Registration is now open for the 2023 Governor’s Holocaust Remembrance Program, one of the largest such events in the U.S. The program will once again be held in person on Wednesday, April 19 at 5:30 pm at Temple Emanuel in Denver with a livestream option. The event will feature a conversation with Holocaust Survivor Paul Galan and will include a memorial prayer, a message from Governor Polis and an awards presentation to the winners of ADL’s A Tribute to Moral Courage Student Essay Contest. Register at https://support.adl.org/GHRP2023.

Paul Galan is a native of the former Czechoslovakia. Through a series of unusual circumstances and an extraordinary amount of luck, he and his immediate family members — although separated from one another in camps, in the forest, in hiding and on the run — all survived the war. Paul immigrated to the United States as a teenager and spent his career in film production. On his retirement in 2006, he decided to put his skills as a communicator towards disseminating the memory and the legacy of the Holocaust by sharing his own story of survival during that dark period in history with student as well as adult audiences. He also produced several video projects dealing with the Holocaust. Paul is a member of the Board of Trustees and currently co-president of the Holocaust Museum and Study Center located at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY.

ADL thanks program co-chairs and Regional Board Members Karen Flaxer, Ceci Lowinger, Amy Morris and Beth Yohe. ADL is grateful for the support of this year’s primary program sponsors (as of 3/10/23): The Curtiss-Lusher Family; Michael and Debbie Feiner and the Feiner Family Foundation; M. B. Glassman Foundation; JEWISHcolorado and the University of Denver.

The Governor’s Holocaust Remembrance Program is free and open to all. Registration is required. For more information, please visit https://mountainstates.adl.org. To register for the in-person program or the livestream, please visit https://support.adl.org/GHRP2023 or call 303-830-7177.
Hate Free Colorado is 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Business Award Recipient

Congratulations to Hate Free Colorado, which is led by the ADL Mountain States Region, for receiving the Content of Character Award at the 38th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Awards! This past year, a Hate Free Colorado survey found that most hate crimes go unreported in the state, with nearly three in 10 adult Coloradans saying that they have experienced a hate crime or bias-motivated incident in the last five years. ADL Senior Associate Regional Director Jeremy Shaver, who leads the Hate-Free Colorado Coalition, says “The reason Hate Free Colorado exists is because when someone is targeted simply for who they are and for their identity, it destroys an individual’s sense of belonging, inclusion and safety, and that has an impact across society.” Visit www.hatefreeco.org to learn more about the survey.

Number of Americans Harboring Extensive Antisemitic Prejudice Doubled Since 2019

ADL’s Antisemitic Attitudes in America survey found that 20 percent of Americans believe six or more anti-Jewish tropes, including that Jews control the government, media and commerce, are more loyal to Israel than to the United States, and more. These rates are nearly double the antisemitic prejudice found in 2019. Over three-quarters of Americans (85%) believe at least one anti-Jewish trope, as opposed to 61% found in 2019; twenty percent of Americans believe six or more tropes, which is significantly more than the 11 percent that ADL found in 2019 and is the highest level measured in decades. Visit www.adl.org to learn more.

Secure Your Lasting Legacy

Want to ensure that you can protect the organizations and communities you love, while making a profound impact on future generations? Making a legacy gift to ADL in your estate plans will ensure the future of ADL for years to come, sustaining our efforts in fighting bigotry and antisemitism, exposing dangerous extremists and providing anti-bias programs to cultivate respect and inclusion so that our children and grandchildren can live in safe communities for years to come.

Email Director of Development Susie Moss at mountainstates@adl.org or visit https://mountainstates.adl.org to learn more.
“Has the Anti-Defamation League changed its mission?”

This is a question we hear, often from people concerned that ADL spends too much of its time condemning racism, anti-LGBTQ+ activity, misogyny, attacks on minority religions, and other forms of hate rather than only fighting antisemitism.

To be clear, the answer to the question of whether ADL has changed its mission is an unequivocal, “NO!”

Since 1913, ADL has had the same mission, “To stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” The mission statement used the words “defamation of the Jewish people” because the word “antisemitism” was not in wide usage at the time. Lest anyone be confused, ADL has always seen the need to stop Jew-hatred as primary to its mission. At the same time, even when Jews in America were quite vulnerable, ADL’s founders felt that countering antisemitism required ADL to also seek justice and fair treatment for everyone.

ADL’s timeless mission is the embodiment of the three important questions posed by Hillel in Pirke Avot (Ethics of Our Fathers):

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am only for myself, what am I?
If not now, when?

ADL’s leaders have always understood that if we are going to make the world a better place, we must not only do so for ourselves and we must have the urgency of now.

In the ADL Mountain States Region, we work hard on countering antisemitism. Among other things, we train over 1,000 Jewish high school students and their allies each year to empower them to counter antisemitism when they attend college; speak to scores of community organizations and businesses about historical and contemporary antisemitism; and provide support and resources to numerous individuals and institutions that have been the targets of antisemitic incidents. We also work hard to create a just and inclusive society through such programs as our No Place for Hate anti-bias education initiative that is in 85 schools throughout the region; leadership of the Hate Free Colorado coalition of 18 diverse community partners; and we are regularly quoted in local media as an expert on extremists and hate of all kinds.

Focusing on antisemitism and other forms of hate allows us to raise awareness and advocate together with other communities in the fight against antisemitism.

Importantly, ADL’s actions in standing up to hate of all kinds is not a one-way proposition. Following the recent shootings of Jewish men leaving religious services in Los Angeles by a man reported to be from the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, we received a call from the executive of a major AAPI organization offering help and expressing sorrow for the horrific incidents. And, after Ye (Kanye West) announced he was going “death con 3 on JEWISH PEOPLE,” calls were received from prominent African American clergy offering support and condemning his outrageous statements and actions.

Those that reached out to ADL noted that the perpetrators were not representative of their community’s beliefs about Jews. They also made special note of the fact that ADL and, by extension, the Jewish community had stood with them when members of the AAPI community were attacked for allegedly causing Covid and young African American men were killed by those sworn to protect them. Because of ADL’s willingness to speak out for others, comparable stories can be told of calls from other communities.

ADL has always understood that one of the best ways to fight antisemitism is to secure justice and fair treatment for all. Today, we are glad to stand on the shoulders of leaders and professionals that have never wavered from ADL’s timeless mission.

Susan Brody, ADL Mountain States Regional Board Chair
Scott Levin, ADL Mountain States Regional Director
What’s New in ADL EDU? Big Changes!

Thank you, Tara Raju!

The ADL Mountain States Region thanks outgoing Director of Education Tara Raju, who is concluding her time on the regional team after nearly two decades and having worked as an ADL facilitator since 1995. Chief among Tara’s many achievements since the mid-2000s has been the implementation and significant growth of our No Place for Hate® program, which now reaches over 76,000 students per year, and several related initiatives, including the Tribute to Moral Courage Student Essay Contest, No Place for Hate Art Contest (featured in this issue) and Holocaust Education, including bringing students to Poland and Israel.

When asked what enduring message she would like to share as she leaves ADL to explore other paths, Tara said, “Often I hear people say how hard it is to change hearts and minds, but that is what ADL’s work is about: connecting with each other’s humanity and dignity. Changing hearts and minds can change behavior, which can change policy, just as changing policies can change behavior, which leads to changing hearts and minds.”

Congratulations, Dan Cohen!

The ADL Mountain States Region also offers congratulations to Dan Cohen (he/him), who, after five years as Assistant and then Associate Director of Education, has been promoted to Director of Education.

Dan, a Denver native, has spent much of his professional life in education, social justice, civil rights, diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and belonging. Before joining ADL’s Mountain States Region in 2017, Dan was an Equity Specialist at the Western Educational Equity Assistance Center, a US Department of Education/Office for Civil Rights agency with a mission to promote equitable educational access and opportunities in the areas of race, national origin, sex and religion. Dan’s focus was on discrimination based on sex and gender

Save the Date for the 2023 Civil Rights Awards!

The ADL Mountain States Region’s Civil Rights Awards Reception is scheduled for 5:30 – 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at the Cable Center in Denver. Mark your calendars! More details coming soon.

Dan Cohen and Tara Raju

Save the Date for the 2023 Civil Rights Awards!
The ADL Mountain States Region has engaged in important policy issues during the 2022 legislative sessions in Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

In New Mexico, the ADL Mountain States Region supported and collaborated with a group of educators and community leaders interested in passing a Holocaust and genocide studies requirement in public schools. Unfortunately, the proposed bill did not advance. As an alternative, a measure was proposed to have the New Mexico Public Education Department convene a task force to enhance the teaching of the Holocaust, genocides, slavery and other egregious human rights violations. As of press time, the measure had not received a committee hearing.

In Wyoming, we are working with a coalition of businesses and non-profit advocacy organizations on two proposed topics for the legislative interim session. The topics are the creation and adoption of a statewide anti-discrimination statute and the creation and adoption of a criminal hate crimes law.

As the Colorado legislature remains in session, ADL is tracking a variety of pieces of legislation including a package of three bills that enhance and solidify access to reproductive health care in Colorado, a bill that addresses disproportionate disciplinary policies in public schools, and a bill that would restrict state and local governments’ participation in civil immigration detention.

In Congress, the ADL Mountain States Region is encouraging the passing of the bi-partisan Holocaust Education and Antisemitism Lessons (HEAL) Act. The HEAL Act will help the federal government take stock of Holocaust and antisemitism education programming, curricula, and resources being used across the country and will equip governmental and educational agencies with the information they need to fill gaps in Holocaust education.

To encourage your U.S. Senators and congressperson to support the HEAL Act, and all of ADL’s federal policy priorities, go to: https://www.adl.org/take-action/advocate-with-adl.

ADL is encouraging the passing of the bi-partisan Holocaust Education and Antisemitism Lessons Act.

ADL Mountain States Region 2022 Impact!

ADL is a force for fighting antisemitism and all forms of hate in a fast-changing world, working at the grassroots level to build a more civil society.

Last year, we:

- **Empowered** over 60,000 students in 65 schools across Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming that engaged in No Place for Hate, ADL’s anti-bias and antibullying initiative.
- **Responded** to over 400 requests for assistance — a historically high number — from individuals and institutions targeted by antisemitism, racism, anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination, and other acts of hate.
- **Engaged** over 400 law enforcement professionals from 34 regional agencies in ADL trainings, helping them to fight extremism and build trust with the communities they serve.
- **Conducted** a large-scale survey on behalf of the ADL-led Hate Free Colorado coalition demonstrating that 1.25 million Coloradans have been targeted with verbal harassment, property damage and/or physical injury within the last five years.
Thank you for supporting us in 2022!

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

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Volunteer: Write to us online at mountainstates.adl.org/contact/
Donate: Visit mountainstates.adl.org or return the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

Student Art Winners Express Hope, Strength and Community

Although emotions are often challenging to express, art provides a way for students to share their feelings, ideas and hopes through shapes, movement and color. ADL Mountain States’ annual No Place for Hate® art contest provides schools and their students with the opportunity to express themselves through such art. Students choose from themes that asked them to express what it looks like: when we build community; when find common ground; how diversity is a strength; when we take action against hate; and, when we are different, together. This year’s contest was open to all students in current 2022-2023 No Place for Hate Schools.

Over 120 entries in two age groups from eighteen different schools in the Mountain States Region were submitted for consideration. Eight judges had the challenging task of judging each piece based on originality, universality and impact. We applaud the time, energy and dedication that each student put into their artwork and appreciate all the attention and support provided by art teachers and families.

You can view the winning artwork here; make sure to pay extra attention to the students’ descriptions of their artwork! https://mountainstates.adl.org/adls-student-art-contest-for-npfh-schools/

“Peace Place,” second place Elementary School (3-5) winner: Menkyi N., 5th Grade, Coal Creek Elementary, Louisville, CO.