

PRESENTER PACKET



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Welcome

NFTY Convention is a significant and transformative experience that brings Jewish teens from across North America together for a powerful and inspiring five days. What makes this biennial event unique is the cadre of skills and talents that are shared by our diverse faculty of presenters, worship leaders, musicians and facilitators. It is our hope that you will add your talents into our mix this year, and work as part of this team of more than 150 professionals from the field of informal Jewish education to make the magic happen in Dallas, TX.

Mission Statement

The NFTY Convention Program Team is made up of Youth Division and URJ staff members, the NFTY North American Board, advisors from our affiliates, and clergy. Beginning in the Fall of 2009, this team met to discuss the vision and goals of the program from a holistic perspective. Below please find the mission statement that has served as our guiding text in all aspects of planning and implementing NFTY Convention:

NFTY Convention Mission Statement

Every two years, the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) gathers hundreds of Reform Jewish teenagers for the official youth gathering of our movement for an exhilarating peer experience of friendship, fun and ruach.

Background Information

Our participants bring knowledge, experience, spirit and questions together in a joyful celebration of Reform Jewish life. During this convention participants express their gifts and develop a deeper understanding of who they are as young people, Reform Jews and youth leaders by deepening their connection with Jewish values and Reform Jewish community. They return home with skills to help make the world more complete, knowledge that expands their intellectual capacity as Jewish learners, experiences that broaden their existing perspectives and a deepened connection with Torah, Avodah, Gemilut Chasadim and Am Yisrael, all of which is geared towards helping our teens live intentionally Jewish lives. Our intention is to offer and inspire innovative life skills that empower and energize our teens to go home and to live their lives ethically and reflective of Jewish values. Our long-term mission is to empower them to define the Reform Jewish community of the future.

Theme

For NFTY Convention 2011, the Program Team has chosen the theme "Make it Good Now." The theme was chosen based on the knowledge that often teens are guided in a way that primarily looks toward the future. In this experience, we would like for the teens to focus on the "now." Participants will have a chance to look at various issues and concepts from many different perspectives during Convention. Our goal is to have them learn about various sides of an issue, recognize the Reform Jewish perspective, create their own thoughts and passions, and finally to take action based on what they have learned. Most importantly, we want teens to understand that as the Reform Jewish Youth Movement, NFTY takes a stand!

Presenter Guidelines

Because many of our workshops are tied into participant registration, titles for workshops were determined before presenters were identified. The Program Team worked with many teens to create a balanced selection of topics that are of interest to our teens, while not being so narrow as to tie the

hands of the presenters. We hope you will enjoy facilitating the pieces identified in the email you received with this packet.

As a presenter, we ask that you agree to the following terms:

- Presenter agrees to serve as a presenter in the workshop(s) described in the attached NFTY Convention presenter invitation.
- Presenter will present only educational information. The session may not be used to promote or sell a product, service or program.
- Presenter agrees to allow the possible audio and/or video recording of a session. Presenter understands the URJ has sole rights to any recordings generated and to any revenues generated from sales of recorded material.
- Presenter agrees to create an outline, description and resource materials for each session they facilitate to be used as part of the Convention resource bank, which will be posted online at www.nfty.org.
- Presenter understands that these resource materials must be submitted prior to NFTY Convention 2011.
- Presenter grants permission for any resources distributed at the Convention to be reproduced and redistributed at NFTY's discretion.

Presenters will be asked to sign a statement agreeing to these terms.

Shortly after receipt of your online registration form confirming your attendance, you will be contacted about specific requests and needs for your session, including room set-up, AV needs, etc.

As a general rule, all workshop sessions are taught by no less than two presenters. You will be notified of fellow presenters by January 21, 2011.

Unless otherwise stated in the event descriptions, the URJ staff contact for the NFTY Convention program is Subie Banaszynski. If you have any questions, please contact Subie Banaszynski at sbanaszynski@urj.org or 212.452.6757.

Additional Information

NFTY Convention and the URJ Youth Workers Conference are held concurrently from February 18-22, 2011 in Dallas, TX. Both events will be held at the Fairmont Dallas Hotel in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. The hotel address is 1717 N. Akard Street, Dallas, TX, 75201. The hotel phone number is 214-720-2020. You can find additional information about the hotel by visiting their website, <http://www.fairmont.com/dallas/>.

Presenter Event Descriptions

On the email you received, each session you are invited to teach or facilitate begins with “NC” followed by a three-digit code. Below is a numerical listing of those codes, with a complete description of what the task is, when it takes place, and more specific information about the context or goals of that particular program element.

NC101-NC106 – Shabbat Morning Torah Study & Tefilah

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2011

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Regions will break into clusters for the first part of the Shabbat morning tefilah experience. Two or three professionals are being invited to lead for each cluster of regions: a clergy member or URJ senior staff member to facilitate the Torah Study session (one text study is being prepared in advance and will be used in all of the breakout groups) and to lead the worship service through the end of *Amidah* (regions will then *hakafah* into the ballroom for the Torah service, *d’var torah*, and concluding prayers), and a songleader to enhance the tefilah experience through music.

NC107-NC119 – Saturday Afternoon Workshops - NFTY Study Theme

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2011

Time: 2:20 – 3:10 p.m.

NFTY’s Study Theme is *HaShevet: The Tribe* – NFTY Studies What Makes a Jew Jewish. This theme encourages NFTYites to work towards understanding what it really means to be Jewish. Each session will be taught by at least two professionals with several groups having a NFTY North American Board Member on the presenter team. The format for this set of workshops is to be determined by the co-presenters and is to be participatory in nature.

NC120-NC123 – Saturday Afternoon Grade-Level Workshops

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2011

Time: 3:25 – 4:45p.m.*

Participants will be broken into grade level groups during this time. High School Sophomores and Juniors will be involved in programming created by Just Congregations based on learning about Community Organizing. Freshmen will have a chance to work on Leadership through as a part of the NFTY Strategic Plan. Seniors will have an experience unto themselves.

*Please note that this session will begin with a chugim-type experience designed to give participants a few minutes to stretch and move about.

NC124-NC134 – Seudah Shlishit NFTY, Camp & Israel Programs Receptions

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2011

Time: 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.

An opportunity for the URJ’s camps, Israel and youth programs to hold alumni receptions for the teens who attend NFTY Convention.

NC135-NC141 – Monday Morning Tefilah Breakouts – The Talmud & Bullying

Date: Monday, February 21, 2011

Time: 9:30-10:10 a.m.

Participants will be broken into 7 large groups to participate in a learning session on Judaism and Bullying. As part of this experience, teens will be able to create a Talmud-type page about bullying. After 40 minutes, we will gather as a whole to finish our Morning Tefilah experience. Presenters will be given a packet of information, prior to convention that will contain the learning experience and all necessary materials.

NC142-NC155 – Monday Morning Workshops – Hot Questions & NFTY

Date: Monday, February 21, 2011

Time: 10:45 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

A series of workshops will be offered to challenge teens to learn about various perspectives around ‘Hot Questions’ that are current issues in our society. Presenters are asked to structure these sessions in a panel or multiple people presentation that highlights varying views on the issue. The presentation MUST contain the Reform Jewish perspective on the issue as well as NFTY’s stance on the issue. Teen participation in discussion and presenting of the issues is vital. Please know that resources are available to presenters through the Religious Action Center and the URJ and NFTY websites. The Legislative Assistant who works with NFTY, Marc Friend, is available to help provide you with resources from the RAC. He can be contacted at mfriender@rac.org. This session will end with the entire group of NFTY Convention participants gathering for a wrap-up.

NC156-NC170 – Monday Afternoon Chuggim

Date: Monday, February 21, 2011

Time: 2:30-3:00 p.m.

An opportunity for our teens to engage in fun, social activities aimed at giving teens a chance to try something new and give themselves a break in their day.

NC171-N185 – Monday Afternoon Workshops – Make it Good Now Session 1

Date: Monday, February 21, 2011

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Make it good now sessions are broken into three subgroups: World View, Community and Personal. The workshops are designed to allow teens to learn about a topic, and develop ways to take action. Some of the sessions are offered for a second session, others only offered once. Each workshop will be led by a team of two or three people. The topics are broad and we hope that each presenter team will work together to create a unique, participatory workshop that helps teens to Make it Good Now.

NC186-N200 – Monday Afternoon Workshops – Make it Good Now Session 2

Date: Monday, February 21, 2011

Time: 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Make it good now sessions are broken into three subgroups: World View, Community and Personal. The workshops are designed to allow teens to learn about a topic, and develop ways to take action. Some sessions will have been offered in the previous time slot, others offered only at this time. Each workshop will be led by a team of two or three people. The topics are broad and we hope that each presenter team will work together to create a unique, participatory workshop that helps teens to Make it Good Now.

Additional Information and Frequently Asked Questions

I've never been to the NFTY Convention/Youth Workers Conference. What can I expect?

NFTY Convention and the URJ Youth Workers Conference both offer amazing opportunities for Jewish networking, learning and socializing. As the URJ's second largest event, these programs offer a unique biennial opportunity to Reform Jews from all over North America.

Should I register for the Youth Workers Conference?

If you are planning to stay at the hotel beyond the specific day(s) you are teaching, then you should register as a delegate to the Youth Workers Conference. Youth Workers Conference registration includes your meals and the cost of the hotel, and entitles you to all of the workshops and activities being offered to the professionals in this program. If you live in the Dallas, TX area, the Youth Workers Conference also offers a commuter day-rate. For more information about the professional and clergy tracks at the Youth Workers Conference, please visit us online at <http://www.nfty.org/ywc/>

I am not planning to attend the Youth Workers Conference, can I stay at the event hotel?

You will have the opportunity to let us know if you are interested in staying in the hotel on the Visitor Registration form.

Will URJ/NFTY cover any of the cost of my travel and/or hotel?

We are very grateful for your time and talents that you share with our teens. With the recognition that Convention is an expensive event, we continue to work to keep costs for our teens as low as possible. We have not built into this Convention budget funding to subsidize travel or hotel costs for presenters. It is our hope that your congregations and/or affiliates will help cover these costs.

What does the NFTY Convention Program Team need from me?

Please complete the following:

- **By January 13, 2011**, online **presenter response form**. A link to this form was included in your presenter invite. If you do not have the link, please contact Aliza Greenberg at nftyregistrar@urj.org or 212-650-4130. This form includes space for you to submit a bio.
- **By February 1, 2011**, please fill out the on-line **Workshop Information Form**. A link to this form will be emailed to you with your co-presenter information. One representative from your workshop presenter team must submit this form noting AV needs, materials needed, special space requests, etc. At that time, you will also have the opportunity to upload a program outline, resources and materials to be made available on our website.

What do I do when I get there?

We will be in touch with all presenters prior to the Conference regarding check-in location and procedures.

NFTY Convention Schedule At-A-Glance

FRIDAY, February 18, 2011

- NFTY Veida lunch and board meeting for regional board members
- Rolling participant registration
- Dinner
- Evening Tefilah
- Opening Plenary Session
- Shabbat Songsession
- Israel Program

SATURDAY, February 19, 2011

- Breakfast
- Torah Study
- Tefilah in regional clusters
- Hakafah to Ballroom
- Torah Service, D'var Torah, Concluding Prayers
- Lunch
- Plenary Session
- Study Theme Workshops
- Grade Level Workshops
- URJ Camps, Israel and NFTY Programs *Seudah Shlishit* Alumni Receptions
- Dinner
- Plenary Session
- Josh Nelson Opening Concert (sponsored by Kutz Camp)
- Dan Nichols and Eighteen Concert (sponsored by Women of Reform Judaism)

SUNDAY, February 20, 2011

- Breakfast
- Intro to NFTY Action Theme and day out of the hotel
- Concurrent Programs
 - RAC/NFTY Social Action Program on Power and Politics of Off-Shore Drilling
 - Cowboys Stadium Tour
- Dinner & Evening out at Gilley's Dallas

MONDAY, February 21, 2011

- Breakfast
- Tefilah Breakouts – Bullying Talmud pages
- Hot Questions Workshops & Wrap Up
- Lunch
- Regional Caucusing
- Chuggim
- Plenary session
- Make It Good Now Workshops – Session 1
- Make It Good Now Workshops – Session 2
- NFTY Veida – Election of NFTY Board Officers
- Banquet Dinner
- NFTY Festivities
 - Special Honors and Awards
 - Kutz Video Presentation, Entertainment and More
 - Closing