

Several Short Statements from My Journal of 2018

One

We have sold the earth, at an absurdly low price, to destroyers, to seekers of oil, to developers of atomic power and weapons, to those motivated by greed and the quest for power over others. We have sold it to powers that make war. The cheap price we accepted? Gadgets and temporary material security, pleasures of the moment.

You and I have sold the earth for mobile phones, for electronic gadgets, television sets, shiny, fast-moving cars, large airplanes.

Spangly baubles keep us busy, entranced, while forces for destruction drill the earth, make war, pollute our air, soil, and water, kill, radiate, steal our future.

We are happy.

We live in this moment.

Shiny baubles and fancy gadgets absorb our attention. We fail to understand the thoroughness of what they/we do to the earth.

If we understand, we (we being all of humankind, working together) don't care enough to do anything to stop destruction of the earth, or we care but feel powerless to stop a process that is so far along in its development.

Two

Many people want to reclaim the power they had but gave away or allowed others to give away. They want to stop school killings, all random killings, all killing. They want to save the earth. They want some kind of future, that includes beauty and enjoyable existence, for them, for their children, for their children's children, for all other species, for the earth.

I want all of us to be successful at taking power back, at stopping school killings as well as stopping other forms of mass murder, including wars. I want to contribute to the movement toward a future of peace and beauty.

I want all of us to realize the people have to hold much more power than we do to stop destruction of the earth, to

create an environment beautiful and sustaining to live in for all of us.

I want all of us to use modern technology to communicate, and with caring and honest communication, to take power and material wealth back from politicians and greedy possessors who have turned away from empathetic, compassionate identification with all other people, with all other species, with the earth we live on. I want people to not use technology for destruction. I want everyone to respond to conscience, to concern and respect, reverence, for all of existence.

Three

I want people to stop saying gun control won't work in the United States.

It's time, for mankind's survival, to change the way we see the world and what we consider to be possible or impossible. What is impossible is to continue to inhabit a world moving toward further violence, in schools, between individuals, between nations.

That direction, toward further violence, leads to destruction of all life. It constitutes worldwide insanity to suppose we cannot stop violence. That worldwide insanity leads to degradation of life and then to the end of life.

I want the young people who ask for life to find success in their request. I want them to awaken in all of us the desire for life, beauty, and a livable environment. I want all of us to recognize that we can bring about change, and I want us to set about making the change away from violence toward peace.

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Four

According to the National Rifle Association and others, including many politicians, people are safest where there are many guns, concealed guns and visible guns.

There are places where guns, by law, cannot be carried, including the White House, the Capitol Building in Washington D.C., Mar-A-Lago, the Republican National Convention and many Republican town meetings. The National Rifle Association does not allow guns at its conventions.

The NRA, supporting politicians, and other concerned people have been negligent and now need to work rapidly and forcefully to get laws that now prohibit guns in these locations changed. We want our nation's leaders and politicians to be

safe. If they insist everyone is safest with guns all around them, let guns be all around them, in places where guns are now prohibited.

I suggest all readers of this writing write everyone who can influence laws to call to their attention places that have been overlooked in the campaign for safety, and call for immediate action to change laws so guns without limitation are permitted in these places.

Five

Who could pledge allegiance to the flag of this violent nation and to the capitalistic oligarchy for which it stands, a nation under chaos, divided asunder, with liberty and justice for a few?

I pledge my allegiance to peace, to Love, to Life, to a world under God who is Love and is Life, who creates all humankind in love, equal without regard for color, religious belief, political views, place, gender, or sexual orientation.

Six

I changed my website to a different host (a host is a company that, for a fee, carries all the files to make websites available online), a task that would take a person educated for this type of work a short time.

The change took most of my work time for three days, too much time, because I lack knowledge of how these things are done. I relied on what I could remember from last time, about three years ago, I made a change from one host to another. I slowly searched online for more information about what I needed to do, and I leaned heavily on a good support crew at my new carrier.

I think I've done most of what needs to be done, and I'm back in operation.

I'll gradually catch up my music practice, writing, bill paying, getting out into the countryside, more extensive exercising in an attempt to stay somewhat supple, and other necessary and recreational pursuits that have been partly on hold while I completed this project.

Seven

Dan, Laura's brother, just phoned, returning her call to wish

him a happy birthday. She called several times yesterday and each time got connected enough she could hear him talking to friends, but never talked to him.

I told him that as I looked to see if she was still here, which she wasn't. She had gone to acquire hummus, avocados, eggs, and other stuff. He has a new cellphone and hasn't figured the "damn thing out yet," he said, by way of brief explanation of what happened when she called.

I think he's in a place similar to the place I'm in, on the edge of the technological revolution, eager to take advantage of it, but not very deeply understanding communication technology and short of enthusiasm for the time and work it takes to achieve enough understanding to make full use of it.

For those of us who have other things to do, computer and communication technology takes too much time to understand. I'm going to use the available technology all I can, but I'm going to keep giving writing, my own music and my own living highest priority. Even yet, technology doesn't integrate easily and fully into my life.