

Hey NFTY-GER!

It's hard to believe, but a little over a year ago I walked through the doors of Temple Emeth in Teaneck for my first event in NFTY-GER. I had been to numerous youth group events, and even served on my youth group board, but never had I been outside the bubble of my temple. Unlike many of you, I had never been to Jewish sleepaway camp, but I had friends from Hebrew School. At the time, that was all I needed. When I reluctantly entered my first NFTY event, I was greeted with open arms and excited faces— that was when I knew that NFTY-GER was a community I would cherish and hold close to my heart.

Making members feel special: The NFTY-GER community is full of different, unique members. I plan on working with the Communications Vice President to highlight each member's life events and accomplishments through birthday posts, event pushes, and other personalized aspects. Making members feel special will show them that they are more than a small part of the region. They bring a special element to GER that no one else can bring, and it shows them that their presence is much needed in the community.

Pop-ups: Pop-ups have proven to be effective ways to bring GERites together. I plan on working with the rest of the regional board to plan more exciting pop-ups throughout the year. Every month that we do not have a weekend Kallah, a pop-up will take place connecting different temple youth groups together. The board member chosen to plan the pop-up, will create an event surrounding their interests. These individualized pop-ups will allow GERites to come together in low barrier events and create a fun environment. That way, participants won't have to commit to a full day or weekend event to immerse themselves in the NFTY-GER community.

Building Connections: In order to effectively transition our new members into our region, we must focus on adapting the big-little program to fit our needs, by, in fact, replacing it. Like many others, I fell through the loophole that leaves many new members without a Big. Instead of Bigs-Littles, I propose expanding the idea to the creation of "NFTY Families", a program that has been implemented successfully on the national level. Families would consist of members in each grade, so that no one is left behind, and everyone has the chance to connect. Typical mixer time will become "family time", and will truly create the home-y feeling many of us experience as frequent members at events. To help new members further adjust to our region. I also plan on making a NFTY-GER Survival Kit for each individual. This survival kit would help the "families" bond over NFTY-GER traditions.

My time with you made this year one of the best of my life NFTY. With your help I know I can make the region thrive.

With much love,
Heather Romoff