

Let's remember the 10 people who were killed in the Buffalo racist terroristic attack:

Roberta A. Drury of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 32

Margus D. Morrison of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 52

Andre Mackneil of Auburn, N.Y. – age 53

Aaron Salter of Lockport, N.Y. – age 55

Geraldine Talley of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 62

Celestine Chaney of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 65

Heyward Patterson of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 67

Katherine Massey of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 72

Pearl Young of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 77

Ruth Whitfield of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 86

And the three people suffered injuries.

Zaire Goodman of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 20

Jennifer Warrington of Tonawanda, N.Y. – age 50

Christopher Braden of Lackawanna, N.Y. – age 55

Remembering these people was my plan to start my column for this week. Before I could even get started, there was another slaughter in Uvalde, Texas, with at least twenty-one dead, nineteen of them children. As of this writing, their names have not been released.

These shootings have something in common. Young men. 18-year-olds who can't even buy beer, purchased deadly weapons beyond anything needed for sport or self-defense and went on rampages.

In response to this slaughter of the innocents (children) in Uvalde, our regional church issued the following lament by Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley. (They previously gave a response to the Buffalo Massacre.)

We lament the violence in our country.

We lament that young lives were taken too soon.

We lament that some will go on tomorrow as if today's event never happened.

We lament that those with the power to abate senseless murders are slow to act and continue to make partisan decisions rather than act for the common good.

We lament that times like these make us feel helpless.

How long, oh Lord, must we continue to suffer? Hear our prayers. Heal our land. Comfort those impacted the most by today's tragedy.

Eternal One, right the wrongs of today with your grace. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen

I want to echo with the lamentation of the psalmist **HOW LONG O LORD**. When I ask how long will you permit this, O God? God answers me, "How long will you o my people permit this to continue?"

I want to rage. **STOP THE KILLING.**

I also resonate with the words of President Biben, "As a nation we have to ask, when in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby? When in God's name will we do what we all know in our gut needs to be done?" As I have said before in this column, I am not anti-gun, I grew up with them. I enjoy shooting.

I realize what I say is offensive to some and sounds very political. And, it is political in the sense of politics being how we live together and organize society. And our faith has everything to do with how we live together as people created in God's image. Our faith is political.

I feel like nothing has changed. I remember writing about Sandy Hook in 2012, when I first arrived in town. I remember writing about Charlottesville in 2017 and the "Unite the Right Rally." I bring this up because I can still remember the Chant, "The Jews will not replace us." This idiotic venom-filled evil lunacy is the heart of the white

replacement conspiracy theory, which played into the recent terrorist massacre in Buffalo. This theory contends that the Jews are supplanting the white race by miscegenation, interracial marriage, mass non-white immigration, racial integration, low fertility rates, abortion, governmental land-confiscation from whites, organized violence, and eliminationism in white-founded countries. (Wikipedia)

Gun Violence and Racism remain. Nothing has changed, not the hatred, not the violence, and not we the people.

This piece rambles a good bit, but the trauma caused by an onslaught of hate and slaughter makes this type of response natural.