

**EVELY LASER SHLENSKY**

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**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**ACADEMIC DEGREES:**

**University of California, Berkeley:** A.B., Sociology, Phi Beta Kappa, 1963

**Brandeis University:** 1960-62, Louis D. Brandeis Honorary Scholar

**Fielding Institute:** M.A., Human Services Management, 1984. Thesis: "The Jews of Santa Barbara"

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

**MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger**

Vice Chairperson: 2009-2012

National Board Member: 1992-2012

Co-Chairperson: MAZON Nominating Committee 2012-present

Chairperson: Grants Advisory Committee: 1999-2006

Member Grants Advisory Committee: 1992-present

**Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism**

Chairperson: 1991-1997

Member: 1980-present

**Union for Reform Judaism**

National Board: 1983-2013

Honorary National Board Member: 2013-present

Vice Chairperson: 1991-1995

Executive Board: 1987-2001; 2003-2007

**Pacific SW Council President:** 1993-1997

**North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry**

President: 2009-2012

Board member: 2004-present

**Congregation B'nai B'rith, Santa Barbara, CA**

President: 1989-1991

Board Member: 2012-present

**T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights**

Member, Advocacy Committee on Israel: 2013

**Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion**

Board of Governors: 1999-2010

**Jewish Council on Urban Affairs**

Vice Pres. 2005-2010

Board Member: 1975-79; 1997-2010

**Interfaith Worker Justice**

Founding Board Member: 1996-2007; Exec. Comm., 2005-2007

**Los Angeles Jewish Commission on Sweatshops**

Co-Chairperson, 1997-2001

**American Civil Liberties Union, Santa Barbara**

President: 1984-1987

**Santa Barbara Jewish Federation**

Jewish Community Relations Council: 1990-2006

**Human Relations Commission of Santa Barbara County**

Commissioner: 1994-1997

**Association of Reform Zionists of America:**

Board Member, 2004-2007

**HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE, AND JUSTICE TRIPS:**

Participant in national interfaith delegation invited to accompany 4,500 **Salvadoran refugees** from a Honduran refugee camp to El Salvador, 1987

Visit to the **Soviet Union to meet with Refuseniks**, 1987

Member of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish delegation to Israel, the West Bank, Egypt (meeting with President Mubarak), Jordan, and Syria to explore the **Middle East Peace Process**, 1992

Member of UAHC delegation to **Billings, Montana**, to celebrate the city's stand against anti-Semitism and racism: 1994

Member of Jewish delegation to meet with **Jews of Cuba**, 1995

Observer of the **Palestinian elections**, January 20, 1996 as part of a delegation

of Americans for Peace Now

Participant in **Mission to Argentina and Brazil** with the World Union for Progressive Judaism to assess needs, 2002

Mission to **Haiti** with MAZON group to view Haitian projects funded by MAZON through the Lambi Fund, 2003

Mission to **Ethiopia** with North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, 2004

Chairperson of **Israel Mitzvah Corps** of the Commission on Social Action, focusing on social justice issues in Israel, 2005

Visit to **Kenya** with International Medical Corps to view their work combating HIV/AIDS, 2006

International Observer in **Presidential election in El Salvador** as part of a MAZON/SHARE delegation, March, 2009

## **PUBLICATIONS** (Partial List)

Lirdof Tzedek: A Guide to Synagogue Social Action, UAHC Press, 2001

### **Reform Judaism**

"The Synagogue as Sacred Boot Camp," My Opinion, Winter, 2005

"In Love Again," Response to Michael Meyer, Summer, 2005

Ethical Will, Winter, 1998

"Speaking Truth to Power," Fall, 1991

"What is Holy?" Spring, 1990

"God Traces," Spring, 1988

"Tzedakah Stories," Fall, 1987

### **The CCAR Journal**

"Sanctuary: An Affirmation of Jewish Moral Competency," Winter, 1989

"A Response to Michael Meyer: Social Justice as a Route To Engagement of North American Jews with Israel," Spring, 2007

### **Tikkun**

"Jewish Accountability & Jewish Garment Manufacturers," Sept, 1997

### **Sh'ma**

"Going Forth," April, 1995

**The Reform Judaism Reader**, Michael A. Meyer and W. Gunther Plaut, UAHC

Press, 2001, Essay: "Jewish Faith and Social Justice"

**HONORS:**

**INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD** of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, 2002

**NATIONAL JEWISH FAST FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE:** Honored for pursuit of justice and peace, July, 2000

**EVELY LASER SHLENSKY TIKKUN OLAM**(repair of the world) **AWARD**

established by Congregation B'nai B'rith, Santa Barbara, 1996

Selected as One of "**Fifty Faces of Justice**" by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, 2013

**BEULAH ENGELSBERG AWARD** for civil liberties leadership, 1988

**ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** award for involvement in Sanctuary Movement, 1986