

Olivia Raykhman
Candidate for 29th North Carolina Council Sh'lichah

My vision for North Carolina Council is to invigorate and expand Jewish values in NCC, Israel, and around the world. I believe that Judaism can and does change the world, and we, together and individually, play an intrinsic role in the development and continuation of the eternal miracle of the Jewish people. I will be working in tandem with my counterparts on council board and within individual chapters to cultivate Jewish tradition and education, support the Jewish people in Israel and in our international brother and sister regions, and take advantage of our resources as a region to take care of the less fortunate. First, I will work to create unique and original Shabbat programs. This will be approached with a quality over quantity mindset, as I hope to continue to grow enthusiasm for coming together on this holy day and cultivating an inclusive atmosphere. Solidifying popular past minyanim and Shabbat programs, growing original pluralistic activities, and ensuring this time is not thought of as a chore will be focal points. Next, bridging the gap between us and Israel will be approached with cultural exploration programs to engage current members and prospects. Connecting NCC with real people and their stories will give our region a more intimate look at life in our homeland. Too often we disconnect ourselves from issues in Israel using the excuse of distance, however, we are all tied by the Jewish faith, and despite being an ocean away, we must strive to keep our homeland close to heart. Thirdly, being the most powerful generation today, it is up to us to further use our voices to create change and help those who are not heard. Being 29th NCC Sh'lichah, I will be working with counterparts to get involved with different Jewish and philanthropic organizations throughout North Carolina, to enable our members to have more exposure to giving back to each of their communities. Utilizing resources of bigger chapters and expanding those of smaller chapters will facilitate a deeper, richer experience of Jewish life, and the core principles, social justice (Tikkun Olam) being one of them. To achieve this, I will be staying in constant communication with chapter Shlichim, as they play equally as integral roles in promoting the core values of Judaism in our region. Working as a team to create opportunities for leadership and inspiring community service will be accomplished by using our voices to expand NCC's impact locally and globally. With NCC's bright future in mind, I hope to be a catalyst for positive change within our Jewish community and the broader world.