



Congregation Ner Tamid

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

Traffic in the Time of Corona

We humans are sensitive creatures; well, except when we aren't. We seem to notice, even the smallest changes; well, except when we don't.

Take for example the traffic. Is it my imagination, but is the traffic all of a sudden close to dreadful again? Long lines forming at red lights. People zig zagging in and out of lanes. *Impatience has returned!*

Where is the calm of yesterday?

Wait, can't we have it both ways? Can't we have quieter streets, more time at home, (work from home when we want?), better air quality, and a return to simpler things like walking the dog and getting to know our neighbors? All that "good stuff" that was a side effect of the pandemic that we noticed when we were trying to find the rainbow amidst the storm.

But now it seems like the storm is almost over, and it is only raining. We still get wet when we go out and need our umbrellas for protection. But we aren't afraid to get a little wet; we were only afraid of drowning.

And so, as our fear level begins to diminish, does that mean our sense of joy will diminish as well?

I don't want to return to "normal" if it means returning to how things were before the pandemic. And I don't necessarily want to live in ambiguity wondering if I will be safe or if I need to wear a mask forever or give up shaking hands and hugs.

I guess, like everyone else, I am going to have to figure it out. Day by day. Change by change. Perhaps, this go around though, I will pay better attention. I will notice the small changes, and appreciate them. And I will find myself more secure in facing the big changes in my life, because if anything has changed, it is my understanding and belief, that we are more resilient than we ever imagined.

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