

From: [David Kraemer](#)
To: [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)
Subject: FW: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 6.19.20. Special Edition
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 9:49:48 AM

From: Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 8:05 AM
To: MOJO210AL <MOJO210AL@aol.com>
Subject: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 6.19.20. Special Edition

NO WAGON WHEEL CENSUS. (many raindrops)

I know, I said I wouldn't write this morning. I thought I would have to do a quick walk and then get ready for my 730 meeting. But for only the second time since I started this pattern, it was raining when I set out for my walk. It was as if the Divine was setting me up with nothing to do for an hour and almost beggin for one complete week of morris' musings.

On Wednesday I wrote a column that elicited a great many comments. Some positive, some negative, some supportive and some critical. I will write about all of that one day as well an address the pain that for some it created. But one person wrote me an unbelievable piece that I feel privileged to have received and to now also possess. I asked them if I could share it and they assured me that I could. It was written by their father to their mother on December 29, 1944 from Fort Benning(yes a a base named for a Confederate). My father, at the time was flying in B-24 as a bombardier on a mission in Europe fighting to destroy an ideology based on racial inequality. This person's father was bunking next to an African-American living in a society that was not yet ready to address the root causes of its own inequality. Since i didn't really intend to write today, and since I use my walk to think about what it is that I might write, and since I still have to get ready for a 730 meeting and need to read materials, I am just going to post this letter-written by a Jewish soldier to his beloved wife in December 1944. One day I want to write about the understanding that all of these GI's (at least my dad and this person's dad)must have developed as a result of their service and what prevented them then from truly engaging in the systemic work that needed to be done to eradicate racism inside our country. Or perhaps like many things in life, they were not obligated to finish the task but neither did they desist. Perhaps the work of our hands today is the work to fulfill their visions and understanding from yesterday. Here are the words penned on December 29, 1944 by a Jewish 20-something to another Jewish 20-something. The language is not our language of today, the sentiment behind the words is the work we are all still doing. May the memory of this man, and of a generation that raised children to continue to work for a more perfect union and a more just society. Shabbat shalom. Reflect on Juneteenth and its meaning for us-particularly for us who celebrate Passover every year on the same date in our calendar, and see you again on Monday. Also you might be interested in the Temple Emanuel series next Monday evening, and the two other short articles I appended below these remarks from a GI fighting for his country during WW2.

Morris

“There is a young negro who bunks next to me. He’s a college grad. You should hear us massacre the German language! But it’s fun. (Changes the subject matter and then returns), Had interesting conversations with the aforementioned negro. This has been the first opportunity I’ve had to question a negro re his reactions toward the race problem. Well, I learned how bitter a man can really become. I have heard where negros were not permitted in the dining car of a train, yet the same diner would cater to nazi prisoners. This story was confirmed to me by (a friend) as he had witnessed such an incident. Cripes, I can’t understand how the American people get away with such gross misconduct toward American citizens of another race. The negro would fight like a maniac in any theater of combat if he were only shown some respect. Instead he is shoved around, slapped into the dirtiest jobs + in general, not given a chance to prove his merits. And the latter (illegible)...requiring but a few signs of respect + understanding to break the crust that subdue these merits. What a crime! What a shame that the U.S. should miss the chance of really becoming great. The prejudice + ignorance of the few, who have the power, to see light is appalling.”

- 1) https://temple-emanu-el-streicker-center-classes.ticketleap.com/repairing-the-world-the-relationship-between-the-african-american/dates/Jun-22-2020_at_0600PM
- 2) <https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/unlearning-about-race-a-reading-list/>
- 3) <https://daily.jstor.org/the-1910-report-that-unintentionally-disadvantaged-minority-doctors/>

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