

Dear NFTY Northwest,

My name is Sydney (she/her) and I'm running to be your next Financial Vice President. I've been surrounded by Jewish values my entire life, from spending my elementary years at The Jewish Day School, to summers at URJ Camp Kalsman, and even in recent years from being a Madricha at Temple De Hirsch Sinai, along with the Youth Engagement Intern(MVP) for TDSY's leadership team. However, in my years of being part of this NFTY family, two values have come to stand out the most: *Gemilut Hasadim* (acts of loving kindness) and *Kehilah* (community).

NFTY builds a strong community through acts of love and kindness that are seen through the countless memories and relationships built within each event. While these great times can be captured in pictures and reminiscing, physical items serve as the best mementos because they not only remind people of these memories, but they can also be carried around or worn at any time, anywhere.

In recognizing the importance of tangible items, an issue comes into play; accessibility. Either you didn't order a shirt on time (or at all), you only brought money for fundraising, or you just didn't bring enough money to spend on anything.

As a dedicated and organized individual, I hope to set up a website that sells and preorders past and current merch to eliminate these unfortunate circumstances and ensure everybody gets a chance to represent NFTY-NW with their own mementos. Collaborating with the CVP to construct this online platform, the website would contain all the merch you can get at current shuk along with new items introduced throughout the year. This website would be accessible throughout the region and hold google forms for members to request new merch they want to buy. This way, next event's shuk could be tailored towards people's demands and they'd be able to have their voices heard because I'm passionate about putting other people's ideas into action.

I also want to work alongside FVPs from different TYGs to give them opportunities to help sell and design merch on the regional level so more learning experiences can be accessible and they can make an even greater impact within their community.

Another accessibility issue is with the restriction of only being able to use cash. Being able to set up a square reader on a mobile device would open up the payment methods to credit/debit cards which will benefit many individuals who do not have cash available on them.

Beyond merchandise, the use of cards could also come to benefit the most important job for an FVP, organizing and administering fundraisers. Going off of current FVP Gabi Kadish's fundraising plans, using food is an effective way to gain participants. Introducing new food items like grilled cheese, popcorn, or even ice cream (and sorbet for non-dairy eaters) will encourage people to spend money at their own benefit, along with supporting NFTY. Fundraising can continue going towards NFTY scholarships as a way to make events more accessible to the region, but working alongside the SAVP, donations could be made towards local organizations that benefit the entire community beyond our own. I also want to set up fundraising on the website in google forms or a gofundme.com link so it is accessible throughout the year to NFTY participants and their family so more individuals can get involved.

As a proud member of NFTY's *Kehilah*, I promise to dedicate myself to every individual if given the opportunity to serve as the next FVP so every NFTY-ite can continue to spread acts of loving kindness and bring home memories that will last a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Sydney Spiegel