



★ LISA SILVERSTEIN

For Religious and Cultural Vice President
5779 – 5780

“MORE THAN JEWS HAVE KEPT SHABBAT, SHABBAT HAS KEPT THE JEWS.” -AHAD HA’AM

QUALIFICATIONS

BJBE SYG President 5778-5779

JYG Co-Chair 5778-5779

NFTY CAR Culture Chair 5778-5779

Teen Interfaith Leader 5779

Wrote and passed Resolution to Change NFTY-CAR's Approach to Programming 5779

Even better at Jewparady than last year

ABOUT ME

Shalom NFTY! My name is Lisa Silverstein and I am elated by the prospect of being your Religious and Cultural Vice President for this upcoming year. I am currently a Junior at Stevenson High School where I run cross country, competitively bass fish, and compete in mock trial. Outside of school, you can find me at my neighborhood pond with my Abu Garcia Vendetta fishing rod, whistling some Fleetwood Mac, or in my bedroom playing the bass (not the fish).

In the summer I am having fun at my beloved camp, OSRUI, where I look forward to cleaning the camp in Avodah this year. As a past Chalutzim camper, I spent seven weeks immersed in the Hebrew language while learning about Israeli culture. There I developed my passion for Judaism, and eventually found NFTY, which I instantly fell in love with at my first event freshman year. Since then, I have constantly been in awe of the amazing k'hillah k'dosha that has been formed and is continuing to form here. The NFTY community has aided me through my own exploration of Judaism, and because of that I have had the opportunity to identify my personal values and beliefs in correlation with my faith. I love Judaism because it means and feels something different to everyone, and yet we all come together to celebrate our faith.



Services and Prayer

T'filot Band: To make our services more vibrant, next year I plan on establishing a t'filot band. The t'filot band would regularly lead services by backup singing, playing guitar, and utilizing other various instruments.

New Instruments: Why do we confine ourselves to just the guitar? I plan to look into the possibility of purchasing new and exciting instruments like a Shruti box or Doumbek drum in order to bring creativity to our services.

Creating Intention: To distinguish our prayer from other activities, I look to modify the space we pray in. This includes being intentional with lighting, incense, and seating arrangements so that we can truly pray with intention.

Combating Anti-Semitism

Throughout history, anti-Semitism has taken on many different forms. The antisemitism we see in America today is the larger community failing to recognize, or validate, Jewish suffering. It's either ignored or masqueraded as slander of Israel. People simply turn a blind eye to antisemitism. As Jews, we say that it is our obligation to stand up to injustice; but who are we to say we're advocates for the unjustly treated if we don't even advocate for ourselves? Nothing in this world will ever improve for us unless we demand a conversation to take place; and for these conversations to happen, we need to be educated. This is why I am adamant on inviting trained advocates for Israel and Jews to teach us how we can stand up for ourselves and fight injustice. There are so many organizations whose job it is to work with groups like NFTY to give teens the tools to combat antisemitism. At some point in our lives we will come face-to-face with antisemitism whether it be on a college campus, in the workplace, or with your friends. And it is vital for us to recognize it and be equip with the right tools to combat it.

Enjoying Our Culture

In terms of cultural programing, I believe the only way to truly encapsulate the joys of our rich culture is to be planning hands-on activities where you can directly experience the fun. Whether that is learning new Israeli dances, or cooking the tasty dishes your bubbe makes, culture is meant to be enjoyed.

Your Voice

Here at NFTY, everyone's voice matters. As a movement meant to inspire teen leaders, it is my job to provide opportunities for you to find your voice in the Jewish community. Your input is essential to me as I look to enhance your connection to Jewish culture and prayer. As RCVP I am here to serve YOU and in order to serve you I need your ideas and opinions.



Jewish Intention

NFTY is an amazing organization that empowers us teens to make change and stand up for the injustices we see in our world. Therefore, if elected, I plan to work closely with the Social Action Vice President to form a stronger connection between Judaism and our social projects. It is vital that we remember our obligation for *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. As a religion that commands acts of loving kindness, I hope to strengthen the ties between what we do and why we do it, so we can fully understand our commitment to making the world a better place.

I hope to be elected as your next Religious and Cultural Vice President!