

From: [David Kraemer](#)
To: [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)
Subject: Fwd: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 7.30.20 (9 Av 5780)
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:21:52 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>
Subject: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 7.30.20 (9 Av 5780)
Date: July 30, 2020 at 9:01:50 AM EDT
To: Undisclosed recipients,;

NO WAGON WHEEL CENSUS ALLOWED ON Tisha B'Av. It is a long-standing custom that should not be tampered with—even in these unsettled times

A different piece [this morning](#) and a quick one with specific asks. Though the words from the Prophet Isaiah, which I am about to quote were probably written on a bathroom wall somewhere, they are most usually associated with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. But it is a veritable tradition to borrow good lines and to transfer them into settings where they also apply. Isaiah is quoted as saying: ***“Do you call that a fast, a day when God is pleased? No, this is the fast I desire: to unlock the fetters of wickedness, to untie the cords of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free; to break every yoke—It is to share the your bread with the hungry, to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked to clothe them, and do not ignore your own flesh.”(Isaiah 58:5-6)*** Today is also a fast day for me, and demands no less from me as a result. Ritual accomplishment without any ethical component which also sets the frame is what Isaiah railed against and which too many religious folks of every faith and denominational stripe still engage in undertaking. If today's fast is to matter—it must also move us to act. And if this covid induced elongated period of a Tisha B'av sense of exile and seeking to repair the breach is to ultimately have any meaning—it will be as a result of the actions we take to repair, renew and replenish.

So whether you are fasting(or even if today is not a fast day in your tradition at all) here is what I plan on doing to ensure that the hollow ritual fulfillment of the day is not seen as the accomplishment we are to fulfill. For me, were I not having to work, I would find a place to volunteer at any type of organization that is seeking to do what Isaiah calls out for us to do. But alas, the office beckons after this is finished and my prayers are fulfilled. So here is what I ask of you today—on this **9th of Av Day of Responsibility.**

If you can—volunteer and give of your time and of your self and experience the essence of what it means to engage in work to fulfill the vision of Isaiah. If not, I ask you to dig deep today—whatever that means for you and donate to an organization that

seeks to live by the vision of a more perfect society and understands that it takes effort to make that happen.

DONATE DONATE DONATE

“Unlock the Fetters of Wickedness...let the oppressed go free”

HIAS is standing up to attacks on refugees and helping those fleeing violence and persecution rebuild their lives in safety and freedom. Will you make a tax-deductible gift now to help refugees and asylum seekers in the United States and around the world?

<https://www.hias.org/> <https://act.hias.org/page/6048/donate/1>

“Share your bread with the hungry”

MAZON-- Advocates for smart and effective public policies to eliminate hunger and its causes. Identifies opportunities to strengthen nutrition assistance programs. Leads national initiatives and campaigns to engage concerned community groups

<https://mazon.org/> <https://give.mazon.org/give/294149#!/donation/checkout>

“To take the wretched poor into your home, when you see the naked clothe them”

INTERFAITH ACTION Project Home: Annually, Project Home provides more than 10,300 shelter beds in Greater St. Paul church social halls, synagogue classrooms, and school cafeterias for families experiencing homelessness. Each month, two area faith communities host 20 emergency shelter beds each. Other faith communities join with them, providing volunteers to support the shelter sites. <https://interfaithaction.org/>
<https://interfaithaction.org/donate/>

SO many more opportunities but starting with these three—might go a long way into making this day a day that matters long after the sun sets and the fast ends. For those fasting—an easy fast. For all of us—let’s get to work. Morris

Sent by my iPad