

## **Candidate for the 30<sup>th</sup> VAC BBG Sh'lichah**

### **Claudia Rose Sachs**

#### ***What is your vision for Virginia Council?***

My vision for Virginia Council is a year of learning, peace, advocacy, activism, and tradition. Virginia Council will embody BBYO's mission of pluralism, inclusivity, and community. Every teen should feel embraced, loved, and encouraged to practice their Jewish traditions and explore new ways to pray and learn. Virginia Council must commit to defending and protecting the planet, supporting and learning about Israel, combatting Anti-Semitism, remembering and honoring the Holocaust, and uplifting marginalized communities. Virginia Council will connect with Jewish teens around the world through prayer, digital connection, and learning. Global Shabbat in the fall and Holocaust Education Havdalah in the spring would give teens an opportunity to connect with Jews around the world and learn about history and tradition. Virginia Council should be an inclusive community that accepts and embraces all teens regardless of ability, sexuality, race, Jewish practice, or gender.

#### ***What are three concrete steps you will take to achieve this vision, and why is this the direction in which we should go?***

- 1) Create a pluralistic JLAB experience at every Virginia Council and Eastern Region Convention. JLAB is an open Jewish space with Jewish activities, educators, and learning. The JLAB will give all teens an opportunity to explore their Jewish identity in a Shabbat-friendly environment. The Eastern Region JLAB would be a chapter of the International Convention JLAB experience that is open for morning and evening services and diverse Judaic programming. Pluralism in BBYO means giving an option for every teen to feel welcome and connected regardless of observance. I would also work with the Regional Director to build a Virginia Council Kallah focused on Jewish learning in the spring of 2021.
- 2) Lead a bi-monthly Zoom song session called "Eastern Energy" to bring people together through music and learning. Jewish music allows us to connect to our roots and traditions, and it would allow Eastern teens to meet and mingle. "Eastern Energy" would include songs like One Day, Lean on Me, Olam Chesed, Hinei Ma'atov, and Lo Yisa Goy. Teens all across Eastern Region would have the opportunity to lead an "Eastern Energy" or choose new songs to learn.
- 3) Ensure that every chapter term calendar includes at least one Shabbat service, one Havdalah service, and one Stand Up program. Services and programs allow teens to access ancient Jewish traditions and enjoy singing together, and Israel programs help teens learn about other cultures and build a connection with Israel. Services also give a variety of teens an opportunity to lead and learn about Jewish tradition, prayer, songs, and history. Virginia Council should also focus its energy on serving the community and protecting the Earth through J-Serve and monthly volunteer opportunities.