

JACK MANDELBAUM

Dear Children of the Future:

My name is Jack Mandelbaum and I am a survivor of the Holocaust who came to live in Kansas City as a result of a New York interview with the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). The JDC was trying to relocate World War II refugees to several cities. I was given several choices – New York, Los Angeles, Boston, etc. I felt the large cities would not give me the opportunities of a smaller community. I said I wanted to go to a city not too large or not too small – Kansas City was selected for me. Although I have traveled all over the world for many years, I feel selecting Kansas City for me was the best choice.

My proudest accomplishment was to raise a new family and give my children the education they needed to become worthy citizens and loving parents to my grandchildren. I am also most proud to have become an American.

My most rewarding involvement in the community was to become the co-founder of the MCHE, and speaking to thousands in schools, churches and other venues about the history of the Holocaust and the lessons to be learned from this history.

The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education has been important for Kansas City because it educates teachers on how to teach the history of the Holocaust and informs the community of the dangers to our freedom as a result of discrimination, prejudice, and racism.

From studying the Holocaust you should learn the value of freedom, the love of family, and the responsibility we all have to treat people with respect regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background.

My simple message to you, our future generation, is to be alert and vigilant against those who by their actions would destroy our freedom and our way of life, and those who would deny full citizenship to others.

Very truly,

Jack Mandelbaum

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April 10, 1927