

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SHJ HUMANISTIC JUDAISM, SUMMER 2018

### **“SHJ Humanistic Jewish Role Model of the Year,” including interview with Jordan Walker-Pearlman, by Paul Golin**

Gene Wilder, the Society for Humanistic Judaism's Humanistic Jewish Role Model of the year, had a remarkable and inspiring life. There is a wonderful range of ways in his story that show "Jewishness without religion" in principle and in action.

1. What stood out for you as an individual?
2. What would you like to see in SHJ community life to emulate his example?

### **“Spiritual, Not Religious,” by Rabbi Miriam Jerris**

Humanistic Jews show their individual takes on spirituality in this welcome and important survey and analysis by Rabbi Miriam Jerris.

1. Do you regard yourself as "spiritual but not religious"?
2. Is it a crucial distinction for you, or perhaps meaningless or trivial?
3. For those who think it is important, how would you see this reflected in Humanistic Jewish practice?
4. Would you change anything in the way communities celebrate, observe and operate? How and why? Or are you happy with how things are?

### **“Jews for a Secular Democracy,” by Richard Logan**

It is plain that there are strong organized movements in the United States determined to undermine secular government and by extension secular society. Richard Logan's two articles give the background and highlight why this is important for Americans: the issue is not the right to hold and express intolerant beliefs and ideas but the power to act on them, to oppress and exclude.

1. Have you been affected by intolerant acts? How have you dealt with these situations?
2. What do you think the role of SHJ can be?
3. Does your community have an active positive program?

### **“Community News”**

The wide variety of community activities in SHJ are inspiring for that alone.

1. What do you see in what others do that you would like to see incorporated into your community's life?
2. What do you and your community do now you think would be worth being taken up by others?

*Created by Steve Evans, SHJ Member, New Zealand*