

Sean Age 15

April 19, 2020

The Times of Coronavirus

Coronavirus has been a tough time for many different sorts of people. It has been making people lose their jobs, the stock market crash, and the losses of many lives. The economy has been failing and others are fearing for their lives. People are working daily to keep society running. Taking care of the virus is a big deal and many are advised to stay home. My parents are both physicians, so I have been able to shield myself from coronavirus in a practical way. My family has been safe from the virus. My father runs nursing homes at the time being. He has been at the front lines trying to figure out the best way to treat patients and keep others safe from the virus. He also explains to the news media what the nursing homes are doing in order to prevent the virus. It is difficult, but he has a handle on it. My mother is making sure we have food and supplies at our house. She also delivers food to those that she knows need help at this time of crisis. My family has been working hard to help those in need and keep my family safe.

However, some of my siblings are in different locations. My parents send them all the supplies and medication that they may need, but they are under quarantine. We all try to stay in contact with each other in these terrible times from the absence of each other in our present lives. It is depressing that we are not all here together, but at least we can still communicate with one another. It is a desperate time for everyone, but it can be solved by working together by not being

together. Staying away from each other will slow down the progression of spreading the virus. It may save many lives.

It has been tough on me because I have been separated from some of my family and everyone is panicking around me. I have made the best of what I got by spending time with the family that I have here and communicating with those that are not. I have been spending time being productive in school work. School work has decreased since the pandemic has arisen, so I have been finding ways to keep myself from being bored. I have kept myself entertained by playing video games and talking with friends over the internet. I have been able to reconnect with other friends from my past school. I have been able to catch up on lost hours of sleep from normal school, which has been nice. I do however long to see other people in person. I know that if everyone works together, then it may be soon.

Dear parents,

I am writing to let you know that I have offered an entirely optional extra credit assignment to my students. As we are living through extraordinary times, I, along with a number of my historian colleagues, have come to the conclusion that we have a unique opportunity to record for posterity the voice of a generation.

Each of my students will have a chance in the coming weeks to record their thoughts, concerns, and general reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic in a variety of formats: journal entries, one-on-one recorded interviews, or creative works. I will then publish these on my personal website and make them available to researchers and archivists in the future. Many historians are currently at work creating a digital space to collect and archive submissions from around the world. I will add them there as well, once my project is complete.

Of course, as safety is my utmost concern, I will not publish any of the kids' last names or mention the name of the school. I will only ask for their first name, their age, and note that they live in Los Angeles. I will not publish any submission without your express written permission. By signing below, you are authorizing me to use your child's submission according to the terms I have outlined. Please scan or photograph this form and return to k.harris@shalhevet.org.

All the best,

Keith Harris

Student's name

Sean Silver

Parent's signature

