

THE MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.
25 Monmouth Street, Brookline, Mass. 02146

(617) 731-2073
(24-hour answering service)

November 7, 1977

Dear Member:

We would like to share the news of the Memorial Society with you. The Society is continuing to expand in size and service to its members and the community. Two very fine programs are planned to give you information and the opportunity to have questions answered about the funeral industry and funeral and memorial services.

On December 1, Chief of the Consumer Division, Paula Gold, will speak on "The Massachusetts Funeral Industry and the Consumer." She will be the speaker for the annual meeting to be held at 7:45 p.m. at Temple Sinai, 50 Sewall Avenue, Brookline, Mass.

On Monday evening, December 12, at 7:30 p.m., we are conducting a workshop at the ~~First Church of Belmont, Unitarian, 404 Concord Avenue, Belmont.~~ The subject to be discussed will be "Funeral and Memorial Services - Doing What is Meaningful." Ministers and Laymen will review some of the religious tradition of funerals and, also, other ways that people can create a personal and significant remembrance of the loved one who died. We hope you will attend.

As you know, the purpose of the Memorial Society of New England is to help members make the type of funeral arrangements most suitable. Most families are grateful if plans are available when death occurs and are relieved to feel that they are carrying out the wishes of the deceased. Enclosed you will find our new "Personal Data and Pre-planning Information" form. If you have not already filed your plan with us, please fill out the enclosed form now and send us a copy. There are seven (7) Plans to choose from and they are: Plan I, Simple Burial; Plan II, Cremation; Plan III, Burial After Viewing; Plan IV, Cremation After Viewing; Plan V, Donation of Entire Body to Medical School; Plan VI, Simple Jewish Funeral; Plan VII, Jewish Funeral With Chapel Service.

We have increased our office staff and they are available on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings for assistance. If you are a member of a church group or social organization and would like to have a staff member speak about the Society, please call us.

The Society recently signed a contract with a Funeral Director in Cambridge, with whom we have had excellent relations for the past ten years. The contract guarantees certain prices for each of the Plans mentioned above. Please call the office for more information. Also, if you have had an experience with a Funeral Director, good or bad, we would appreciate hearing about it in order to keep our files current.

On your proxy please note a new name, Father Robert McEwen, S.J., who has been nominated to the Board of Directors. He is a professor of economics at Boston College, a member of the Massachusetts Consumers Council, and President of the Massachusetts Association of Consumers.

Enclosed is the notice of the annual meeting. We urge you to attend this important meeting and to vote on the issues involved.

Dr. George J. Richardson
Dr. George Richardson (no)
President

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TO: Members of the Memorial Society of New England, Inc.

You are hereby notified that a special meeting in lieu of the annual meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, 1977 at 7:45 p.m. in Schmertzler Hall, Temple Sinai, 50 Sewall Avenue, Brookline.

AGENDA:

1. To hear reports of officers and committees and staff and act thereon.
2. To elect officers for the coming year:
Dr. George S. Richardson, President
A. Leavitt Taylor, Clerk
David Sheets, Treasurer
3. To elect Directors-at-Large for 3 year terms: (* for re-election)
Father Robert J. McEwen, S.J.
T. Ewell Hopkins *
Rabbi Frank Waldorf *
Francis Caswell *
Dr. George Richardson *
A. Leavitt Taylor *
Edwin F. Taylor *
4. To vote on a motion to amend the Articles of Organization so the Society can become a charitable organization and receive gifts which are tax free for the donor.
5. Speaker: Ms. Paula Gold - "The Massachusetts Funeral Industry and the Consumer."
Ms. Gold is Assistant Attorney General, Chief of the Consumer Protection Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She will discuss the recent report made by her office concerning the funeral industry in Massachusetts and changes in statutes and regulations which would give the consumer better protection. The audience will be invited to ask questions.

DIRECTIONS TO TEMPLE SINAI:

50 Sewall Avenue, Brookline, December 1, 1977, at 7:45 p.m., at Temple Sinai located near the corner of Harvard and Beacon Streets at Coolidge Corner. Sewall Avenue runs off Longwood Ave. Parking is available in the parking lot at the Bay State Federal and Savings & Loan Bank.

Please turn over for important Proxy. As members of the Memorial Society, your vote is important. If you cannot attend the December 1 meeting and vote in person, please send your Proxy to: The Memorial Society of New England, Inc., 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline, Mass. 02146 by January 1, 1978.

PROXY: Each person who is a member of the Memorial Society of New England, Inc., please sign:

I hereby authorize _____ (must be a member) or the Clerk of the Society (if no name is filled in, the Clerk will vote the Proxy) TO VOTE MY PROXY FOR:

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| | YES | NO |
| a. The slate of officers and board members as proposed | () | () |
| b. The motion to change the statement of purpose in the Articles of Organization. | () | () |
| c. Such matters as may lawfully come before the meeting. | () | () |

Date _____

Signature _____

Address _____

The statement of in the Articles of Organization presently read as follows:

It shall be the purpose of this Society through educational, religious and charitable means to: 1. Assist persons of all faiths (and of no faith) in meeting the problems of death; 2. Encourage donation of tissue for the benefit of the living, and of bodies for medical science; 3. Provide guidance in planning memorial services and in meeting the emotional and social needs of death.

In carrying out these objectives, it is expressly provided that the Society: 1. Shall not permit any part of its assets to inure to the benefit of any officer, director or member; 2. Shall not engage in political activity, nor attempt to influence legislation; 3. Shall, in case of dissolution, distribute its assets only to like educational, religious and/or charitable organizations, as the Directors may decide.

The Board of Directors has recommended the statement of purpose of the Corporation shall be changed as follows:

It shall be the purpose of this Society through religious, educational, and charitable means to: 1. Assist any person, on request, in meeting the problems arising after death; 2. Publish and distribute literature describing the choices of funerals available (for cost of printing and mailing); 3. Encourage donation of tissues for the benefit of the living and of bodies for medical science; 4. For those who pay a membership fee, to give assistance in pre-planning and keep a record of their plan; 5. Provide guidance in planning memorial services and in meeting the emotional and social needs of death.

In carrying out these objectives it is expressly provided that the Society: 1. Shall not permit any part of its assets to inure to the benefit of any officer, director or member; 2. Shall have no substantial part of the activities of the organization be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; 3. Shall, in case of dissolution, distribute its assets only to like educational, religious and/or charitable organizations, as the Directors may decide.