



Congregation Ner Tamid

on the Greenspun Campus for Jewish Life, Learning, and Spiritual Renewal

Light at the End of the Tunnel in the Time of Corona

Upon receiving the second vaccine, I felt fortunate. I thought, “At last I don’t have to feel so vulnerable. At last, I have some protection from the fear that has consumed me for much of the past year.” It was as if I could finally see the light at the end of some dark unending, unyielding tunnel.

The TV snaps me out of my reverie. (Some days, I just wish I had never turned it on!) The newscaster reminds me of the stark reality of the months ahead: It is going to take a lot longer than anyone thought for the world to get back to normal. And even if I took one important step towards normalcy, the world in which I live in is truly interconnected. We all must wear our masks; we all must practice good hygiene; we all must find our way, when and if, we are comfortable to get vaccinated so we can change the trajectory of this virus.

I don’t know if the light at the end of the tunnel is quite as visible as I had hoped. But it is hope that allows me to see the light at all. To know that day by day, things won’t be the same. They will change, and if we are lucky, change for the better. We each will do our part, and that in itself is the power of light.

It was Kierkegaard who said, “*Faith sees best in the dark*”. It has been my faith that has illuminated my life, spurred my sense of hope, and encouraged me when I felt discouraged.

There. Ahead of me. I see it. And that little light draws me near. As it should. As it will. As it does.

One of the great teachers of Hasidic wisdom, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov wrote a beautiful prayer centuries ago. I share it with you now, because its beauty speaks to me even and especially now:

*O dear God
Be with me,
And help me
Strive to come close—
To be fully committed to You.
Let every part of me
-physical, emotional and spiritual-
Join
In focused determination
To fulfill Your will.
May my thoughts,
My emotions,
My words,
And all my actions
Be wholly in tune
With You.
And let us say, Amen.*