



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

80 Years of Fighting Hate

ADL Celebrates 80 Years in the Mountain States Region

The year was 1941, a year that would change America forever, and a momentous year for civil rights in the Mountain States Region. 1941 was when a passionate group of community leaders led by Col. Melvin Schlesinger, along with such notables as attorney Lou Isaacson, businessman and philanthropist A.B. Hirschfeld, journalist Max Goldberg, and businessman Emmett Heitler, opened a regional office of the Anti-Defamation League in Denver. The office is believed to be the first ADL regional office outside of Chicago, where ADL was founded in 1913, and New York, where ADL is headquartered.



Members of ADL's long-running Catholic Jewish Dialogue meet in the 1960s. The Dialogue still meets several times a year.

Fast forward 80 years and the mission, "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all," remains as imperative today as it did in 1941. Since its earliest days, ADL has spoken out against those that preach hate, from Father Coughlin, who broadcast virulent antisemitism over the radio on a weekly basis even as the horrors of the Holocaust were becoming known, to those that preach hate today in the dark recesses of the world wide web.

[Continued on page 2](#)

Hate on the Rise

Antisemitic incidents, hate crimes reach highs across Mountain States Region

Antisemitic incidents and hate crimes remained at historically high levels across the United States and the ADL Mountain States Region in 2020, adding to an already challenging atmosphere of pandemic-related conspiracies and domestic turmoil.

ADL recorded 68 incidents of anti-Jewish assault, harassment and vandalism in the three-state region in 2020 compared to 70 incidents in 2019. The vast majority of incidents occurred in Colorado with 60 reports in 2020 compared to 61 in 2019. There were eight reported incidents in New Mexico in 2020 compared to seven in 2019. There were no reported antisemitic incidents in Wyoming in 2020 while there were two reports the previous year.

The number of reported incidents in Colorado in 2020 reached the second-highest level in the last 10 years, just one incident less than the high in 2019, according to the ADL's annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents released earlier this year. [Continued on page 3](#)

Dateline
FALL 2021

INSIDE

- Welcoming Susie Moss* 4
- No Place for Hate®* 4
- Get Involved with ADL* 4
- 8 Days of Generosity* 5
- Leadership Fellows* 5
- Upcoming Events* 6
- Colorado Gives Day* 6

ADL Celebrates 80 Years in the Mountain States Region *Continued from page 1*

In 1941, the Ku Klux Klan had a stranglehold on Colorado politics. The Klan controlled the statehouse, and the early leaders of the ADL Mountain States Region recognized the need to counter this powerful hate group. ADL is a leading voice against today's extremist groups, from the Proud Boys and Three Percenters to QAnon and Oath Keepers.

Throughout its existence, ADL has been a champion of civil rights. In its early years, ADL drafted and supported laws that banned discrimination in employment and housing, advocated against restrictive property covenants that prohibited Jews and people of color from buying houses in certain neighborhoods, and marched from Selma to Birmingham for voting rights. The struggle for civil rights has never ended. ADL continues to support laws that ban discrimination, oppose laws that attempt to restrict anyone's rights because of their identity, and march in support of voting access.

ADL once worked to end restrictive immigration laws and quotas that limited the admission of Jews into the U.S. and into colleges and universities. Today, ADL still opposes discriminatory limits on immigration and advocates for fair tuition for undocumented students.

Through it all, ADL has strongly supported the separation of church and state. Decade after decade, ADL has supported a woman's right to make her own reproductive decisions – a right that continues to come under attack. ADL continues to champion the rights of Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, and members of other minority religions to worship in peace and dignity.

At the heart of ADL's mission are its outstanding education programs. Nearly four decades ago, ADL launched the award-winning A World of Difference® Institute. Today, it is central to the anti-bias and anti-bullying work ADL does throughout Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming. Through its Words to Action trainings in the Mountain States Region, ADL empowers over 1,000 Jewish students and their allies each year to counter antisemitism and virulent anti-Israel activities.

As a new generation of community leaders champions the mission of ADL in its unending fight against antisemitism and all forms of bias and hate, ADL has never been more relevant.

The valuable work ADL does is made possible by the support of our community. We are honored by the passion and purpose with which so many throughout the Mountain States Region support ADL. Here's to the next 80 years! ●

The ADL's mission remains as imperative today as it did in 1941.



Former ADL National Chair Barry Curtiss-Lusher meets Pope Francis on an ADL mission to Rome in 2015.



Denver Mayor Quigg Newton (right) kicks off Brotherhood Month with an ADL bus card in the 1950s. The theme: "Our mayor says, Let's keep all our kids free from racial and religious prejudice."



Child Survivor Alfred Lakos thanks Barbara Blankenship, the granddaughter of his rescuer, at the 2016 ADL Governor's Holocaust Remembrance Program. Blankenship was presented with the Righteous Among the Nations recognition by the State of Israel at the event.

Hate on the Rise *Continued from page 1*

Among the reports the ADL Mountain States Region received in 2020:

- A Jewish family in Colorado was harassed and threatened by a passerby who asked if they were Jewish and told the family, "We're going to kill all you motherf****s."
- A Jewish funeral service on Zoom was disrupted by an unknown participant who identified himself as "Adolph Eichmann" and repeatedly wrote, "The only good Jew is a dead Jew," and included a swastika image in the chat function.
- A parking lot on the campus of a Jewish Community Center in New Mexico was vandalized with swastika and SS graffiti.
- A banner was hung over a highway overpass on Interstate 25 in New Mexico that read, "Why are Jews banning free speech?"

The 2020 ADL Audit identified two cases of assault in Colorado, 43 cases of harassment in Colorado and four in New Mexico. There were 15 cases of vandalism in Colorado and four in New Mexico.

Jews were not alone in being targeted with hate across the region. The FBI's 2020 hate crime report released this fall showed increases in hate crimes targeting multiple vulnerable groups.

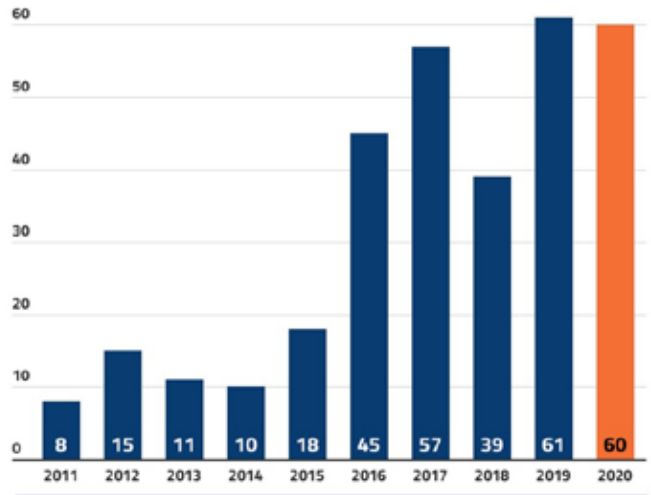
The number of reported hate crimes in Colorado in 2020 was the second highest number ever recorded in a single year for the state, surging by nearly 34 percent between 2019 and 2020. There were 281 reported hate crimes in 2020 compared to 210 reported incidents in 2019. The number is the highest recorded in the past 30 years and surpassed the previous record of 261 hate crimes recorded in 1992. Hate crimes directed at individuals based on their race, sexual orientation and gender identity all increased in Colorado from 2019 to 2020.

In New Mexico, there were 55 hate crimes reported in 2020 compared to 50 in 2019. The majority of hate crimes were directed at individuals based on their race, sexual orientation and religion.

In Wyoming, there were 18 reported hate crimes in 2020. The number of reports nearly quadrupled from 2019 to 2020. The number of reported hate crimes was the third highest on record in the last 30 years, just behind the highs of 21 incidents reported in 2007 and 19 incidents reported in 1994.

In response to the increase in antisemitic incidents and hate crimes, the ADL Mountain States Region has increased the number of trainings for law enforcement on hate crimes; conducted trainings for students across the region on how to counter anti-semitism; helped lead a coalition in Wyoming to try to secure a hate crime law in the state; and collaborated with partners in New Mexico to increase hate crime reporting and strengthen the state's hate crime law. ●

Antisemitic Incidents in Colorado Over the Last Decade | 2011-2020



ADL

Hateful Graffiti at Denver Public High School

The number of antisemitic and other bias-motivated incidents remains high in 2021. For example, the George Washington High School community in Denver recently suffered from extensive antisemitic, racist, homophobic and other hateful messages spray-painted on the school building and across its sports facilities. To report an incident, please visit www.adl.org/report.



Antisemitic graffiti at George Washington High School in Denver, CO, photographed on October 18, 2021. Photo credit: James Stern

ADL Mountain States Welcomes Susie Moss as Regional Director of Development

The ADL Mountain States Region was delighted to welcome Susie Moss as Regional Director of Development this past July, following the retirement of her predecessor, Michael Rudnick. Moss comes to the position with copious expertise in philanthropy and fundraising. Most recently, she spent five and a half years at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Prior to that, she had her own philanthropic consultancy, owned a furniture design and sales business with her husband Perry, and worked in major account sales, business development and sales training for high tech companies such as IBM and Apple. Susie has been an active volunteer at many organizations, including ADL, Temple Emanuel, Women's Foundation of Colorado and Kavod Senior Life, where she and Perry received Kavod's Elaine Wolf L'Dor v'Dor Award.



Susie Moss

When asked what made her decide to transition from being a lay leader to joining the professional staff as its new director of development, Moss said:

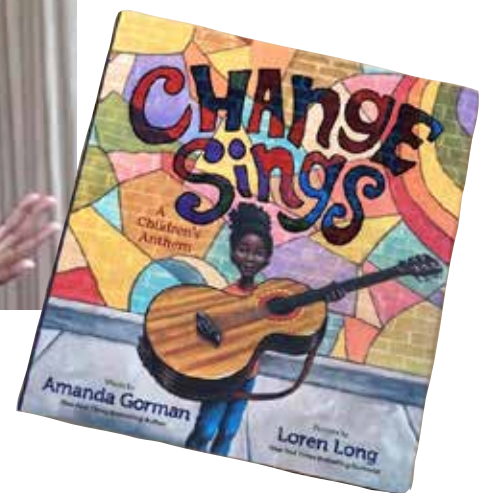
"I got involved with ADL many years ago because I was drawn to the mission. I believe that both as Jews and humans on this earth, we have an obligation and an opportunity to educate our community, including youth, on justice and fair treatment for all. When the job opportunity came about to do development for ADL, it was *bashert* (meant to be)! I'm thrilled to bring my love of building relationships and my development expertise to ADL to make an impact each and every day. There is no better time than now to raise awareness and create support for the incredible work that ADL does throughout our Mountain States Region and beyond. I've admired the Mountain States staff all along, and I am honored to become a part of this exceptional team." ●

ADL's No Place for Hate® Initiative Kickoff Features Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman

ADL was thrilled to start the 2021-2022 school year of its No Place for Hate initiative with a program featuring the remarkable American poet and activist Amanda Gorman. More than 2,500 educators, students and supporters joined the virtual event on October 6 at which Gorman read from her new book, *Change Sings*, and answered questions from students across the country. Gorman's insights, passion and encouragement of No Place for Hate students will be sure to motivate many for months to come. In the Mountain States Region, more than 70 schools in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming have joined the No Place for Hate movement and are committed to creating safe, welcoming and positive school environments.



Amanda Gorman



Learn more: www.adl.org/mountainstates/noplaceforhate. ●

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 antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes at:

www.adl.org/reportincident

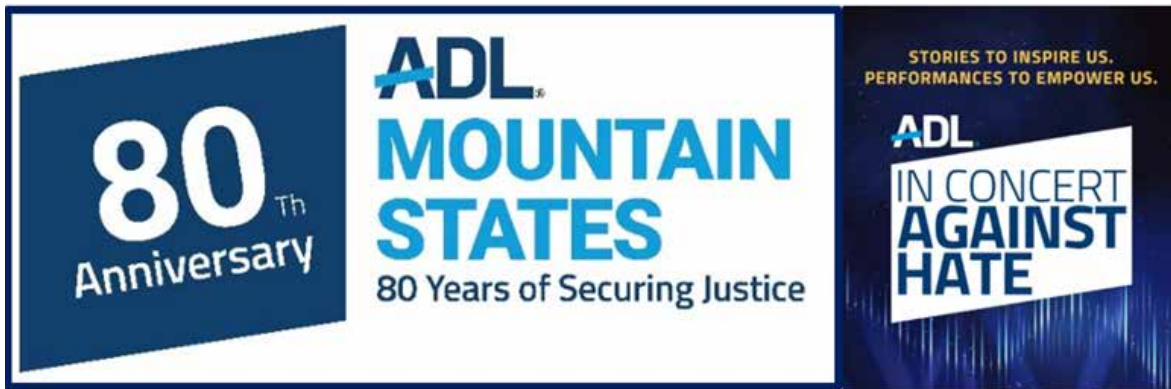
Sign up for Action Alerts from ADL at:

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!



Paying It Forward: the Next 80 Years
A Virtual Celebration

8 Days of Generosity

Sunday, December 5 – Sunday, December 12

<https://mountainstates.adl.org/80th>

Paying It Forward Virtual Event

Sunday, December 12, 2021, 5:15 pm

Mountain States 80th Anniversary Celebration

In Concert Against Hate

Sunday, December 12, 2021, 6:00 pm

ADL In Concert Against Hate invites you to a night of music, community and celebration packed with spectacular, can't-miss performances from acclaimed stars. This entirely virtual event gives you a front row seat anywhere around the globe. Through storytelling and song, we'll introduce you to real life heroes and celebrate their extraordinary acts of courage and compassion in the face of bigotry and hate.



ADL congratulates the 25 emerging leaders who graduated from its Robert B. Sturm Leadership Fellows Program this past September. The 2021 class was the largest in the region's history.



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Save the Dates for Upcoming ADL Events!

- **Paying It Forward: The Next 80 Years and In Concert Against Hate**
December 12, 2021
- **Civil Rights Awards**
February 16, 2022
- **No Place for Hate® Celebration**
April 20, 2022
- **Governor's Holocaust Remembrance Program**
April 28, 2022

Reach New Heights by Supporting ADL Mountain States on Colorado Gives Day!

Looking for a way to give back this winter? Support ADL's work by making your gift to ADL on Colorado Gives Day, one of the most successful regional "give days" in the nation, on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

To donate to ADL's work on Colorado Gives Day, visit: <https://www.coloradogives.org/ADL>.

No need to wait! 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 continue to face unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your donation on Colorado Gives Day is a tremendous way of demonstrating your support.

Colorado Gives Day is presented by Community First Foundation, which is 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. ●

