

## UMOJA

### Gateway to the Culture

People News • Social justice news  
Positive news with an ART attitude

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#### Positive news with an art attitude

Events for calendar are welcome if received by the 15th of each month. The publisher would like for you to send articles about your event, about your achievement or your child's. Please call her in the newsroom at 242-1400. UMOJA will be pleased to have photos and short news articles of events that mean something to you.

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# from the publisher

## The Avalanche

We are witnessing an avalanche of very tragic mass shootings. that affect a lot of families.

When the Sandy Hook massacre occurred, I thought surely we as a people had traveled to the end of the gun possession route. So did then President Barack Obama. We knew that people were ready to enact sensible gun legislation and to determine who and who could not own a gun and for what limited purposes. We were wrong.

Now, some five years later, we are still haunted by our out-of-control, dangerous gun laws. It is true that guns don't kill; people do. If people had less access to guns, there would be, by default, less killings.

Sandy Hook awakened our moral sensibilities. We never expected such a horror to occur in a first grade classroom. Schools are places of peace and safety. So are bike trails and parks. A concert. A place for a bit of relaxation. The church. The ultimate place for peace.

So we assumed.

It seems as though Sandy Hook started an avalanche.

We are stunned by the need of other people to kill others.

Not much can be said in defense of any person who uses a gun for some personal avenge.

We should look at what other civilized countries like Great Britain and Australia do. Mass killings do not occur in those countries. Australia's mass shootings dropped to

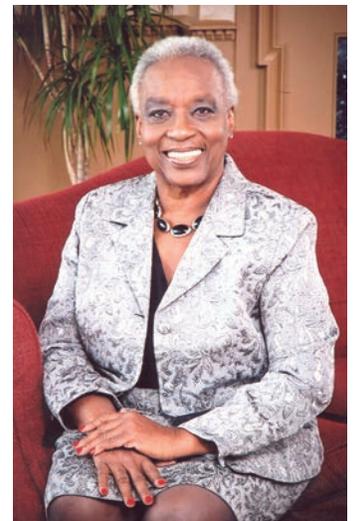
zero after gun reforms. The safety of their citizens is buoyed by their legislation about guns.

We cannot stop pushing the envelope for common-sense gun laws in this country. With the administration of Donald Trump, it will be difficult indeed.

On the other end of the spectrum, UMOJA wishes to give a big round of applause to Steve Schooler for heading up the helm of Porchlight and providing emergency shelter for the homeless over the past 25 years. He has done a magnificent job for the most vulnerable, focusing on what's essential against the odds and obstacles of serving poor people.

In fact, we are also impressed with the work of Michael Johnson, Kaleem Caire, Becky Steinhoff, Tom Solyst, Tom Moen, Caliph 'El in providing great care for the next generation. Their work, like that of Steve Schooler, is not easy, but it makes a difference.

Our Village would be more vulnerable without you



**Milele Chikasa Anana, Publisher**