

NFTY-PAR,

Every day I find myself thinking of our region and how much I love our community. NFTY-PAR was the one thing that I could count on when the world turned upside down, and I cherish every moment that I dedicate to our community. NFTY, now more than ever, is a movement based on friendship and shared values. This year we have seen changes both in NFTY and all around us, but our collective passion for a strong Reform Jewish community in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, has remained the same.

Along with the world, the role of SAVP has developed and changed as well. As SAVP this year I have had increased responsibilities such as working with the RAC, involvement with bringing campaigns to our region, and chairing WINSTY. This change was contrary to what I had thought serving as SAVP would be, but it has made me love this position even more. I have worked harder for this movement than anything I have ever done before and in turn I received personal gratification for every program, initiative, or event I have run. Yet, I feel that I have more to do to secure our movement's future. I have more to contribute, learn, and celebrate with all of you, which is why **I, Maddy Denker, excitedly declare my candidacy for NFTY-PAR Social Action Vice President for the 5781-5782 term.**

If there is one thing I have learned this year it is that **we, PARites, are not the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today**, and going forward this mentality will be ingrained into everything I do. Leadership is what makes us a movement, and it is up to us to continue that tradition of bringing leaders together to create innovative change. This is why as your SAVP I will center my work around **leadership and innovation**. If we are to lead today we must build our region up, through innovative practices, such as radically investing in TYGs, working with local organizations, investing in inclusive community spaces, and creating actionable hands on social activism projects.

Social Action isn't just for our current members. It is a tool we can use to increase our membership and deepen our leaders' commitment. The new members I have recruited this year all **came because of the social action opportunities, and stayed for the connections**. Our TYGs are the bedrock of our community. We must invest and innovate together to ensure our future. I will utilize the SAVP network and **personally connect** with social action oriented leaders, to bring them into our region.

Last year I pledged to help each participant in our region make an impact, or as the late great John Lewis says "make good trouble," and that good trouble we made. In the 2020 elections cycle, I ran the first NFTY-PAR civic engagement phonebank, which helped leaders in our region to make an impact on the election regardless of if they had the ability to vote. We engaged in Voter Motivation Mondays through the revived Social Action taskforce and supported a local women's shelter, but this is just the beginning for how I envision PARites leading with local organizations. I envision PARites as integral partners on the RAC's racial justice campaign, which I am already heavily involved in. I envision next WINSTY as a **collaboration between current PARites and hyperlocal organizations** like OnePA, FairDistricts, Ceasefire, the ADL, POWER, and more. I also envision a mini-Letaken at WINSTY where we have the opportunity to talk with our local US Representatives or State Legislators. These opportunities will develop our collective leadership skills.

The biggest piece of innovation that I want to implement as SAVP is reforming our virtual and in person spaces to be more inclusive. I have learned this year that building inclusive spaces is an ongoing project, and its benefits are two-fold: it brings people into our community and it deepens commitment to the community. I will **implement inclusive practices** that go beyond pronouns, through captioning, visuals, accessible spaces, trigger warnings, and accessible breakrooms. This inclusivity will also extend to the causes we choose to support. I pledge to search out diverse causes, amplify diverse voices, and gather feedback from PARites of all backgrounds on what causes to support.

My goal in writing programs will be to **elevate YOUR leadership**. The best programs are interactive, relevant, and most importantly they have tangible action steps that we will ask each PARite to take. With my increased understanding of the legislative process and experience writing these programs, I pledge to create programs with more tangible action steps, more interaction, and have more PARites take leadership roles in the creation of social action programming. I will revive the Social Action interns and give them greater responsibility, ensuring all our social action programming is innovative.

This year has been an amazing start to our journey together but it isn't the end. I want to keep navigating our changing world with you. This world needs us working in partnership for tikkun olam, and I want my biggest partner to be you.

,(With excitement and love) בהתרגשות ובאהבה
Maddy Denker | she/her