



CONGREGATION NER TAMID

A SPECIAL PLACE TO BELONG

January/ February 2023

Vol. 38, No. 1

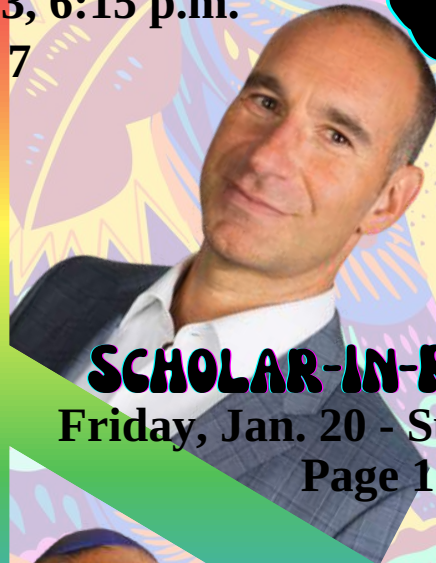
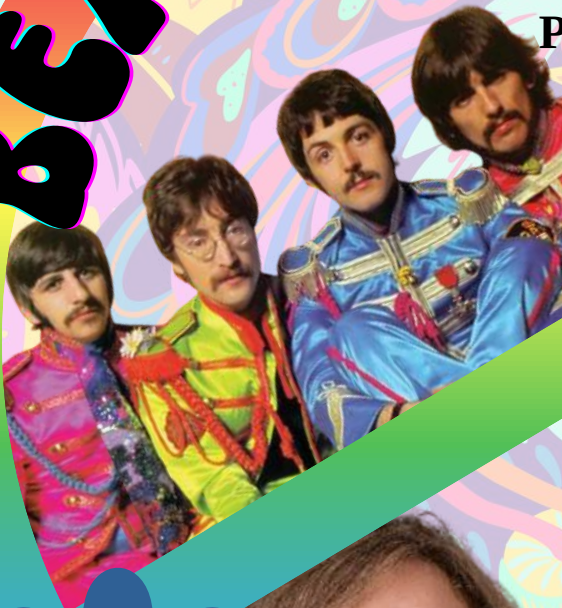
8 Tevet 5783

BEATLES SHABBAT

WITH
THE SHABBATONES

Friday, Jan. 13, 6:15 p.m.

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SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Friday, Jan. 20 - Sunday, Jan. 22

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CONGREGANT OF THE YEAR



Sunday, Feb. 5

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**TORAH PROJECT
CELEBRATION**



Friday, January 6 , 2023

9:30 a.m. – Preschool's *Shabbat* Sing
7:00 p.m. – *Shabbat* Services

Saturday, January 7 , 2023

8:45 a.m. – *Torah* Study
10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat Minyon* Service –
Tefillah / Prayer
12:00 p.m. – Our Jewish Heritage



Friday, January 13, 2023

9:30 a.m. – Preschool's *Shabbat* Sing
6:15 p.m. – Beatles *Shabbat* with
The Shabbatoners, Birthdays

Saturday, January 14, 2023

8:45 a.m. – *Torah* Study
10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat Minyon* Service –
Tefillah / Prayer
12:00 p.m. – Our Jewish Heritage



Friday, January 20, 2023

9:30 a.m. – Preschool's *Shabbat* Sing
7:00 p.m. – *Shabbat* Service with
Scholar-in-Residence JCC Krakow's
Jonathan Ornstein, special oneg in honor
of CNT Members who contributed to
Rabbi Akselrad's trip to Poland and
Ukrainian refugee relief efforts

Saturday, January 21, 2023

8:45 a.m. – *Torah* Study with
Jonathan Ornstein
10:00 a.m. – Zoe and Yael Koff's
B'not Mitzvah
10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat Minyon* Service –
Tefillah / Prayer
12:00 p.m. – Our Jewish Heritage



Friday, January 27, 2023

9:30 a.m. – Preschool's *Shabbat* Sing
7:00 p.m. – Congregant of the Year/
Shabbat in the Round
8:00 p.m. – NTTY Lounge Night

Saturday, January 28, 2023

8:45 a.m. – *Torah* Study
10:00 a.m. – Adult *B'nai Mitzvah*
12:00 p.m. – Our Jewish Heritage



Friday, February 3, 2023

9:30 a.m. – Preschool's *Shabbat* Sing
7:00 p.m. – *Shabbat* Services

*All Torah Study and Minyan Services
will be held on Zoom
unless noted otherwise above.
For Zoom links, go to our calendar
at www.lvnertamid.org.*

Saturday, February 4, 2023

8:45 a.m. – *Torah Study*

10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat Minyon Service –
Tefillah / Prayer*

12:00 p.m. – *Our Jewish Heritage*

Sunday, February 5, 2023

9:30 a.m. – *Torah Scribing*

12:00 p.m. – *Torah Project Final Scribing,
Dedication, Torah Parade*

1:00 p.m. – *Torah Project Celebration*



Friday, February 10, 2023

9:30 a.m. – *Preschool's Shabbat Sing*

6:15 p.m. – *Shabbat Services with
The Shabbatoners, Birthdays*

Saturday, February 11, 2023

8:45 a.m. – *Torah Study*

10:00 a.m. – *Sky Gosselin-Kotkin's
Bat Mitzvah*

10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat Minyon Service –
Tefillah / Prayer*

12:00 p.m. – *Our Jewish Heritage*

Friday, February 17, 2023

9:30 a.m. – *Preschool's Shabbat Sing*

7:00 p.m. – *Shabbat Services*

Saturday, February 18, 2023

8:45 a.m. – *Torah Study*

10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat Minyon Service –
Tefillah / Prayer*

12:00 p.m. – *Our Jewish Heritage*

5:00 p.m. – *Haylee Hirsch's Bat Mitzvah*



Friday, February 24, 2023

9:30 a.m. – *Preschool's Shabbat Sing*

7:00 p.m. – *Shabbat in the Round*

8:00 p.m. – *NTTY Lounge Night*

Saturday, February 25, 2023

8:45 a.m. – *Torah Study*

10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat Minyon Service –
Tefillah / Prayer*

12:00 p.m. – *Our Jewish Heritage*

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
esimon@lvnertamid.org or (702) 733-6292.



When Congregation Ner Tamid was established almost 50 years ago, the founders adopted a policy that no one would be turned away from Membership because of financial constraints. This commitment has never changed, and today a significant number of our families are on reduced dues and fees. Of course, this policy of reduced dues has an impact on our ability to pay our bills and provide services and programs. So, 30 years ago, we established the Menorah Membership Program to recognize those Members who provide more than the annual standard dues and fees. When the Menorah Membership Program started, we committed to providing those Members who joined with special events throughout the year and enhanced benefits. Over the years, Menorah Membership increased, and we held annual events such as a Spring BBQ

and a Chanukah Party where Members received unique menorahs and candles. However, in recent years, and specifically because of the pandemic and lockdown, the Menorah Program has languished.

Over the past year, we had the opportunity to refocus on and reinvigorate the Menorah Program. We revamped the various levels of Menorah Membership beginning with the threshold of \$3,600, added benefits such as High Holy Days parking on Campus, and held events including a get-together for a sneak preview of the Chernikoff Torah and Chanukah party at the home of Bruce and Sarah Familian on Wednesday, December 14 (photos below), and are planning a Spring BBQ at the home of Steven and Stacey Lewis. These events allow us the opportunity to socialize and support a basic commitment of CNT and its founders – that no one is turned away from Membership because of finances. Menorah Membership has increased to a record 60 families, and our goal is to increase the Menorah Program Membership to 100 families. This will be approximately one in six of our families. If you are interested in exploring Menorah Membership, please contact Roberta Unger at CNT.

Jerry Gordon, President



It seems like eons ago that I joined nearly two dozen colleagues on a special mission to Krakow, Poland, in order to bring support to the refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. Proudly our Congregation raised more than \$75,000 and half a dozen duffle bags filled with supplies. Altogether our group of 22 rabbis raised more than \$800,000 and two tons worth of supplies. Beyond this concrete expression of support, what we saw and experienced made an indelible impression on every member of our delegation.

Surprisingly, since last year, I connected with a second cousin who was doing genealogical research. I discovered that my grandfather came not from Poland, but from Ukraine! I am, in part, Ukrainian! This revelation only added additional texture to an already impactful trip.

Like many life-changing experiences, one is called to ask, “What if this had been me and my family?” Through a twist of fate, my grandfather Morris decided to leave and made his way to America. Over time he brought other members of his family to this country, thus sparing some but not all from the fate of the Holocaust.

One might think that Rabbis of all people would refuse aid to the Ukrainian people. After all, the Ukrainians were one of the worst offenders during the Holocaust. But, Jonathan Ornstein, the Chief Executive Officer of the Krakow Jewish Community Centre who housed our mission, explained, “What was not done to help our people, we must do for these people.” Through his actions and leadership, he wanted to not only make a difference but show the citizens of Poland and Ukraine, that the Jewish people truly believe in Tikkun Olam.

With deep gratitude to the Stralser and Alterwitz families, we will be bringing Jonathan to CNT during the weekend of **January 20 - 22, 2023**, to give an update to our Congregation on how the JCC continues to save lives and bring leadership to the hundreds of thousands still seeking assistance of every kind. He will also educate us as to the rise of the Jewish community itself as slowly but surely a new generation is arising to bring back Jewish life and culture. It is a fascinating story. One filled with sadness and tragedy to be sure, but also one filled with determination and heroism as well.

I look forward to everyone attending our special Shabbat on **Friday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m.** Be sure to bring your children and grandchildren as well. Jonathan is an example of how one person has made a difference because his Jewish values compelled him to stand up and not turn aside. Is there a more important lesson than this we can give our children?

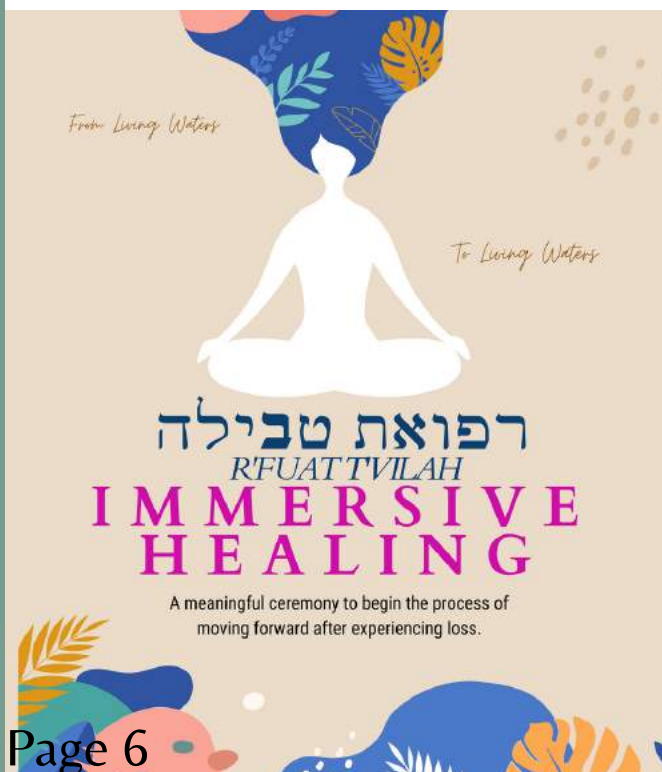
Wishing you a happy new year, with prayers for hope, healing and peace for the year to come.





After years of “trying” to become pregnant, I finally experienced success through IVF (in vitro fertilization). Sadly, seven weeks later, I lost that pregnancy and fell into the deepest depression imaginable. There were no words, no songs, no hugs of consolation. I was numb, weak, and in the deepest need of healing. My partner in prayer, Rabbi Sanford Akselrad, suggested I take a meaningful mikveh. On my own, I went to our local mikveh and I took the most meaningful plunge. I did not have a guide. I did not have words. I did not have a voice strong enough to sing. I did, however, have tears... and sacred waters. While it is not magic, it was transformative. In the weeks that followed, I found healing, hope, and strength to go on. I was forever broken, but light had repaired the crack in my heart. While back in seminary (already a Cantor, now working to become a Rabbi), I took a class called Creative Liturgy. Using the gorgeous text and traditions already written for us and the creative and spiritual flexibility that is Judaism, we were asked to “Create” “Liturgy” for a moment in our lives. When I experienced the missed abortion, I had one small prayer in the CCAR Reform Rabbis manual to read before going in for the D&C (dilation and curettage) operation. It was lovely but it was not enough. The mikveh was what I needed. I wish a ceremony had been available to me, so I am making it possible that a ceremony is available to those who come after me.

This R’fuat T’vilah, Immersive Healing, can be used for any traumatic experience that requires healing waters. *I created immersion ceremonies for pregnancy loss, divorce, life-altering experiences, and the loss of a loved one. The ceremonies are meant to take place in a mikveh. It can be out on the ocean, inside a dwelling with a ritual bath, or in any body of water that can be defined as living water.



It can be done at any time of day, but I recommend sunset. Candles can be set around the ritual bath to create a healing ambiance. Essential oils can be diffused around the space to create a calming atmosphere – I recommend eucalyptus. The ceremony can be with a Cantor/ Rabbi and you alone, or with a spouse, partner, or even a few dear friends.

May the Holy One of Blessing guide you through the journey of renewal, re-imagination, hope, strength, comfort and well-being. You should be proud of yourself for taking this step towards wholeness.

*Contact Cantor Jessica Hutchings at cantor@lvnertmamid.org to learn more about her Immersive Healing ceremonies.

B'shira, Cantor Jessica Hutchings

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE AT CNT'S BEATLES SHABBAT

Comb out your mop-top, iron your psychedelic paisley suits, and untangle your love beads because Congregation Ner Tamid is presenting its Beatles Shabbat with The Shabbatoners on **Friday, January 13, 2023, at 6:15 p.m.** An extra “fab” oneg will follow.

Current and prospective Members are invited to attend Beatles Shabbat in full Beatles regalia and rock out to the popular music while sampling the synagogue.

CNT's Cantor Jessica Hutchings has been credited with creating the Beatles Shabbat phenomenon that has been experienced all over the world. She recalls when divine inspiration struck – when she was stuck in traffic on the Los Angeles 405N Freeway, headed to Cantorial Seminary.

“When the idea came to me, the prayers began to flow into the melodies of the most iconic musical group that ever lived, The Beatles,” Cantor Hutchings said. “It was not until I brought the service to Congregation Ner Tamid's Shabbatoners band that Beatles Shabbat truly made its mark. For years, it's been a staple at CNT, and we are pleased to bring it back on Friday, January 13, with peace, love, and happiness.”

CNT invites all to attend this special service and find out if their favorite prayers have been paired with their favorite Beatles tunes including “All You Need Is Love,” “Back In The U.S.S.R.,” “Birthday,” “Come Together,” “Eight Days A Week,” “Hey Jude,” “I Wanna Hold Your Hand,” “Imagine,” “In My Life,” “Let It Be,” “Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds,” “Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da,” “Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band,” “She's Leaving Home,” “Why Don't We Do It In The Road?,” “With A Little Help From My Friends” and “Yellow Submarine.”



CNT To Celebrate Congregant of the Year, Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class, Torah Project Final Scribing And Dedication In 2023



Shawna Brody is Congregation Ner Tamid's 2022 Congregant of the Year! Help us honor Shawna on **Friday, January 27, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**, with a Shabbat in the Round and a special oneg. Shawna organizes CNT's Saturday Morning Worship and she writes Homeland Security grants for the temple.

On **Saturday, January 28, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, CNT's celebration continues with an Adult B'nai Mitzvah ceremony and luncheon for CNT Members Mindy Bachrach, Ann Brandt, Valerie Catallozzi, Sonya Haggerty, John Henderson, Demetra McGowen, Libby Miller, and Lauren Vogel Freedman.

"The program takes a year to complete," instructor (morah)

Pamela Henderson said. "This group began in January of 2022 and will complete their studies in January 2023. During the year, the students studied Hebrew, Torah, prayer, Jewish history and culture, and a bit of Midrash. They also participated in a book club and a Mitzvah project over the summer. Most importantly, they learned how to make Judaism central in their lives and how to be a part of the Jewish community."

The Adult B'nai Mitzvah students will lead the service, read Torah, and share their thoughts on the themes of their experience. If you're interested in participating in the next Adult B'nai Mitzvah, the class will begin in August 2023 with a ceremony in Fall 2024.



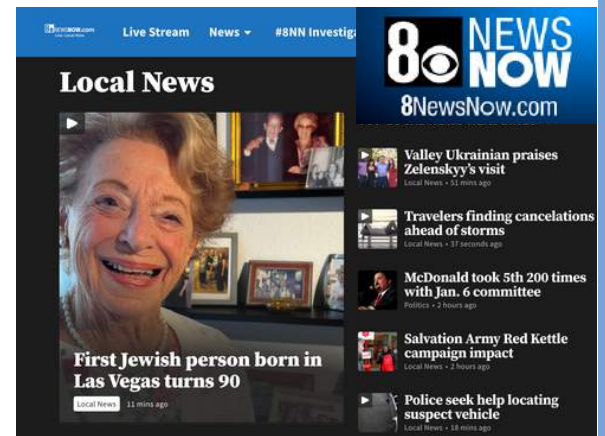
On **Tu BiShvat, Sunday, February 5**, CNT Members Elaine and Jack Chernikoff, and their son Neil, will host a final Torah scribing and dedication of the new Torah they donated to CNT in loving memory of their son and brother Harvey Alan Chernikoff. Torah sponsors will scribe the final letters in the Torah, there will be a dedication ceremony, a Torah parade, a celebration with refreshments, and a private luncheon for the Chernikoff family. Writing a new Torah, or commissioning the writing of a scroll, is the fulfillment of Mitzvah No. 613, the very last Mitzvah in the Torah. Contact Executive Director Edward Simon: **(702) 733-6292** esimon@lvnertamid.org to become a part of CNT's new Torah for generations to come by participating in naming opportunities and the inscription of letters. Sponsor a Book, special passage, significant verse, or a weekly portion, and be acknowledged prominently on a permanent donor wall at our synagogue.



FOX5 Broadcasts Live From CNT, News 8 Now Profiles Kane

KVVU-TV Fox5 reporter Les Krifaton and cameraman Eric Green spent Monday, December 5, 2022, broadcasting live from Congregation Ner Tamid's Sanctuary documenting CNT's Rabbi Sanford Akselrad, Cantor Jessica Hutchings and Rabbi Sofer Yochanan Loewe inscribing letters in CNT's new Torah with more than 100 of our Members.

On Wednesday, December 21, KLAS 8 News Now reporter Ryan Matthey ran a TV news story about CNT Member Roberta "Bobbie" Kane on the station's 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. newscasts. Bobbie is the first Jewish person to be born in Las Vegas, she just celebrated her 90th birthday, and she is the author of "Las Vegas Born and Raised: A Young Woman Embraces Life's Adventures." She shared memories of Chanukah in Las Vegas back in the 1930s when there were fewer than 10,000 residents living in our Desert Oasis.



CNT's Seniors Program Goes Country, To Feature Ron Collins, Johnny Bird

Congregation Ner Tamid's Seniors Program kicks off 2023 with a "We're Goin' Country" theme with singer/ songwriter Ron Collins and a Western BBQ lunch on **Monday, January 9, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.** On **Monday, January 23, at 12:00 p.m.**, a "This Is Your Life" event is where Seniors will share memories and Dale Rowe will talk about writing memoirs. On **Monday, February 13, a 12:00 p.m.** lunch will feature entertainment by Johnny Bird, a Best of Las Vegas 2021 award winner. "We have been having so much fun at our lunches with different entertainers and themes each month," CNT Seniors Program Coordinator Karen Marano said. CNT's Seniors Program is open to the local community for those aged 65 and older. CNT Members can attend for FREE, not-yet Members will be charged \$10. CNT's Seniors Program is sponsored by CNT Member David Mizrahi in honor of his father Joseph Mizrahi. Register at www.lvnertamid.org.

Zoe and Yael Koff – Saturday, January 21, 2023

Before moving with their family to Mississippi in 2021, twin sisters Zoe and Yael Koff were actively involved at CNT – attending Religious School since age five, singing in Shir Heart, and performing in the annual Purim Spiel. They are delighted to return “home” to CNT for their B’not Mitzvah – which happens to be the same day as their 13th birthday, **Saturday, January 21!** Their Torah portion is Va’era. Zoe and Yael are straight-A students at Biloxi Junior High School and share a passion for music. Zoe is in the school show choir and sings in a band at the Hard Rock Casino Resort. Yael plays violin in the school orchestra and is learning the electric guitar. Both girls are also members of the National Jr. Beta Club, an invitation-only organization that engages young leaders in community service projects.



They love spending time with family and friends and are great role models for their little sister, Noa. For their Mitzvah project, Zoe and Yael are fundraising for The Trevor Project, a suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ youth: <https://give.thetrevorproject.org/Yael-and-Zoe>. Zoe and Yael plan to continue their Jewish learning as members of the Springhill Avenue Temple in Mobile, Alabama. Zoe and Yael’s parents are Erika and Ben Koff.



Sky Gosselin-Kotkin Saturday, February 11, 2023

Sky is excited to be called to the bimah for her Bat Mitzvah on **Saturday, February 11**. Sky is a sixth grader at Doral Academy, she loves music and especially singing. She is a part of the choir at her school. Her biggest passion though is building LEGOs. She is always thrilled to take people on a tour of her impressive collection.

Sky is a kind and caring person. For her Mitzvah project, she wanted to combine her passion for baking and people. She has been volunteering at the wonderful Three Square food bank to provide meals for the Las Vegas community in need.

She will also bake and sell her cookies “Sky’s Sweets” to benefit Three Square:
www.threesquare.org.

Sky takes pride in her multicultural heritage. Her paternal grandparents Hyman and Rebecca were born in Ukraine and Israel, her maternal grandparents Dominique, Stephane, Martine and Hubert were born in France. Sky is fluent in French and has been working hard on her Hebrew, too. It is this symbiosis of communities that we will celebrate together – the love, respect, and stories of people from diverse backgrounds coming together.

Sky’s mother, father, and siblings are Chloe Gosselin, David, Audrey and Dylan Kotkin.

Haylee Hirsch – Saturday, February 18, 2023

Haylee is absolutely thrilled to be called to the Bimah as a Bat Mitzvah on **Saturday, February 18**. She is a seventh grader at Bob Miller Middle School, where she participates in the National Junior Honor Society and sings in choir. Her biggest passions in life are reading, hockey, dance, and traveling the world. Her travels include five cruises, plus trips to the East Coast and Ireland. In her remaining free time, she plays with her dog Hudson. Haylee is a self-taught hockey fan and has a great passion for the Vegas Golden Knights and Henderson Silver Knights. For Haylee’s Mitzvah project she is determined to paint 500 river rocks to be delivered to King David Cemetery to be used by anyone to put on headstones. Many of these rocks include words of remembrance, love, hope, and joy. In addition, she raised money for two of her favorite charities, Special Strides, a therapeutic horseback riding program for children with special needs, and Smile Train for children born with a cleft lip or cleft palate. Her parents, Michelle and Jeff Hirsch, along with her family and friends are extremely proud of her and all she has accomplished.



CNT's New Year's Resolution

We're updating our database.

Please send us your new addresses, email addresses, and cell phone numbers, etc.

Contact Roberta at (702) 733-6292, runger@lvnertamid.org.

CNT's Preschool Presents Chanukah Showcase

The Gary & Lynn Kantor Early Childhood Education Center's Preschool hosted a Chanukah showcase and luncheon on Thursday, December 15, 2022. The festive performance was held in the Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall where Preschool students sang and danced in front of their teachers and family members. A buffet lunch included latkes and apple sauce, chicken nuggets, and donuts.

The Gary & Lynn Kantor Early Childhood Education Center is adding an Infant Program for babies eight weeks and older. They will take part in enrichment classes including Music & Movement, Sign Language, and Hebrew. Teachers will also read interactive stories to infants each day to enhance their interest in books and reading. A registration list is forming now. Temple members will receive a discount, and founding families who mention this article will receive FREE registration. If you're interested in sending your little one to an interactive learning environment, contact Farrah Tomaro at FTomaro@lvnertamid.org.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Hayley Wizig, hayley@cntschoool.org

Religious School Celebrates Chanukah; Gets Ready For Purim

"Congregation Ner Tamid's Religious School ended its first semester on a great, high note," CNT's Family and Education Director Hayley Wizig said. "We held Chanukah parties in class on the last day and Hebrew School students led Tefilah. We're looking forward to coming back to class on **Sunday, January 8, 2023.**"

Wizig said the Religious School's NTTY group had a "ton of fun" at its Lock-In event on Saturday, December 3, 2022. They did Havdalah, ate Chinese food, watched a Chanukah movie, and slept over in the building. Another NTTY event took place at The District for lunch. The last NTTY Lounge Night of 2022, on Friday, December 16, followed Chanukah Shabbat Services and the kids played games and enjoyed hanging out with each other. Future NTTY Lounge nights take place on **Friday, January 27**, and **Friday, February 24**, from 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.



CNT's Purim Spiel and Carnival take place on **Sunday, March 5.**

Congregation Ner Tamid To Host JCC Krakow's Jonathan Ornstein As Scholar-In-Residence



When Congregation Ner Tamid's Rabbi Akselrad was on his Rabbinic mission to Poland and the Ukrainian Border in April 2022, he and more than 20 other Rabbis collected and delivered two tons of supplies and more than \$800,000 to the Jewish Community Centre of Krakow, Poland, to aid in its refugee relief efforts. Jonathan Ornstein, the CEO of JCC Krakow, will be CNT's Scholar-In-Residence from **Friday, January 20, to Sunday, January 22, 2023.**

"Jonathan has done amazing work not only trying to comfort Jews fleeing Ukraine but also aiding all refugees seeking help in his region," CNT's Rabbi Sanford Akselrad said. "We are delighted to host Jonathan in Las Vegas where he can share his stories directly with our Members and our community, and let us all know how we can continue to help the relief effort."

See the enclosed Program for CNT's Scholar-In-Residence weekend schedule.

Drop your kids. Stay and learn!
JOIN PAMELA HENDERSON AT THE

Starbooks Cafe 2023

"Celebrate the holy women of our holy days!"

1/29	2/26	3/26	4/16	4/30
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 & Tziporah	The Four Yomim & the women of Sho'ah and Israel	Shavuot and the stories of Dinah and Tamar

SUNDAYS | 9:30 am - 11:30 am | CNT Multipurpose Room

Free Classes. Free Coffee. See you there!
www.LVNerTamid.org

Spring into Learning with Morah Pam

Hebrew II: Exploring the Siddur

Wed., Feb. 1 - Mar. 29
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
\$50 for CNT Members
\$75 for Not Yet CNT Members

<https://lvnertamid.shulcloud.com/form/Hebrew2>

CHANUKAH AND HOLIDAY BAZAAR

‘Exceptionally Good Year’ For CNT Sisterhood's Chanukah, Holiday Bazaar

Artwork, ceramics, clothing, jewelry, Judaica, paintings, toys, latkes, kugel, and cookies filled the Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall during Congregation Ner Tamid’s Sisterhood Chanukah and Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, December 4, 2022, from 9:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

“Our annual Bazaar was very well attended,” CNT Sisterhood President Michelle Blank said. “We did very well, it was an exceptionally good year.”

The Bazaar was open to the public and was a one-stop shop for Chanukah and Holiday gifts sold by multiple local vendors.

CNT’s Sisterhood Members baked kugel, CNT’s MENSch Club fried latkes, and the Bazaar’s Cookie Court featured hundreds of homemade cookies including gluten-free and sugar-free options.

Bazaar and raffle proceeds went toward Sisterhood’s Fay Schoenfeld Fund 4 Youth scholarships for CNT Religious School students to go to summer camp.

“The best part of our Bazaar is that everyone within our CNT community gets to participate,” Blank said. “We’re already looking forward to next year.”



SOCIAL HALL DEDICATION

CNT Dedicates Gary And Lynn Kantor Hall

Rabbi Sanford Akselrad delivered the following speech on Sunday, December 4, 2022:

“Congregation Ner Tamid was founded in 1974. It had various locations until we found a home on Emerson Avenue. In February 2007, we moved to our current Campus. That was nearly 15 years ago. In all that time, nearly 50 years, we have never had a named Social Hall; until today. Our Social Hall is not just a place for gathering for Shabbat Onegs. If that were the case, Dayenu. Or a place where brides and grooms gather to celebrate their Simchas. Dayenu. Or Adult Ed, Baby Namings, Purim Carnivals, Seniors Programs, MENSch Club, Sisterhood, and Annual Meetings, all of which we could say ‘Dayenu.’ The list of programs is seemingly endless. No, our Social Hall fulfills the third vital mission of a synagogue community: Bet Hatefilah, house of prayer; Beit Ha-midrash, house of study; and Beit Knesset, house of gathering. For it is here that we come together to forge those relationships and become a community. It is here we come together and celebrate the most significant of events. It is here we come together to create lifelong memories that tie and bind us to Congregation Ner Tamid and our own personal history of Jewish life.

As such, the individuals who bear its name take on extraordinary importance in the history of our Congregation, and we are proud to name this Hall after them. Never seeking accolades or recognition, it comes to them organically and with intent, because of what they have done, and who they are. Few if any have contributed to the financial success of our community. And few if any come into our community with such humility and desire for us to thrive and succeed. From our endowment to our Preschool to service on our Board and participating in the support and success of numerous campaigns to insure the vitality of our synagogue, Gary and Lynn Kantor have always stepped up and said, ‘We are here.’ And for that I, we, are so very, very grateful. And therefore it gives me great pleasure to dedicate our Social Hall as the Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall.”

Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall



Chavurah Chazarai

CNTs Wine Not! Chavurah will meet for a wine tasting at the home of Joan Fine and Paul Scea on **Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.** Attendees are asked to bring a bottle of Spanish or Portuguese wine and an entree or appetizer that pairs well to share. RSVP Paul: **pscea@yahoo.com**.

CNT's Film Chavurah will present "Kissin' Cousins" on **Wednesday, January 25. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., film starts at 7:00 p.m.** All events take place at The Theatre in the District Condos – with a large screen and comfortable couches. The entrance is on the north side of the District close to the north side entrance to REI. The address is 2220 Village Walk Dr., in Henderson. CNT Members can RSVP by calling and/ or emailing Barney at **(702) 303-5649, barney@tabach.com**, or by calling Film Chavurah Leader Anthony Saenz at **(818) 606-1912**.

CNT's Mahjong Chavurah continues to meet in CNT's main lobby every **Monday at 1:00 p.m.**

If you'd like to join a CNT Members Only Chavurah, **email cntchavurah@lvnertamid.org** or register at **<https://lvnertamid.shulcloud.com/form/Chavurah>**.



Welcome New Member 2022 - Michelle Letourneau



A WALKING MIRACLE by Dorie Kirtman



Mike Unger, 27-year CNT Congregant, is a man of many talents and experiences. He has been married to Roberta for 47 years, and is the father of five, and grandfather of four. He has worked in the hotel and casino business for 39 years and has known numerous entertainers, celebrities, politicians, and members of the Mob. He has held leadership positions at CNT – president of the MENSch Club for three years, three years on the CNT Board, and in the Jewish community served a three-year term as VP of B'nai B'rith. He was also past president of several hotel organizations in the Las Vegas community and was involved with the United Way Campaign Cabinet for 18 years. However, what is not widely known about

Mike is that he is an eight-time cancer survivor, has beaten the odds against a variety of cancers, and is also a survivor of another wicked and pernicious disease. He is an inspiration to all of us who are facing life-threatening medical issues. Mike moved to Las Vegas with his parents and siblings in 1967 from North Hollywood, California. He was one of the first graduates from the University of Nevada's Hotel Management Program and eventually worked in management positions at various hotels – the Frontier, Dunes, Aladdin, Showboat, and Caesars – throughout the area and helped stage large sporting events for the community. It was during this time when Mike was 38-years-old that he contracted an extremely rare and debilitating disease called Guillain-Barre Syndrome. This disease causes one's immune system to affect and harm the body's nerves, causing weakness and paralysis throughout. It often affects the arms, legs, breathing muscles, and even the face. Eventually, Mike's body became paralyzed and he could only communicate with the movement of his eyes. There is no known cure.

Mike was hospitalized for nine weeks and his recovery took several months. He will tell you that this was one of the most difficult and scary periods of his life. Eventually, in later years, Mike faced other serious medical challenges. He contracted colon cancer at age 54 and surgically had seven inches of colon removed. He next encountered prostate cancer in 2003, was treated with oral medication, and is still under active surveillance. Then in 2004, he developed a carcinoma on the top of his head and had a Mohs procedure. Mike remembers leading a staff meeting at that time when everyone there was staring at him. Finally, someone said, “Look, you’re bleeding from the top of your head!” That was a weird moment for Mike. Later in his early 60s, after seeing an oncologist and getting tested, Mike was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor on his left kidney. Although he had no symptoms at the time, a very large nine-pound tumor and his kidney were removed surgically. Fortunately, the tumor was encapsulated and the cancer hadn’t spread. Mike still has a photo on his cell phone that was taken of that big baby. Then, six years ago, a dangerous tumor was discovered on Mike’s neck, just below his ear. This tumor was inoperable, but fortunately for him, Mike was referred to UCLA’s medical center and a world-renowned medical specialist. A combination of chemotherapy, radiation, and a medication called Keytruda, developed in Israel 12 years ago, was used to treat Mike. At the time, each Keytruda shot cost \$8,000, but luckily Mike wasn’t charged a penny for the \$64,000 treatment procedure. Lastly, and more recently, a basal cell tumor was found on Mike’s head and was treated with a Mohs procedure. Then a squamous cell tumor developed on his face under his eye and was removed via Mohs. He is presently being treated for a tumor by his right temple to be removed in early 2023. After all his encounters and experiences with illness and cancer, Mike’s attitude is amazingly positive and upbeat. He feels very lucky. He wants to remind you if you get cancer or another serious illness, it’s not the end of the world. New medications, treatments, and procedures are being developed and are available. It’s important to try different treatments and stay positive. The survival rate for cancer has increased and is continuing to make strides. Do what you can to help yourself and get support from medical professionals, your family, friends, and Rabbi. After all, Mike is a living testament to what the human spirit can endure and what Judaism teaches us: to honor and care for our bodies and to do what we can to live each day with gratitude in the best way possible.

Special Vegas PBS Offer Joe Bonamassa



Celebrated blues-rock guitarist and singer-songwriter Joe Bonamassa returns to Las Vegas, and Vegas PBS has your tickets before they go on sale to the public! **Friday, August 4, 2023, 4:30 p.m. sound check, 8:00 p.m. concert**, at The Chelsea at The Cosmopolitan. Donate \$239 for a single floor seat, \$259 for a single floor seat including an exclusive pre-show sound check. CNT Members should call Vegas PBS Event Specialist Christina Wood at **(702) 799-1010, ext. 5375**, **cwood@vegaspbs.org** to reserve, and indicate you are with CNT.



Sisterhood held its annual Chanukah and Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, December 4, 2022. It was a very busy and exciting day. The morning began with the dedication of our Social Hall, now called the Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall. The Bazaar was the first event to be held at the newly named venue honoring the Kantors. The Bazaar included our Gift Shop, our delicious Cookie Court, homemade Kugel, and Raffles for our Fund 4 Youth. Our MENSCh Club was busy cooking and selling delicious latkes and more. Our vendors had beautiful merchandise to buy. Mitzvah Menorah, Religious School, and Preschool along with the confirmation class

participated as always. It was a wonderful CNT community event.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you wonderful bakers who filled the tables with beautiful delicious cookies. The sale was a big success solely due to you and your gracious generosity.

A HUGE thank you to those who baked the delicious kugels. People look forward each year to enjoying homemade kugel. We appreciated your time and love to do this.

Thank you to Il Chianti Restaurant, Sugar Skulls, Las Vegas Aviators, Anita Moody, Shirley Kouffman, Espez Candy, Skin Tight Fitness and Aesthetics for the wonderful Raffle prizes. Our Fund 4 Youth Raffle was very successful this year because of our



wonderful donations. The proceeds from the Raffle and Bazaar will help us continue to give scholarships each year to our youth to go to Jewish summer camps.

Thank you to Rabbi Akselrad, Cantor Hutchings, and the CNT Staff for their continued support. Sisterhood could not do what we do without all your help. We always appreciate it very much.

Everyone had a good time shopping, eating, and schmoozing. We thank everyone very much for supporting Sisterhood and we're looking forward to next year.



The CNT Sisterhood Chanukah party was held on Sunday, December 11, 2022, in the newly dedicated Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall. Forty-three women and Little Sisters enjoyed boxed lunches by Panera along with a card-making contest, singing, and lots of laughs. Our Little Sisters who attended also got to make cards, do a word search, and a coloring sheet. Cantor Hutchings led us in the blessings with camaraderie and Sisterhood abound. A great time was had by all. Thank you to the Committee and to all who attended in making this a great Chanukah celebration.



Sisterhood's Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 19, 2023 – “Flour Power – Challah for *Shabbat*”

6:30 p.m. – Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall

Sunday, January 22, 2023 – Literary and Lecture Society Series presents “Loving Leah”

1:00 p.m. – Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall

Sunday, January 29, 2023 – Big and Little Sister & Little Brother Event

12:00 p.m.

Flyers for these events are inserted in the Bulletin.

Save These Dates – Please Join Us

Thursday, February 2, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. –

Tu BiShvat Celebration

Sunday, February 26, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. –

Bingo and Nosh

Thursday, March 16, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. –

Sisterhood Book Review: This year's book is

The Color of Love by Marra B. Gad

Flyers to follow with information and to RSVP.

Time to buy your 2023 Mahjong Card
Deadline: **Wednesday, January 25, 2023**
Email: cnt.mahjongg@gmail.com or call
Cheryl Cohen at (702) 755-1737

**With Love, Michelle Blank, President
& Our CNT Sisterhood Board**

Questions? Email us CNTSisterhoodlv@gmail.com
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Mark L. Fine and Family Gift Shop

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Be sure to shop our CHANUKAH CLEARANCE SALE
beginning **Friday, January 6, 2023**, save 40-70%
throughout the store.

Proceeds support our Fay Schoenfeld Fund 4 Youth scholarships
for our CNT Religious School students.



CHESED

Shirley Kouffman, skouffman@lvnertamid.org

We are a small, but mighty, group of Congregants (who always would welcome more Members) who recently have called and visited some lonely or ailing congregants. We sent more than 60 cards to some Congregants and college students for Chanukah. We even were fortunate to do a Mitzvah by writing a letter in the new Torah with the scribe!

Remember, that if you have a child or grandchild in college, we send a reminder of how much we care about them four times a year.

Thanks to Sheri Cohen, Janet Duda, Merle Lehrman, Johnette Morales, and Maxine Rothman for joining me in bringing cheer to others.

MENSch Club Fries 1,500 Latkes For CNT Chanukah Events



The MENSch Club was hard at work during the holidays. For Sisterhood's Chanukah Bazaar, on Sunday, December 4, 2022, and CNT's Chanukah Dinner, on Friday, December 16, the MENSch Club fried approximately 1,500 latkes using 140 pounds of potatoes, 70 onions, and 100 eggs.

On **Saturday, February 11, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**, the night before Super Bowl LVII, the MENSch Club invites all to its *Souper Bowl* at the Gary and Lynn Kantor Hall! Purchase quarts of homemade soup packaged to go for take-out consumption. This is the MENSch Club's first Souper Bowl post-Covid. In years past, we have prepared Tomato, Squash, Minestrone, and Potato soups, and various Chilis to sell.

We hope you stop by and see what soups the MENSch Club is offering this year.

And on **Saturday, February 25, at 5:30 p.m.**, we're grilling steaks and potatoes for MENSch Club's Steaks and Spirits night where fellow MENSch Club Members look forward to meeting and eating a great meal. BYOB you would like to share with friends. Please RSVP to Jack Silas at **(702) 914-5776 before Wednesday, February 15**, for the best pricing. Proceeds go towards scholarship money for CNT Tribe student(s) going on the NY Tribe Trip in March and for honoring Retired Judge Mark Stevens and the volunteers of Veterans Treatment Court, a program that helps veterans accused of petty crimes turn their lives around through volunteer work and rehabilitation.





Nevadans for the
Common Good

A Time To Celebrate: Taking A Look Back

Your CNT NCG core team has much to celebrate! We had a busy and successful 2022.

Here are a few highlights:

First and most importantly, we have a fabulous team, and it grew during the year. Original members include Chairpersons Dorie Kirtman and Susie Sernoe, Shirley Kouffman, Fern Sherri Levine, Larry Ginsburg, Len Kirtman, Cindy Jensen, Jana Pleggenkuhle, and Janet Duda. New to the team are Sarah Owen, Maxine Rothman, and Sheri Cohen. Special thanks to the entire team for all the work you've done and the strength you brought to our team. Sarah Owen hit the ground running by joining the housing team. This team walked around neighborhoods and talked to people about their living situations; they also talked with politicians and others about revising laws that would help renters and provide more affordable housing in our community. Sarah attended a training facilitated by Legal Aid of Southern Nevada and shared what she learned with our team. Thank you, Sarah!

During the year we had two Delegate Assemblies. These gatherings bring all 40 NCG institutions together to ratify any plans that the organization has made. Of special importance, NCG approved the creation of the Mental Health Team, led by Susie Sernoe, and the continuation of the work of the housing team. Rabbi Akselrad attended the Delegate Assembly on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, and provided the closing remarks. He said, "Disturb us, oh God," and asked us if we were ready to fight and "not sit idly by." His words were a driving force and impactful to everyone present. Thank you, Rabbi, for the support you have given your CNT core team and the support you have shown for the entire organization.

The Mental Health team held three house meetings, during which we talked to more than 80 people from all different areas of town and all walks of life. We heard stories about isolation, lack of service providers, issues with insurance, suicides, and lack of case management services. Congratulations to the CNT team, who hosted a meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. Nearly everyone on our team was able to make it, and we had 40 people in attendance! Thank you to Shirley Kouffman, Janet Duda, and Cindy Jensen for being our scribes and taking great notes. Special thanks to Rabbi Akselrad for closing our meeting with another inspiring call to action.

On Tuesday, November 15, 2022, Nevadans for the Common Good celebrated its 10th anniversary! Again, nearly our entire team turned out, making us one of the largest groups present. We learned about hosting an orientation meeting, which would introduce our temple members to the work we do, and we learned about the importance of building our core team, another goal we wish to accomplish in the new year.

The CNT NCG core team is jumping into 2023 with energy, enthusiasm, and determination! We'll be keeping an eye on the legislative session, tracking bills having to do with mental health and housing. We'll be meeting with powerful people to help facilitate change for people in our community who are struggling. Won't you join us in making our community a better place to live? We meet on Zoom on the **third Thursday of every month**. Come be a part of something great!

Social Action Surpasses Mitzvah Menorah Goal

CNT's Social Action Committee matched 54 CNT Members with local children in need as part of its annual Mitzvah Menorah Program. That means 54 children were sponsored to receive Chanukah gifts this Holiday season. Plus, Social Action had enough gifts to give Chanukah gifts to an additional five children. The Committee also provided 27 family gift bags containing menorahs, candles, gelt, dreidels, challah covers made by CNT Religious School kids as part of Mitzvah Day, and \$50 gift cards. Jewish Family Services delivered the gifts to the families and children.

"We thank all the compassionate and generous people who sponsored children," Cindy Jensen, vice president of CNT's Social Action Committee said. "We also thank our anonymous Chanukah Harry and others who graciously donated, and Sisterhood for providing items for the family gift bags." CNT Members donated age and gender-appropriate gifts valued between \$45 - \$50.



CNT'S TRIVIA TUESDAYS

FOR CNT MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ALIKE...

MIXED SUBJECTS - ANYTHING GOES!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL TRIVIA VIA ZOOM ON YOUR COMPUTER

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C A R N E G I E L I F E . C O M

When a loved one passes away, Jewish tradition teaches us to remember them annually by lighting a candle on the date of their passing, or Yahrzeit.

We honor and show our love for the departed and remember that those who have passed away never truly leave us as long as we hold them in our hearts and adopt their life lessons into our own daily lives.

If you'd like to pay homage to a loved one, add their name to our Rows of Remembrance.

*To reserve or to purchase a Yahrzeit plaque,
please contact
Roberta Unger, (702) 733-6292,
runger@lvnertamid.org,
to ensure your loved one's name is etched in stone.*



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Todah rabah! Thank you to the following who provided contributions to Congregation Ner Tamid between November 7, and December 5, 2022. We appreciate all donations, but in order for a Yahrzeit donation to be listed in the Bulletin, your donation must be a minimum of \$18.

Rabbi Akselrad's Discretionary Fund

Hon. Michael Cherry's birthday by:

Meryl Thornton

In Memory of:

Christopher Fotig George by:

Marilyn and Lou Etcoff

Cantor Hutchings Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Clarice Fainblit by:

Nanci and Phil Palmintere

General Fund

In Memory of:

Joan Wolberg by Elaine Stein

Marvin Eisenberg by: Stephen Talsky

Chesed Fund

Leslie Snadowsky by:

Sisterhood, Michelle Blank

In Memory of:

Clarice Fainblit by:

Sisterhood, Michelle Blank



Yahrzeits

Regina Baker, rbaker@lvnertamid.org

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Jackie Smith, Samuel Smith	Leslie Smith
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REMEMBRANCES



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Scott Fisher – Brother of Eric Fisher

Sam Lionel – Congregant and Husband of Lexy Lionel

Carol Roth – Grandmother of Evan Kaufman

Jerry Roth – Grandfather of Evan Kaufman

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FAX.....(702) 733-8553

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SAVE THE DATE!

- ✿ MARCH 5 – PURIM SPIEL AND CARNIVAL
- ✿ MARCH 12 – CNT SISTERHOOD'S NEW MEMBERS BRUNCH
- ✿ MARCH 16 – CNT SISTERHOOD'S LITERARY AND LECTURE SOCIETY SERIES
- ✿ MARCH 16 – RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CONFIRMATION TRIP TO NYC – 10TH, 11TH, AND 12TH GRADES
- ✿ MARCH 24 – NTTY LOUNGE NIGHT
- ✿ MARCH 26 – CNT SISTERHOOD'S FLOUR POWER
- ✿ MARCH 28 – TRIVIA TUESDAYS
- ✿ MARCH 30 – CNT PRESCHOOL'S MODEL SEDER
- ✿ APRIL 2 – CNT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL'S 5TH GRADE "WEDDING"
- ✿ APRIL 5 – FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER