

Jackson Benjamin

Vision Statement for Regional Aleph Godol

Going into Game 6 of the 1994 NHL Eastern Conference Final, the Devils had won the last two games giving them a 3-2 lead, putting the Rangers on the brink of elimination. Throughout the series, chants of “1940!!” filled the air, referencing the last time the Rangers won the Stanley Cup and the curse where the Rangers would never win the Stanley Cup again. The captain of the Rangers was Mark Messier, and before the game, he made a guarantee. He guaranteed that the Rangers would win Game 6, and then go on to the Stanley Cup. Going into the 3rd period, the Devils were leading 2-1, to which Messier went on to score a hat-trick to fulfill his promise and win game 6.

Messier believed in his teammates when they were at their lowest. He put the team on his back and courageously willed them to the win. Messier’s hat trick propelled the Rangers to winning game 7, and eventually winning the Stanley Cup. His confidence and determination gave the Rangers the will to win. No matter how his teammates were performing, Messier believed in his teammates.

Messier was a model leader, he worked hard, believed in his teammates, and had the strength to put his team on his back to win. This is what a leader is. He has the ability to make his team better by his presence. These are the qualities I aspire to have.

I have the work ethic to improve the region. I will work to improve every specific chapter in the region. From Kings Bay BBYO and Yalla BBYO in Brooklyn to Maccabees AZA #2424 and Exodus AZA #2377 in Queens, I will make sure that I leave every chapter better than it is now.

As Godol, I will always have the full belief of my board. My board is my teammates. Our region won’t be as successful and productive without them. My board and I will work together to make sure all of our duties are fulfilled and each one of us succeeds our expectations. I have the strength to help everyone on the board fulfill their duties. No matter what they need I will help them complete their projects.

Ensuring the board fulfills their responsibilities, I will keep a spreadsheet and document filled with the expectations and responsibilities of each board member per month. By having this document, board members and myself can keep track of what has been done and what needs to be done for the rest of the month.

Another way I will ensure all of the duties of the positions are fulfilled is by constantly checking in with each board member and having an open chain of communication. For our region to succeed, open communication is key. Open communication allows the other board members to reach out for assistance or advice if they need it. It also allows members to keep each other involved and help out anyone else if they so need it. Creating the best region possible is a team challenge, and our team will function better if we keep open communication.

While S'gan of Maccabees, we weren't experiencing the best numbers in terms of attendance. I had to come up with programs that they were interested in and were going to attend. How this was achieved was through a survey filled out with topics and types of programs that they found intriguing. This allowed me to create the best possible programs where the members would attend. We experienced a boost in attendance due to the survey and new programs.

A problem that I experienced as Regional Moreh was integrating during the middle of the year. I had to take over on the initiatives started by my predecessor and ensure the success of such programs. I was able to use my board counterpart as a reference for help in completing the programs. I also used our Regional Aleph Godol as help while integrating into the position.

Finally, the outbreak of COVID-19 has been a challenge for everyone. We were working hard to ensure a great end of the year, however the pandemic has forced us into unseen times. During COVID-19, BBYO and BAR have ensured a sense of normalcy through BBYO On Demand. We have continued our meetings and events through these tough times, though they may not be in person, the virtual events have provided members with some sense of normalcy.

As your Godol, I will ensure that Big Apple is left in a better place than it is now. My board and I will work together to improve every chapter, and improve recruitment methods. Next year is filled with potential. As we improve on a record year for the Big Apple Region, we will create a better Big Apple, one where we all can look back on and be happy with.