

*“The Youth of a Nation are the trustees of posterity,” - Benjamin Disraeli*

The Reform Jewish Youth Movement has established itself as a united body of devoted individuals committed to making change. During my life-changing experiences with this extraordinary movement, I have realized the dynamic potential of this powerful group of young people. I’ve been inspired by my peers to take the next step in ensuring a secure future for this movement and for this faith. **It is with blazing conviction and glowing excitement that I, Brandon Morantz, declare my candidacy for the position of 5779-5780 NFTY Religious and Cultural Vice President.** The winds of change never cease to fill the sails of NFTY; now, it’s time for NFTY to **form valuable connections that amplify its influential voice of change in global progressive Judaism.**

**To revive Jewish values in the context of social action.** Jewish texts provide a wealth of useful information to us. In a variety of ways, the accounts in our holy texts serve as striking parallels to pressing social issues today. Likewise, NFTY teens have become a leading force in coordinating and spearheading prevalent social action initiatives in the past few years. Using our collective knowledge of Jewish literature, I plan to equip teens and adults with the religious tools that can be used to advance those very initiatives, emphasizing the continuation of our dialogue with the crucial tenets of NFTY. We can then center ourselves upon a foundation that will power our social action objectives with the Judaism that is woven into the roots of our movement. I plan to establish NFTYites as the catalysts between meaningful social justice and our essential Jewish values by providing resources for purposeful learning and action across disciplines.

**To forge greater opportunities for Israel education in NFTY and its regions.** It’s our duty to offer ample resources to support NFTYites in their individual quests to form their own narratives and perspectives about Israel. Furthering the discussion about Israel can be difficult, but the road to progress and consensus demands it. I plan to foster effective partnerships with Israel education organizations that provide a spectrum of perspectives. Involving Israel programming throughout our events is a deep-rooted priority, and, to achieve this, I plan to further diversify the methods in which we program on Israel. Primarily, I want to create more direct links between NFTY and Israel’s branch of Netzer Olami, Noar Telem, to bridge gaps between the North American and Israeli progressive Zionist landscapes.

**To expand an involved network of NFTYites.** It’s the responsibility of the NFTY RCVP to act as a resource for the RCVP network. I will not only fulfill this duty, but I will also build upon the definition of the network as a division of NFTY. I will elevate the role of regional RCVPs on a North American level. Entrusting regional leaders with enlarged responsibility in North American event and webinar planning can enrich our programming and worship by incorporating diverse expertise from our members. I also want to open additional pathways for the network to interact directly with Netzer Olami in order to empower a new generation of experienced global leaders.

Promoting progress throughout the nation has become an integral component of NFTY. Creating connections between each other, between branches of our movement, and between our fundamental values will build a more comprehensive and focused NFTY mission that will allow us to transcend our movement and make an impact on a global scale.

B’ahava,  
Brandon Morantz