



NFTY Northeast

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www.northeast.nfty.org | www.urj.org

January 3, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to write this letter of recommendation for Rachel Shatz. I have come to know Rachel in her role as the Membership & Financial Vice President of NFTY Northeast's Executive Board. NFTY, the North American Federation of Temple Youth, is the high school division of Judaism's Reform Movement. Rachel is one of ten high school seniors serving as an officer of the Northeast region of NFTY. She is in the midst of quite an impressive job as a leader in a community of over 1000 teens, spanning seven states.

The responsibilities of Rachel's position are multi-faceted and require a dedicated, diligent, mature, and confident leader. Rachel was chosen for this position because she clearly displays these characteristics and more. As Membership & Financial Vice President, Rachel must attend many regional events and meetings (nearly 15 weekends a year). Merely attending all of these events and meetings would make for a tremendously hectic schedule, yet her position entails many additional responsibilities.

Rachel is a key component of our two regional Institutes. Institutes are five-day events comprised of experiential programs (approximately 10), which compliment a Judaic theme and are implemented by the teen leadership, including Rachel. These events also include classes taught by clergy and professional educators in the region, daily prayer services, and song sessions. As Membership & Financial Vice President, Rachel is an important part of each step of the planning process as well as the facilitation of the actual event. This process begins months before the event and intensifies during the events. Rachel also works with all liaison officers, and leads many of the programs at the events themselves. On top of these responsibilities, Rachel is responsible for ensuring the success of the event logistics, and creating a positive experience for each participant. Rachel has done an exceptional job with all of these responsibilities. She is an insightful group leader, bringing every program to a higher level by challenging her peers with insightful questions and bringing her own passions and interests into the discussions.

As Membership & Financial Vice President, Rachel has additional jobs throughout the year. Rachel works with her fellow officers in overseeing our Subregional System. NFTY Northeast is a very large geographic region, so we have Subregional Chairs in five different subregions who plan local programming throughout the year. These programs range from social gatherings to community service projects, and much more. One of Rachel's responsibilities is to supervise these ten Subregional Chairs to ensure the success of these programs. Rachel's responsibility, creativity, and attention to detail have all had an incredibly positive impact this year on our Subregional Events. In addition to this, Rachel is responsible for managing, selling, designing, and ordering our Regional Merchandise. This has required a lot of maturity and professionalism from Rachel, and she has proven to be both reliable and organized in managing this system. In addition to all of this, Rachel is an active member of her own local youth group, and I have seen her use her regional leadership position to help strengthen her home community.

The amount of responsibility we ask of Rachel and her fellow regional board members is impressive. I could recommend Rachel for your university based on those responsibilities alone. But beyond that, Rachel is the kind of person you want on your team. She is kind, devoted, and motivated in all that she does. She shows a seriousness about her work and a maturity beyond her years. Rachel is fiercely passionate about her role in our youth movement and her ability to make a positive impact on her peers in the moment, and for years to come. I highly and enthusiastically recommend Rachel for your university. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Gurvis".

Aaron Gurvis
NFTY Northeast Regional Advisor
Union for Reform Judaism