SEPTEMBER 2021

THE GUARDIAN

Official Newsletter of MSU Tower Guard

This Year's E-Board

President: Ellie Friedman
Vice President: Anna Lehr
Run Chair: Annie Henseler
Run Chair: Sam Tarling
Secretary: Kirthika Krishnan
Treasurer: Parker Stager
Seargent-At-Arms: Taylor Nitz
Fundraiser Chair: Jared Lin
Public Relations Chair: Akshitha Karthikeyan
Historian: Maren Case
Social Chair: Renee Harrigan
CSD Liaison: Madison Paulus

This Month's Birthdays:

Hannah Saale
SEPTEMBER 2

Sarah Koehler
SEPTEMBER 4

Aryan Toprani
SEPTEMEBER 7

Petra Johnson
SEPTEMBER 16

Urvi Chakraborty
SEPTEMBER 17

Meriam Meram
SEPTEMBER 28

Spartans Will.

A Word of Welcome

BY ELLIE FRIEDMAN

Hello, Tower Guard 2021-2022. I'm sure all of you are getting a sense of my wordiness from the many messages I send in Teams and GroupMe, so I'll try to keep this brief. I am SO honored to be your president this year and see all that we accomplish together! How special is it to begin our "real" college experience working with seventy-something of the coolest people on campus and connecting with RCPD students and staff?

First, I want to remind you of your importance in this cohort. All of you bring so much magic and skill to Tower Guard just by being yourselves. Being surrounded by some of the most driven and accomplished students at MSU can be as daunting as it is enriching, and I'm always here to remind you of your worth. This is a large organization with a lot of moving parts, but your voice will not get lost in the crowd. Being a team means that all of us, regardless of title or role, are instrumental to our success. You are enough and your ideas matter. Period.

We all know that this year is going to be challenging and unconventional, forcing us to be flexible. COVID-19 is still very much a real threat, especially to some RCPD students who we are working with closely. Because safety and accessibility are our top priorities, virtual options will exist for all meetings, and it's important that we communicate consistently and rely on each other throughout the year.

I have been working with and leading similar organizations for years, but never have I encountered an organization with such rich traditions, comprehensive services, and committed members as Tower Guard. In a time where educational inequities have been exacerbated, we continue to challenge the norm and push for accessibility and justice for students with disabilities. I want to challenge you to view our collective work as not only "community service," but as substantive social resistance. We don't need to have all the answers, but we do need to recognize our roles as aspiring advocates. Again, how cool is that?

I am so excited to see what this year brings and even more excited to make meaningful connections with all of you. The current goal is to know all seventy-seven of your names by the end of this month, so please help me by coming to events or reaching out and getting coffee with me! I'm always down for study sessions in the tower!

Love,
Ellie