



**The Reform Jewish Youth Movement**

## **NFTY CONSTITUTION**

**Adopted February 17, 2008 - 11 Adar 1 5768**

**Last Updated July 2018**

### **דע לפני מי אתה עומד**

*You stand this day, all of you, before God - your tribal heads, your elders and your officials, all the people of Israel, your children, your spouses, even the stranger within your camp, from the woodchopper to the water drawer - to enter into the covenant of God, which your God is concluding with you this day, with its sanctions; to the end that God may establish you this day as God's people and be your God, as God promised you and swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and your mothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, I make this covenant, with its sanctions, not with you alone, but with those who came before you, with those who are standing here with us this day before our God and with those of you who are not yet with us here this day.*  
*Deuteronomy 29:9-14*



## List of Terminology

***Brit Kehilah*** - (Article 12, Section A), NFTY's Code of Conduct

***Choveret Nohalei Asefah*** - (Article 9, Section H, Paragraph 1), NFTY's Rules of Order, the procedural document for how NFTY General Board meetings are run

**Executive Advisory and Executive Review Committees of 2007** - (Article 10, Section B), the committees that were established to create a process for appointment of a NFTY North American Board Member after resignation or dismissal

***Madrich Hachlatot*** - (Article 9, Section H, Paragraph 2), NFTY's Guide to Writing Resolutions, which has been assimilated into NFTY's *Choveret Nohalei Asefah*

**MRJ** - (Article 8, Paragraph 6), Men of Reform Judaism

***Netzer Olami*** - (Article 4, Section C), *Noar Tzioni Reformi Olami*, literally *Worldwide Reform Zionist Youth*, the youth movement of the World Union for Progressive Judaism

**NFTY** - (Article 1), the North American Federation of Temple Youth

**NFTY General Board** - (Article 8, Section A), the voting body of NFTY, comprised of four voting delegates from each of NFTY's nineteen regional federations

**NFTY Executive** - (Article 8, Section B), the collective youth and adult governing body of NFTY

**NFTY Mechina** - (By-Laws, Article Four), the first gathering of the NFTY General Board in an academic year

**NFTY North American Board** - (Article 8, Section C), the youth leaders of our movement

**NFTY Veida** - (By-Laws, Article 5), the second gathering of the NFTY General Board in an academic year

**Regional Federation** - (Article 5, Section A) - a region within the NFTY geographic structure

***Rosh Chutz*** - (Article 11, Section A, 8), the presiding member of the *Netzer Olami* International Board

**TYG** - (Article 2, Section E), Temple Youth Group

**URJ** - (Article 3), Union for Reform Judaism, the parent organization of NFTY

**WRJ** - (Article 8, Paragraph 6), Women of Reform Judaism

## **PREAMBLE -- NFTY's 13 Principles**

We, the members of the North American Federation of Temple Youth, the Reform Jewish youth movement of North America, in order to secure and perpetuate a strong, meaningful and enjoyable Reform Jewish youth experience based on the principles of

### **TORAH - תורה**

A commitment to God and Torah as a means of inter- and intra-personal fulfillment;

### **THE JEWISH PEOPLE - AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל**

The unity of the Jewish People;

### **THE STATE OF ISRAEL - MEDINAT YISRAEL - מדינת ישראל**

The centrality of the State of Israel to the strength and survival of the Jewish People;

### **HEBREW - IVRIT - עברית**

The importance of the Hebrew language as a vital component to the strength of the Jewish People;

### **HISTORY - MIDOR L'DOR - מדור לדור**

The recognition that in order to fully appreciate our present and ensure our future we must strive to understand our past;

### **TO LEARN AND TO DO - NILMAD V'NA'ASEH - נלמד ונעשה**

The necessity of lifelong Jewish learning and teaching as a foundation for our observance through a life of continual discovery of Jewish tradition, law and ethics;

### **PLURALISM - KOL YEHUDIM - כל יהודים**

The acceptance and encouragement of alternate modes of Jewish experience;

### **SELF - TIKKUN MIDDOT - תיקון מידות**

The understanding that we are to be a light unto the nations by fostering an environment where every individual can meet and exceed their potential as Jews and citizens of the world;

### **JUSTICE - TZEDEK - צדק**

The obligation to work for justice for all;

### **COMMUNITY - KEHILAH - קהילה**

The need for community to provide an outlet for the individual needs of all Jews;

### **REPAIRING THE WORLD - TIKKUN OLAM - תיקון עולם**

The obligation to repair the world;

### **PARTNERSHIP - SHUTAFUT - שותפות**

The need and desire to work together to foster each individual's connection and commitment to ensuring the vibrancy of our movement;

### **FUN AND SPIRIT - KEF V'RUACH - כיף ורוח**

The importance of fun and spirit as foundations of our movement;

do hereby ordain and establish the Constitution of the North American Federation of Temple Youth.

**ARTICLE ONE: NAME**

The organization shall be known as the NORTH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH, hereinafter referred to as NFTY. "NFTY" shall also serve as the organization's official acronym.

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**ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSES**

SECTION A. To unite the Reform Jewish youth of North America in a youth run federation in the pursuit of common aims that reflect the principles of this constitution.

SECTION B. To establish our place in the Jewish community and prepare ourselves for our future responsibilities as adult members of society.

SECTION C. To work together to promote awareness of Reform Judaism and shape its development through NFTY's projects.

SECTION D. To make the moral and social values of our Judaism functional attributes of our daily lives.

SECTION E. To work towards partnership between Reform Temple Youth Groups, hereinafter referred to as TYG(s), and Regional Federations in North America in promoting our principles.

SECTION F. To shape and support our parent body, the Union for Reform Judaism, hereinafter referred to as the URJ (URJ), in the execution of our mutual aims and purposes.

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**ARTICLE THREE: RELATIONSHIP TO PARENT ORGANIZATION**

SECTION A. This Federation is an affiliate of the URJ and, therefore, shall be governed by its constitution and by-laws in all things not provided for by this constitution and these by-laws.

SECTION B. In accordance with Article XV, Section 5 (*National Affiliates*) of the URJ Constitution, NFTY shall not adopt any resolution on any matter of general public interest or institute any new policy or initiate any project without consultation with the Director of Youth Programs and the Director(s) of NFTY, who shall serve as the designated representatives of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the President of the URJ.

SECTION C. This Federation, as an affiliate of the URJ, declares its affirmation of all policies of our parent organization.

SECTION D. This Federation is a branch of the Youth Division of the URJ and shall work with their appointed Director(s) to direct this movement. NFTY will work together within the Youth Division and their youth programs to further enhance the objectives of this movement.

## ARTICLE FOUR: OTHER AFFILIATIONS

SECTION A: NFTY may from time to time see it fitting to become an affiliate member of other organizations. If NFTY wishes to become an affiliate of another organization or wishes to have another organization become one of its affiliates, this Article must be amended.

SECTION B: Any additional guidelines regarding NFTY's affiliations not listed in the Paragraphs below will be left to the discretion of the NFTY North American Board with the input of the NFTY General Board. Any modifications to those guidelines must be approved by at least three members of the NFTY North American Board.

SECTION C: Since 2005, NFTY is the official North American *snif* (branch) of *Noar Tzioni Reformi Olami*, hereinafter referred to as *Netzer Olami*, the youth movement of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

Paragraph 1: The NFTY President and NFTY Religious and Cultural Vice President shall serve as the official representatives to *Netzer Olami*.

Paragraph 2: NFTY, led by the NFTY North American Board, will strengthen its existing relationship with *Netzer Olami* through projects including, but not limited to, hosting joint events and various programs with other *Netzer snifim*.

Paragraph 3: Members of the NFTY North American Board are to represent NFTY at the annual *Netzer Veida Olamit*. The number of participants to attend will be decided upon by the NFTY Executive.

Section D: NFTY is the official youth wing of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, hereinafter referred to as ARZA.

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## ARTICLE FIVE: REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

SECTION A. NFTY shall be organized into Regional Federations as outlined in the by-laws of this constitution. The boundaries of the federations shall be determined by the NFTY General Board in conjunction with the NFTY Director(s) and shall be changed by resolution of the NFTY General Board.

SECTION B. The NFTY North American Board may temporarily recognize a newly organized Regional Federation upon receipt of a letter of intent cosigned by the URJ Regional Council Director for that area, accompanied by a proposed constitution for that Federation. At the next NFTY General Board Meeting, the NFTY General Board can formally consider and officially act upon the written application for permanent recognition by an amendment to the by-laws of this constitution.

SECTION C. The function of the Regional Federation shall be to serve their constituent youth groups in consonance with the objectives and goals of NFTY. The Regional Federations shall also act as effective means of implementation of any specific programs and projects developed by the NFTY North American Board.

SECTION D. All Regional Federations must specifically state in their regional constitutions their relationship to NFTY and compliance with this constitution and Article XV, Section 5 of the URJ Constitution.

SECTION E. The TYGs are the foundation of NFTY. The Regional Federation shall recognize this importance and provide guidance and assistance as applicable.

**ARTICLE SIX: MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION A. Any community of Jewish youth sponsored by a congregation which is affiliated with the URJ and devoted to the purposes of Judaism, Reform Jewish living, and the purposes of NFTY, is eligible for membership in the Regional Federation. Automatically upon admission into its Regional Federation, a group and its members will become members of NFTY.

SECTION B. Participation in NFTY is contingent upon certain requirements as established by the NFTY Director(s), NFTY North American Board, and/or NFTY General Board. Such requirements may include, but are not limited to completion of forms, and age requirements.

SECTION C. Any individual or individuals who are in a location where it is not feasible or practical to join a URJ-affiliated congregation and/or a Regional Federation and are devoted to the purposes of Judaism, Reform Jewish living, and the purposes of NFTY, will be eligible for membership in NFTY. The definition of the clause “feasible and practical” shall be left to the discretion of the NFTY Executive.

SECTION D. The NFTY General Board may honor any individual or individuals by granting them Life Membership in NFTY, according to procedures set forth by the NFTY North American Board and the *Choveret Nohalei Asefah, Madrich Hachlatot* section.

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**ARTICLE SEVEN: DUES**

SECTION A. The Regional Federations and NFTY North America shall no longer require its members to pay dues.

## ARTICLE EIGHT: NFTY LEADERSHIP

SECTION A. The business of this movement shall be conducted by the NFTY General Board. The composition of the NFTY General Board is as follows:

Paragraph 1: Each Regional Federation is entitled to four voting delegates on the NFTY General Board.

Paragraph 2: The President of each Regional Federation shall serve as one voting delegate of the NFTY General Board.

Paragraph 3: The method of selecting each Regional Federation's other three voting delegates of the NFTY General Board shall be determined by each region's constitution. The President of each Regional Federation is responsible for officially reporting to the NFTY Executive the names of the voting delegates from his/her region.

Paragraph 4: The members of the NFTY North American Board shall be voting delegates of the NFTY General Board.

Paragraph 5: NFTY's immediate past-President, upon finishing his or her term of office, shall continue to serve as a Board Member-at-large with voting power for one year. He/she shall also serve as the URJ representative to the World Union for Progressive Judaism Youth Section.

Paragraph 6: Honorary Members: The following are entitled to be Honorary Members of the NFTY General Board. Honorary Members of the General Board shall not participate in any voting.

1. Representing the URJ, the Chairperson of the URJ Executive Board.
2. Representing the Women of Reform Judaism, the President of the WRJ. The WRJ President will receive the symbolic position of Honorary Vice President of NFTY.
3. Representing the Men of Reform Judaism, the President of the MRJ.

Paragraph 7: All past NFTY Presidents shall be Honorary Vice Presidents with the eldest serving as Honorary President. The Honorary President and Vice Presidents shall not participate in any voting, with the exception of NFTY's immediate past President.

Paragraph 8: The President of the URJ and the Director(s) of NFTY shall be ex-officio members of the Board and shall not participate in any voting.

SECTION B. The NFTY North American Board shall be, in gavel ranking order:

- a. NFTY President
- b. Programming Vice President
- c. Social Action Vice President
- d. Religious and Cultural Vice President
- e. Membership Vice President
- f. Communications Vice President

SECTION C. The business between NFTY General Board Meetings shall be conducted by the NFTY Executive. The NFTY Executive shall consist of:

- a. The NFTY North American Board
- b. The Director(s) of NFTY
- c. The President of the URJ

## ARTICLE NINE: NFTY GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

SECTION A. The business of this organization shall be conducted at least twice per academic calendar year.

Paragraph 1: The first NFTY General Board meeting shall take place at NFTY *Mechina*.

Paragraph 2: The second NFTY General Board meeting shall take place at NFTY *Veida*.

SECTION B. A NFTY General Board Meeting shall not begin unless both a majority of the voting NFTY General Board Members and of the voting NFTY North American Board Members are present.

SECTION C. The NFTY President shall call and preside over all NFTY General Board Meetings. Special Board Meetings shall be called if a majority of the NFTY General Board Members petitions the NFTY President.

SECTION D. All members of NFTY have a right to attend NFTY General Board Meetings except when a special vote to exclude members for a particular meeting or part of a meeting has been passed. Any member of NFTY in attendance at a NFTY General Board Meeting shall have the right to speak, provided the member has obtained the floor in an appropriate manner.

SECTION E. Minutes shall be taken at all NFTY General Board Meetings and distributed to the incumbent NFTY General Board Members within a month after that NFTY General Board Meeting. Those minutes shall be distributed to the succeeding NFTY General Board Meeting two weeks prior to their first scheduled NFTY General Board Meeting.

SECTION F. The statements and policies of this organization shall be adopted through resolutions of the NFTY General Board.

Paragraph 1: Resolutions require an affirmative majority vote for passage by the NFTY General Board.

Paragraph 2: Resolutions shall be indexed and made a permanent part of the records of the NFTY General Board.

Paragraph 3: All resolutions must be given to the NFTY President and NFTY Director(s) four weeks prior to the NFTY General Board Meeting unless special circumstances permit otherwise. The resolutions will then be made available to the regional delegates who shall discuss and evaluate them with their regional board and constituents prior to the NFTY General Board Meeting.

SECTION G. The order of business at all NFTY General Board Meetings shall be left to the discretion of the NFTY President.

SECTION H. The rules of procedure at all meetings provided for herein shall be based on the parliamentary rules set forth in the most current edition of NFTY's *Choveret Nohalei Asefah*, the *Madrach Hachlatot*, and *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Paragraph 1: *Choveret Nohalei Asefah* is NFTY's Rules of Order.

Paragraph 2: *Madrach Hachlatot* is NFTY's Guide to writing resolutions.

SECTION I. Voting rights will be withheld from any region who is not in good standing with NFTY



## ARTICLE TEN: ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, AND DISMISSALS

SECTION A. ELECTIONS. The following members of the NFTY North American Board shall be elected annually in this order:

- a. President
- b. Programming Vice President
- c. Social Action Vice President
- d. Religious and Cultural Vice President
- e. Membership Vice President
- f. Communications Vice President

Paragraph 1: During the NFTY General Board Meeting at NFTY *Vieda*, election of the NFTY North American Board members shall take place. The NFTY North American Board members shall be installed during NFTY *Mechina* the following June.

Paragraph 2: The election of the NFTY North American Board shall be the last item of new business of the NFTY General Board Meeting at NFTY *Veida*.

Paragraph 3: Election procedures shall include the following:

1. Letters of Intent shall be sent to the NFTY Office no later than one month prior to the NFTY General Board Meeting.
2. Candidates may change the office for which they are running by submitting a new Letter of Intent before the deadline has passed. No individual may be nominated or change his/her position during election procedures.
3. There will be a time set aside at the NFTY *Veida* for a Meet-the-Candidates question and answer period.
4. One speech will be given by each candidate. Presidential candidate speeches will be a maximum of five minutes in length. All additional candidate speeches will be a maximum of four minutes in length.
5. Voting
  - a. Each regional federation will receive up to four votes, based on the number of voting delegates present.
  - b. Each of the NFTY Board officers will have one vote, with the exception of the NFTY President, who only votes in the event of a tie.
  - c. Each ballot will list the name of the position, the name of the candidates in alphabetical order, an option for abstention, and an option for no-vote. To the left of each candidate, the abstention, and no-vote options should be a blank line. This line is where voting delegates will indicate their preference by numbering the options 1 through X, where X represents the amount of candidates plus the abstention and no-vote options. The 1 will represent the candidate the voting delegate is voting for, 2 will represent their second choice, and so on, through X representing their X choice.
  - a. Votes will be tallied by the current NFTY President and NFTY Director(s).
  - b. If no one candidate receives a simple majority (50 percent plus 1) of the number one votes, then an instant runoff shall occur. The candidate with the fewest amount of number one votes will be eliminated and the votes received by the eliminated candidate will then be distributed based on second choice as marked on the ballot. If no preference is given, the ballot is counted as an abstention. If any candidate, has a majority then they shall be elected. If there is still no majority the process of instant runoff repeats until a single candidate has a simple majority of the votes cast.

- c. Once an abstention or no-vote has been indicated, no other candidate shall be listed below it. When counting, if the choice indicated on the ballot represents an abstention or no-vote, the ballot will be taken out of the running and the number of votes needed to reach a simple majority will be adjusted accordingly.
- d. Candidates for each position will be notified of the final outcome before the NFTY President shares the information with the NFTY General Board.
- e. Should the no-vote option carry a majority vote, then the NFTY North American Board and the NFTY North American Board-elect shall appoint a member of NFTY to the position within the upcoming month.

## ARTICLE TEN: ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, AND DISMISSALS (*continued*)

Paragraph 4: All NFTY North American Board members must meet the following requirements:

1. A NFTY North American Board member must not hold a regional office during his/her term of office.
2. A NFTY North American Board member, at the time of election, must be a member of a NFTY Regional Federation.
3. The NFTY North American Board member, at the time of election, must be a Junior or Senior in High School.

Paragraph 5: The NFTY North American Board shall have all powers it deems necessary and proper for the administration of the election process.

Paragraph 6: There will be no campaigning at the NFTY General Board Meeting. However, position papers will be allowed. Final discretion is up to the NFTY Executive.

SECTION B. If a member of the NFTY North American Board resigns or is dismissed, the President shall appoint an interim replacement.

Paragraph 1: The remaining NFTY North American Board members, under the direction of the highest ranking member of the NFTY North American Board, shall use the process for appointments created by the Executive Advisory Committee and Executive Review Committee of 2007.

SECTION C. Dismissal procedures shall take place when a member of the NFTY North American Board has extremely violated the NFTY Constitution, shown a lack of responsibility, behaved in a disruptive and destructive manner, or infringed upon the terms outlined in the NFTY *Brit Kehilah*.

With all cases excluding infringements of the NFTY *Brit Kehilah*, dismissal from office shall follow the procedures outlined below:

Paragraph 1: The President shall issue a warning to the NFTY North American Board Member under consideration. When the NFTY North American Board Member under consideration is the President, the Programming Vice President, with the consent of the NFTY North American Board, shall issue the warning.

Paragraph 2: The NFTY Director(s) shall issue a warning to the NFTY North American Board member under consideration.

Paragraph 3: The NFTY North American Board shall ask for the NFTY North American Board member's resignation. If this is not received, the NFTY North American Board may consider dismissal procedures.

Paragraph 4: The NFTY North American Board may, after extensive review, dismiss any NFTY North American Board Member by at least a majority vote of the NFTY North American Board.

SECTION D: In the case of a North American Board Member's infringement of the NFTY *Brit Kehilah*, dismissal procedures will follow under the direction and discretion of the NFTY Director(s), in consultation with the NFTY North American Board.

## ARTICLE ELEVEN: DUTIES OF THE NFTY NORTH AMERICAN BOARD

### SECTION A. It shall be the duty of the NFTY PRESIDENT:

1. To serve as the face and voice of NFTY throughout their term.
2. To define North American priorities and execute a vision for NFTY alongside the NFTY North American Board.
3. To guide the NFTY North American and General Boards in the proper execution of their aims and purposes and offer direction and orientation for their terms.
4. To be responsible for and exercise direct supervision over the NFTY North American Board and the NFTY General Board.
5. To maintain a healthy relationship and regularly consult with the NFTY Directors.
6. To maintain a healthy relationship with all North American Board members and uphold a strong board dynamic through constant communication and individual check-ins.
7. To coordinate opportunities for NFTY teens to explore their passions by fostering and maintaining partnerships between NFTY, the URJ, and its affiliates.
8. To call and preside over all NFTY North American and General Board Meetings.
9. To be the liaison between NFTY and the NFTY Director(s).
10. To be responsible for the implementation and execution of the NFTY Constitution and any adjunctive rules.
11. To preside over all NFTY General Board Asefot and run NFTY North American Board elections.
12. To oversee the planning and implementation of the NFTY North American events such as Mechina and Veida.
13. To assist in the planning of NFTY Convention.
14. To coordinate, plan, and execute Mifgash Hafifah with the NFTY Directors.
15. To act as a liaison between NFTY and Netzer Olami in the capacity of Rosh Chutz, ambassador to the other snifim of Netzer Olami.
16. To represent NFTY while serving on the URJ Board of Trustees and any other appropriate and necessary committees, councils, and commissions.
17. To appoint representatives to the URJ Committees and Commissions in partnership with the NFTY North American Board when deemed appropriate.
18. To fill vacancies on the NFTY North American Board, pending constitutional rule.
19. To oversee creation, application, and appointment of the NFTY North American Cabinet and supervise all members through their term.
20. To serve as Ex-Officio at all NFTY General Board Asefot for the year immediately following their term.
21. To establish, maintain, and serve as a resource to the NFTY Regional President Network for all the corresponding positions that encompass similar responsibilities.
22. To act as a resource and role model to all members of NFTY, in addition to upholding the NFTY Brit Kehillah.
23. To attend all North American events.
24. To act as a representative of the North American level of NFTY when participating in the travel region system under the direction of the NFTY Board and Director(s).
25. To coordinate and delegate any activities and/or accept any other duties assigned by the NFTY Director(s).
26. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

**SECTION B. It shall be the duty of the NFTY PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT:**

1. To assume the duties of the President in the event of their absence.
2. To be directly responsible for and to assist in the duties of the President when so required.
3. To emphasize, encourage, and embody the principles of Nilmad V'na'aseh, To Learn and To Do, and Shutafut, Partnership within our movement as a whole.
4. To be an educational and programmatic resource to all of NFTY.
5. To coordinate the Study Theme for the present year.
6. To coordinate opportunities for NFTY teens to explore their passions by fostering and maintaining partnerships between NFTY, the URJ, and its affiliates.
7. To inform NFTY of North American priorities and facilitate the implementation of NFTY's priorities into Regional programming.
8. To provide NFTY with innovative and holistic resources, and to make these materials accessible through the NFTY Program Bank and the NFTY Touchstone Text Bank.
9. To work with Netzer Olami to create resources to be used worldwide.
10. To represent NFTY and Reform Jewish youth as a whole to committees and commissions of the Union for Reform Judaism that pertains to programming, outreach and congregational youth involvement.
11. To act as a liaison between the participants of the Reform Jewish Youth Movement and URJ Youth professional staff and lay leaders.
12. To establish, maintain, and serve as a resource to the NFTY Regional Programming Vice President Network for all the corresponding positions that encompass similar responsibilities.
13. To uphold NFTY's 13 Principles as stated in the preamble of the NFTY Constitution.
14. To act as a resource and role model to all members of NFTY, in addition to upholding the NFTY Brit Kehillah.
15. To attend all North American events.
16. To act as a representative of the North American level of NFTY when participating in the travel region system under the direction of the NFTY Board and Director(s).
17. To coordinate any activities and/or accept any other duties assigned by the President.
18. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

**SECTION C. It shall be the duty of the NFTY SOCIAL ACTION VICE PRESIDENT:**

1. To lead and empower NFTYites individually and collectively in the pursuit of justice and Tikkun Olam in our movement.
2. To take stands as a representative of the NFTY General Board on pertinent issues when deemed necessary, even when those issues are controversial.
3. To provide NFTYites with transferable tools to effectively pursue social action in their everyday lives.
4. To empower NFTYites to engage themselves and others in responsible and active citizenship.
5. To coordinate, initiate, and/or aid in social action oriented projects initiated by the NFTY North American Board, the Religious Action Center, the Union for Reform Judaism, or NFTY General Board.
6. To uphold justice and equality within NFTY, and to be accessible to those NFTYites who feel that this is not already being carried out within our movement and the URJ.
7. To facilitate and encourage holistic social action programming, including the use of multiple sources and the opportunity for a safe space to dissent.
8. To serve as a member of the URJ Commission on Social Action and appoint new members when necessary.
9. To act as a liaison between NFTY and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and represent Reform Jewish teens in an outward capacity to our institutional partners.
10. To establish, maintain, and serve as a resource to the NFTY Regional Social Action Vice President Network for all the corresponding positions that encompass similar responsibilities.
11. To oversee the planning and implementation of the Social Action Leadership Training (SALT) Trip alongside the immediate past NFTY Social Action Vice President.
12. To uphold NFTY's 13 Principles as stated in the preamble of the NFTY Constitution.
13. To act as a resource and role model to all members of NFTY, in addition to upholding the NFTY Brit Kehillah.
14. To attend all North American events.
15. To act as a representative of the North American level of NFTY when participating in the travel region system under the direction of the NFTY Board and Director(s).
16. To coordinate any activities and/or accept any other duties assigned by the President.
17. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

**SECTION D. It shall be the duty of the NFTY RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL VICE PRESIDENT:**

1. To promote and encourage Jewish religious and cultural activities in NFTY from a Reform Jewish perspective in a pluralistic environment.
2. To emphasize and encourage the principles of Torah, The Jewish People, The State of Israel, Hebrew, and History within our movement as a whole.
3. To assist the Programming Vice President and Social Action Vice President in designing and adding religious and cultural content to the NFTY Study Theme.
4. To be responsible for tefilot at NFTY Veida, NFTY Mechina, NFTY Convention, NFTY's program concurrent with the URJ Biennial and as needed.
5. To provide a vehicle for understanding when exploring alternate modes of prayer experiences.
6. To present benedictions, d'vrei torah, invocations, and other spiritually uplifting statements at NFTY Board meetings.
7. To be responsible for the planning and running of NFTY Competitions, including working with the NFTY CVP to advertise competitions well in advance of NFTY Convention.
8. To represent NFTY at ARZA/ARZENU functions as well as within other Zionist, Israeli and relevant organizations, including Netzer Olami in conjunction with the NFTY President.
9. To establish, maintain, and serve as a resource to the NFTY Regional Religious and Cultural Vice President Network for all the corresponding positions that encompass similar responsibilities.
10. To uphold NFTY's 13 Principles as stated in the preamble of the NFTY Constitution.
11. To act as a resource and role model to all members of NFTY, in addition to upholding the NFTY Brit Kehillah.
12. To attend all North American events.
13. To act as a representative of the North American level of NFTY when participating in the travel region system under the direction of the NFTY Board and Director(s).
14. To coordinate any activities and/or accept any other duties assigned by the President.
15. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

**SECTION E. It shall be the duty of the NFTY MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT:**

1. To promote, encourage, and maintain NFTY's membership, as membership may be defined.
2. To emphasize, encourage, and embody the principles of Community, Self, Fun and Spirit within our movement as a whole.
3. To identify the needs of those who participate in NFTY, and work to solve those needs, with the help of appropriate committees, URJ staff, and resources.
4. To create retention strategies for both regional and Temple Youth Group (TYG) membership and involvement.
5. To be knowledgeable about and share information on all URJ affiliated programs that engage Reform Jewish teens.
6. To support the growth and development of NFTY678 programming.
7. To publish a report on NFTY's membership at a North American Event Annually.
8. To keep a constant dialogue with the NFTY Directors regarding participation rates across North America.
9. To work with URJ staff to seek opportunities to continue to engage college age alumni of NFTY.
10. To establish, maintain, and serve as a resource to the NFTY Regional Membership Vice President Network for all the corresponding positions that encompass similar responsibilities.
11. To uphold NFTY's 13 Principles as stated in the preamble of the NFTY Constitution.
12. To act as a resource and role model to all members of NFTY, in addition to upholding the NFTY Brit Kehillah.
13. To attend all North American events.
14. To act as a representative of the North American level of NFTY when participating in the travel region system under the direction of the NFTY Board and Director(s).
15. To coordinate any activities and/or accept any other duties assigned by the President.
16. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.



**SECTION F. It shall be the duty of the NFTY COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT:**

1. To promote, encourage, and maintain communication within NFTY, and between NFTY and its affiliates.
2. To update and maintain the NFTY Constitution in partnership with the North American Board.
3. To consult on the creation of and maintain NFTY's marketing and communications plan.
4. To work directly with the URJ Youth Division's communications department to identify and collect new content for the NFTY website and NFTY blog.
5. To call roll and take minutes at all NFTY North American Asefot and accurately record the work of the North American Board.
6. To establish, maintain, and serve as a resource to the NFTY Regional Communications Vice President Network for all the corresponding positions that encompass similar responsibilities.
7. To uphold NFTY's 13 Principles as stated in the preamble of the NFTY Constitution.
8. To act as a resource and role model to all members of NFTY, in addition to upholding the NFTY Brit Kehillah.
9. To attend all North American events, including a specified amount of time at the URJ Kutz Camp.
10. To act as a representative of the North American level of NFTY when participating in the travel region system under the direction of the NFTY Board and Director(s).
11. To coordinate any activities and/or accept any other duties assigned by the President.
12. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

**ARTICLE TWELVE: NFTY BRIT KEHILAH**

SECTION A. Every member of NFTY must sign NFTY's *Brit Kehilah*, Code of Conduct, in order to attend both regional and North American events and meetings.

SECTION B. The *Brit Kehilah* will express the rules of the event.

SECTION C. The *Brit Kehilah* can only be changed by the URJ, in consultation with the NFTY Executive.

Section D. A North American Board Member's failure to uphold the NFTY *Brit Kehilah* will result in the dismissal procedures outlined in Article Ten of this constitution.

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**ARTICLE THIRTEEN: AMENDMENTS**

SECTION A. Amendments to the constitution and by-laws shall be presented in writing and shall be proposed by a NFTY North American Board Member, NFTY General Board Member, or by at least ten members of NFTY, and shall be filed with the NFTY President and Director(s) of NFTY.

SECTION B. Amendments to this constitution must be passed by two meetings of the NFTY General Board. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds at one meeting temporarily enacts an amendment. Such amendments must be evaluated and permanently enacted by a majority vote at the next meeting of the NFTY General Board.

SECTION C. Amendments to the by-laws of this constitution require affirmation by a majority vote at one board meeting.

Section D. Amendments to NFTY's *Choveret Nohalei Asefah*, Rules of Order, do not require a vote, but are added by the NFTY President following the outcome of a procedural dispute.

SECTION E. All amendments to this constitution and/or by-laws must be given to the NFTY President four weeks prior to the NFTY General Board Meeting unless special circumstances permit otherwise. The amendments to this constitution or by-laws will then be made available to the regional delegates who shall discuss and evaluate them with their regional board prior to the NFTY General Board Meeting.

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**ARTICLE FOURTEEN: ENABLING CLAUSE**

Upon its approval by at least two-thirds of the General Board of NFTY, this constitution and by-laws shall be the constitution and by-laws of NFTY and any previous constitution and by-laws, together with any amendments attached thereto shall be replaced.

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE ONE: FINANCES**

SECTION A. The NFTY Leadership Team shall collect and disburse such fees, dues, and other monies as determined by the NFTY General Board.

SECTION B. The depository of all NFTY funds shall follow that of the URJ's accounting procedures. Checks on behalf of NFTY shall be authorized by the NFTY Director(s) or the NFTY Executive.

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**ARTICLE TWO: NFTY TRAVEL EQUALIZATION**

SECTION A. The expenses incurred by the NFTY General Board Members in their travels to and from the NFTY General Board Meetings shall be equalized in the manner set forth in this article.

SECTION B. Funds shall be received and allocated through the collection of North American dues and disbursed by the administration of the URJ Youth Division. All matters pertaining to these funds shall be handled by the NFTY Director(s).

SECTION C. Voting delegates to the NFTY General Board Meetings shall receive partial reimbursement from this fund for their travel expenses according to the following scale if their travel is booked within the parameters outlined for the specific event:

<p><b>NFTY Travel Equalization Scale</b></p>
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SECTION D. Percentage reimbursements shall be determined on the basis of the least expensive reasonable means of travel to the NFTY General Board Meeting. The definition of reasonable means of transportation shall be determined by the NFTY Executive.

### **ARTICLE THREE: REGIONAL FEDERATIONS**

SECTION A. The following shall be the Regional Federations of NFTY:

NFTY Central West Region (CWR)  
NFTY Chicago Area Region (CAR)  
NFTY Garden Empire Region (GER)  
NFTY Michigan Region (MI)  
NFTY Mid-Atlantic Region (MAR)  
NFTY Missouri Valley Region (MV)  
NFTY New York Area Region (NAR)  
NFTY Northeast Region (NE)  
NFTY Northeast Lakes Region (NEL)  
NFTY Northern Region (NO)  
NFTY Northwest Region (NW)  
NFTY Ohio Valley Region (OV)  
NFTY Pennsylvania Area Region (PAR)  
NFTY Southern Region (SO)  
NFTY Southern Area Region (SAR)  
NFTY Southern California Region (SOCAL)  
NFTY Southern Tropical Region (STR)  
NFTY Southwest Region (SW)  
NFTY Texas Oklahoma Region (TOR)

**ARTICLE FOUR: NFTY *MECHINA***

SECTION A. NFTY shall hold a Regional Board member Leadership Training Institute called NFTY *Mechina*.

SECTION B. NFTY *Mechina* shall be held annually during the summer, the beginning of the academic year, at a specific time determined by the NFTY Executive, upon recommendation of the NFTY General Board.

SECTION C. NFTY *Mechina* shall provide training in programming and administrative skills for regional officers.

SECTION D. The Presidents and their respective delegates shall serve as the regional representatives to the NFTY General Board Meeting at NFTY *Mechina*.

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**ARTICLE FIVE: NFTY *VEIDA***

SECTION A. NFTY *Veida* shall be held annually in the first quarter of the calendar year, during the second half of the academic year. The specific time will be determined by the NFTY North American Board following the recommendation of the NFTY General Board.

Paragraph 1: On a NFTY Convention year, the NFTY *Veida* will be held in conjunction with NFTY Convention.

SECTION B. During the NFTY General Board Meeting at NFTY *Veida*, the following business shall be conducted:

- a. election of NFTY North American Board members (final order of new business on the agenda for the meeting)
- b. determination of NFTY projects, Study Theme, priorities
- c. other business as may properly come before the meeting

**ARTICLE SIX: NFTY STUDY THEME**

SECTION A. Each year, NFTY shall have one Study Theme. Any member of NFTY can submit Study Theme proposal for consideration of the NFTY General Board.

Paragraph 1: The NFTY Study Theme shall be the main subject of educational focus for NFTY in a given year and its purpose shall be to provide guidance in programming for that year. This theme must be programmable, and therefore must follow the guidelines set out in *Madrich Hachlatot: A Guide to Resolutions*.

Paragraph 2: Each NFTY Region must, but is not limited to, write one program pertaining to the NFTY Study Theme each year and encourage TYG's to do the same.

SECTION B. During NFTY Veida at which the Study Theme has been in place for one year, the NFTY General Board may decide to revisit the subject of the Study Theme New themes and existing themes will be presented at the same time in the resolution packet. A simple majority will determine which will be the next year's theme. If no new themes are presented in addition to the existing Study Theme, then the current Study Theme will carry on for up to one additional year with a majority vote.

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**ARTICLE SEVEN: NFTY NORTH AMERICAN CABINET**

Section A. The NFTY North American Board shall be responsible for the annual creation of NFTY's North American Cabinet. Creation of the NFTY North American Cabinet shall begin each year during the first three (3) months of the NFTY North American Board's term.

Section B. Positions on the NFTY North American Cabinet shall be divided by committee and be held by current participants of NFTY.

Paragraph 1: The NFTY North American Cabinet is to be comprised, each year, by a minimum of three (3) committees. These three (3) committees shall include:

1. A committee to focus upon NFTY's Israel education and engagement;
2. A committee to further NFTY's social action priorities and campaigns;
3. A committee whose focus shall be selected by the NFTY North American Board to reflect NFTY's movement priorities.

Paragraph 2: Additional committees may be added each year at the discretion of the NFTY leadership to address relevant movement priorities.

Section C. The NFTY North American Cabinet shall be selected by application, nomination, or any process based on merit and qualification. All other procedural decisions shall be made on a yearly basis by the NFTY leadership.