

2020- And Now For Something Different By Lon Fogel

As I reflect upon 2020, a year that we all want to see in our rear view mirror, I discovered some takeaways.

I thought about how unimportant sports were when they weren't being played, and then I realized how important they were upon their return. And isn't it odd how the death of your favorite athlete of all time makes you feel like a child again even though the stadiums are empty as the team remembers him.

2020 also gave me time to reflect back on a favorite poem that I first read in high school by Robert Frost and how he almost said in "Mending Wall" that "Good face masks make good neighbors." Two neighbors talking at their adjoining fence this past Spring: "That's such a nice face mask. Where did you get it?"

"Thanks for noticing. I find all sorts of interesting stuff on Etsy. By the way, how is your family doing in all this craziness?"

"Well thanks for your concern. I suppose we're as good as can be expected."

"That's good to hear. Us too, you know how it is. Hopefully we can all see each other together soon- maybe next Spring."

I thank goodness that Covid is mostly a respiratory problem and not a gastrointestinal one or we would still be without toilet paper, or probably any paper for that matter.

I like that we have all become experts in the cancellation policies of various airlines. I don't know the difference between Pinot Grigio and Pinot Noir, but I can recite the JetBlue to Napa flight change disclaimer by heart.

I learned just how long a q-tip can be before it pierces the back of my skull.

Finally, along came the realization of just how wonderful it is to celebrate the birth of a new grandson even though you aren't able to meet or hold him until too many months later. That feeling is surpassed only when you learn that your daughter, son-in-law, and grandchild decided that living 3,000 miles away from family is no place to be when a pandemic hits, so they decide to move back east!

Lonnie Fogel is a member of Temple Beth Torah for 29 years. He is on the board of trustees and is currently serving on the TBT Re-entry Task Force. He and his wife, Jackie, have five adult children who all attended the temple's nursery, religious school, and Hebrew High School programs.



