

Letter of Intent

Owen Thomas
Running for President
Dropping Down to RCVP

I am so excited to be running for Regional President this year. I am passionate about NFTY NAR and have a lot of experience. I have held many leadership positions within my TYG, BESTY, being CVP last year and Co-President this year. I was also the Strategic Planning Chair for NAR last year, and I was on the Social Action Committee and one of the program coordinators for Spring Kallah. This year, I programmed for Winter Kallah as well as AAD. I was also excited about serving as the Tefilah Chair at Spring Kallah this year and am so sad that Spring was cancelled this year. As the CVP of BESTY last year I helped write our youth group's constitution, which is heavily based on NAR's so I feel confident in my knowledge of how to effectively work on ambitious projects and my understanding of NAR's constitution.

Having held these leadership positions for the past two years, I know what it takes to be a good president. I know that it's not all about getting your way and being in charge all the time. A good president knows when to step back and give others the chance to shine, as well as knowing when they are needed and providing the necessary support in these times. I also think that I would make a good president because I love NAR. I came to my first NAR event wanting to try to replicate the feeling of camp, but in all of my events I have found so much more. All the people I have met and become close with as well as all the things I have learned from the programs I have planned and participated in inspired me to run for president. NFTY has become such a huge part of my life and a lot of that is due to the amazing teen leadership of the regional board. I want to be president because I believe that I have a lot to add and I want to be able to provide the same amazing experience that I had for future NARites.

There are a few things that I want to accomplish as President. The first is to continue the great work that this board has done in more heavily involving TYGs. I want to have at least 1-2 sub-regional events next year in each sub-region. I also want to advertise TYG events to the region as a whole whether that be through the NAR instagram or other means. I feel as though the quarantine Zoom calls have been very successful both for my own TYG and NAR, so having semi regular Zoom calls next year could be a good way for people to stay in touch with NAR friends in between events and for non-board members to take on more leadership roles. I love that we do post-event surveys after each event, and I want to add to that by having a form go out at the beginning of the year or before events to know what people want to see from NAR.

If I don't get elected President, I would also be thrilled to be your RCVP. I went to Eisner for 8 years, and there I learned a lot about how to make services more fun and engaging. I also love Jewish culture and tradition and would love to share that passion with the region through discussion and making Judaism fun. I am doing Daf Yomi, which is reading one page of Talmud a day, and as RCVP I would love to try to incorporate this into services next year. I also love NAR's more non traditional Friday night services, which I would love to continue and hopefully

expand on what was done this year by introducing some alternative tunes for songs, or even exploring other ways to worship both through more traditional paths than we are used to and less.