

My dearest NFTY,

I knew after my first event I fell in love with you. You were loud, crazy, and full of ruach. You cared for Jewish teens in ways that most of us probably don't even recognize. You give us a home away from home and friendships that will last forever. One of the most important things you give us, is awareness. Awareness of problems that cause injustice in the world and explain why we should care about it. You give us, Jewish Teens, a voice that other places normally don't on these issues and let us express our distress and make demands for change. NFTY, you give us the opportunity to be the change by giving us ways to go and make a difference.

It is with all the will in my heart to make change and knowing that this movement can make that change that I, Barbara Taubes, declare my candidacy for the 5779-5780 NFTY Social Action Vice President.

Through serving as the NFTY Garden Empire Region's SAVP, President of my TYG, - Urban Mitzvah Corps Student Coordinator, and a member of the NFTY Inclusion Task Force, I have seen firsthand the incredible power that we have to push for justice. If elected to serve as your North American SAVP, I will harness this energy to magnify our impact in the following ways:

- 1. We must take a look at our own desire for change.** Teens are inspired to make change when they get to pick topics that are close to their heart, so we should be choosing next year's topics with **more teen input**. By doing this, we ignite the passion in every teen to make change and make their voices heard.
- 2. Bringing action to the events.** Sometimes we have events where we talk a lot about social justice, but we have a hard time actually getting to do hands-on work. I want to work with the regional SAs on making more hands on programming for events so we can actually be making change firsthand. This allows us to bring social justice and social action together to be even stronger. I also want to make all of these programs into a electronic packet so teens can bring these programs back to their own communities.
- 3. Making every teen an advocate for change.** Every teen has the power to make change, but not everyone has to have a title of leadership in order to do so. I want to work with NFTY regions on creating social action committees within their regions so that every teen has a way of being apart of change within their NFTY region. I think that by having these committees work together in their own region and being able to work with other NFTY regions, it really brings us together to work on making change.

NFTY has made me a leader and has given me the skills to be an advocate. All I want now is to help others find their passion and make the change we all want to see in the world. As Rabbi Tarfon once said, "It is not your obligation to complete the work, nor are you free to desist from it either".

B'ahava ,
Barbara Taubes, (NFTY-GER SAVP 5778-5779)