

## *Summer Moment in August from Salish Sea — August 22, 2019*

### WRITER'S BLOCK

*"Judge not, that you be not judged.*

*For with the judgement you pronounce, you will be judged."*

*(Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:1 and 2)*

We were sitting by our fire-pit having lunch...

ending up discussing why I hadn't mailed my writing lately...

about gun-violence ideas...

my hesitation based on the idea that there's nothing new to say.

My earliest pages were in defense of the mentally ill...

the latest political deflection of cause and effect

using NRA talking points that *"guns don't kill people, people kill people."*

The President has been saying that the mentally ill are *"monsters"* and *"crazy"*...

that gun violence could be ended if the mentally ill

could be rounded up and *"re-institutionalized."*

Hearing that hit one of my hot buttons...

how we deal with people experiencing mental issues...

that mental problems of any kind are treated with shame...and now blame.

I was sure that most of the people who read my pages

already know that we are experiencing a low form of blame politics...

gun violence and support from the NRA are not the whole story.

Jean thought maybe I was getting depressed...

she knows me better than I know myself...

but I insisted that I am beginning to become more hopeful.

Not hopeful that the NRA will fold its money and go away...

or that the President will settle into some predictable leadership

but that a silent majority of American diversity will exert true patriotism.

It was hopeful to see the National Association for Mental Illness...

push back against the false claim that mental illness is to be blamed

for a nationwide epidemic of killing.

It was hopeful to see the latest cover of *Time Magazine* — which I recommend...

with all the places deadly shootings have occurred

locations printed in very small print completely jamming the cover full.

The inside *Time's* multi-page report argued that mental illness is not a crime

cited evidence that killers were not mentally ill, but white men acting out white militia agendas...

and stimulated to target blacks and Hispanics as well as GLBTQ people...

just like Nazi's targeted immigrants, mentally and physically disabled, Jews and even gypsies.

The *Time* cover issue reports what NRA or the President avoid...

that white militias and the white supremacy mentality are fanned by political rhetoric

and informed by conspiracy theories and a wide-spread social media network.

I am also hopeful in seeing that some evangelical Christian leaders are now beginning to be heard

remembering the Jewish Jesus who time after time took his stand

for and with the poor, weak, mentally troubled and blamed.

So I dedicate this page to the scores of mentally troubled people I have known in my career

who courageously live each day with struggles others of us never knew...

and don't deserve to be made scapegoats

in a crisis that is a real threat to national security.

*Art Morgan, August, 22, 2019*