

place on Earth. The prayer service itself was short, about 15 minutes. A series of prayers corresponded with

motions—worshippers cycling between kneeling, bowing, and standing as prayers were chanted. Everything was

uniform, the worshippers completing the same motions at the same time. It was a marked contrast from the prayer sessions of Judaism that I was used to. Yet it was similar to worship at Tempio Maggiore in Florence in that men and women were not allowed to pray together; in the mosque, women sat behind a gate, even behind where we tourists were sitting.

Studying abroad turned out to be a meaningful way to deepen my experiences of Judaism, Catholicism, and Islam. At home I learned about the Holocaust, and at Dachau I synthesized this knowledge into understanding. At home my friends explained aspects of their religions, and abroad I delved into them in diverse, authentic ways—such as analyzing world-renowned works of art depicting New Testament scenes and sitting in a prayer session in the beautiful Blue Mosque. If you want to go deeper, I encourage you to go abroad.

—Elanna Said, NYU graduate (May 2011) and member of Temple B'nai Or in Morristown, New Jersey

OPTIONS ABROAD

1 **MASA.** This umbrella organization offers more than 150 long-term programs in Israel. masaisrael.org


2 **The Peace, Justice, and Environment Fall College Semester at Kibbutz Lotan.** Earn 16 college credits for courses connecting social justice, sustainability, community, and ecology at this Reform kibbutz. kibbutzlotan.com/creativeEcology/peaceJusticeEnvironment.html

3 **Kibbutz Lotan's Green Apprenticeship program.** The kibbutz's Center for Green Ecology offers a six-week course in permaculture design and sustainable agriculture which qualifies for college credit at many universities. kibbutzlotan.com/creativeEcology/ga/program.html

4 **Other college study abroad exchange programs in Israel.** Start searching at: studyabroad.com/programs/Middle+East,Israel/default.aspx

5 **Still other college study abroad programs.** Start searching at studyabroad.com/programs/jewish+studies/default.aspx

Once you've made your plans, check out a Reform Movement guide on popular study abroad destinations and what their surrounding Jewish communities are like: keshercollege.org/Documents/index.cfm?id=1380. Also visit reformjudaismmag.org/browse/travel_and_world_reports to read past *Reform Judaism* magazine articles about your destination area.

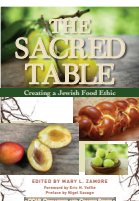


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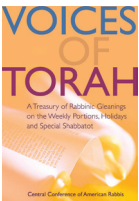


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