

NFTY-MAR,

You are my home, safe haven, and my center. I want to give back to the community that has made me feel incredibly special and help make NFTY-MAR more interactive and collaborative than ever. Every event I come to I feel welcomed with open arms by every single person I meet. When talking in programs, everyone is explaining their ideas and each one is as special as the next. I want to add more interesting and out of the box services and programs to this upcoming year. **That is why I, Hannah Silber, am excited to be running for NFTY-MAR's Religious and Cultural Vice President for the 5781-5782 year!**

This year I hope to achieve more hands on and unique services. This past year was mainly focused on spirituality in Judaism but it is important to note that everyone connects to their Jewish identity in many different ways. **For the 5781-5782 year I want to have services that relate to ourselves and how we all pray differently.** I connect through Jewish music but some people might prefer a creative approach or a learning service. Every single service will be different from the next. From Ruach to meditational to services that connect with nature. I hope to achieve innovative ideas to connect with all of us.

Our main connection through NFTY is our Jewish identity. Bringing the religious and cultural aspects to every program is essential. We don't only connect to Judaism through services but with everyday actions. **How I plan on relating it back to our programs is by encompassing different aspects of Torah and not just Tikkun Olam.** I want to focus this year on implementing programs that relate to sections of the Torah. We often only remember the main ideas, the creation, Noah's Ark, splitting of the red sea, and so many others. I want to focus on some of the overlooked portions from the Torah. There is so much more to the Torah that we haven't explored and I want to focus on expanding our knowledge on this in the upcoming year.

This past year has been a wild ride and it is not over yet. We have had outbreak after outbreak and we honestly don't know what to expect in the coming year. **When planning services and programs between the virtual and in person setting it is necessary to make them interchangeable.** Making sure everything can be adaptable in Zoom and when we are together in person. I have a very creative and innovative personality. When working together with other people this always comes into play. I consistently come up with outlandish and intriguing ideas. The allure of NFTY-MAR is our ingenious approach to programming and services. We have had amazing events such as gongaslosh to programs about vegetables. I hope to bring a similar approach to planning and implementing these incredible and memorable events like I previously stated.

I am so excited to see what this upcoming year brings no matter the outcome. **Even though being on the Regional Board comes with a leadership position, I want to be supportive and there for everyone.** I hope to make connections not just with the other members on board but with everyone participating. I want everyone to leave each event feeling inspired and educated. Judaism is what brings us together but we stay for the strong community.