

Dear NFTY-MAR,

NFTY has always been a strong, supportive, and open community that has had my back no matter what. My favorite thing about NFTY-MAR is how easy it is to make new friends. I set a goal for myself at each event to come home with more friends than I left with, and 15 events in, I have never failed at that goal. Another thing that makes NFTY-MAR so special to me is the energy that it has. No matter where we are, we are always loud, happy, and friendly to one another. This community has so much love and passion, and that is what makes it so special. I think that programming is the best opportunity to help foster and grow this incredible community, because it allows us to meet new people, create new leaders, and maintain our incredible ruach.

**For these reasons, I proudly declare my candidacy for NFTY-MAR Programming Vice President for the 5780-5781 year.**

My main goal for the 5780-5781 year is to use programming to **strengthen NFTY-MAR's community**. I plan to do this by creating community-focused programs, infusing energy and ruach into our programming, and by encouraging new teen leaders to take larger leadership roles in our region.

Community is a vague term, and can mean different things to different people. **I personally define community as the bonds and friendships that we all share**, which all come together to create an incredible experience for all participants. As PVP, I plan to strengthen that community by using programming that focuses on meeting new people and creating new friendships. In MAR, everyone enjoys spending time with their old friends, but sometimes it can be hard for new members to find their place. I plan to solve this issue by using **inclusive and community focused programs** at every event, that prioritize meeting new people and forming new friendships. By doing this, we can strengthen our community and also make sure that our programs are incredible experiences that are shared with everyone.

One thing that makes the NFTY-MAR community so special and unique is its spirit and its energy. The most popular programs at NFTY-MAR are our most spirited ones, such as color wars and grade wars, so much so that we base entire events around them. However, during our events, we often have very long programming blocks that can stretch multiple hours, and participants can sometimes lose interest in the programming. With that in mind, I plan to create **fun and spirited programs that utilize our ruach to bring the region closer**, and to work closely with the SAVP to **combine socially active, informative programs and spirited, engaging programming**. By utilizing these fun, spirited programs, I believe we can solve this problem, and create a super enjoyable event experience throughout an entire weekend of programming.

Teen leadership is a core element of NFTY, and it is what makes our community so strong. Anyone can become a leader in NFTY-MAR, and everyone will show them incredible support. Not only is program leading a great learning experience, it is a great way to solidify yourself into NFTY-MAR's community. As PVP, I want to **use program leading as a way to**

**allow newer members to gain leadership roles** in this region, in order to **inspire new leaders** as well as strengthen our community even further.

NFTY-MAR, this community has given me so much. I love this region with every inch of my heart, and I want to help it grow and thrive. I am committed to this region and everyone in it, and it would be an honor to have the opportunity to help write MAR's next chapter.

L'shalom,  
Owen Rice