

Resolution Concerning NFTY Lifetime Membership for Rabbi Aaron Panken, Phd.

Whereas, Article VI, Section D of the NFTY Constitution states “The NFTY General Board may honor any individual or individuals by granting them Life Membership in NFTY”; and,

Whereas, NFTY Lifetime Membership is the highest honor that our movement can bestow on an individual; and,

Whereas, the *Madrich Hachlatot: NFTY’s Guide to Writing Resolutions* states that a lifetime member must have given direct service to NFTY on the North American level for at least seven years; and,

Whereas, while in NFTY, Rabbi Panken served on the regional board of CRaFTY (now NFTY-NAR); and,

Whereas, after college, Rabbi Panken served NFTY as the Regional Director of MAFTY (now NFTY-MAR) and a NFTY in Israel trip leader; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Panken is an alum of URJ Camp Eisner; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Panken embodies NFTY’s beloved value of generational leadership as his children have served in NFTY regional leadership roles and are also alum of EIE and our camping system; and,

Whereas, as a licensed pilot, and sailor, he will continue to inspire a new generation of #URJetSetters who travel the globe in pursuit of strengthening their Reform Jewish identity; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Panken has made an indelible impact on thousands of rabbinical students during his tenure as a professor at Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Panken has served as a mentor and teacher for the Jewish community as a whole including NFTYites, NFTY alum, URJ professionals, and lay leaders; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Panken is continuing a new chapter of his service to the Jewish community as the newly-elected President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; and,

Whereas, as HUC-JIR President, Rabbi Panken has prioritized bringing people into Judaism “in a modern American context,” which he has defined as engaging Jews, particularly youth and teens, outside the synagogue walls; and,

Whereas, Paul Reichenbach (URJ Director of Camping and Israel Programming) shared that, “The honor of being named a NFTY Life Member was made for people like Aaron Panken. As a proud product of NFTY and the Reform Movement, a NFTY regional president, regional advisor and NFTY in Israel trip leader, Aaron has dedicated thousands of hours to leading, mentoring and inspiring teens. As a warm and engaging teacher, a caring and compassionate mensch, Aaron embodies the best of what it means to be committed to young people and building a Jewish future.”

Therefore let it be resolved, Rabbi Aaron Panken earn the distinction of NFTY Lifetime Membership and be entitled to its full benefits, merit, and recognition.

Respectfully Submitted,

The NFTY Board | 2013-2014 | 5773-5774:

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