

**From:** [David Kraemer](#)  
**To:** [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SUNDAY SPECIAL EDITION. One person's response to communal fear  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 9:42:41 AM

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**From:** Morris Allen <[mojo210al@icloud.com](mailto:mojo210al@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** Morris <[mojo210al@aol.com](mailto:mojo210al@aol.com)>  
**Cc:** [docgorin@aol.com](mailto:docgorin@aol.com)  
**Subject:** SUNDAY SPECIAL EDITION. One person's response to communal fear

I foolishly sent this just to me and a few new additions that I added today. One day I will master technology

Sent by my iPad

On Mar 29, 2020, at 10:05 AM, Morris Allen <[mojo210al@icloud.com](mailto:mojo210al@icloud.com)> wrote:

SUNDAY SPECIAL EDITION  
EDITION

SUNDAY SPECIAL EDITION

SUNDAY SPECIAL

I want to share with you the blessing of the trick known as bundling. It suggests to us that we bundle SOMETHING WE WANT TO DO with SOMETHING WE NEED TO DO. Over the past three weeks I have come face to face with the reality (which was true)—there are limited things that I can control and, therefore, I had better control the things that I can control. Since I wanted to write and share about a section of the Wall Street Journal's (WSJ) REVIEW section from yesterday, I knew that I had to remain true to my pledge to do my early morning walk. It was misty and a little chilly, but it reminded me again of the fact that there are things I can control and one of them is linking things I want to do with things I need to do.

Truth be told, my friend and former shul President Mark S., tried to teach me that trick by gifting me a subscription to the WSJ to counter the absence of broad-based thinking by only reading the New York Times (NYT) on a daily basis. The greatest blessing of that gift has been the WSJ Saturday Review Section, affording me great pleasure each Shabbat spending a couple of hours devouring it. Yesterday was a wonderful example. The front page of the section was entitled HOW WILL THE PANDEMIC CHANGE OUR WORLD? In 17 serious and thoughtful essays, a variety of people spoke about how, when we emerge on the other side, they understand the outcomes—both positive and negative of this moment in human history. From Sal Kahn and Terry Teachout to Rahm

Emanuel and W. Bradford Wilcox, folks shared how their particular piece of the world will be altered as a result. I suggest to each of you that you get your hands on this section. I am not sure if the WSJ has opened their firewall or not during this pandemic crisis, but if it hasn't, and you don't subscribe, ask a friend for their copy.

I want to share just three brief comments and end with a request for each piece. Terry Teachout wrote about the challenges that Performing Arts are going to experience as a result of this pandemic and the potential changes that could alter the arts as a result. There are already plays that were in previews on Broadway that have cancelled, not postponed, their opening. Regional theatres have laid off all their staffs. He quotes one writer who said, "... We're gig people. We're no different than a handyman. When the theatres closed, we were literally all unemployed" Teachout ends his short essay with the following: "But the challenge posed by Covid-19 is far greater than anything else they have faced in my lifetime, and the story of the havoc it will wreak is one I dread to tell." So what can we do—just control the things we can control. I ask you to consider doing the following. Pay it forward and donate to a theatre company that will need support. Here are two that Phyllis and I support. The Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company (<http://mnjewishtheatre.org/donate>) and Penumbra- a theatre company that seeks to illumine the human condition through the experience of the African-American community (<https://penumbratheatre.org/donate/>)

Joyce Carol Oates wrote a wonderful piece on the fact that writers are now at an advantage. With the end of live performances (save for via the internet) and mingling together is discouraged—writers now have a leg up on other fine artists. She describes us as being a storytelling species. However, they are told, whether beautifully crafted or crudely narrated, she says we need stories and we have them. I saw this morning that Gov. Walz tweeted about asking people to share the books they are reading during this time of social isolation. I think that because he took on her challenge of exercising leadership and encouraging us to return to a time when storytelling was found in fiction and non-fiction works of the written word. Why do I think that? Her ending sentence (longer than most of mine). "For many Americans this transition to a monastic life, a retreat from other people, especially large gatherings, may come to seem normal, as in a science fiction dystopia where individuals live out their lives in seclusion, oblivious of the alternative life (books, mja) which was once so cherished and, through some fluke of nature or a tragic error of failed leadership, squandered and lost." Like Gov. Walz, let's not squander this opportunity. I have become enamored with Colson Whitehead. Whatever your joy or you long put off promise to read—do it now. Hear the stories that will remind us of our very humanity.

Finally, William J. Burns writes about a 'Moment to Renew American Statesmanship.' He opens the essay by reminding us that in 1919, when the world leaders descended on Versailles to negotiate peace after WWI, President Wilson was in bed with the flu. The opening reminder aside, we are in another moment when a restoration of American statesmanship is on order. He suggests that it is nearly impossible to revive the role that America once played in the world order given the rise of strongmen,

narrow minded nationalists and xenophobic leaders. He says the task for America is to resist the temptation to continuing to follow suit and pull up the drawbridges and continue our retreat. While he argues that we can never revive the role that America once played in maintaining a vision for the world order, we need to and can restore a model of character and vision that illuminated other great moments of world disorder and hold true to our notion of a "liberal world order." His closing line sums it up—Even in this most difficult of moments, we have a rare opening to recover a sense of national purpose and enlightened self-interest and to help Americans—and the world—find shelter from this storm. One last request—don't sit out this election and vote for character, decency, compassion and vision. Vote for those who seek common sense solutions over self interest and work to ensure that we regain a little self- respect in our own eyes for the leadership we have. Until tomorrow-----

Morris

Sent by my iPad