



The Secular
Humanist
Alternative

Spring Retreat Weekend June 19-21, 2015

Our Annual Spring Retreat Has a New Home!

Once again we will have the opportunity to continue our tradition of a relaxing weekend away—
at Circle Lodge, the Workmen's Circle-owned and operated camp!

Please carefully read the details below.

About the Weekend. Our weekend retreats have traditionally been one of our community's most popular events. They are purely social family outings and help us build a real community. This year we are fortunate to have at our disposal [Circle Lodge](#), the Workmen's Circle-owned and operated camp located near Poughkeepsie, NY (known as Camp Kinder Ring in the summer). Activities remain largely informal and unscheduled—a weekend when we can "schmooze" with old and new friends and *relax*. The camp is equipped with an [Olympic sized heated pool](#) (swimming hours: Saturday 2:30 – 5:30), lit tennis courts, indoor and outdoor [lit basketball courts](#), beach and standard volleyball courts, a gaga court, [table tennis](#), softball fields, soccer/football fields, an indoor gym and yoga studio, a state-of-the-art movie theater, a running track, and even an outdoor [hockey rink](#). Outdoor picnics and barbecues, hiking, and campfires are permitted. And remember, guests of members are always welcome!

What's the Same at Circle Lodge? For those of you accustomed to our Stokes retreats, the Circle Lodge schedule is the same: we arrive Friday afternoon (5:00 pm or later) and leave Sunday after lunch. The weekend includes bunk housing for 2 nights, and 5 meals.

What's Different about Circle Lodge? Most significantly, no minimum attendance is required, enabling us to continue the Peretz tradition of weekend retreats. Also significant, we would not be responsible for preparing our meals or cleaning the camp, as we have been in the past. While meal preparation (and camp cleaning?) provided for social interaction, these responsibilities occupied virtually the entire weekend for the half dozen or so retreat organizers. Because Circle Lodge has staff on site to attend to these duties, costs are higher, even though the Workmen's Circle has reduced the standard rates to get this to work for our community. Due to the already-reduced rate structure, special Saturday-Only rates are no longer available.

Also, while some available activities are similar to those we engaged in at Stokes (gaga court, hiking, soccer/football fields, campfires), there are many more activities available at Circle Lodge: see *About the Weekend* above. I'm told that accommodations at Circle Lodge are less rustic than those at Stokes, and no tent camping is permitted at Circle Lodge. Finally, the camp is about 2 hours away, about 30 minutes longer than it took us to get to Stokes.

In the future, holding our retreats at Circle Lodge may give us an opportunity to book our weekend at the same time as other Workmen's Circle-affiliated organizations. Due to the late date of our booking in 2015, weekend options were limited. A daytime bar mitzvah is being held on the Saturday of our visit, although the camp is big enough so that we would not interact with this group. Our website will soon be updated to include more info about the camp and the weekend, including directions.

Meals. Food for meals (Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch), as well as food service and cleanup for all meals, is provided by camp staff. **Please list any dietary restrictions on your Registration Form.** Circle Lodge has a liquor license and will provide the wine and beer of our choosing. Guests are not permitted to bring their own food or alcohol. Meal and snack times for our 2015 visit are: Saturday breakfast, 8:00 - 9:00; Saturday lunch, 12:00 - 1:00, Saturday snack at the pool, Saturday dinner, 6:30 - 8:30; Saturday night s'mores at campfire, 9:00 - 10:00; Sunday



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breakfast, 9:00 – 10:00; Sunday lunch, 1:00 - 2:00. *Remember, food is NOT included for Friday dinner; we recommend that you eat prior to your arrival at the camp on Friday.*

Sleeping. Circle Lodge has bunk housing that accommodates 8-15 people per bunk, and each bunk has sinks and toilets. Many of the bunks have showers as well. Bathhouses with showers are a short walk from bunks. Families are welcome to stay together. Food is *NOT* allowed in the bunks.

What to Bring. Be sure to bring flashlights, sleeping bags and/or sheets and blankets, pillows, towels, soap, and any other personal items you might require. The camp can store any medicines that require refrigeration. Sports equipment is kept on site for the use of guests, and is available for 30 minutes after breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and after breakfast on Sunday. Equipment borrowed from the camp should be returned after use. You are also encouraged to bring anything you might desire: musical instruments, board games and outdoor games, recreational reading, athletic equipment, etc. Board games (some available on site) are an especially good idea for the evenings or in the event of foul weather. *Pets are not permitted.*

Your Contribution. No food preparation or facility cleaning is required. Just as we would when visiting any community spaces, trash should be deposited in appropriate receptacles and not on camp grounds. The camp's sports equipment and games should be returned to their designated locations after use. Children should be supervised at all times.

REGISTRATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE

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Due Friday, June 5th



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REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, June 5th

Family Name: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Names AND AGES of all registrants: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

	Saturday Only*			+	Full Weekend			=	Total
	Number of People	x	Cost Per Person		Number of People	x	Cost Per Person		
Teens/Adults (13+)	Not Available			+		x	\$139	=	
Children (4-12)	Not Available			+		x	\$99	=	
Tikes (under 4)	Not Available			+		x	\$0	=	
								Sum Total	<input type="text"/>

* Saturday Only is not an option at Circle Lodge

IMPORTANT!

Registration and Payment by the Friday, June 5th registration deadline is appreciated, as it allows Circle Lodge to properly plan and purchase food for the weekend. A late charge of \$5 per-person will be charged for those not registering by the deadline. Feel free to pay in a single lump sum or in multiple payments.

Mail this form with your check payable to "IL Peretz CJS" to:
Rob Pestka, 2 Elbert Court, Highland Park, NJ 08904

Questions? Contact Rob at 732-616-9746 or rob@pestka.net