

# THE MV NFTY NEWS

## WHAT IS COMING UP IN THE REGION



- JYG: March 8-10
- Senior Function: April 4-5
- Spring Chavurah: April 5-7

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## Convention: A Recap

By Lauren Bayne

Just a few weeks ago, in Dallas, Texas, hundreds of Jewish teenagers gathered to celebrate our shared religion, sense of justice, and passion for our NFTY community.

NFTY Convention is a biennial event taking place over Presidents' Day weekend, in which every NFTY region convenes in one place to have services, programs, and shared time together. We elected the new North American Board, participated in offsite activities in Dallas, and listened to incredible and inspiring speakers, including keynote speaker and teen activist David Hogg.

There are no words to describe how Convention felt. Being in one room with teens from all over North America, praying together, just reminded me how powerful this movement is. I was fortunate enough to lead a program on climate change, where I got to hear the perspective of those who were impacted by the Camp Fire in California to those in Ontario, with a completely different governmental approach to climate change. We have the power for change. Teenagers, who were introduced to the beloved song Paris at Veida last year, belted out the lyrics with us during the social. We have the power in unity. Every region had their own traditions (and it was bizarre doing schtick on Shabbat during Birkat Hamazon), but it was extraordinary to be together. We are one NFTY community from all across the continent, and we were together.



# Spring

By Julian Albright

So here we are Missouri Valley. Four regional events down, and only one more to go. Spring Chavurah is coming up, and this one should be a good one.

But why come? I'll start off with short story.

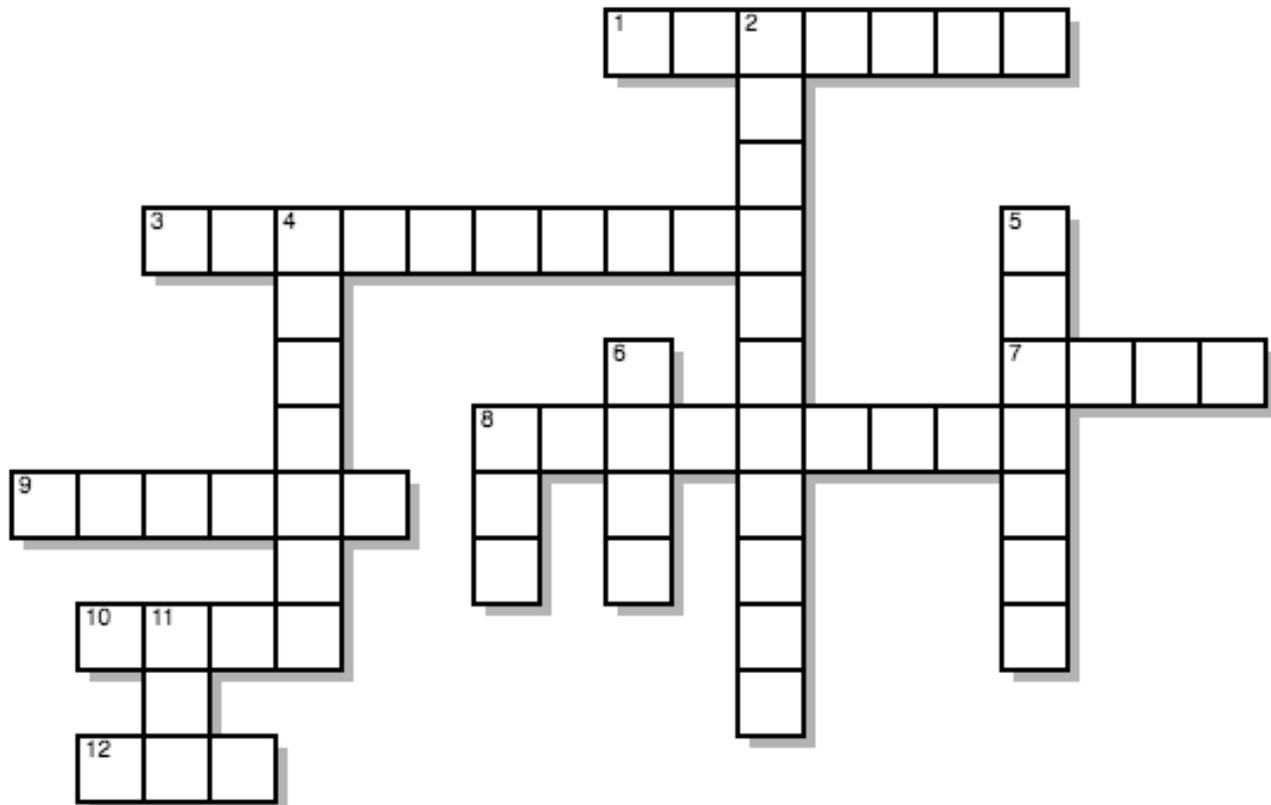
When I was a freshman, I knew after my first high school event that NFTY is what I wanted to commit myself to during my high school career. However, it was not until Spring in 2016 that I truly realized and felt apart of this amazing community here in MV. Watching elections take place, for one, not only showed me how much people can care about an organization, but also inspired me to seek out more leadership roles. Although emotional, watching seniors say goodbye to their friends that they had been in NFTY with for four or more years showed me the kinds of connections that are made within NFTY. Finally, the moment when I said goodbye to my friends for the summer was the moment I realized I was making those connections myself, and I realized that I loved NFTY, and that Missouri Valley is home.

So to my freshman, Spring is an amazing opportunity to come to those realizations yourself, and have your own special moments in NFTY, as well as get a look at what elections are and how they work. For anyone running for board, this your chance. Running for Regional Board is quite the experience, and my Spring events where I ran are some of my most memorable NFTY events. Last but not least, my seniors. It's our last hurrah. Our last chance to embrace the NFTY community as participants, and spread our love to the place that has given us so much.

So come! Spread some love, make some memories, and I'll see you in Kansas City!

# NFTY MV

## crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 The first high school event that you all should attend your freshman year
- 3 Jesse board position
- 7 St. louis and illinois parts of the region
- 8 Max board position
- 9 Region we are
- 10 Hannah board position
- 12 Blair board position

### DOWN

- 2 Camp for kids with cancer and other blood related diseases
- 4 Julian board position
- 5 The colorado and kansas and nebraska
- 6 The best regional advisor in the world
- 8 Talia board position
- 11 Ben board position