son of a gun

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Shalom Maker

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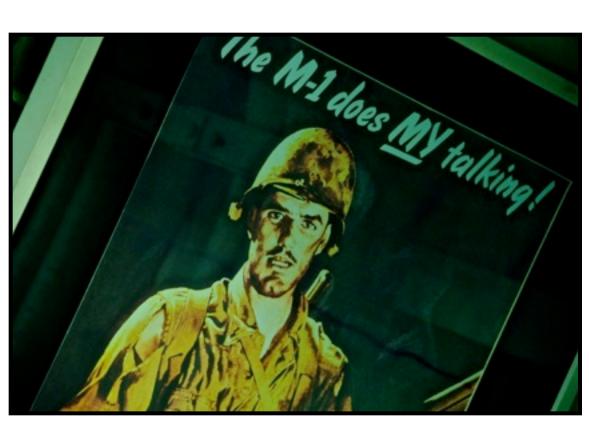
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We Shall Not Murder:
the innocent
the children
our wives and our
mothers
our opponents
our critics
the indigenous
the stranger
the poet











As I write, picture file edit, compose and slowly build this issue of Shalom Maker, officials are still counting the bodies in Newtown, Connecticut. The Town folk and the nation are shocked... the President comments...competing reporting news agencies, networks and cable channels are ranking this event to be "above the fold" worthy.

Reports of the 22 children in China knifed today by a meshuggeneh and the 18 - 20 children in Newtown gunned down by an immoral pervert are frightening. And the NRA and the gun makers and sellers are frightened as well.

Beware: the government is coming for your assault weapons, automatic pistols and multi bullet human killing clips. U R Warned!

It's about time this country had a taste of moral indignation and that we express our outrage at the idiocy of those who take our rights away (Right to Work, Voting, Abortion, Gay Marriage, Women's Health, Hand Up Entitlements, Retirement Support, Clean Air and Water, the Rebuilding of our Infrastructure, Available Higher Education, Rampant Deportation and a Toke now and then) and who fail to restrict our rights by oversight, and by consumer protection standards to the pursuit of life.

Someone, soon, is coming for your guns. Be a good chap, a model citizen, and turn them in so that they can be melted down and turned into surgical implements that may save a life in the operating theater.

Someone is coming for your god-damned guns!

Oakland and the south side of Chicago will be safer places to live. East Palo Alto and New Orleans will rebound as gun deaths drop. Memphis and Birmingham will resume with life back to normal. Las Vegas and



Jacksonville will recover from the violence and Detroit may yet be inhabitable. Miami, Baltimore and Richmond, Virginia will breathe easier. And, the citizens of Cleveland and Philadelphia will appreciate a longer life span.

I know this to be true. **THEY** are coming for your guns and for your wartime clips, for your hard drives and for your suicide Youtube post-able 1080 videos.

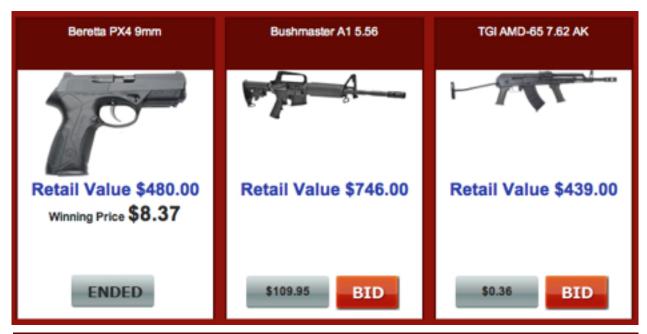
So do the right thing...turn in your guns, your gun lobbyist and your GOP representative.













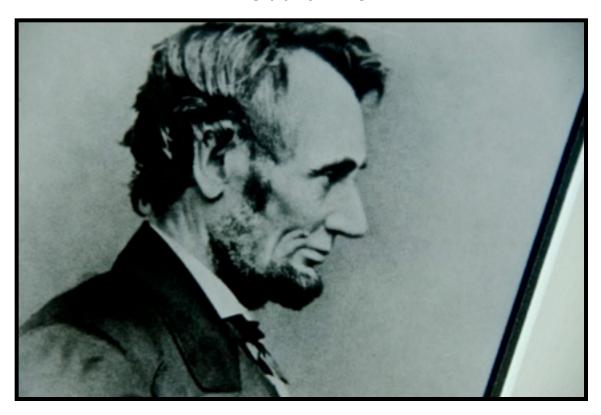




The NRA is the Monkey on the backs of needy politicians

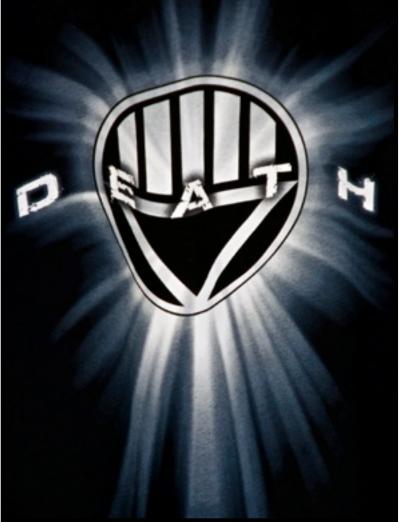


living (?) by the gun







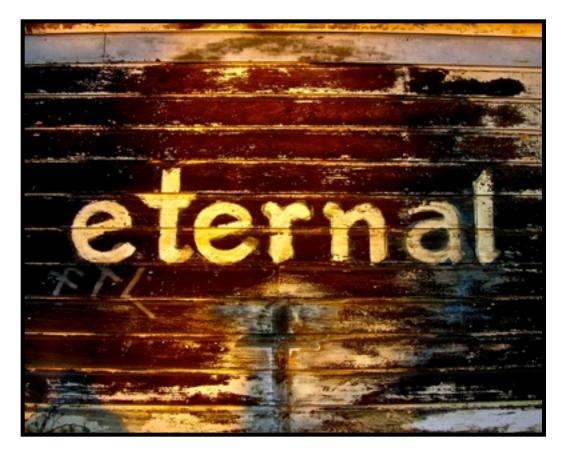


And now, it's 20 children



We suffer from the lack of the sacred in our midst. We are devastated by such intended destruction, wishing it to be merely deviant behavior. It's not! It's all too common. That makes it normal.

We are taken aback by the taking of a life. We are diminished by such sorrow. We are doomed to walk the face of the earth in constant peril. We are conscious of every breath marked by the cool air and we quiver at the sight of every shadow. And, we are marked with Cain's blemish, eternally.



We will not be long suffering. We will act, too late, but we will act. We will pressure and we will protest. We will demand and will legislate. Before the shots ring out again - and they will. The gun seems to be a problem solver, it's a negotiation, it's a grievance settled, it's a frank airing of differing views, it's the first resort.

Someone is coming for your guns because your guns were just involved in an unspeakably horrible crime! Give'm up...

We are mourning the 20 children. We are mourning the 6 teachers and administrators.

We do not feel your pain. We feel our pain. We do not grieve the way you do. We grieve the way we grieve. We do not suffer what you suffer. We hurt the way we hurt. We do not even know your names and we will never forget you. We will name the new gun laws after you. Not much of a tribute, but, perhaps others will not experience what you have lived and died through.

Twenty worlds ended today. And seven more came to a conclusion. That's a lot of dying. That's a lot of worlds disintegrating into Holocaust like ashes. That's the darkening of the world we see as the day becomes short.



We are more than sorry for your loss. It's our loss as well. And we share the added burden of not restricting or banning weapons of mass destruction. We are guilty! And, I am personally ashamed.





son of a gun

There are no answers that explain this tragic loss. Don't look for them, don't try to understand, don't wait for perspective to return and don't expect the harmony of the universe to ever be restored. What was possible was realized, regardless of the precautions.

A mad man's brain is not like ours. A man willing to die for killing is a true threat. So what if he was diagnosed with a personality disorder. So what if he was a brilliant loner, an Aspurger challenged individual, a mother killer and a handgun and assault rifle thief – so what. It's done!

It's done...and I signed an anti-gun petition on Shabbat.

I attempted to email the National Rifle Association and their website and email delivery system were off line. *Fucking cowards!*

I heard the interview about the atrocity in Connecticut last night with Piers Morgan on CNN. The gun lobbyists' answer was this: *More guns. Assholes!*

Here's my gun story: I inherited a Saturday night special from my father. He kept it in a drawer in his dresser and I would secretly open the drawer and look at it. The gun was 100 years old, a .22-caliber that my grandfather owned and carried when he made his rounds with a horse and wagon picking up scrap metal from backyard alleyways.

My Dad inherited it. He was the logical recipient because when he met my Mother, he was a Cook County Sheriff's Deputy. He was, of course, the last man anyone would have suspected to be a cop. He most likely busted young lovers parked in public parking lots after hours. My Dad - carrying a gun – using a gun – no way.

I took possession of the gun after his death. The gun had value to me – not as a firearm, but as a reminder of the grandfather I never knew and of my Dad.

A few years ago, after offering the gun to my son as a door stop, after he refused to accept this family heirloom, I decided to find a gun-for-dollars offer and turn in the gun for melt down. I went to the Tiburon Police Station with the gun in a paper bag. I told the officer at the desk that I had a gun in the bag that I wanted to get rid of it and that I wanted to show her. I felt very uncomfortable.

When she saw the small weapon she said two things. First, do not fire the gun because today's .22-caliber bullet is far more powerful than was ammunition 100 years go and the gun would most likely explode. And then she said, they were not buying back guns. Should have gone to Oakland and picked up \$200.

A week following that gun in a poke incident, I officiated at a funeral in San Jose. Afterwards, I stopped at a gun shop to inquire about the disposing of the firearm. The clerk said that he would take the gun off of my hands and melt it down. And it only cost me \$25.

Turn in your guns.

What good are they, really? Doorstops. Paperweights. Souvenirs. Trophies of manhood. Vigilante tools. Survivalist's resource and first recourse. Militiaman's shield of courage. Black helicopter repellents.

A gun is not a Mezzuzah. It's a fear-reducing placebo. All a gun is good for (very good for) is for killing another human being. You, perhaps.

The gunners have killed enough people already. Why add more victims to that pile of little corpses stacked high in those grammar school classrooms?

To the parents and families of the victims:

I am sorry for your unfathomable loss

To every other parent and family:

Teach your child to play dead

In Memoriam

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