

Unexpected Lessons of 2020

I've seen the heights of human compassion and generosity as neighbors reflexively shared whatever they had and worked together to help each other in the height of the pandemic; I've seen the depths of moral bankruptcy to which people can sink, all in the name of Greed, as others selfishly refuse to take minimal measures to protect each other.



I've learned love can come from the most unexpected places and be incredibly comforting and uplifting and I've learned that anything, including—perhaps especially—medicine and science, can be politicized for someone's personal gain.

I've learned that God is still trying to get our attention, and that the prayer that says "everywhere we go, it is always Egypt" can be amended to say that there is still a desert we may be commanded to wander through at a moments notice, and while the "only way to get from here to there is by walking together," sadly, I've learned not everyone is willing to make that trip.

I have experienced extraordinary heights of gratitude and abysmal depths of fear and anxiety. I'm learning how difficult it is to spur people to tap into their own strength and spiritual fortitude and how much more compelling it seems to languish in the illusion of continued privilege.

Debra Blaine, MD is a member of the Board of Trustees at Temple Beth Torah for the last six years. She is an Author, a Life Coach, and an Urgent Care Physician. She has a son who started his residency in Anesthesia at Harvard this year, and who would have been married 3 months ago in Mexico, but for COVID-19. She lives with her furry companion, SammieKat, who keeps her sane.