



100-Year Timeline for Ann Kohlen – Personal Project/Gift

In January of 2018 I learned that Ann Kohlen was going to be celebrating her 100th birthday that March. Ann was one of the first “friends of the family” to welcome me when I moved to St. Louis in 2010 to be with my husband-to-be. His family had known the Kohlens growing up. She is the sweetest woman I had ever met and she *approved* of me right away. She was even present at my wedding shower. When I met her she was just 94 years old.

Hearing that there would be a celebration for her 100th birthday, I was inspired to use my talents to create a meaningful gift to celebrate her long life. I decided to build a timeline of historic and popular facts that occurred during her lifetime.

I researched local, national, and even some international events — choosing to maintain a mostly positive reflection of the last 100 years, but not glossing over some of the major tragedies. The end result was an eight-foot banner that hung on the wall during the celebration as well as a secondary book format display across the room. I mapped 218 events across the timeline and created 164 illustrations using a Photoshop plug-in designed to help facilitate stipple and texture-based illustrations.

