

Finding a Silver Lining

by Nina Sitron

What have I learned during 2020 in the midst of a crazy time in our lives? I've discovered that finding a silver lining allows me to flourish; it opens up a whole world of joy and fulfillment. Without the usual busy-ness in life, I've been able to focus on those things which matter most to me.



One very precious part of my life is my family (immediate and extended), and a highlight of that is hanging out with my granddaughter Wavy as we negotiate this new world and discover creative ways to do so. My passion for climbing our family tree has led me to be the President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Western Massachusetts, so that in addition to doing my own detective work, I lead a society which supports others who are interested in this treasure hunt for one's family history. This has been a time of connecting and re-connecting with so many; I'm understanding more and more the importance of the people in my life and how much that means to me. And then there's my fascination with how we human beings evolve and grow, which has led me to engage in conversations and participate in courses which further my own personal growth. I'm not done yet! Are you?

And the creativity that is sprouting up all over, it's inspiring! Attending virtual events---Shabbat services, weddings, B'not Mitzvah, a shiva, an unveiling, 2 different conferences, and birthday celebrations—has been so touching, and I've discovered an unexpectedly rich flavor to them. I am making lemonade and having fun. Why; I even wore my family tree hat as a contestant at 'Jewpardy' at the International Jewish Genealogy Conference this summer!

And if I could impart this to others—the idea of flourishing regardless of what's going on, I'd be one happy camper. I feel blessed to go through life with this context. Even Winston Churchill agreed when he said “Don't let a good crisis go to waste”.

Nina has been a long-time congregant, who relocated to Western Massachusetts 6 ½ years ago. Even though she no longer lives on Long Island, her heart is always with Temple Beth Torah. It has always been a source of joy, community, and shalom for her.