

Before 9th grade, being hit in the face with a plate full of whipped cream was never something that sounded particularly pleasant. I never thought that it would be something I look forward to each year. Hugging different sized groups of people I barely know isn't the way I would have chosen to spend my Friday nights, but now Huggy Bear is one of my favorite mixers. The culture of NFTY is why five weekends a year are covered in hearts and exclamation marks on my calendar. That renewed-and-ready-to-change-the-world feeling that I get at the end of an event all starts with the programming. If I am elected as NFTY PAR's next Programming Vice President I will strive to make all programs both fun and meaningful, enabling all PARites to leave events feeling renewed, refreshed, and ready to make change. **This is why, I, Anna Schwartz, want to be NFTY PAR's Programming Vice President for the 5779-5780 year.**

**To improve the programming experience, I intend to introduce Programming Interns for each event.** This will engage more of the region in the programming experience. In the past there has been a Programming Committee or Programming Chairs, but I believe that having one or two Programming Interns per event to contribute to the programming is the most effective way to utilize all of PAR's talented members.

I also believe that **Ruach Chairs should play a bigger role in PAR events.** Short, high-energy programs are essential to the fun factor. I want to institute a mandatory 20 minute dance party run by the Ruach Chairs at every event. I also want Ruach Chairs to look over programs to see where they can add more active, spirited aspects. With Ruach Chairs working hard, I believe the energy will be higher at events.

NFTY PAR does post event surveys to hear how PARTICIPANTS feel about how events went, but I think that **having pre-event surveys to see what PARTICIPANTS want events to look like will create a more PARsonalized event experience.** PARTICIPANTS would be able to vote on things like the theme for Fall, social action projects for WINSTY, and themes of Tikkun Talks throughout the year.

I understand that programming for TYGs can be very different than programming for NFTY events. Though I plan on continuing to teach the network about programming format and encouraging PARites to write programs for events, **I also plan to work closely with PVPs in the network to find the right fit of program for the style of their synagogue.** Membership starts with the TYG, and I think that it is easier to try to fit the style of the program to the synagogue than trying to fit the synagogue to the program.

NFTY is my favorite extracurricular activity because I strongly believe that we, as united, Jewish, young adults have the power to change the world. The events and programs that we participate in as teens will shape who we become as adults. I believe that life is not about finding yourself, but about creating yourself. I believe that as Programming Vice President I can create meaningful programs that play a role in all of PAR creating their own Jewish identity.

B'ahava (With Love),  
Anna Schwartz