

Dear NFTY-NW,

My name is Noam Hashash and I am running to be your 5780-5781 Membership Vice President. I am a Sophomore at Hazen High School. I also serve on the Kol Ami board as their Financial Vice President. This year I have also served in NFTY-NW cabinet as a new member chair where I worked to help make sure new members found their places at their first events. Outside of NFTY I also volunteer at Friendship Circle on Mercer Island.

I've grown up very entrenched in this community. My parents have been involved in the Jewish community in this area way before any of us were alive and felt that it was a community worth growing up in. 16 years later I can proudly say that the Jewish community in this area is special, with such connectedness across all the smaller groups and congregations there is no shortage in support, and friendship to be found. This all serves as motivation, motivation to rise above and serve my community through the position of MVP, a position that allows me to connect with not just the community I know and love, but reach out and make new connections.

The past year has been a little bit rough for us, attendance and membership has seemed to drop with every event. I get it, the past year has been a rough year, there is a lot going on in the world especially now and it is easy to forget about NFTY and skip an event to get a weekend to get some rest. But it is times like these when we need to come together more than ever. Nonetheless membership is suffering and as MVP I am building my platform around rectifying the situation

In order to increase membership, and event attendance we must gain more members, but we also need to focus on making sure that our current members keep coming back.

There are untapped sources of Jewish teens in our area, so many yearning for a deeper connection with their community many completely unaware of NFTY's existence. Unofficially there is a clear set of TYG we normally recruit from, I want to go further and seek out more teens in our area. I want to work with all the congregations in not just western Washington but the entire northwest to create long lasting connections with temples that will hopefully generate members long after I graduate and leave NFTY.

To make sure these new members are returning, I propose we start hosting numerous smaller events. There is no reason NFTY needs to limit itself to 3-4 events a year, in fact we are hurting ourselves by doing so. A weekend and \$200 is a big commitment for a kid unsure whether NFTY is right for them, but \$20 and 3 hours of laser tag is doable. This also allows us to really embrace the entire pacific northwest, it is unreasonable to host an event in Montana when the majority of kids live in Washington, but that doesn't mean we can't have NFTY movie nights in Montana, Idaho, and Alaska to engage Jewish teens in their hometowns. Additionally, for those who only see their friends at Kallahs, this keeps teens constantly engaged with their communities. By working with local TYG I plan to have NFTY movie nights, picnics, hikes, and other one day events to engage with our entire region and bolster membership.

I love this community and everyone in it. It has been with me through thick and thin, and I want to dedicate myself to it by serving as NFTY's next MVP.

Sincerely,

Noam Hashash