

In the preface to his Collected Poems, Robert Frost tells us that a poet writes a poem as “a momentary stay against confusion,” meaning that the impulse behind a poem begins and ends with the need to clarify something about life, whether that “something” is beautiful or horrifying, tragic or cheering. In her essay “Change and Difference,” Kim Heinzelmann begins to write her way out of the chaos resulting from the shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue, out of the temporary suspension of time and words left “hanging” in the air while Kim received the news from her mother. To combat the initial blah feeling she experiences upon hearing about yet another shooting (so many to count, so many to lose track of), Heinzelmann begins to process her grief by offering a much-needed corrective to misperceptions about Jewish identity and a call for primary and secondary education programs to combat the increase in antisemitism.