

FRANK ADLER

Dear Children of the Future:

My name is Frank Adler. I came to the Kansas City area in the year 1953 because I had accepted the position of Administrative Director at Temple B'nai Jehudah, the area's oldest and largest Jewish house of worship. I was then 29 years old and had previously been the administrator of a synagogue in Chicago for seven years.

My proudest accomplishments since coming to the United States are the privilege of serving in the Army of my adopted country in World War II; my professional service of 45 years to the members of two synagogues; my work as historian of Temple B'nai Jehudah; and the joy of having seen my children and grandchildren become fine, decent human beings, proud of their heritage.

The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education is important for Kansas City because it makes it possible for me and other survivors of the Holocaust to bear witness to what each of us experienced, both as victims of the brutal and merciless Nazis and as proud and productive citizens of the United States of America.

From studying the Holocaust, you should learn that might does not make right, that evil must be confronted wherever it is found, that (in the words of the American philosopher George Santayana), "Those who ignore the mistakes of the past are condemned to repeat them."

My message for you, our future generation, is do not hate others because they are different from you in the color of their skin, or their beliefs, or the way they dress or speak. You would only miss out on the possibility of seeing them as children of God and therefore your brothers and sisters.

Very truly,

Frank Adler
Frankfurt, Germany
October 27, 1923