

Dear NFTY-MAR,

In spite of the unusual circumstances the world is facing today, I am in constant awe of the **kehillah and ruach (community and spirit)** we have in our region. While for the time being we are not able to meet in person, I have felt the warmth and joy that I feel at every MAR event through Zoom programs, scavenger hunts, and services, and I am so grateful for that. I'm grateful for you, NFTY-MAR, and the ways **you've inspired me to learn from new perspectives**, pursue my dreams, and look for happiness in every moment. Now, I want to give that back to you, in the form of leadership.

**Therefore, I, Samara Tanner, am running for NFTY-MAR's Programming Vice President for the 5780-5781 year.**

Programming has the power to change lives. From my experience at MAR events, at Kutz this past summer, most recently in Israel at Heller High, and as my TYG's PVP this past year, I have had the opportunity to lead and participate in **unconventional programs with an educational and hands-on aspect**. All of these experiences have collectively allowed me to grow as a person and continue to develop my Jewish identity. If elected PVP, I propose that MAR moves away from solely discussion based programs and instead strives to create original, experience based programs that mimic real life scenarios and hopefully inspire MARites to look at ideas from a new perspective. Though some discussion is essential in programs, it can often feel repetitive and not as engaging as other styles of programming. Additionally, in order to include all styles of learners, introspective programs can be adapted into movement-based programs with a discussion component; that way, **all MARites feel as if they are being catered towards**. This includes, but is not limited to: mixers, educational programs, T'filah, etc.

However, it is not only the program itself that has the ability to reach out and inspire participants; **group leaders** have that capability as well. At MAJYK in 8th grade, it was a group leader who came up to me after a program and asked how I was doing and talked to me about my future in NFTY. That interaction was the reason I came back to MAR for future events and many more life changing experiences. With that in mind, as PVP, I want to reinvent our system of group leading. It is my belief that **anyone can group lead, whether they are brand new to MAR or if they have led hundreds of programs before**. I propose that at the beginning of the MAR calendar year, anyone who is interested in being a group leader signs up via a form through Facebook and Instagram. This form would be open to everybody, and that way, we'd have a task force of group leaders, who would then participate in leadership training calls throughout the year, in addition to pre-event calls to prepare for specific programs. This task force would be dynamic; through additional announcements on social media and at events, new MARites could fill out this form throughout the year and participate in training. By training group leaders in this way, **our programs will evolve into more compelling activities that captivate participants and leave them wanting to learn more**.

NFTY-MAR, you have changed my life for the better! **Our diverse community, full of various backgrounds and identities has inspired me to be more understanding and open-minded**. While leading and writing programs, I've strengthened my organizational skills and become a better peer leader. I know that this year has the potential to be unlike anything we've ever had before, and I am so excited to share it with you. I can't wait until we can all be together in person again.

B'ahava (with love),

Samara