


**DISCLOSURE BY ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE  
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES SERVING A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE  
AS REQUIRED BY 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)2.**

RECEIVED  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
2015 FEB 12 PM 3:45

	<b>ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION</b>
Name of elected public employee:	Eric P. Lesser
Title/ Position	State Senator
Agency/ Department	Massachusetts Senate
Agency address:	24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133
Office phone:	617-722-1291
Office e-mail:	<a href="mailto:Eric.Lesser@masenate.gov">Eric.Lesser@masenate.gov</a>
<b>Write an X to confirm each statement.</b>	<p>I am filing this disclosure because:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am going to engage in an activity that serves a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it is intended to promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; and</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A non-public entity (but not a lobbyist) has offered to reimburse, waive or pay travel expenses and costs worth more than \$50.</p>
	<b>ACTIVITY THAT SERVES A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE</b>
Describe the activity which is the reason for traveling.	North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) conference.
Describe your participation in the activity.	As an alumnus of the conference, I will be a featured speaker during the opening plenary.
Date, time and location of activity.	February 13, 2015 – February 14, 2015, Atlanta, GA.
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	Attendance and participation in the conference will allow me to better understand issues affecting Jewish youth in my district and throughout the Commonwealth.

<b>TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>	
Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	Union for Reform Judaism
Address of person or organization.	633 Third Avenue New York, NY 10017-6778 212-650-4000
Provide information in as much detail as possible:	<b>Itemization and explanation of amounts offered:</b>
Transportation:	<i>Air, train, bus, and taxi fare and rental car hire, etc.</i> Flight, \$416.20
Lodging:	<i>Overnight accommodations.</i> Hotel, \$165
Meals:	<i>Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.</i>
Admission:	<i>Registration, admission, tickets, etc.</i>
Other (please list):	<i>Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.</i> Conference registration, \$175
Total:	\$756.20
Write an X beside any relevant statement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>X</b> I have attached the relevant itinerary. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>X</b> I have attached the relevant agenda.
For the exemption to apply, check off <u>both statements</u> .	Having disclosed the facts above, I determine that:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>X</b> Acceptance of the reimbursement, waiver or payment of travel expenses will serve a legitimate public purpose i.e., it will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; AND  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>X</b> Such public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to me or to the person providing the reimbursement, waiver or payment.
Employee signature:	
Date:	2/12/2015

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.



# CONVENTION 2015

FEBRUARY 13 - 17 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

## NFTY Convention and Youth Summit Event Guide

Thousands of Jewish teens and adults will come together for the NFTY Convention and Youth Summit February 13 through 17, 2015, in Atlanta, GA. NFTY, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, is the Reform Jewish Youth Movement. NFTY Convention will attract more than 1,000 teens from across North America. They will be joined by nearly 200 adult lay leaders, professionals, congregants, clergy and stakeholders who will attend the concurrent Youth Summit at NFTY Convention.

Throughout the weekend the Convention website, [www.nftyconvention.org](http://www.nftyconvention.org), will be updated regularly with blog posts, photos, videos and social media highlights. #NFTYCONVENTION #NFTYYS

Events with an asterisk (\*) will be streamed live on the NFTY website, on the JLTV cable television channel and on mobile devices using the JLTV app. More details are available at [www.nftyconvention.org/live](http://www.nftyconvention.org/live).

Jewish Rock Radio will air the NFTY Convention Countdown and Ruach 5775 Preview on Tuesday, February 10 at 8:30 ET/5:30 PT. The show can be streamed at [www.jewishrockradio.com](http://www.jewishrockradio.com), [www.nftyconvention.org/live](http://www.nftyconvention.org/live) or the Jewish Rock Radio mobile app.

## NFTY Convention

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### Friday, February 13, 2015

- As participants arrive in Atlanta, they'll be greeted by the NFTY North American Board, college-age resident advisors, and NFTY/URJ staff. They will reconnect with friends from NFTY regional programs, URJ Camps and NFTY Israel trips, and meet new teens from across North America.
- **The Convention will open with an intergenerational Shabbat celebration filled with joyous music, worship and dancing.**
  - Experiential Shabbat *Tfilah* (worship)
    - Learners *Minyan* (learning about prayers and how to be an inclusive *tfilah* leader)
    - Music around the world
    - Musical Mashup (each prayer will be mashed up with a secular song)
  - Shabbat dinner with all NFTY teens and Youth Summit adults
- **Opening Plenary\***
  - Welcome to Atlanta
  - Greetings from Stephen Sacks, Chair of URJ Board of Trustees
  - Greetings from NFTY North American Board and NFTY Staff
  - Speakers and distinguished alumni:
    - Eric Lesser, MA State Senator and former aide to President Obama who ran first White House Passover Seder
    - Matan Koch, lawyer and advocate for disabilities and special needs who previously served as member of the National Council of Disabilities
  - Shabbat Song Session

## Saturday, February 14, 2015

- **Shabbat Morning\***
  - The Shabbat *Tfilah* experience on Saturday will be led by youth and adult members from our 19 regions. Some regions have been paired together in an effort to explore and share successes and traditions that exist throughout our Movement. The intention is for each of these service pairings to share the importance of praying as a community and to highlight each community's uniqueness.
  - Our Torah Service will highlight NFTY's importance to the URJ's new 20/20 vision. *TheD'var Torah* will be given by URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs and NFTY President Debbie Rabinovich.
- **Shabbat Afternoon Limmud – Day of Learning with BBYO**
  - The NFTY Convention and BBYO International Convention communities will come together Shabbat afternoon for shared learning. This special joint session will kick-off with an address by Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; Senior Vice President, URJ. Teens will then participate in nearly 200 learning sessions lead by program educators, guest speakers and Jewish leaders.
- **Havdallah and Saturday Night Plenary\***
  - Our *Havdallah* services will be led by teens from NFTY's Southern Area Region (our hosts for NFTY Convention)
  - The Saturday evening plenary will celebrate our individual, communal and world-wide connections to the progressive community in Israel. Highlights will include:
    - How to be part of the voting slate for WZO elections
    - Teen poetry and dance performances
    - Special recognition of Netzer Olami/Noar Telem (the worldwide progressive Jewish youth Movement)
    - A live video call with teens at the NFTY-EIE High School in Israel
    - A performance by contestants from Israel's The Voice television show

## Sunday, February 15, 2015

- **Exploring the Atlanta Community**
  - Teens will spend the early part of the day at locations throughout the Atlanta area. At each site they will learn more about the city's rich history and meet people who are doing great work connected to Judaism and civil rights. The sites include Emory University, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Ebenezer Baptist Church, CNN Center, and the Georgia State Capitol
- **NFTY General Board Meeting**
  - The NFTY General Board (Regional board members representing NFTY's 19 regions) will participate in a board meeting and elect the 2015-16 NFTY North American Board
- **Training Seminars**
  - Our new [training seminars](#) will begin, focusing on songleading, social justice advocacy, and assistant teaching (Madrachim). The seminars offer 10 hours of specialty programming, and present unique opportunities characteristic to the chosen topic.
- **Workshops**
  - In afternoon workshop blocks teens will engage in discussions around current events including race and privilege, legislation affecting the LGBT community, and the rise of anti-Semitism.
- **Celebration and concert**
  - The evening will conclude with a private event at the Atlanta Zoo and a concert with singer/songwriter Dan Nichols

**Monday, February 16, 2015**

- The [NFTY Alumni Network Senior Breakfast](#) will officially welcome our graduating seniors the NFTY Alumni network during a special celebration with staff and alumni
- **Morning Tfilah** led by teens and adults will have 14 options for participants to choose from
- **Two workshop blocks focused on leadership skills for teens** will be co-led by teens and adults
- **Monday afternoon plenary\***
  - A kickoff of our day-long celebration of NFTY's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
  - Recognizing [NFTY Lifetime members](#) and announcement of new Lifetime members
  - Announcement of the 2015-16 NFTY North American Board
  - More than 15 of NFTY's past presidents will participate in a prayer for the new leadership
  - A *D'var Torah* will be delivered by the winner of our Wendy Blickstein Memorial D'var Torah (sermon) Competition.
  - Colin Goddard, a survivor of the 2007 Virginia Tech Shooting and Gun Violence Prevention Advocate will help to launch of NFTY's Gun Violence Prevention initiative with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- The **NFTY at 75 forums** will cover five issues facing NFTY youth:
  - Beyond The Ice Bucket Challenge – Exploring Strategic Giving Through A Jewish Lens
  - Actualizing Audacious Hospitality
  - Tweens Welcome! - Opening our Doors with NFTY 678
  - Gender-Based Programs
  - Are Elections Killing Your Youth Group?
- **Monday night plenary, NFTY's 75<sup>TH</sup> Birthday Bash will celebrate NFTY's past, present and future\***
  - Recognizing [Women of Reform Judaism](#) (WRJ) as the organization that founded NFTY
  - Honoring F.L. Stanton Elementary School in Atlanta, whose students are the beneficiary of [Camp Jenny](#), a program designed to provide inner-city kids with a summer camp experience.
  - Dr. [Francys Johnson, Georgia State President of NAACP](#), will deliver a keynote. NFTY is a lifetime member of the NAACP.
  - A celebration of [Kutz Camp](#), NFTY's summer home, and launch the Kutz 50<sup>th</sup> summer celebration
  - A musical celebration with Rabbi Daniel Frelander and Cantor Jeff Klepper will commemorate their hit song *Shalom Rav*

## **Youth Summit at NFTY Convention**

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**Friday, February 13** – As participants arrive in Atlanta, they'll be greeted by youth professionals, educators, clergy and URJ staff at the Campaign for Youth Engagement (CYE) lounge. Friday evening will focus on ushering in Shabbat with one of the largest communities of Reform Jewish teens and adults.

Highlights include:

- Meet & Greet Reception for all adults with framing by Rabbi Bradley Solmsen
- Shabbat dinner with all NFTY teens and Youth Summit adults
- Experiential Shabbat tefilah
- Welcome remarks from Paul Reichenbach
- Opening Night Plenary with NFTY
- Shabbat oneg celebration



**Saturday February 14 – My Self.** The theme of the Youth Summit is My Self, My Community, My World. As a community of educators and those invested in youth, we'll begin to explore the most pressing issues and cutting-edge thinking in the field of Jewish youth engagement. Saturday's program will emphasize skills, ideas, and tools for the individual to grow and leverage our own skills to enhance our spheres of influence.

Highlights include:

- Keynote speakers from the Reform Movement including Rabbi Rick Jacobs and Rabbi Aaron Panken
- Shabbat worship by region, followed by a plenary session and Torah reading with the full NFTY and Youth Summit community, with special Aliyot highlighting the three strategic priorities of the URJ – Strengthening Congregations, Tikkun Olam, and Audacious Hospitality.
- Joint moments with BBYO, whose conference is happening across the street, which will create the largest gathering of Jewish teens in history
- Learning Session Blocks 1 & 2 – created by professionals and stakeholders in the field, each [Learning Session](#)\* will elevate skills and knowledge in areas specific to our holy work
- Networking Program: Helping Youth Summit attendees connect with “who’s in the room” and identify who in their network has the skills to help them grow in a desired area
- Celebration of Israel, sponsored by the World Zionist Organization (Plenary session)
- Optional late night program for adults – Jewish Trivia Night

**Sunday February 15 – My Community.** Saturday night's keynote will set the stage for a transition from focusing on ourselves, to focusing on how we can impact our communities – which is the focus of Sunday's program.

Highlights include:

- Learning Session Blocks 3 & 4
- Israel and Us: An Interactive Dialogue on the Middle East including Warren Bass, Rabbi Aaron Panken, Rabbi Rachel Sabath beit Halachmi, and Rabbi Yehudit Werchow
- Visit to Center for Civil and Human Rights, with keynote by Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- Night out in downtown Atlanta

**Monday February 16 – My World.** Monday's program will expose participants to a variety of thinking about the role of the Jewish youth professional in the wider world, with skills and training to help advance our work on a larger scale.

Highlights include:

- Learning Session Block 5
- Interactive tefilah experience around disabilities and inclusion, as we elevate Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month
- Keynote with Miriam Chilton, VP Youth and Amy Asin, VP Strengthening Congregations
- Accessibility in Action: Skill-building around disabilities inclusion and accessibility with the Jewish Federation of Atlanta
- Learning Labs: Participants will choose from 4 immersive “laboratory” tracks, which will tie together the learning of the previous 4 days, and allow participants to dive deep into a topic that will advance their work. Learning Labs will include:
  - Focus on Gender in partnership with Moving Traditions, Daniel Brenner
  - Israel Engagement in partnership with iCenter, Johnathan Adam Ross
  - Special Needs Inclusion in partnership with UJA Federation of New York and Mitzvah Corps at Kutz, Samantha Fuld
  - Leadership Pipelines in partnership with URJ Camps, Jerry Kaye
- Taking it Home session focused on making the learning applicable after the event
- Closing ceremonies with NFTY and NFTY's 75th Anniversary Birthday Bash and teen kickoff of Kutz@50
- Adults only reception for kickoff of Kutz@50, indoor campfire, s'mores, and music

### Shared Leadership Incubator

The Shared Leadership Incubator (SLI) is a specialized congregation-based track of the Youth Summit at the 2015 NFTY Convention co-sponsored by the URJ Campaign for Youth Engagement, Hebrew Union College and the National Association of Temple Educators. Participants in the SLI will have the opportunity to choose from the variety of programs offered in both the Stakeholder and Professional Tracks, as well come together for specialized SLI sessions with their congregational team. With the support of experts in the field, SLI teams will build on their Youth Summit experience to craft a shared vision for youth engagement in their congregation, begin to build a concrete plan for implementing this vision, and become part of a cohort of like-minded communities. In order to fulfill the goals of the Shared Leadership Incubator and to maximize the impact you can have on your community, we suggest a team of 2-5 people that includes both professional (rabbi, educator, cantor, youth professional) and volunteer (youth committee chair, temple president, board member) decision makers from your congregation. Application deadline is December 15, 2014.

### **Youth Summit Interns**

In order to perpetuate a model that raises up our emerging professionals, eight Youth Summit Interns have been selected to participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the event. Each either a junior or senior in college on an intentional path to Jewish leadership will take on 20 hours of work for the Summit, will be onsite with us, will receive a mentor from the field to serve as a conduit to the broader adult Jewish community, and will receive a certificate upon completion of the program.

### **Interactive Program Journal**

We are using this event to test a new model of taking it home, to help elevate your congregation or community's return on investment. Each participant will receive a program journal at the onset of the event. Throughout the journal, after each major session, there will be a metric indicator of how to take that session home and make it applicable on the ground. By the end of the event, each participant will have a roadmap of how to implement at least fifteen programs, initiatives, or ideas within their congregation or community upon their return. [Preview the Program Journal.](#)

### **\*Learning Sessions**

#### **My Self**

- Totally Accountable – Diana Bloom
- Advocating for Advancement – Rabbi Joui Hessel
- Bringing Israel to Lives and Hearts of Teens: Offering an Israel Club/Israel Programs/Youth Group for Your Congregation – Hope Chernak
- Experiential Jewish Learning and You – Mark Young
- Hineini: Developing a Personal and Professional Brand – Jessica Downey
- Jewish Texts: Words that Don't Need to Be Scary! – Rabbi Joui Hessel and Jules Wolfberg
- Managing Up, Down, and All Around: Leading Change from Within – Aaron Selkow, Lisa David, Eytan Graubart
- Mentoring and Me, I can do it! – Rabbi Joui Hessel
- Moving From Youth Worker to Youth Educator – Rabbi Melissa Zalkin Stollman and Les Skolnik
- Shema Yisrael - Hearing Our Youth: One-on-One Conversations with Hundreds of Teens – Becky DePalma and Barak Malkin
- That's the Worst: Dealing with Tragedy When Working with Kids & Teens – Sara Beth Berman

#### **My Community**

- 5 Programs that Will Make People Glad to Be Members of Your Synagogue – Rabbi David Gerber
- Actualizing Audacious Hospitality and Adaptive Leadership: Transforming Jewish Life in the 21st Century – Dr. Madelyn Katz and Evan Traylor
- Data is the New Black: Data-Inspired Youth Engagement – Les Skolnick and Nicole Miller Robbins
- Igniting the Spark: Exploring Adolescent Spirituality – Rabbi Michael Lapidus and Michael Shire
- Mentoring Youth in Non-Traditional Fields – Blair Marks and Greg Kellner
- Supporting Meaningful Social Action Developed by Youth – Isaac Nuell
- Technology & T'filah – Rabbi Dan Medwin
- Teen Building and Team Building – Avram Mandel
- Why Gender Matters: The Hidden Friendship and Leadership Gaps in Jewish Communities – Daniel Brenner

### **My World**

- Beyond the Cold Water Challenge – Exploring Strategic, Collective Grantmaking through a Jewish Lens – Briana Holtzman and Jessica Downey
  - B'nai Mitzvah Revolution – Enacting Cultural Change – Rabbi Bradley Solmsen
  - Hinei: A New Approach To Youth Work – Rabbi Brad Levenberg and Marisa Kaiser
  - Homosexuality in Judaic Text: A Traditional, Accepting Response – Robbie Medwed
  - Making Sense of Inclusion - How Do We Include Teens With Disabilities? – Lisa Friedman and Pam Schuller
  - Mah/Huh?! How to ask 10 Deep Questions about Israel with Teens – Jesse Paikin
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### **About NFTY**

For 75 years, NFTY (the Reform Jewish Youth Movement) has offered thousands of young people the opportunity to explore and live Reform Judaism. Through programs that are offered by nearly 500 Reform congregations, 19 geographic NFTY regions, and on a North American level, teens are encouraged to forge Jewish identities in consonance with the values of Reform Judaism. Participation in NFTY helps teens build confidence, friendships and leadership skills through experiential youth-led educational programming including social justice projects, worship, and community-building initiatives. NFTY, open to teens in grades 6-12, is part of the network of programs and camps of the Union for Reform Judaism.

### **About the Union for Reform Judaism**

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) is a dynamic network of Reform Jewish congregations, lay leaders, clergy and professionals, which represent the largest and fastest growing constituency of Jews in North America. Our progressive, inclusive approach unites thousands of years of Jewish tradition and values with modern Jewish experience to strengthen Judaism today and for future generations. Through programs, consultations, resources, and networking opportunities provided by the URJ, we help strengthen our nearly 900 member congregations, welcome spiritual seekers through audacious hospitality, engage Jewish youth, deepen Jewish learning, energize worship, pursue tikkun olam (social justice), connect with Israel, and develop inspired leadership.



# **CONVENTION 2015**

FEBRUARY 13 - 17 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

## **SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

1:30 PM	5:00 PM	Registration
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	YS - Meet and Greet Reception and Opening Remarks
6:15 PM	7:15 PM	Shabbat Dinner
7:30 PM	8:45 PM	NC tfilah (3 options)
7:30 PM	8:45 PM	YS Tefilah
9:00 PM	10:15 PM	Opening Plenary
10:30 PM	11:30 PM	YS Late Night Reception
10:45 PM	11:30 PM	NFTY General Board Network Meetings

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	YS - Kutz Fellows Breakfast w Stakeholders Track
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	YS Breakfast
8:15 AM	9:15 AM	NC - Breakfast
8:45 AM	9:20 AM	YS Keynote Speaker - Rabbi Aaron Panken
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Regional Worship (rooms by NFTY region)
10:30 AM	10:45 AM	Hakafot
10:45 AM	11:45 AM	Torah service, Dvar Torah
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	YS - Service Corps Lunch
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	YS - SLI Lunch
1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Donor Event
1:15 PM	2:00 PM	BBYO Big Opening Moment
2:00 PM	4:10 PM	NFTY and BBYO Workshops
2:15 PM	5:00 PM	YS Workshops
5:00 PM	5:45 PM	URJ Youth Programs Receptions (separated by program)
5:45 PM	6:45 PM	YS Networking Program
7:15 PM	8:15 PM	NC Dinner
7:00 PM	8:15 PM	YS Dinner and Keynote
8:30 PM	10:00 PM	Plenary
10:15 PM	11:15 PM	YS - Late Night Reception - Trivia Night
10:25 PM	11:05 PM	NC Late Night Options

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	YS Breakfast
7:15 AM	8:15 AM	NC Breakfast
8:30 AM	11:15 AM	YS Workshops (Shared Leadership Incubator separate from group only from 8:30-9:45)
9:00 AM	12:30 PM	NC Offsite visits (NFTY Board Elections and Gun Violence Prevention Discussion will stay in the hotel)
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	YS Lunch
1:00 PM	1:45PM	YS Town Hall Forum on Israel
2:00 PM	5:00 PM	YS Offsite
1:15 PM	3:00 PM	NC Current Events Workshops
4:00 PM	10:00 PM	NC at Zoo Atlanta with Dan Nichols Concert
6:45 PM	9:45 PM	YS Night Out in Atlanta (Offsite)

# MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:15 AM	9:15 AM	Breakfast
8:15 AM	9:15 AM	NFTY Seniors Breakfast
9:30 AM	10:15 AM	NC Tfilah Breakouts
9:30 AM	10:15 AM	YS Tefilah
10:45 AM	12:40 PM	NC Workshops
10:30 AM	11:45 AM	YS Workshops
11:50 AM	12:45 PM	YS Accessibility in Action
12:50 PM	1:45 PM	YS Lunch and Keynote
12:40 PM	1:40 PM	NC Lunch
1:50 PM	2:30 PM	NFTY@75 Kickoff
2:45 PM	3:45 PM	NFTY@75 Forums
2:45 PM	5:45 PM	YS Learning Labs
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	NC Open Space Program
6:00 PM	6:20 PM	YS Closing Session
6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Banquet Dinner
6:30 PM	7:45 PM	Dinner for NFTY Past presidents and Stakeholders
7:45 PM	8:30 PM	Regional meetings
8:45 PM	10:45 PM	NFTY's 75th Birthday Bash
11:00 PM	12:00 PM	YS Late Night Reception - Siyum and Kutz@50 Kickoff

Download the NFTY Convention mobile app for a detailed schedule and maps at [nftyconvention.org/mobile-app](http://nftyconvention.org/mobile-app)