



Ohio Valley 2016-2017 New Member Packet



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Welcome to NFTY Ohio Valley (NFTY-OV)!

Our region includes over 200 members, 21 Temple Youth Groups (TYGs), 7 Regional Board members, 5 regional events, 2 North American events, and 1 amazing community! This packet explains traditions and important information. We are excited to see you soon!

This will help you become more familiar with NFTY Ohio Valley by learning more about our culture and traditions and this is just a small piece of what you are now a part of.

If you need anything leading up to an event or any point throughout the weekend, please connect with Andy Harkavy (Regional Director), your Temple Youth Group (TYG) Advisor, or any Regional Board Member.

We look forward to seeing you soon!
- Ohio Valley Regional Board 2016-2017

What is NFTY?

NFTY is a movement. For over seventy years, the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) has offered thousands of young people the opportunity to explore and live Reform Judaism.

NFTY is a safe space to build identity. Today, over 450 Reform congregations throughout North America sponsor Temple Youth Groups, bringing the NFTY experience to more than 10,000 high school-age young people in grades 9-12. Through involvement opportunities offered by congregations, our 19 NFTY regions, and on the North American level, NFTYites strive to forge an identity in consonance with the goals and values of Reform Judaism.

NFTY is an organization that is teen-driven with adult support. There is a healthy balance between those aspects of NFTY that are youth-led and those that are directed by its adult advisors. NFTY is an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism.

NFTY is a community for Reform Jewish high school students. NFTYites forge and build friendships, lifelong Reform Jewish identities and leadership skills through community building, worship, social action, and experiential youth-led Jewish educational programming. Many NFTYites serve as NFTY leaders on the local TYG, regional, and even North American levels. Many NFTY Leaders continue on to become both lay and professional leaders of the Reform Jewish Movement. NFTY is the North American branch of a worldwide progressive Zionist youth movement called Netzer Olami.

NFTY's Mission Statement

NFTY is a movement that builds strong, welcoming, inspired communities through teen-powered engagement. Together, we pursue Tikkun Olam, personal growth, youth empowerment, and deep connections, all rooted in Reform Judaism.

Meet The Regional Board



From Left to Right (Regional Director, President, PVP, SAVP, RCVP, SMVP, NMVP, FCVP)

Regional Director
Andy Harkavy
[@NFTYOV](#)
aharkavy@uri.org

President
Stephanie Blumenthal
[@OV PRES](#)
ov-president@nfty.org

Programming Vice President
Ashley Schlaeger
[@OV PVP](#)
ov-pvp@nfty.org

Social Action Vice President
Abby Dickstein
[@OV SAVP](#)
ov-savp@nfty.org

Religious and Cultural Vice President
Taylor-Paige Guba
[@OV RCVP](#)
ov-rcvp@nfty.org

Southern Membership Vice President
Max Young
[@OV SMVP](#)
ov-kitowv@nfty.org

Northern Membership Vice President
Lindsey Halasz
[@OV NMVP](#)
ov-oimvp@nfty.org

Financial and Communications Vice President
Emma Nisonson
[@OV FCVP](#)
ov-fcvp@nfty.org

2016-2017 Regional Event Calendar

Leadership Training Kallah
Grades: 9-12 @ GUCI - Zionsville, IN

August 19-21, 2016

Fall Kallah
Grades: 9-12 @ GUCI - Zionsville, IN

October 14-16, 2016

Winter Kallah
Grades: 9-12 @ HUC - Cincinnati, OH

January 20-22, 2017

NFTY Convention
Grades: 9-12 @ Chicago, IL

February 17-20, 2017

Junior Youth Group (JYG) Kallah
Grades: 6-8 @ GUCI - Zionsville, IN

March 3-5, 2017

Spring Kallah
Grades: 8-12 @ Rockdale Cincinnati, OH

April 20-23, 2017

Stay Connected with NFTY-OV

www.ohiovalley.nfty.org

[Like NFTY-OV on Facebook](#)

[Join NFTY-OV on Facebook](#)

[Follow NFTY-OV on Twitter](#)

[Follow NFTY-OV on Instagram](#)

[Follow NFTY-OV on Vimeo](#)

[Join Remind for Text Reminders](#)

Use #BessiesBillboard on ALL Social Media

Frequently Asked Questions

How and why is NFTY a safe and inclusive space? NFTY is a place where a Jewish teen can feel safe being a Jewish teen and not have to explain themselves. Teens have lots of fun, meet new people, and connect with their own Judaism through fun, interactive programs. Teens from all five states are welcomed at our events and they bring new ideas to our region. NFTY is a teen powered movement. This is the one place where we all have a common thread and we are able to build upon it. Being a part of NFTY has shown me that being Jewish can be cool and accepting. NFTY-OV has become my family that I never want to leave. As soon as I get home from a Kallah (regional convention), I miss my friends and cannot wait to be with them again at the next event.

I don't know anyone in NFTY, is it easy to make friends? I knew 3 people at my first NFTY event: two guys from my youth group and one guy from camp. Given that we have separate housing for males and females, I had no idea who I was going to room with. I walked into the rooms where we were staying and was immediately welcomed by another girl. As the weekend progressed, we ate meals together and discussed the highlights of our days. NFTY-OV helps you make deep connections and lifelong friendships.

What if I'm the only Jewish teen in my area? Because of where I live, I stand nearly alone in my Judaism when it comes to school, or pretty much anywhere else in public. NFTY has given me the chance to be with other Jewish teens from other cities across the Ohio Valley region. Being surrounded by Jewish people makes me feel comfortable and I am happier that I now have a place where I can be my true self. NFTY helped me make new friends and maintain a strong connection with them through friendship and Judaism.

What is one thing you wish you were told before your first NFTY event? I wish someone had told me to come with an open mind, to make new friends, to sit with someone new at every meal, to engage in conversation with someone older than me and someone younger than me, to expand my comfort zone, to take initiative, and to feel comfortable sharing my opinions and insight during discussions and programming.

What do you like best about NFTY?

I love the confidence that NFTY has instilled in me and I know I would not be the same person I am today without the friends I have made in this movement. I have been able to travel around the country and I have stayed with friends I have made at North American events. I am happy to call NFTY my home.

- Stephanie Blumenthal

It is these people who support me, inspire me, and push me to be the best person I can be. They are my family. From the connection during friendship circle to the jumping and screaming during song sessions, the ruach (spirit) and LOVE experienced in this place is something so special.

- Ashley Schlaeger

I love the friendships. There will always be opportunities for leadership, team-building, and education; but to be surrounded by 100+ Jewish teens and to be able to grow and learn with them is truly a unique experience. These life-long friendships are ones you can't find anywhere else. I am forever grateful to NFTY.

- Abby Dickstein

NFTY-OV has given me the chance to lead my peers in all sorts of programs, services, and events. I have grown as an individual because of the opportunities made available to me. Please don't overlook the chances NFTY will give you for leadership, creativity, friendship, education, and fun.

- Taylor Guba

I love the community. I love how you can walk in and instantly feel welcomed. It's a safe space to be yourself without being judged or worrying about what other people think of you. It is nice to be accepted for who you are.

- Lindsey Halasz

NFTY has allowed me to expand my comfort zone and meet new people. I knew a lot of people from camp, but new Jewish friends are always good. NFTY is also my getaway for a weekend. Being around other Jewish teens gives me a stronger connection to the people around me and more meaningful friendships.

- Max Young

The things I like best are ideals that the NFTY organization represents. I enjoy being around people that share similar viewpoints as myself. We all have something in common, so it's easy to bond with people here.

- Emma Nisonson

Acronyms and Abbreviations

URJ - Union for Reform Judaism. The parent body of NFTY. It includes all of the synagogues which define themselves as Reform.

NFTY - North American Federation of Temple Youth – the youth movement of the Reform movement. There are 19 regions, one of which is Ohio Valley.

OV - Ohio Valley - Our NFTY region. It is made up of two sub-regions (OI and KITOWV) and includes youth groups from all Temples in parts of Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia

OI - Ohio and Indiana - The northern sub-region of NFTY-OV. It includes all of the youth groups in Indiana which are in our region except for Evansville and synagogues which are in central and southern Ohio except for Cincinnati.

KITOWV - Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio and West Virginia. The southern sub-region. It includes Evansville, IN; Cincinnati, OH; and all parts of Tennessee, West Virginia and Kentucky which are part of our region.

GUCI - Goldman Union Camp Institute - our regional URJ Camp in Zionsville, IN.

HUC - Hebrew Union College - The rabbinical seminary of the Reform movement in the United States. If you have a rabbi, he or she most likely went to school here. There is a campus in Cincinnati, OH which is where we host Winter Kallah.

TYG - Temple Youth Group - The group of high school students at your Temple who get together for social, educational, religious, cultural, recreational and social action oriented events.

JYG - Junior Youth Group. We do one event each year specifically for the 6th-8th graders in our region typically held around March.

Kallah - Regional convention

Ruach - Hebrew word for spirit

Bessie - Our beloved cow and mascot

Regional Board Position and Descriptions

President - The person who is responsible for the work of the members of the board. They supervise the other members of the board, call and preside over all board meetings, correspond with the region's TYGs and when necessary, appoints chair people and committees.

Programming Vice President (PVP) - The person who serves as a resource for programming in the region and who is responsible for programming during regional events. They also communicate with TYG PVPS in the region, and maintain/make available a program bank.

Social Action Vice President (SAVP) - The person responsible for coordinating social action in the region. They also correspond with the TYG SAVPs and publicize social action projects in the region.

Religious and Cultural Vice President (RCVP) - The person who is responsible, either directly or indirectly, for all worship services at Regional events. They also correspond with and serve as a resource for TYG RCVPs, make and maintain a file of worship services and materials, coordinate with the regional clergy, and oversee a network of songleaders.

Southern Membership Vice President (SMVP) - One of the people responsible for maintaining and growing membership. They also promote participation in NFTY programs, promote general spirit in the southern (KITOWV) sub-region and NFTY-OV, and serve as a resource for all southern TYG MVPs.

Northern Membership Vice President (NMVP) - One of the people responsible for maintaining and growing membership. They also promote participation in NFTY programs, promotes general spirit in the northern (OI) sub-region and NFTY-OV, serve as a resource for all northern TYG MVPs.

Financial and Communications Vice President (FCVP) - The person who records the minutes at all meetings, maintains or creates the NFTY-OV slide show, serves as a resource for all TYG FCVPs. The person is also responsible for maintaining and compiling a members list, purchasing OV gear, fundraising, and representing OV on social media.

Find Your Temple Youth Group (TYG)

Ohio	<p>YGoR, Rockdale Temple (Cincinnati)</p> <p>YGoTS, Temple Shalom (Cincinnati)</p> <p>Valley, Valley Temple (Cincinnati)</p> <p>WTYG, Wise Temple (Cincinnati)</p> <p>YFTL, Temple Israel (Columbus)</p> <p>TIDY, Temple Israel (Dayton)</p> <p>BOTY, Temple Beth Or (Dayton)</p> <p>MORTY, Temple Israel (Marion)</p> <p>BeSTY, Beth Shalom (New Albany)</p> <p>SPORTY, Temple Shalom (Springfield)</p> <p>BethTY, Congregation Beth Tikvah (Worthington)</p>
Indiana	<p>BOSY, Beth Shalom (Bloomington)</p> <p>L'CHU, Sha'arei Shalom (Columbus)</p> <p>FOrTY, Achduth VeShalom (Fort Wayne)</p> <p>IFTY, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (Indianapolis)</p> <p>MUNCHY, Beth El (Muncie)</p> <p>WeLFTY, Temple Israel (West Lafayette)</p>
Kentucky	<p>TRYB, Adath Israel (Lexington)</p> <p>ROYALTY, Temple Shalom (Louisville)</p> <p>TiLTY, The Temple (Louisville)</p>
Tennessee	<p>MiT Y, Temple Micah (Brentwood)</p> <p>TOaSTY, The Temple (Nashville)</p>
West Virginia	<p>HINY, B'nai Shalom (Huntington)</p>

NFTY Cheer

(stomp-clap-stomp-clap...)

...5-6-7-8

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Gonna live and die-N-F-T-Y!

NFTY's in the front

HEY HEY HEY

Let me hear you grunt

HEY HEY HEY

NFTY's in the middle

HEY HEY HEY

Let me hear you giggle

He He He!

Never in the rear

No, no, no

Let me hear you cheer!

WHOOOOO!!

Ya got it?

Yeah!

Ya got it?

Yeah!

It's in my knees, my knees
are weak

It's in my mouth, I cannot
speak

It's in my hair, it's over there,
it's over there, it's
everywhere!

(stomp-clap-stomp-clap...)

...5-6-7-8

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Gonna live and die-N-F-T-Y!

Noar Tzioni Reformi x3

Ohio Valley Cheer

Oooooooooohiooo vaaalleeeeyy
(O-O-V O-O-O-V) x4

Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky,
Tennessee

Don't forget West Virginia, 1
TYG

OV is our region!

Bessie is our cow!

NFTY is our reason!

We'll sing it loud and proud!

OV OV lalalalalalala OV OV
lalalalalalala

KITOWV and OI join as one

To form the best region under
the sun!

We can't be stopped; we're a
sight to see!

Welcome to the GREAT OV!

OOOOOOOOOV! (Stomp-clap-
stomp-stomp-clap) x2

Who is the very best?! OV!

Who dominates the rest?! OV!

Who you can't defeat; who
rocks this beat!

From West VA to Tennessee!

OOOOOOOOOV!

(Stomp-clap-stomp-stomp-
clap) x2

OV throw it up! BAM!!!!