

## **But What about the Jews?**

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December 20, 2016*

Last fall, I popped in to visit my old Hebrew school when I was home for break. We got into a discussion about times we feel least Jewish. My answer was clear: I don't feel very Jewish when I'm singing Christian hymns in chapel every morning.

By wearing my Groton swag around town, I'm showing off a nineteenth-century crest distinguished by a prominent red cross. Groton is rooted in the episcopal faith, and though today our morning services are largely nondenominational and our dorms are home to students of many religions, I find that being a Jew at Groton is akin to being a lefty in a right-handed world.

I feel for my left-handed friends. Old-school desks, pin pads at checkout, and doodle pads with attached styli are not built for them. They make it work, and they get used to it, but they lament their lack of options. When one door in a pair is unlocked, it's often the right one, and their instinct to go to the left fails them.

On Friday evenings, Jews at Groton meet to fulfill our weekly religious service requirement. Our service is casual and short, but it's a calm time every week for our community of twenty to be together and be reminded that we are surrounded by other Jews from a range of backgrounds. But Jew Crew comes during prime club meeting time. Somewhat ironically, Jew Crew bars me from attending Cultural Alliance. The occasional Friday night event comes and goes without any Jews in attendance; this past spring, I even had to miss part of my friends' dance recital.

It is my second year here, so I'm still getting used to having classes on Saturdays. When I'm sitting in math, congregants are gathering at my synagogue for services. My friends' little brothers are becoming Bar Mitzvah as I review my world history notes; my Hebrew school friends are singing the Shema as I solve trig equations. Though I wouldn't trade Groton for anything, I wish being a Jew here weren't so inconvenient.

Even though the whole school sings about Jesus and treats Fridays as a regular school night, I've actually found Groton to be a very Jewish place. Judaism values community and respect for your neighbor, two hallmarks of life on our Circle. As a religious minority here, the biggest challenges I face are scheduling conflicts—and I'm thankful for that.