



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."



Message from the Chair and the Director

A republic, if you can keep it.

When asked whether our country would be a monarchy or a republic, Benjamin Franklin famously responded that it would be a republic, but he made clear it would survive only if its people work hard to keep it.

This year, we faced a pandemic that has resulted in illness and death; the closing of schools and businesses; rising antisemitism; the empowerment of white supremacists and other extremists; the consequences of climate change; racial disparities; and excessive force. These struggles have been amplified by an election that has made clear nearly half the country disagrees with the other half on solutions to these issues. For Jews, Muslims, people of color, LGBTQ, immigrants and those that are often viewed as the "other," unsettling times are never good.

ADL works hard to preserve this republic. It is committed to a mission that not only seeks to stop antisemitism, but also to secure justice and fair treatment to all. ADL strives to preserve those norms and institutions that provide protection and equal opportunities to all. Among other things, during this difficult year, ADL's Mountain States Region joined in amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs defending COVID restrictions to protect people's health, advised government officials and law enforcement on extremist activities attempting to influence the election, provided support to those targeted because they are Jewish or have some other immutable characteristic, expanded the reach of No Place for Hate — our hallmark anti-bias and anti-bullying initiative — by 50%, and built coalitions to bring together disparate voices.

During these difficult times, we urge everyone to heed Benjamin Franklin's prescient statement. Please lean into your civic responsibility and join ADL in the effort to keep this wonderful republic. ●

Elisa Moran, Regional Board Chair

Scott Levin, Regional Director



Scott Levin



Elisa Moran

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Dateline
FALL 2020

Words to Action Longitudinal Study Shows Program Empowers Students to Stand Up to Antisemitism

With antisemitism and anti-Israel bias at their highest levels in recent memory, 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 a generous grant from Rose Community Foundation and additional support from Jewish National Fund and others, ADL reached over 1,000 students in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming during the 2019-2020 academic year. The program is currently being offered online.

A portion of the Rose Community Foundation grant is funding a longitudinal study that measures the impact of Words to Action on students' ability to respond to antisemitic incidents. Significant findings demonstrate that following a Words to Action training, students express that they have the knowledge, skills and desire to stand up for themselves and to act as allies for others. The study also captured students' experiences with antisemitism, underpinning the deep need for the program to continue.

To learn more, 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. ●



L-R: Rabbi Jamie Arnold, Congregation Beth Evergreen; pianist Patrick Slaughter and choir director Val Robinson, Zion Temple Church, Denver

ADL Honors Former Regional Director and Civil Rights Leader Sheldon Steinhauser with Lifetime Achievement Award

On November 12 the community gathered online to celebrate the work of ADL and honor Sheldon (Shelly) Steinhauser with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Attendees were rewarded with a myriad of uplifting moments, including special comments from ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt and Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock.

Board member Cheri Rubin put her creativity and vision to work, recruiting a trio of musicians from a collaboration between Zion Temple Church and Congregation Beth Evergreen, who paid tribute to Shelly through the apt medium of gospel music. This trio performed gospel standards uniquely arranged to fit the occasion. Musician Francesca Rubin also surprised Shelly with a beautiful musical rendition of Hillel's famous quotation.

ADL Regional Board Chair Elisa Moran, Immediate Past Chair Melinda Quiat and Regional Director Scott Levin provided insightful remarks and ADL Development Committee co-chairs John Chanin, Sheryl Feiler, Alan Frosh and David Hauptman introduced the various program segments. The evening's honoree, Shelly Steinhauser, reflected wisdom, grace and humor in his acceptance remarks.

Special thanks go to ADL Regional Board Member Susan Brody and ADL Associate Education Director Dan Cohen, both of whose work was instrumental in assembling and presenting the video production for the event.

For those that still want to honor Shelly Steinhauser or otherwise support the work of ADL, please make your donation using the enclosed envelope or visit mountainstates.adl.org. To watch the video from the program, please visit https://bit.ly/IfNotNowWhen_video. ●



ADL Lifetime Achievement Award honoree Sheldon "Shelly" Steinhauser



ADL Joins Colorado Holocaust Education Stakeholder Committee

One of the greatest accomplishments of the 2020 Colorado legislative session was the passage of House Bill 1336 – Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Public Schools, requiring that Holocaust and genocide education be taught in public schools. ADL worked with an extensive network of coalition partners, including the Jewish Community Relations Council, B'nai B'rith Colorado, Coalition Against Global Genocide and the Armenian community of Colorado to pass the Bill. Representatives Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Emily Sirota and Senators Steve Fenberg and Dennis Hisey were the Bill's co-sponsors.

The Colorado Department of Education has selected ADL Mountain States Education Director Tara Raju to join its 17-member stakeholder committee. The committee is charged with reviewing and making recommendations for revisions to current Colorado Academic Standards for social studies. The committee will also recommend resources to be included in a publicly accessible resource bank for the teaching of Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

The stakeholder committee will be making its recommendations to the State Board of Education by no later than July 2021. Colorado school districts are to incorporate the new standards by July 2023. The work of the stakeholder committee is available to the public. To learn more, visit <http://bit.ly/COHolocaustLaw>. ●

House Bill 1336 requires that Holocaust and genocide education be taught in public schools.



Tara Raju



Holocaust survivor Fanny Starr z"l speaks at the signing of HB1336 – Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Public Schools – at JEWISHcolorado on July 9, 2020. Also pictured: Governor Jared Polis (seated), ADL Regional Director Scott Levin (standing, middle, back); JEWISHcolorado Executive Director Rabbi Jay Strear (standing, right); Bill sponsors Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet (far left); and Rep. Emily Sirota (center); and others.

ADL Student Essay Contest • A Tribute to Moral Courage: Standing Up Against Injustice

The ADL Mountain States Region is happy to launch its 2021 student essay contest, A Tribute to Moral Courage: Standing Up Against Injustice. We appreciate the support of generous anonymous donors who have made this contest possible. Seventh through twelfth grade students in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming are invited to participate. Essays recognize individuals throughout history who took a strong stand on a specific issue based on their personal beliefs or convictions, regardless of the danger or threat to their personal safety. Students are asked to write about how that person's moral courage has an impact on the world and, perhaps most importantly, how those actions have influenced their own lives today.

Essay submissions are due February 18, 2021. Visit our website for contest rules and guidelines about how to submit essays: <http://bit.ly/2021EssayContest>. ●



A Tribute to Moral Courage:
Standing Up Against Injustice

ADL Mountain States' No Place for Hate® Initiative Empowers Students and Engages Educators

ADL is thrilled to announce that more than 90 schools, impacting approximately 80,000 students – a significant increase over last year – have registered for No Place for Hate in the Mountain States Region. This total includes 40 brand-new Colorado schools in Delta, Douglas, Jefferson County, and Larimer Counties; an increased number of schools from Boulder, Denver, Douglas, and Larimer Counties; and our first school in Albuquerque, NM.

Although the 2020-2021 school year looks quite different, the impact of No Place for Hate for students and educators is greater than ever. Sonia, an 8th grade student at Broomfield Heights Middle School, explains:

"No Place for Hate is important to me because you get to make the world a better place. We always make sure everyone in our school stays safe. Our group helps spread awareness and we never leave anyone out. No Place for Hate is very hard in a pandemic but we still help no matter what!"

LuAnn Tallman, Principal at Palmer Elementary School in Denver makes clear the need for No Place for Hate: **"The only way our Palmer Elementary community will thrive through all of the pandemics engulfing our world presently is to show children and families the power of kindness and empathy as an avenue to peace and calmness. These are the values that No Place for Hate teaches children each and every day."**

Visit www.adl.org/mountain-states/noplaceforhate to learn more, read more testimonials, and to see the list of this year's schools. ●

No Place for Hate® student coalition at Cottonwood Plains Elementary, Fort Collins, CO.

ADL Mountain States and New Mexico Holocaust Museum Announce New Partnership

Current research shows that understanding and knowledge about the Holocaust continues to fall while antisemitic and hate incidents continue to rise. In response, the ADL Mountain States Region and the New Mexico Holocaust Museum and Gellert Center for Education are excited to announce a new partnership intended to broaden the educational reach of both institutions to students and families in New Mexico.

Understanding and knowledge about the Holocaust continues to fall while antisemitic and hate incidents continue to rise.

The New Mexico Holocaust Museum and Gellert Center for Education uses Holocaust education as the foundation for building understanding about human rights and social justice issues and creating empathy for those impacted by these issues. The goals and values of the Museum dovetail with those of ADL, whose century-old mission to stop antisemitism and secure justice and fair treatment for all underpins its antisemitism, anti-bias and Holocaust education programming.

The partnership between ADL and the Museum is in development, with plans to offer professional education opportunities for teachers and facilitators, programming for students, webinars and more.

"This exciting opportunity will deepen the partnership between ADL and the New Mexico community," said Sue Parker Gerson, Senior Associate Director for the ADL Mountain States Region. "We're thrilled to be working with such a wonderful organization as the New Mexico Holocaust Museum to support teachers, students and community members with timely, accessible and engaging content."

"The New Mexico Holocaust Museum and Gellert Center for Education is honored to be collaborating with ADL," said Leon Natker, the Museum's Executive Director. "Collaborating with ADL will add a new level of depth to the content we are able to share with students throughout New Mexico."

To learn more about the partner organizations for this new initiative, please visit their websites at <https://nmholocaustmuseum.org> and <https://mountainstates.adl.org>. ●



Coalition works to pass hate crimes law in Wyoming

Wyoming is one of just four states without a hate crimes law. A coalition of businesses and community groups, known as Hate Free Wyoming, is hoping to change that reality.

The ADL Mountain States Region is working closely with our partners and friends at the Matthew Shepard Foundation and the Hate Free Wyoming coalition to get a bill introduced and passed in the 2021 legislative session. ADL is assisting the effort by drafting model language for the statute and reaching out to key business leaders, community organizations and elected officials.

In addition to ADL, the current members of Hate Free Wyoming include: American Airlines, Inc.; AT&T; Delta Air Lines, Inc.; Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation; IBM Corporation; Matthew Shepard Foundation; NAACP CO-MT-WY State Conference; Salesforce; Swire Coca-Cola, USA; The Coca-Cola Company; The Home Depot; Toyota Motor North America; United Parcel Service (UPS); Walmart, Inc.; and Wyoming Equality.

The murder of Matthew Shepard more than 22 years ago placed the urgency of a hate crime law at the forefront of Wyoming politics. A bill was introduced in 1999, the year after Shepard's brutal attack, but failed on a tied 30-30 vote in the Wyoming House of Representatives. Several attempts to pass a bias-motivated crimes law, commonly known as a hate crimes law, have been made since then, but none have been successful.

If you live in Wyoming, we need your assistance. Please call your state representative, state senator and Governor Mark Gordon and tell them that you support a bias-motivated crimes bill being introduced and passed in the 2021 legislative session. You can find your legislators and more information about the legislative session at: www.wyoleg.gov.



*Wyoming is one
of just four states
without a hate
crimes law.*

*Wyoming State Capitol,
Cheyenne, WY. Photo credit:
www.wyoleg.gov.*

Leave a Lasting Legacy

ADL is excited to continue its partnership with Rose Community Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to participate in the Life & Legacy: Insuring Jewish Futures program.

We are gratified that our list of legacy donors grows longer each month, as more and more ADL donors and supporters see fit to ensuring a strong ADL for the generations to come.

When asked why she decided to participate in this initiative, new Life & Legacy donor Joanne Posner-Mayer eloquently explained:

"As the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and someone who cares deeply about the community, I strongly support ADL's mission to stop antisemitism and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. Last year, I read an article about my friend, Cheri Rubin, and the legacy gift she made to ADL. I decided that I should do the same. I hope that my gift will in turn spur others to name ADL as a beneficiary in their Will or to make a legacy gift. Together we can ensure ADL will continue to counter antisemitism, bigotry, and hate for years to come."

Like Joanne, 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. We are always happy to meet with you via Zoom or on the phone, and if you'd like to talk your questions through with another ADL donor, we are happy to arrange that for you.

For more information, please contact Michael Rudnick at mrudnick@adl.org.



*Joanne Posner-Mayer holding a
photograph of her mother, Hanna.*



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!

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

Sign up for Action Alerts from ADL at:

www.adl.org/take-action

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

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

Support ADL Mountain States on Colorado Gives Day!

Looking for a way to give back this winter? We are inviting supporters of ADL's work to donate on Colorado Gives Day, one of the most successful "give days" in the nation, on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

To donate to ADL's work on Colorado Gives Day, visit: <https://www.coloradogives.org/ADL>. Worried about missing the deadline? Preschedule your donation now!

ColoradoGivesDay.org features more than 2,900 Colorado nonprofits, including ADL, that will benefit from a shared Incentive Fund of \$1 million. The effort is taking on greater significance this year, as Colorado nonprofits are facing unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19. Your donation on Colorado Gives Day is a tremendous way of demonstrating your support.

Colorado Gives Day is presented by Community First Foundation, a local community foundation dedicated to fueling positive change throughout Colorado, and FirstBank, one of the nation's largest privately held banks and a recognized leader in Colorado corporate philanthropy.

