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11th ANNUAL TEA, TRENDS & TRANQUILITY HONOR WOMEN FOUNDERS OF CHANGE

**Fashion, Change Agents and Women Converge At Four Seasons Acacia Ball Room
Today at 1pm**

Las Vegas, Nevada (October, 2010) – HELP of Southern Nevada presents the 11th annual Tea, Trends and Tranquility event, at the Four Seasons hotel in the Acacia Ballroom. The fashion forward trend setting event takes place today, October 7, from 1pm to 4pm honoring women founders of change in the community. Honorees include; Barbara Buckley Executive Director of Legal Aid and Nevada Assembly Speaker of the House, Linda Lera Randle El founder of Street Teens and advocate on homeless issues and Rabbi Yocheved Mintz the spiritual leader of Valley Outreach Synagogue-*P'nai Tikvah*, Las Vegas.

Terrie D'Antonio, president and chief executive officer, said "These women are inspirational in what they've accomplished and more than ever it is through innovation that our community will continue to evolve. HELP of Southern Nevada is proud to recognize these change agents."

Barbara Buckley has represented District 8 in the Nevada State Assembly since 1994. She served as Majority Leader during 2001, 2003 and 2005, the first woman to hold this position. She was elected Speaker in 2007, also the first woman in this position, and she was re-elected Speaker for the 2009 session. During her tenure in the legislature, she has chaired the Assembly Commerce Committee, the Nevada Legislative Commission and the Committee on Children, Youth and Families.

Speaker Buckley is well-known for her advocacy for consumers, children and the elderly. She sponsored landmark legislation in 1999 enacting a Patient's Bill of Rights that was featured in *Vanity Fair* magazine. She took on the payday loan industry to make sweeping changes in how that industry is regulated; she championed full-day kindergarten in Nevada schools; she is the author of major reforms to child welfare in the state; she sponsored legislation to allow importation of prescription drugs from Canada; and she partnered with U. S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on a project to utilize federal land for an affordable assisted living facility for senior citizens. In 2009, she sponsored Nevada's Foreclosure Mediation Law, a measure that allows homeowners the ability to engage in mediation with their lender. Speaker Buckley has been voted "Most Effective Legislator" by her colleagues and the media.

Nevada has a citizens' legislature, and in her private life, Speaker Buckley is the Executive Director of Legal Aid of Southern Nevada, Inc., a nonprofit, public interest law firm providing legal advice, representation and advocacy for individuals who cannot afford a lawyer. In that capacity, she has designed new programs to help provide legal assistance to the disadvantaged and abused and neglected



children. Speaker Buckley graduated *summa cum laude* from the University Of Arizona Law School and received her B.A. from UNLV.

Linda Lera Randle El has dedicated her life to speaking up for those that do not have a voice of their own. Born in Galveston, Texas Linda was one of six children with It was through her family that she developed her sensitivity to social issues. In 1958, Linda and her family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada and she has lived ever since. As founder and Executive Director of Straight from the Streets, Linda has tirelessly worked with the homeless to find jobs and places to live. With her exemplary leadership skills, courage, and commitment she has made significant contributions to assist the homeless population and bring awareness to the public. She has brought street outreach to the forefront of addressing the needs of those experiencing chronic homelessness by providing direct service, working with local governments and non-profit organizations.

Linda has been the recipient of 2007 Hope Award for Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health, was picked by Review Journal Best of Las Vegas for Straight for the Streets for Favorite Advocacy Group in 2005, 2006 Las Vegas Review Journal Favorite Female Las Vegan, and The 2004 National Points of Light Foundation. Among these prestigious honors Linda treasures most her husband of 14 years, Chicago, her two daughters and two granddaughters. Linda also serves as a current Chairperson for Citizen's Advisory Committee for Clark County Social Services, Chair of Emergency Food & Shelter Program and is the facilitator of Homeless Memorial Candlelight Vigil honoring all homeless people who have died on the streets of Clark County.

Rabbi Yocheved Mintz is the spiritual leader of Valley Outreach Synagogue-*P'nai Tikvah*, Las Vegas, the only synagogue affiliated with the Reconstructionist Movement in Nevada. A native of Cleveland and graduate of the University of Chicago, Rabbi Mintz studied at the Academy for Jewish Religion, California (AJR/CA), a Los Angeles transdenominational seminary for the training of rabbis, cantors, and chaplains, where she was ordained as a rabbi and earned a Masters of Rabbinical Studies degree in May of 2004, ten days shy of her 64th birthday. A teacher and principal in Jewish education for over 45 years, she was the Co-founder and is the Director of Education Emeritus of the *Moadon Kol Chadash* in Chicago as well as a past Consultant to the Judaica Department of the Milton I Schwartz Hebrew Academy of Las Vegas. A master educator, she has co-facilitated workshops in Hebrew teaching techniques nationwide, and was nominated for a Cummings Foundation "Jewish Educator of the Year" award. A granddaughter of the late Rabbi Israel Porath, *zt"l*, she is the first female rabbi in 18 generations of Porath rabbis.

Rabbi Mintz is President of OHALAH, the international Association for Rabbis of Jewish Renewal and is President of the Mintz Family Foundation for Creative Jewish Education. She is Vice-President of the Las Vegas Board of Rabbis, is on the Board of the Clark County Ministerial Association, and is an active member of the Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada. Rabbi Mintz is also a Managing Director of the Las Vegas Jewish Center for Education, Media & the Arts, past-president of the AJR/CA Alumni Association, and a member of the AJR/CA Board of Governors. Rabbi Mintz is the widow of the late Dr. Alan Mintz. *z"l*, to which she was married for nearly 48 years. She is the mother of four, grandmother of fourteen, and is often seen in the company of Shayna and Shepsi, her two German Shepherds.

The afternoon will include a fashion show, silent auction and spotlights on the passionate work from women honorees. The fashion show is presented by Anthropology and Caesars Forum Shops. Tea is



provided by The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. Flowers provided by the French Bouquet. The Four Seasons Hotel is located at 3960 Las Vegas Boulevard South.

About HELP of Southern Nevada

HELP of Southern Nevada assists over 68,000 low-income families and individuals to become more self-sufficient through direct services, trainings and referrals. Programs available; social services, weatherization, community alternative sentencing, work opportunities readiness center, holiday assistance, nevada 2-1-1 call center, and homeless and youth services. For more information, call HELP of Southern Nevada at 702-369-4357 or visit www.helpsonv.org.

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