

Mia Medney
Position: Religious and Cultural Vice President (RCVP)

Shalom NARites,

According to NFTY, “Worship can occur during a service, outside alone in the woods, holding hands with a friend or listening to music. NFTY works to facilitate all kinds of meaningful, interactive experiences that allow NFTYites to explore worship.” I have always been different in my family following my love and desire for tradition and Judaism. NFTY has given me a place to be nothing but myself, and I will forever love and be grateful for that. Most people don’t attend NFTY events for the services or the songs, rather the long-lasting friendships, and everything surrounding that. But for me, it’s everything far and in between, I want that experience for every NARite. **It is for this reason with endless excitement that I, Mia Medney, declare my candidacy to serve as the 5780-5781 NFTY Religious and Cultural Vice President.**

Through serving on my TYG board as Religious and Cultural Vice-Chair I was given the opportunity to step into a leadership position in a place of wholesome comfort. This past winter I led a Tu’Bishvat Seder. I believe that all Jewish holidays can connect with someone in one way or another. For example, I have never been someone passionate about trees, but I found that you can find self-love within the trees and its abundance of oxygen. I want to help others discover how Judaism can relate to their passions. As most know when presenting teens with food it becomes a struggle to lead an event, but this event taught me an incredible amount, both about the people I had on my side and within my leadership skills on how to plan and lead.

A facet to leadership is listening to others, understanding that you are not a leader for you rather your community. I have not only developed this through NFTY and my TYG but through other extracurriculars. One is in Model United Nations; my school annually holds a conference that students run, I have held a leadership position as a co-chair and chair. As a chair, you create your own committee, lead others through a day’s work, and more. Model UN has taught me how to be a better leader in my community and helped me with my public speaking skills.

I envision interactive experiences during services to not be something to read off a paper or script. Rather I want to recruit people to talk about activities they are passionate and how it relates to the theme of the event. I plan to be in high contact with TYG RC’s if they ever need any help. When someone enters an NFTY event the one thing they know to have in common with the room is the fact that they are Jewish. This is something I want to focus on, the social and more cultural aspects of Judaism. How you can come to all these events, be at your TYG but not necessarily consider yourself religious. The unique perspective of reform Jews. To explore this will all of the beautiful minds that make up NFTY-NAR would forever be a blessing.

Hodaya,
Mia Medney