



A publication of the Anti-Defamation League's Mountain States Regional Office
Serving Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming

Since 1913: "To stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all."

White Supremacist Arrested for Planning to Bomb Colorado Synagogue; suspect known to ADL

On November 1, 2019, FBI agents arrested white supremacist Richard Holzer for allegedly plotting to bomb the historic Temple Emanuel synagogue in Pueblo, Colorado. According to the affidavit supporting Holzer's arrest, he met with undercover agents during the evening of November 1 to discuss plans to ignite explosives at the synagogue during the early morning hours of November 2. The undercover agents brought two pipe bombs and seven sticks of dynamite, all inert, to their meeting with Holzer, which he intended to use to attack the synagogue. Holzer allegedly called his plan to blow up the synagogue his "mountain" and referred to Jews and the synagogue as a "cancer."

ADL's Center on Extremism has been tracking Holzer's activities since 2016, and shared information with law enforcement on several occasions unrelated to his plot to blow up the synagogue in Pueblo. ADL alerted law enforcement officials that Holzer might be dangerous, as he frequently posted online about killing his enemies. He also posted Facebook videos of himself marching around Port Hueneme and Oxnard, CA, wearing black military-styled fatigues adorned with Klan and neo-Nazi pins and patches. Holzer also posted a video of himself urinating on a synagogue in Thousand Oaks, CA. *continued on page 5*



ADL Regional Director Scott Levin speaks with reporters at press conference about the thwarted synagogue bombing on November 4, 2019.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Dateline

FALL 2019



Temple Emanuel, Pueblo, CO (Photo: Temple Emanuel)

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Message from the Chair and the Director

Vigilance and Resilience

One year ago, our community mourned the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history when a white supremacist murdered 11 congregants and wounded several others at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. In response, the ADL Mountain States Region organized a community vigil attended by more than 3200 members of our diverse community. ADL was privileged to be joined by leaders representing the highest levels of government and law enforcement, clergy and members of the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh and other communities, all of whom shared in the anguish of the loss and a desire to provide support to one another. On the one-year anniversary of the tragedy, ADL led a coalition of community partners, including BMH-BJ Congregation, JEWISHcolorado and 36 other synagogues and institutions to memorialize those whose lives were lost and to reflect on the state of anti-Semitism one year later.

Today, anti-Semitism remains a tremendous challenge. The violent attacks at Tree of Life, Poway and Halle, Germany, are only the worst manifestations of an increased number of white supremacist activities in our region, country and throughout the world. Earlier this month, in our own backyard, the FBI thwarted a bombing by a white supremacist who planned to blow up Temple Emanuel in Pueblo, Colorado and who, in social media posts, vilified not only Jews but immigrants and other minorities. We must also acknowledge the growth of anti-Semitic activities on the left that all too often go unanswered.

We must remain vigilant, but there are things each of us can do to proactively address these challenges:

- If you are Jewish, do not allow anti-Semitism to define you. Be proud of who you are.
- Last year's vigil taught us that we have allies in different faith communities. That does not just happen. We need to support one another.
- Advocate against hate. Call out hate whenever you see it and urge members of Congress to support measures to stop it by visiting the "Be Heard in Congress" page at www.adl.org.
- Disrupt hate by intervening when you see bias, belittling jokes and slurs that undergird bullying, acts of discrimination and violence.
- Report anti-Semitic incidents by visiting www.adl.org/reportincident. We are here to help.
- Donate to ADL to support the work we do every day to stop anti-Semitism and secure justice and fair treatment for all.

Thank you for your support. ●

Melinda Quiat, Regional Board Chair

Scott L. Levin, Regional Director



L-R: ADL Regional Board Chair Melinda Quiat and JEWISHcolorado Board Chair Ruth Malman deliver remarks at One Year Later. (Photo: Neil Rosenfeld)



Twelve memorial candles representing the twelve shooting victims of Pittsburgh and Poway were lit by community rabbis from all denominations. We remember: Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger and Lori Gilbert Kaye. (Photo: Sue Parker Gerson)



More than 300 participants attended the community memorial. (Photo: Neil Rosenfeld)

ADL Dinner Honors Chotin Family with 2019 Torch of Liberty Award

On November 6, ADL hosted hundreds of community members at its annual dinner to celebrate as ADL's Torch of Liberty award was presented to Robin and Steven Chotin along with their three children: Mauri Chotin Zemachson, Whitney Chotin Wolz and Ross Chotin. The Chotins, whose name is synonymous with leadership and philanthropy, have led and supported numerous organizations with far-reaching impact in our community and throughout the world. Motivated by a long family history of caring and concern for others, Robin and Steven have inspired their children to pick up the torch of liberty and take on their own roles as leaders and philanthropists.

ADL's 2019 Community Service Award was presented to Jerry Pinsker, No Place for Hate® facilitator, ADL Regional Board Member and veteran educator. "I am honored to be receiving this year's ADL Community Service Award," he said, "and am accepting this award to bring more public awareness to ADL's importance in the fight against hate."

The Hazel Miller Band's performance added an especially celebratory and festive element to the event.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors, including Presenting Sponsors The Chotin Foundation and Robert B. Sturm; Champion Sponsors Norm & Sunny Brownstein and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, The Curtiss-Lusher Family and Zeff Kesher Foundation and Advocate Sponsor Thomas Morano.

Proceeds from the dinner support ADL's regional anti-bias programming and its critical efforts working to fight bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism throughout Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. Learn more at mountainstates.adl.org.



Jerry Pinsker receiving ADL's 2019 Community Service Award



ADL 2019 Torch of Liberty honorees and spouses (L-R): Robin Chotin, Steven Chotin, Mauri Chotin Zemachson, Scott Zemachson, Whitney Chotin Wolz, Chad Wolz, Karyn Chotin, Ross Chotin.



The evening featured a special performance from the Hazel Miller Band.

Photos: Eric Stephenson

Report: Hate Crimes in Colorado and New Mexico Increased in 2018

Slight decrease nationwide in the number of incidents reported

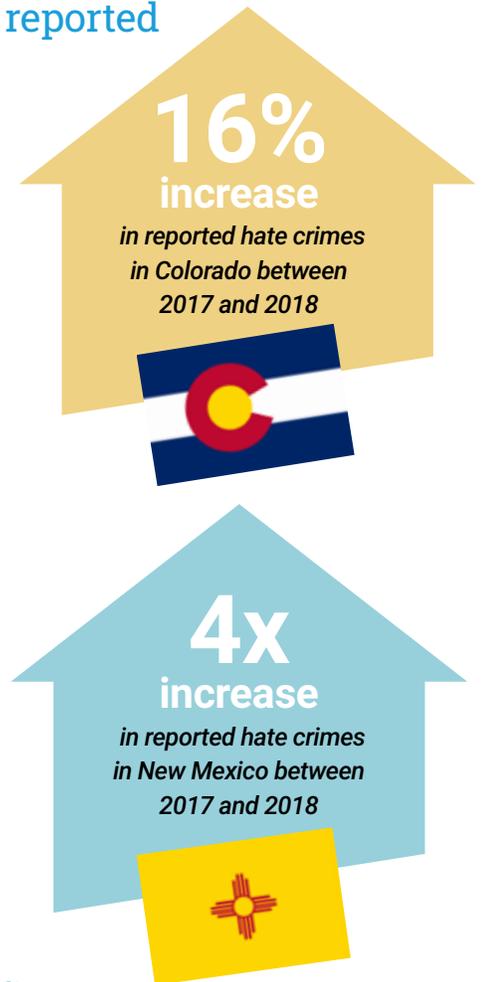
The number of reported hate crimes in Colorado increased by 16 percent between 2017 and 2018, while the number of reported cases nationwide slightly decreased, according to the FBI's annual hate crime report released this month. Hate crimes in New Mexico increased 400% over the same period.

In its annual Hate Crime Statistics Act (HCSA) report, the FBI found that total hate crimes decreased nationwide slightly in 2018 after three consecutive years of increases. The agency reported 7,120 total hate crimes in 2018, compared to 7,175 in 2017. While religion-based hate crimes decreased by eight percent from 2017, nearly 60 percent of hate crime attacks were targeted against Jews and Jewish institutions in 2018.

In Colorado, there were 123 reported hate crimes in 2018 compared to 106 reported incidents in 2017. Hate crimes directed at individuals based on their race, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability all increased from 2017 to 2018 in the state, according to the report.

In New Mexico, there were 28 reported hate crimes in 2018 compared to seven reported incidents in 2017. While hate crimes in New Mexico increased in all categories from 2017 to 2018, the largest increase was recorded for hate crimes based on race, which increased from four in 2017 to 21 in 2018.

ADL Mountain States Regional Director Scott Levin issued the following statement: "It is alarming to see such a large increase in hate crimes in our region, especially when we know that bias motivated crimes often go unreported. No one should be targeted as a result of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender or gender identity. Hate has no place in our society. ADL will continue to do all it can to defend Jews and all victims of hate and bigotry." ●



Hate Crimes Legislation ADL Testifies in Wyoming



ADL Mountain States Regional Director Scott Levin was privileged to testify in Casper before the Wyoming Advisory Committee of the US Commission on Civil Rights about hate crimes in Wyoming and across the country. Levin explained to the committee that hate crimes are message crimes, and that it is necessary to provide training to and mandate reporting by law enforcement, and it is past time for Wyoming to adopt a state hate crimes law. It was a particular honor for ADL to testify alongside Dennis Shepard, father of Matthew, and co-founder with his wife Judy, of the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

ADL Mountain States Region 2019 Impact

ADL is a force for fighting hate in a fast-changing world. We stand up to anti-Semitism and discrimination, working at the grassroots level to build a more civil society.



18 partner organizations participate in the Colorado Coalition Against Hate led by ADL, responding collaboratively to incidents of hate and promoting the safety of vulnerable communities.

57K students in 64 schools are engaged in No Place for Hate, ADL's anti-bias and anti-bullying initiative.



150+ ADL responded to an increased number of requests in 2019 for assistance from individuals and institutions targeted by anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia and other acts of hate.



450 law enforcement professionals from 35 regional agencies participated in ADL trainings, helping them to fight extremism and build trust with the communities they serve.



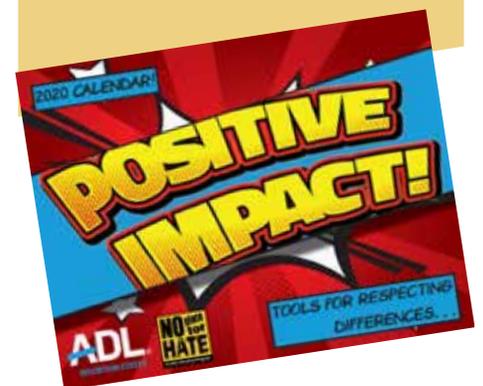
White Supremacist Arrested *continued from page 1*

Holzer surfaced in Colorado in 2018 and began to connect with local white supremacists. Among other things, he participated in the anti-Muslim "March against Sharia" event in Denver.

As soon as ADL was alerted to the arrest of Holzer, it jumped into action, communicating with representatives of the Pueblo synagogue and law enforcement. Mountain States Regional Director Scott Levin was interviewed and quoted in more than three dozen stories locally, nationally and internationally. In addition to describing the impact of this terrible incident on the Jewish and greater community, Levin noted this was the thirteenth white supremacist plot targeting Jews and Jewish institutions in the year since the attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA – the deadliest attack on Jews in American history. Levin commended law enforcement for acting quickly to prevent Holzer from committing potentially life-threatening violence. ●

2020 POSITIVE IMPACT! Calendar

We are excited to provide this colorful resource featuring different cultural observances along with ideas of how to take action with friends, family and neighbors to make a positive impact in our communities. Order yours today at <http://bit.ly/PositiveImpact2020!>



Words to Action Empowers Students to Stand Up to Anti-Semitism

With anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias on the rise, ADL is responding by equipping students with constructive and effective tools to stand up to these challenges in high schools, on college campuses, at summer camps and more with its signature Words to Action program. Thanks to generous grants from Rose Community Foundation and other donors, ADL reached nearly 1,000 student participants in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming during the 2018-2019 academic year. A new matching grant from the Jewish National Fund for college and university groups will increase that number even more in 2020. To learn more about Words to Action, to schedule a training or to offer financial support for the program, please contact ADL Senior Associate Director Sue Parker Gerson at mountainstates@adl.org or 303-830-7177. ●



Members of the Denver Jewish Day School 2019 senior class participate in a Words to Action training at ADL.

Exciting Expansion of No Place for Hate® in 2019-2020

With 63 schools registered for the 2019-2020 school year, ADL's No Place for Hate initiative is engaging nearly 57,000 students and educators throughout the Mountain States Region. ADL is thrilled to welcome new partners in the region, including Denver metro area schools in Douglas County, Lewis Palmer School District and Brighton High School, as well as our first school in Santa Fe, New Mexico!

Building inclusive and safe communities and empowering students, faculty, administration and families to take a stand against hate and bullying does not happen overnight. Quick solutions might sound desirable, but ADL knows that creating real and lasting changes to the culture of a school community takes time, multiple strategies and commitment by all stakeholders. The enduring work of No Place for Hate helps to ensure that positive school culture is not just created but sustained over time. Congratulations to all of our students, teachers, administrators and families who are partnering with ADL on the hard work of creating inclusive and respectful school communities. ●



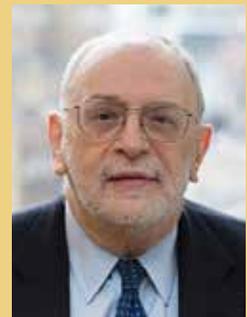
Students from Lucile Erwin Middle School in Loveland, Colorado participate in a No Place for Hate training.

Save the Date for ADL in ABQ!

An evening with Kenneth Jacobson,
ADL Deputy National Director
7-8:45 p.m., Monday, December 9, 2019
JCC Albuquerque, 5520 Wyoming Blvd NE,
Albuquerque, NM

Kenneth Jacobson joined ADL in 1971 and is its longest serving professional. Ken has written and spoken extensively on anti-Semitism, Israel, international affairs and civil rights.

Dessert will be served following the program. Registration is required for this free event:
<https://support.adl.org/ADLinABQ2019>.



Kenneth Jacobson

New Faces on ADL's Mountain States Team

Jordan Alvillar, a Grand Junction, CO native, is a graduate of ADL's Sturm Fellows Leadership Program for young professionals, was a co-chair of ADL's NextGen 360 group and served as a member of the Regional Board of Directors for over a year until joining the professional staff. Prior to joining the ADL staff, Jordan worked in marketing and public relations, focusing on traditional advertising and government relations. Jordan's passions include international travel with her wife, Jill, and hanging out with their two dogs.

"Although I am not Jewish, as a woman who is gay and Latina, I connect to ADL's mission as a champion of underrepresented communities," says Jordan. "I care about ADL's mission because to me, the organization is intersectional and a defender of people and their civil rights – its work overlaps into the issues, topics and organizations that I care about. Joining the ADL Mountain States team as a full-time staff member is a dream come true."

Jacob Brown is a Maryland native and a 2018 graduate of the University of Maryland. Prior to joining ADL in September, Jacob worked as a development assistant for the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) in Washington, DC, where he researched and identified government and foundation grants to help provide fair housing, housing counseling, civil rights training and technical assistance for women/minority small businesses. Jacob is passionate about refugees and vulnerable populations and uses his free time to volunteer for organizations that provide support including free groceries, after-school tutoring and cultural opportunities to families in need.

"ADL is immensely impactful," says Jacob. "I feel so lucky to be a part of this organization, returning a bit to my Jewish roots and helping to make a difference with ADL here in the Mountain States Region and worldwide in such a scary time." ●

The December Dilemma

December Holiday Guidelines for Public Schools and Public Spaces

As the December holidays approach, school administrators and teachers face the challenge of planning holiday programs and activities within and outside the classroom that demonstrate a respect for students of all faiths and religious beliefs. Civic officials similarly may face difficult questions about the placement of religious displays on public property. While acknowledging the December holiday season, it's important to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of all members of our religiously diverse society.

ADL is pleased to offer guidance on navigating these questions. To help school and civic officials comply with the United States Constitution and create an environment that communicates respect for religious diversity, we offer several resources for developing December holiday curricula and displays.

Visit ADL's web page devoted to teaching about the December holidays including guidelines for public schools, a webinar recording and other resources at <http://bit.ly/DecemberDilemma>. ADL's handy chart for evaluating the appropriateness and inclusivity of holiday displays may be found here: <http://bit.ly/ADLHolidayDisplayChart>.

Wishing you happy, healthy and inclusive holidays this December! ●

The ADL Mountain States Region is delighted to introduce two new members of our team: Jordan Alvillar, Associate Director of Development, and Jacob Brown, Development Assistant.



Jordan Alvillar



Jacob Brown

Build Your Legacy

ADL is excited to partner with Rose Community Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to participate in the **Life & Legacy: Insuring Jewish Futures** program. Your legacy gift ensures the continued vitality and growth of ADL in the Mountain States Region. Legacy donors sow the seeds for future generations to live in a community without prejudice. For more information, please contact Michael Rudnick at mrudnick@adl.org. ●



LIVE ON
BUILD YOUR JEWISH LEGACY

An initiative of
ROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

LIFE & LEGACY
Assuring JEWISH TOMORROWS
A program of the HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION





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Get Involved with ADL

We invite you to get involved with the ADL Mountain States Region!

Volunteer: Write to us online at mountainstates.adl.org/contact/

Connect with us in three ways:

Sign up to receive our monthly electronic newsletter:
mountainstates.adl.org/newsletter/

Connect with us on Facebook:

ADL – Anti-Defamation League (Mountain States)

Connect with us on Twitter: @ADLMtnStates

Alert ADL to anti-Semitic incidents and other hate crimes at:

www.adl.org/reportincident

Invite us to speak to your community group:

Submit a request online at mountainstates.adl.org/contact/

Sign up for Action Alerts from ADL at:

www.adl.org/take-action

Donate: Visit mountainstates.adl.org or return the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

Support ADL on Colorado Gives Day!

Give where you live on Colorado Gives Day and support ADL's Mountain States Region! ADL's mission to stand up and speak out against anti-Semitism, racism and all forms of hate is more critical than ever. On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, join thousands of donors in supporting nonprofits – like ADL – on Colorado Gives Day. Visit our donation page at <https://www.coloradogives.org/ADL> to make your impact.

Don't want to wait for December 10 to help us stop hate? Go online today to schedule your donation early! Now more than ever, your support is needed! ●



Save the Date! 2020 Civil Rights Awards Reception

5:30-7:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Chambers Grant Salon, Ellie Caulkins Opera House,
 1355 Curtis St., Denver

Honoring: Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and Emma Shinn, Esq., Executive Director & Co-Founder, Colorado Name Change Project

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, contact ADL Associate Director of Development Jordan Alvililar at mountainstates@adl.org or 303-830-7177.



Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network staff



Emma Shinn