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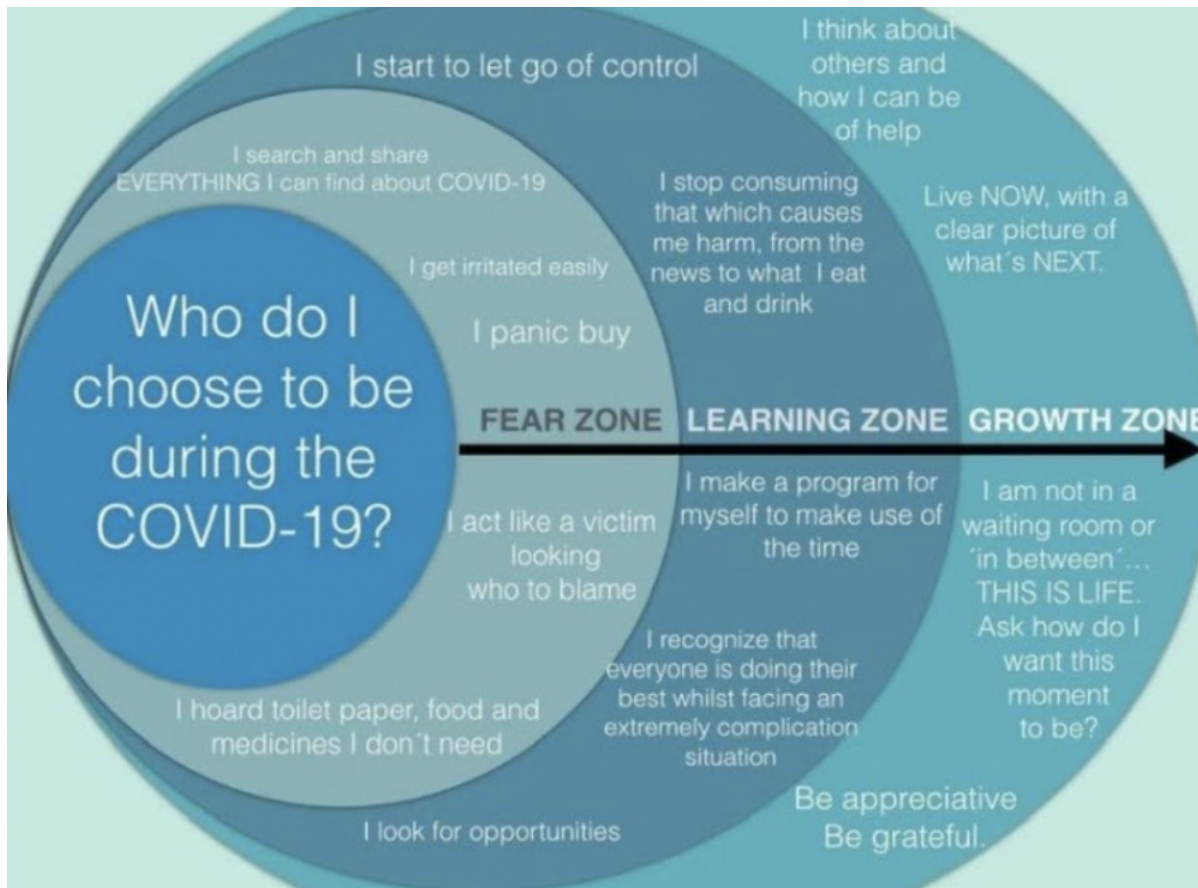
Dear Friends,

Feliks stayed awake all night last night to finish a project for school. His school, thankfully, already had “virtual school” in place, so for the most part, his school days have continued, although at home, alone. What he misses most is the chance to build a set for the school’s spring musical, “Fiddler on the Roof,” which also can’t be held this year.

When I think about what kids are missing in school, I am reminded of my stint as Field Office Coordinator for Semester at Sea, a college semester program that takes place on a ship sailing around the globe. A few days into our voyage, we hit a typhoon that caused hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage to the ship. It altered our voyage in significant ways. I remember one young man insisting on a refund because this “wasn’t Semester at Sea.” He meant the one on the brochure. What he was missing was HIS Semester at Sea, made all the more special by what we had lived through together.

This is an extraordinary time. The International Federation of Coaches in Kenya created this model of how we can engage in this time, asking the question I’ve been asking myself: “Who do I want to be in this situation?” As they note, we can be fearful. We can be learners. Or we can grow. We get to choose. There is no generic “brochure life” filled with all our expectations, just as there was no generic Semester at Sea. There is only *this* one, ours, right now, this perfectly

imperfect one. Who do you choose to be during COVID-19?



(Image from International Coach Federation, Kenya)

Coming Up



ONLINE CLASS: Writers in the Pandemic - New cohort starts April 6.
 A way to build community among writers during this odd time in which we find ourselves. A writing prompt every morning for two weeks, two live Zoom sessions together, a private FB group, and an amazing community of writers. Only \$37. To register, [go here](#).

ONLINE CLASS - If you have already taken “Writers in the Pandemic,” you are welcome to join me for “**Writers in the Pandemic - 2**” where we will deepen writing and observational skills. Private FB group, two live Zoom lessons together, and thought-provoking prompts every morning for two weeks. Pre-requisite: Writers in the Pandemic. \$37. [Go here](#) to register.

NEW! ONLINE FREE WEEKLY GATHERINGS: During this pandemic, I will host a weekly tea-time on Zoom for



whoever would like to show up with a cup of tea, a quote or poem to share, or just a need for conversation. You can join me on *Thursdays from 4-4:45 pm Eastern* in [this Zoom room](#). We have an innate need for community, and the technology to create community spaces... Bring paper and pen in case we start writing.

ONLINE CLASS: Hard Conversations: Whiteness, Race, and Social Justice - Begins April

7. Focuses on white racial identity, hallmarks of white supremacy culture, what it means to be white in a racist world, and how to create a positive white identity. [Go here](#) for info.

Thanks for reading. If you like this newsletter and want to support it, forward it to someone who'd like it. If you're seeing this newsletter for the first time, [you can subscribe here](#).

Love more,

Patti

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