

Candidate for 31st NCC Sh'lichah - Julia Ringel

Judaism has always been a huge part of my life, and my vision is to help make it a big part in all of your lives, too. I know some people, including me at first, joined BBYO because all of their friends were joining and it seemed like a fun thing to do, but didn't really care about the Judaism aspect, but my hope is to change that. By learning more about Judaism and seeing how it relates to everything around me, my life and hobbies have become a lot more meaningful.

One way this vision will be fulfilled is through guest speakers. There are so many wonderful people whose job it is to incorporate Judaism into everyday lives. For example, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the leader of the Union for Reform Judaism, or URJ, finds ways to incorporate dance into his job by beginning every day by practicing dance and by adding different types of movement to his teaching. Although my dream guest speaker would be Rabbi Jacobs, getting the leader of the Reform Judaism movement to speak here might be a stretch, which is why I have so many other ideas for guest speakers. A few months ago, I was on a call with Shira Kline, a Jewish performer and educator, who left the professional theatre field because many shows were on Friday nights during Shabbat. In the call she talked about how the relationships between everyday objects, like a cup, and Judaism, which was really interesting.

I'll also tell stories about people incorporating Judaism into their work into services. A service is more meaningful to me if a story is being told throughout the entire service, rather than a sermon in the middle. Lastly, I'll share lists/powerpoints/infographics about simple ways to incorporate Judaism into your everyday life. This could include prayers to say as you go about your day, interesting Jewish holidays in the near future, etc. Overall, incorporating one aspect of Judaism into your everyday life can make every day more meaningful and make you feel more connected to your faith.