

Dear NFTY-NW,

My name is Daniel Flash, and I am running to be your next Religious and Cultural Vice President. I am currently a Junior at Liberty High School and a part of Temple De Hirsch Sinai. For my Freshmen and Sophomore years, I served as BATY's Freshmen Representative and the Religious and Cultural Vice President, respectively. This year I am the Ritual and T'filah intern for TDSY, while also serving as your Head Song Leader.

From Dan Nichols' song Kehilah Kedosha, we learn that a "Holy Community" is made up of those who are willing to help each other through anything. I cannot think of a better phrase to describe NFTY-NW. Even though we were unable to have in-person events this year, I am proud to say that NFTY-NW's Kehilah Kedosha is going strong, and I want to help it become even more connected.

Services are what makes me love NFTY. At Camp Kalsman, I remember services being one of the only parts of the day where the entire camp was together. All the campers had their arms around each other, singing Jewish songs, and forgetting the outside world existed. At NFTY, I feel this same energy. During NFTY events, things can be kind of crazy. There are lots of moving parts during an event. But at services, everyone is together singing songs and escaping the stresses of the real world. I would be honored to help continue creating this experience with you.

If elected, I plan to create services that are meaningful to each participant. I will build on the successes of past RCVPs and create fun, interactive services. This would include stations, activities, and of course, Shabbat Sh'raps. It is understandable that having the same service at every event is challenging so I will create a variety of experiences tailored towards increasing engagement. As we have been away from each other for so long, I want to make our time together in services extremely valuable.

Staying in touch with my network is extremely important, so I plan to have monthly zoom meetings with my network for planning, team bonding, and resources. If we are still online for next year, I would like to have at least one RCVP run service. This would involve the RCVP network leading and planning a Friday night service for our NFTY community. I had the opportunity to lead a service for TDHS with the help of the TDSY board, and it would be such a great experience to bring to NFTY-NW.

Serving as the Head Song Leader for the past year has brought me many skills. I have learned about the inner workings of a NFTY service, how to be a stronger leader, and how to engage participants. I plan to take these skills to the RCVP position and use them to make individualized experiences for everyone. I will make sure to get your input on what a meaningful service looks like for you and implement it at events. I will also keep in close contact with the Head Song Leader, and make sure we work together in all our planning.

In addition, not being able to go on the NFTY in Israel trip last summer has made me more passionate about continuing Israel education through programming and music. This is important because it is one of our only opportunities to learn about Israel.

This year has been extremely hard on all of us. When we have the chance to be together in one place, we need to make sure that moment is meaningful for everyone. Dan Nichols once said, "Each one of us must build the home, each one of us must hold the hope," and I want to do my part in building NFTY-NW as a place we can all come home to.

Sincerely,

Daniel Flash