

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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29 HOLOCAUST EDUCATORS FROM 12 U.S. STATES, CROATIA & POLAND RECEIVE COVETED LERNER FELLOWSHIPS

THE JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS PROVIDES EDUCATORS WITH INSTRUCTION ON TEACHING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION TO THEIR STUDENTS

NEW YORK – The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) has selected 25 middle and high school teachers from 12 states, Croatia and Poland, and four Holocaust Center educators, as 2018 Alfred Lerner Fellows to delve into the complex history of the Holocaust as well as discuss new teaching techniques for introducing the subject of the Holocaust into their classrooms. The JFR’s Summer Institute, an intensive five-day course, will be held at Columbia University from June 24th through June 28th.

The program is a high-level, intensive academic seminar in which participants are exposed to Holocaust survivors such as Roman Kent and to 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.

Teachers selected for the program must be English or social studies teachers 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.

Participants each come from a region of the country where the JFR operates Holocaust Centers of Excellence in conjunction with a local Holocaust museum or center. International educators were first invited to join the seminar in 2001 at the request of the U.S. State Department.

JFR LERNER FELLOWS ANNOUNCED
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“There are three main goals of our program, which include: providing 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 to give them resources for the classroom,” said JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl.

The 2018 Lerner Fellows are:

- Amy Wardwell of Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg, VT
- Brandi Calton of West Clermont High School in Batavia, OH
- Cori Silbernagel of the Holocaust and Humanity Center in Cincinnati, OH
- Lisa Lawrence of Trinity Presbyterian School in Montgomery, AL
- Rachel Hartsell of Thorsby High School in Thorsby, AL
- Christine Beresniova of the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust in Columbia, SC
- Julie Gates of Logers Run Middle School in Boca Raton, FL
- Laura Boughton of Oxford High School in Oxford, MS
- Kimberly Pesik of Einstein Middle School in Shoreline, WA
- Stephanie Krzeminski of Oswego East High School in Oswego, IL
- Keisha Rembert of Clifford Crone Middle School in Naperville, IL
- Nicholas LoSasso of St. Augustine Prep in Richland, NJ
- Caitlin Como of Delran High School in Delran, NJ
- Cameron May of Frontier School of Excellence in Kansas City, MO
- Jacqueline Sutton of High Point Regional High School in Sussex, NJ
- Silvia Sierra of Hastings High School in Houston, TX
- Laurie Garcia of the Holocaust Museum Houston in Houston, TX
- Nicholas Haberman of Shaler Area High School in Pittsburgh, PA
- Lauren Samoszenko of Ransom Middle School in Cantonment, FL
- Melinda Walker of Holt High School in Tuscaloosa, AL
- Robert Weiner of Santaluces Community High School in Lantana, FL
- Jennifer Brown of Forrestdale School in Rumson, NJ

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JFR LERNER FELLOWS ANNOUNCED
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- Bettina Hoffman of Spanish River High School in Boca Raton, FL
- Barbara Goldstein of the Holocaust Education Resource Council in Tallahassee FL
- Agnieszka Krainska of *Zespol Szkol Ogolnoksztalcacych w Zorach* in Zory, Poland
- Renata Matsili of *Zespol Szkol Ponadgimnazjalnchy w Wodzislawiu Slaskim* in Wodzislaw Slaski, Poland
- Aneta Brzezinska-Leszczyk of *Zespol Szkol im.Marri Sklogowskiej-Curie* in Dzialoszyn, Poland
- Ivana Kajic of *Prva Gimnazija Varazdin* in Varazdin, Croatia
- Ana Nikolic of *Prirodoslovna Tehnicka Skola* in Split, Croatia

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.

In conjunction with the Fellowship program, the JFR awarded the 2018 Eduard Sonder Scholarship to Laura Boughton of Oxford High School in Oxford, MS. Eduard Sonder, a Jewish German wine business owner, 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 teacher training by endowing a scholarship enabling a teacher to attend the JFR program at Columbia University.

“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.”

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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.

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