Fall 2010

# The Gardens
## Memory Gardens
Memorial Park

*A Memorial Park Dedicated to the Dignity of Mankind*

## President's Message

Fellow Members:

The Board of Directors has designated 2010-2011 as the Year of Improvements. We have opened a new garden, The Garden of Heroes, and are in the process of opening The Garden of Paradise. Both are side by side in the rear of the cemetery next to the pond. The Garden of Heroes has a feature honoring all service men and women of every branch, as well as community services including fire, police, and EMS persons. We have three flags dedicated to our country and the branches of service. There will be markers honoring the deceased and a lovely sitting area to stop and enjoy the view. The Garden of Paradise Feature is a fountain displaying a bronze figure of Birds in Flight. Landscaping is being completed in both areas. We have also committed to renovating and reopening our Chapel by the Holiday Season. Our committee, The Friends of The Gardens has taken on this task and is proceeding along wonderfully with help of our consultant John Elacqua. We hope to be able to hold our Christmas Worship in our new meeting area of the Chapel. The Chapel will then be available to our members year round for services and gatherings.

We have also renovated the fountain in the Garden of Fountainlawn, the heart of the cemetery. We are in the process of creating a Memorial Brick Walk leading to the fountain (more information inside this newsletter).

Donations towards the completion of all these projects have been greatly appreciated and we hope the members will still continue their generosity in the future.

The goal of the Board of Directors is to serve Memory Gardens to the best of our capabilities. If you ever have any suggestions, please feel free to stop in and leave them at the counter or mail them to the Gardens to my attention. I promise that your request will be reviewed by the Board. Again, we are here to make the most difficult time of your life just a little easier. Everyone on the Board either has a family member or a close relation that is being cared for by the staff at Memory Gardens. Simply, we have been there and will be again. We want you to be treated as we would expect to be treated.

Thank you,
Kenneth L. Brooks, Jr.President, Board of Directors

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## Guide to Important Dates at Memory Gardens

### 2010

**November 1st**
Bronze vases not to be used
Please use vase cones until April 15th

**November 1st to 15th**
Fall clean-up

**December 10th - 6:30 pm**
Christmas/Remembrance Celebration

### 2011

**January 31st**
Holiday decoration removal begins

**March 1st to April 15th**
Spring clean-up

**April 24th - 7:00 am**
Easter Service

**April 15th to November 1st**
Bronze vases may be used

**May 7th - 10:00 am**
Annual Meeting of Members

*To have a detailed list of important dates please call the office at 518-869-9506 or visit our Website at www.memorysgarden.org*

## Annual Christmas Celebration and Remembrance

Please join us for Memory Gardens' Christmas Celebration and Remembrance Service on Friday December 10th at 6:30 pm. The evening features holiday music and readings plus the placing of ornaments on our Trees of Remembrance in memory of loved ones. We welcome all attending to join us for refreshments following the service.

The service is open to the public as well as members of Memory Gardens. We look forward to celebrating with you.

## Board of Directors

Kenneth L. Brooks, Jr.
Marlene A. Elacqua
Kay Carol Hotaling
Richard P. Jacobson
Raymond Paradise
Kathryn Prividera
Cheryl Rebhan
Catherine Romano
Teresa Scicchitano- deWaal
David C. Vail

These dedicated individuals are elected by the lot owners of Memory Gardens and are entrusted with overseeing the operations of the memorial park.

**Memory Gardens' Board of Directors** has begun a search for the position of Director. In order to assure continued smooth operations, Mr. Ken Brooks, Board President, has accepted the responsibility as Interim Director.

# Thank You to Our Volunteers

Memory Gardens is fortunate to have several individuals whom volunteer their time on a regular basis both in the office and out on the grounds. We would like to take a moment to recognize these caring individuals.

### Office

Muriel Kinney began her service at Memory Gardens as a part-time employee several years ago. When budget constraints and office restructuring eliminated her paid position, she was kind enough to stay on with us as a volunteer. Muriel is always eager to help out the office staff with anything we need, including greeting customers, sending mailings, and preparing for special events. Muriel always brightens the office with her presence and we are happy to include her as part of our Memory Gardens Family.

### Gardeners

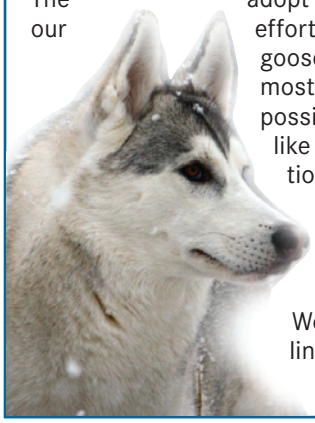
We are fortunate to have two gentlemen that volunteer their time as gardeners at Memory Gardens. Their efforts range from simple things like weeding to updating the features and flower beds. Richard Kendall contributes his time and expertise to beautifying and maintaining the flower beds around the Good Shepherd area; and Jim Schramm devotes his services to beautification and maintenance of the Garden of Faith. With their generosity, we can ensure that these areas get the care that they deserve.

To those named above, and to those of you who lend your time and effort with small things here and there, we thank you. Together we can be sure to keep Memory Gardens a special place in our hearts and a beautiful place to visit.

If you would like to get involved, please contact our office.

## Adopt a Wolf

**My, what big eyes you have!**
Don't be frightened if you see a wolf or two hanging around our ponds. Our Adopt a Wolf project is alive and well. The Friends of the Gardens is accepting donations to purchase wolf stand-ins to be placed by the ponds towards the back of the grounds in hopes that they will deter the ever increasing goose population. While we don't mind a few feathered friends hanging about, large numbers of geese cause a variety of issues. The adopt a wolf project is our effort to manage our goose problem in the most humane way possible. If you would like to make a donation you can send a check payable to Memory Gardens and include "adopt a Wolf" in the memo line, or call our office at 518-869-9506.



## Please Do Not Feed the Wildlife

It might be enjoyable to give a snack of bread or crackers to the geese and ducks that frequent our ponds, or to leave a little something for the deer that pass through in the winter. Unfortunately, feeding these critters your leftover lunch does more harm than good. Though it is tasty, "people food" does not contain the nutrition that a wild animal needs to keep healthy. Feeding wildlife also draws them out of their natural habitat to places where they can be exposed to disease and predators. It is much safer and healthier to simply observe our wild friends as they pass along.

For more information on feeding wildlife check out this link http://www.paws.org/feeding-wildlife.html

**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS** Memory Gardens would like to thank our members for their financial contributions towards the upkeep, improvement, and continual maintenance of the memorial park.

Dear Friends of Memory Gardens:

In our last issue of The Gardens Newsletter, I asked our members to consider contributing to the Restoration of our Chapel. I want to share with you that The Friends of the Gardens received donations in the amount of $4,337.15. All donations were given either in memory of a loved one or in honor of loved ones and friends.

I realize I sent a personal letter to each one who donated but I want you to know how much the Board of Directors appreciates your donations and your support.

We hope to have our Chapel restored in time for our Christmas Service which is scheduled for December 10th. We, here at the Gardens, look forward to restoring your "little" Chapel into a "gem among jewels" in honor of all our loved ones who rest within our Gardens.

Sincerely,

Marlene A. Elacqua
Chapel Restoration
Fundraising Chairwoman

## General Fund

| | |
|---|---|
| Robert A. DeVoe, Sr. | In Memory of Jean DeVoe |
| Audrey A. Edwards | In Memory of Josephine Edwards |
| Carol A. Mandell | In Memory of Barry Mandell |
| Richard W. Kendall | In Memory of Eva & Herbert Kendall |
| Marlene A. Elacqua | In Memory of Elvin Riddick Hardy |
| Gary A. Shaver | In Memory of Shirley Shaver |
| Catherine M. Romano | In Memory of Michael M. Romano, Sr. |

Nancy J. Batten
Marlene A. Elacqua
Teresa M. Scicchitano
Kay C. Hotaling
Kathryn W. Prividera
Cheryl E. Rebhan
Richard N. Manzer, Jr.
Kenneth L. Brooks

## New Website Coming Soon….

Memory Gardens has begun the process of redesigning our website. The new site will provide useful tools and information for those looking to make arrangements or purchase memorials, and for those who tend to the family plot through floral placements and other services. Keep an eye on the web! Our new look will be coming shortly into the new year. www.memorysgarden.org

## Chapel Renovation

N. Webber
Dominick M. Amorosi
Emily K. Lamoreaux
Judith C. LaHart
Rose T. Terrell
Richard J. Warner, Sr.
Ronald & Donna DiDonna
Evelyn M. Priddle
John S. Guthrie
Fowler & Mable Riddick
Dale M. Hartman
Kay C. Hotaling
Arthur & Ida Blair
Raymond & Sharon Cherry
Dominick & Doris De Pietro
Carolyn E. Rouse
Elizabeth Ewing
James J. Davolio
Barbara Saunders
Donna & William Fairlee
Anthony De Maso
Gertrude A. Keller
David & Beth Vail
Latham Kiwanis Club
Richard W. Kendall
Karen Pease
Ray & Dolores Banuls
Ralph & Sigrid Blain
Tammy Ballestero
Betty E. Hawkes
Donald A. Grounds
Dorothy Schultz
Barbara M. McGuffey
Rev. Edward J. Campbell
James G. Grippo
Betty M. Manzer
Frances Rabbe

### To make a Donation

Please send your check to
Marlene Elacqua
Chairwoman Chapel Restoration
North Pointe Estates
6 Sawyer Place
Cohoes, NY 12047
Please make checks payable to Memory Gardens
Include "Chapel Renovation" or
"Friends General Fund" in the memo line

# Garden of Heroes Dedication

**It is with great pleasure that The Board of Directors of Memory Gardens announces the opening of the Garden of Heroes.**

In appreciation for their service to the country and community Memory Gardens has dedicated a garden to honor military and Community service personnel. This Garden will be designated for members of the Armed Services and their spouses and Hometown Heroes dedicated to community service as Police, Fire, EMS, or First Responders.

The Garden of Heroes overlooks one of our two ponds and is landscaped with flags and bronze plaques honoring our military and community service personnel.

The garden was officially dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 18, 2010. Local dignitaries, military and community service personnel, lot owners, and the public were invited to attend and participate in the ceremony. Participants included Town of Colonie Supervisor Paula Mahan, NYS Assemblyman Bob Reilly, Pastor Mark Mueller of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and the New York National Guard. Also in attendance were Colonie Police, Colonie EMS, Colonie Fire Company and Midway Fire Department, lot owners, and the staff and Board of Directors of Memory Gardens. The Garden was decorated with a wreath and yellow ribbons provided by "Yellow Ribbon Lady" Carol Hotaling and a patriotic wreath from Surroundings Florist of Colonie. Music was provided by the Sons and Daughters of Erin Band, and the Cocca Dotts generously donated 500 cupcakes.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to making our dedication ceremony a success. We wish to extend our sincerest appreciation towards Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society, Lodge 421, Raymond A. Paradise Jr., President, for their generous donation of the three flag poles and American flags.

If you are interested in more information, purchasing lots in the garden, or making a contribution to help honor our service personnel please call the cemetery office at 518-869-9506.

## Pre-Paying Cemetery Expenses

Have you given thought to what would happen if you were to pass away? Does your family know and understand the wishes that you would want fulfilled? Do you want to relieve the emotional and financial burden that will be forced onto your loved ones at an already wearisome time?

Memory Gardens has compiled ***A Helpful Guide to Pre-Paying Cemetery Expenses***. You will find that there are many choices to be made when death occurs. Are you interested in full casket burial? Mausoleum entombment? Cremation? Let Memory Gardens provide you with an insight into the many options available.

Here at Memory Gardens we are devoted to providing you with the knowledge and experience that is needed to carry out the final wishes of yourself and your family to ensure perfection and top rate service.

For a FREE PRE-PLANNING PACKET, please contact our Memorial Advisors, Matt Sousa or Carol Durant at 518-869-9506 or email to matthew.sousa@memorysgarden.org or carol.durant@memorysgarden.org.

## FOUNTAINLAWN RESTORATION PROJECT

We are pleased to announce the completion of the restoration of our fountain in the Garden of Fountainlawn. After a painstaking eight weeks the fountain is operational once again. What a glorious greeting as you enter the Gardens... stop by Fountainlawn, take a seat, and enjoy the soothing sounds of the fountains. The fountain will operate from Spring (April 15th) through Fall (October 31st).

To help subsidize the cost of this restoration we are creating a Memorial Brick Walk. The bricks will be displayed on both sides of the walk leading up to the fountain. We have enough space to place 500 bricks, so quantity is limited. Order form enclosed on next page.

# Advanced Planning

The death of a loved one is the most tragic experience that one will endure in their life time. Sadly most families will find that they are poorly prepared to handle such a devastating event. The questions, concerns, decisions and cost forced upon a family at the time of a death is substantial to say the least.

Memory Gardens has assembled a helpful guide to planning cemetery arrangements in advance. By completing the following steps you could alleviate the tremendous task of having your family and friends deal with the confusion and unneeded stress of planning your funeral arrangements; thus giving them the time to properly grieve for the ones they loved so dearly.

Pre-planning also is beneficial to you, the consumer. The most important benefit of pre-arranging is the guarantee that you are going to have the service and products that will honor your life in the way you feel fit.

Another notable benefit is controlled cost. Pre-planning also allows you the option of making payments on what could be a large purchase. Taking care of these needs today can be budgeted into manageable payments over time and save your insurance benefit to be saved for what it is intended for…your family.

# Did you ever think about planned giving?

How would you like to be able to help Memory Gardens, where you and your loved ones have been, or will be, laid to rest?

Have you ever thought about Planned Giving? A planned gift is and major gift, made in lifetime or at death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning.

You may donate cash, appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interest, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan, etc. The benefits of finding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both the donor and Memory Gardens.

If you feel you would like to help Memory Gardens and also receive benefits that you may be able to take advantage of now, please call the cemetery at 518-869-9506 and let us show you how. Your generosity will help the cemetery for a long time to come.

# Fountainlawn Memorial Bricks

Memory Gardens is offering Memorial Bricks to be placed in the Garden of Fountainlawn along the existing pathways that run from the road to the fountain.

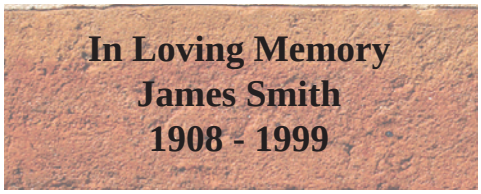
Each brick will be engraved with your choice of wording whether it is the name of a loved one or a special saying. You can purchase a single brick or we offer a discount for multiple bricks. Your contributions will help to cover the cost of the recent renovation to the fountain.

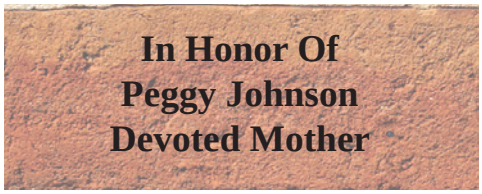
As always, we appreciate your support in keeping Memory Gardens beautiful.

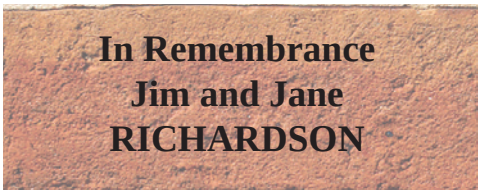
**To place your order please complete the form below and send to**
Memory Gardens, 983 Watervliet Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205
or call our office at 518-869-9506.

Single Brick ..... $125
Two or More Bricks .....$ 100 each

Each 4" x 8" Brick can accommodate 3 lines of text; limit of 13 characters per line.
Some suggestions are provided below:




Please Provide Wording for your Brick Below (PLEASE PRINT).
If you are ordering multiple bricks please provide wording on an additional page.

_____

_____ Limit of 13 Characters Per Line

_____

**Total Amount Enclosed**: _____ Check Number: _____

Card Type: ❑ MasterCard ❑ Visa ❑ Discover ❑ American Express Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____

Name (Print): _____ Sign:_____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Please Make Checks Payable to Memory Gardens.

# Memory Gardens

983 Watervliet Shaker Road, Albany, New York 12205
Phone (518) 869-9506 • Fax (518)869-0818
www.memorysgarden.org

## 2010 Holiday Placement Service

**Memory Gardens offers our Holiday Placement Service to those who wish for a beautiful holiday decoration to be placed in memory of a loved one.**
**For outside burial spaces we offer our wreath placement.**
**For inside the mausoleum chapels we offer a choice of a wreath or a silk poinsettia plant.**

### WREATH $36.00

A natural evergreen wreath beautifully decorated and secured to a tripod stand.
Wreath placement traditionally begins December 1st and wreaths will remain into the New Year.
**Please Note: quantity is limited. Orders will be filled while supplies last.**

### POINSETTIA $20.00

**(Inside Mausoleum Chapels Only)**

A beautiful silk poinsettia plant with card will be placed. You may take your plant home any time before March 1st. **Last Day to order a Poinsettia is December 17th.**

**Reminder:** Wreath Placement Begins December 1st
ALL Christmas Decorations will be removed beginning January 31st

**ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.memorysgarden.org or ORDER BY PHONE at 518-869-9506**

(Detach and return this portion with your payment)

**WINTER PLACEMENT SERVICE ORDER FORM**

❑ **WREATH ($36.00)** ❑ **POINSETTIA ($20.00 - mausoleum chapel only)**

Name of Deceased: _____

Garden: _____ Lot: _____ Space: _____

(LOCATION INFORMATION CAN BE LEFT BLANK IF UNKNOWN)

**Total Amount Enclosed**: _____ Check or Money Order No. : _____

❑ MasterCard ❑ Visa ❑ Discover ❑ American Express Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____

Name (Print): _____ Sign:_____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ e-mail: _____

Memory Gardens
MEMORIAL PARK

## Seeking Board Members

We are looking for motivated individuals to fill open positions on our Board of Directors.

Requirements are: lot ownership at Memory Gardens (through direct ownership or inheritance) and a willingness to work towards the care and improvement of the memorial park. Board meetings are held once per month at the cemetery office. Attendance is expected at all monthly meetings and occasional meetings and special events. If you are interested in a position on our Board or would like more information please contact the cemetery

## How to Reach Us

- In person during our business hours
- By phone: 518-869-9506
- By mail: Memory Gardens
  983 Watervliet Shaker Road
  Albany, NY 12205
- By email: info@memorysgarden.org

## Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Saturday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Sunday Closed
Any time by appointment

## Grounds Open

7:00 am – 8:00 pm Spring/Summer
7:00 am – 5:00 pm Fall/Winter

**www.memorysgarden.org**

*Wreath Order Form Enclosed*

*Memory Gardens, Inc.*
983 Watervliet Shaker Road
Albany, NY 12205

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
**PAID**
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT #203