

Candidate for the 64th Regional Aleph Godol of the Nassau Suffolk Region
Ryan Kertzner

My Vision:

By the numbers, our region is still one of the strongest in the International Order. We brought a large number of delegates to IC 2021, and have a respectably sized delegation of teens going on summer programs. However, these numbers deceive us, lulling us into a false sense of security. The truth is, to put it bluntly, we are not doing very well. Going into this term, we thought that we had learned during our initial lockdown how to program virtually, and we were right. We had mastered the art of programming virtually, but we've faced an even greater problem—one problem that has been the root of many subsequent shortcomings faced by our region—aleph engagement. Virtual programs have not engaged with Alephs, making it difficult to recruit new Alephs, and even more difficult to keep existing Alephs involved.

Now that we are returning to in-person programming, we have a unique opportunity. While the current, dismal state of AZA is troubling, it provides the chance to rebuild and reshape how we treat Alephs. I am running for Regional Aleph Godol to guide and oversee the reconstruction of AZA in our region. I am running to make sure that one year from now, we are anew: that we have formalized everything that is whole and beautiful about AZA into the structure of our regional network of Alephs; that each and every chapter is successfully engaging existing alephs while consistently bringing in new ones; and that this change happens through a shared theme, a shared idea—fraternity.

I am running for the position of Regional Aleph Godol to see this happen. To see to it that fraternity among Alephs is at the forefront of our motives, and that we rebuild accordingly. How, you ask, will we achieve this? Through the power of connection. It is not through membership initiatives that teens become Alephs; they do so because they made a connection with an existing Aleph. By connecting with new teens and disengaged alephs, we can give anyone the opportunity to fall in love with the Order of the Aleph Zadik Aleph. Why am I the person to see us through this pivotal term? Because I was once the teen I reference: one who didn't care for AZA, and was certainly not in love with the Order of AZA and my brother Alephs. It was through a single connection with an senior Aleph in my home chapter that allowed me to see the true spirit of AZA. For AZA is about the connections between brothers, and as someone who has had that experience, it will be my priority as Godol of this great region to share the power of connection with as many alephs and non-alephs as possible.