

To my fellow NFTY PARites,

Tikkun Olam, in my eyes, has always been one of the most important Jewish values. From being taught the meaning of Tikkun Olam, “repairing the world,” in kindergarten, to now, I have always strived to be a leader that helps those around me. Tikkun Olam does not always have to refer to solving big global issues; it also means helping our neighbors and our communities in need. This Jewish value has guided me through the years, leading me to be the person I am today. It has taught me how to care for others, loved ones or strangers, and initiate the first steps to take action. I have learned how to teach myself and others about social justice issues and lead them in taking part in social action initiatives. Tikkun Olam starts with communities coming together to create change, no matter how big or small, and that is exactly what I hope to bring to our NFTY-PAR community this coming year. **With this urge to create change, I, Briana Schwartz, proudly declare my official candidacy to be your 5781-5782 NFTY-PAR Social Action Vice President.**

The first step in creating change is **education**. One must know what they are fighting for before they take action. **To teach PARites about several different social justice issues facing our society, I plan on facilitating virtual events every two months that will spark much needed conversations in our region.** These conversations will get PARTICIPANTS thinking about social justice issues they may not have before and come up with ways to combat them in their communities at home and in NFTY.

These conversions are not enough—we must take action for change to be seen. To do this, **I hope to be able to safely host social action pop-up events in each area of our region.** Each pop-up event will be different, as every community has different needs. Whether it is helping with community clean-up or taking part in a small, local project, I plan to work with the SAVP network of each area to plan these events and best fit each TYG’s social action needs.

My ultimate goal is to maximize the change PARites bring to our community in NFTY. I want to combine the steps to create change: education, conversation and action. **I intend to reinstall and reinvent donation drives to be better marketed and more accessible both virtually and in-person in the future.** Educating PARites about the donation drive and promoting it on social media before events will shape more meaningful conversations and better participation in donation drives at all major events.

I am extremely passionate about NFTY-PAR, social action, and social justice. As your Social Action Vice President, I aim to inspire those that are not necessarily involved in social action and further involve those that already are. We are the next generation of L’dor V’dor; we will be the ones to build our future! Change starts with you and me, so join me in this journey as we create change for the better!

L’Shalom,

Briana Schwartz