



THE KNOTHOLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF:
THE CHRISTOPHER MORLEY KNOTHOLE ASSOCIATION

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July 2008

VISIT THE KNOTHOLE: The Knothole is Ready for Summer 2008

It's summertime once again at Christopher Morley Park. Aside from all other activities happening at the park this summer, The Knothole will be available for viewing. The clear pane of shatterproof lexan "glass" is up on the front door of the Knothole, and the Dymaxion bathroom and other windows. Each Sunday this summer, the special door will be in place to give an unobstructed view of the cabin and bathroom's interior. The inside of the building will get dressed up with displays, books and artifacts to recreate the look of the writer's sanctum *sanctorum*.

A new roof and gutters on the building along with a new wheel chair ramp make it safe and desirable for everyone to view. The Parks Department has repaired the insect damage to the exterior "waney" sidings. The building is now visible from the parking lot as the gardeners have cut away the underbrush. The cutting and pruning left a nice spot for lawn chairs for any special events involving the Knothole.

Additionally, a new sign for the Knothole was set along the foot path, across from Gissing's Dog Run. The sign gives an account of Morley and his career plus the Knothole's history. For example the sign explains who Morley was, why he built a cabin and that the building was moved from Roslyn Estates to the park that bears his name. We understand that before the sign was put up, people used to walk over to the building. (See **Knothole** on page 3)



The Knothole

Christopher Morley Park
Manhasset, New York

A look inside the writer's workshop.

Open Sundays during the summer. Get a glimpse of the workshop and see for yourself the magic of Christopher Morley's writing sanctorum.

2008 - 2009 C.M.K.A. Membership dues

The Christopher Morley Knothole Association conducts unique projects involving local libraries, schools and the Knothole site which is a part of history of the greater Long Island community. These projects are supported by the dues and donations and volunteer work from our members, and we want you to help with the planning. Planning and action are the two cornerstones of any organization. The officers will be contacting members to be on the eleven person Board of Directors or to be part of the various committees.

Please mail your check in the self-addressed envelope enclosed and return your dues.

\$10.00 Student
\$20.00 Individual
\$30.00 Family-Certificate
\$200.00 Life Membership
\$ _____ Donation

Checks Payable to:
C.M.K.A.
c/o The Bryant library
Paper Mill Road
Roslyn, NY 11576

See Dues Form on Back Page

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THE KNOTHOLE

An official publication of:

The Christopher Morley Knothole Association

c/o The Bryant Library
Paper Mill Road
Roslyn, NY 11576

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Peter Cohn

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Poems from the Rocking Horse collection by Christopher Morley. Published by George H. Doran Company, NY – 1919
In the acknowledgement, Morley thanks the following for permission to reprint these verses: *Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger*, *New York Sun*, *New York Evening Sun*, *House and Garden*, *The Bookman*, *Life*, *The Smart Set*, *The Century*, and *The Ladies' Home Journal*.

REQUIM, ON DISCARDING AN OLD SUIT

FAREWELL, a long farewell, to my old breeches!

Farewell, sweet shabby coat and soup-stained vest!
Farewell, dear trousers, patched with careful stitches!
The good old suit, my wife says, has "gone West."

These trousers which (my dear) you say disgraced me—
Which "furnace men would be too proud to wear"—
For twelve long months they lovingly embraced me.
When shall I see again so fine a pair?

They were of the colour of tobacco ashes
(A pipe could never harm such pantaloons),
And they were camouflaged with stain and splashes,
Fond souvenir of feats with forks and spoons.

I knew by heart which pockets could be trusted,
And which let small change vanish through a hole;
Though ragged, baggy, wrinkled, mud-encrusted,
If ever breeks do, those breeks had a soul!

And now, dolled up in crass new coat and trousers,
Ashamed and sad, I pace the lonely street,
Unhappy in my finery, for now, sirs,
My friends will never know me when we meet!

Day of Literature in the Park

The Christopher Morley Knothole Association will present "A Day of Literature in the Park...Poetry and Prose and a Picnic" to be held Sunday, September 7, 2008 from 10am -1pm at Christopher Morley Park, located on Searingtown Road in Roslyn, NY.

The Knothole Association will present live readings and adaptations of classic works of literature. The Day of Literature will be held outdoors under the shade trees of the Knothole the preserved study of Christopher Morley. General admission is free as is are the refreshments provided by the Christopher Morley Knothole Association. Visitors should bring their own blanket or a folding lawn chair.

The Day of Literature will be the summer highlight for the Knothole Association. Speaking of the event, Harrison Hunt, a Nassau County employee who works at Cedarmere said the Knothole Association "used to do things like this years ago" at the Knothole Museum. After meeting with Knothole Association personnel, including its president, Peter Cohn, Mr. Hunt and his colleagues decided to revive the Day of Literature. "It's a natural event for the site," he said. "The Morley house listens well. It's something we'd like to do more of."

VISIT THE KNOTHOLE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Now, rumor has it, people just read the sign, but most don't walk the short distance to inspect the building close up. This rumor is being promulgated by the canines, and their human pals, at nearby Gissing's Dog Run.

Thanks to the people in the Nassau County Parks and Museum departments this site is good to go in 2008 -- and ready to survive another winter! Speaking of winter, sometimes guests, relatives, and fans of both Morley and Buckminster Fuller (or even Sherlock Holmes) visit during the winter off-season. At these times, the Nassau County Department of Parks, through the office of Mr. Harrison Hunt, has always been gracious and very accommodating to their needs.

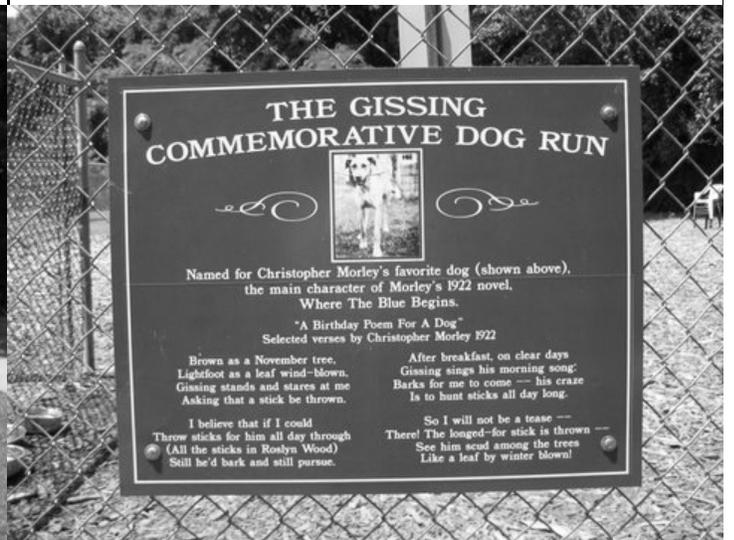
We look forward to seeing you at Christopher Morley Park this summer. Please take the time to visit the Knothole when you arrive.



A Day of Literature in the Park



CMKA Officers at Gissing's Pond, Roslyn Estates, New York.
(L/R: Fred Klein, Treas.; Peter Cohn, Pres.; Jennifer Berger, Spec. Events)



**THE GISSING
COMMEMORATIVE DOG RUN**



Named for Christopher Morley's favorite dog (shown above),
the main character of Morley's 1922 novel,
Where The Blue Begins.

"A Birthday Poem For A Dog"
Selected verses by Christopher Morley 1922

Brown as a November tree,
Lightfoot as a leaf wind-blown,
Gissing stands and stares at me
Asking that a stick be thrown.

I believe that if I could
Throw sticks for him all day through
(All the sticks in Roslyn Wood)
Still he'd bark and still pursue.

After breakfast, on clear days
Gissing sings his morning song:
Barks for me to come — his craze
Is to hunt sticks all day long.

So I will not be a tease —
There! The longed-for stick is thrown —
See him nest among the trees
Like a leaf by winter blown!

2008 - 2009

MEMBERSHIP DUES • SCHOLARSHIP DONATION • KNOTHOLE RESTORATION

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____

Dues and donations from our members support the Association's projects and reading contests. Please complete this membership form and include your check for the appropriate category as listed below and mail the self addressed envelope to:

Christopher Morley Knothole Association. c/o Bryant Library, Paper Mill Road., Roslyn, NY 11576

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ for the appropriate category circled below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Student Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Knothole Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 Individual Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Scholarship Donation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Family Certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Knothole Summer 2009 Opening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00 Lifetime Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other |

**IN MEMORY OF
DR. JOHN Y. KIYASU**

**C.M.K.A. RECORDING SECRETARY
DECEMBER 1927 – MAY 2006**

It has been a couple of years since John Kiyasu passed away, but we still miss him and remember John's efforts for the Knothole Association. He was the recording secretary of this organization. John helped with various activities, mailings, and with the creative planning that accompanies them.

John's wife, Lily, says John was a man with many visions. Once he got an idea, he would work until he saw it through. It was through such work that John became enamored with Christopher Morley. It started with John wondering who was Christopher Morley? As John researched, learning about Morley, John found us at the Knothole Association. Hearing music from Christopher Morley's ice rink lead to John learning how to skate and ultimately becoming one of our ice rink guards.

John took it upon himself to have a new portrait of Christopher Morley drawn by Harry Gill, Roslyn Heights, N.Y. They worked together using old photographs in reconstructing the portrait of young vibrant Christopher Morley that was donated to the Bryant Library.

John was a fine friend and colleague. All who knew him miss this great guy and remember him with fondness.