

NFTY-STR RCVP NETWORK PACKET



**BY NOA KROYTER, NFTY-STR RCVP 2017-2018
REGIONAL RCVP NETWORK
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Welcome to Your Network!

Shalom NFTY-STR RCVP network!

I would like to begin by congratulating you all on being the RCVPs for your board for this next year! After all, you are now the “Really Cool Vice President,” and you get to do a lot of really cool stuff this year. This packet is the sum of all the resources, tools, and contacts that you will be able to use this year in order to be the best RCVP you can be.

To start off, I would like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Noa Kroyter, and I am from JAMTY in Jupiter, Florida. I am currently a junior at A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, where I major in communications, specifically journalism and film. I am also very involved in my school’s newsmagazine, *The Muse*, where I currently serve as the Entertainment Editor. I drink coffee nonstop, and I’m obsessed with everything and anything to do with makeup (catch me in Sephora all the time). I absolutely love traveling; I’ve been everywhere from Spain, to Israel, to the Dominican Republic, and I cannot wait to explore the world some more whenever I have the chance.

My Jewish identity is one of the most defining aspects of who I am. I have gone to the URJ Kutz Camp for the past 2 summers and have fallen in love with it (if you want to know more about Kutz or are unsure as to whether or not you want to go, please come find me and talk to me). NFTY has allowed my Jewish identity to flourish, and has given me the tools and experiences that have defined my Judaism. As a NFTY-ite, you have so many opportunities to enhance your own Jewish identity. As an RCVP, you have the power to help other people shape their Jewish identities!

I know that you are all leaders; you all have the ability, strength, and passion inside of you to make a difference! I look forward to hopefully being a part of your success this next year. Please always remember that you can utilize myself and the rest of your network to help you make a change in your community. I am so proud of you all for making the decision to put your passion into being an RCVP, and I am so excited to see what you do!!!

**B’ahava (With Love),
Noa Kroyter
NFTY-STR RCVP 5777-5778**

About Me

Name: Noa Kroyter

Temple Youth Group: JAMTY

School: A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

Favorite Class: Anything to do with History

Coffee, Tea, or Neither: Coffee, Coffee, Coffee!

Favorite TV Show: The Office and Grey's Anatomy

Favorite Prayer: Esah Einai or Yih'yu L'ratzon (I can never decide)

Favorite Jewish Holiday: Rosh Hashanah

Favorite Jewish Food: Rugelach

Least Favorite Jewish Food: Gefilte Fish

My Social Media and Contact Information:

- **Instagram:** @noakroyter
- **Snapchat:** @noakroyter
- **Facebook:** Noa Kroyter
- **Email:** My personal is noakroyter@gmail.com, but after June 1 you can also reach me at str-rcvp@nfty.org
- **Cell Phone:** 561-889-1081

Learn the Lingo

As leaders in our movement, it's important to be able to familiarize ourselves with all of the terms that you will likely be hearing.

NFTY: North American Federation of Temple Youth

URJ: Union for Reform Judaism, NFTY is the youth branch

STR: Southern Tropical Region, it's the abbreviation of our region and one of the 19 NFTY regions

TYG: Temple Youth Group

PVP: Programming Vice President

SAVP: Social Action Vice President

RCVP: Religious and Cultural Vice President (that's us!!!)

CVP: Communications Vice President

MVP: Membership Vice President

Kallah: A regional event where participants from TYGs all across Florida come together for 2-5 days of making best friends, shaping their Jewish identities, and having fun!

LLTI: The Liz Leadership Training Institute, the kallah where the leaders of NFTY-STR come together for a weekend to learn all the skills they need to make a difference

STRsky: Our NFTY-STR mascot, who is a white bengal tiger that you will probably see hanging around somewhere!

Asefah: A regional board meeting with the Regional and General Board

Kutz Camp: The URJ Leadership summer camp

Queue Sheet: A tool that RCVPs use to set up their services that includes the order of the prayers, the key/variation of the prayer, the composer, and any additional notes needed by the service leaders

Netzer Olami: The worldwide Progressive Zionist teen movement, and NFTY is the North American branch

WUPJ: World Union for Progressive Judaism, Netzer Olami is the youth movement

Being a Successful Leader

Adapted from Aaron Torop, NFTY-STR RCVP 2013-2014

1. You **do not** need a title to be a leader.
2. Just because you have power **doesn't mean you need to use it.**
3. **Be yourself**, because being comfortable with who you are encourages others to do the same thing.
4. Remember the **“fishbowl.”** This means that everything you has the capability to be distorted, magnified, and possibly taken in a way differently than your original intentions.
 - Be **inclusive**
 - Watch your **language**; this means to avoid cursing and engaging in ***lashon hara*** (evil tongue/gossiping)
 - **Confidentiality** is paramount
 - Lead by **example**
5. Only act **when you are sure of what you are doing.** This means anything from quieting a room, to writing a program, to leading a meeting. Ask first!!!
6. Push yourself and those around you to be the best possible.
7. **Utilize the resources** and people given to you.
8. Be **proactive** by offering to help and lead. If you think something can be done better, **suggest** ways to change it.
9. Always put **110% effort** in! If you don't, no one else will!
10. Be **flexible!!!**
11. Be **enthusiastic and engaging.** Believe in your actions.



Being a Good Board Member

1. First do the responsibilities that being an RCVP entails, and then **offer to help** your other board members to take on extra tasks.
2. Attend all TYG events and board meetings. Make sure you are **actively participating** in both!
3. Use your **advisor** as a tool, whether they are full-time, part-time, or volunteers. Your adult leadership is there to help you do your best.
4. Respect **confidentiality**. Unless stated otherwise, what happens in board meetings should stay in board meetings.
5. **Accountability** is everything. Stay on top of your tasks and turn them in when they are due.
6. Maintain **good working relationships** with everyone on your board. It's important to always be civil if you disagree with someone and keep any outside forces separate from your working relationship.
7. Treat everyone always with **respect**. This includes your advisor, fellow board members, and fellow members of your TYG.
8. Do everything you can to **engage new members!**

Overall, remember that being a board member is just as important as being an RCVP. While you do need to focus on the responsibilities of being an RCVP, such as planning services and Jewish-based programs, you have just as much of a responsibility to your TYG as a board member. Most importantly, remember to do what you love and have fun while you do it!

Services

Services are one opportunity in which participants have the outlet to focus on their spirituality as a young Reform Jew, and the RCVP has the fantastic job of being in charge of planning services. In this next section are some tools that you can use that will make the process far less intimidating! The services you create have the opportunity to impact participants and shape the way they connect to their Jewish identity.

What Makes Up a Service?

First off, below is a chart that outlines what prayer is used at different times in the order that they would be used in. There are Weekday AM (*shacharit*), Weekday PM (*ma'ariv*), Shabbat AM (these are always Saturday mornings, known as *shacharit Shabbat*), and Shabbat PM (these are always Friday nights, known as *ma'ariv Shabbat*), and there are different prayers appropriate for each different time. This chart is very comprehensive, so it's important to remember that just because it is appropriate to use a certain prayer, it is your choice to include it in your service or not..

Services Outline, Adapted from Aaron Torop, NFTY-STR RCVP 2013-2014

Prayer	Weekday AM	Weekday PM	Shabbat AM	Shabbat PM
Opening Song	☆	☆	☆	☆
Candles/Kiddush				☆
Lecha Dodi				☆
Modeh Ani	☆		☆	
Ma Tovv	☆		☆	
Elohai N'Shama	☆		☆	
Psalm 150	☆		☆	
Nisim B'chol Yom	☆		☆	

Eilu Devarim	☆		☆	
Chatzi Kaddish	☆	☆	☆	☆
Barchu	☆	☆	☆	☆
Ma'ariv Aravim		☆		☆
Yotzeir Or	☆		☆	
Ahavat Olam		☆		☆
Ahavah Rabbah	☆		☆	
Sh'ma/V'ahavta	☆	☆	☆	☆
Mi Chamocha	☆	☆	☆	☆
Hashkiveinu		☆		☆
Amidah (Adonai S'fatai, Avot, G'vurot, Kedusha)	☆	☆	☆	☆
V'shamru/Yismechu			☆	☆
Modim	☆	☆	☆	☆
Sim Shalom	☆		☆	
Shalom Rav		☆		☆
Oseh Shalom	☆	☆	☆	☆
Yih'yu L'ratzon	☆	☆	☆	☆
Torah Service	Mondays and Thursdays only		☆	
Mi Shebeirach	☆	☆	☆	☆
Aleinu	☆	☆	☆	☆
Mourner's' Kaddish	☆	☆	☆	☆
Closing Song	☆	☆	☆	☆

What Types of Services Can You Do?

When you're planning services, there are 3 different types of services you can choose to do, depending on your overall goal.

1. **Traditional:** These are the simplest types of services to do. To start, stick with the traditional order of services. You can choose to cut out or add certain prayers, but these types of services generally are kept pretty similar. Then, choose the variation you want to do for each prayer. Finally (and this part is optional), choose any English or Hebrew readings you want to add in.
2. **Thematic:** First, choose and outline which theme you want to do. This can be really anything you feel can relate to Judaism: nature, Social Action, or even Disney. Next, pick out the prayers in the correct order and make sure that the variations can be tied into your theme. Using any English or Hebrew readings here can be incredibly helpful to convey your theme throughout the service!
3. **Experimental:** This is where you can be the most creative. When you play around with abstract ideas, you can generally make the most lasting impact on someone; things that are out of the ordinary are what sticks in people's minds the most. There aren't any specific steps to follow here, because these types of services can really be anything you want them to be. Just figure out a message you want to share with your community and create a spiritual experience around that message.



Example of a Queue Sheet, Adapted from David Goldfarb, NFTY-STR RCVP 2015-2016

Walking NFTY's Tight Rope



Method	Song/Prayer/Moment	Composer	Key/Capo	Who's On	Notes
	Intro Writing			David Goldfarb	Cantor is always up
	Opening Song: Niggun-Shabbat Shalom	Carlebach	Open C	RW, JR, HR, JT Maya Milsom	
	Modeh Ani	Klepper	Open D	RW, JR, HR David Goldfarb	
	Lesson 1			Rachel Long	
	Elohai Ne'shemah	Prusher	1/C	RW, JR, HR David Goldfarb	
	Daily Blessings	Chant		John Trattner	
	Ashrei	Smilow	3/D	RW, JW, HR, JT David Goldfarb	
	Lesson 2			Tony Moreno	
	Barchu	Nelson	3/Am	RW, JW, HR David Goldfarb	
	Yotzer Or	Klepper	5/Am	RW, JW, HR Maya Milsom	
	Shema/Vahavta	Pik	3/Am	RW, JW, CR, JT Maya Milsom	
	Lesson 3			Jacque Gerber	
	Mi Chamocho	Nichols	open D	RW, JW, CR David Goldfarb	

Torah Services

Below is the order for Torah services. This part of the service has a very traditional structure that we follow. Feel free to be creative, but try to stick to the components of the Torah service to the best of your abilities. It is also important to remember that Torah services can only take place on Monday mornings Thursday mornings, and Saturday mornings for Shabbat services.

Everyone rises and the Torah is taken out of the ark.

- **Ein Chamocha and Av HaRachamim:** This is how you would start the Torah service on a Saturday Shabbat morning ONLY.
- **Ki Mitzion:** This is how you would start the Torah service on a Monday and Thursday, but make sure to also do this on Saturday Shabbat morning.

The person responsible with holding the Torah is given the Torah.

- **Baruch Shenatan**
- **Sh'ma**

The Torah is walked throughout the congregation.

- **Hakafah Music:** Examples of the songs we sing here include *Etz Chayim Chi* (Tree of Life) by Jeff Klepper, *Sweet as Honey* by Dan Nichols, and *Romemu* (Psalm 99)

The Torah is returned to the *bimah*, undressed, and the Torah readers are called up before each *Aliyah*. The following sections are repeated as many times as there are *Aliyot* (generally there are 3 in one service).

- **Blessing Before The Torah**
- **The Torah Reading**
- **Blessing After The Torah**
- **Mi Shebeirach:** Right before the final *Aliyah*, we pray to heal those in our community who are sick and in need of healing.
- **V'zot HaTorah:** The Torah is lifted in Hagbah and dressed in G'lilah in the opposite way it was undressed.

The Torah is returned to the ark.

- **Y'hal'lu**
- **Eitz Chayim**

Writing a D'var Torah, Adapted from Miranda Siler, NFTY-MV RCVP 2012-2013

1. **Read the Torah Portion:** DON'T merely skim it, or look up a summary. Most of the best D'var Torahs are driven by specific details in the text. It might not always be centered around the main idea; sometimes the best lessons are learned in the little words and phrases sprinkled throughout the Torah portion. Annotating is good with any text, but especially the Torah. There is a reason why we reread it every year!
2. **Look at Commentary:** Commentary is essential if you want a well fleshed out D'var Torah. It helps support your own ideas as well as introduce alternate points of view. In the websites that can be found in the "What Are Your Resources?" section, you can find many websites that give quality commentaries on various portions. With these resources, you can even find an opinion that supports yours.
3. **Find Your Focus:** It is important to keep one specific focus. If you start to talk a little about everything, then it turns into a prolonged summary, which is what you DON'T want. Remember to ask yourself: "What will the community have learned after listening?" The final product should not simply be something that they couldn't have read in the Torah themselves. Finding something that is meaningful to YOU is what will ultimately make it meaningful for others as well.
4. **Don't Be Afraid to Take Risks:** Find a way to relate the Torah portion and your overall message to something unexpected. If you think that Moses and Harry Potter have a lot in common, bring that up! It is just important to make sure that everyone understands your reference. You also want to make sure that your creativity doesn't get in the way of your overall message. The real goal is to come up with some lasting insight about Judaism, humanity, or the world.
5. **Make Some Sort of Outline:** Having an outline to refer to while writing your Dvar Torah makes the whole process a ton easier. This step should not be skipped, because it can help you flesh out your focus and can allow you to hit all of the points you want to make.

6. **Write Your D'var Torah:** A really helpful tool created by ancient rabbis is called **PaRDeS** (origin of the word paradise.) **The P stands for P'shat or summary.** This gives the people hearing your D'var some context of what is happening. The summary provides the Jewish background of your message. Next you get to **the R, Remez or clue.** This is where you set up what it is that you're going to talk about and identify the clue that points to the lesson you are going to share. After that we have **the D, D'rash or interpretation.** This is where all of your research and thinking comes in, and where you share the explanations that lead up to your main lesson. Last is **the S, Sod or secret insight.** This is where you reveal the overall focus of your D'var that you have found hidden in the text.
7. **Have Someone Read it Over and Make Edits:** Just as you would do with any piece of writing, have someone look over your D'var Torah. Some good people to ask are your clergy, your parents, and other board members. Use their suggestions to edit out any awkward wording and fix grammar mistakes. Try to go over it more than once, the more times you go over it, the better.
8. **Practice:** When you read something out loud, it's easy to notice if something sounds awkward and helps your editing process. Practice is always perfection!!!
9. **Give Your D'var Torah:** This is where everything comes together, and you get to **make your community's minds explode** from the amazing insight that you just revealed to them about humanity and the universe. You made it!



Havdallah Services

These services are performed Saturday evening, and it marks both the end of Shabbat and the beginning of our next week. It's a much shorter service, but one I personally believe gives the most feeling of a *kehilah kedosha* (holy community). Below is a simple outline with explanations of why we do what we do during Havdalah.

- **Blessing Over The Wine:** Raise the wine glass but do not drink from it. This part of Havdalah represents the sweetness of Shabbat and the goodness we can expect in the new week.
- **Blessing Over The Spices:** Smell the spice box and pass it throughout the community so that they can do the same. During Shabbat, it is said that we gain an extra soul. This part of Havdallah represents us saying goodbye to our extra soul until we can welcome it again at Shabbat the next week. The Talmud points us to Exodus 31:17 in the Torah, where the text says "...on the seventh day, He rested and was refreshed," hinting to the extra refreshing soul we obtain on Shabbat.
- **Blessing Over The Candle:** Raise the candle. You and presumably the members of your community will also raise their hands up towards the candle and look at their hands by the glow of the light. The braided Havdalah candle has several wickers, representing the idea that everything is intertwined.
- **Blessing Of Separation:** This is the blessing that distinguishes Shabbat from the rest of the week. After this blessing, we sip the wine and then we put out the candle's flame by dipping it into the wine cup. The thought is, that the longer the sizzle is, the more joyful the upcoming week will be.
- **Eliahu HaNavi and Shavua Tov:** These two songs allow us to pray for a successful new week filled with happiness.



Choreography, Adapted from Aaron Torop, NFTY-STR RCVP 2013-2014

Services can be very intimidating; many people don't know when to stand, when to sit, or what to do. As the leader of services, people will often look to you to see what choreography you are doing (and then follow). Below is an outline of the general choreography for certain prayers as outlined by NFTY. However, as the RCVP, you have the ability to decide what you want to do. *

- Whenever we stand, Jews face east or the OPEN Ark (an open ark takes precedence).
- **Lecha Dodi:** During the verse beginning with “Bo’ee v’shalom,” we rise and face the entrance, bowing each time we say, “bo’ee,” to the left and then to the right
- **Chatzi Kaddish:** The prayer leader typically begins chanting, with the congregation joining in with “amen” and from “b’chayeichon” all the way to “yitbarach” and finally from “tushb’chata” through the end.
- **Barchu:** The root of Barchu is the same root as knee, indicating a bow. The prayer leader bends at the knees and bows on “barchu et” and is standing up on “Adonai.” THEN the congregation responds with a bending-knee-then-bow on “baruch” and up on “Adonai.” Take note that it is a call and response, as is the bowing.
- **Sh’ma and V’ahavta:** Generally, one would either rise or remain sitting and cover their eyes for the Sh’ma, in order to focus in on one of the most important teachings in Judaism. The V’ahavta is chanted either sitting or standing, depending on what the prayer leader or individual members of the community decide to do.
- **Amidah:** This translates to “standing.” During “Adonai S’fatai,” it is customary to take three steps backwards, and then three steps forward, signifying walking out of our world into the realm of holiness. We bow ONLY during the Avot (at the beginning and end) and NEVER during the G’vurot. During the “Kedusha” we rise on our toes three times as we say “Kadosh, Kadosh, Kadosh.”
- **Torah Services:** We rise during the Torah Service from when the Torah is removed from the ark until it is resting on the reader's' table or podium, and again during Hagbah. There are also certain Torah

portions for which we stand as they are read, such as the Ten Commandments and the Song of the Sea.

- **Aleinu:** Always stand for the Aleinu. The very words of this prayer tell us what to do: “va-anachnu (and we) korim (bend [at the knees]) u-mish-tachavim (and bow down) u-modim (and give thanks),” and then we then raise ourselves back up.
- **Mourner’s Kaddish:** Stand for this prayer. The goal is to stand together as one community, in order to not single out the mourners, and to say Kaddish for those who do not have someone to say Kaddish for them.

After LLTI, in our shared Google Drive folder, I will provide an extremely comprehensive document with each prayer and its meaning/translation. As RCVPs and leaders in our Jewish community, it is important that we know what we say when we pray. The document will be accessible to you all, and I really hope you utilize it! It will be a very helpful tool.

Programming

As you may know, the position of RCVF doesn't just have responsibilities to craft services. You also have the ability to focus on religious and cultural programming! This type of programming allows members of our community to discover who they are, shape their Jewish identity, and become educated on important issues throughout the Jewish world. Below are a few key points to keep in mind when you want to write a program.

- **Try Something New:** Many people are afraid to go out of their comfort zone. Try to go out of the box and be creative with your programming! I have personally found that a good way to be different is to use everyday materials to symbolize something deeper.
- **Connect your Topic to Judaism:** Not every program you create has to be centered specifically around Israel and religious holidays. Topics that revolve around things like Jewish values or Jewish history are fun to explore and often are the center of really interesting programs!
- **Create a Multiple-Sided Dialogue:** Try to healthily discuss more than one side of the issue. Make your participants see the opposing view, because it is natural to be unconsciously biased. For instance, Israel has a lot of complicated but interesting issues that you can program on. If you expose your community to uncomfortable perspectives, it allows you to educate in a holistic manner. Allow your participants to form their own opinions, which ultimately allows our community to be more open-minded and accepting.
- **Utilize your Resources:** There are so many things that can help you succeed! Use websites for research and Jewish texts to back you up. There are also so many people who would be more than happy to help you program. Feel free to reach out to people like your TYG PVP, our NFTY-STR PVP Evan Watts, and me!

Israel 101

Israel is a topic that most people have trouble connecting with, especially if they've never had the opportunity to visit. However, you don't need a pre-existing connection to become engaged and to engage others in regards to Israel. As Jews, we are automatically connected to our holy land. If you chose a subject like Israeli politics or the different sects of Judaism in Israel, you don't already need to know everything there is to know beforehand. You can create a program on a subject you don't know much about, and learn a lot yourself!

After LLTI, I will be pooling together resources for programming about Israel. An important goal that I had when I ran to be the NFTY-STR RCVP was working to engage the members of our community about Israel. That's where you come in! Engaging members on a local level will make an incredibly long-lasting impact. Take some time to focus some programming on Israel in fun, new ways this next year!

What Are Your Resources?

People

- **Myself:** As your NFTY-STR RCVP, I am always here to help you succeed! I will have the pleasure of getting to know each and every one of you throughout the year during network calls (you will most likely receive a call from me about once a month). However, outside of those calls, I am still ALWAYS at your disposal! I want to be accessible to you. Feel free to text, call, or Facebook message me anytime you need help planning services, planning programs, anything you need to be the best you that you can be! I will also be running our **NFTY-STR RCVP Google Drive Folder**, that will be filled with resources such as blank queue sheets for services, interesting program write-ups that have been successful, [THE NFTY-STR ISRAEL STUDY THEMES?], and contacts for you to utilize.
- **The NFTY-STR Regional Board:** Aside from myself, this lovely group of people includes our Regional Advisor Julie Marsh, President Carly Schwamm, PVP Evan Watts, SAVP Zoe Turner, CVP Naomi Litwak, and MVP Houston Barenholtz. We are all here to help you succeed, whether you want to talk about things like the relationship between social justice and jewish values with Zoe or even how you can best promote your service with Naomi.
- **Your Network:** Your fellow RCVPs are some of the best resources you have. Talk to each other for things like sharing creative ideas or co-planning services. You may even find your next best friend!
- **Your Clergy:** These are definitely some of the first people you should go to for help, especially when planning services. This includes any rabbis, cantors, or professional songleaders that work at your temple. They are usually more than happy to help!
- **Your TYG Board:** Remember, you are just as much a board member as you are an RCVP! Your other board members (especially your

songleaders) are also there to work with you to plan your services and programs.

- **Songleaders:** You can consult our own regional songleading team or utilize your TYG songleaders if you have them! Songleaders can help you lead your services and chose which prayer variations you want to do for your services.

Websites

- www.urj.org The Union for Reform Judaism
- www.nfty.org The North American Federation of Temple
- www.rac.org The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- www.irac.org The Israel Religious Action Center of the Israel Movement of Progressive Judaism
- www.aipac.org The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, America's Pro-Israel Lobbying Organization
- www.torah.com Weekly Readings, Torah Commentary, and more tools to connect you to our holy text
- www.chabad.org Comprehensive articles regarding Jewish tradition, awesome Torah portion summaries, and inspirational ways to incorporate Jewish values into your daily life
- www.myjewishlearning.com Helpful Torah commentaries and easy explanations on many Jewish beliefs, traditions, holidays, and ethics
- www.aish.com Articles about Israel, spirituality, the Torah, current issues, and modern Jewish life
- www.ynetnews.com A good way to stay updated on Israeli news and the current worldwide issue through Israel's eyes
- www.hebcal.com A calendar that helps you know exactly when certain holidays and Torah portions are (including a way to convert the Hebrew calendar into the American calendar and vice versa)

What Can I Do Outside NFTY-STR?

- **NFTY in Israel:** This summer, consider traveling to Israel with a whole group of NFTY-ites! You have the chance to explore places in our holy land like Jerusalem, Masada, and the Dead Sea, and meet awesome friends at the same time. This program will allow you to connect more to Israel and to your Jewish identity. If you decide to do the L'dor Vador experience, you have the opportunity to travel to Prague and Krakow before going to Israel. www.nftyisrael.org
- **NFTY EIE:** This experience, also known as URJ Heller High, gives you the amazing opportunity to do a semester of high school in Israel! The school allows you to take PSATs, SATs, and ACTs, as well as offers honors, IB and AP courses. Take a semester of classes while immersing yourself in Israeli culture and taking the opportunity to range all over the holy land. www.nfyeie.org
- **URJ Kutz Camp:** This is the premier NFTY leadership summer camp, located in Warwick, NY. The camp is only for incoming 10-12 graders, which makes the experience much more centered for high schoolers. Make lifelong friends, become spiritually engaged, and gain valuable leadership skills to help you be the best you can be. You have the chance to choose between 8 majors, spanning from songleading, to social action, to Torah Corps. It's a perfect summer camp experience, even if you've never been before! I have gone for the last two summers and hope to attend a third, so if you have any questions please ask me, I would love to talk! www.kutzcamp.org
- **NFTY Mitzvah Corps:** This program allows NFTY-ites the opportunity to make a difference with social justice literally anywhere in the world. There are many different places one can do Mitzvah Corps at, from places within the USA, like New Orleans, LA and Chicago, IL, to different countries like Tanzania or Costa Rica. www.mitzvahcorps.com

- **Camp Jenny:** A truly amazing opportunity is to apply to be a counselor at Camp Jenny, where NFTY-STR and NFTY-SAR (the region right above us, spanning from northern Florida to North Carolina) come together to put together an amazing camp experience on Memorial Day Weekend for the inner-city kids from Atlanta, Georgia's FL Stanton Elementary School. Applications for Camp Jenny 2017 have been closed and decided already, but consider applying next year!
www.campjenny.nfty.org
- **L'Taken:** The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) in Washington D.C. hosts a series of social justice seminars. You get to learn about how Jewish values shape the various political stances that the RAC takes, and even lobby to politicians in D.C.!
www.rac.org/ltaken-social-justice-seminars

If you are interested in any of these programs or have any questions at all, please reach out to me! I can explain a bit more in depth myself and/or connect you to another NFTY-ite who has attended one of these programs. I highly encourage you all to try one of these out. NFTY-STR also provides scholarships as needed, if money may be an issue!

Thank You!

Shalom again NFTY-STR RCVPs!

I truly hope that you enjoyed your time in my network, met new people, and learned new things. This is going to be a very exciting year for all of you. Each and every single one of you are leaders in our community and have the potential to do amazing things. You can make a difference in someone's life this year! You can personally shape someone's Jewish identity! This is an exciting skill to be able to have, and I am confident that you will all be capable of doing so.

I also truly hope that you use me as a resource for you this next year. Please let me know if you need help planning services, writing programs, getting people excited and engaged, or even if you just need someone to talk to.

Overall, I want to thank you for your time this past weekend. I hope you feel that we have created our own supportive, helpful community with each other in our network, and that throughout this year we can all work together and become closer friends.

Please let me know if there is absolutely ANY way that you would like to be involved on a regional level this year. I would be more than happy to find a place for you if you would like to read Torah, help with services in some way, or even song lead. You are all leaders in my eyes, in our community's eyes, and in the world's eyes. I cannot wait to see you grow and flourish.

**Todah Rabah ve B'hatzlacha (Thank You Very Much and Good Luck),
Noa Kroyter
NFTY-STR RCVP 5777-5778**