

The Gardens *Memory Gardens*

Friends of the Gardens supports efforts to beautify the grounds

The Friends of the Gardens utilized \$1,320 in donations from lot owners and others to fund much needed repairs to the Last Supper and Good Shepard features last fall.

The Friends of the Gardens was created several years ago as a way for lot owners and families to become more involved in preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the cemetery.

In addition to donations collected during our annual Easter Service, families, co-workers and friends often donate in memory of a loved one. Nearly \$490 was raised during the Easter Service, and a total of \$795 has been donated to the Friends of the Gardens so far this year.

“We offer our sincere thanks for those who have supported our efforts this year,” said Cathi Romano, Friends of the Gardens chair.

For more information about making a donation or volunteering with the Friends of the Gardens, please call the cemetery office at (518) 869-9506.

Veterans are eligible to receive no-cost marker to honor service

Most military veterans are eligible to receive a marker from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in honor of their service to our country.

Veterans who passed prior to Nov. 1, 1990 are eligible for marker from the Veterans' Administration (VA) only if their grave is currently unmarked. Veterans who passed on or after Nov. 1, 1990 are eligible for a VA marker regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a privately purchased marker. Spaces at Memory Gardens can accommodate a flat bronze marker at the head of the space and a second flat bronze marker at the foot of the space. Veterans resting in our mausoleums and above ground features can receive a special VA medallion to honor their service instead of a flat bronze marker.

A copy of the Veteran's discharge papers, the DD214, will be needed to start the application process. This form can be obtained by calling the Department of Veterans Affairs office

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New sign greets visitors



If you have recently visited Memory Gardens, you have probably noticed a new permanent display sign at the entrance welcoming all visitors. We encourage you to check this sign for important information about events, seasonal rules and more every time you visit.



Annual Christmas Celebration and Remembrance

Memory Gardens' 2015 Christmas Celebration and Remembrance will be 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 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

Greetings and welcome to our fall newsletter. I want to bring to your attention two important items that I hope you will consider.

As a lot owner and someone, who like me, has family at rest in Memory Gardens, I would like to make you aware of an opportunity to serve the Gardens as a member of the Board of Directors.

There is presently a vacancy on the board. Our goal is to fill that position with someone who is eager to be a part of our commitment to providing quality service to our lot owners and their families as well as maintaining the pastoral beauty of the grounds.

The successful candidate will bring skills and experience that could include any of the following areas: industry knowledge; finance; accounting; legal; personnel management; policy development; public relations; or fundraising. The board will consider applications from lot owners as well as those who simply appreciate all that Memory Gardens offers.

Prospective candidates are asked to download an application from Memory Gardens' website at memorygardens.org. Completed applications and a current résumé should be mailed to Executive Director Andrew Carroll at Memory Gardens, 983 Watervliet-Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205, or emailed to: Director@memorygardens.org. Applications will be accepted until Oct. 30, 2015.

I hope you give consideration to this opportunity as serving on the board is a rewarding experience.

On another note, the board is currently considering a more permanent fix to the Last Supper feature, which was made of sandstone that has greatly weathered

and deteriorated over the years. It is beyond repair at a price that would be fiscally responsible for us to undertake. At this point, we feel there are two options. We can allow the feature to continue to weather until it has to be removed completely for safety and aesthetic reasons. Or we can replace the feature with a granite display of the Last Supper. This is similar to the praying hands feature in the Garden of Faith as pictured below.



The board of directors wants to know your thoughts on this as a lot owner or family member. We will use this input to guide our decision. Please email your thoughts on this to info@memorygardens.org or return the response form on this page. The responses will be used to guide our decision in the coming months. Should the collective wisdom dictate that we replace the feature, I would expect that project to begin in the spring of 2016.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to this request.

Raymond Paradise
President

In Favor of Replacement of Feature

Not in Favor of Replacement of Feature

Comments:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return your comments to Memory Gardens, 983 Watervliet Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205

Board of Directors

Raymond Paradise,
President

Gordon Bell

Frank Coluccio

Beverly Emerick

Anthony T. Garufi

Donna L. Landy

Andy Marino

Salvatore Prividera Jr.

Catherine Romano

Teresa Scicchitano-deWaal

Please update your Family Historical Record

The family historical record is a valuable tool for the Memory Gardens staff. We receive many calls and inquiries from family members regarding spaces. A completed family history form on file will list all of your children so that none are left out by accident or intention.

In the State of New York, when a husband and wife pass, the ownership of their cemetery spaces passes to their children. The children are able to use the spaces on a first-need basis.

When you request a burial, the record allows us to quickly prove ownership of the spaces in your plot during a trying time for you and your family.

Please take a few minutes to complete the Family Historical Record on the next page. Please also sign and date the form and then mail it to us at Memory Gardens, 983 Watervliet Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205 or email it back to us at info@memorygardens.org. Thank you for your assistance with this important documentation.

Memory Gardens

Memory Gardens

983 Watervliet Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205, info@memorygardens.org

Family Historical Record

Husband/Partner

Name

Address

Telephone

Birth Date

Place of Birth

Occupation

Email

Religious Affiliation

Veteran/Branch of Service

Wife/Partner

Name & Maiden Name

Address

Telephone

Birth Date

Place of Birth

Occupation

Email

Religious Affiliation

Veteran/Branch of Service

Our Children

Name

Address

Telephone

Date of Birth

Husband's Parents

Names

Address

Mother's Maiden Name

Wife's Parents

Names

Address

Mother's Maiden Name

Husband's Siblings

Name

Address

Name

Address

Name

Address

Name

Address

Wife's Siblings

Name

Address

Name

Address

Name

Address

Completed by:

2015

Date:

Flowers available for cremation services

Memory Gardens has a new floral program for families who are planning a cremation service for their loved ones. We have found that when families are planning a cremation service, there are so many details that selecting flowers is a task that is sometimes overlooked.

To make planning more convenient, we now have a lovely red rose artificial floral cremation urn display and a matching standing wreath display that can be rented for your cremation service. The urn for your loved one fits snugly among the flowers and provides a lovely display during the service. The rental program also includes a matching table with fresh green draping. Please contact our office at (518) 869-9506 to obtain more details.



Chapel offers another option in planning memorial services

The Memory Gardens chapel, built in 1971 and recently renovated, offers another option when planning your loved one's memorial service.

Whether it is a comprehensive service – with family and friends speaking around pictures and videos – or a less formal one just to say your final goodbyes, the chapel is available to accommodate your family's wishes. With two temperature-controlled rooms, an abundance of natural light, and plenty of seating, the chapel can also be used as an alternative to a graveside service on days of inclement weather.

The fee for renting the chapel is \$100. If you are interested in reserving it for a service, please contact our office at (518) 869-9506 for more information.



Protect your loved one's cremation urn with its own liner

For those choosing cremation over traditional burial, Memory Gardens offers special liners for cremation urns. Urn liners are reinforced outer containers that provide additional protection for your loved one's cremation urn.

Our urn liners are constructed of a non-biodegradable plastic, and are designed to accommodate most standard-size cremation urns. The interior is lined with a flocked material preventing the urn from being scratched.

Memory Gardens' urn vaults cost \$150, and are made in the United States. For more information, please contact our office at (518) 869-9506.





Cremation Bench

Memory Gardens now offers a family cremation bench. With location approval from our superintendent, a granite cremation bench can be placed around any of the pristine gardens in our cemetery. The bench can hold up to four standard size urns. Each bench comes with one family bronze plaque and additional bronze plaques can be purchased. Please contact our office at (518) 869-9506 for more information.



New pavement completes road repairs

If you have driven the grounds lately, you may have noticed newly paved blacktop on many roads throughout the Gardens. Many areas of the roads within the cemetery have been badly damaged by our severe winters. The most damaged surfaces have been repaved to keep driving through as pleasant as possible.

HONORING OUR HEROES



Memory Gardens honors our hometown heroes from the military, police, fire, emergency medical service providers and other first responders with the Garden of Heroes.

The garden, adorned with majestic flag poles, memorial plaques and benches, is dedicated to those who have served their countries and communities.

Overlooking a pond, this garden is ideal for an individual and their loved one. Call our office at (518) 869-9506 for details about the special discount available to our hometown

Memory Gardens offers an economical grave liner

The outer enclosure that protects the casket from the weight of the earth is commonly referred to as a "grave liner" or "burial vault."

Liners and vaults prevent caskets from being crushed when heavy equipment that is used to open and maintain graves passes over the grave. They also compensate by providing structure and support, while helping to keep the ground over the grave level and the cemetery looking beautiful.

Memory Gardens requires a concrete grave liner or vault for all in-ground casket burials. We offer one basic concrete grave liner that accommodates all caskets for \$650. Please contact our office at (518) 869-9506 for more information.

BEAUTY AND AFFORDABILITY



With a special introductory pricing of \$400 per lot, the Garden of Paradise offers the serenity and beauty of Memory Gardens at an affordable price.

The garden, located on the west side of the cemetery, features a fountain suspended by a bronze sculpture of doves taking flight.

Learn more information about this tranquil garden by calling our office at (518) 869-9506.

A guide to Memory Gardens' rules and regulations for decorations

Memory Gardens is pleased to provide you with this guide to our regulations for cemetery decorations. We have tried to provide a uniform set of regulations, which will ensure the efficient maintenance of the cemetery and a safe environment for employees and visitors to the cemetery grounds.

Because the cemetery is open to the public, it is very difficult to oversee the activity of every visitor. The cemetery is not responsible for damage, loss or disappearance of any decorations that are placed in the cemetery.

Clean-up times are scheduled twice each year; in the spring from March 1 to April 15 and in the fall from Nov. 1 to 15. Our grounds crew needs time to conduct maintenance and special landscaping projects for the beautification of the cemetery grounds and mausoleums. During these times the grounds crew is preparing grounds and mausoleums for the next season. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them prior to these dates.

Your cooperation in following these regulations will help keep our cemetery beautiful.

Please keep in mind the following general guidelines:

- Only grave spaces may be decorated.
- Any decorations that create a safety hazard, impede proper maintenance, infringe on other graves, or offend others will be removed without notice. Items that can be sucked into machinery become projectiles and can injure employees and visitors as well as damage cemetery equipment. Spaces with multiple decorations are difficult and time consuming for cemetery personnel to maintain.
- Prohibited items will be removed without notice. These include: balloons, styrofoam, glass, jars, bottles, cans, crockery, statues, lights, ornaments, shepherd hooks, signs, insignias, cards, pictures, toys, pumpkins, scarecrows, Christmas trees higher than 36 inches, crushed stone, solar lights, whirly gigs, lawn decorations, fencing and trellises.
- Planting is not allowed without permission of management.
- Decorations that become wilted, withered or unsightly or fail to conform to the regulations will be removed at the discretion of the cemetery personnel without notice. Your decorations will remain as long as their appearance is presentable.

- Memory Gardens has two water stations. These are located opposite the office in the Christus Garden and in the Memorylawn Garden near the chapel.
- All bronze vases must be emptied and stored inside their markers, and may not be used between November 1 and April 14. Vases left upright and later hidden by snow and ice create a safety hazard and can be damaged. The cemetery is not responsible for these damages.

Decorating for holidays

Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Father's Day: Potted plants are allowed for these dates only and may be placed three days before and must be removed three days after the holiday. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them.

Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, and Patriot Day: Flags are allowed for these days only and may be placed three days before and must be removed three days after the holiday. Flags are available in the green box outside the office at no charge.

Halloween and Thanksgiving: Pumpkins, scarecrows, and similar items are not allowed.



Additionally, there are seasonal considerations for decorations as follows:

- All Christmas wreaths and holiday decorations will be removed beginning January 31. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them prior to this date.
- Due to weather conditions, we do not encourage placement of decorations between February 1 and March 1.
- Bronze vases and vase cones may be used between April 15 and November 1. Fresh cut and artificial floral bouquets are permitted. Any decorations other than floral bouquets are not allowed during this period and will be removed. Flowers will be removed when they become wilted, withered or unsightly. Vase cones are available in the green box outside of the office at no charge.
- Natural and artificial decorations are allowed between November 15 and January 31. Wreaths must be placed on a stand. Vases and vase cones may not be used.

Mausoleums

Please note there are also rules for decorating inside the mausoleums that include a prohibition on fresh flowers and fresh wreaths. Additionally, flowers, wreaths, signs, insignias, personal emblems of any type, shape, or form may not be affixed to the granite and marble crypt fronts.

Violations will be removed without prior notice. Approved emblems, cameos and vases may be purchased through our office.

The interiors of the mausoleums are also cleaned and prepared for the changing of seasons during the periods from March 1 to April 15 and November 1 to 15. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them prior to these dates.

If you have any questions about the decorating policies, please contact the Memory Gardens office.

(Detach and return this portion with your payment)

WINTER PLACEMENT SERVICE ORDER FORM

WREATH \$38 **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: _____

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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

Memory Gardens

2015 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 wreath placement.

For inside the mausoleum chapels, we offer a silk poinsettia plant.

WREATH \$38

A natural evergreen wreath beautifully decorated and secured to a tripod stand. Wreath placement will begin in early December. **Please place your orders early.** Orders will be taken until Friday, December 18, 2015.



Wreaths provided by Frank Gallo & Son Florist of Schenectady

POINSETTIA \$24

A beautiful silk poinsettia plant with card for placement inside the Mausoleum Chapels only. The quantity is limited for this item. Orders will be filled while supplies last.



Memory Gardens, Inc.

983 Watervliet Shaker Road
Albany, NY 12205

(518) 869-9506

info@memorygardens.org

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Grounds Open

Dawn to Dusk

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ALBANY, NY

PERMIT #203



*Wreath Order
Form Enclosed*

Visit our website!
www.memorygardens.org



Please Like us on Facebook!



@memorygardensny

Veterans are eligible

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at (800) 827-1000 or by visiting to the website at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records. Please bring the veteran's discharge papers to our office to initiate the application process. It usually takes the VA four to six weeks to process the application and deliver the marker to Memory Gardens.

To further honor the service of our veterans, Memory Gardens waives the normal installation fee of \$300 for this size marker. The VA marker will need to be placed on a foundation. We offer two types of foundations: concrete for \$50 or polished granite for \$100. Both of these foundations are offered at reduced rates for our veterans.

Our memorial advisors are available to assist spouses interested in a matching VA spouse marker.



Limited space remaining in Christus and Sunrise/Seclusion

Memory Gardens would like to remind anyone who might be interested in purchasing space in the gardens of Christus or Sunrise/Seclusion that there are a very limited number of spaces remaining. Lots in these gardens have sold quickly since the cemetery opened. If you have loved ones resting in these gardens and feel you need additional spaces or if you just like the location, please contact our office at (518) 869-9506 for more information.