

**Resolution Concerning Life Membership Award
for Rabbi Michael Mellen**

Proposed by the NFTY General Board
NFTY Convention 2011, Dallas, TX

Whereas, Rabbi Michael Mellen was ordained by HUC-JIR in 1998 and has served as the Director of Youth Programs for the Union for Reform Judaism for 6 years; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Michael Mellen was instrumental in the progress of NFTY and the initiation of the NFTY Strategic Plan; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Michael Mellen taught us how to command a room, how to meet our audience on their level, how to give compliments and constructive criticism, and how to grow gracefully from “seeds to trees;” and,

Whereas, before working for NFTY, Rabbi Michael Mellen spent five years as the associate rabbi and educator at Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, Virginia. While in Virginia, Rabbi Mike started Jewish Youth Works, a company dedicated to staff training and youth programs with Jewish camps, youth groups, synagogues, JCCs and schools; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Mellen taught us how to quiet a room, with tactics ranging from funny faces to the invention of a false friend who we have all come to know and love “Herman Shmufflebuff;” and,

Whereas, Rabbi Michael Mellen has spent over eighteen summers as staff and faculty at camps or leading travel programs in the Western U.S., Alaska and Israel; and,

Whereas, Rabbi Michael Mellen is always challenging us and helping us to question our connection with Judaism,

Therefore, let it be resolved, that Rabbi Michael Mellen receive NFTY’s Life Membership Award, for his dedicated years of service to the Reform Movement and its youth in particular.

Respectfully submitted,
NFTY Executive Board, 2010-2011