The Official 2018–2019 RCVP Network Packet!

By Madison Rosenfield

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Grade (18–19): ____________________________________________________

TYG: _____________________________________________________________

What are you most excited for?: ____________________________________
Greetings, loved ones.

Let’s take a ~spiritual~ journey!

Hey my NFTY-STR RCVPs! Mazel tov to each and every one of you for putting yourself out there and being elected/appointed RCVP of your TYG! I’m so stoked to begin working with y’all in the upcoming year! I can’t wait to embark on this journey of learning, self-reflection, and culture!

First and foremost, let me introduce myself. I’m Madison Rosenfield! I’m a sophomore at Spanish River High School in Boca Raton, Florida and I’m a proud member of BISY. I’m super involved in Student Government, where I serve as the Class of 2020 Vice President. I’m a writer for my school’s yearbook, I compete in DECA (ask me about it if you’re not familiar with it.), and I play lacrosse. Also, I love dogs (feel free to send me pictures of your dogs at any time), listening to music, and BBYO (just kidding lol! One more thing: I’m super outgoing and I love meeting new people, so I can’t wait to get to know all of you guys. Well, enough about me...I want to hear from you! Never hesitate to share something with me or bring a concern to my attention.

As RCVP, you’re in a beautiful, albeit unique, position. You have the ability to create a lasting impression on a community, whether it be through leading an intimate Havdalah service for a handful of people or a Torah service in front of your entire congregation. I’ve noticed that the RCVP network tends to have the most dedicated and thoughtful people, as this job requires a certain skill set and passion. You may feel a little lost sometimes, as not everyone shares the same passion for religion and culture as you, but take a second to look around. Look at all of your peers sitting in this room today. You have a built-in support system that is only a phone call, text message, or snap away. These are the people you can laugh and cry with; the people you’ll share special moments with throughout the year. Remember, I’m always here for you and so is everyone else in this network!

I can’t stress enough that a board functions kind of like a machine. Every position is a different cog in the machine and it’s through your actions and the actions of your boardmates that make sure your specific machine is well-oiled and ready to work! The contents of this packet will hopefully guide you in doing so and give you some insight into the wonderful world of being a Religious and Cultural VP as well as a leader.

I wish you the best of luck in the upcoming year. I have no doubt in my mind that each and every one of you will kill it as RCVP of your TYG! Let’s do this!

B’ahava tamid (love always).

Madison Rosenfield
NFTY-STR RCVP
5778-5779
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**GlosSTRy**

**NFTY:** North American Federation of Temple Youth  
**STR:** Southern Tropical Region  
**SAR:** Southern Area Region  
**TYG:** Temple Youth Group  
**JYG:** Junior Youth Group  
**URJ:** Union for Reform Judaism  
**Asefah:** A board meeting with both the Regional and the General Board held twice a year at Winter Regional and Spring Kallah  
**Kutz:** The URJ’s leadership camp held in Warwick, NY  
**HUC:** Hebrew Union College  
**RAC:** Religious Action Center  
**WUPJ:** World Union for Progressive Judaism  
**Camp Jenny:** NFTY-STR and NFTY-SAR’s mitzvah project that takes place over Memorial Day weekend at URJ Camp Coleman  
**Gavel order:** The specific order of positions (not by importance, as every position has a unique and important role!) This is the gavel order that NFTY-STR recognizes: President, PVP, SAVP, RCVP, CVP, MVP  
  
**PVP:** Programming Vice President  
**SAVP:** Social Action Vice President  
**RCVP:** Religious and Cultural (or Really Cool, for obvious reasons) Vice President  
**CVP:** Communications Vice President  
**MVP:** Membership Vice President  
**Netzer Olami:** The global youth movement of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ). NFTY is the North American branch of the organization!  
**Queue Sheet:** A tool that RCVPs use to set up their services. It includes the order of the prayers, the key of the prayer, the composer, and any extra notes that will benefit the service leaders  
**LLTI:** Liz Leadership Training Institute  
**Kallah:** (Plural: kallot) A regional event consisting of youth group members from all over the state who come together for a few days of making friends and memories, singing, programming, and having fun (aka the best experience(s) ever)!!!!
Hi!

Name: Madison Leah Rosenfield
Birthday: August 1st, 2001
Birthplace: New York City
Zodiac sign: Leo

Temple Youth Group: BISY (B’nai Israel Senior Youth)
Favorite foods: CAULIFLOWER RICE, mac ‘n’ cheese, various fruits, Just Mango Slices from Trader Joe’s, carrots and hummus, Ben and Jerry’s anything, half-sour pickles, guacamole, sushi
Favorite Jewish food: Sweet Noodle Kugel
Favorite prayer: Ma’ariv Aravim
Favorite things to do: Listen to music/discover new music, go to concerts, play lacrosse, go running, make art, watch Vine compilations, look at memes, play with my dog, DECA, NFTY (duh), Student Government, quote Vines in conversation
Favorite books: The Perks of Being a Wallflower, the Harry Potter series, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Milk and Honey, Milk and Vine (RIP Vine)
Favorite movies: Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, Zoolander, Dead Poets Society, The Endless Summer, Nick and Norah’s Infinite Playlist
Favorite movie soundtrack: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty or Baby Driver (also 2 of my favorite movies)
Favorite solo artists: Tyler, the Creator, Frank Ocean Kendrick Lamar, Beck, Kid Cudi, Steve Lacy, Sufjan Stevens, Mac DeMarco, Childish Gambino, Courtney Barnett, Flume, M.I.A., Kanye West, Raury, Vince Staples, MF DOOM, Jack White
Favorite color: Yellow!
Favorite places in the world: Bethel Woods Center for the Arts/the Catskills in NY, NYC, Lake Tahoe, or LA I’d love to visit: Literally anywhere--I love traveling; but if I had to pick, I’d say Amsterdam!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow me! (I promise I know where I’m going!)</th>
<th>Contact me!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instagram: @madisonrosenfield</td>
<td>Phone: (561) 504-6622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapchat: @mrosenfielddd</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:madison.rosenfield@yahoo.com">madison.rosenfield@yahoo.com</a> (or <a href="mailto:str-rcvp@nfty.org">str-rcvp@nfty.org</a> after June 1st, 2018!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook: Madison Rosenfield</td>
<td>Spotify: @mrose1422 or Madison Rosenfield</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Leading Like a Pro

This isn't a definitive guide to being a leader, of course, as leadership is shown in innumerable ways. However, the following page will give you some tips in being a successful one!

Remember this:

1. You are not future leaders, you are leaders today.
2. You do not need a title to be a leader.
3. Be assertive, not aggressive.
4. Lift people up, don’t drag them down.
5. Lead, but be ready to follow.
6. Be yourself! Don’t be afraid to share your passions and likes/dislikes. People gravitate towards those who aren’t afraid to be themselves!
7. Don’t forget about the “fishbowl”! With being on board comes people looking to you as a role model. Not to scare you, but everything you say has the capability to be distorted, magnified, and possibly taken in a different way than you intended. Kind of like, well, a fishbowl!
   - Be inclusive.
   - Watch your language; this means avoiding cursing and engaging in lashon hara (evil tongue/gossiping).
   - Confidentiality is so important.
   - Lead by example.
   - Be flexible! Even our NFTY-STR regional director, Julie Marsh’s, favorite F-word is flexibility!!
8. ENUNCIATE! Don’t be afraid to use your voice! In doing so, make sure people can hear you and understand what you’re saying.
9. Believe in yourself and your actions.
10. Push it, push it, to the limit, limit. Give 110% of yourself in everything you do!

Board Member-ing Like a Pro

Here are some tips for being a good overall board member! After all, being a good board member should be your main goal!

1. Teamwork makes the dream work!
2. Attend and participate actively in as many board meetings as possible.
3. Attend and participate in as many TYG events as possible.
4. Be a leader at all times (remember the fishbowl effect).
5. Assist in getting new members involved and engage all participants in events.
6. Maintain good working relationships with all members of the board.
7. Some things at board meetings are confidential- respect that.
8. Treat fellow board members with respect.
9. Don’t procrastinate- be accountable and stay organized.
10. Breathe, relax, HAVE FUN.

Adapted from Roni Kapitušnik, NFTY-STR RCVP 2016-2017
As a leader, it’s of the utmost importance to set goals for yourself! Goals keep you on-track and ready to succeed. Periodically throughout the year, you should write down your current goals--they’re always changing as you grow as people. Let’s come up with some goals right now!

Personal:

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As an RCVP:

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At school:

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Possible Responsibilities

Here’s a list of some things that could potentially be expected of you in your TYG. This isn’t a definite list, so you should 100% refer to your board constitution (if you have one) or ask your advisor for your exact responsibilities!

- Prepare a D’var Torah (more on that later!) for every board meeting/whenever necessary
- Plan and execute different types of services throughout the year
- Keep TYG members informed on various religious and cultural issues
- Create religion-and-culture based programs and initiatives at your TYG

Who/What Are Your Resources?

- **Me!!!**: Never hesitate to come to me with questions or concerns about your position, your TYG, or even life! I’m here for you always!
- **Your advisor**: Chances are, your advisor has been in the game for a long time and they know what they’re doing...use them to your advantage. Ask them questions or for advice...anything you need to be successful!
- **Your clergy**: I’ll let you in on a little secret: clergy members LOVE helping teens! It’s the perfect example of L’dor Vador! When planning services, your clergy should be some of the first people you go to. They know basically anything and everything about services! Your clergy is comprised of any rabbis, cantors, and songleaders at your temple. I can’t tell you how many times the clergy at my temple have helped me out of jams while planning services/cultural events!
- **Your fellow RCVPs**: The members of your network are going through the exact same things as you, most likely! Because of this, they’re the perfect resource! If you ever need service ideas, want to co-host a service/program, or ever have little questions/comments, talk to them!
- **The RCVP Resource Bank**: When my term starts, I’ll be maintaining an RCVP Resource Bank filled with everything from successful service ideas to copies of prayers! The bank should help you in executing your position to the best of your ability!
- **Songleaders**: Songleaders are an essential part of planning services! Whether you reach out to the NFTY-STR regional songleaders or to the songleaders at your temple, I guarantee they’ll be able to provide answers to your musical questions and/or give you ideas about what songs to include in your service. I can say from personal experience that I couldn’t plan half the services I have planned if not for songleaders.
- **Your TYG board**: Use your board for help or to find ways to connect your responsibilities to theirs (that could mean using your PVP to help write a cultural program or using your SAVP to find a common link between social action and Judaism at an event)
How to be an RCVP!

This is where the fun begins! This section will teach you how to execute your position properly, from writing a D’var Torah to keeping TYG members engaged about Israel!

Services

Services are the perfect opportunity to make a lasting impression on people! As RCVP, you have the potential to create amazing services that further connect people to their Jewish identity and allow them to have fun while doing so! Here is some helpful tips and tricks to make the service-planning process a lot less daunting!

Things to remember:

1. You are not writing services for yourself, you are writing them for others! Be mindful of this when picking prayers, music, and other components of a service. You may not be able to incorporate your favorite things because they don’t fit with the type of service/theme of the service.
2. There are so many resources available to you, so don’t fret or get stressed!
3. Queue sheets are your ~best friends~
4. You shouldn’t be expected to know EVERYTHING about the Jewish faith and the Torah; just having a passion for it (which is hopefully why you’re in this network!) is enough! You should, however, be able to interpret text and situations in a variety of ways! After all, a lot of our religion is based on interpretation!
5. You got this!

There are 3 main types of services:

Type #1: Traditional
- This type of service is typically what you’d experience at a Shabbat service at your temple. When planning a traditional service, stick to the normal order of prayers. Get a few helpers (clergy members, your advisor, songleaders, etc.), a Mishkan T’filah, and flip through the book. The Mishkan T’filah is separated by different service options, so open up to the option you want and start going through the prayers. While doing this, think of the variation of the prayer you want to use, some extra songs, and other little things like creative readings!

Type #2: Thematic
- When planning thematic services, first pick your theme (of course). This can be anything; from nature, to Star Wars, to Israel! Secondly, pick prayers (while still sticking to the correct order) and variations of said prayers that may have to do with your theme. Throughout the planning
process, think of other songs/activities/readings that can be included into your service and connect to your theme. Thematic services are an amazing opportunity appeal to what people enjoy! One time, I even wrote a Kanye West themed Shabbat service for an event my TYG hosted. Pop culture is a good starting point if you’re having trouble picking a theme. One important reminder: make sure to stay appropriate with what theme you pick and what you choose to include in the service. Avoid cursing, graphic images, and sensitive topics! Use your best judgment.

Type #3: Experimental

- The position of RCVP typically has the ability to be the most creative, and experimental services are the perfect example of when to use this creativity! Experimental services allow participants to experience our faith in abstract ways. There isn’t a specific process to follow when planning this type of service; just pick a message or experience you want to share with people and run with it! A good example of this type of service is the Shabbat morning service from Fall Kallah 2017, which involved the use of music in relation to the days of creation found in parsha B’reishit! Other examples are using meditation to convey our faith or implementing a coloring book people can use during the service.

Queue sheets!

Queue sheets lay out the flow of a service in an easy-to-follow way! They are essential in making sure a service goes well and stays on target. They can be very general to super specific...that being said, the more specific, the better. Here is an example of a queue sheet from a service I have planned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song/Prayer</th>
<th>Composer</th>
<th>Who’s Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro song: Hinei Ma Tov</td>
<td>Folk</td>
<td>Songleaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candles</td>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>Family of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat:</td>
<td>Taubman Goldfarb</td>
<td>Songleaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Lecha Dodi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shalom Aleichem</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Writing/Reading</td>
<td>BM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barchu</td>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>JH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Writing/Reading</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shema</td>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>SB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V’ahavta</td>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Weekday AM</td>
<td>Weekday PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
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<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Song</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Candles/Kiddush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecha Dodi</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Modeh Ani</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ma Tovu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elohai N'shamah</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

So, what prayer can be chanted at what time?

I'm glad you asked! The next chart has information about the correct time(s) certain prayers/songs can be included in a service! I can say from prior experience that this chart is so helpful to use while planning a service!

(Adapted from Aaron Torop, NFTY-STR RCVP 2013-2014)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Mon.</th>
<th>Tues.</th>
<th>Wed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nisim B’chol Yom</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eilu Devarim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chatzi Kaddish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barchu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ma’ariv Aravim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yotzeir Or</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ahavat Olam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ahavah Rabbah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shema/V’ahavta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mi Chamocha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hashkiveinu</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amidah (Adonai S’fatai Tiftach, Avot, Gevurot, Kedushah)</td>
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<td>V’shamru/Yismechu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sim Shalom</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shalom Rav</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oseh Shalom</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yih’yu L’ratzon</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torah Service</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi Shebeirach</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aleinu</td>
<td>🟢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mourner’s Kaddish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing Song</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Outline for a Torah service:

Torah services have very traditional structures that we are expected to follow, so keep that in mind while planning them! You’re still able to be creative, but try your hardest to follow the outline. Remember: Torah services can only take place on Monday mornings, Thursday mornings, and Saturday mornings during Shabbat services.

Everyone rises and the Torah is removed from the ark
- Ein Kamocha
- Ki Mitzion

The Torah is given to the person in charge of holding it
- Baruch Shenatan
- Shema

Hakafah (which means “going around”)
- Select songs the congregation will sing while the Hakafah is taking place. Common songs are Sweet as Honey by Dan Nichols, Etz Chayim Chi (Tree of Life) by Jeff Klepper, and Romemu/Psalm 99

Reading the Torah
- The Torah gets undressed
- Readers are called up before each Aliyah
- During each Aliyah:
  - Blessing before reading the Torah
  - The Torah reading
  - Blessing after reading the Torah
- Mi Shebeirach is sung right before the last Aliyah
- The Hagbah lifts the open Torah while singing V’zot HaTorah
- The Hagbah sits and the Glilah dresses the Torah in the opposite way it was undressed

Returning the Torah to the ark
- Eitz Chayim Chi
- Y’hal’lu

D’var and done!
- This is your moment! Get up on the bimah and shine like the star you are while giving your -AMAZING- d’var Torah to a room full of eager listeners!

It’s up to you who gets the honors of being called up for an Aliyah, reading from the Torah, being the Hagbah, and being the Glilah! Be inclusive of everyone when thinking of who to honor; don’t just honor your friends. Have fun with it!
Havdalah services

Havdalah means “separation” or “division.” This type of service formally ends Shabbat and marks the beginning of a new week. Havdalah services are performed Saturday night and are typically relatively short. It’s during these beautiful services that you seem to gain more of an appreciation for our religion and the people you’re surrounded by, I find. They can be performed anywhere, as long as you have the correct materials (wine/juice, a cup to hold the wine/juice, a spice box or bag, and a braided Havdalah candle). In a pinch, a different liquid can be used, but try to limit the need for that. I've led Havdalah services in so many places, from a parking lot, to a moving bus, to the beach, and they still remain one of my favorite types of services!

Havdalah service outline:

- **Light the candle!**
- **Blessing over the wine:** Lift the wine glass, but don’t drink from it. The wine/juice symbolizes how sweet Shabbat is and how much goodness the upcoming week will be filled with!
- **Blessing over the spices:** Smell the spices, then pass them around the community. During Shabbat, it is said that we gain an extra soul. This component of Havdalah symbolizes us saying goodbye to our extra soul until the next Shabbat.
- **Blessing over the candle:** Lift the candle. A special Havdalah candle with several wicks is needed to represent the idea that everything is intertwined (the Jewish people, God, and the world). Oftentimes, people raise their hands toward the flames (DON’T TOUCH THE FIRE) so they can see the separation of light and dark, of ~Shabbat~ and the rest of the week.
- **The Havdalah blessing/blessing of separation:** This blessing formally differentiates Shabbat from the rest of the week. Upon conclusion of this blessing, dip the candle into the wine/juice. It’s common belief that the longer the sizzle lasts, the better the upcoming week will be!
- **Sing Eliyahu HaNavi and Shavua Tov:** These two songs are sung to allow us to celebrate the beginning of a new week!
Choreography (Adapted from Aaron Torop, NFTY-STR RCVP 2013-2014)

Services can be pretty intimidating. It's hard to keep track of when to sit, when to stand, and what exactly to do. The URJ realizes that different congregations have different practices in terms of choreography, so it's up to you to decide what you want to do. I'm going to outline what NFTY's general practices are, but as I said, the RCVP (aka you) can choose. None of these are set in stone, and depending on where the service is held or on what you're trying to convey, the choreography may change. One constant is that whenever standing (unless otherwise noted), Jews face East or towards 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 as we say “bo’ee,” to the left and then to the right.

**Chatzi Kaddish:** The prayer leader usually begins chanting, with the congregation joining in with “amen” and from “b’chayechon” to “yitbarach” and finally from “tushb’chata” through the end.

**Barchu:** The root of Barchu is the same root as the word for knee, indicating a bow. The prayer leader bends at the knees and bows on “barchu et” and stand back up on “Adonai.” Then, the congregation responds with a bend-and-bow on “baruch” and stands back up on “Adonai.” Note that the Barchu is a call-and-response, as is the bowing.

**Shema:** In NFTY-STR, it's customary that we rise cover our eyes in order to focus on one of the most important teachings in Judaism.

**V’ahavta:** Chant this prayer either sitting or standing, depending on what the prayer leader decides.

**Amidah:** Amidah translates to “standing.” During “Adonai s’fatai tiftach” it’s customary to take 3 steps backwards and then 3 steps forward, signifying walking out of our world into the realm of holiness. We bow ONLY during the Avot (at the beginning and at the end) and NEVER during the Gevurot. During the Kedushah, we rise on our toes 3 times as we say “kadosh, kadosh, kadosh.”

**Torah service:** We rise from when the Torah is removed from the ark until it’s resting on the reader’s table or podium, and again during Hagbah. There are also certain parashiyot for which we stand as they’re read, such as the 10 Commandments and the Song of the Sea.

**Aleinu:** We stand for the Aleinu. The very words of this prayer tells us what to do: “va-anachnu (and we) korim (bend [at the knees]) u-mish-tachavim (and bow down) u-modim (and give thanks), (we then raise ourselves back up).

**Mourner's Kaddish:** We also stand for this prayer. The prayer leader should say something like this: “Today we all stand together as one community stand in order to not single out the mourners, and to say Kaddish for those who do not have someone to say it for them.”
Writing a D’var Torah

A d’var Torah is your reflection on a Torah portion. Usually, they involve personal thoughts and feelings, as well as a message/lesson. A d’var Torah gives listeners (as well as yourself!) the chance to interpret and understand a Torah portion. D’var itself means “word of” and Torah means, well, “Torah.” So, if you put it together you get “word of Torah,” of course! A mere line of Torah can be interpreted in countless ways, and it’s up to you to successfully interpret it!

A common way to structure a d’var Torah is in the PaRDeS format. Ancient rabbis coined this method. Pardes is the origin of the word “paradise,” by the way. Let me explain:

PaRDeS:

**P'shat (summary):** Give a brief explanation/background of the Torah portion in your own words

**Remez (clue):** Identify the clue that points to the lesson you want to share

- What is the part of the portion you want to discuss? You can analyze any part, even just one line!

**Drash (interpretation):** Share the explanations that lead up to your main takeaway/lesson

- How does this relate to us? Pop culture and personal anecdotes are always a good go-to!

**Sod (secret):** Reveal the hidden message you found in the text.

- What can we learn from this? What’s the takeaway here?

1. Make sure you share your d’var with your advisor, a member of your clergy, or even your fellow boardmates before you read it during an event! They will help you make revisions and point you in the right direction.

2. Also, don’t forget to practice, practice, practice! A confident reader is a reader that successfully gets their point across. Getting your point across is the main point of giving a d’var!

3. Quick tip: The length of your d’var may vary depending on the type of event you’re giving it at. A d’var for a service may be a page or two, whereas a d’var for a board meeting may be a paragraph or less. It’s up to you, but think of your audience and how long they’d be willing to listen!
Being an RCVP isn’t just writing services or preparing divrei Torah, it’s also keeping members engaged and involved in all things religion and culture. You can write programs about ANYTHING Jewish! Work with your PVP to create religion-and-culture based programs!

Examples:

- A latke cook-off during Hanukkah
- A program about Israel
- An educational Torah study session
- A celebration on Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day)
- Implementing a Remind101 to keep TYG members in-the-know about Jewish news
- Using a scaled map of Israel (that you can stand on) to teach people the geography of Israel
- A hummus eating competition
- Engaging in multi-sided/bipartisan dialogue about Jewish current events

Another one of your responsibilities as RCVP is to connect our faith to every program and event your TYG puts on, which isn’t as hard as it sounds! Trust me.

- To do this, think of Jewish values and lessons that can be applied to the program
  - Even if the connection to Judaism is small, it still matters!

REMEMBER: If you ever need help or feel stuck, feel free to reach out to me, your TYG’s PVP, or Elana Treiser (NFTY-STR’s PVP)! I’m sure we’d all be happy to help!
Helpful Links

- [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org) Union for Reform Judaism
- [www.nfty.org/resources](http://www.nfty.org/resources) This website has so many helpful pointers and resources for you to use!
- [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org) AIPAC aka The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which is a lobbying group that advocates pro-Israel policies to Congress and the Executive Branch of the US Government
- [www.chabad.org](http://www.chabad.org) This website has so many resources for you, from Torah commentary to articles about our faith
- [www.bimbam.com](http://www.bimbam.com) BimBam is a source for visual/digital explanations of all things Jewish! It’s especially helpful for understanding a Torah portion so you can write a d’var Torah easily! It’s my personal favorite for learning about Torah in a quick, easy way!
- [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com) A helpful site for Israeli and Jewish news
- [www.hebcal.com](http://www.hebcal.com) A website that features a calendar denoting when certain Torah portions and Jewish holidays occur
- [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) This should come as a no-brainer! Google. Has. EVERYTHING. Use it!

Opportunities in NFTY!

**URJ Heller High:** This experience allows you to spend a semester of high school in Israel! You can take high school courses while simultaneously being exposed to Israeli life and culture! [www.hellerhigh.org](http://www.hellerhigh.org)

**Mitzvah Corps:** Social-action based summer programs that give you the opportunity to travel the world, learn about social issues, and realize how Judaism can empower you to take action and enact positive change! [www.mitzvahcorps.org](http://www.mitzvahcorps.org)

**URJ Kutz Camp:** The URJ’s awesome 4-week summer leadership camp for incoming 10th-12th graders! [www.kutzcamp.org](http://www.kutzcamp.org)

**Camp Jenny:** A weekend-long camp experience for inner-city Atlanta students from F.L. Stanton Elementary School held at URJ Camp Coleman! It’s NFTY-STR and NFTY-SAR’s mitzvah project! [www.campjenny.nfty.org](http://www.campjenny.nfty.org)

**L’Taken:** L’Taken gives you the opportunity to impact our country as you share your input on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill! You’ll also be exposed to public policy issues while learning about the Jewish values that shape the RAC’s advocacy for these issues! [www.rac.org/ltaken-social-justice-seminars](http://www.rac.org/ltaken-social-justice-seminars)

“**If any of these programs sound interesting to you, let me know! I can provide more information for you as well as connect you to someone who has participated in one of these programs!**”
A Lil’ Thank You!

You made it! I’m so proud of you! I can’t wait to continue this RCVP journey together!

Hey again!

Thank you so much for soaking in all I had to say and providing your own input on things throughout this weekend!

I hope none of this sounded stressful/nerve-wracking to you, because I promise it’s not! With the right amount of practice and preparation, I have faith that you can power through and be amazing RCVPs! I’m so excited to see all that you do! Hopefully, you learned a lot and feel a lot more confident in yourselves as RCVPs and as leaders.

Remember, perfection isn’t the goal. Just try your hardest and be proud of what you do!! If you ever feel like you bit off more than you can chew, talk to me! I guarantee that I’ve felt the same way at some point. This position is filled with ups and downs; all experiences that will grow you as people.

I was once (well, twice) in your shoes, sitting in a room full of other RCVPs! I was nervous and confused, though SO EXCITED to carry out my position. The nervousness and confusion dissipated as soon as I realized what an awesome support system I have in my network and in my TYG. Like I said, YOU GOT THIS!!

This position holds such a special place in my heart. When I began my first term as RCVP of BISY I was confused and apprehensive, but by the time I started my second term I was IN LOVE with this position (and I hope the same for all of you). I sometimes get a little emotional when I think of this position and realize just how much of an impact what I do has on others; I’m so grateful and excited that you too want to make an impact on others and be an RCVP!

Finally, I cannot stress enough that I’m always here for you! Feel free to come to me with anything, serious or not. Send me questions or suggestions (or even memes), and I’ll be sure to respond!

B’ahava tamid, of course,

Madison ☻
Feel free to write anything that you think will make you a better RCVP here. This could include service ideas, programming ideas, or even just random thoughts that pop into your head throughout the weekend!