

Dear NFTY MAR,

With everything that has been going on in the past month I have realized a few things. One of these things is just how interconnected we are as a region and that throughout 2 event cancellations we have stayed the same strong community that I have felt so deeply connected to since my freshman year. This break has also given me a chance to reflect on what I love about this region and this has shown me how even in our current position, unable to be physically together, the reason throughout this entire year I've felt so connected is much deeper than just being in the same room together, it's the leaders in this community, the friends I've had since the beginning, and the feeling of support I get from every single person. **This is why I, Avery Sloan, am running to be your NFTY-MAR President to have the ability to build this sense of community and encourage the next leaders of MAR.**

In order to foster creativity and change in our region I would focus on improving the resources for new leaders, more ways to stay connected throughout the year, and a revamp on committees.

While the program leading form is helpful for giving people the chance to be involved, I would also work with the PVP to help newer NFTYites have an avenue to grow as leaders and feel comfortable signing up to lead. This would be as simple as having an additional question on the program leading form asking if you'd want to have a mentor throughout the year regarding program leading, and the role of the mentors would be supplied via cabinet. The mentors would be a resource for newer leaders to go to with questions and in the beginning of the year, help them lead programs. Additionally, another way to expand upon this would be having the programming chairs on cabinet a few times throughout the year lead calls for new leaders to join, explaining things such as programming format and how to control a room.

This format could also be helpful when thinking generally about newer members. Speaking as someone who went to MAJYK all three years, when I went to my first NFTY event I was apprehensive at first and didn't end up meeting new people until later that year. A way to help newer members feel more comfortable to branch out would be to have a zoom call before JELLO to give them a chance to meet a few people before the event and learn a little bit about how things would work, and this would be something I would work with the MVP to establish. Another way that zoom calls could help everyone stay connected more throughout the year would be in the months lacking a regional event having zoom calls hosted by different TYGs. This gives different Temple's the chance to plan something small and for people to see each other more frequently, and without the cost of a NFTY event.

Another change I'd hope to help make would be to expand the current committee system, specifically the ruach committee. This committee could easily shift to encompass the strategies of the Friendly Face Initiative which was started to help foster inclusivity and make everyone feel more comfortable. The ruach committee, which I myself have been a part of could be utilized to a greater degree and these people could easily help to be the ambassadors of this initiative by utilizing their ideas and having them as a resource for new members. I see this as an

opportunity to work directly with both the SAVP, regarding the inclusion aspect, and the MVP in working with new members.

My experience being Religious and Cultural Vice President for my TYG for the past two years and a spiritual engagement chair on cabinet this past year has taught me a number of things, but maybe the biggest lesson I've learned and area I consider myself skilled in, is simply working with others and being a part of a board. I've learned how smoothly things work if everyone prioritizes working together, with everyone's specific role secondary. As president, I would be sure to help guide the rest of the board to be able to fulfill their plans and work to help NFTY MAR stay the strong welcoming community I know it to be. It has been the leaders in the region who have led us to become strong enough to function anywhere, even on zoom calls and I hope to have the opportunity to lead NFTY-MAR in whatever this year may bring.

B'simcha (with joy),  
Avery Sloan