



CONGREGATION NER TAMID

A SPECIAL PLACE TO BELONG



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Congregation Ner Tamid's 50th Anniversary Celebration Dates And Events To Be Announced Soon...



Please volunteer for our many committees that will steer this joyous celebration and impact our Temple's future for generations to come.

Contact Roberta Unger at
runger@lvnertamid.org

2022/23 was a good year for CNT.

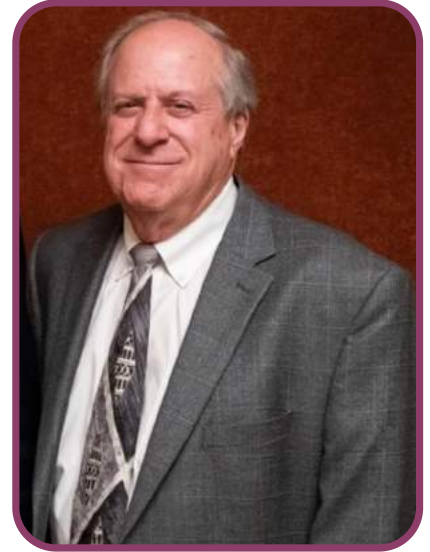
Of course, there were disappointments, issues unresolved, goals to be met, and missed opportunities, but that pales in comparison to what we (our Congregants, Board of Trustees, clergy, staff, and auxiliaries) accomplished in the past year, and where CNT is today.

Tonight, you will hear from various lay leaders, staff, and clergy. This annual report includes information regarding the past year, including our financial performance. You have an opportunity to ask questions, provide input, and determine our direction for the coming year(s) through the election of Congregants to the Board of Trustees. Regarding this last point, you have been well-served by the dedicated and talented Congregants who have served on the Board during the past three years. The proposed slate of officers and trustees will continue in this tradition.

As a general rule, a sequel is never as good as the original. I look back to my first term as President of CNT in the early 1990s with satisfaction for what we accomplished and the goals we met (increased Membership, expanded activities, and the building of a Synagogue at the Emerson Campus). But what we accomplished as a Congregation during my current time as President in not only surviving and adapting to the COVID pandemic but also strengthening and growing CNT in almost every way is an exception to the general rule.

So, in parting, thank you to my fellow officers and trustees, Rabbi and Cantor, Edward Simon, and our wonderful administrative staff, and each of you for your support, participation, guidance, and candor.

Jerry Gordon – President





2022-2023 was an extremely important and pivotal year for Congregation Ner Tamid. Four important goals were achieved: emerge from COVID and re-establish a new sense of normality within our Congregation; re-invest in the Temple's facility; pay down our debt service; and, dedicate our new Torah.

2022 saw the world finally come to terms with the pandemic and learning to live with COVID. After working very hard to maintain Temple programming through virtual means, we finally were able to invite people back with confidence to our campus. This led to us re-establishing cherished programs all across the board. I wondered whether people would come back or prefer to stay home because of the convenience of ZOOM or because they had gotten out of the habit of coming to shul. Indeed, across America, many Synagogues did face a decline in attendance and membership. Fortunately, Congregation Ner Tamid

experienced neither. While we still maintain a strong presence on our live stream, most have returned to in-person attendance for Shabbat services. Our creative programming especially has been well received. Our auxiliaries are doing well and our Chavurah program is blossoming. We re-started our Seniors Program which very quickly grew an average event attendance of more than 80 people. Our Preschool is growing and is already surpassing pre-COVID numbers, and we will have the highest number of 11th – 12th graders in our Religious School in years. Our Membership too grew by about 40 families as people realized that Synagogue life means community, participation, and connection.

We opened our campus in 2007. The years have flown by and we realized it was time to begin the process of remodeling. The Social Hall – now named the Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall – received new flooring and lighting. The Preschool also received new flooring and remodeling. We are now looking at other areas of the Temple that need to be updated. Security updates were implemented as well. It is hard to believe 15 years have gone by since we moved into our current building. As we do in our homes, so have we done to our spiritual home – remodel, renew, and refresh.

We received very generous financial support from our Congregation at large despite the financial challenges facing many families. Many came forward and decided it was time to give more and it was very gratifying. In the past two years, we received generous support from Steve Cloobek and Gary and Lynn Kantor. In appreciation for their generosity, we have named the administration wing of our Religious School for the Cloobek Family and the Social Hall for Gary and Lynn. Over time their combined generosity will allow us to pay down nearly \$2 million in debt! Their generosity is a huge statement of their confidence in the future of CNT and the importance of investing in the financial stability of our synagogue.

Lastly, I was able to fulfill the dream of every Rabbi, which is to dedicate a new Torah. This mitzvah was made possible due to the generosity of Elaine and Jack Chernikoff and their son Neil. They wanted to honor the memory of their beloved son and brother Harvey who died too young. Harvey was a very special person who loved life and died needlessly because the driver of his bus did not know the Heimlich maneuver. The Chernikoff Family fought to pass a law called "Harvey's Law" that requires every bus driver to learn this procedure. Harvey loved being in Synagogue and the family thought it most appropriate to honor his memory by commissioning a Torah in his honor. This Torah was written in Israel by one of the most experienced of sofers (scribes). Over the past year, Congregants had the opportunity to write a letter in the Torah as a reminder that this Torah belongs now to our entire community. Tradition teaches us that when a

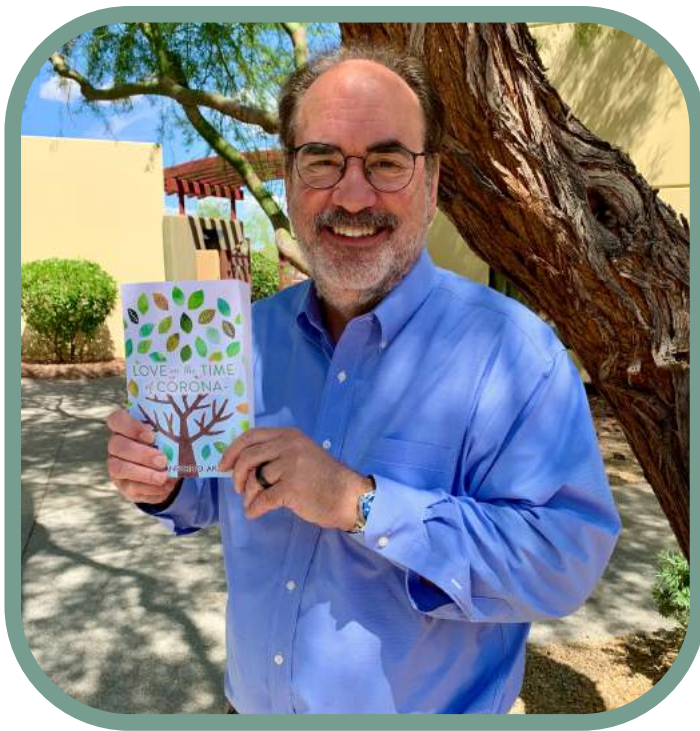
person writes even a single letter in a Torah it is as if he/ she has written the entire Torah. Why? Because the Torah would not be complete without that letter. The process of writing and dedicating the Torah is one that many of us will cherish for a lifetime. It was February 5 – Tu B’shvat – when we paraded the new Torah around our campus and into our sanctuary after the last few letters had been written. Hundreds of all ages joined the mitzvah parade and celebration that ensued. It will be a day we will all remember forever!

Much has transpired this past year. I am grateful to my staff and my clergy partner, Cantor Jessica Hutchings, who have been there to support my endeavors. They work tirelessly to ensure the vitality of our Synagogue. Each person contributes their time, talent, and love as an expression of their love of our community.

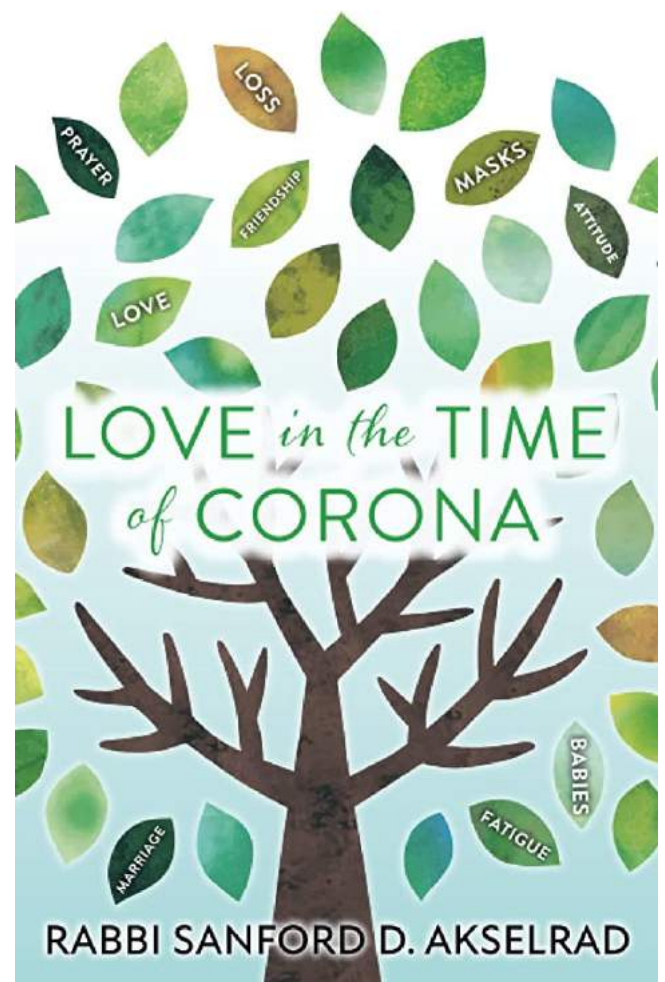
I want to especially thank our Temple President Jerry Gordon. He stepped up at a crucial time in the life of our Synagogue. Together we shared a vision of what needed to be done. But often it was Jerry’s leadership and unique way of imagining what could and should be done that allowed the pieces of the puzzle to fall into place. We all owe him a debt of gratitude, and I especially will never forget the support he has given me and the contributions – too many to count – that he has given to our Temple to ensure its present and its future.

Much has been done, and much remains unfinished. Let the year to come be as productive. I encourage everyone to find within themselves a renewed sense of commitment to make Congregation Ner Tamid a special place to belong.

Rabbi Sanford Akselrad



We invite you to buy a copy of Rabbi Akselrad’s new book, Love in the Time of Corona, at CNT Sisterhood’s Mark L. Fine and Family Gift Shop – it’s open 45 minutes before Services. The book is also available on Amazon. Bring your copy to Rabbi and he’ll gladly sign it for you!





Let's stop for a moment, and take stock of this year. For some of us, we faced uphill challenges. Some of us experienced loss. Many of us had significant joys, achievements, and successes. Most of the time, CNT has been there to accompany you for it all. Jeremy and I want to thank you so much for also being there for us earlier this year. We went through the most challenging time in our lives when Jeremy was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma last June, and thankfully, he is doing great! Your prayers, meals, and words of comfort reminded us exactly what it means to be part of kehila kedosha, a holy community. We are so grateful for Congregation Ner Tamid, and hopefully, you have had a moment or two this year when you have felt the same way.

We launched a much anticipated Greatest Hits Shabbat back in August with a second annual one coming on Friday, August 18, 2023. It was also the first annual year of our Intergenerational Choir for the High Holy Days. We had the privilege of welcoming Eddie Birch to our regular lineup as accompanist, and I'm grateful for his willingness to help us bring meaningful prayersong to our sacred space. Thanks to the Chernikoff Family, we welcomed a brand new Torah to be used by our B'nai Mitzvah students. Speaking of which, we had 16 AMAZING B'nai Mitzvah students this past year (and a class of seven incredible Adult B'nai Mitzvah students) most of whom went on to join our CNT Teen Tribe, NTTY, and becoming madrachim "teachers aids" in their post-B'nai Mitzvah experience. Joined with our new Religious School principal, Hayley Wizig, teen assistant, Dani McLaughlin, and former board member, Jeff Leibow, we traveled to see Jewish Los Angeles in the Fall and New York City in the Spring. We created lifelong memories that I know I will never forget.

We consecrated the incoming class of kindergarteners, and our outgoing class of teens (and Confirmed them, too). We had countless life cycle events and stood by all of you through illness, marriages, divorces, births, deaths, conversions, B'nai Mitzvah, and more. We continued our creative Shabbat and holiday experiences with Beatles Shabbat, Shabbat in the Round, Serenity Shabbat, Tot Shabbat, Pop Up Shabbat with Mostly Kosher, Rainbow Shabbat, Shabbatones services, Elul by the Pool, our 90s Purim Spiel (huge thanks to Jeff Leibow and Colleen Freedman!), Joe Buchanan and our country music Passover Seder, Drum Circles Selichot and Shavuot and special guest scholars Rabbi Stephen Einstein and Cantor Becky Mann. This is just a snapshot! It was such a full and wonderful year.

What a grand time it has been to be both Cantor and Mommy at the growing Kantor ECEC. I have loved story time, music time, and making kippot with the kiddos, and watching them all grow has been such a great joy. Looking forward to spending even more time with them next year.

Along with my role as your Senior Cantor, it has been a huge honor and joy to cover for Rabbi Akselrad as he took a much-deserved sabbatical around the world. Thank you for trusting me as your clergyperson and spiritual strength.

Many of you have asked, "When are you becoming a Rabbi, Cantor?" I am now almost halfway through my Rabbinic Studies at The Academy for Jewish Religion, CA (virtually), and it has been beyond valuable for my spiritual, philosophical, and intellectual toolbox. Next year will be the most challenging, but I am looking forward to the adventure!

As always, if you need me for anything, I am here for you. It is my honor to be entering my 10th year as your Cantor.

B'shira, Cantor Jessica Hutchings

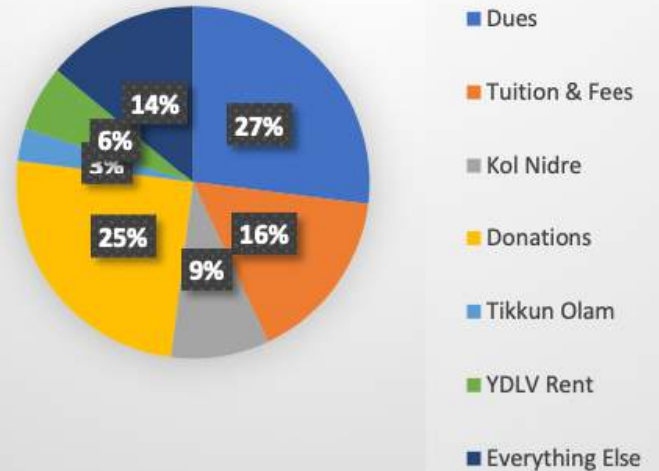


Financial Report

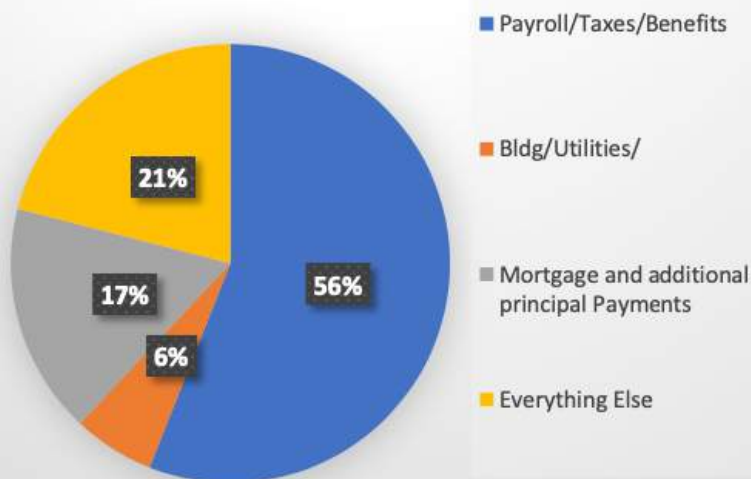
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (INCLUDES PRESCHOOL) FOR ELEVEN MONTHS ENDING MAY 31, 2023			Actual	Budget
Revenue				
Dues			\$700,176	\$800,000
Preschool Tuition			\$318,600	\$261,000
Religious School Tuition			\$107,000	\$120,000
Kol Nidre			\$223,000	\$240,000
Donations			\$634,000	\$500,000
Tikkun Olam			\$73,750	\$75,000
YDLV Rent			\$166,500	\$160,000
Everything Else			\$345,623	\$474,000
Total Revenue			\$2,548,649	\$2,630,000
Expenses			Actual	Budget
Payroll/Taxes/Benefits			\$1,428,500	\$1,480,500
Building/Utilities			\$158,500	\$155,000
Mortgage (Interest and Principal)			\$426,200	\$430,000
Everything Else			\$527,632	\$559,500
Total Expenses			\$2,540,836	\$2,625,000
*Does not include revenue/expenses in the month of June				

Where Our Money Comes From	
Dues	27%
Tuition & Fees	16%
Kol Nidre	9%
Donations	25%
Tikkun Olam	3%
YDLV Rent	6%
Everything else	14%

Where Our Money Comes From



Where Our Money Goes



Where Our Money Goes	
Payroll/Taxes/Benefits	56%
Bldg./Utilities	6%
Mortgage & Additional Principal Payments	17%
Everything Else	21%



I have been with Congregation Ner Tamid for a little more than two years as your Executive Director. During this time we have accomplished a great deal, from growing our community to re-establishing our thriving Preschool. One thing that has been consistent is the warmth and acceptance I have received from everyone, from staff to Congregants. As we look back on our accomplishments this past year, we are looking forward to tackling the new challenges that will come in the future.

The Members of Congregation Ner Tamid have always been exceptionally supportive, but this year our fundraising efforts really shined through. One of our highlights was the ongoing Torah Project. Starting with a lovely donation by Elaine and Jack Chernikoff in honor of their son Harvey, the project raised an additional \$235,000. This was in addition to our highest

Kol Nidre campaign in history, raising more than \$220,000. Our FY ended with our annual Tikkun Olam Award celebration, honoring Dr. Larry Lehrner and former U.S. Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, raising an additional \$75,000.

Another accomplishment is the continued growth of our Preschool. Under the leadership of our amazing director, Farrah Berlin-Tomaro, our school is thriving. We are expanding into a fourth room this fall, and are looking forward to continued growth. The children are learning through play each week, and enjoying special instruction on Judaica and music.

CNT still faces many challenges going forward. Being a large, visible Jewish institution, we are always going to have ongoing security concerns. Last year we added an armed guard at all Friday night and Saturday morning services, along with Sunday morning Religious School. Working with our Security Committee, we also have completed several upgrades that will protect our facility, including a new alarm and camera system. While these steps have greatly improved our security, we are constantly evaluating our infrastructure and procedures to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect our community.

While the current economic situation around the world continues to impact the Synagogue, I am proud to work with our Finance Committee, staffed with caring volunteers who have expertise in this area, to address the current situation strategically. I am also proud to announce that we are on the verge of a sale of our cell tower, which will allow us the flexibility to further reduce our mortgage balance while providing avenues for future revenues in the market.

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel welcome and embraced since I began here two years ago. I look forward to working with all of you to see what we can accomplish in the coming years.

Edward Simon – Executive Director



TEMPLE STAFF

Senior Rabbi – Rabbi Sanford D. Akselrad

Senior Cantor – Cantor Jessica Hutchings

Executive Director – Edward Simon

Managing Director – Roberta Unger

Preschool Director of The Gary & Lynn Kantor Early Childhood Education Center – Farrah Tomaro

Religious School, Family and Education Director – Hayley Wizig

Administrative Assistant – Regina Baker

Programming and Communications Coordinator – Leslie T. Snadowsky

Accountant – Laural Reznik

Preschool Front Desk Assistant – Sam Harvey

Maintenance – Lee Posey

Maintenance – Chiquita Howard

Sound Engineer – Alex Hill

Accompanist – Ricky Rhinehart

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Michael Levy**

VP Administration – Jim Mason

VP Ways & Means – Andrea Harris

VP Youth & Education – Deanna DeArkland

VP Membership – Barney Tabach

VP Programming – Dani McLaughlin

VP Social Action – Cindy Jensen

Treasurer – Aaron Saiewitz**

Corporate Secretary – Brian Pence**

Ex-Officio – Rabbi Sanford Akselrad

Ex-Officio – Cantor Jessica Hutchings

Ex-Officio – Executive Director Edward Simon

TRUSTEES AND AUXILIARIES

Del Acosta, Jolie Brislin**, David Cherry, Rich Greenis, Becky Guidry**,
Alan Mann, Shannon Martin, Jon Perry, Eric Polis**, Paul Schiffman****

Michelle Blank – Sisterhood President

Josh Wertheimer – MENSch Club President

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Del Acosta, Marlene Acosta, Mike Adler, Daryl Alterwitz, Dana Aronson,
Julie Barto-Fisher, Barbara Bernstein, Eddie Birch, Michelle Blank,
Jolie and John Brislin, Shawna Brody, Sheryl Chenin-Webb, Elaine Chernikoff,
David Cherry, Alison Clark, CNT Choirs, CNT Board Members, Kathy Cluxton,
Deborah Cohen, Ilana Cohen, Confirmation Class and Families, Nadine Cracraft,
Ryan Crighton, Lana Croft, JoAnne Dandin, Deanna DeArkland, Renee Diamond,
Janet Duda, DeeAnn Emmer, Elaine Entin, Bruce Familian, Sarah Familian,
Stephanie Finch, Lori Fletcher, Gilbert Flores, Jr., Lori Frankl, George Freed,
Carolyn Friedner, Marilyn Goldstein, Jerry Gordon, Yvonne Gordon, Debra Gorov,
David Grana, Jenn and Rich Greenis, Andrea Harris, Jessica Harrison,
Pamela and John Henderson, Carol Holdengraber, Jeremy Hutchings, Cindy Jensen,
Anne Johnson, Jeff Jonas, Erin Josephs, Arlene Kalodner, Heidi Kanter,
Delaney Kanter-Villareal, Gary Kantor, Lynn Kantor, Harvey Katz, Jack Katz,
Wendy Katz, Dorie and Leonard Kirtman, Shana Korman, Shirley Kouffman,
Jodi Kurtzman, Olympia and Steve Lazar, Merle Lehrman, Larry Lehrner,
Pam Lellouche, Christy and Rob Levrant, Stacey Lewis, Alan Mann, Julie Marcus,
Jim Mason, Helen Mazor, Michael Mehr, Rona and David Mendelson, David Miller,
Alan Molasky, Irina and Andrew Molasky, Christy Molasky, Jason Molitz,
Lea Mor-Ackerman, Rhonda Mushkin, Jennifer Neeman, Robin and Brian Pence,
Jana Pleggenkuhle, Illisa and Eric Polis, Jay Poster, Donna and Steve Raucher,
Steve Reiner, Elaine Reininger, Jackie Roth, Maxine Rothman, David Rubinstein,
Gail and Rudy Rudolph, Aaron Saiewitz, Paul Schiffman, Susie Sernoe, Harrison Sheld,
Jack Silas, Rochelle Silas, Alec Sonenthal, Nanette and Ira Spector,
Bette and David Stahl, Ira David Sternberg, The Shabbatones, Paige Shaffer,
Barney Tabach, Fred Toffel, Brad Torchin, Aydie Unger, Doug Unger, Hilary Unger,
Michael Unger, Mindy Unger-Wadkins, Ruth Urban, David Weinstein,
Cassidy and Josh Wertheimer, Michele and Denny Wertheimer, and Abby Zeldin.



*Please let us know if you belong
on CNT's Volunteer List.*



MENORAH LEVEL PARTNERS

Goesel and John Anson
Selma Bartlett
Sylvia and Neil Beller
Joanne and Lee Bernick
Mib and Paul Braun
Jolie and John Brislin
Michelle and David Cherry
Justice Michael Cherry
Stephen Cloobek
Kathy Cluxton
Debra and Mitchell Cohen
Amy and Ryan Crighton
JoAnne Dandin
Anoushka and Andrew Dannin
Deanna and Ryan DeArkland
Diane and Kenny Epstein
Michelle and Lawrence Epstein
Sarah and Bruce Familian
Lori Frankl and Scott Greenspan
Steven Gubner
Karen and George Freed
Jennifer and Matthew Friedman
Norma Friedman
Yvonne and Jerry Gordon
Andrea Harris
Cindy Jensen
Lynn and Gary Kantor
Amy and Jarrad Katz
David Kotkin and Chloe Gosselin
Shelley Berkley and Larry Lehrner
Stephanie Lehrner and Michael Levine

Bonnie and Michael Levy
Stacey and Steve Lewis
Brooke and Robert Lieberman
Taren and Brian Lipman
Joyce Mack
Marilynn Mack
Dena and Alan Mann
Julie Marcus
Gwen and Jim Mason
Madylon and Dean Meiling
Beth Molasky and Ken Cornell
Christy and Alan Molasky
Irina and Andrew Molasky
Rhonda Mushkin
Marge Parnas
Diedra and Jon Perry
Hilary and Paul Palonsky
Illisa and Eric Polis
Jacky and Larry Rosen
Terri and Gary Rosenberg
Alice Ross-Gordon
Sara and Daniel Schuman
Karen Settle and Edward Mutton
Marcy and Jack Simon
Jon Sparer and John Klai
Bette and David Stahl
Michael Torjman
Aydie and Bob Unger
Doug Unger
Mindy Unger-Wadkins and Jim Wadkins
Jennifer and Gordon Wangers

Juanita and David Wasserman



A child's earliest educational experiences set the stage for all learning throughout life. The Gary & Lynn Kantor Early Childhood Education Center (Kantor ECEC) is a Preschool where enrolled children, 18 months to Pre-Kindergarten, acquire social, emotional, and academic skills through sensory play. Relationships and attachments are crucial for developing healthy social and emotional skills and interactions between teachers and students are of the utmost priority for Preschool. They set the tone for the classroom and are a model for learning social skills with peers. At The Kantor ECEC, our classrooms are where children learn school routines and how to transition from task to task, learn how to listen to adults, beyond their typical caregivers, and begin to explore their personal preferences through activities that allow choice. They build stamina and peer relationships while enjoying thematic learning through experiential and seasonal units of study.

This year, the Preschool students costumed and marched in a Purim parade, took part in an interactive model Passover Seder, and looked forward to special visits from both Rabbi Sanford Akselrad and Cantor Jessica Hutchings, who engaged in animated story and music times. With play-based learning, focusing on developmentally appropriate practices, The Kantor ECEC is geared to enable every child to meet their specific goals.

Recruitment vehicles have included signage on the front gates of the property, Bagels and Babies meet and greets, and multiple community gatherings that invite families to join us for a number of unique events such as Tot Shabbat and Pastries with Parents.

The Preschool picked up its annual fundraiser once again and raised more than \$3,500 with a silent auction that ran through the Preschool's front desk. Plans are in place for a gala-type event for the next



fundraiser, scheduled for 2024. Additional fundraisers this year included Pizza Fridays, stuffed animal Pet Adoption, and Winter pictures. Photographer and CNT Member David Weinstein declined payment and passed any donations along to the Preschool.

This Fall, enrollment is just under 45 students. This is more than double the number of students who were enrolled in February of 2022.

Farrah Tomaro – Preschool Director





CNT's Religious School had a successful year. Our 2022-2023 enrollment was up from the previous school year as we had more than 150 students enrolled from Pre-K through 12th grade, participating on both Sundays and Tuesdays, virtually and in person. Our younger students built on their foundational Hebrew skills and knowledge of Judaism. Our older students had a curriculum filled with Jewish life cycle events, Holocaust education, and Social Justice issues.

Our students enjoyed a year full of classroom learning along with unique music, art, and cooking lessons throughout the year. As a school, we participated in many different community events such as the ADL Walk Against Hate, CNT's Mitzvah Day, and more. We had a strong turnout at both Shir Shabbat and Shabbat in the Round each month. Our Hanukkah and Purim programming was a hit, with our 90s-themed Purim Spiel being a fun event for everyone to see. Our Purim Carnival was a blast and we were able to fundraise quite a bit from that and other events throughout the year.

We brought 18 teens on a tour of Jewish LA, and they came back with new friendships and a new appreciation for Jewish culture. We also brought 12 students on a trip to New York City, where they were able to see what the life of a Jewish immigrant was like. Our teens became even more involved in our youth group and participation was up from previous years. We had more than 40 madrichim (teaching assistants) this year who had the opportunity to plan and execute a lesson from start to finish in their Sunday classroom. We also have a high rate of students who want to return as madrichim in the fall. We had 10 Confirmation students this year who were able to create meaningful connections to Judaism and affirm their faith. Our three graduating seniors were great role models to all and all plan to remain connected to Judaism throughout college.

Our students were able to have an amazing year thanks to our amazing teachers. We could not have done it without them. We strive to have the best possible teachers for our Religious School students. We currently have a few openings for teachers in the fall and we are looking to fill them with qualified candidates. Thanks to community resources, we have interviews lined up for the coming weeks and are hopeful to have all positions filled within the month.

This coming year, we have a few changes that we are making to improve the Religious School experience. We are making a conscious effort to work with the Family Connect Committee to encourage more parent engagement. We are updating the curriculum to ensure that students are gaining essential knowledge from year to year. We are working on an incentive program to boost not only Sunday and Tuesday attendance but Friday and Saturday attendance as well. We are looking to round out the madrichim program by having students work in all aspects of the Synagogue. We are increasing our joint programs with the Kantor ECEC Preschool, including Tot Shabbats and PJ Havdalahs. Lastly, we are working to set up summer Hebrew lessons for our students who want to make sure they are ready for the next school year.

I look forward to working hard this summer to continue to make CNT's Religious School the best it can be. Our students are our future and we want to ensure their commitment to CNT and Judaism.

Hayley Wizig – CNT Religious School, Family and Education Director





International guest speakers, online classes, original videos, film screenings, and CNT's Torah Project – Congregation Ner Tamid's Adult Education programming offered something for everyone during the 2022 – 2023 year.

Starting in June 2022, CNT Member and Morah Pamela Henderson, led Introduction to Judaism, Introduction to Hebrew, Hebrew II, and Hebrew 2.5 classes throughout the year, and in August 2022, longtime CNT Member and certified Spiritual Director Jen Wulff offered a four-part class called "From Age-ing to Sage-ing..." on Zoom.

In September, Cantor Hutchings led an at-capacity Elul by the Pool event and on September 21, CNT kicked off its Torah Project. CNT Members Jack and Elaine Chernikoff, and their son Neil Chernikoff, commissioned the first new Torah for CNT in honor of their son and brother Harvey Alan Chernikoff who was born with learning disabilities and tragically passed away in 2011, at the age of 51. CNT's Torah Project allowed CNT Members and the community at large to participate in the inscription of letters and naming opportunities for the five Books of the Torah, special passages, significant verses, weekly portions, and more.

In October, CNT Member Henderson offered a Starbucks Café series of free classes, with complimentary coffee, at the Temple on Sundays. During the fall, topics included Yom Kippur and the story of Rebekah, Sukkot and Simchat Torah and the book of Ruth, Shabbat and the story of the Widow of Tzarephath, and Chanukah and the story of Hannah and her seven sons. During the spring, her series continued with Tu B'Shevat and the stories of Eve and Na'amah, Purim and the stories of Vashti and Esther, Pesach and the stories of Yocheved and Tzipporah, Four Yomim and the women of Sho'ah and Israel, and Shavuot and the stories of Dinah and Tamar.

Before afternoon Yom Kippur Services, CNT screened "Never Stop Dreaming: The Life and Legacy of Shimon Peres" and later that month, Beth LaManna, the Regional Security Advisor of Secure Community Network (SCN), organized a Countering Active Threat Training (CATT) at CNT.

In November, CNT's Cantor Jessica Hutchings was a featured speaker at the 35th annual Interfaith Forum Series at the Temple, and CNT Member Nan Spector led Grief Counseling classes through December and again in March and April 2023.

Also in November, as part of this year's Board of Rabbis of Southern Nevada's Kristallnacht commemoration, CNT, the Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada, and King David Memorial Chapel & Cemetery presented two screenings of "The Essential Link: The Story of Wilfrid Israel." Rabbi Sanford Akselrad held a pre-screening discussion with the film's director Yonatan Nir for his CNT award-winning webcast "Compelling Conversation."

The Alterwitz-Stralser families sponsor a Scholar-in-Residence each year at CNT, and Rabbi Akselrad invited Jonathan Ornstein, the CEO of the Jewish Community Center in Krakow, Poland, to CNT in January 2023 as our first International Scholar-In-Residence. Ornstein gave a Shabbat address, presided over Saturday morning Torah Study, gave two lectures, spent time with CNT's Religious School students, and appeared on an episode of Rabbi's "Compelling Conversations."

Eight CNT Members celebrated their Adult B'nai Mitzvah at the Temple in January – Mindy Bachrach, Ann Brandt, Valerie Catallozzi, Sonya Haggerty, John Henderson, Demetra McGowen, Libby Miller, and Lauren Vogel Freedman – and Shawna Brody was honored as CNT's Congregant of the Year.

Cantor Jessica Hutchings invited Rabbi Stephen Einstein to be a Special Guest Scholar at the Temple in March, and in honor of Yom Hashoah, CNT Member Clayton Greb talked about his recent trip to Poland with Living Links during Shabbat services in April. In June, CNT is hosting "A Taste of Judaism," free classes exploring a modern Jewish take on spirituality, values, and community, and Cantor Hutchings shared daily videos with the Congregation from her trip to Israel with Jewish Nevada.

Every Friday, CNT Members brush up on their Yiddish when CNT posts a Yiddish Word(s) of the Week on its Facebook and Instagram pages.

Roberta Unger – Managing Director





Congregation Ner Tamid continued to make headlines throughout 2022 – 2023.

In July 2022, Cantor Hutchings was featured on both Las Vegas ABC affiliate KTNV Channel 13 Action News and Las Vegas NBC affiliate KSNV News 3 for her Shabbat sermon called “Abortion IS a Jewish Value” based on her reaction to the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.

Also in July, Rabbi Akselrad was a guest on “State of Nevada” on KNPR 88.9 FM to talk about his April 2022 rabbinic mission to Poland and the Ukrainian Border.

In September, Rabbi Akselrad was a featured guest on Vegas PBS’ “Nevada Week” to talk about the PBS documentary series “The U.S. and the Holocaust,” and he was interviewed for an article in *Parents Magazine* called “How to Talk About the Death of a Pet With Your Kid.” KTNV ABC 13 also aired a news segment about the Jewish High Holy Days featuring both Rabbi Akselrad and Cantor Hutchings.

In November, *The Las Vegas Sun* published the front page article, “Holocaust Survivors Share Stories, Hope at Kristallnacht Remembrance in Las Vegas” that featured Rabbi Akselrad and CNT’s screening of Israeli director Yonatan Nir’s “The Essential Link: The Story of Wilfrid Israel.” Rabbi Akselrad interviewed Nir for an episode of his award-winning online video series “Compelling Conversations.”

In January 2023, *The Las Vegas Review-Journal* ran a story about CNT’s Scholar-In-Residence Jonathan Ornstein called “Henderson Congregation Supporting Ukrainian Refugee Center in Poland.” KTNV ABC 13 aired a news segment about his weekend at CNT, and KNPR 88.9 FM invited both Ornstein and Rabbi Akselrad to speak on “State of Nevada” in a segment called “Krakow Community Leader Visits Las Vegas to Talk Ukraine Relief Efforts.”

Rabbi Akselrad also featured Ornstein on an episode of “Compelling Conversations.”

In February, *The Vegas Voice* published an article about Beatles Shabbat called, “Beatles Fans Come Together For Service.”

CNT’s Torah project generated a lot of press attention that started in September 2022 with a story on Las Vegas FOX affiliate FOX 5. FOX 5 ran another news segment in December, and during the Torah Dedication and Celebration in February 2023, Las Vegas NBC affiliate KSNV News 3, FOX 5, and KTNV ABC 13, all aired news segments.

Also in February, Rabbi Akselrad was front page news in *The Las Vegas Sun* with his essay, “The Promised Land That Must Keep Her Promises,” about Israel and proposed judicial reforms.

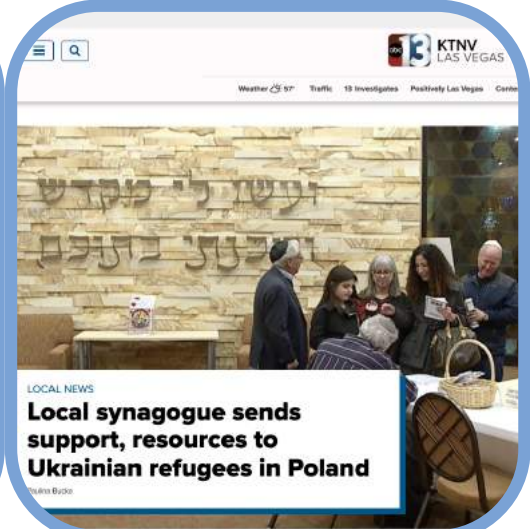
In March, CBS affiliate KLAS Ch. 8 News Now aired a segment on our 1990’s-themed Purim Spiel and Carnival, and Cantor Hutchings was featured on Las Vegas’ KLAS-TV, 8 News Now’s news segment “Antisemitic Incidents Highest Since 1974, Las Vegas Holocaust Survivor Rebukes Rise.”

In April 2023, Cantor was quoted in an article in *The Las Vegas Review-Journal* in response to the tragic death of CNT Congregant Herbert Muskin, and all four Las Vegas news affiliates, ABC 13, CBS 8, FOX 5, and NBC 3, covered our Pop-Up Shabbat on TV and online.

From June 30, 2022, through May 26, 2023, *The Las Vegas Israelite* published a total of 112 articles about CNT including nine front page stories about Rabbi Akselrad’s Adventure in Israel, CNT’s screening of

“The Essential Link: The Story of Wilfrid Israel,” CNT winning 13 PRSA awards, CNT’s Congregant of The Year Shawna Brody, CNT’s Tikkun Olam luncheon honoring Shelley Berkley and Dr. Larry Lehrner, Cantor Becky Mann getting ordained, and three about CNT’s Torah Project.

Leslie T. Snadowsky – Programming and Communications Coordinator





Since CNT's last Annual Meeting, 55 people signed up to be new Members. Our total membership totals 527.

Many are engaged in our Chavurah program. This past year Elaine Entin's Art of Fine Liquor Chavurah hosted a vodka tasting in September 2022 and a Caribbean-themed rum event in April 2023; Bob Dworkin's Beethoven to The Beatles Chavurah planned several musical outings; Joan Fine's Book Club Chavurah met in September 2022 to talk about The French Baker's War by Michael Whatling; Anthony Saenz' CNT Classic Films Chavurah caught screenings of "Old Yeller" in September 2022, "Young Frankenstein" in October 2022, "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" in November 2022, "Home Alone" in December 2022, "Kissin' Cousins" in January 2023, "The Fabelmans" in March 2023, and "The Little Mermaid" in May 2023; Brian Kaseff's Family Fun Chavurah planned events for CNT families; Barney Tabach's For the Love of Jewish Cooking Chavurah made Rugelach in October 2022; Renee and Steve Goldberg's Glowing Older Chavurah gathered to watch Rabbi Akselrad's class "Wrestling With God – Part Two" on Zoom in July 2022; Derek Abdekalimi's Hiking Nevada Chavurah trekked the Historic Railroad Trail in June 2022; Michele Wertheimer's Mahjong Chavurah continues to meet at CNT's main lobby every Monday at 1:00 p.m.; and Hillary Steinberg's Posh Noshers Chavurah enjoyed meals at Smoke & Fire in March 2022 and Bagelmania in April 2023. They will meet again in August 2023 at Padrino's. Illisa Polis' 7th grade B'nai Mitzvah Chavurah celebrated with a Fro-Yo frolic to Menchie's Frozen Yogurt and a Sukkot pizza night both in October 2022. Paul and Joan Scea's Wine Not? Chavurah observed Independence Day with a "Red, Wine & Blue" wine tasting in July 2022, had dinner and wine at Marché Bacchus in August 2022, joined forces with CNT's OurGen to attend the Boulder City Wine Walk in November 2022, sampled Spanish and Portuguese wine in January 2023, sipped dessert wines in February 2023, gathered for an event at Valley Cheese & Wine in April 2023, and is looking forward to a Chardonnay, Merlot, Riesling, and Sauvignon Blanc wine tasting in June 2023.

Barney Tabach – VP Membership
Dani McLaughlin – VP Programming

SENIORS PROGRAM

Karen Marano, seniors@lvnertamid.org

Thanks to the sponsorship of CNT Member David Mizrahi in honor of his father Joseph Mizrahi, we “kicked off” our first Seniors Program luncheon with a football theme on October 24, 2022, with about 40 CNT Members and guests. We continued with a different themed lunch and entertainment each month and in November 2022 and January 2023, we met twice to encourage participation. Word started spreading and our group of 40-50 turned into 60-70 with a record-breaking 90 in attendance at our lunch on April 17, 2023.

Each month we try to make the table decorations, food, and entertainment or activity unique and interesting. We wheel in a large sheet cake and sing Happy Birthday to those born in that month. Some of our past lunches have included themes of Vintage Las Vegas, Mind and Body, Solid Gold Motown, and Take Me Back to the Catskills. During our Bored with Board Games luncheon, attendees played their favorite games, and at Love Me a Luau everyone wore Hawaiian-themed clothing and danced the hula. Coming up, we’re looking forward to Day at the Beach Karaoke in July and a Disco Dance Party in August.

CNT Seniors really seem to be enjoying our monthly events. They have been telling friends to come and we average 60-70 Members and Not-Yet Members who pay the \$10 charge. Several people have even joined the Temple after participating in the program.

The wonderful women who volunteer to help each month have called themselves “Karen’s Dream Team” and they certainly are that. They consist of founding Temple Members, active Congregants, and ladies who cared to make our Senior Program the success it has become. The Dream Team is made up of Stacey Lewis, Rona Mendelson, Aydie Unger, Nan Spector, and Pam Lellouche. Together we have created something special for CNT Seniors to look forward to coming to each month.

Karen Marano – Seniors Program Coordinator



CHESED

Shirley Kouffman, skouffman@lvnertamid.org

The Chesed (Caring) Committee is a group of wonderful Members (Sheri Cohen, Janet Duda, Merle Lehrman, Johnette Morales, Maxine Rothman) who reach out to our CNT Congregants and extended Jewish Community in a way to bring cheer and support. Responses indicated that our efforts were appreciated!

Phone calls or cards were sent to bring cheer or messages of condolence, we were able to visit hospitals, nursing homes/ rehab centers, and private homes to show our smiles in person, and we mailed out 70 holiday cards for Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, Purim, and Pesach. For Rosh Hashanah and Pesach, goodie bags were brought to some Congregants, and college students were sent something to help celebrate Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, Purim, and Pesach.

If you have a child or grandchild in college, please let us know so we can remember them during the holidays. We thank many people who generously donated to the Chesed Committee so that we could provide good cheer and support!

Shirley Kouffman – Committee Chair

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A Year in Review

170 TOTAL MEMBERS & 28 NEW MEMBERS

We thank you
for joining each &
every year!

MARK L. FINE AND FAMILY GIFT SHOP

We have a beautiful selection
of Judaica merchandise for all
your shopping needs.
Open 45 minutes before
Services, when Sunday school
is in session, and by
appointment.

GIFT SHOP & SIMCHAS

Our regular fundraisers
continued, benefiting our
Synagogue & the
Fay Schoenfeld Fund 4 Youth
Scholarships. We donated

\$6,600

Sending **11 CNT kids** to
Jewish summer camps!

GREAT LADY

Our 2022 Mickey Wilner
Great Lady Award
Recipient

Jennifer Neeman

“MIRIAM’S STORY”

Sisterhood dedicated
the Torah portion
“Miriam's Story”
in CNT's new torah,
a gift by Jack & Elaine
Chernikoff in memory
of their son, Harvey.

SOARING SISTERHOOD NEWSLETTER

We hope you
enjoyed reading our
quarterly updates!

A BUSY CALENDAR

Sisterhood Appreciation
Holiday Bazaar
Chanukah Party
Sisters Sneak Out
Flour Power
Book Review
Tu B'Shevat Celebration
Women's Passover Seder
Bingo

NEW EVENTS THIS YEAR

Sisters in the Sukkah
Literary & Lecture
Society Series
Mi Shebeirach
Tapestry Project

THANK YOU

Thanks to
Rabbi Akselrad and
Cantor Hutchings
and our wonderful
Temple staff for
supporting us and
always helping our
Sisterhood.

Michelle Blank – Sisterhood President

All are welcome to join our meetings on the second Thursday of each month.

We are always looking for new ideas and new faces to help in planning our many events!



Over the last year, The MENSch Club, a philanthropic and social group for men at CNT, has returned to a full slate of activities. Our membership is hovering around 50 members, with about 15 – 20 heavily active members. Our Board of Directors includes Josh Wertheimer (President), Eric Polis (Vice President/ President-Elect), Jack Silas (Treasurer), Brian Kaseff (Recording Secretary), Rich Greenis (Past President), Brian Pence (Past President), Trustees: Dillon Martin, Ryan DeArkland, Michael Torjman, Marc Greb, Denny Wertheimer, John Brislin, Bruce Harris, and Paul Schiffman, and they were very involved in the planning and execution of all of our events this year.

In addition to our Board, we have a couple of standouts, above and beyond MENSches, to highlight. Barney Tabach, Stephen Talsky, and Joel Williams were our most active members and were extremely helpful in ensuring multiple events went smoothly.

This year, we performed a multitude of service projects at the Temple. We striped the parking lot with fresh paint prior to High Holidays. We manned the door to High Holidays Services and ushered Members to their seats. We built and took down the Sukkah. We washed the windows and picked up trash from the parking lot in the spring. We prepared, cooked, and served a lot of latkes for both the Temple Chanukah dinner and the Sisterhood's Holiday Bazaar. We prepared hotdogs and hamburgers for the Purim Carnival and the end-of-year Religious School BBQ. Steaks and Spirits remains a popular MENSch-only social event. We hosted two steak nights this year with between 20 and 25 participants at both dinners. Our Souper Bowl fundraiser was a big winner with a record number of participants, soups donated, and money raised. Save the date for next year's event, the Saturday evening before the Super Bowl.

The MENSch Club added a new event this year, thanks in large part to our Treasurer Jack Silas. We hosted a BBQ luncheon and awards ceremony honoring Judge Mark Stevens and the volunteers of Henderson's Veterans Treatment Court. We hope to grow this BBQ event into an annual Membership appreciation luncheon honoring a community member in some form.

We have submitted a potential calendar of events for the 2023 – 2024 year to the Temple office for approval. We are hoping to add a MENSch Club event in the Sukkah and a family game night to our already very busy calendar for next year.

The MENSch Club invites all male members of the synagogue to join, but most importantly to find an event that you would like to participate in and volunteer with our group.

Josh Wertheimer – MENSch Club President





Nevadans for the Common Good

Nevadans for the Common Good (NCG) is an organizing coalition that brings people together to solve problems in our community. Since its inception 10 years ago, NCG has lobbied the Legislature to provide more funding for Meals on Wheels, more oversight on payday lending, and improved funding for our schools.

Congregation Ner Tamid is one of 37 religious institutions and nonprofits involved in NCG. Our core team, which includes co-chairs Susie Sernoe and Dorie Kirtman, and members Carol Holdengraber, Cindy Jensen, Fern Sherri Levine, Jana Pleggenkuhle, Janet Duda, Maxine Rothman, Sarah Owen, Sheri Cohen, and Shirley Kouffman, has worked hard to fulfill CNT's goal of promoting a positive relationship with members of other religious traditions as well as fulfilling the pillars of Judaism – Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, and Gemilut Hasadim, acts of loving-kindness.

Within NCG, there are issue teams – groups of people who work on specific issues. Since the onset of the pandemic, the housing team has studied problems related to short term rentals, evictions, application fees, rental assistance, and many other issues associated with the housing crisis. The mental health team, which consists of Carol Holdengraber, Cindy Jensen, Janet Duda, Maxine Rothman, Sheri Cohen, Shirley Kouffman, Chairperson Susie Sernoe, and 20 members of other institutions, has held multiple house meetings as a means of learning about the problems and experiences of our community members. We have met with politicians including Mayor Romero of Henderson, Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen, and Las Vegas Councilman Brian Knudsen to learn about their plans for addressing mental health throughout Las Vegas. We met with Kim Abbott and Jonathan Norman from the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to hear about the work they are doing and the needs of our community. Most recently, we met with three City of Henderson employees who are working on issues surrounding mental health and substance use. With the information we've gathered, we can narrow the larger problem to individual issues and determine specifically what we will tackle.

NCG Lead Organizer, Anna Eng, offered trainings throughout the year. Core team training, research action training, and a two-day training on organizing are a few examples. In addition, a legislative training was held, which taught participants how to access their legislators and how to track bills.

After bringing NCG to CNT 10 years ago, Rabbi Akselrad has been a consistent supporter. He attended the Delegates Assemblies and offered the closing prayer/ remarks at both the Assemblies and the House meeting held at CNT last November. Our team is appreciative of the support we have been given.

The CNT core team meets on the third Thursday of every month via ZOOM. New members are always welcome. Come help us repair the world!

Dorie Kirtman and Susie Sernoe – Committee Co-Chairs

The Social Action Committee provides opportunities for our Congregation to fulfill the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam. We welcome and encourage members of our Congregation to join us in this pursuit. Please let us know what services or projects are important to you and believe will be helpful for our community. The following are projects we worked on during the past year.

High Holy Days Food Drive – We had another successful food drive thanks to the generosity of our Congregants. An estimated one ton of food was donated to Jewish Family Services. A big “thank you” goes to the wonderful CNT staff who graciously received the donations. Their efforts are appreciated!

Mitzvah Menorah – Every year the Mitzvah Menorah project brings Congregation Ner Tamid together to sponsor children in need for Chanukah. In keeping with these changing times, Congregants were able to select a child by visiting the giant menorah as they entered Sisterhood’s Chanukah Bazaar and were again able to virtually select children to sponsor via the internet. The overwhelming generosity of our Congregants made it possible to provide toys and gift cards to 56 children in need. Thanks to our Sisterhood and Chanukah Harry, we were also able to provide 27 family gifts of a menorah, candles, gelt, dreidels and a gift card.

Mitzvah Day – On Sunday, November 13, 2022, students and parents participated in the Religious School Mitzvah Day. During the day, they helped repair the world by decorating memorial stones for our King David Memorial Garden, creating toys for pets in need, tzedakah boxes, challah covers, cards for Chesed, menorahs and mitzvah charts. Sixty-two people also took action to help save lives, 27 donated blood (a new record) and 10 adults and 25 students were trained to use the nasal spray NARCAN to reverse the effects of an overdose and save a life.

Purim Carnival – The Social Action Committee sponsored three projects during the Purim Carnival that provided opportunities to celebrate life through taking actions to save lives. The blood drive provided our community with the much needed lifeforce, blood. Training was provided on the opioid epidemic and how to use NARCAN and each participant received NARCAN at the completion of the training. Last, with the simple act of filling out a form and swabbing the mouth participants joined a registry with The Gift of Life. Their action can result in providing someone with lifesaving blood stem cells or marrow and cure blood cancer, sickle cell disease, and one hundred other conditions. Our Gift of Life events have now saved the lives of two people! We thank all who gave of themselves and took action to save lives.

Social Justice – We started a Social Justice program and previously enjoyed a study group, under the direction of Rabbi Cookie Olshein, on various social justice issues. We are developing more robust social justice programs that will include education, outreach, coordination with the Religious Action Center, and taking part in calls to action. We are excited about building these programs.

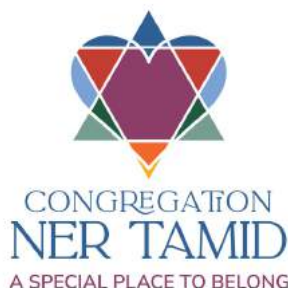
Social Action Committee Members include Arlene Kalodner, Arlene Williams, Carmen Prater, Carol Holdengraber, Elaine Reininger, Jana Pleggenkuhle, Martha Marton, and Sheri Cohen.

We thank the many social action volunteers who graciously have given their time.



*Please pick up your new Membership badges.
Our security officers and ushers need to know
who our Members are during our
High Holy Days Services and events.*

***The Alan H. Bachman and Judy L. Bachman Foundation
is graciously donating funds to Congregation Ner Tamid
Members in need of financial assistance for Jewish
summer camps and Synagogue Membership dues.
Please contact CNT Executive Director Edward Simon
for more information at
(702) 733-6292 or esimon@lvnertamid.org.***



55 N. Valle Verde Dr.
Henderson, NV 89074
www.lvnertamid.org

TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday.....9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday.....9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Phone.....(702) 733-6292
FAX.....(702) 733-8553
After Hours.....(702) 733-6292

PRESCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday.....8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Phone.....(702) 632-2250