

Dear NFTY NAR,

After my Bar Mitzvah in 2014, I lost all interest in Jewish endeavors. Then, in 2015, my cousin introduced me to NFTY NAR, and my world changed. I thought that once I was done with my Bar Mitzvah that my Jewish life would be over, that it was the end. Little did I know that it was just the beginning. When I went to Spring Kallah in 2015, I was reminded of the essence of Judaism: community. NFTY allowed me to reconnect with Judaism by immersing me into a community that combined my interests in life with my religion. I would like to show my gratitude to NFTY by contributing to its success. **That is why I am proud to announce my candidacy for the New York City Director of Subregional Events of NFTY NAR.**

I have lived in New York City my entire life and have truly taken advantage of what it has to offer. I am familiar with plenty of venues that would be great to host Subregional events at. I also see myself as a creative person, which I think is vital towards this position. I am fully aware that a large part of my job would be to contribute towards recruiting new members, and writing creative programs and organizing creative events is essential to getting new people interested. Having been a member of NFTY since 2015, I am accustomed to the way everything works in our organization. I have been to four Kallot, two of which I have group led at, and I am on the big-little committee. I am also currently on the Membership cabinet. At school, I am the underclassmen intern in the Model UN club, and much of my job is to organize events for us to learn and grow, so I have experience with arranging events as well.

As New York City Director of Subregional Events, I plan to hold one sub regional event monthly. The time of year and current events will influence the content (i.e. In January we may go to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in downtown Manhattan to honor Holocaust Remembrance Day, or in October we could host a bowling event to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness, etc.). While the fact that I am not a member of a Teen Youth Group (TYG) may seem like an obstacle, I see my unaffiliated status as an opportunity for me to split my time evenly among every TYG in the subregion. In order

to make everyone included I plan to host events in every borough. I also would like to encourage that temples that are relatively close to each other try to collaborate and organize events with each other, since I believe that the relationship between various TYGs is significant. I also intend to work with temples across the city to improve our NFTY678 programs, since they are vital toward recruiting new members.

I am so excited for this new adventure.

B'ahava,

Benny Forstadt.