

Constitution of the Temple Rodeph Torah Senior Youth Group, RTSY, of the Reform Jewish Youth Movement NFTY-Garden Empire Region

Formed on March 11, 2015, Revised on March 24, 2020

We, the members of the Temple Rodeph Torah Senior Youth Group [RTSY] of The Reform Jewish Youth Movement NFTY-Garden Empire Region [NFTY-GER], have come together to ordain and establish this constitution in order to further these stated goals: to unite the youth of Temple Rodeph Torah [TRT] for reform Judaism; to provide the youth with an environment in which they are able to learn about the culture, religious and social aspects of Reform Judaism; to build for its individual members richer Jewish identities through a heightened religious consciousness and fuller knowledge of our Jewish heritage; to develop an awareness of, an interest in moral, religious and social aspects of Reform Judaism and their relevance to today's society; and to prepare the members of the group for responsible Jewish adulthood and for intelligent and loyal shouldering of responsibilities of mature members of TRT and its communities.

We further proclaim that the youth of RTSY have a responsibility to preserve the synagogue (TRT), and to share actively and upholding it so that it can better serve us, our families, our communities, and mankind.

Article I

Name

This organization shall be known as the Temple Rodeph Torah Senior Youth (hereinafter RTSY). "RTSY" shall also serve as the organization youth group's official acronym.

Article II

Membership

All Jewish youth who are in grades eight through twelve who have paid the current dues that will be stated in another below section shall be considered members of RTSY. All Jewish youth who are in grades nine through twelve can participate and attend NFTY-GER events.

Article III

Board

SECTION A: RTSY shall be governed by the Board, which shall have the final authority concerning the good and welfare of the entire youth group organization.

SECTION B: The Board shall consist of the RTSY Board officers.

Subsection 1: Each Board member, including the President, shall have one vote. Those Board Members who have been found to be block voting shall, at the discretion of the Board and Advisor have their votes disqualified for the remainder of the day's voting.

Subsection 2: The Advisor shall vote only in the event of a tie.

SECTION C: The RTSY Board shall meet at least one time monthly except during the summer season.

SECTION D: For additional meetings of the RTSY General Board may be called by either a 2/3 vote of the Board.

SECTION E: The Board and all members of RTSY in good current standing shall elect the following year's Board officers.

SECTION F: Should a RTSY teen feel uncomfortable at an event or board meeting, they should speak to the RTSY Advisor. They may also talk to the Youth Committee or TRT Rabbi to help alleviate the situation.

Article IV
RTSY Board or Council

SECTION A: The organization shall be governed by the Board, which shall consist of no more than 6 RTSY officers. The Board shall be empowered to make decisions relating to the operations of RTSY and to set policy for RTSY.

SECTION B: The RTSY Board officers shall consist of a President, Programming-Financial Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership-Communications Vice President, and Financial Vice President. Each officer shall receive one vote. Add-on positions, that do not get an additional vote, are NFTY Representative and TRT Board Liaison.

SECTION C: The RTSY Board officers shall be elected for a term of one year, beginning July 1st.

SECTION D: The responsibilities of each Board officer shall be as follows:

Subsection 1: All Board officers shall:

1. Remain an active member of RTSY.
2. Attend most events and Board meetings.
3. Serve as an active member in the creation and implementation of at least one event:
 - A. Supervise and/or assist in all program development.
 - B. Supervise and/or assist in all administrative responsibilities, including but not limited to registration and publicity.
4. Serve as a constant resource to all RTSY members.
5. Attend monthly Executive Board meetings.
6. Highly encouraged to attend at least one NFTY-GER event, preferably a leadership training-based event.
7. Keep in close contact with the RTSY board, and the advisor.
8. Encourage participation in RTSY and NFTY programs such as Shul-ins and Kallot.

Subsection 2: Specifically, the president shall:

1. Serve as Ex Officio of all committees.
2. Preside over all RTSY Board meetings.
3. Oversee the planning and running of all RTSY activities.
4. Remain in close contact with the RTSY Board Officers to assist and guide them.
5. Offer constant support and guidance to Board members and RTSY chair people.
6. Remain in close contact with the RTSY Advisor.
7. Attend RTSY Board meetings as a voting delegate.
8. Be a member of Temple Rodeph Torah

Subsection 3: Specifically, the Programming-Financial Vice President shall:

1. Assist in the development of strong local programming.
2. Oversee all programming.
3. Attend RTSY Board meetings as a voting delegate.
4. Deal with fundraising.
5. Reach out to members of TRT for funding for RTSY

6. Manage financial categories with budget allocation and spending on RTSY and events

Subsection 4: Specifically, the Social Action Vice President shall:

1. Oversee Social Action education at events.
2. Facilitate volunteerism and political action in the youth group.
3. Attend the RTSY Board Meetings as a voting delegate.

Subsection 5: Specifically, the Religious and Cultural Vice President shall:

1. Supervise the worship services at RTSY events and create and lead services when necessary.
2. Assist in developing the Judaic content in all RTSY programs and events.
3. Attend the RTSY Board Meetings as a voting delegate.
4. Communicate with Song Leaders before services

Subsection 6: Specifically, the Membership-Communications Vice President shall:

1. Maintain a roster of current RTSY members.
2. Establish contact with potential event attendees before events and oversee follow-up communication with all new members.
4. Identify trends in membership.
5. Oversee the creation of social programming and mixers at events.
6. Record minutes at Board Meetings
7. Manage social media
8. Create flyers advertising each event.

SECTION E: The responsibilities of the Add-on Board responsibilities shall be as follows:

Subsection 1: Specifically, the NFTY Representative shall:

1. Stay in close contact with NFTY members in TRT
2. Serve as a liaison to NFTY members with the goal of aiding them in their activities and facilitating communication between the NFTY members and RTSY. Liaison responsibilities include calling the officers of respective RTSY positions and keeping contact with NFTY members.

Subsection 2: Specifically, the TRT Board Liaison shall:

1. Attend all Temple Rodeph Torah Executive Board Meetings, monthly during the school year.
2. Communicate information to the RTSY Board and to the TRT Board about happenings for each group.

SECTION F: If there are not enough interested members to create a RTSY Board, then a RTSY Council should be created. If a Council is created, then the members shall take on the responsibilities of positions mentioned above together.

Article V **Election Procedure**

SECTION A: No campaigning or electioneering is allowed. Any candidate who publicizes, or has publicized for themselves, shall be disqualified at the discretion of the Board. This includes oral or written campaigning.

SECTION B: Elections will be in the spring to elect officials for the next school year. During the election event:

Subsection 1: Should voting delegates have questions for a candidate, after their speech is given, they may anonymously write the question on a piece of paper and pass it to the advisor. If the question is deemed non-hostile the advisor will ask a maximum of 3 questions to the candidate.

Subsection 2: The officers shall be elected in the following order: President, Programming-Financial Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, and Membership-Communication Vice President.

Subsection 3: The particular office shall be announced before the candidates speak. At that time, candidates for the particular office will be asked to leave the room and be called in backward alphabetical order, by last name, to speak.

Subsection 4: For each position, RTSY members and RTSY board will have the option of voting for one of the candidates or abstaining. A vote to abstain will be counted toward the majority.

Subsection 5: When two people are running for an office, a simple majority is needed for that candidate to be elected to that office for which they are running. In the case of more than two candidates, where no majority is reached, the two candidates with the most votes shall enter into a run-off to decide who shall be elected at that time.

Subsection 6: The RTSY Advisor will create an absentee ballot for all members that are not able to attend elections. All candidates will need to submit a digital photo and a copy of their speech for their first-choice position. These pieces must be submitted to the advisor three days prior to election day and will be put out to the general membership two days before election day. The absentee ballot will close two hours before elections begin.

Subsection 7: Candidates who do not win the office for which they were originally running may drop down, but only once. Candidates should not feel pressured to choose a drop-down position. If they do want to drop-down, they must specify the office to which they wish to drop down on their initial intent to run form. However, candidates may opt not to drop-down at any time before the election of their drop-down office. A candidate's drop-down office will not be announced when they are running for the initial office.

SECTION C: If there are three or less candidates running for RTSY board, there shall be a council of general RTSY members instead of an elected board. If there are teens that want a leadership position, they will be appointed as Head Council. If there should be a RTSY council, then all rules and proceedings in the constitution shall apply to them as they are the equivalent of the RTSY board for that year.

Article VI **Resolutions**

Resolutions are official statements of opinion or operation by RTSY and may be passed by a simple majority of the General Board.

Article VII **Impeachment and Resignation**

SECTION A: A motion to impeach an officer may be made at a Board meeting on the following grounds: failure of an officer to fulfill their duties, failure to uphold the constitution or by-laws, failure to uphold the ideals and rules of RTSY, or frequent, consistent and overt violation of the Brit Kehillah.

SECTION B: Once the motion is made, it must be approved by a simple majority of RTSY board. With this approval, the impeachment process shall be as follows: the impeached officer shall be notified of their impeachment immediately. They shall be told the date of the General Board meeting at which time he or she shall be given an opportunity to defend himself or herself.

SECTION C: After the impeached officer has presented their case, a vote shall be taken by the General Board and RTSY members as to whether to continue with the impeachment proceedings. If fewer than a majority of the RTSY board members and the other RTSY members vote to continue the proceedings, then they will be ended immediately. If a simple majority of the groups vote to continue the proceedings, a second vote will be taken. For the impeached to be convicted on the second vote, a three-fourths majority of the RTSY board and RTSY members must vote to convict.

Subsection 1: In the event that a three-fourths majority is not reached on the second vote, a third vote will be taken. If a three-fourths majority is reached on this third vote, then the impeached will be convicted. If the third vote results in a majority that is less than three-fourths, then the impeached will be found not guilty of the charges but will be placed on probation for the next three months.

Subsection 2: Probation shall consist of the impeachment vote being revoked at all Board meetings during the three month term.

SECTION D: Any dispute, claim or controversy arising out of or relating to this document or the breach, termination, enforcement, interpretation or validity thereof, including the determination of the scope or applicability of this document, shall be determined by arbitration in the State of New Jersey.

SECTION E: If a board member wishes to resign from their position, they must have a face to face conversation with the RTSY advisor. They are welcome to include the RTSY President in this conversation if they wish.

Article VIII **Absences and Vacancies**

SECTION A: In all RTSY events and votings all RTSY board members have equal and justful power to vote and disagree with certain rulings with proposals and other events in RTSY. RTSY does not follow gavel order for power.

Article IX **Amendments**

SECTION A: Amendments to this Constitution must be submitted in writing to the RTSY board.

SECTION B: Said amendments shall be voted on at the following meeting of the RTSY Board.

SECTION C: The approval of 2/3 of the RTSY board in attendance is needed to pass the amendment.

SECTION D: In order for the ratified amendment to be adopted, it must be approved at the next General Board meeting following the one at which it was ratified, by a vote of 2/3 of the RTSY board members.

Article X **Brit Kehillah**

SECTION A: At all RTSY regional events, the Brit Kehillah will be followed.

SECTION B: The standards of the Brit Kehillah are established by NFTY and RTSY's changes.

SECTION C: The Brit Kehillah being stated for its existence must be included in all membership applications sent out and for specific events, such as overnights.

SECTION D: Signing the Brit Kehillah is necessary for acceptance to an overnight event.

SECTION E: Breeches of the Brit Kehillah will be addressed by the RTSY Advisor.

Article XIII
Ratification

SECTION A: This Constitution shall be ratified by a unanimous vote of all of the RTSY Board members including the RTSY advisor of the years of 5774-5775 present on that board meeting of ratifying this constitution. Each RTSY board member and the RTSY advisor will receive one vote, and must either vote in favor or against the Constitution.

SECTION B: The Board members during the year of ratification of this Constitution shall continue to serve and retain the same duties.

SECTION C: Amendments may be made immediately after ratifying this constitution in the next upcoming RTSY board meeting and all RTSY members will be notified of this new implemented constitution that may be in the near upcoming future be shown to all TRT members that want to see it and all TRT board members for approval if at all is needed for this new RTSY constitution written originally by Ian Katsnelson and Matthew Beck in the year of 2015 in the Month of March on the day of the Eleventh with current positions at that date of Membership Vice President of RTSY and 9th Grade Representative of RTSY respectively.

Respectfully Submitted and signed by RTSY Board 5774-5775,

March 11, 2015

Co President- Marlee Neugass
Co President- Noah Goldstein
Programming Vice President- Rachel Beck
Social Action Vice President- Ashleigh Alves
Religious and Cultural Vice President- Sydney Schoenholtz
Communications Vice President- Marissa Klass
Membership Vice President- Ian Katsnelson
9th Grade Representative- Matthew Beck
10th Grade and NFTY Representative- Isaac Gandelman
Historian- Jenny Beutel
Financial Vice President -Allie Beutel
Youth Group Advisor- Shifra Malkin

Respectfully Revised and submitted by RTSY Board 5779-5780

March 24, 2020

President: Hope Hershman
Programming Vice President: Sarah Feldman
Religious and Cultural Vice President: Jackie Baron
Financial Vice President: Rachel Stern

Youth Director: Shifra Malkin