



# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

## IISHJ OPENS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE IN CHICAGO AREA

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism is expanding beyond its Michigan campus. Founded in Jerusalem in 1985 as the central educational institution of our movement, the Institute's first office was Rabbi Sherwin Wine's office; its first administrator, Bess Katz, lived in Philadelphia; and its first classroom was a living room. Fifteen years ago, the Institute opened its office in the Pivnick Center for Humanistic Judaism in Farmington Hills, Michigan, from which it organized seminars, stocked a library, held colloquia, and trained leaders, educators, music directors, spokespersons and rabbis. Today the Institute is growing by opening a new campus in North America.

This spring, the Institute will be opening an administrative center for North America in Lincolnshire, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Following the death of IISHJ Dean and Provost Sherwin Wine in 2007, Rabbi Adam Chalom of Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation, then the IISHJ Assistant Dean for North America, assumed new responsibilities, becoming Dean of the Institute for North America. In a symbiotic relationship, the Institute will be sharing office space and staff with Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation. Bringing the dean and the administrative offices under one roof will provide new opportunities for the Institute to grow and expand its programs.

The Institute campus in Michigan will continue to be active. Colloquium 2009 is scheduled for October 2009 in Michigan. The Institute will continue to offer seminars for rabbinic, leadership, and general adult education at the Pivnick Center in Farmington Hills. The Milan Library will continue to provide resources and support for rabbinic and leadership students. And the Institute archives will remain at the Pivnick Center.

Irene Chase, a Kol Hadash member, will be assuming the role of Executive Assistant for Kol Hadash and for the Institute. Irene was educated at the secular North Shore School of Jewish Studies, and has also attended Rabbi Chalom's two year adult education curriculum in Jewish history, Jewish culture and the philosophy and roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism. Her experience both as an attorney and as a Secular Humanistic Jew will serve the Institute very well.

The Institute extends its gratitude to Linda Glass, who accepted the position of Executive Director 18 months ago and has seen us through a very difficult transition period, and to Lynne Master, President of the IISHJ. Special recognition also goes to Rabbi Miriam Jerris and Bonnie Cousens for their institutional memory and generosity. And, of course, many thanks to the Institute's many supporters and students. Without their participation, the Institute could not continue.

Information about the Institute and its programs is available at its website, [www.iishj.org](http://www.iishj.org), or by contacting [info@iishj.org](mailto:info@iishj.org). New mailing and phone information will be forthcoming shortly.