

**International Institute
for Secular Humanistic Judaism
Hires Associate Professor**

Lincolnshire, IL – March 25, 2010

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) is pleased to announce that Rabbi Miriam S. Jerris, Ph.D. has been appointed as the Associate Professor for Professional Development. “Rabbi Jerris’ experience, expertise and personality will be tremendous assets to our students and our Institute,” said Rabbi Adam Chalom, Dean for North America of the IISHJ. “The professional training Rabbi Jerris will provide for our Leaders/Madrikhim-ot/Vegvayzers and Rabbis is exactly why the Institute was founded.”



Rabbi Jerris holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies and Masters Degrees in Near Eastern Studies and Humanistic and Clinical Psychology. She graduated and was ordained with the second rabbinic class of the IISHJ. Rabbi Jerris has deep roots to the movement, serving first as the Executive Director of the national Society for Humanistic Judaism, then as the first director of the IISHJ Rabbinic Program and the director of the Intermarriage Department of the IISHJ. She currently serves as Rabbi of the Society for Humanistic Judaism. She has also been a guest lecturer for the Michigan School of Professional Psychology and on graduate committees for both the Michigan School of Professional Psychology and the Union Institute University.

Jerris’ duties will include teaching professional development courses for the IISHJ in community management, counseling, and officiating life cycle ceremonies. She will also advise, support and supervise students in all IISHJ programs, ensuring that they are fully informed and on track in their programs.

“Mentoring students has always been of particular interest to me. I am so glad to be able to contribute to the training and education of the future leaders of Secular Humanistic Judaism,” said Jerris.

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism is the intellectual and educational arm of the Secular Humanistic Jewish Movement. The Institute presents and promotes the philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism by exploring Jewish cultural identity through academic inquiry and by training the leaders and Rabbis of the movement in North America and in Israel. Information about the Institute and its programs is available at its website, www.iishj.org, or by contacting info@iishj.org or 847-777-6907.

#