

Advisor: An adult who advises and mentors us in programming, logistics, administrative work and leadership skills. Our Regional Advisor is Lynne Butner.

Birkat Hamazon: commonly known as the “Birkat”, this is the prayer that Jews say after we eat. It thanks God for our food and drink. At a NFTY event, we say it after each meal we eat together.

Biennial: the URJ Biennial occurs every other year, when there is not a NFTY Convention. This is a massive gathering of all the adult leaders of the Reform Jewish movement. The most recent Biennial was November 2005, in Houston, Texas. NFTYites had the chance to participate in the NFTY Youth Track if they attended.

B’rit Kehilah: NFTY’s code of conduct. You sign this before coming to every event; it details the rules and regulations for a NFTY event. Basically, you promised not to do drugs, drink, engage in inappropriate sexual conduct and to be a respectful NFTYite.

Convention: NFTY Convention is a North American wide event that occurs every other year. NFTYites from all across North America (including Canada!), and even across the world gather to learn, pray, and have fun. The most recent Convention just occurred February 2005 in Los Angeles. The next Convention will be In Philadelphia. in 2006!

Friendship Circle: The last thing SWites do at the end of the day at an event is gather in a HUGE circle. We sing and do the NFTY cheer! Here is the way Southwest traditionally does friendship circle:

Everyone is in the big circle together, after the first 2 songs are sung, seniors kick their shoes in, after the 3rd song is done, seniors go get their shoes and make their own smaller circle in the middle. After all the singing, seniors lead the region in the NFTY cheer.

General Board: General Board is the extended regional board, sort of. These positions include: The region’s current Song leaders, Song Leaders in Training, Historian and Editor.

Installations: a very special ceremony when the old executive board passes down their position to the new executive board, and says goodbye. This takes place at Spring Kallah.

Kallah: AMAZING and FUN weekends when NFTYites from all different TYGs in a particular region come together to meet other NFTYites, pray and learn. NFTY-SW has four or five kallot a year.

Kallot: Plural for Kallah. You wouldn’t say “I’ve been to 4 Kallah’s this year.” You would say “I have attended 4 Kallot.”

KUTZ: Kutz Camp is the North American NFTY Leadership Academy, located in Warwick, NY. NFTYites go to Kutz for one or two “academies” to learn about leadership, Judaism, the arts and so much more. Don’t forget they have an awesome time and meet NFTYites from across the country and world.

LTI: Leadership Training Institute. This is a NFTY-SW event that focuses on leadership, it is held after Fall Kallah every year.

Mazon: In NFTY-SW we support an organization called Mazon, which helps provide food and other resources for people who are hungry. Every event, 3% of the cost goes towards Mazon. It’s

a HUGE organization and many temples have monthly events to raise money to help cure hunger.

Mechina: This is a leadership training week for newly-elected NFTY regional board members, which takes place at Kutz Camp. During Mechina there is a North American NFTY Board meeting which provides an opportunity to vote on resolutions and set the NFTY agenda for the upcoming year.

Million Quarter Project: A social action project that NFTY takes part in. If you have any spare change, especially quarters, donate it to the CVP or the SAVP. All of the money goes to Ethiopian Jews who are starving. One quarter will provide a day's worth of food for one Jewish child in Ethiopia. Each event, 1 dollar of the event cost per person goes toward the Million Quarter Project.

Señor Suave: the NFTY-SW mascot (which is a coyote, and it is CLEAN!!!).

SW: SW is our region of NFTY (we're the best). SW stands for the Southwest Region. It includes TYGs from Arizona, New Mexico, El Paso and Las Vegas

SWite(s): A member of NFTY-SW.

NFTY: NFTY is the North American Federation of Temple Youth. Anyone who is a member of a Temple Youth Group in the United States and Canada is in NFTY.

Netzer Olami: An international organization of reform Zionist Jewish youth, of which NFTY is the North American snif (branch) of. Simply put, it's like NFTY, but everywhere!

Plenary: Held every year LTI and Spring Kallah, this is a general assembly where NFTY-SW can pass resolutions on certain issues, get updates from TYGs and vote on various things.

Programs: Informal education programs (as opposed to formal education in the classroom) take place at all Kallah. Programs can be about any topic from AIDS to the Middle East Peace process. Programs can also be social like a dance or a carnival.

RAC: The Religious Action Center. Located in Washington, D.C., the RAC is the social action center for the URJ. NFTY works closely with the RAC on social action issues. It's pretty much NFTY's social justice resource and is amazing.

Region: This encompasses all the TYGs that fall in a certain geographic area. NFTY has 19 regions.

Regional Board: The Regional Board of Southwest is made up of 6 amazing, hard-working SWites. They are elected each year at Spring Kallah and are essential in making SW what it is. They write and run programs and services, and represent NFTY-SW at North American meetings.

Ruach: Hebrew for Spirit. Basically, it's the enthusiasm we show for NFTY, for learning, for Judaism and for everything we do. And we have a lot of it. ;-)

Senior Circle: At Spring Kallah every year, senior circle allows the graduating seniors to talk about their time with NFTY, as well as pass down siblings or other important items from their NFTY experience.

Songleaders: Amazing SWites who lead us in song session, services, and friendship circle.

Song Session: We sing Jewish music (also known as Jewsic), clap, stomp, dance, and make lots and lots of noise. This is where we show our *ruach* most!

Tikkun Olam: Tikkun Olam is repairing the world. It's the Jewish value which tells us to do social action! NFTYites do this by participating in mitzvah projects, social action programs and doing mitzvot in general.

TYG: Temple Youth Group. The group of teenagers at your temple that get together for events. Your TYG is a part of NFTY.

TYG Board: The members of the TYG that usually plan and run youth group events for individual youth groups.

URJ: Union for Reform Judaism, the parent body of NFTY. The URJ encompasses all of NFTY plus lots of college students, adults, rabbis, cantors, temple board members and well...basically any Reform Jew in America. They also manage camps like Kutz. They provide adult, rabbinical and financial support to NFTY.