue. Go .3 miles and take the first left onto Pocantico Avenue. Go less than .1 mile to a circle. Turn into the circle and stop.*

You cannot miss the beautiful Egyptian obelisk, the tallest on the Kensico grounds, that marks the site of the plot belonging to the Actor's Fund---a human services organization that has provided a safety net for performing arts and entertainment professionals since 1904. Surrounding the obelisk are flush granite markers for each grave. You may recognize some of the names on the individual markers: Vivian Blaine who starred in the Broadway and film version of "Guys and Dolls"; Al Hodge who portrayed Captain Video on TV and the Green Hornet on the radio; Claudia McNeil, the actress who starred in the stage and screen productions of "A Raisin in the Sun"; Ann Pennington, an actress and dancer who performed in six of the Ziegfeld Follies; Jeff Prouty, one of the original Keystone Cops; Roy Shuman, a stage, screen, and TV actor who appeared in the soap opera "As the World Turns", Blanche Yurka, a stage and screen actress remembered for her role in the film "The Song of Bernadette" and as Madame Defarge in the movie "Tale of Two Cities"; British actress Wendy Barrie who starred in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and hosted the first TV talk show "The Wendy Barrie Show" which debuted in 1948.

### 38. Sergei Rachmaninoff 1873 – 1943

*At the back of the circle, banked by a grove of trees, you will see a traditional Eastern Orthodox cross marking the Rachmaninoff burial site.*

Sergei Rachmaninoff was born in Oneg, Russia and dearly loved his native country. His mother started giving him piano lessons when he was just four years old and after years of study he developed into a concert pianist of technical perfection with large hands that could spread over twelve keys. His Prelude in C, composed while still a student, brought him international acclaim and confirmed his place in the Russian school of romanticism. Many considered him to be the true heir to his fellow Russian composer, Tchaikovsky. In 1902, he married Natalia Satina---- a union that lasted until his death. Following the Russian Revolution of 1917, Rachmaninoff and his family took refuge in America. Here he made many recordings with Edison Records and then RCA Victor. His concert tours were very popular with American audiences, and he was highly regarded as a pianist and conductor. While in America, Rachmaninoff tried to recreate in music the atmosphere of Russia, the homeland that was his artistic inspiration. He was quite homesick but wrote the successful Symphonic Dances and his Symphony No. 3 during his sojourn here. He died in California shortly after a concert tour. His grave is in a traditional Eastern Orthodox style marked with the church's recognizable cross.

### 39. Thomas Frank Manville, Jr. 1894 – 1967

*Continue around the circle and rejoin Pocantico Avenue. Just beyond the point where Pocantico intersects with Narragansett Avenue, you will see the large columned Manville mausoleum.*

A playboy and socialite, Tommy Manville, is in the Guinness Book of World Records for his thirteen marriages to eleven women (he remarried twice). He could afford all these marriages and divorces as the heir to the Johns-Manville asbestos fortune. Manville loved publicity but also loved the serenity, security, and isolation of his estate in New



Rochelle. It has been estimated that his divorce settlements cost him more than \$1.25 million. Ending his marriages cause widespread publicity and gossip to which Manville remarked, "She cried, and the judge wiped her tears with my checkbook".

#### **40. Henri Bendel 1868 – 1936**

*Continue on Pocantico Avenue less than .1 mile. On your right you will see a large bronze statue of a mourning woman dropping roses onto a granite pedestal.*

Henri Bendel's mother was an extremely successful businesswoman who operated a furniture store, a dry goods store, and a drugstore as well as a funeral parlor. One could say he received his business education early on. Both his mother and stepfather were prominent residents of Lafayette, Louisiana where Bendel spent his early years. Throughout his life he retained a fondness for his hometown of Lafayette. Bendel opened his own clothing store in Louisiana but in 1895 moved it to New York City where his shop became a Mecca for fashionable society women including the Vanderbilts and Astors. By 1910, he was America's preeminent fashion designer of custom-made clothes and a major influence on the fashion design of the day. An unusually generous employer, he firmly believed in rewarding faithful service, and so in 1923 he gave forty-five percent of his company stock to his longtime employees. In real dollars that amounted to \$1,800,000; this was a rare maneuver and certainly uncommon for the time. His wife, Blanche Lehman, died early in their marriage and Bendel never remarried and had no children of his own. He had close family relationships and was a generous provider to his brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews.

#### **41. Peter Arno 1904 – 1968**

*Continue on Pocantico Avenue to the top of the hill, bear right around the circle, and continue on Pocantico at the back half of the circle. On your right, you will see a monument engraved with the signature of Peter Arno.*

Curtis Arnoux Peters, Jr., was born to a wealthy New York City family and later changed his name to Peter Arno. Educated at the private Hotchkiss School and later at Yale University, he was prepared to forego his ambition to be an artist and instead pursue a career in music when he received a check for one of the cartoons he had submitted to a magazine. That was the deciding moment. He went on to be a highly successful cartoonist for the New Yorker Magazine with a career spanning 43 years from 1925 to 1968. He is credited with perfecting the single-speaker captioned cartoon. His cartoons carried a satirical edge and he is actually credited with coining the phrase, "Well, back to the old drawing board."

#### **42. William Wallace Denslow 1856 – 1915**

*Continue on Pocantico Avenue about halfway to the intersection with Seneca Avenue. The small flat Denslow marker is not visible from the road. You will have to leave your vehicle and walk into the middle of the plot. Look on the left for the Theatrical Protective Union monument. And starting two rows to the right of this monument go down that row 215 paces to the Denslow marker. A small fir tree will mark the halfway point.*

Born in Philadelphia, Denslow began submitting his illustrations to magazines when he was just 16 years old. He proved to be a talented designer and pursuer of new fields that could use his artistic abilities. He was chiefly a comic artist, however, he was so talented that his work included illustrations for book covers, catalogues, maps for county atlases, theater posters, and newspaper illustrations. His totem, a tiny seahorse, can be found in each of his drawings. Today he is remembered primarily for his illustrations for the famous children's book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900) by L. Frank Baum. Baum's whimsical characters gave Denslow a great deal of subject matter to toy with. "To make children laugh, you must tell them stories of action," he stated. Denslow married and divorced three times. He was once described "...a delightful old reprobate who looked like a walrus."

#### **43. Judith Evelyn**

*Continue to the end of Pocantico Avenue. Turn right onto Seneca Avenue. Then take a right onto Pocantico Avenue/Uncas Plot, past the Actors Fund and the Rachmaninoff gravesite. Make a left onto Narragansett Avenue. Go .1 miles, stopping at the Gamble monument on your right. Judith Evelyn's pink monument is 7 rows up the hill.*

Judith Evelyn was an actress probably best known for her role as "Miss Lonely-hearts" in the Alfred Hitchcock thriller *Rear Window*. Actually, her career spanned twenty-years in Broadway plays and movies. She played character roles



in the well-known films as *Giant* and *The Egyptian*. Evelyn was born in South Dakota but traveled widely during her acting days. She and her husband, Andrew Allan, survived the sinking of the *Athenia*, the first British passenger liner to be sunk by a German submarine in WW II.

#### **44. Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks – New York Lodge Number One**

*Continue on Narragansett Avenue for less than .1 miles to a set of concrete stairs on your right. You will see engraved on the steps Elks Rest New York Lodge #1.*

This plot, owned by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, is marked by a life-sized sculpture of an elk in an open field---quite a sight in the winter snow.

#### **45. Mecca Temple – Architectural interest**

*From here you can see just ahead the unique Mecca Temple entrance with its distinctive Sphinx-like figures. Proceed on Narragansett Avenue to the intersection with Katahdin Avenue for a closer look.*

Right in front of you is the **Mecca Temple / Mystic Shrine**. Here is a truly unique monument decorated with Egyptian symbols and statuary.

#### **46. Harriet Quimby 1875 – 1912**

*Continue on Katahdin Avenue up the curving road about .2 miles. Stop at the top of the hill by the Cox monument with the large cross on top. Walk approximately 130 paces into the lot towards the tallest trees. Look for a six-foot stone monument with a three-dimensional bronze airplane on the front.*

Harriet Quimby was America's first licensed female pilot. Born into a Michigan farming family, Harriet became the sole breadwinner when the farm failed. She traveled to New York City where she began working for *Leslie's Illustrated Weekly* as a photographer and journalist. She had a "nose for news" and wrote on a variety of subjects from political scandals to household tips. During this exciting career, she became a noted New York City personality and was highly successful as a photojournalist. She was fascinated by aviation, and possessing a fearless nature, she took flying lessons. As soon as she acquired her license in 1911, she went on flying exhibitions in the U.S. and Mexico. She was a striking fashion figure in a purple satin flying suit of her own design. In the spring of 1912, she flew her own plane across the English Channel, the first woman to accomplish this dangerous feat. She always supported her parents and never married or had children of her own. Unfortunately, tragedy struck at an aviation exhibition in Massachusetts the summer of 1912. During one of her many daring publicity stunts, Harriet's plane suddenly and inexplicably pitched forward and she and her passenger fell to their deaths in front of a horrified crowd. Although her life was cut short, this energetic woman left an intimate view of life at the turn of the century through her writing and her photography.

#### **47. National Vaudeville Association**

*Stay on Katahdin to the circle. Turn right into the circle  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way around to continue on Katahdin less than .1 of a mile where you will see the National Vaudeville Association road sign.*

The National Vaudeville Association was founded to aid performers in need and to represent entertainers in their negotiations with managers. By 1923, the organization boasted of 15,000 men and women as members. In Kensico, there are many simple, uniform, bronze markers at the burial sites of entertainers of the past and some of more recent fame. Some of the entertainers here are: Effie Tyus, a jazz singer; Erika Irwin who used the stage name Minerva Courtney as a Charlie Chaplin impersonator; Fred Heider who performed in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1917; Hazel Rice, one of the Munchkins in the film "The Wizard of Oz"; singer Willie Solar---you can hear this earliest rendition of "You Made Me Love You" on Youtube; clarinetist Arthur Lally, whose orchestra Arthur Lally and the Million-Aires was one of the first bands on the new Decca Label; and Edward Gallagher, half of the vaudeville act Gallagher and Shean that often appeared as a featured act in the Ziegfeld Follies on Broadway. The association is no longer in existence but its work is carried on through the Will Rogers' Institute and Fund.



#### **48. Mayer – Architectural interest**

*At the back and to the right of the National Vaudeville lot you can see the extraordinary mausoleum in the name of Mayer.*

Built with free form stonework, it is reminiscent of an ancient grotto. Its unusual shape mimics that of a cave and gives a feeling of refuge and seclusion.

#### **49. Andrus - Architectural interest**

*Continue on Katahdin to the intersection with Iroquois Avenue.*

Here is a magnificent mausoleum with the name **Andrus**. A large edifice fronted by wide stairs and adorned with stately Doric columns it is a wonderful example of Greek influence. Symmetry is accomplished with its carved bowls flanking the stairs, the evenly spaced columns, and the wreaths across the top.

#### **50. Herbert Henry Lehman 1878 – 1963**

*Take a left onto Iroquois Avenue, bear right and stop just beyond the circle. The Lehman lot is banked by a line of shrubs about 75' from the road.*

An American banker and statesman, Herbert Lehman was born in New York City, the eighth child of a prosperous Jewish businessman. After graduation from Williams College in 1899, he made his mark in the business world by building a considerable fortune in the textile industry and later in the banking house of Lehman Brothers. He entered politics as a staunch Democrat managing the gubernatorial campaign of Alfred E. Smith in 1926. Later, following his term as lieutenant governor under Franklin D. Roosevelt, he was elected governor of New York. His tenure as governor lasted ten years and was distinguished by his fervent interest in social reform, public housing, and in regulation of the power industry. His later public career included an important role in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration during and after World War II. In 1949 he defeated John Foster Dulles to fill an unexpired term in the Senate and was elected for the full six-year term in 1950. He was not a dominant leader in the Senate but he did show immense courage in opposing Joseph McCarthy in his attempt to ferret out communists in the United States. His legacy is one of a person committed to social causes.

#### **51. John North Willys 1873 – 1935**

*Continue to the end of Iroquois Avenue at the intersection with Tecumseh Avenue. On your right on the corner is the Willys mausoleum.*

John North Willys began his career in transportation by selling bicycles in upstate New York. After his marriage to Isabel Van Wie, he entered the automobile business in Elmira, New York. Subsequent business acquisitions allowed him to begin manufacturing cars and his Willys-Overland Motors grew to be the second largest carmaker in the United States by 1915. Willys' located his headquarters in Toledo, Ohio, where his company employed almost one-third of the city's workforce. His expansions and purchases of other factories and plans for a six-cylinder engine made his business risky and the depression of the 1930's forced him into bankruptcy. Once his debts were under control the unstoppable Willys began expanding again and he later started making a line of luxury vehicles. In 1930 he was appointed the first US Ambassador to Poland, serving until 1932.

#### **52. Edwards – Architectural interest**

*Turn right onto Tecumseh Avenue and go .1 miles.*

You will come upon another extraordinary mausoleum: that of the silent film director, **J. Gordon Edwards**. It is reminiscent of the Taj Mahal and the minarets framing the plot confirm the influence of the architecture of India.

#### **53. Wang – Architectural interest**

*Across from Edwards at the intersection of Lakeside West is a beautiful ivory monument in the name of Wang.*

The stunning arrangement of curved arches signifies the Gothic influence. The steps, plantings and archway give a sense of serenity to this spot.



#### **54. 9/11 Memorial**

*Continue on Tecumseh to the Kensico Tower entrance.*

Here, a simple, unpretentious memorial has been dedicated to all the Americans who lost their lives on 9/11. Marked by a large stone, there is a plaque engraved with the date 9/11.

#### **55. Kensico Tower – Architectural interest**

The Kensico Tower dominates the entrance with its Gothic shape and design. Built in 1928, the 98-foot tall Tower Gate is more than just a majestic entranceway. The structure serves as a 100,000 gallon water tower for the gardening needs of the grounds.

#### **56. Alfred Holland Smith 1863 – 1924 and Maud Emory Smith LeBron**

*Reverse direction, go back along Tecumseh Avenue and just beyond the intersection with Iroquois Avenue, you will see stairs that you can climb for a closer look at a massive, horizontal monument. You can stop at the bench at the top of the stairs and note the wing and the wheel engravings, symbols of transportation.*

A self-made man, Alfred Holland Smith started working for Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railways at the age of fourteen following his father's death. His entire forty-five year career was dedicated to railroads. He even took a pay cut from \$4.00 a day to \$1.50 a day to work in railroad construction. In 1903, he became the General Manager of what is now the New York Central Railroad and brought it into profitability. He was called upon during WW I to be the Eastern Director of the United States Railroad Administration to streamline the rail systems. He succeeded in eliminating congestion and smoothing the delivery of important cargo to the docks of New York. This energetic man whose associates declared, "did not know the meaning of the word fatigue" was accidentally killed while horseback riding in Central Park. His wife Maud is also interred here.

#### **57. Judge John Fitch**

*Continue to the end of Tecumseh Avenue approximately ½ miles. Make a right onto Commerce Street. About .3 miles on your right is the Druid cross of Cape Ann made of granite marking the gravesite of Judge John Fitch.*

Judge John Fitch was the first person to be buried in Kensico Cemetery. He was interred in 1890 and his monument was unveiled on November 12th of that year. Two hundred members of the Sons of the Revolution, along with other dignitaries, traveled by chartered train from Grand Central Depot in New York City to Kensico for the occasion. A banquet followed at an historic house on the grounds of Kensico.

#### **58. Community Mausoleum and Chapel**

*Continue on Commerce Street to the entrance to the Community Mausoleum.*

This mausoleum was built in 1924 to replace the original community mausoleum that was built in 1894. It houses a small chapel, 292 crypts, 68 niches and two private rooms. Architect Sidney Lovell styled the building after the twelfth-century gothic churches of northern Europe. At the time of its dedication in 1925 the building's design was described as Tudor Gothic. The mausoleum was erected with permanence as well as grandeur in mind with its pink Etouah marble from Georgia for its exterior and its white marble from Alabama for its interior. Cast bronze was used to form the massive entrance doorway and the doorway to the chapel. All the doors, windows and gates in the mausoleum are made of or framed in the same bronze.

#### **59. Billman - Architectural interest**

*Turn around and make a left back onto Commerce Street. Stop at the Kensico path on your right opposite the Friar's Club sign. The pink Billman Mausoleum is at the top of the rise.*

The curved shape and overall design of the **Billman** mausoleum is an example of the movement called Art Deco that reigned in the 1920s through 1930s. This style influenced art, architecture, and industrial design. The doors have a scrolled form based on this fashion that had grace and glamour.



## 60. Friars Club

*Below the Billman mausoleum you can see the stone monument marking the Friars Club lot.*

With a history that goes back more than 100 years, the Friars Club is a membership organization of Broadway performers, agents, and entertainers famous for their love of laughter and their annual celebrity roast. You may recognize some of the names on the flush markers: Joseph Goldwater, the creator of the Archie comic character and co-founder of Archie comics; Burton Turkis, an assistant DA of King's County whose success in dismantling the mob inspired him to write the popular book called Murder, Incorporated; William B. Williams, the famous WNEW radio announcer who is credited with giving Frank Sinatra his title of "Chairman of the Board"; and Soupy Sales, the comedian, musician and former DJ best known for his pie-throwing antics on his long-running TV series populated with off-screen characters Black Tooth and White Fang. He received the Hollywood Walk of Fame star in 2005.

*This concludes the Kensico historic, architectural, and horticultural tour. We hope that you enjoyed your visit with us today.*

3/31/12