



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT





The Hebrew word “Shalom” has multiple meanings. One is “hello,” and the other is “goodbye.” They seem to be opposites of each other. But in reality, as we have learned during COVID, they are extensions of each other. Over the past two years we had many ‘goodbyes,” as we watched staff leave, cherished programs cease, the Preschool close, and the list goes on. But COVID was also a time of great innovation and experimentation.

We turned our Religious Services into a virtual experience that many continue to enjoy to this day. We began teaching Adult Education via Zoom, holding meetings via Zoom, and even our Religious and Hebrew Schools went virtual.

As the world made its way through COVID, so did we. And while COVID is still a part of our lives, we have gradually begun to live with COVID, and emerge from it, even as we define what the “new normal” should look like.

We gradually opened back up during our 2021-2022 year and revived many programs including our Purim Spiel and Carnival – bigger and better than ever before! Our Shabbat services resumed in person and in streaming format. We learned Adult Education and Hebrew School could be taught effectively via Zoom, but Sunday School really needed to be in person. Speaking of which, Cantor Hutchings did an amazing job these past two years running our school and rebuilding it in creative and engaging ways. I am so very proud!

We’ve also had many staff changes. This past year we welcomed Ed Simon as Executive Director, Farrah Tomaro as Preschool Director, Hayley Wizig as our new Director of the CNT Religious School, Leslie T. Snadowsky as Programming and Communications Coordinator, Sherie Ralston as our new Accountant, and Jerri Kaye as an assistant to the Preschool and our main office. A lot of new faces! Even so, Cantor, Roberta, Regina, and I maintain a sense of continuity. I like to think we have really blossomed and brought in some great new talent and expertise to serve our Congregation at just the right time.

I also want to announce the donation of a brand new Torah scroll commissioned by Jack and Elaine Chernikoff in memory of their son Harvey z”l. The week prior to the High Holy Days we will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to complete the Torah as many will fill in letters with the scribe. The Torah will officially be dedicated on Rosh Hashana morning. I can’t tell you how grateful I am for their generosity, and how excited I am to have this Torah housed at our synagogue! It is every Rabbi’s dream to commission a Torah and this fulfills mine that I have held for 40 years. This Torah will be very lightweight so people of many ages can hold it close to their hearts, and it will be the primary Torah we will use for each of our B’nai Mitzvah students. It will be a marvelous experience watching these students become a part of the history of this Torah, as we honor Harvey’s life and his parents’ generosity.

Shalom! We are back! Which leads me to the third meaning...

Shalom also means “completeness.” We have come full circle and we will now move forward with wonderful plans for the future. Thank you for the trust, support, and faith you have given to me, our staff, and our entire lay leadership! Our Board, led by returning President Jerry Gordon, has accomplished remarkable things in a very short time. The combination of his dedication, vision, and leadership was exactly what we needed at this very moment in time.

Shalom! Peace. Friendship. Love. And goodness of heart. That is what CNT is for me, and I hope for you as well.

Rabbi Sanford Akselrad





As I write these words, I am in a bit of a daze. As you probably know by now, our family was hit with that word you never want to hear, the C-word... Cancer. My beloved Jeremy (well, let's face it, we all love the big guy) has lymphoma and is on a tough road. In the past two weeks since his diagnosis, we have had to do what many of us have done throughout our lives, and take a narrow focus on what really matters, and how we were going to make it through this part of the journey.

There has not been one single moment where we have not felt the love and support of our CNT community. Jeremy's work company has not come to visit, sent dinner, or asked how they can help... But YOU did. That is why we are part of a community, right? We join CNT, and call it the "Place to Be," but really, it has little to do with the place and everything to do with the people. There are countless times when Roberta gets word that someone is ill, and Rabbi, me, our staff, and our lay leaders jump into action with prayers and offers to help. I have had the honor of standing by numerous bedsides and gravesites and never can imagine myself anywhere else because THIS is what I do. This is what CNT does for its family and its community. Now, unfortunately, it is our turn to be the ones in need of support. I understand this kehillah kedosha (holy community) on a whole new level, and I am more grateful than ever. I share this now because I want to remind you, that in times that you need us, WE WILL BE THERE.

Before our personal health storm hit, it was a bustling year between Preschool reopening, Religious School hitting record enrollment numbers, big events coming back, B'nai Mitzvah formally postponed finally being celebrated, weddings, and so much more. Perhaps the one thing I was missing the most, came back in full swing... Making music together. SINGING together. Filling the room with prayersong.

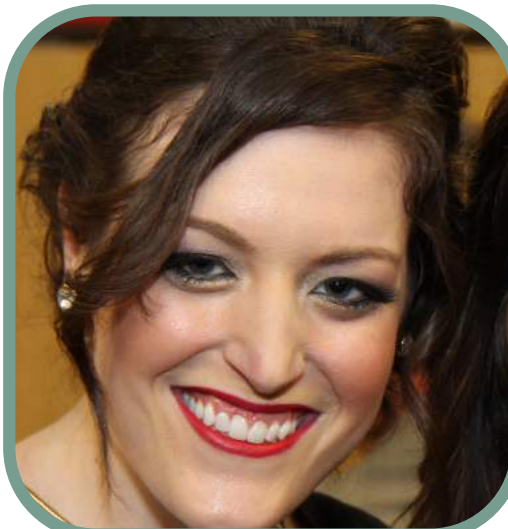
A couple of months ago, I also announced a new life journey. In January, I re-enrolled in seminary to become a Rabbi. On Yom Kippur, you will hear more about this from the bimah, but I want you to know that in no way does this diminish my role as your Cantor, and my calling to lead with my voice and heart. This is another tool in my toolbox, a step on my journey, and a goal I have set before myself. I look forward to what is to come on this front!

In order to do this work, proudly, the torch of Religious School Director has been passed to our dear Hayley Wizig. She will begin in August! Tell all of your friends to enroll!

The road ahead is looking bumpy, but we will persevere, Jeremy will get better, and this will only make me a better clergy person to serve you with joy, love, and wisdom. Looking forward to a healthy, wonderful, blessed year ahead for all of us.

B'shira,

Cantor Jessica Hutchings

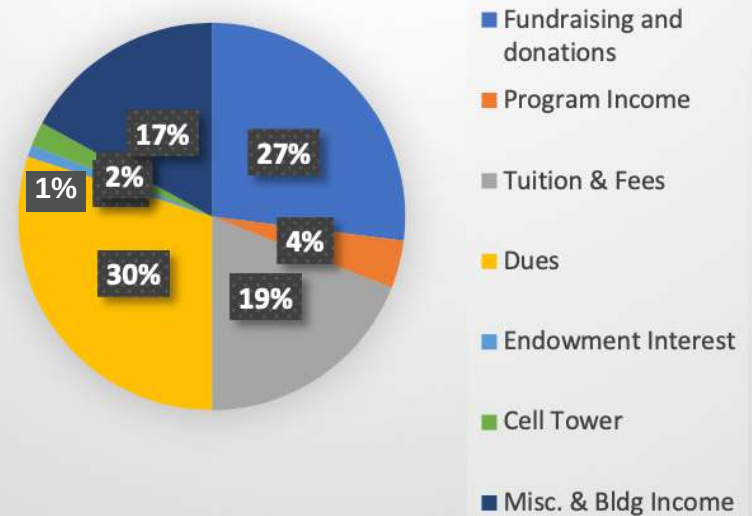


Financial Report

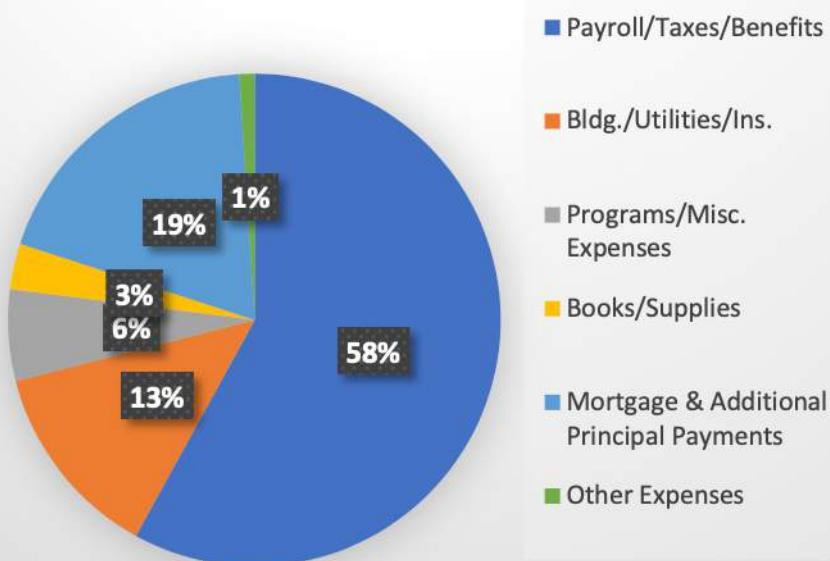
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (INCLUDES PRESCHOOL)					
FOR ELEVEN MONTHS ENDING MAY 31, 2022					
				ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME, (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS:					
OPERATING REVENUE				\$1,665,796	\$1,950,000
OPERATING EXPENSES				\$1,470,750	\$1,719,000
NET OPERATING INCOME, (LOSS)				\$195,046	\$0
ADD: NON-OPERATING INCOME (TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED)					
RCC/NCC/BUILDING FUND DONATIONS				\$147,150	\$150,000
GOEL				\$389,000	\$200,000
TARGETED GIVING				\$152,000	0
SUB-TOTAL NON OPERATING INCOME				\$688,150	\$350,000
TOTAL INCOME (OPERATING & NON OPERATING)				\$2,265,000	\$2,300,000
SUBTRACT: NON-OPERATING EXPENSES (TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED)					
PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS				\$576,000	\$387,000
MORTGAGE INTEREST (1ST MORT.)				\$187,000	\$187,000
PERPETUAL TRUST EXPENSES				\$7,000	\$7,000
SUB TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES				\$770,000	\$581,000
TOTAL EXPENSES (OPERATING & NON OPERATING)				\$2,158,900	\$2,300,000
NET NON-OPERATING INCOME, (LOSS)				\$113,196**	
**Does not include expenses in the month of June, totaling around \$125,000					

Where Our Money Comes From	
Fundraising & Donations	27%
Program Income	4%
Tuition & Fees	19%
Dues	30%
Endowment Interest	1%
Cell Tower	2%
Misc. & Bldg. Income	17%

Where Our Money Comes From



Where Our Money Goes



Where Our Money Goes	
Payroll/Taxes/Benefits	58%
Bldg./Utilities/Ins.	13%
Programs/Misc. Expenses	6%
Books/Supplies	3%
Mortgage & Additional Principal Payments	19%
Other Expenses	1%



In January 2021, I was looking out the window of my Chicago condominium, watching the snow come down for the fourth time that week. I could not leave my apartment, since the last two times I left before that my car got stuck in the snow and I needed help from strangers to dig it out. With all this in mind, I decided to apply for jobs outside of my area, including a position as an Executive Director at Congregation Ner Tamid in Las Vegas.

I have been with CNT for a little over a year as your Executive Director. We have tackled many challenges during that time, from the ever-changing pandemic, to reopening our Preschool. One thing that has been consistent is the warmth and acceptance I have received from this community, allowing each of these challenges to be a team effort to overcome.

One of the first changes we made was to overhaul our internal operations. We added a new database management system, ShulCloud, which fundamentally changed how we track and process information. We examined and reviewed how we did everything from accepting donations to acknowledging Simchas. I was very lucky to have co-workers who embraced and explored these ideas and continue to work on improving them.

Another major challenge we faced was reopening our Preschool. It is almost impossible to think that at this time last year, we had zero children enrolled! Starting by recruiting teachers and organizing family fun nights, we were able to build a community from the ground up. I am happy to report that under the direction of our wonderful director, Farrah Tomaro, our school is thriving. We are expanding into a fourth room this fall, and are looking forward to continued growth.

CNT still faces challenges. The current economic situation around the world impacts the synagogue, as well as everyone else. 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.

Being a large, visible Jewish institution, we are always going to have ongoing security concerns. After the hostage crisis in Colleyville, Texas, the Board of Directors led the charge to reexamine our security procedures. Their first step was to add an armed guard at all Friday night and Saturday morning services, along with Sunday morning Religious school. Working with our Security Committee, we examined and identified infrastructure upgrades that will protect our facility. We secured funding for these projects, and look forward to construction beginning this year.

Coming to a new city without knowing anyone can be a terrifying experience, however, from the first moment I walked into CNT, I felt at ease. Thank you to everyone who has made me feel welcome and contributed to our success this past year. 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

Rabbi Sanford D. Akselrad – Senior Rabbi
Cantor Jessica Hutchings – Senior Cantor
Edward Simon – Executive Director
Roberta Unger – Managing Director
Farrah Tomaro – Preschool Director, The Gary & Lynn Kantor
Early Childhood Education Center
Hayley Wizig – Director of CNT Religious School
Regina Baker – Administrative Assistant
Leslie T. Snadowsky – Programming and Communications Coordinator
Sherie Ralston – Accountant
Jerri Kaye – Assistant, Preschool and Front Desk
Lee Posey – Maintenance
Chiquita Howard – Maintenance

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jerry Gordon – President
Jim Mason – Executive VP
Andrea Harris – VP Ways & Means
Deanna DeArkland – VP Youth & Education
Dani McLaughlin – VP Membership, Programming
Barney Tabach – VP Membership, Recruitment
Cindy Jensen – VP Social Action
Michael Levy – Treasurer
Jolie Brislin – Corporate Secretary
Rabbi Sanford D. Akselrad – Ex-Officio
Edward Simon – Ex-Officio

TRUSTEES

Del Acosta, David Cherry, Rich Greenis, Alan Mann,
Shannon Martin, Jon Perry, Eric Polis, Ira Spector
Michelle Blank – Sisterhood President
Rich Greenis – 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, Diane Brown, Dr. Everett Campbell, Nancy Carney, Sheryl Chenin-Webb, Elaine Chernikoff, David Cherry, Alison Clark, CNT Adult Choir, CNT Board Members, Arlene Cohen, Deborah Cohen, Ilana Cohen, Confirmation Class and Families, Nadine Cracraft, Ryan Crighton, Lana and Sidney 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, Karen Freed, Carolyn Friedner, Marilyn Goldstein, Jerry Gordon, Yvonne Gordon, Debra Gorov, David Grana, Marc Greb, Jenn and Rich Greenis, Andrea Harris, Pamela and John Henderson, Carol Holdengraber, Jeremy Hutchings, Cindy Jensen, Anne Johnson, Jeff Jonas, Erin Josephs, Arlene and Neil Kalodner, Heidi Kanter, Gary Kantor, Lynn Kantor, Harvey Katz, Jack Katz, Lisa Katz, Mark Katz, Wendy Katz, Dorie and Leonard Kirtman, Shana Korman, Shirley Kouffman, Jodi Kurtzman, Olympia and Steve Lazar, Merle Lehrman, Larry Lehrner, Christy and Rob Levrant, Cathy and David Linefsky, Alan Mann, Julie Marcus, Jim Mason, Helen Mazor, Michael Mehr, Rona Mendelson, David Miller, Ira Miller, Alan 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, Tom Resnick, Wendy Roberts, Glori Rosenberger, Maxine Rothman, David Rubinstein, Gail and Rudy Rudolph, Aaron Saiewitz, Anne Sandell, Larry Sandell, Paul Schiffman, Susie Sernoe, Harrison Sheld, Elaine Siegal, Jack Silas, Rochelle Silas, Alec Sonenthal, Nanette and Ira Spector, Bette and David Stahl, Ira David Sternberg, The Shabbatones, Barney Tabach, Fred Toffel, Brad Torchin, Aydie Unger, Doug Unger, Hilary Unger, Michael Unger, Mindy Unger-Wadkins, Andy Urban, Ruth Urban, James Wadkins, David Weinstein, Cassidy and Josh Wertheimer, Michele and Denny Wertheimer, Judy Winnick, Joan Wolberg, Abby Zeldin



Please let us know if we missed you so we can add you!



MENORAH LEVEL PARTNERS

Goesel and John Anson
Selma Bartlett
Sylvia and Neil Beller
Joanne and Lee Bernick
Jolie and John Brislin
Michelle and David Cherry
Justice Michael Cherry
Stephen Clooback
Kathy Cluxton
Debra and Mitchell Cohen
Amy and Ryan Crighton
JoAnne Dandin
Deanna and Ryan DeArkland
Diane and Kenny Epstein
Michelle and Lawrence Epstein
Sarah and Bruce Familian
Lori Frankl and Scott Greenspan
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
Lisa and Mark Katz
David Kotkin and Chloe Gosselin
Shelley Berkley and Larry Lehrner

Stephanie Lehrner and Michael Levine
Stacey and Steve Lewis
Taren and Brian Lipman
Joyce 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
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 Kantor ECEC Preschool is a place where enrolled children, 18-months to Pre-K, acquire social, emotional, and academic skills through sensory play.

Relationships and attachment 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 Preschool, 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 kids 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 storytime. With play-based learning, focusing on developmentally appropriate practices, the Kantor ECEC Preschool is geared to enable every child to meet their specific goals.

Recruitment vehicles have included an Open House during the Annual Picnic, and Bagels and Babies and Mommy and Me programs.

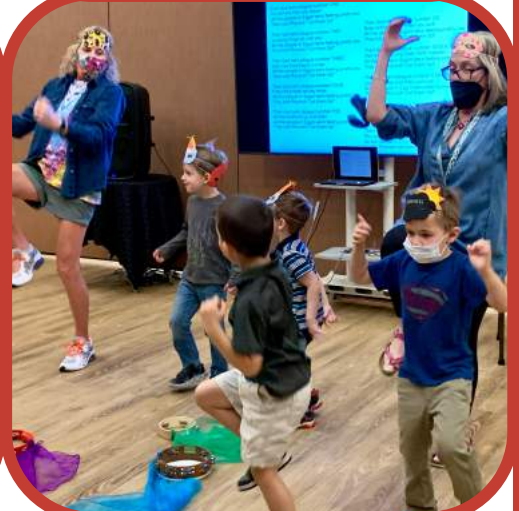
There are 32 children enrolled in the 2022 Kantor ECEC Summer Camp that was extended by two weeks to span Tuesday, May 31, through Friday, July 29, 2022. Weekly themes include Carnival, Under The Sea, A Bug's Life, Party in the USA, Safari, Dinosaurs, Colors of the Rainbow, and Sports Extravaganza. There are also designated water days, music fun, Shabbat days, and visits from MyGym representatives to work with the kids on gymnastics, balance, and fun games.

Waitlists are forming now to enroll in the Kantor ECEC Preschool's 2022 – 2023 school year to fill four classrooms, for four classes, for 18-month-olds, 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, and pre-K students.

All CNT Members receive a 10 percent discount and current Preschool families will receive \$100 off next month's tuition when they refer a new family who enrolls. There are also sibling discounts available.

While all-inclusive, The Kantor ECEC is a gateway to the Reform synagogue where Jewish learning comes to life on a daily basis.

Farrah Tomaro – Preschool Director





The 2021-2022 Religious School year was a huge success! Our enrollment bounced back post-pandemic and was up from pre-pandemic years as well. 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 chugim that allowed them to choose activities they were interested in learning more about. As a school, we participated in many different community events such as the ADL Walk Against Hate, The Friendship Circle Walk4Friendship, and our own CNT Mitzvah Day. We had a strong turnout at both Shir Shabbat and Shabbat in the Round each month. Our Chanukah and Purim programming was a hit, with our Purim Spiel being a fun event for everyone to see.

We brought more than 20 teens on a tour of Jewish LA, and they came back with new friendships and a new appreciation for Jewish culture. Our teens became even more involved in our youth group and participation was up from previous years. We have many interested in becoming madrichim (teaching assistants) for the next school year. This year, our madrichim had the opportunity to plan and execute a lesson from start to finish in their Sunday classroom. We had six Confirmation students this year who were able to create meaningful connections to Judaism and affirm their faith. Our four graduating seniors were great role models to all and all plan to remain connected to Judaism throughout college.

Our students were able to have a memorable year thanks to our amazing teachers. We could not have done it without them. Looking forward to this fall, I am so excited to be stepping up into the principal role and continuing to make CNT “the place to be!”

Hayley Wizig – Director of CNT Religious School



*CNT
Religious
School*

**REGISTRATION
2022-2023**

- Jewish Education
- Pre-K to 12th Grade
- Amazing Teachers
- Varied Curriculum
- Great Community



REGISTER NOW

<https://bit.ly/rsreg22-23>

**Hayley Wizig
CNT Religious School Director
hayley@cntschoool.org**



Congregation Ner Tamid's Adult Education program has expanded during 2021-2022 and included multiple classes, speakers, video shows, online social media content, and a trip to Israel.

Rabbi Aksehrad's "Compelling Conversations" video show has a new look and has featured David Brog, executive director of The Maccabee Task Force, with moderator Ira David Sternberg, and Tali Nates, founder and executive director of The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre.

Rabbi Aksehrad's premiere episode of his new video show "Faith Matters" debuted on Saturday, April 23, 2022, and featured Green Valley Presbyterian Church's Rev. Dr. Adrian N. Doll to discuss "Questions & Connections: Passover/ Easter."

These shows are uploaded onto CNT's YouTube channel as well as the community-wide Yom HaShoah Service and Holocaust Memorial Plaza Dedication that took place at King David Memorial Chapel & Cemetery on Sunday, April 24, 2022. Rabbi Aksehrad was the chair of this Board of Rabbis of Southern Nevada's Yom HaShoah event.

Both Rabbi Aksehrad and Cantor Hutchings collaborated on the observance service and Cantor Hutchings designed the ceremony's beautiful and comprehensive program using her photos of Holocaust memorials from around the world.

Rabbi Aksehrad also taught "The Essential Talmud" class and the "Wrestling With God" class which was so popular that he is currently teaching "Wrestling With God – Part Two."

CNT is also offering Adult B'Nai Mitzvah and Intro To Judaism and Intro to Hebrew classes taught by Pamela Henderson, and Taste of Judaism classes were taught by Rabbi Aksehrad, Cantor Hutchings, and Pamela Henderson.

In addition, Rabbah Rona Matlow hosted two Zoom lectures, "Frequently Mistranslated Or Misinterpreted Biblical Verses" and "R-Rated Torah – The Stuff We Never Talk About In Shul," Larry Kuperman hosted two lectures, "MAUS: An Uncomfortable History" on Zoom, and an in-person Shavuot lecture called "A Brief Overview of the 1,000-Year History of the Jews of Ukraine," and YouTube influencer Dave Schmulenson, aka "The Schmo," spoke to CNT's Religious School students who came to hear his sports stories and internet strategies.

CNT Members have been invited to attend Interfaith events including "Love One Another" at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in February, and a "Prayer Service for Ukraine" in March at Green Valley Presbyterian Church.

And they've also had access to view Ayelet's virtual live series every month. Monthly topics have included February's "Spy: Israel's Intelligence Operation Secrets," March's "Is It Good For The Jews?," April's "Current Events Through A Jewish Lens," May's "Lost Jewish Cities" and

June's "Israeli Innovation." When CNT Members register for the classes, a portion of the registration fee is donated to Congregation Ner Tamid.

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

Most recently, Rabbi led an "Adventure in Israel" where one of the highlights was a memorable rafting expedition down the Jordan River, where the Israelites once crossed with the Ark of the Covenant. Cantor Hutchings produced a 24-page "Congregation Ner Tamid Goes To Israel" booklet for the group that contained meditations and prayers, history, literary excerpts, and music lyrics. Plus, six videos were produced about this educational trip and shared on CNT's social media so the whole Congregation could experience the adventure together.

Roberta Unger – Managing Director

David Brog



Tali Nates



Rev. Dr. Adrian N. Doll



Rabbah Rona Matlow



Larry Kuperman



The Schmo



Congregation Ner Tamid made international headlines this year. Our biggest story shared around the world was a front-page story written by Ray Brewer, the Managing Editor at *The Las Vegas Sun*, about the new Holocaust Memorial Plaza at King David Memorial Chapel & Cemetery in Las Vegas. The article featured Rabbi Akselrad and told the story of how he brought soil, from outside the six extermination camps in Poland, back to Las Vegas to be placed at the Memorial.

The article was picked up by The Associated Press and placed on its newswire where it received global attention.

Vegas PBS also dedicated a lengthy segment to the Holocaust Memorial Plaza and featured both Rabbi Akselrad and CNT Member Jay Poster, the General Manager at King David.

Rabbi Akselrad's rabbinic mission to Poland and the Ukrainian border also garnered multiple print stories and generous TV air time on Las Vegas' ABC affiliate 13 Action News – KTNV, CBS affiliate 8 News Now – KLAS, and FOX affiliate FOX 5 – KVVU.

You can find a video about Rabbi Akselrad's trip on CNT's YouTube channel.

In addition, Rabbi Akselrad was a featured guest on "State of Nevada" on KNPR 88.9 FM radio to talk about his trip to Poland and most recently about what plagues our country today, and he was a guest on the LGBT Chat Podcast where hosts billed the interview as "one of the most spiritually fulfilling conversations" they've had on the show.

And, since January 2022, *The Las Vegas Israelite* has published 38 newspaper stories about Congregation Ner Tamid including multi-page spreads on Cantor Hutchings' essays, Purim Spiel and Carnival, and Pop-Up Shabbat with award-winning singer-songwriter Neshama Carlebach.

Leslie T. Snadowsky – Programming and Communications Coordinator



LAS VEGAS SUN APRIL 30TH 2022 DESERT BREEZE PARK TAMAM

NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS POLITICS OPINION ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR HEALTH

Betting | Las Vegas Raiders | UNLV Sports | Marijuana Laws | Gaming | Golden Knights | Smith's World | Cor

Column: Rabbi feeds Ukrainian refugees in Poland



lgbt chat podcast

Voices from the LGBTQ+ community

0:25 -52:23

97: Rabbi Akseilrad Unites Us LGBTQ CHAT — May 12, 2022

LAS VEGAS SUN OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT! HCC HENDERSON

NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS POLITICS OPINION ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR HEALTH

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Through education, a new purpose emerges from the horrors of the past

By Rabbi Sanford Akseilrad Sunday, April 24, 2022 | 2 a.m.

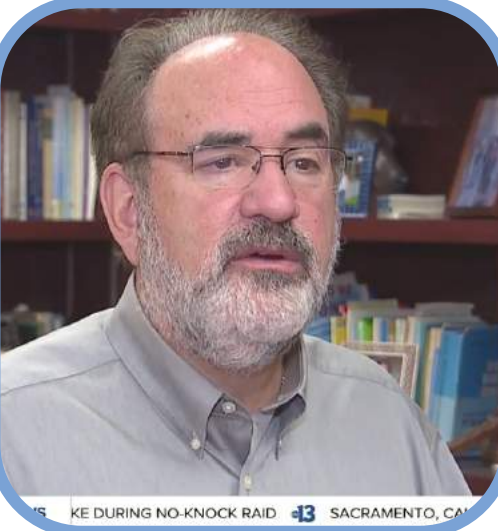
Editor's note: Rabbi Sanford Akseilrad, from Congregation Ner Tamid in Henderson, was recently in Poland to help with relief efforts because of the war. He is sharing his thoughts and experiences there with Sun readers.

Dust lies upon my shoes, clinging to my life journey; tender, precious bits of holiness. Each speck of dust represents contact with a moment of history. Moments filled with the daily tasks of life, but also moments filled with intense sadness and tragedy. This dust clings to me as if for dear life, searching, searching for a way forward, away from a disturbing past. For this was no ordinary dust, it was the dust from Auschwitz.

View more of the Sun's opinion section

- Editorials - the Sun's viewpoints
- Columnists - local and syndicated writers
- Letters to the editor - reader views
- Write a letter to the editor

Holocaust Memorial Plaza at King David Cemetery



KE DURING NO-KNOCK RAID 3 SACRAMENTO, CA

NEVADA WEEK

Rabbi in Poland Friday at 8 p.m. vegaspbs.org/nevadaweek



SANFORD AKSELRAD

er Tamid

LAS VEGAS SUN LAS VEGAS' ONLY PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER LASVEGASSUN.COM

LOCALLY OWNED AND INDEPENDENT | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Saying goodbye in the time of COVID

Student hardships, health ramifications may accompany earlier school start times in 2022-23

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Southern Nevada rabbi to visit Ukrainian refugees in nearby Poland

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AP Photo/Mike Gammie

People at a makeshift camp wait to board a train heading for Krakow, after fleeing from Ukraine, at the border crossing in Medyka, Poland, Thursday, March 10, 2022.

Jewish Community Downtown For Pop-Up Shabbat

(Continued from previous page)




The Pop-Up Shabbat drew to a close. It's best attendees started to get sleepy finding Cantor Hutchings son Emmett.

The El Cortez hosted Pop-Up Shabbat at its Jackie Gaughan Plaza and lit up the Las Vegas Strip with its marquee announcing Pop-Up Shabbat was taking place Friday, April 29.

We launched our CNT Members-Only Chavurah initiative during a Chavurah Shabbat on Friday, March 4, 2022, and, to date, 125 CNT Members have signed up to join at least one Chavurah group. We are advertising 32 Chavurahs that include:

Adventure Club, Art And Painting, 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Class 2022-2023, Beethoven To The Beatles Music Club, Book Club, Caregivers Caring For Each Other, Chai Chavurah, CNT Preschool Families, Conversion Crew, Dining Club, Family Fun, Film Club, Fine Art Of Liquor, Fishing Club, For The Love Of Jewish Cooking, Gardening Club, Glowing Older, Hebrew Language Study Group – Beginner/ Intermediate, Hiking Club, Jewish Singles (30s And 40s), Jewish Singles (50s And Beyond), LGBTQ+ Club, Mahjong, Pickleball, Single Parents, Summerlin CNTers, Summerlin CNT Families, Travel Club, Ukulele, Vegas Sports Fans, Wine Not?, Young Philanthropists

Many of our Chavurahs are thriving and have met at least once or are scheduled to meet soon. When Chavurah groups get together to play Mahjong, go on hikes, see concerts, go wine tasting, etc., photos of their events are featured on CNT's social media, eblasts and Bulletins.

Considering the initiative has only been active for four months, Membership deems the program a huge success that has engaged Members and is serving to be an exciting tool for recruitment.

If you want to join a CNT Members-Only Chavurah, email us at cntchavurah@lvnertamid.org. Or, go to: <https://lvnertamid.shulcloud.com/form/Chavurah>

Barney Tabach – VP Membership, Recruitment

Wine Not?



Hiking



Pickleball



MEMBERSHIP

Barney Tabach, barney@tabach.com
Dani McLaughlin, dt.bromberg@gmail.com

Family Fun



Mahjong



Beethoven To The Beatles
Music Club



CHESED

Shirley Kouffman, skouffman@lvnertamid.org

Prior to the pandemic, the Chesed (Caring) Committee was a group of wonderful Members who reached out to our CNT congregants and extended Jewish Community in a way to bring cheer and support. Responses indicated that our efforts were appreciated!

Now that some restrictions have been lifted, we hope to renew our efforts and usual activities. Please contact me if you would like to join the committee.

- Phone calls or cards were sent to bring cheer or messages of condolence.
- We hope to be able to again visit hospitals, nursing homes/ rehab centers, and private homes to show our smiles in person.
- We mailed out 70 holiday cards for Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, Purim, and Pesach.
- College students were sent gifts 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 the cheer and support!

Shirley Kouffman – Committee Chair



Our Sisterhood had a very busy and exciting year. We had many wonderful events, worked hard, and had fun. Our Sisterhood is dedicated to our Synagogue and our Youth. We want to help in any way we can, as you can see from the highlights below. Thank you to everyone for supporting our Sisterhood, so that we can do all that we want to do!

Highlights of Our Past Year ~ July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Membership ~ 153 wonderful Sisterhood Members.

Our Events ~ Holiday Bazaar, Sisterhood Chanukah Party, Women's Passover Seder, Rabbi's Book Review, Sisters Sneak Out, Bingo, Mitzvah Day, and more.

Flour Power ~ We made brownies together in February, virtually, and had so much fun!

Our Simcha Cards ~ Our Best Fundraiser ~ Wishes for Happy Birthdays and Anniversaries.

Our Synagogue ~ We supported our Tot Shabbat and our Galas and more. Also Rabbi's mission to Poland for Ukraine's refugees.

"Soaring with Sisterhood" Newsletter ~ Watch for it in the mail (not email).

Fund 4 Youth Scholarships ~ We donated \$5,500 in scholarships to help our Religious School kids go to summer camp.

Our 2021 Mickey Wilner Great Lady Award ~ Janet Duda

Our Gift Shop ~ We have a beautiful selection of Judaica merchandise for all your shopping needs. Please come by and check it out! And check out our video commercial on CNT's YouTube channel.

Thank you to Rabbi, Cantor, and our wonderful Temple Staff that always supports and helps our Sisterhood. We invite all ladies to be a part of Sisterhood. Please join us for our events!

Our Mission Statement

CNT Sisterhood offers something for every woman and extends the hand of friendship to all. Together, as women, we embrace our heritage, foster mitzvot, serve congregants, support temple and youth activities, promote camaraderie and celebrate and support one another.

Michelle Blank – Sisterhood President





OurGen is a CNT-Member group for those aged 40 and older (older than a “young adult” but younger than an “old fogey”).

Within the last year our group took an art class and took a trip to Spring Mountain Ranch where we toured movie star-turned

rancher Vera Krupp’s house (of Krupp diamond fame). We also enjoyed a Wine Walk in Boulder City and an outing to The Mob Museum where we gathered at the Underground Speakeasy and Distillery to listen to live jazz. And, we were invited to Lynn and Gary Kantor’s home for a creative afternoon learning photography tips and magic tricks.

We look forward to planning more exciting events for OurGen in the 2022-2023 year.

Mindy Unger-Wadkins – Committee Co-Chair

MENSCH CLUB

Rich Greenis, mensch prez@lvnertamid.org

CNT’s MENSch Club is a philanthropic and social group for men, and we’re growing our membership with those who strive to embody the definition of a mensch – a person of integrity and honor. Our goal is to develop a much stronger depth and ability to serve our Congregation, our community, and each other.

The club’s first post-Covid events included helping set up and break down the Purim Carnival in March 2022, holding a memorable, carnivorous, Steak and Spirits dinner at CNT’s outdoor patio in April 2022, and flexing our collective muscles, spatulas and tongs, when firing up the patio grill to prepare tasty BBQ with burgers and kosher hot dogs for the Annual CNT Member BBQ in May 2022 to celebrate the last day of Religious School. Future events will include a golf night at TOPGOLF and attending Las Vegas Aviator games at the Las Vegas Ballpark.

We look forward to meeting those of you who are new to the temple, and to reconnecting with those of you whom we have not seen recently. If you are a male member of Congregation Ner Tamid and over the age of 18 and would like to get involved, please contact us for information on how to become a member of this great group of men.



Rich Greenis – MENSch Club President



Nevadans for the Common Good

NEVADANS FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND ITS CNT TEAM have been fulfilling Congregation Ner Tamid's mission statement by building positive relationships with other religious institutions and working together on TIKKUN OLAM, repairing the world and GEMILUT CHASADIM – acts of loving-kindness. The team has been active and productive during the pandemic and throughout the past and current year. A major focus has been on folks experiencing food shortages and housing challenges in Henderson and the Las Vegas community.

An NCG Henderson Regional Housing Team was created with NCG church members and Congregation Ner Tamid to plan community walks and house meetings/ listening sessions at religious institutions, senior centers, and other community institutions. An NCG Civic Academy was held, as well as several Community Actions on Housing open meetings, with one held recently in Henderson at Green Valley United Methodist Church. These were comprised of in-person stories from community members and the participation of city and county commissioners. The focus was on protection for renters, existing affordable housing through the regulation of short-term rentals, and the creation of more affordable accessible housing in Henderson, Las Vegas, and Southern Nevada.

Due to the pandemic, there has been an EXPLOSION of the use of alcohol and toxic addictive substances in the Las Vegas community and on college campuses. The NCG Addiction & Recovery Team – founded by Susie Sernoe and based at CNT – completed a weekly 4-part educational series for UNLV students and staff. This was coordinated by our team and Roberta Sabbath, a member of CNT and also the Religious Studies Coordinator for UNLV. The series focused on Addiction education, NCG legislative advocacy, and the use of Narcan for opioid overdoses. During this year, the A & R team has held Narcan training sessions for both UNLV members and our Congregation. Further training is available to anyone interested, and to learn more please contact Susie Sernoe and the CNT NCG Addiction & Recovery Team.

Our CNT NCG Team is a member of the Henderson Cluster – a group of Henderson NCG member churches and our synagogue – who work together on relevant issues facing our community. We also work in conjunction with the CNT Social Action Committee. Our core team is comprised of Committee Chairs Dorie Kirtman and Susie Sernoe, and Members Sheri Cohen, Janet Duda, Larry Ginsberg, Bernice Hammer, Cindy Jensen, Jeff Jonas, Leonard Kirtman, Shirley Kouffman, Fern Sherri Levine, Sarah Owen, and Jana Pleggenkuhle – all caring and committed CNT Team Members.

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 you believe would be helpful for our community.

The Committee was delighted to once again be able to continue our social action work in person. The following are projects we worked on during the past year:

High Holy Days Food Drive (August – September 2021) – In 2020, the annual High Holy Days food drive was retooled to offer curbside service, ensuring the food drive was safe for everyone. The generosity of our congregants was amazing. People filled their vehicles with donations. The joy and warmth of congregants safely seeing each other in person was another incredible part of the food drive. Thankfully, we were able to meet in person for High Holy Days in 2021, and blended the traditional food drive of the past with the drive-thru food drive of the present. The hybrid food drive was another successful event.

Mitzvah Menorah (November 2021) – 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 85+ children in need. Thanks to our Sisterhood and Chanukah Harry, we were also able to provide menorahs, candles, gelt, dreidels, and a gift card to 25 families.



Interfaith Community Service Event (February 2022) – The Social Action Committee and Rabbi Akselrad participated in an interfaith community service event hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). It was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to work together toward our shared values of helping those in need and our community. It was a great opportunity to demonstrate that our faiths share many of the same values.



Rabbi Akselrad was there to talk to the participants and answer questions. He had a wonderfully positive impact on those who attended. Social Action Committee Members were there helping the children, and adults, make tzedakah boxes and learn about tzedakah, mitzvah, and Tikkun Olam. Participation in the event was amazing. There was a constant flow of people. Entire families were there working on mitzvah projects and learning together.

In early 2020, Members of the Social Action Committee participated with the LDS church in another community service event hosted by the LDS church which in turn was going to participate in our Mitzvah Day. Sadly, we were not able to reciprocate when Mitzvah Day was canceled due to COVID. We look forward to being able to host more interfaith events soon.



Mitzvah Days – The Committee made some important changes to our traditional Mitzvah Day that we anticipate will make it more meaningful for our Religious School and community, and be more inclusive for adults and family units. We separated our traditional Mitzvah Day into two separate events: one specifically for the Religious School and one for the entire community. We held the Religious School Mitzvah Day in October 2021 and the Community Mitzvah Day in May 2022. In the future, we plan to include educational components for both the Religious School and Community Mitzvah Days and develop more substantial projects. We also look forward to reaching out to community service providers and the interfaith community to participate in the Community Mitzvah Day that will focus on the community, and be more focused on adults, young adults, and family units.

Religious School Mitzvah Day (October 2021) – The Religious School students worked together to help those in need by preparing produce bags for Three Square Food Pantry, making tzedakah boxes, challah covers, pet toys, and scarves, and decorating memorial stones and delivery bags. Parents and other adult congregants donated life-saving blood.

Community Mitzvah Day (May 2022) – Our Congregation again exceeded goals for donations of life-saving blood. They also helped preserve our beautiful Red Rock Canyon, helped Three Square Food Pantry, made blankets for cancer patients, toys for dogs in need, and decorated memorial stones for our King David Memorial Garden. Unfortunately, the scheduled training for Narcan had to be canceled, but it will be rescheduled.



We also thank Michelle Blank and Sisterhood for their contributions to Mitzvah Menorah and Carolyn Friedner and Marilyn Goldstein for their continuing leadership on the lap blanket project. Please email your ideas to ckjensen@cox.net or call (702) 239-4998.

Today, we have the opportunity to expand Congregation Ner Tamid's Greenspun Campus for Jewish Life, Learning, and Spiritual Renewal to offer programs and solace with a series of garden spaces on currently undeveloped land and to make improvements to existing outdoor spaces. Originally conceived as an Israeli garden on this one-acre parcel, these new outdoor improvements are designed to meet all needs of our community. Amenities include an Events Plaza, a sanctuary for outdoor religious services, a children's vegetable and herb garden, a playground, a basketball court, new shading at the existing Unger Amphitheater and Kantor Plaza, and a meditation area. Together, these updates offer congregants space to walk and meditate, the ability to hold outdoor services in our temperate Las Vegas weather, and secured places to celebrate and play as a community.

To learn more about naming and sponsorship opportunities to bring this vision to life, contact Edward Simon at (702) 733-6292 for more information.

Jerry Gordon – President



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