

# **The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous**

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## **OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNIZED WITH HOLOCAUST EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

## **LAURA BOUGHTON AWARDED JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS EDUARD SONDER SCHOLARSHIP**

OXFORD, MS – The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) has awarded Laura Boughton, Social Studies and Holocaust Studies teacher at Oxford High School, in Oxford, MS, with the 2018 Eduard Sonder Scholarship and a coveted Lerner Fellowship. The scholarship will allow Boughton to join 28 other Holocaust educators and Lerner Fellows at the JFR’s annual Summer Institute for Holocaust Educators, taking place at Columbia University in New York, from June 24<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The scholarship is dedicated in memory of Eduard Sonder, a Jewish German wine business owner, who was killed during the Holocaust. Upon receiving payment from their grandfather’s life insurance policy, rather than keeping the funds, Kate Tarnofsky and Johanna Stark, sisters from Whippany and West Orange, NJ, determined that it was best to continue Holocaust education training by endowing a scholarship enabling a teacher to attend the JFR program at Columbia University.

The JFR’s Summer Institute is a high-level, intensive academic seminar in which recipients of the JFR’s Lerner Fellowship are exposed to Holocaust survivors such as Roman Kent and noted Holocaust scholars including: Volker Berghahn, Doris Bergen, Jeffrey Burds, Daniel Greene, Peter Hayes, Michael Marrus, Steven Field, Michael Steinlauf, and Edward Westermann. It is designed to allow participants to meet in small groups following each lecture, address the specific aspect of the Holocaust that is presented, share teaching concepts, and develop approaches to introducing the subject matter to their students.

“Laura is one of our exceptional educators who has proven her outstanding commitment to teaching the Holocaust throughout her career,” said JFR President Roman Kent. “By participating in the Summer Institute, we are confident that she and all of our Lerner Fellows will be able to enhance their classroom experience so that the next generation will be more responsive and moved by the lessons of this period in world history.”

Teachers selected for the program must teach English or social studies at the middle or high school level, have taught at least five years, are at least five years from retirement and currently teach the Holocaust in their classroom. Boughton has taught for over 25 years.

“The main goals of our program are to provide teachers with graduate level courses on the Holocaust, pedagogical connections with other teachers and their curriculum so they learn what’s worked and what hasn’t and giving them resources for the classroom. We are thrilled that Laura will be joining this year’s seminar,” said JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl.

The Fellowship program is named in memory of Alfred Lerner, the founding chairman and chief executive officer of MBNA Corporation, who died in October of 2002. Lerner was a long-time advisor and supporter of JFR programs and activities. His deep commitment to the work of JFR and in particular to his special interest in the field of Holocaust education, led to the seminar being endowed in his name.

The JFR continues its work of providing monthly financial assistance to some 350 aged and needy Righteous Gentiles, living in 20 countries. Since its founding, the JFR has provided more than \$39 million to aged and needy rescuers – helping to repay a debt of gratitude on behalf of the Jewish people to these noble men and women. Its Holocaust teacher education program has become a standard for teaching the history of the Holocaust and educating teachers and students about the significance of the Righteous as moral and ethical exemplars.