

# 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 2020. 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 2020 Holiday Placement Service Order Form on page 3.

## COVID-19 and the Memory Gardens Annual Christmas Celebration and Remembrance

Like many businesses in the Capital District, Memory Gardens was forced to make changes when Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Department of Health announced closures and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With Memory Gardens considered an essential business, our staff had to be protected while continuing to serve our families and funeral homes. We were forced to close our office to the public and cut our staff in half each business day. With safety protocols in place, our administrative staff, sales team, and grounds crew have done an excellent job maintaining the quality service for which Memory Gardens has always strived.

Because health protocols continue to restrict large gatherings, Memory Gardens is scaling back our Annual Christmas Celebration and Remembrance event for 2020. Christmas trees will still be placed in front of our Chapel for families and friends to place an ornament in memory of their loved ones. Sadly, however, there will be no formal ceremony featuring a live performance by a local high school choir or blessing by an area pastor. Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, participants wishing to place ornaments will be asked to drive to the Chapel, where holiday music will be broadcast.

As the holiday season approaches, Memory Gardens expresses our deepest condolences to all capital district families who have been affected by the virus. Our staff regrets the inconveniences and limitations the pandemic has brought the Memory Gardens' community. We are extraordinarily grateful for your patience and understanding while we all continue trying our best to navigate these difficult times.

## Purchase a niche in the new Last Supper feature and receive a free niche plaque



To commemorate the installation of the new Last Supper feature, Memory Gardens will provide a free niche plaque, a value of \$550, with the purchase of a niche in the feature.

Depicting the Last Supper, the granite feature has a 64-niche columbarium. The columbarium is constructed of china gray granite and has polished black granite shutters with gold rosettes on the fronts of the niche spaces.

The Last Supper Feature, located at the highest point in the Town of Colonie, provides a gorgeous view of both the Adirondacks and Green Mountains. Please contact our office at (518) 869-9506 to take advantage of this special offer.

A new season begins after a difficult year and we are hopeful that you and your family are well and safe. These trying times remind me of an Irish Proverb, "It's in the shelter of each other that people live". This year has reminded us to be thankful for the love of family and friends. To all our lot owners and their families who are first responders, essential workers, nurses and doctors: thank you for all you do. Your dedication gives us hope and faith for a brighter future.

Like all of you, we are working with new COVID-19 guidelines as they arise. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we will not be able to hold our formal Christmas Celebration and Remembrance this year. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State government has recommended against any large gatherings. Instead on December 4, 2020, we will host a drive through for families to place an ornament on the Christmas trees if they wish to participate. Hours will be between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. We hope we can renew the formal program next year. Wreaths and other items will still be available for purchase and placement during the holiday season

We have new staff additions after several retirements this year. We say farewell and thank you to Executive Director Andy Carroll, and Office Manager Chris Reivik, for their many years of service. We wish them well in their retirement. We welcome Joseph (Joe) Mazmanian as our new Executive Director. Joe has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and has a business and management background. He has been with Memory Gardens ten years as a Memorial Advisor. Our new Office Manager is Patricia Wielt, she has many years of customer service and office management experience. We wish Joe and Patricia much success in their new positions.

We look forward to another year of maintaining and enhancing the beauty and tranquility of Memory Gardens' grounds.

We wish you and your family a healthy, happy holiday season and peace in the New Year.

**Valerie Konopka**

President  
Memory Gardens Board of Directors



## 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. Please contact one of our Memorial Advisors at 518-869-9506 for more information and to reserve spaces for your family plot.



## Cremation benches are available

Memory Gardens now offers family cremation benches. The granite benches are approximately 48 inches long, by 14 inches wide, by 20 inches high and weigh close to 800 pounds. Because the benches are made of granite, they are long lasting and durable. Since granite is a natural stone with unique graining and coloration, each bench is unique. The benches blend naturally into the surrounding landscape and offer an excellent place for rest and meditation. Each bench can hold four standard size cremation urns. A family plaque is included, and additional plaques can be obtained. Cremation benches can be positioned around the perimeter of any garden within the cemetery. Perhaps, you might need additional burial spaces near a family plot. A family cremation bench provides a beautiful memorial tribute to celebrate the memory of loved ones that can be treasured and enjoyed by generations to come. Please call our office at (518) 869-9506 for more information.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Pre-planning made easier Online tools help families design bronze memorials from anywhere

In an effort to assist our lot owners and their families with pre-planning bronze memorials, Memory Gardens' memorial advisors now have the capability of designing them online.

With endless options on sizes, colors, designs, styles and borders, our cast bronze memorials now have more options like photos, emblems and bronze cameos to consider. This no-cost process allows you to have the peace of mind that your memorial, and your family's, is being created the way you want. Once you are finished with the design process, you have the option to purchase the memorial at today's rate. With this service, your loved ones do not have to design the memorial and pay during their time of mourning.

For additional information, call or email a memorial advisor at [info@memorygardens.org](mailto:info@memorygardens.org).

(Detach and return this portion with your payment)

## WINTER PLACEMENT SERVICE ORDER FORM

FRESH NATURAL EVERGREEN WREATH \$43

ARTIFICIAL WREATH \$45

ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE \$45

SILK POINSETTIA \$25 (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](http://www.memorygardens.org)

## 2020 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 14, 2020. We have several options that you can choose from:

1 For **outside** burial spaces, we offer a Fresh Natural Evergreen Wreath for \$43. 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 \$25. Quantities are limited for this item and orders will be filled while supplies last.



Wreaths provided by  
Holland Florist of Colonie

1



2



3



4

## Memory Gardens, Inc.

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

NON-PROFIT 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](http://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

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## Guide to important dates at Memory Gardens

### 2020

#### 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

### 2021

#### 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 4

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

#### May 1

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

For more details visit our website

[www.memorygardens.org](http://www.memorygardens.org)