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6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Ten years ago, I was a student in the Rothman Religious School at Temple Emanu-El. It was here that I learned to read trope, became a bat mitzvah, discovered USY conventions, learned to write in Hebrew script, and fell in love with Friday night tunes. Fast-forward to the present-day and you will discover the same Hebrew-loving, curly hair-flaunting person, albeit with a larger Hebrew vocabulary and louder praise for natural hair.

I recently graduated from the Joint Program between Columbia University and The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), where I received a BA in Political Science and a BA in Bible, respectively. I have an extremely strong passion for Jewish intellectualism, especially when it comes to analysis of the good, the bad, and the ugly of Biblical stories. My JTS education proved to me how vital it is to study ancient texts-- and especially a text as universally foundational as the Hebrew Bible-- in their original language. For that reason, combined with my not-so-secret love affair with foreign language, I attended Middlebury's School of Hebrew this summer: a 2-month, intensive Hebrew program in which not a lick of English was spoken, read, written, or heard. To me, the ability to converse in Modern Hebrew revives our Jewish tradition into a living, breathing, relevant organism. At different points in our life and at different periods throughout history, we will love, challenge, admire, misuse, honor, and be inspired by our Judaism.

My goal as an educator is to improve my students' understanding of this beautifully complex organism, Judaism, so that they may know how they arrived to where they are today and can make informed decisions about where to move in the future. Throughout the year, I will make the greatest effort to infuse Modern Hebrew into my lessons, keeping Judaism alive, kicking, and fabulously free to continue developing.

