

The “Secular Yeshiva” – Course in Advanced Jewish Studies

February 2012 through January 2015 *

Who is eligible?

• Members, staff and friends of **The Sholem Community, SoCal Arbeter Ring (Workmen’s Circle)**, as well as others, including graduates of the **Jeremiah Project**, willing to commit to an intensive two-year course of study. Applicants will be asked to submit a brief description of past education and/or activities in Jewish and general cultural/educational/social movements.

- Maximum enrollment: 15 individuals.
- **Apply no later than Jan. 21, 2012 to <hersh1@sholem.org>**

What is the commitment?

- Two ***Sunday evening*** sessions per month, each 2-1/2 hours (60 class hours total)
- Significant advance reading/research
- Readiness to participate in seminar-style discussions, led by participants as well as instructors
- Purchase of books and publications recommended by instructors
- Nominal fees, dependent upon offsetting grants from outside sources

What will be covered?

Approximately six sessions (15 hrs.) will be devoted to each of these topics:

- History and Basic Ideas of Secular Jewishness
- Critical examination of *Tanakh* (Hebrew bible); post-biblical literature
- Jewish calendar and holidays
- World Jewish history
- Eastern European Jewish history
- American Jewish history (incl. Rediscovering Our Radical Roots)
- Yiddish literature in translation
- Jewish American literature

*** Certification as Secular Jewish *vegvayzer*/Leaders:**

An *additional* year of study (Feb.-Dec., 2015) covering:

- Developing Secular Jewish life-cycle and holiday ceremonies in community and home settings
- Reviewing/Developing curricula for Secular Jewish schools

Instructors:

- Hersh1 Hartman, Certified Secular Jewish *vegvayzer*; faculty, International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism; Ed. Dir., The Sholem Community; District Committee, SoCal Arbeter Ring (Workmen’s Circle)
- Other Certified *vegvayzer* in Southern California
- Noted scholars in L.A. area Secular Jewish movements/institutions
- Invited guest lecturers from L.A. area higher learning faculties