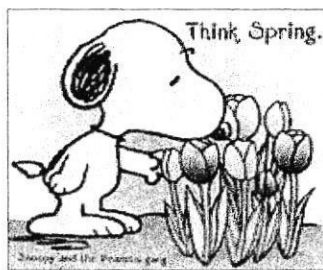


MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND
119 Kenyon Avenue
East Greenwich, R. I. 02818

884-5933
884-5451



SPRING 1982

No. 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Rev. Frederick Gillis, President 884-5451; Anne Wise, Vice President 295-5993; Carolin Goldman*, Corr. Secretary 884-7875; Winnifred Bennis, Rec. Secretary 539-2505; Muriel Flood, Treasurer 294-3789; Rev. Harry Hubbling* 884-2868; Dr. Nelson Marshall* 783-5312; Emily McAllister 783-4208; Rev. Bruce Kennedy 751-2025(* Terms end in June)

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Memorial Society will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 3 in the fellowship hall of the Westminster Unitarian Church, 119 Kenyon Ave., East Greenwich, to hear reports from the President and Treasurer and to elect four Directors to serve on the Board (see Nominating Report).

GUEST SPEAKER

The Guest Speaker for the Annual Meeting will be Mr. Robert Canny, Executive Director of R.I. HOSPICE CARE, who will present the work of Hospice with terminally ill patients as they seek dignity and calm in the process of dying.

Dessert and Coffee will be served.
If you can contribute a dessert, please call Muriel Flood at 294-3789 by June 1.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee presents the following names for Directors to serve as indicated:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Carolin Goldman | for 3 years |
| 2. Polly Harrison | for 3 years |
| 3. To be announced | for 3 years |
| 4. Laurel Sakariason | for 1 year |

Further nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting.

Carolin Goldman
Chair

SPREADING THE WORD

President Fred Gillis has given talks on the work of the Memorial Society to staff and volunteers of Hospice Care of R.I. and to a Death and Dying study group at the Seekonk Congregational Church. Board members are available as speakers to any interested group. Contact the Society.

CREMATION AFFIDAVITS

There is still some confusion about the need for people who choose cremation to have a completed, notarized affidavit expressing those wishes. We eliminated the affidavit form because members seemed to be delaying returning their forms to us until they could get around to having that form notarized.

In Rhode Island, the next of kin has the power to decide whether or not a body will be cremated. No forms or affidavits can guarantee that your wishes will be respected if your next of kin decides otherwise. This is why it is so important to discuss your funeral plans with your close relatives. The person most likely to be making final arrangements should be in accord with your wishes. Having your wishes on file with the Memorial Society, in an accessible place in your home, with a next of kin, and with your chosen funeral director will increase the likelihood that your wishes are respected.

If you have no close relatives, however, and file a plan with a funeral director, it might be wise to file with it a notarized form indicating your wishes. This clearly protects him from any possible legal action.

MEMORIAL SOCIETY GROWING

As of this newsletter, the Memorial Society of Rhode Island has 112 memberships covering 180 people. Some of these are transfers from other societies, especially the New England Memorial Society, but we are also getting several new memberships. People hear of us by word of mouth and from talks given to various groups.

Tell your friends. The more members we have, the stronger we are as a consumer organization and the more resources we will have to serve those members.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS IN YOUR WILL

We have generally advised members that it is a waste of time to put your wishes for funeral arrangements in a will because the will is not ordinarily read until several days after a death. A lawyer tells us, however, that putting your wishes in your will, as well as having them on a form kept in an accessible place, will make a clear case for your wishes in case there is confusion or disagreement among those making final arrangements.