

**From:** [David Kraemer](#)  
**To:** [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)  
**Subject:** FW: One Person's Response to Communal Fear. 6.25.20  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 9:50:17 AM

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**From:** Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:28 AM  
**To:** MOJO210AL <MOJO210AL@aol.com>  
**Subject:** One Person's Response to Communal Fear. 6.25.20

WAGON WHEEL CENSUS. 7 Trucks 7 Cars 2 Runners 1 Dog Walker(2dogs)  
1 Walker

***So much to write about today. But I would be remiss if I didn't close the loop from yesterday's question which I asked. As I expected, they are all over the board- and that's the way it should be. And indeed for that I am grateful. At the end of the day, Phyllis and I will need to make a decision as to what we will do. In the meantime, they remain a reminder of the earliest days of our friendship and relationship and allow us how to reflect on the subsequent chapters in our lives. The envelopes alone, and the stamps the prices on them, are a reminder of the places we have been and the days we have lived. And while we have to make a decision, God-willing, we still have more chapters to write-even if our letter writing days have come to a close. MORRIS***

#### RESPONSES

1) Our parents are different people for each of their children...each believes that his/her understanding of who their parents are...and all that entails, is correct...no idealization and aware of what is believed to be their drawbacks. Why would I want to discover now something that would change that for the worse....and when I can't even talk to them about it. I think our skeletons should stay where they are.

2) I have to think on this one for a bit. A very interesting question.....

3) easy answer to your question.

we went through all of our letters one rainy July sunday a few years back.

We had a lot of feelings about it and then we chucked most of them.

Not for the next generation in my opinion.

If there is a less "varnished" story to tell, let it be told from the vantage of your current self reflecting back.

preserves your privacy and still allows you to tell the stories you feel need to be told.

4) Don't shred them. As you might know, my Father saved pretty much everything. I've read a

journal he wrote to my mom (with her permission), letters from before they were married, items he wrote to apply for jobs. They are so him and give me so much more insight as an adult into my adult father. and also his younger self, who i probably didn't always think about. I've cried, and laughed, and feel like I still get to talk to him. Of course, I talk to him everyday anyway, but still. And if there is anything you think needs explanation-- tell your kids now. and if not, trust that they know you well too, and will think only the best of their parents.

5) Would you be willing to include these letters with your papers that you would give to the American Jewish Historical Society or to JTS?

Would you want a researcher to connect your to lives to your life as a rabbi?

No one should throw away a cache of letters that covers such a long period between two teenagers. They are historical documents of real value, even if they are ordinary.

I realize they belong to both of you and maybe you can give them to a Jewish archive as a collection of both of you.

You can tell A,L and A that if they would like to ever read them they can find them at an archive.

Historians learn a lot from every day life. I would not toss them.

6) Beautiful posting—again, as always. And lots of food for thought. XMXM has found it difficult to think of reading his father's letters written to his mother during the war.

7) Ha!! That was me! I love all family stories and information and feel very capable of putting things into proper context—I'd want them all.

8) Morris - hope you're doing well. If you've ever seen my penmanship, and its been this way for many decades, you'll know why there aren't any letters between XMXM and I to share with our kids. However, here are a couple of thoughts on your question:

1. if you are going to leave letters for your kids to find when you're gone, make sure you go through them ahead of time so they don't find surprises you wouldn't want them to have known about.
2. consider writing letters to your kids now, that you don't mail, and instead leave for them to find later telling them whatever you want. These could be in the form of an ethical will or just a letter.
3. I love the idea of writing a story of your's and Phyliss's life together for them. having gone through this a lot with cousins, stories of our parents often get lost
4. finally, labeling old photos so your children and grandchildren know who are in them is great. please don't assume that I've done all of these - but I have done some. good luck!

9) **Thank you, Rabbi Allen. Like so many others, we have been going through our memorabilia and deciding what to keep/shred/share. Wishing our kids would see some of the 'artifacts' now, but know they probably won't appreciate them as much as they will at a later date. Sorry to hear that you had an earlier than expected end to your night's sleep**

10) absolutely not!

Sent from my iPhone