

NINA HELLER

Candidate for President

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR REGIONAL BOARD?

Throughout my time in NFTY, I have been able to learn and grow so much. I have been deeply inspired by the leadership I have seen out of others, and want to use this to be able to guide and inspire the next generation of NFTYites to be positive change makers in our communities, and the world beyond. NFTY has taught me how to use my voice on things that am passionate about, has given me unforgettable experiences, and provided me with my best friends. I believe that we can harness the full potential of each participant by providing them with meaningful and empowering experiences. I believe that it is my responsibility to support this community's dedication to one another, help influence members of this community to reach their full potential, and to share my knowledge and experience to continue to grow our kehillah kedoshah.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE EVENT OF THE YEAR AND WHY?

For me, Gesher Kallah has always been my favorite event. I love witnessing and being part of that special moment where we welcome our eighth graders and say goodbye to our seniors. It is truly a moment where the CWR community comes to life.

WHAT NEW IDEAS OR SOLUTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR OUR REGION IN RESPONSE TO TALKING WITH A NFTY CWR MEMBER?

For my conversation with a CWR member, I spoke with someone who came to a few events during their freshman year but ultimately chose not to come back to NFTY. This person felt that it was difficult to keep the meaningful connections that they made with people once they left the event. They also felt that it was very difficult to make friends if you did not have a large TYG or a TYG at all. My solution to this is to have "pop-up" events as well as subregional events. Pop up events could look like going to an A's game together one day, and subregional events could look like the East Bay subregion having a day of social action programming and then going to a movie together.

WHAT SORT OF BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO GUIDE, SUPERVISE, AND ACT AS A RESOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE TO YOUR BOARD?

I have devoted my time to various leadership positions, but none of them have been as impactful as being your Communications Vice President this year. My time on the regional board this year has allowed me to gain valuable knowledge about the intricacies of the board and the region and has also allowed me to further develop my leadership skills. In order for the board to succeed, it is crucial for the president to have the knowledge and experience to be able to best support them, which I have from my experience on Regional Board this past year. Furthermore, as a leader, it is important to always support your team in order to execute the goals of the team and help create an elevated experience for others.

THE REGIONAL PRESIDENT ACTS AS A LINK BOTH BETWEEN THE ADULT LEADERSHIP AND THE YOUTH AND BETWEEN THE TYGS AND NFTY ON A NORTH AMERICAN LEVEL; HOW DO YOU PLAN TO EFFECTIVELY CONNECT ALL OF THESE LEVELS OF NFTY?

As a President, it is important that I am always communicating with adult leadership, and am representative of every teen. Sometimes the line between the responsibilities of the teen leaders and those of the adults is ambiguous, so I plan to always be in constant communication with our adult leadership in order to wholeheartedly empower more teens and return us to our teen driven roots. As far as TYGs go, regional board members, and especially the president, should always be communicating with our TYGs in order to maximize their potential. We are not engaging our TYGs as much as we could be, and this is something that I believe we can change. We have Temple Youth Groups who have more than 30 active members, yet send only two or three to NFTY events. In order to engage our TYGs as much as possible with the rest of our region, our regional board members should be making more visits not just to TYG events, but to TYG board meetings and ensuring that NFTY has a presence within congregations as well. Furthermore, I want to encourage more people from our region to apply for North American committees, because that is a great way to get involved on the North American level. I would also ask those people to share their work from the committees with the region, in order to better connect our region to the North American level.

QUALIFICATIONS

PARTY 9th-grade Rep 5775-5776, PARTY PVP 5776-5777, PVP Cabinet 5776-5777, NFTY Mechina Participant 2017, NFTY in Israel 2017, URJ Camp Newman Camper 2009-2016, NFTY Veida Participant 2018, NFTY Central West Communications Vice President 5777-5778