



Congregation Ner Tamid

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

Spring Forward in the Time of Corona

Last weekend I did a silly thing. I set my clock *back* an hour. Isn't the expression, "Spring back? Fall forward?" Or is it the other way around? For a moment I got so confused. This time in our lives, it has been confusing. Things are out of place. And just a wee bit off. Even as slowly things return to the way "they were" and we make our way into a restaurant or a movie or shopping, there just seems something a bit strange doing things we used to do without giving it a second thought. Like putting on a shirt that we accidentally put on backwards or inside out we seem to need to look in the mirror and ask ourselves, "Does this fit right?"

And then there is the matter of setting our clocks *ahead*. (Yes, I finally figured out what I supposed to do). Losing that hour. It just didn't seem fair. Haven't we lost enough time this year? But that's the thing about time, there always seems to be enough of it, until there isn't. Our most precious gift, and we take it for granted. Squander it perhaps. Cherish it, too.

Spring *forward*. Perhaps that's good advice. Like trying to make our way into a swimming pool for our first swim of the season, do we just dive right in? Or do we hesitate? Is the water warm or will it envelop us with a cold that for a moment makes us shudder until we adjust to the water's warmth? We are still cautious. Still unsure. And perhaps we should be. A few more weeks. A month or two or three. Things are constantly changing. That time is needed to make sure that more and more of us are vaccinated. And feeling protected and safe.

We may have lost some time, but we are preparing to recapture that which we thought we had lost forever...the ability to hug our loved ones, return to school, return to synagogue and take part in everyday activities without fear. That is the power of hope. With some incredible science mixed in. And a lot of very, very dedicated health care workers achieving what was thought beyond our reach last fall when we were so busy, falling back.

Sometimes when we move forward in the right direction in life it does take a bit of time. And effort. And faith. I don't know much in life that is worthwhile that doesn't require those ingredients.

It might take us a bit of time to realize it. To understand it. And embrace it. But there is no time like

Today.

Now what did I do with my watch? I haven't worn it in a year. I think I should put it back on, don't you think?

Rabbi Sanford Akselrad