

By Ivy Greenberg

I had high expectations for 2020. My 1st born was to become a Bat Mitzvah!! There were guest lists, invitations, returned invitations, rsvps, hotels, favors, menus, decorations, fittings, hair and makeup. Sam was working so hard on her Torah portion, speeches were written and Tzedakah (over \$1,000 for special needs swim lessons at HOPEfitness) was raised. 3 weeks to go, so close to the finish line. I joked that we would print our logos on hand sanitizer and masks (boy do I wish I'd patented that idea) and put corona bottles on every table. Aunts and uncles still had their flights. Grandma was coming from AZ no matter what!! But as the virus got closer and the cancellations came flooding in, fear, sadness, anger, and uncertainty filled our home. We awakened to how very serious this was, and knew nothing was more important than keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe.



March 13th, 2020, the sobs from my daughter, and the pressure from the venue. We understood they had lots of brides to re-book but it was nothing compared to 50 other Jewish Mothers competing for the same dates. It was all to much. And then it went still. And in the stillness a new perspective emerged. And that's when I began to learn:

1. I learned how exceptional my Sammy's integrity is. She insisted on putting everything off until all 4 grandparents could safely be on the bimah,
2. I learned that my husband is truly my best friend and advocate especially in crisis,
3. I learned how to convince Grandma not to get on that plane,
4. I learned to Zoom my oldest dearest friends who I suddenly had time to connect with,
5. I learned how much I enjoyed the stories from the guys on TBT's nominating committee,
6. I learned to make really good porch martinis,
7. I learned the names of neighbors as they walked by,
8. I learned kids don't need sleep-away camp just a gang to run around the neighborhood with,
9. I learned to be an outdoor movie technician,
10. I learned that we fill our lives up with too much. Too much stuff, too much planning, too much FOMO,
11. I learned that staycations are just as rewarding as vacations,
12. I learned that we really really needed that new puppy,
13. I learned to lower my expectations!!!

L'Shana Tova and Zei Gezunt!!

Ivy Greenberg, her husband Alan and their two daughters Samantha and Sydney have been members of TBT for 12 years. Both girls attended the nursery school and the religious school. Ivy is on the Youth Activities Committee and recently joined the nominating committee.