

From: [David Kraemer](#)
To: [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)
Subject: FW: One Person's Response to Communal Fear
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From: Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:47 AM
To: mojo210al@gmail.com
Subject: One Person's Response to Communal Fear

WAGON WHEEL CENSUS 2 Cars 1 Large Tractor 1 Runner 0 dog walkers

I have a meeting [this morning](#) in South St Paul which means I will not be writing my column as I sit down after my walk. Just a shout out to the Egalitarian Minyan of Rogers Park (Chicago) where I joined in the davening [this morning](#) while walking.

Having a meeting with folks in South St Paul provides me a quick opportunity to reflect on the many folks who are just going about doing their jobs during this stay at home moment in our lives. As you know, I have the opportunity to be in know and be in touch with folks that I never interacted with for the first 63 years of my life—until I went to work in places like Mazeppa, South St Paul, Wanamingo or Zumbrota. I don't want to bore you with the importance of knowing people who are totally outside your comfort zone. But I am telling you, if you really want to change the tone and tenor of this country and you want to bring people together—until we all step out of our bubbles it isn't going to happen. Enough of my sermonizing. What I do want to say is this—in community after community, the city workers and the school cooks and the bus drivers, and the business council or chambers and the first responders and the local officials, food shelf managers, the list goes on are doing unbelievable work holding their little piece of this state together. In Lake City, Minnesota as of last week 18,000 meals had been prepared by the school cooks and delivered to folks who are on free and reduced lunch. (total population 5000). Similar stories of service can be shared about Goodhue and Plainview and every other town across my district. And while broadband coverage remains elusive for so many in these places, school superintendents are working overtime with creative solutions to connect to those who are not connected.

Walking today, while “davening in Chicago” I could only think how lucky I am to be doing what I am doing. I get to be connected to a minyan in Chicago solidifying my faith in our people, and I get to work the rest of the day with folks who solidify my faith in possibilities for our country. So today, Earth Day 2020 recognize the possibilities of goodness in our world. For one day--ignore the xenophobia that emanates from 1600 Pennsylvania, the foolishness of governors who ignore science, the meanness of the protesters who will cause unbelievable damage for others—and celebrate the folks who never make the news but are doing their part to ensure dignity and opportunity for us all. Morris

(For new readers, these daily reflections are part of my response to being home bound. I walk for 45 minutes in the morning and then sit down and just write. No editing or redrafting.)

Sent by my iPad