

**Candidate for the 64th Regional Aleph Shaliach of the Nassau Suffolk Region  
Ben Glick**

**My Vision:**

July 6, 2020. I had been asked to join the Virtual Shabbat Task Force, a part of the International Leadership Network. A month prior, I had lost my election for Chapter Aleph Mazkir. I was sad about my loss, but I continued to branch out and further my BBYO experience. I led my very first service later that month...And soon I led another one...And then another... Over the next few months, I realized what my true calling in BBYO was...Judaism and service. Before I was ever on chapter board, I had led several international and regional services, gaining valuable experience on prayers and the necessary components of a good service. I gained leadership experience by revising my programs and making them more friendly and fluid. What I was lacking, however, was the interactive component. Sure, I knew the prayers, the melodies, and how to open and close a service, but I didn't understand how to truly pertain to my audience. January 10, 2021. I had just won my Chapter Shaliach election. I was excited to finally be a leader in my chapter. I took my knowledge that I attained from previous services and attempted to lead an interactive chapter shabbat. Although there was a high attendance, no one was engaged. After this experience, I've consistently worked hard on creating and leading interactive programs and services. The program after that shabbat was a brother-sister chapter purim program, where members of both chapters were engaged and had a great time. This is what makes me the leader that NSR needs. I can adapt well. I admit my faults and successfully learn from them. With a position like that of Shaliach, there is a lot of trial and error. I can now proudly say that I understand how to interact with my chapter and my region. This is especially needed due to our current circumstances. Covid has left NSR fractured, leaving programming to be almost entirely virtual. It is difficult to make genuine connections through our computers and phones, but we are still here. We might not be the most connected due to Covid, but we have persisted. Our region is one that is looked up to in the order, a symbol of regional excellence. We need to bring our programming, and therefore our connections to that level. A way we can connect the region is by having bi-monthly interactive services or judaic programs that are led by chapter Sh'lichim or by those who are interested. They can choose whatever topic they'd like and I would help them to create an interactive service or program connecting to it. These teen leaders are not only gaining valuable leadership experience, but they are helping our region to regain its connection. Also, another idea I have is the NSR Stand up Committee. What if everybody could lead a community service program or fundraiser? My Co and I would bring together a group of Alephs and BBGs who are passionate about issues within their communities and want to make a difference. We would help them to create programs, events, and fundraisers for topics they choose such as LGBTQ+ Rights, Women's Reproductive rights, Anti-Semitism, etc. Another priority I have is to empower our chapter Sh'lichim. I would work closely with my counterparts to guarantee that they are at their maximum potential and constantly growing as leaders. Overall, I believe that by giving Alephs and BBGs leadership experiences, we can help to further their BBYO involvement, love of BBYO, and their growth as a person. Bringing interpersonal connection back to Nassau Suffolk Region is my biggest goal for this upcoming term. Together, we can do it.