

Lonely but not alone

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In casting about for a 'next' post after my comments on the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I looked through my library of past writings, combed the Internet using couplets such as 'good news' and 'happy people' as my search criteria, watched the kids playing outside. All the usual things.

One story I came across involved a widower who, rather than knuckling under the crushing weight of his loneliness, took to social media looking for new friends. And he found them, in spades. Through the magic of emails and such, he has more offers of friendship than he can handle.

I won't share the fella's name although I do hope you search for him. I don't know if his particular story will strike you as it did me but my hope for you is that in trying to look him up, you will come across a story that makes your day as Tony's (Dang! I gave away his first name! Okay, but that's all you get!) has brightened mine.

I understand that the great paradox of this pandemic is that folks with the generosity of spirit to follow guidelines in hopes of keeping themselves and others safe do so at great cost to their ability to be socially engaged. But, while I eschew any belief in a supreme spiritual entity guiding our lives, I do subscribe to the oft repeated thought that we're never given more than we can handle.

I hope through this website and other channels, someone will find in me the friend for whom they've longed. Or at least, a kindred spirit.

At risk of sounding like a broken record, I'll repeat once again the mantra Mary and I recited so many times to our own children: If you want to have a friend, be a friend.

Please take the time and energy sometime today to put aside the political and social upheaval and reach out to someone with friendship in mind. Perhaps we can't help the feelings of loneliness but we can do something to help another person feel less alone.