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NEWS & VIEWS

August 10, 2017 | 18 Av 5777

Summer Edition

From the Hebrew College Blog (blog.hebrewcollege.edu)

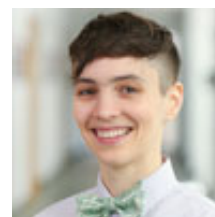
SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

Posts from this Hebrew College-hosted blog are published weekly in [HuffPost Religion](#) and [Patheos](#).

Signs Upon Our Hands Parashat Eikev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

By Rabbi Gray Myrseth, Rab` 17
 School Director, Kehilla Community Synagogue in Piedmont, CA

In early July, I sat in a room at a retreat center in Northern California, listening with rapt attention to a group of queer elders telling stories. It was the second to last night of Queer Talmud Camp, a weeklong Talmud-study intensive for LGBTQ people and allies, put on by SVARA, a traditionally radical Yeshiva based in Chicago.



“Elder” was a relative term in this context, with panelists ranging from their 40s to their 70s, but all had lived long enough to see a space like Queer Talmud Camp go from outside the realm of the possible to the very real indeed. They told us about coming out, to themselves and to others. They shared stories of being told they would never succeed as rabbis, as camp directors, as teachers. They spoke about mourning friends during the AIDS crisis and gathering with surviving friends to resist and heal. They spoke of protest marches and the births of their children. They spoke about what it took to create the world that we youngsters have inherited.

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