

# MEMORIAL SOCIETY

66 Marlborough Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116  
(617) 859-7990

---

---

*Newsletter*

*Fall 1992*

---

---

## *NOTICE OF SPECIAL AND ANNUAL MEETINGS MEMORIAL SOCIETY*

You are cordially invited to the Special Meeting (in accordance with By Laws) and the Annual Meeting of the Memorial Society.

It will be held on:

Thursday, October 8th, 1992  
at the First and Second Church in Boston  
64 Marlborough Street (corner Berkeley), Boston  
with the following schedule:

5 p.m. - Coffee and Cider  
5:40 p.m. - Special Meeting (in accordance with By Laws)  
6:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting

When the Annual Meeting is adjourned, our speaker will be an official from the Public Affairs Office of the Social Security Administration. They will be discussing survivor's benefits, followed by a question and answer period.

*Parking is limited in the area and we suggest either carpooling or taking public transportation. The nearest subway stop is Arlington Street on the Green Line. From there walk up Arlington Street (towards the river, alongside the Public Garden) until you get to Marlborough Street. Turn left, go down one block, cross over Berkeley Street, and the church entrance is on Marlborough Street.*

## *A Message from George S. Richardson...*

---

Our Memorial Society was born at Unitarian Universalist headquarters in 1960. I do not know who was the initiator - perhaps it was Talbot Pearson, loing a pillar of our organization - but I found myself being elected president, a position I have held most of the time ever since.

The Memorial Society promptly became a member of the Continental Association of Funeral and Memorial Societies, but initially it was our own local response to widespread dismay across the country about abuses that had occurred in the selling of funerals to unprepared and grieving persons. The major revelation of all this was Jessica Mitford's book, "The American Way of Death."

The response in most parts of the country was to add funerals to the many concerns of the consumer movement. Our Memorial Society, on the other hand, immediately asked clergy of all faiths to join its board and adopted "Freedom of Choice" as its theme. We recognized that people of different faiths, social backgrounds and financial means needed different kinds of funeral arrangements, and we provided the options and the means of obtaining them. We also consistently made the simplest and least expensive funeral arrangements available to those who wanted them. I believe we have served our members well over the years, but I have always felt that we should be able to reach farther and do more. More recently, I have worried not bout growth of the Society, but about its survival in a changing world.

I am now deeply pleased to report that we have brought together a number of able, active persons who know the Memorial Society, who know by direct experience how to help people when confronted with funeral planning, and who are willing to come together and form a wholly new board that will direct an entirely voluntary organization. I am delighted with the interest and dedication of our new board and our new President-elect, Benjamin Adler. I look forward to more participation of our member-

ship in the activities of the Memorial Society and a wider diffusion of the help that the Memorial Society can provide.

## *A Message from Ben Adler....*

---

As we embark on a new phase in the growth and development of the Memorial Society, it is my honor and privilege to serve as your President. The shoes of my predecessor are difficult to fill, but will be the guiding inspiration for the future.

The officers and Board are elected to represent you, the members. The Society is your organization and only with your effort and cooperation can those in office truly lead. Each of us will work to earn your support.

A concerted effort will be made to raise the consciousness of the public about the work of the Society; to dispel myths and to provide enabling education in the community. The funeral industry must not perceive us in an adversarial role, and they will be "invited to our table" for meaningful and productive dialogue. While we are very aware of the realistic limitations imposed on the Society by its budget, its size and its totally volunteer leadership, we are committed to being responsive to our members' needs and requests. In this, our primary endeavor, we seek your help. Please, call and volunteer to share a skill or an interest, as we grow together toward achieving that potential worthy of this Memorial Society.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Generally - Replace "his" with "his or her".

- I. Change the Name of the organization as set out in the heading and in Article I to THE MEMORIAL SOCIETY.
- II. Purpose. Put into Article II the wording from the Agreement of Association as amended in 1982. (copies will be available at the Annual Meeting).
- IV. Officers and Directors. Change so that all officers and directors serve one year terms. Add the following provisions for resignation and replacement.

Any Director or other elected officer may resign his/her office at any time, such resignation to be made in writing, and to take effect from the time of its receipt by the Corporation, unless some other time be fixed in the resignation.

If any of the offices shall become vacant for any reason, the remaining Directors may elect a successor or successors who shall hold said office for the unexpired term.

- V. Duties of Officers and Directors (formerly Article VI).
  - (1) Delete required date for the first directors' meeting.
  - (2) Expand the description of the duties of the President by deleting the present sentence and substituting therefor the following:

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Membership and at all meetings of the Board of Directors. He/She shall perform all duties incident to the office of the President, including handling administrative details for the smooth functioning of the Corporation and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.
  - (3) Have the President appoint the Nominating Committee three months before the Annual Meeting, to report back at least one month before meeting.
- VI. Meetings (formerly Article V).

Have the time and place of the Annual Meeting to be determined by the Board. Have the notices of all membership meetings mailed at least three weeks before the meeting.
- VII-IX. No substantial change.
- X. Amendment of By-Laws

Delete requirement that notice of any proposed amendment "shall also have been given to members at a previous meeting."

**PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS**

President - Benjamin Adler  
Vice President - Thomas Leavitt  
Vice President - John G. Van Dusen  
Treasurer - Byron E. Blanchard  
Clerk - Susan C. Twist

*Board Members*

Freda Carnes  
Harry Jacobs  
Jean E. Rodeck

George S. Richardson  
David Sheets  
Robert Wolf

I hereby authorize the Clerk of the Society to vote for:

(1) The Slate of Officers as proposed Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Such matters as may lawfully come before the meeting:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

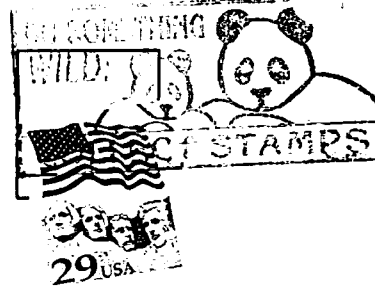
Signature of Member \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would also like to support The Memorial Society with a voluntary, tax deductible contribution and enclose it herewith.

Please change my address: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you very much for your support.

The Memorial Society  
66 Marlborough Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



Mr. & Mrs. Byron Blanchard  
16 Round Hill Rd.  
Lexington MA 02173

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**