

# LUCY ROTHBARDT FOR RCVP!



## ★ WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR REGIONAL BOARD?

For a lot of my life, I struggled immensely with my Jewish identity and I did not think that I would ever find my place in the religion. But NFTY has allowed me to discover my purpose within Judaism while providing a safe, loving, and fun community. I have always looked up to the regional board in awe and I always wanted to be able to create the magic for other members.

## ★ WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF NFTY AND WHY?

As cliché as it sounds, the people in the Central West Region warm my heart immeasurably. Seeing everyone smiling and having fun automatically brings forth a beyond joyful aura and reinforces the fact that I am truly in the "region of love". The holy community present at every NFTY event allows me to fully embrace everyone's individuality, including my own.

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

The new member that I spoke to stated that NFTY was hyper and it could feel overwhelming at times but she really enjoyed the social action programming because of its mellow undertones. I think that by creating more mellow programs that are more conversational, NFTY can cater to a wider range of individuals.

## ★ HOW DO YOU PLAN TO INTEGRATE BOTH THE RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF YOUR POSITION INTO REGIONAL EVENTS? HOW DO YOU PLAN TO FOSTER A GREATER CONNECTION WITH ISRAEL?

I plan on incorporating both traditional and nontraditional tifilah services into regional events so that services can cater to everyone in the region, regardless of what their individual beliefs are. As I am currently spending the semester in Israel, I get to view and be immersed in Israeli culture. One of my goals with cultural programs is to make them about the various issues that confront Israel aside from the conflict since that is what most programs are geared towards—but it is still extremely important to learn about! I would also like to have fun programs about culture that doesn't revolve around Israel's faults which could include something like food/cooking or trivia. Additionally, surveys about the religious and cultural programming could benefit the region greatly.

## ★ WHAT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE WRITING AND LEADING SERVICES? WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE?

During my sophomore year, I helped lead three traditional services through being on RCVP cabinet and I have helped write a plethora of services through NFTY. While I have participated in a multitude of services, one of my favorites was one that was written by Hannah Marcus at my 9th grade Geshet Kallah. At this service, there were large sheets of paper with questionable Torah verses on the wall and we got to write and discuss our thoughts on them. It was unique to see verses that challenged the beliefs of most Reform Jews and it taught me that we are allowed to have separate beliefs and still be Jewish.