



In The Garden

by Matthew Widman, *The MemoryCare Plays Anthology*

Arthur Monsetin's adult children have come together to decide a course of action for their beloved father who is struggling with Alzheimer's disease. Long ingrained familial tensions come to the surface as Peter, Karen and Jamie wrestle with how best to treasure their father as they also come to terms with his limitations.

A FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

In-person viewing sites OR via your own computer!

- Granite Falls Senior Center
- Johnson Memorial Health Services
- Granite Falls KCC Center
- Dawson City Building
- Granite Falls Ridge Senior Housing
- Montevideo Millennium Theater

Thursday, March 24, 2022 - 1-3pm

Reserve tickets and get additional details:

(320) 564-3235 OR <https://gf-garden2022.eventbrite.com>

Reservations required, attendance is limited.



Thank you to our Community Partners

The Remember Project's 3rd in a three part series of video plays coming March 24th

The Granite Falls Living at Home Block Nurse Program (GF-LAH/BNP) is pleased to announce the upcoming virtual performance of "In the Garden," the third in a three part series of plays being presented by the Remember Project. The event will be held on Thursday March 24th from 1-3:00 PM. People can participate by attending at one of several viewing rooms, including the Granite Falls Kilowatt Center (KCC), the Granite Falls Senior Center, Granite Ridge, the Millennium Theatre in Montevideo and several locations in Dawson. People can also view this play through zoom on their own computer, tablet or smart-phone. The program is free to the public, but seating is limited and reservations are required.

"The combination of watching this play in a group setting followed by a facilitated discussion has proven to be an excellent way for people and communities to better understand the challenges facing those with memory loss. It also helps families, and friends become better care-partners," said Remember Project Director and facilitator, Danette McCarthy.

The Remember Project is a special program created to help family members, care partners, local businesses, and the broader community engage in conversation around dementia and the most well-known form of memory loss, Alzheimer's disease. People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to attend this

program.

The play, "In the Garden," was written by Matthew Widman and published in *The MemoryCare Plays*, a book of three one-act plays compiled and edited by Dr. Margaret A. Noel. "This play is dedicated to my father Harry Widman, a wonderful artist, teacher and parent," said the playwright. "Although the characters in the play are fictional, my father's voice rings true through the persona of Arthur, a man who despite his illness, never loses his observant eye for the splendor and excitement of the world around him."

The setting for "In the Garden" is the home of Arthur Monsetin. His three grown children have come together after the death of their mother to decide a course of action for their beloved father, who is struggling with Alzheimer's disease. While Arthur may wander off at times, lash out in anger or forget the names of his grandchildren, at other times he is lucid, funny, and wise. Old familial tensions come to the surface when Peter, Karen, and Jamie struggle to treasure their father as they also come to terms with his limitations. Each of Arthur's children has a very different view about what is best, yet one thing is clear: their love for their father will guide the way.

"This inter-generational scenario is taking place every day within thousands of families across America as adult children try their very best to chart a course for loved ones who are experiencing dementia," said McCarthy. "It can feel extremely isolating to face decisions about care. Navigating the journey of decision-making as a family is difficult. Especially when an unexpected crisis forces decisions. In the Garden' is a compassionate invitation of help for families and friends so they might support each other through the challenges and pressures placed on care partners."

The ultimate goal of the Remember Project is to assist community members and leaders in considering new ways of thinking about memory loss and to become aware of local resources that exist to support families dealing with a diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

The Remember Project has been presenting this three part series of the plays, "Fortune Cookies," "Steering into the Skid," and "In the Garden" since, 2015. To date, over 200 live and virtual performances with conversations have taken place, helping address the stigma, fear, and isolation associated with dementia. This very unique experience uses theater and conversation to better understand Dementia in order to make informed decisions about the future.

Hosted by GF-LAH/BNP this event is also sponsored by, MAMLN, JMHS and the Minnesota Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA). Tickets can be obtained by calling GF-LAH/BNP at 320-564-3235, or on-line through Eventbrite at <https://gf-garden2022.eventbrite.com>.