

Dear NFTY MAR,

75 years ago, Anne Frank said, “Our lives are fashioned by our choices. First, we make our choices. Then our choices make us.” This quote strongly resonates with the state of our current world. Over the past year, we have made countless decisions -- some good, some bad, some that hurt, and some that heal. NFTY-MAR has had to make just as many tough calls as anyone. Balancing community, social justice, Judaism, and other essential factors that make our region so special is no easy feat, but this year’s regional board has excelled. Their decisions made this region, and this region made each one of us who we are today. Growing up with MAR by my side has made me who I am, and also taught me the importance of giving back. It has expanded my mind and introduced me to the world of advocacy. Previous SAVPs of this region have inspired me, and their actions made me who I am. **This is why, with the goal of inspiring, expanding, and including all MARites, I, Shani Inbari, am excited to declare my candidacy for NFTY MAR’s Social Action Vice President of the 5781-5782 year!**

The dedication I saw NFTY has to change and giving back to the community inspired my passion for social justice. My journey since then has only grown and I am so grateful for the opportunities this region introduced me to. I became involved with my local TYG and I am currently RALFTY’s Social Action Vice President for the second year in a row. Participation in multiple of the Religious Action Center’s programs, such as their L’Taken Social Justice Seminar and two of their virtual fellowship projects, has expanded my knowledge, my dedication, and my passion for change. **These roles, as well as my position as a Social Action Chair on Cabinet this year, have given me the tools to effectively lead, inspire, and learn.** One of the most important qualities of any Social Action Vice President is the ability not only to teach but also to learn. Change in a movement also requires a change in the individual, and through a cycle of learning, teaching, and growth, I will aim to expand mindsets and encourage flexibility. I am extremely adaptable and am constantly pushing to be the best version of myself. In this role, I will excel not only at leading others but also in learning what the region wants and how I can use this platform to better each MARite into a more determined and passionate version of themselves. As we face uncertainty in the year lying ahead, adaptability is essential in making this region the best it can be. As my choices impact you, yours will impact me.

The main goal of my candidacy is to encourage the individual to **elevate their voice** and present the opportunity to **grow through social justice work**. I plan to do this while highlighting three core values: **inspiring, expanding, and including**.

1. **Inspiring:** A Social Action Vice President’s role is to make sure that participants are truly understanding the depth of each topic they discuss and encourage them to pursue advocacy. In this role, I will work my hardest to make programming activity-based for participants to get the biggest takeaway. Once participants are properly motivated through hands-on learning, they will be inspired to pursue change by having all programming include concrete actions they can take to fight a specific issue. This makes the program come to life off the paper and will inspire people to continue their advocacy even outside of MAR.
2. **Expanding:** Within MAR, there is a diverse collection of backgrounds, opinions, and views. By including multi-perspective programming, participants will be able to see the reasoning for everyone’s opinions, which is essential for one’s growth. By creating an aura of respect and acceptance, people will be able to understand each other better and learn from others' experiences and even challenge their own beliefs in a safe environment.
3. **Including:** Every MARite is different and has unique ideas. To make sure everyone is heard, I will work with the CVP to send out a questionnaire each semester to hear what the region wants

SA programming to look like, ways they think we can improve, and if they are interested in leading or writing programs. This gives people an avenue to get involved in leadership programming with others and will help create bonds and include everyone in the way SA programming is run. We need to also make sure that we are including everyone not only in SA programs but also in MAR as a whole so everyone feels fully accepted into this community. I will work closely with the MVP and the Inclusion Chair to reach out to all MARites that feel more on the sidelines to ensure they are having the best time possible.

Social justice work is not only important for the individual, but for the growth of the region. By elevating each other's voices, we can create a community that is determined to fight for what they believe in. NFTY MAR is a home for me, and I would be honored to serve with you all by my side.

L'shalom,
Shani Inbari