

NEWSLETTER

MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND
119 Kenyon Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818

884-5933
884-5451



SPRING 1981

No. 1

May 1981

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Rev. Frederick E. Gillis, President; Carolin Goldman, Vice President, Marie Hennedy, Corr. Secretary; Winnifred Bennis, Recording Secretary; Muriel Flood*, Treasurer; Rev. Bruce Kennedy*, Nelson Marshall; Anne Wise; Edmund Armstrong*.
(*Terms end in June.)

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Memorial Society of RI will be held at 3 PM on Sunday, June 7 in the fellowship hall of the Westminster Unitarian Church, 119 Kenyon Ave., East Greenwich, to hear reports from the President and Treasurer, to elect three Directors to serve until 1984, and to make amendments to the bylaws of the Society (text of changes on page 2).

A program for members and other interested people will precede the business meeting. It will feature a discussion of "living wills" by Rep. Anthony Carcieri, who recently presented a bill on the subject in the State legislature, and who will speak on the legal aspects, and John Ladd, Professor Philosophy at Brown University, who will discuss some of the theoretical and philosophical concepts involved.

WIDE INTEREST SHOWN IN MEMORIAL SOCIETY

A question sent to the Providence Journal-Bulletin's "Action Line" in January sparked an interview with Memorial Society President Fred Gillis. The reply in the paper listed the Society as a source of information on alternative funeral arrangements. This produced over 50 inquiries and several memberships. Subsequent TV appearances have resulted in several more inquiries.

MEMORIAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

The Memorial Society of Rhode Island is now officially incorporated under R.I. law as a "non-business" corporation. It is also registered with the federal Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt organization. Membership in the Continental Association of Funeral and Memorial Societies is now pending approval of bylaw changes.

The Society offers to members basic information on relevant laws and available funeral services and has set up a recording keeping service for members who wish to have their funeral plans on file in a place outside their home.

MEMBERSHIP GROWS

The Memorial Society of R.I. now has 17 individual memberships and 29 family memberships. This represents about 76 people. Over 120 have shown interest in the services of the Society. Spread the word to your friends. The more members we have, the stronger is our voice.

Membership applications are available by calling the Memorial Society at 884-5933 (weekdays 9:30-12:30) or by writing us at 119 Kenyon Avenue, East Greenwich, RI 02818.

PRESIDENT'S APPEARANCES

President Fred Gillis has represented the Society on several occasions recently:

July 1980 - Spoke on memorial societies before a class on Death and Dying at Bristol Co. Community College, Fall River.

Nov. 1980 - Spoke before a similar class at URI, Providence.

Jan. 1981 - Responded to request for information from Action Line.

Feb. 1981 - TV appearance on Bob Blanchard's Channel 12 Consumer File.

Mar. 1981 - TV appearance on RI State Council of Churches Channel 10 program - The Week Starts Here.

Apr. 1981 - Spoke before widows and widowers group in Seekonk with Vice Pres. Carolin Goldman

May 1981 - TV appearance with funeral directors on Channel 12's Face to Face with Lawrence vanHeerden.

MANUAL AVAILABLE

One of the most comprehensive manuals on the topic of simple funeral arrangements is the commonsense booklet called A Manual of Death Education and Simple Burial, by Ernest Morgan. The Society has copies available to members at the discount price of \$1.50. For non-members the price is \$2.50

Muriel Flood
Conflict with
Fant Batton Party