

When I try to explain my experiences with NFTY-MAR to my school friends, the only description I can come up with is “life changing”. I cannot put into words the beautiful moments only other MARites would understand. Moments of empowering social action programs, spiritually engaging Havdalah, and little secrets shared with friends during dinner. While these moments are so special, I find it is the people that really make MAR so amazing. It really crystallized in my mind how important MAR was to me at Winter Kallah 2020. I had experienced MAR’s kehillah kedoshah many times previously- at my first events where I was welcomed by many older MARites or in the cabins where I quickly bonded with new friends- but it was at Winter Kallah when I truly decided to test MAR’s holy community. I decided at that event I would sit with different people at each meal. At previous events I had sat at the same table with the same people, but this time I approached other tables, and was welcomed to each one. Each new person brought conversation and acceptance, and provided me a greater love for NFTY-MAR. Through this experience and my overall NFTY-MAR adventure, I have decided I want to give back and hope to continue to develop MAR into something that is amazing for each participant. This is why **I, Noa Glashow, am declaring my candidacy as NFTY-MAR’s 5780-5781 Programming Vice President.**

As MAR’s Programming Vice President, **I would like to encourage greater leadership opportunities for each participant.** I personally have developed greatly through leadership experiences I was provided by older MARites. These opportunities shaped my love for programming and allowed me to gain confidence, experience, and leadership skills I would not have otherwise been afforded. I would like to introduce interest forms to all participants, allowing MARites to volunteer to lead programs. Encouraging more people to become group leaders also better prepares MAR for the future, as younger MARites are given opportunities to build their leadership skills over time.

In addition to expanding the number of group leaders, **I hope to broaden the types of programs we offer in NFTY-MAR.** In order to accommodate the great variety of interests MARites hold, I would like to offer suggestion sheets and surveys to gather input both before and after events. As the participants are the most important part of any event, it is necessary that there are a variety of programs that MARites can identify with. Inclusion of new ideas will enable the creation of programs that will appeal to everyone and empower MARites to remain engaged.

Lastly, **I intend to create more fluidity throughout programs and connect all programs to an overarching theme.** By working with the rest of the regional board, each program throughout a weekend will reflect the theme, creating deeper meaning for each participant. Social action, worship services and other content throughout the weekend will give us opportunities to reflect upon and reinforce the concept. I plan to collaborate with the RCVP and SAVP to incorporate the theme into programming and weave it into each weekend’s activities.

I appreciate all that NFTY-MAR has given me, including a greater love for Judaism and friendships that mean the world to me. I hope to demonstrate my appreciation by continuing to make MAR a meaningful community for each MARite. I feel that I am thoroughly prepared to take on the immense responsibilities of being MAR’s Programming Vice President. I believe that my experience and love for leadership, as well as my potential to continue growing as a leader, will make me a strong board member. I will work tirelessly with the NFTY-MAR community to effectively accomplish our goals as a region. I sincerely hope you all will allow me the opportunity to serve as MAR’s Programming Vice President this upcoming year and I look forward to a great future with you all!

L’shalom, Noa Glashow