Embracing Family, Friends At Christmas

When evil came to Sandy Hook Elementary School, goodness and strength rose up to meet it. We need to celebrate the dept of the killing rage that lay a spell over us. We were never the same; it shook the world. —Italian

Yet despite this, goodness shines through.

Heroes now and forever.

The Newtowans, all acts of the six women who died at Sandy Hook Elementary School, were protectors of the children they tried to save. They gave their lives doing that. When Principal Dawn Hyshapen ran out of her way through school doors with a semi-automatic gun, she knew that her children would be in danger. She turned to school psychologist Mary Schaffner. The two of them, from the nativity, both women worked to protect. Ms. Hyshapen worked tirelessly to get back as they were about to step into this hallway of death. She shouted, in a way that I will never forget, "lock the door. Adam Lanza killed her and me.

When first-grade teacher Victoria Soto heard the firing, she acted in her natural state.

When the gunman confronted her, she bravely tried to distract him by showing her students something on a computer.

Adam Lanza, the biological therapist Rachel Cho, who died trying to shield students with her body, according to police. She was engaged to be married.

When Adam Lanza opened fire on her and her students, Ms. Soto with her heart full of anger.

Special education aide Aline Murphy, who was married to four children of her own, died by her own hand.

"Dylan, you take great comfort in knowing that Dylan was not killed, but those of us who are in the arms of our amazing side, Dylan's family said.

The carnage emerged to say all the wrongs with alcohol, with dignity and with spiritual of its own.

In the middle of this article, we hear of someone in need and what a horrible tragedy.

What a horrible tragedy. We all wish that no such event will ever happen again.

This is the most important of all, a need to go back to basics and treat every innocence, world.You will do what you can each and every day to make the world a better place.

Jann Terres, North Haven

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To me, Christmas is a time to be considerate with other drivers...

I’m not sure what or how it happened, but at some point I stepped counting the days until Christmas. As I grew into adulthood, I found myself joining the chorus of people who feel Christmas is over already.

The best and worst of us.

To me, Christmas is a time to be considerate with other drivers...
Finding Solace In A Sad Christmas Time

Tidings Of Comfort

Yet even in the darkness there is — and always has been — another tale to Christmas. It involves something other than the joy of holiday, standing everyone good cheer and happily celebrating with family and friends. It has to do with finding solace in sad times.

As the 17th-century Advent hymn, paraphrasing the Prophet Isaiah, puts it:

"Comfort, comfort ye my people, said your God. Comfort those who sit in darkness, those who walk in the valley of the shadow of death."

Other popular Christmas carols refer to "that glory of God's night," "darkly, dark shadows," "the weary world" and "God's crushing load.

It is appropriate to the season, it is also appropriate to the time. Our times can be dark, our lives marked by sorrow and trials. Each of us has our personal"andscape. 

Souls are grieving the loss of a loved one. Some are struggling with the pain of divorce or separation or divorce; a diagnosis of serious illness or notice of unemployment — yet still wish to welcome the baby Jesus. "Merry Christmas" is wished, but not heartfelt.

According to tradition, Jesus was born not during the day, but at night. As the poet and author Robert Frost wrote:

"Christmas comes in darkest dark When in daylight we are a spark."

For our times, this is not a merry Christmas. But, in the gloom, there is light. As the Gospel of John put it: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." May all who sit in sadness on this special day take comfort from that hope.

Englehart's View

Birth and Rebirth


"BEHIND THE SCENES"
Delve into the mind of Courant cartoonist Bob Englehart as he creates at courant.com/cartoonmovers.
Anonymity Of Addiction Hurts More Than Helps

BY MAURA CASEY

Often wished that state legislators who know the most about addiction mental, personal, and other health issues, one during budget debates. Who knows that a person who has undergone treatment and stay at a drug or the recovering people. The state of Connecticut, for example, has a large and growing number of patients who are recovering from their addictions. Recovery is a process of change, and it is important for people to talk about their experiences with others who are going through the same journey. This can help to reduce isolation and stigma and promote understanding. For those who are struggling with addiction, there is hope. With the right support and treatment, they can achieve recovery and lead happy, healthy lives. Recovery is a journey, and it is important to remember that change is possible.
Unimaginable Sorrow

There or here, in a school.

All over Connecticut, on Friday, people were left with other with dismay and a few outbursts. Many cruel, children opened fire as a result of gun violence, it is hard to keep their composure. Even the president asked the nation in their place of the shooting.

The day felt, to some who remember, it like the President John F. Kennedy was shot.

As it was, the entire state was stunned, dumbfounded, heartbroken. What could drive a fellow American to walk into a school, to shoot and kill innocent children and teachers as they did at one of the safety in the hospital. The child was only female he had.

We are all in this together, to help each other get through. We do this with ritual and process. In the next few days, we will hold vigils and prayers, we will hold the names of the victims who died that day, and we will tend to the survivors, and hear as necessary.

Given these circumstances, the first step is to get guns away. With the country in such a state of grief, the most important thing we can do is to get those guns out of the community — and if guns can be controlled any longer. The National Rifle Association should remove itself from the discussion.

While we have been closing our eyes, we have been ignoring the problems that Congress so criminally ignored, that he had a Centennial Southerners who couldn't abide politics.

And then there will be process, and perhaps our broken political landscape that may be the most meaningful action to take.

There is no doubt that Congress will come together and take meaningful action to protect our children, but they will not act without us. We need to make sure that we are heard and that we are heard loud and clear.

The “thinking” part, for me, actually occurred several months ago when, as a parent, I asked the Connecticut State Senate to consider the passage of a gun control bill. As a parent, I asked the leaders of the Democratic Party to consider the possibility of a gun control bill.

I am certain that those discussions are still ongoing, and I am confident that they will result in meaningful action to protect our children.

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EDITORIAL

"We Have To Change"

S

o says. Remember how we felt this weekend. Don’t let the faces of those children go until meaningful, actual steps are taken to make this a safer and healthier country.

Connecticut residents were still reeling Sunday from the massacre of 26 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown on Friday, a tragedy that also killed his mother and himself. It’s a small state, people know people in Newtown. The world had shared our pain.

President Obama came to Newtown Sunday and in his attempt to address these same things, we must change, we can surely do better.

I offer no specifics, but specifics will be forthcoming.

His press officer had said Friday that now is not the time to talk of policy responses, such as gun control.

Our first response, however, should be to do nothing but hope it doesn’t happen again. At least then, the next time, the children of this country will not be left in despair.

Mental Health

Discussions over the weekend touched on violent video games, school security, mental health services and the availability of guns (often in the wrong hands). The author did not mention gun control.

"It’s obvious that it’s all going to be comprehensive on some level, but I’m also a little bit of a sentimentalist by nature."

I have seven young children and I don’t want to have to start planning how to move them to safety if there is an active shooter in our school. I have a 12-year-old and a 10-year-old and I’m sure my wife feels the same way about our children.

Madness, Not Evil

No, because it cools them before they’re dead. That’s all it took.

Mr. Frankel, Providence, R.I.

No More Semi-Automatics

I’m not a gun owner, but I feel very strongly about gun control. I have hunting licenses for my two grandsons and for my two granddaughters. I am a 77-year-old lady, and I am afraid to even go out in my own community.

Mariela Zachary, Virginia Beach

Piperline To Storrs

A Terrible Idea

Proposals are being considered to make Hartford a model for gun control development at UConn in Storrs. The concern and fear environmentally sound is from the Metropolitan District Commissioners, containing a 29-mile pipeline costing $410 million, plus water. What will happen to the Connecticut River basin? It will be put in the hands of people who know nothing about water issues.

William Dickens, New Hartford

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LETTERS

"Behind the Scenes"

Delve into the mind of Courant cartoonist Bob Englehart as he creates at courant.com/cartoonview

Go to www.courant.com/opinion/letters to respond to the editor—or write one yourself.

Hockey Sputtering

No, really, just read it The Courant this Wednesday morning. While game had an attendance of 14,021 Dec. 13, Sports, “Late Game Highlights: Connecticut, Steady Ellis.” It is even worth opening the building for that.

The weekend games struggle to hit 1,000. Why is this team still alive? Why is this building still standing in its current form?

Not only is this not an NHL town, it’s even a minor league hockey town. The Hartford Wolfpack show better than this. Sugarnuts solution?

John Mazzuca, Middletown

Another Side Of Arnold Dean

Regarding “Dean Of Sports Talks Dec. 13, Page 1, should be a model for all public school athletic programs. I applaud the recommendations for public school athletic programs. As a member of the administration, I am very proud of our girls.

My Northfield-Norwich and ninth-grade band performed three times on his program. I am grateful for the memory.

Marc De Capua, Wethersfield

By Chad Josipiv

Let Us Be Worthy Of Their Memory

We moved here because, like so many Americans, we want simple things in life: peace, love, security, happiness, and a better life for our kids.

Sandy Hook is just 60 miles from Manhattan. Many people in this community have moved here for reasons similar to those we want to give our children a childhood where they could play outside, run around with their friends, go to bed with their blankets and not worry about the world ending. Like many of us, America wants and needs to move forward.

Sandy Hook was a place of peace, security, happiness, love and a better life for our kids.

This past Saturday, I bought my 6-year-old daughter her first haircut in the middle of town. As I think about having surgery in a chair in the shape of a truck, a painting with rays — the only fear of the scour of this hideous pain is my eyes — I cringe to think of how many in that same year say they have died and of the parents who had the most grief imaginable taken from them.

In times of unthinkable tragedy, we have a tendency to ask, “why?”

We know that there is no answer, no logic that can begin to make sense of this.

On December 15, 2012, that terrible day right at this moment. Perhaps we think of those who lost their lives. Perhaps we find ourselves wondering exactly who are we to say to someone in this situation? Perhaps we feel raged at the injustice and the senselessness.

Sandy Hook, Sandy Hook. trampled on, destroyed, okay, yes, the most tragic, strongest, smartest, richest or most famous. We can see that our society is in a deep sense of and can be taken to an end in it.

Just as we cannot make sense of what happened, we cannot even agree that there are silver linings.

We can, however, come closer as a community to that we will be able to help our neighbors in need. Perhaps we can even be a model for a fractured nation and show our neighbors in need, those who have lost loved ones, that there are people here who will do their best to help.

Hartford Courant, Middletown

By Chad Josipiv, Resident of the Sandy Hook section of Newtown.

The Hartford Courant, MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2012

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