

1. What goals do you have as President for the 2019-2020 year?

My primary goal as President for the 2019-2020 year is to establish and foster connections within NFTY-STR. These connections include connections to others, Judaism, the NFTY community, and the regional board. I have found that establishing lasting connections to other people in the region is essential to a positive NFTY experience. In order to do this, I plan to implement a new member table at the Saturday lunch of all kallot to allow new members to meet each other and create new bonds. I also want to include table talk tent cards more prominently at all meals to help kick start conversations at meal time and establish relationships. I believe NFTY is a safe space to try new things and explore your Jewish identity. To amplify connections during event programming, I want to revamp group leading training. Strong teen leadership is vital to increased engagement. In addition to pre-established group leading calls, I plan to create a pre-event call with all program and service group leaders on general group leadership prior to the program focused call. This will not only better prepare group leaders for program leadership, but also teach group leaders tangible leadership skills they can use beyond the weekend.

2. Why have you chosen to run for President?

I have chosen to run for president because NFTY-STR has given me a safe space to connect with my Judaism, explore challenging issues, and an irreplaceable support group, and I want to share this with others. I have never felt as much love or passion towards anything as I have for this region. I want to continue to foster a safe space for any Jewish teen to come and learn, explore, and make memories beyond my time in the region. I didn't originally start my NFTY experience with the passion and love I have now. I want to give other NFTYites the learning, memory building, and leadership opportunities that I have had to build on their passion for this region. Simply put, I love NFTY-STR and I want the opportunity to make a positive impact on other people's lives through what I love most.

3. List what experiences make you qualified to be President?

I have been lucky enough to find myself in leadership roles that that qualify me to be the next NFTY-STR President. This year I have had the honor to serve as the regional Programming VP. This experience has allowed me to see up close what it means to be a regional board member, and work closely with the president, which has presented me a better understanding of the complexity of the position. It has also taught me various leadership skills on a multitude of scales. This past summer at URJ Kutz Camp I spent time in the NFTY Incubator track. Kutz exposed me to leadership training in a safe environment, connected me with leaders from all of the NFTY regions fostering teamwork

and allowing me to see how other regions across North America work. In addition I have been fortunate to serve as the Religious and Cultural VP and President of my TYG BIFTY. As a small TYG I experienced issues with organized leadership and membership which allowed me to exercise my problem solving skills. Outside of NFTY, I spend much of my time working in my school's theatre department. This has taught me key teamwork skills and has allowed me to serve 2 years on the planning crew for the District Thespian Festival for 1000 students across my county.

4. Regardless of our strength as a regional and national youth movement, the foundation of NFTY is the TYG. Many TYGs in our region are strong at the local level but have few regionally-active members, while others barely exist except as a means for members to go to regional events. How would you, with the Regional Board, help TYGs attain a solid local unity while fostering a common sense of identity in the region?

TYGs are truly the backbone of this region. To keep NFTY-STR strong it is essential to establish engagement within the TYGs both on a local and regional level. I plan on establishing a "TYG Partner Program" to help TYGs of all sizes throughout the region succeed locally and stay regionally active. To do this, I will begin by reinstating the TYG Health Checkup at LLTI to examine each TYG's strengths and areas that are in need of improvement. Based on the results of this survey, each TYG will then be partnered with a TYG that is opposite in size and geographically close to connect with periodically throughout the upcoming year. This allows participants and advisors in both TYGs to exchange ideas and help each other. Members of the larger TYG are given a mentoring position which allows for leadership growth. The program will encourage regional involvement as it connects members of partnered TYGs encouraging them to participate regionally to see each other and strengthen their bonds. The mutualistic relationship between the TYGs will benefit both local TYG engagement and regional involvement, and provide resources for all TYGs involved.

5. How are you with time management?

Organization and time management have always been a strength of mine. This year especially has taught me how to keep my work balanced. I am thankful that I have been able to learn from my mistakes this year, and realize what I need to change in regards to how I manage my time in the future. I know my limits, and have learned how to stay within self-imposed boundaries to stay on track and on task in all of my work. I prioritize NFTY and recognize deadlines, and I make plans to effectively complete all of my tasks.

6. Choose any quote (it can be one you made up) and explain how it represents your personality

"Everything is possible, even the impossible." -Mary Poppins

I have always been the type of person who when I want to achieve something, I do it, no matter how difficult it may be to get there I am always willing to work hard to get there. I don't wait for things to happen, I am proactive and recognize my successes and weaknesses. I think innovation, problem solving, and flexibility are the key pillars to success. A problem isn't the end of the world, it's a new opportunity to look at something in a new light.