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We celebrate our new Board President, Elisheva Herrera

Welcome to 2022 folks! When Madam President Sheila TOLD me I would be the next president, I was wide-eyed and speechless. Then the Rabbi asked me to be the new president. “Why me?” was a question I asked them and eventually myself. They wanted someone passionate and energetic, who could get things done. Well, I felt like I had been in hibernation, professionally speaking, since the isolation of the pandemic.

I looked back on my previous success at a non-profit in Northern California, Arts Unity Movement (AUM) to see how I might apply those skills at Congregation Beit Tikva. AUM was an established entity that was not yet profitable. One of our friends was a very successful marketing executive who helped us clarify our brand, mission statement, and objectives.



SAVE THE DATE
February 27, 2022
Duke City Hora Klezmer Concert
More details to come soon.



Similarly, at Beit Tikva, we have several Board members who have had very successful businesses, including our own retired marketing executive, Merrill Ehrenberg.

Having a mission statement helped the AUM Board come together in consensus in pursuit of a common goal, much like we need a “minyan” to start a prayer service. Things happen when enough people have the same focus and intention. This was my experience at AUM. Once we realized who we were and why we had gathered, we put some marketing materials together and BAM! The first event I went to landed us contracts with the county. Those contracts are still the bread and butter for that non-profit which is now thriving. AUM went from barely surviving to being well established and successful once the Board was united and moving in the direction of a common goal. This is my intention for Congregation Beit Tikva.

We currently have 68 members. Membership dues don’t come close to meeting our yearly budget and we don’t yet have an endowment. That means we have to do fundraising every year. Rabbi Martin Levy has been our primary fundraiser thus far. He’s done a wonderful job of keeping us afloat. Many thanks to the Rabbi and Madam President Sheila Bicol for getting us through a couple of challenging years.

Now it’s time for Congregation Beit Tikva to thrive!
—Elisheva



Have you ever noticed how quickly that which is current becomes passé? One week we extoll the bounties of a bull market, and the following week we are focused on cryptocurrencies, and their effect on our money markets. One day we hear words like the January 6th commission, and the next day we are mesmerized by the attack on a local synagogue in Texas. We move from the “macro” reality to the “micro” world so quickly. Yet many issues are timeless and demand our serious consideration. We as Jews are wedded to an ethical system that has enabled us to survive and thrive for more than three millennia. I hearken back to the words of one of my teachers at the Hebrew Union College, in his High Holiday message to the rabbinical students some forty years ago:

“On this night when we pray for a world in which good people can have “naches,” (pleasure), we should include a prayer for America. I am thinking of those Americans who, because of recent developments, see their lives changing, and not for the better.”

Rabbi Hirschberg, who fled as a teenager from Nazi Germany, recalled his early life in Berlin, before the infamous “Crystallnacht.” He wrote, “We weren’t allowed to forget our Jewishness, not for one minute. Neither could we forget our ethical origins. We recalled the influence of our “Rebbe” who spoke Yiddish and asked his students, “Young men and women, if you have no compassion, what makes you a Jew?”

Rabbi Hirschberg continued, “To this day, I associate my being Jewish with a moral stance, with the words of that beloved Rebbe, and his insistence on “rachmones,” compassion. When I think of our country, when I reflect on the injustices involved in our nation towards those less fortunate than us, when I see on television that there remain millions of American children living under the poverty line, and yet we are the richest country, for me, this is not a political problem, this is a moral issue.

Is it my imagination or is it true, that even we Jews are no longer as concerned with social justice issues as we once were? Jewish moral teachings are based on two brief sentences in the Talmud, taken from the words of Rabbi Hillel the Elder. The first is, ‘If I am not for myself, who will be for me?’ But this sentence is never meant to stand by itself. These words must always be coupled with the next phrase, ‘If I am only for myself, then what am I?’”

What does that mean, “What am I and who am I?” It means that we must examine our own inner nature, our real behavior. What is the quality of my life, and what do I stand for?

Thinking about our world today and the challenges our community faces, I believe that Rabbi Hirschberg’s words ring true for all of us.

Warmest wishes to all our congregants and friends,

Rabbi Martin W. Levy
505.670.4671

Congregation Beit Tikva Mission Statement 2022

We are an inclusive and welcoming Reform Jewish congregation of diverse backgrounds striving together to celebrate Jewish culture, education, and the arts. We support Israel and her people and are committed to performing “mitzvot” (good deeds) and extending “tzedakah” (charitable works) to our community. We believe that whether we are spiritual, religious, agnostic, or atheist, we can unite for the purpose of “Tikkun Olam,” to make our community a better place.

"It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life...and I'm feeling good."

—*Feeling Good* by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

The reason this song is one of my favorite standards is because it is a work of art. It paints a picture and engages the senses. "Birds flying high..." you can see it as you have a thousand times before and suddenly you remember being outside looking at the sky. "River running free..." conjures up the sounds of running water, the earth under your feet, the same way you imagine the sun beating down on you when you hear, "dragonfly out in the sun, you know how I feel..." That is exactly it. You know how all of it feels.

"Feeling Good" is my go-to song when I want to quickly get into good voice or simply feel better. Winter is not my favorite season. This Mediterranean-skinned gal thought when I left the Midwest that I'd never had to live with snow again. Some folks live for this season. They love the cold, the snow, and winter sports. Our own Rabbi Martin Levy is a retired figure skater—different strokes for different folks.

Our congregation is filled with folks with many different perspectives. In spite of our varied preferences, we come together in community for Jewish culture, education, religious or spiritual fulfillment, or other purposes. Yes, we may come from different backgrounds and gather for completely different purposes. Still, we have plenty that unites us.

Wise congregant and Board Member, Barbara Doloff said to me recently while discussing our synagogue, "The world is so difficult now that we need to be sticking together and supporting each other." So true. It may be challenging to find the joy in life at times like these.

We remind ourselves to choose joy now. Why wait? Why postpone joy? Circumstances are always changing. We can't decide to only be joyful when everything lines up. Life is always giving us bumps in the road, highs and lows. Sometimes it seems we get more lows than highs. Whether the sun shines or not should not determine my happiness. So much in life cannot be controlled. But, we are sentient beings and we have choice. We can allow the sadness, the disappointment, all the other feelings, and then choose to feel better.

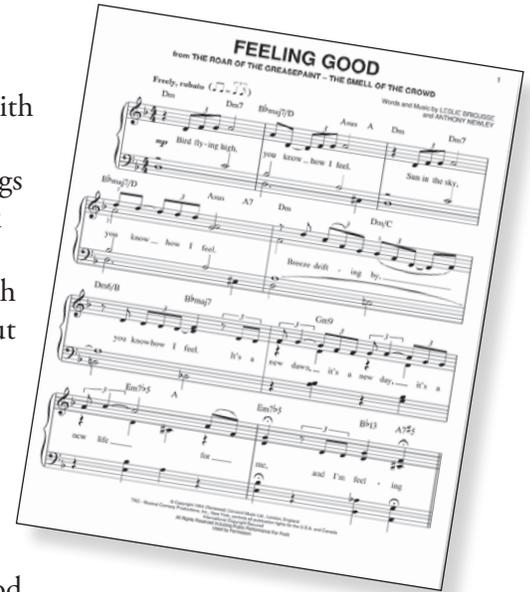
You may have faith in Hashem and believe that things will always work out, or you may be an atheist with no thought about any Higher Power, or a little of both. All are welcome in our synagogue. We all want the same things. Food.

Clothing. A roof over our heads. Love. Peace. Freedom. Joy. Our response to life is something we have dominion over. Why not be happy regardless of what's going on in the world? Bring a little sunshine into your life. Give a little sunshine away. It all helps to make the world a brighter place. We need that light more than ever during the dark of the winter to help us face the challenges of living through these times.

This year we are having more events (God willing) for the dual purposes of attracting new folks and fundraising. These events are in celebration of Jewish culture, education, and the arts. There are many ways Beit Tikva congregants can get involved in these efforts. You can be on one of our committees, help with events, introduce new folks to our congregation, or suggest another way to contribute. If you or anyone you know would like to get our endowment fund going, either anonymously or with recognition, please contact us. We have a solid foundation at Congregation Beit Tikva and together we can prosper and become an even brighter light in our community.

If not now, then when?

Elisheva Herrera
Board President



Meet New Board Member

Merrill Ehrenberg

By Marc Sanders



In a downtown Chicago skyscraper two people (in similar professional spheres) unwittingly meet in an elevator, fall in love and, eventually, get married. A scene from a romantic comedy or torrid Telenova? Perhaps...but it happens to be the true story of how Congregation Beit Tikva's newest board member, Merrill Ehrenberg, met his second wife, Arlene.

Chicago born and raised, Merrill's family was loosely affiliated with a synagogue but, like many contemporary American Jews, they made an annual pilgrimage to attend High Holiday services. Consequently, Merrill neither received a formal Jewish education nor celebrated a Bar Mitzvah. Rounding out the family are Merrill's siblings, a younger sister living with multiple sclerosis and brother, a retired elementary school principal. At a relatively early age, Merrill dreamed about what he wanted to be when he grew up and saw himself as a successful, highly-paid professional.

At Chicago's Roosevelt University Merrill studied Art Education with supplemental course work at the School of the Art Institute. With a Bachelor of Arts degree, he began a decades-long career in the field of advertising starting at Toys R Us.

Rising to the position of Vice President and National Advertising Manager at Toys R Us, Merrill honed his skills in promotional planning, vendor relations, and media buying. His work elevating the company's mascot, Geoffrey, into a media star, along with his efforts on behalf of Toys for Tots and Jerry Lewis's Muscular Dystrophy campaigns were recognized by the president of Toys R Us.

Toys R Us is a global corporation with all that implies. This intense corporate climate grew so intolerable that Merrill ultimately resigned and joined forces with four seasoned

advertising executives to create a new advertising agency, Chase/Ehrenberg & Rosene that served a diverse clientele for the next 30 years. Space Cowboys, the media buying branch of the agency, was Merrill's focus. In a company marketing blurb Merrill describes C/E & R's philosophy: "We have always worked for clients that needed tangible results from their advertising dollars. That has given us a definite orientation—a more hard-hitting style, but one that definitely works."

A seasoned equestrian, Merrill's passion for horses has never wavered. His other passion, downhill skiing, brought him to New Mexico when, on the way back to Albuquerque from a skiing trip in Taos with his wife and three-year-old-daughter, Marnie, they fell in love with the City Different during a lunch stop. They decided to buy a second home here and, for the next ten years, Merrill commuted between Santa Fe and Chicago.

The rising cost of living conflated with Merrill's imminent retirement from C/E & R led to the family leaving Chicago for good and buying a home in Las Campanas where they have resided since 2019.

A highly-talented oil painter, Merrill's boldly-colored canvases pay homage to the Southwest's majestic mountain panoramas and reverence to dignified Native American subjects. Many of Merrill's paintings have been donated to organizations and non-profits with whom he has had relationships.

A strong supporter of Israel, Merrill has yet to set foot on Israeli soil due to travel plans being thwarted, the latest because of COVID-19-related restrictions.

With his advertising and marketing background, Merrill is a welcome addition to Beit Tikva's board which is in the process of modernizing under the leadership of our new president, Elisheva Herrera. Without missing a beat, Merrill has already taken on the project to rehabilitate our website, often the first contact outsiders have with the synagogue.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to this affable and enthusiastic board member!

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before

At this time of year it is appropriate to remember and honor your loved ones who have passed away. With the financial support of an initial donation from Ruthie Getz Koval, and a subsequent donation from Gary and Karen Goldstein, two Yahrzeit panels were installed in the entrance hall where we place illuminated Yahrzeit plaques honoring your loved ones. If you have not yet purchased or reserved a space please call the congregation administrator at 505.820.2991, or email her at officeadmin@beittikvasantafe.org. OR, you may fill out the form below and drop it in the mail to our office.



Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque Order Form

Name(s) of Honoree(s)

1. _____

Date of Death _____ Hebrew name if known:

2. _____

Date of Death _____ Hebrew name if known:

3. _____

Date of Death _____ Hebrew name if known:

Please submit this form by mail; bring it to the office; or scan and email it to us.

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone _____

Number of Plaques: _____ x \$600 each

CHECK ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF: _____

VISA, MASTERCARD, AMEX Card # _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV# _____

Billing zip code _____

2022 CALENDAR

- Feb. 27 Duke City Klezmer Concert
- March 16 Purim service and "Shpiel"
- March 23 Rabbi's Adult Study begins:
Five classes through April
- March 27 Lecture from Artist Member of the Month
- April 10 Musical concert featuring
Marc Sanders on piano
- April 15 First Seder, conducted by Rabbi Martin at Las Campanas
- April 16 Second night Seder at CBT with Rabbi Martin & Cantor Ephraim
- April 28 Community Yom HaShoah service
- May 15 Israeli guest speaker
- May 29 Lecture from Artist Member of the Month
- June 4 Erev Shavuot Congregational Dinner and Service
- June 19 Cantor Ephraim's Gala Concert
- June 26 Kabbalah of Conscious Creation with Nina Amir
- July 2 Congregational Birthday celebration for Rabbi Martin, David Geist, Guest artist
- July 13 Summer Kabbalah class with Dr. Petr Chylek
- Aug. 19 Indian Market Shabbat
- Aug. 28 CBT Open House
- Sept. 18 CBT Open House
- Sept. 25 Erev Rosh Hashanah services
- Sept. 26 Rosh Hashanah morning services
- Oct. 4 Kol Nidre services
- Oct. 5 Yom Kippur morning and afternoon services

Some Preliminary Thoughts on Buddhism and Judaism

By Clarke Fountain

In Judaism, aside from the teachings in the Torah itself, there are teachings and practices (mussar) that help you do what you intend to do in actuality.

For instance, you're told not to bear false witness in the Ten Statements. But how do you do that? How do you keep from panicking and doing what you'd never do otherwise? And how do you do the extension of that and avoid lying as much as possible? Sometimes it might be ethical to lie, but those cases are somewhat rare. Usually we do that because it's the easy way out of a situation. But how do we avoid taking that easy path? We have to develop habits that make that less likely. Mussar teachings are all about developing ethical muscle. It's thought that these were codified in the late seventeenth century from earlier Jewish teachings and extended greatly by Rabbi Moses Chaim Luzzato and those who worked with him.

And why would we do the mitzvot? Someone has a vending machine full of goodies and if we put in the right amount of "money" (mitzvot) we get something nice? No. We do the mitzvot because they are there to do. We do them because what else are we going to do? How do we make our lives meaningful? Mitzvot. There are many categories of mitzvot. Not all of them are acts like giving money, or giving someone a meal, or clothes or a job, though those are indeed mitzvas. Others have to



do with how we live a good life, for instance, by taking proper care of our animals, treating our relatives well, including our spouses. Some of them have to do with things that are designed to build ethical muscle like studying Torah, attending festivals and services, praying, and saying our daily allotment of prayers. Mussar is like that, but it's full of systems of techniques for reducing the possibility of behavior such as harming someone in an outburst of anger.

Most Jews don't learn enough about their own religion to know that a whole wealth of Jewish history has anything in it one might want—ways to attain higher states of awareness and closeness to God, ways to meditate and attain inner peace, ways to develop ethical muscle, to become a mensch, and much more.

So, Buddhism? Many Jews study other religions that are obviously open about having tools for living a better life. Chief among these is Buddhism. The goal of a layman Buddhist is to become a good enough person that, should they also attain levels of realization, they won't misuse that realization or waste it (which is what happens often). You can get drunk on meditation (I've seen it), and it can swell your ego and give you a sense that you can do no wrong, which

is the opposite of the intention of Buddhist meditation.

To prevent that, Buddhists have vast numbers of techniques across all lineages to develop one's life as an ethical human being. Simply coming in off the street and meditating is not how Buddhists in Asia go about it. Modern people think that the whole thing is meditation, but when have we moderns ever grabbed the right end of the stick?

For instance, there is the whole business of teachers: finding them, and having proper respect for them. There are three main foundations to Buddhist teaching found in the refuge in Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, without which you can't be considered to be a Buddhist of any description. These are very much like the foundations to Judaism, even as found in Maimonides, though expressed very differently.

The Buddha represents enlightenment and the possibility of it—the possibility of ceasing to be awful and becoming wonderful, a blessing for others and incidentally yourself, to put it very simply. The Dharma is the many baskets of teachings about how to accomplish this goal, only some of which are about meditation as moderns define it. Finally the Sangha is the community of learned and even

DONATIONS

General

Beth Speigel–In honor of Gail Rapoport’s birthday
Elizabeth & Louis Sinoff–In honor of Sheila Bicol
Connie & Stuart Rosenberg–In memory of
Shana Rosenberg
Connie & Stuart Rosenberg–In memory of
Nora Segal
Fred & Shirley Klinghoffer–In honor of Rabbi Levy
Donna Brown and family–In honor of
Congregation Beit Tikva
John Henry McDonald
Florence, Arlene, Jeff and Shelly Vinnick–In honor of
Rabbii Levy’s birthday
Rabbi Martin Levy–Gift from Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
to Congregation Beit Tikva

Security upgrades

Carol Karps–In celebration of the long life of
Toby Stone Karps
Dr. Dirk Wassner
Lorraine Haneyko

Music

Dr. Dirk Wassner

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund

Joan Vernick–In honor of Rabbi Levy
Michael & Tegan Youssefmir–In honor of their
marriage
Jeremy Klausner and Family
Peter Aronow and Family
Dr. John Graham

realized people who have gone before, who have trod the path and continued the teachings, and in a general sense it is even the community of other Buddhists who have taken refuge.

Finally, there is the issue many people consider to be the central one in Dharma, or teachings, the very attractive issue, of “emptiness” (sunyata). Westerners are sometimes attracted to this teaching because it appears to be a “religious” approach to nihilism (basically, the expression of “to hell with it all” we sometimes might feel). This is very attractive to some: “voidness and emptiness” as pure categories of being/nonbeing. Where can I get some of that?

But what is Buddhism really teaching there? The word is not enough. If I may be so bold, it asserts basically, that we suffer under the illusion that we are entirely separate beings who can do whatever we please with no real consequences, where we can get away with it, as in the famous Dostoevsky novel. If you examine yourself and your life very carefully,

you will discover that this is not the case. You can’t find a spot anywhere in the universe that separates you completely from your parents or your friends, or the trees, buildings, and sky that you discern. Look all you may, and you won’t find any. There is a deep and persistent connection between us and all things. Everything you think or do has consequences, some of them far-reaching, most of them beyond your capacity to imagine. In Zen Buddhism this is called “innen” or “everything connected to everything else.”

Things are not what they appear to be, starting with ourselves. That’s the core of the emptiness that Buddhism teaches. Sure, there’s a lot more to this than I can say in a few paragraphs, but that’s a start in correcting the record. Buddhism is the opposite of nihilism, even though many Western “experts” conclude that it is exactly that. Sociopaths beware! If you start practicing this path you might gradually become human beings, complete with consciences!

Happy January, February, March Birthdays

Martin Levy	January 2
Larry Cohen	January 3
Barry Hornstein	January 18
Lorraine Haneyko	January 22
Gail Karr	January 26
Asenath Kepler	January 31
Elliot Rapoport	February 7
Laura Cowan	February 10
Helene Singer Merrin	March 28

Anniversaries

Louise Epstein & John Henry McDonald	March 2
John & Michele Goldman	March 10

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Have You Been Receiving Our Weekly E-Blast ?

It is the best way to stay current with all of our Congregation's happenings. Please contact **Windy Dankoff**, windydankoff@mac.com to join our e-blast list. Or, go to www.beittikvasantafe.org and click on the blue button, top right. You'll never miss any upcoming events or news.

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2022 TORAH PASSAGES

January 15 Exodus
Beshallah Chapter 13:17-17:15
Leaving Egypt & crossing the Sea of Reeds

January 22 Exodus
Yitro Chapter 18:1 -20:23
The Israelites arrive at Mt. Sinai the Decalogue

January 29 Exodus
Mishpatim Chapter 21:1-24:18
Laws and ordinances to manage a new civil society

February 5 Exodus
Terumah Chapter 25:1-27:19
Building the portable Sanctuary the Mishkan

February 12 Exodus
Tetzaveh Chapter 27:20-30:10
Commandments concerning the Altar and the Sanctuary

February 19 Exodus
Ki Tissa Chapter 30:11-34:35
The incident with Moses and the Golden Calf

February 26 Exodus
Vayakhel Chapter 35:1-38:20
Moses & Bezalel create the completion of Sanctuary

March 5 Exodus
Pekudy Chapter 38:21-40:38
Contributions to the tabernacle & story of the red heifer

March 12 Leviticus
Vayikra Chapter 1:1-5:26
Shabbat Zachor

March 19 Leviticus
Tzav Chapter 6:1-8:36
Priestly regulations on purification rituals

March 26 Leviticus
Shemini Chapter 9:1-11:45
Nadar and Abihu, Aaron's sons die mysteriously