

Dear NFTY-GER,

When I joined NFTY-GER in sixth grade, I was shy and quiet. At the time, I relied on the few friends my brother made in NFTY to feel at home- but that was very long ago. Since then, NFTY-GER has gone through many stages of change. Three regional directors and six regional boards later, we have seen countless leaders, programs, and the creation of lifelong memories. What's more, we have seen little sixth graders like me and my friends grow into leaders, and even help the next generation of GERites become leaders themselves. It is no secret that leadership is essential to the structure of NFTY-GER as we have seen it time and time again.

Over the last year, I have worked hard to run and serve as your Communications Vice President. From push weeks to asefah to delegating work alongside my chairs, I can easily say that this position has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Since a majority of my work is behind the scenes, I have gotten the chance to learn and observe, all of which I have loved. I have truly grown as a person in this role and have been privileged to change with the rest of the regional board and participants.

One thing that I learned during my time in NFTY-GER is that you may start with a simple goal, but it can expand, transform, or change as you do. Time is a learning experience; rarely does something start and end the exact same way. In this case, NFTY has taught me how to grow my ideas and to become a stronger leader through every goal.

For all of these reasons and more, I, Robin Falkow, am honored to announce my candidacy to be your 5780-5781 NFTY-GER President.

My years in NFTY-GER have given me unforgettable memories, friendships, and lessons. I know that it is with utmost importance that we work together to build these experiences for others, both current members who are already part of our family, and those who are yet part of this Kehillah Kedosha. If elected, I will focus on three major goals: connections, communication, and shaping the future of the region.

Connections

We all came to NFTY-GER for some reason. For some it was to make new friends, others wanted to strengthen their Jewish identity, or maybe it was just a way to keep in touch with camp friends during the year. Maybe some of you don't know what made you first come. Whatever the reason, I want to find out what brings you back. In order to bring more people into this amazing region, we need to dig deeper and find out why all

of you are here. Then, and only then, can we find out how to recruit more participants. That being said, recruitment is not only about numbers and people. Recruitment is about bringing more people into our community, and sharing with them why we love it so much. *By building connections, we can strengthen relationships with new and old participants which will in turn, strengthen our community.*

Communication

Although our region is more compact than others, sometimes it seems as if our friends live across the country. Through larger efforts to communicate, we can bring our region closer together and bond with participants across the region. One way we can do this is through monthly zoom hangouts! Logistical barriers such as transportation and distance can often prevent us from spending time with our friends. I want to create an online space during the year where people can come hang out, ask questions, chat about what's going on in their lives, and just spend time with GERites. *By communicating, we can get to know each other, meet new people, and most importantly, have a great time with others in the community even when our friends live hours away.*

Shaping the Future

As I mentioned earlier, we all have a reason for being a part of our amazing community. Therefore, the best thing we can do for it is to ensure a future for those who have not had the chance to enjoy it yet. This includes giving current members the resources they need to thrive as leaders. Participant-led programming is an integral part of the region, and I want to bring it back! Everyone has the ability to lead, but the most important thing to do with that ability is to activate and spread it. Without the leadership that previous NFTYites showed me, I would not be inspired enough to run for President. *By giving current members the opportunity to learn and lead, NFTY-GER can foster an environment in which leaders carry on with tradition while also growing for the future.*

NFTY-GER, you have given me a second home. As your president, I will work with you to keep with tradition and continue to build a loving community. Together, we can work harder and go farther. I am so excited to see what the future has in store!

With love,
Robin Falkow

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Falkow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.