

Hello! My name is Ben Gervin, Class of 2022, and I am running for the position of Student Body President in Kehillah's upcoming 2020 Student Government election.

### Vision

A core part of my philosophy for leading is that a leader should set out to solve both smaller and larger-scale issues. That's why I've dedicated time to create a campaign both to improve Kehillah on a greater scale, and during the day-to-day.

#### Day-to-Day Policy

- Reforming the lost and found system to one discrete location, so lost items are far easier to locate.
- Stations with free writing utensils to ensure everyone has the materials they need for class.
- Disposable cups near the water fountains to create easy access without a thermos or needing to leave class often.
- More affordable Kehillah apparel.
- Orderly reservations for tutorial rooms to ensure everyone have a workspace if they require it.

#### Larger-Scale Policy

- A permanently open suggestion box or survey for ideas or requests to be considered by Student Government.
- An automatic cold beverage machine with varied drink options.
- Continuation and enhancement of robust Jewish education achieved through having an open platform for all opinions and hosting guest speakers to discuss nuanced issues.

### Past Leadership Experience

My past leadership at Kehillah is demonstrated through two main positions. First was my appointment to Kehillah's Student Search Committee, which interviewed several candidates for the now-filled position of Head of School. During these meetings, each of the dozen students took great care in asking crucial questions to get a feel for which candidates would be right for our school.

Second, I am the founder and president of the Kehillah Debate Team, one of the most committed and passionate groups within the Kehillah community. A tangible way to view the team's and my success and commitment is to view our recent excellent performance in tournaments. Creating a new team has not been easy. It required me to locate a coach, negotiate extensively with school administration, recruit fellow students, and help figure out the logistical challenges of finding practice time and space and getting students to tournaments. Starting the debate team has made me a stronger leader and taught me many skills that I believe would help me be a very effective Student Body President.

### Accomplishments

During my time at Kehillah, I have remained a consistently active member of our community. Since freshman year, I have been a member of the Kehillah Tennis Team, Latin Club and now Latin Team, Jazz Band, RAMbassadors, and the ever elusive Hot Sauce Club, which has unfortunately been discontinued.

I have also been an active member of my community outside of school. I have pursued my passions of music and Jewish learning through my participation in the San Jose Youth Symphony's Jazz Band, and in educational Jewish organizations such as Club Z, which facilitate Jewish teen activism through educational activities and conferences incorporating diverse perspectives. Last summer, I got work experience by interning at Jewish Family and Childrens' Services, a position which required a detailed application process and daily time commitment to the Jewish community for six weeks.

Thank you for considering me as your next Student Body President. It would be my honor to serve the Kehillah Community.

