

## Lessons Learned in 2019

Maybe it is this pesky head cold and cough  
or these foggy, grey, drizzling days  
or the impeachment hearings droning on  
but my Christmas spirit is at a new low.  
This whole year has been a bit of a downer.  
Everyone seems to be yelling to be heard  
and nothing is getting accomplished.

I miss the days where we pulled together.  
When we said, "How can we make this work?"  
instead of "its not my job and those are the rules".  
Where we rolled up our sleeves and  
did the hard work that needed to be done.  
Even my little town can't figure out we'll need  
apartments for young people and newcomers.  
Maybe it is being reminded I am not in charge of  
the journey – need a hint? Put your house on the  
market. 8 months later - well that didn't happen!  
Then the city wants you to put in a \$400,000  
sidewalk and sewer line to nowhere – stuck.  
Or maybe it is losing my sweet, sweet Daisy;  
best dog ever, left us in her perfect way.

But today the sun came out & made a rainbow.  
My oldest grandson recited his cub scout pledge.  
And the grandkids Facetimed and made us laugh.  
Kate called, safely back from their honeymoon  
five months after their perfect wedding with  
just family at Grandpa's cabin deck at Tahoe.  
Kevin let us know all is well with his world;  
New girlfriend with 10 year old twin boys.  
We called our moms, 91 and 97, and reminded me  
to stop whining and to be grateful.  
My darling hubby made me dinner and still  
smiles at me like I am his new bride.

OK, so I will crank up the Christmas music  
and hang out and bake with my WINGS moms.  
They know what it is to really struggle every day -  
great to see strength and resilience in their eyes.  
To hear the sounds of joy and laughter of loads  
of kids safe and home with their moms.  
OK I am going to be more optimistic about 2020.  
I mean, who really liked their teens? Right??  
As day gets a little lighter, may my heart

be more filled and more at ease, knowing that  
life is always perfect and this is all part of the plan.  
When in doubt, I will stop by the WINGS house  
and see that the fridge is full of healthy items,  
knowing our cooking classes have paid off.  
So happy when the moms talk about graduating and  
moving forward without fear, and with faith.

Ok, I'm starting to feel better, that flicker of Holiday  
Spirit seems to have been rekindled.  
Maybe this year we can hold tight to each other  
and say the words that need to be said.  
We'll step out of our comfort zones and speak up.  
Vote, endorse someone, stand for something.

Join forces; dip our oars into the water  
and all pull together, moving forward.  
Don't just accept the norm, challenge. Don't  
look away, look up; pay attention, care.  
Let's talk less and try to listen more and  
use our phones to call people we love and miss!  
Let's not be Dems or Republicans, left or right,  
Be people. Not be for, or against, but be with.

I remind myself to get busy counting my blessings:  
For my amazing husband, best partner and friend.  
To our five wonderful grown kids and grandkids;  
each now happy and in such a good place.  
To our amazing moms, who continue to teach us  
lessons in resilience, perseverance, and love.  
To all of our wonderful family and friends who  
love me and cheer me throughout the year.  
To this wonderful community who continues  
to sustain and support our WINGS program.  
Let us pray for those who continue to struggle  
and do our part to make this a better place.

Wishing you and yours a very blessed season  
And very Merry Christmas.

Allyson & F (James)



For more information on WINGS or to make a donation, please go to [www.getwings.net](http://www.getwings.net).

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