

Hello Nfty NW! I am super excited to be running for the position of religious and cultural vice president on next year's Nfty nw board. The board is absolutely essential for the region to function and exist. Board members plan and lead all the events we love to go to, and serve as leaders of the community. Rcvp is a fundamental part of the board because it is in charge of most of what makes nfty Jewish, like services and Israel programs. I would be a great fit for this role because of my experience planning and leading services through my two years of songleading for Temple Beth Am, as well as my time in Israel last summer.

Going on Nfty in Israel has definitely been my most meaningful Jewish experience. It pushed me to step out of my comfort zone and to build friendships with new people. I want to help newcomers at Nfty to be able to build their confidence by incorporating more people into services with leadership opportunities like torah reading and songleading. Songleading and leading services in Israel was another huge part of that experience, and it gave me the confidence I have to be able to songlead today at Nfty. Nfty's connection with Israel is incredibly important because of what Israel means to the greater Jewish community. That's why Israel programs are important, and as rcvp I would incorporate my experiences with Israeli culture and Israel's issues into Nfty NW programming.

Two of the most important Jewish values in Nfty NW are Kef v'Ruach (fun and spirit) and Kehila (community). This is because they are the reasons people come to Nfty. People come to have an amazing time, and come because of the connections they have with everyone in the community. Nfty exists because of the exciting programs and that sense of community. One of the biggest challenges of rcvp is creating engaging services that encourage Kef v'Ruach. If elected I would like to continue fantastic Nfty NW traditions, like shabat sh'rap and others. I would also incorporate my own traditions, by adding different songs and melodies to services to mix things up and make them more interesting. In terms of community, I would like to design services that expand our sense of community and are meaningful. I would like to serve as a resource for Nfty NW, to answer questions about Jewish culture and religion. I also want to help make the community feel more connected, by being friendly and approachable to old and new members. I would be open to new suggestions about leading the community in services, because as rcvp I would want to create services in a style that everyone finds enjoyable.

Beyond the responsibilities of rcvp, My passions for filmmaking and the outdoors would also be useful in general programming and the roles of some of the other board positions. One thing I would like to do as a board member would be to work with the communications vp on creating fun video content for Nfty NW, like promos for events or videos showcasing the events for people to watch afterwards. I also would like to incorporate my love of nature, by helping write programs that are based outside.

Overall I am incredibly thrilled to have this amazing opportunity to run for board.

Sincerely,
Eli Pollack