The Gardens
Memory Gardens

Artificial wreaths and Christmas trees available

The response for the Memory Gardens' Holiday Placement Service was exceptionally strong last year with the then-new artificial Christmas Tree option selling out quickly. Working with our suppliers, we have been able to increase the number of trees available for 2019. However, we do encourage lot owners to order them early to help ensure their selection is available.

We will continue to offer the artificial wreaths. Both of these items are for outside burial spaces only. The wreath is 24-inches around and includes holly with berries and pine cones and a lovely red ribbon. The artificial Christmas tree is 36-inches tall and is decorated with gold boughs, red ribbons, and red and white pine cones. Both are attached to a tripod for display on your loved one's space.

Please see our 2019 Holiday Placement Service Order Form on page 3.

Memory Gardens' board appoints new director

The Memory Gardens' Board of Directors has appointed Sharon Greenfield of Colonie, NY to serve as a director.

Greenfield brings a wealth of experience to the board. She holds a master's degree in special education and a bachelor's degree in home economics education. She recently retired from the Schenectady School system as a Special Education Teacher. She and her husband have lived in the neighborhood near Memory Gardens for more than 35 years and have raised a family. They have many family members and friends who are resting at Memory Gardens.

Greenfield will run for a three-year board term on the May 2020 ballot.

Gardens staff refurbish Fraternal Garden features

The Masonic features in the Fraternal Garden were refurbished, cleaned and sealed during the summer months. The entrance gate columns in the front of the cemetery were also cleaned and sealed.

Annual Christmas Celebration and Remembrance

Memory Gardens' 2019 Christmas Celebration and Remembrance will be 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 at the Chapel. Held each year on the second Friday in December, the evening features holiday music and readings plus the placing of ornaments on our Trees of Remembrance in memory of loved ones.

Rev. Karen Malcolm of St. Michael's Episcopal Church is slated to officiate. For those who cannot attend or would like to place their ornament early, the Trees of Remembrance will be placed near the Chapel the weekend before the service.

We welcome all attending to join us in the Chapel for refreshments following the service.

President's Message

Fall is a time of change, so it seems appropriate that I write about the changes ahead for Memory Gardens in this issue.

Our Executive Director Andy Carroll will be retiring at the end of January 2020. A consummate professional, he notified the board of his intentions well in advance to allow us to properly plan for the transition.

Memory Gardens and its lot owners could not have been in better hands during the more than nine years he served us. He brought a wealth of business knowledge to the position, and applied that experience to the maximum benefit of the Gardens.

The Gardens had been running in a state of financial deficit for the several years prior to Andy taking over the position. He reversed that trend by leading the operation to a small profit in his first year. Memory Gardens has been realizing annual profits since then thanks to his business acumen. These profitable years allowed the cemetery to retire a nearly 20-year-old, court-mandated loan from the Permanent Maintenance Fund in 2018. This income will help position the Gardens to remain operating for many years to come.

It's important to note this significant change in the Garden's financial outlook coincided with an increased focus on the grounds. During this time large projects to replace or repair features such as the Last Supper feature were successfully completed, and new gardens were opened. This attention to grounds is one of the reasons why Memory Gardens continues to be one of the most beautiful and well-maintained cemeteries in the region.

While he was always focused on business operations, Andy never lost sight of the fact that the most common interaction with lot owners was during their time of loss. He understood that our interactions with the cemetery were fraught with emotion. He led his staff by example in providing comfort, professionalism and, when needed, sensible solutions to items of concerns raised by lot owners. I know this firsthand, having interacted with the staff when my mother passed several years ago, and witnessed this frequently during my tenure as president.

On behalf of a grateful board and lot owners, thank you, Andy, for all you have done to ensure that you are leaving Memory Gardens in a far better condition than when you arrived.

I want to reassure you that the Gardens will continue on this positive path. A dedicated committee of board members spent the past several months conducting the search for our next executive director. I'm pleased to report that as of this writing, we have filled the position, and I will share more information with you in the next newsletter.

Salvatore Prividera Jr.
President

Garden of Grace lots available

We are very pleased to announce that our newest garden, the Garden of Grace, is open. This garden has 768 spaces. It is a very peaceful garden with a gentle rolling grade. It is located in the rear of the gardens, and to the right of the gardens of Paradise and Love. Each space will be offered at a special introductory price of $400. Please contact one of our Memorial Advisors at 518-869-9506 for more information and to reserve spaces for your family plot.

Update your Information

Moved, changed your name or email address? Let Memory Gardens know.

If you have recently changed your address, your name or email address, please send a note to our business office or an email to info@memorygardens.org with the following information: Your name(s), your old address and your new address, current phone number and your current email address. If you know your garden, lot and space information, please include this as well.

If you have recently changed your name, please send a copy of your marriage certificate or other documentation.

We thank you for your cooperation as this information will help keep our records current.

Memory Gardens offers free pre-planning seminars

Memory Gardens knows that you are busy and cannot always make time during the week to visit our office to discuss pre-planning for your family. This is why we try to offer a pre-planning seminar every few months in the Albany area for anyone who wants to talk with one of our experienced memorial advisors about our services.

We have several seminars scheduled through the fall and winter of 2019/2020. Call the office at (518) 869-9506 for information about upcoming sessions. You may also call us to schedule an appointment Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with one of our Memorial Advisors at our office.

(Detach and return this portion with your payment)

WINTER PLACEMENT SERVICE ORDER FORM

❑ **FRESH NATURAL EVERGREEN WREATH $40**
❑ **ARTIFICIAL WREATH $45**
❑ **ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE $45**
❑ **SILK POINSETTIA $24 (inside mausoleums only)**

Name of Deceased: _____

Garden: _____ Lot: _____ Space: _____

(LOCATION INFORMATION CAN BE LEFT BLANK IF UNKNOWN)

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

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

Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____

Name (Print): _____ Signature:_____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Please complete the above order form and return it to Memory Gardens, 983 Watervliet Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205 with payment, or call our office at (518) 869-9506, or select the "Floral Placement Service" link on our website, www.memorygardens.org

2019 Holiday Placement Service

Memory Gardens offers our Holiday Placement Service to those who would like a beautiful holiday decoration to be placed in memory of a loved one. Placement will begin in early December. Please place your orders early. Orders will be taken until Monday, December 16, 2019. We have several options that you can choose from:

1. For **outside** burial spaces, we offer a Fresh Natural Evergreen Wreath for $40. It is beautifully decorated with pine cones, red berries and a red ribbon and is secured to a tripod stand.

2. For **outside** burial spaces, we will be offering an Artificial Wreath for $45. It is decorated with holly, red berries and a red ribbon and is secured to a tripod stand. Quantities are limited.

3. For **outside** burial spaces, we will be offering an Artificial Christmas Tree for $45. It is decorated with gold boughs, red ribbons, and red and white pine cones and is secured to a tripod stand. Quantities are limited.

4. For **inside** the mausoleum chapels, we offer a Silk Poinsettia Plant for $24. Quantities are limited for this item and orders will be filled while supplies last.

Wreaths provided by Frank Gallo & Son Florist of Schenectady

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Memory Gardens, Inc.
983 Watervliet Shaker Road
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 869-9506
info@memorygardens.org

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

Office Hours
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Grounds Open
Dawn to Dusk

Remember Your Loved Ones – Placement Service Order Form Enclosed

Visit our website! www.memorygardens.org

Please Like us on Facebook!

@memorygardensny

Let us place your wreath

Cold, snow, ice and rainy weather. It's coming. Let us place a wreath for you for your loved ones. Please see page 3 for our wreath order form.

Board of Directors

Salvatore Prividera Jr., President

Frank Coluccio
Anthony T. Garufi
Sharon Greenfield
Valerie Konopka
Cheryl Kowalski
Andy Marino
Catherine Romano
Raymond Paradise

Guide to important dates at Memory Gardens

2019

November 1
Bronze vases in markers may not be used again until April 15

November 1 to November 15
Fall cleanup: All decorations are removed

November 15 to January 31
Wreaths on a stand allowed

December 13
Christmas Celebration and Remembrance at the Chapel, 6 p.m.

2020

January 31
Holiday decoration removal begins

March 1 to April 15
Spring cleanup: All decorations are removed

April 15
Bronze vases may be used until November 1

April 12
Easter Sunrise Service (cemetery wide), 7 a.m.

May 2
Annual Lot Owners Meeting at Cemetery Office, 10 a.m.

For more details visit our website
www.memorygardens.org