

# **The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **27 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 23 middle and high school teachers from 12 states, Croatia and Poland, and four educators at U.S.-based Holocaust centers, as 2019 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 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 27<sup>th</sup>.

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: Doris Bergen, Volker Berghahn, Jeffrey Burds, Lawrence Douglas, Steven Field, Daniel Greene, Michael Marrus, Paul Salmons, Robert Jan van Pelt, Edward Westermann, and Alexandra Zapruder. 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 2019 Lerner Fellows are:

- Donna Lamberti of UMS - Wright Preparatory School in Mobile, AL
- Kelly Sorrell of Pizitz Middle School in Vestavia Hills, AL
- Sanford Lopater of John I. Leonard High School in Greenacres, FL
- Rachel Pignato of Palm Beach Gardens Community High School in Palm Beach Gardens, FL
- Joslyn Corbett of Logers Run Middle School in Boca Raton, FL
- Amy Corey of Grayslake Middle School in Grayslake, IL
- Meghan Giesecker of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, IL
- Wendy Singer of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, IL
- Andrea Husted of Oxford Middle School in Overland Park, KS
- Beth Passner of North Brunswick Township High School in North Brunswick, NJ
- Ally Evans of Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education in Lincroft, NJ
- Barbara Daniel of Ocean City High School in Ocean City, NJ
- Paul Deards of The Speyer Legacy School in New York, NY
- Nancy Hands of Anderson High School in Cincinnati, OH
- Kari Zilian of Central Valley High School in Monaca, PA
- Tiffany O'Shea of Montour High School in McKees Rocks, PA
- Lauren Bairnsfather of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA
- Christopher Turpin of the South Carolina Department of Education based in Columbia, SC
- Elizabeth Bradley of Pleasant Hill Middle School in Lexington, SC

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- Amber McMunn of Humble High School in Humble, TX
- LeDora Nelson of HCJPD - Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program in Houston, TX
- Nicole Berry of Lyndon Institute in Lyndon Ceter, VT
- Karen Floyd of Central Valley High School in Spokane Valley, WA
- Martina Glucina of *Srednja poljoprivredna i tehnicka skola Opuzen High School* in Opuzen, Croatia
- Nikolina Marinic of the Vocational Commercial and Trade School in Bjelovar, Croatia
- Lidia Checinska of *Maria Sklodowska-Curie High School* in Piotrkow Trybunalski, Poland
- Agnieszka Mrowiec-Smaga of *Juliusz Slowacki High School* in Czestochowa, Poland

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 Paul Deards of The Speyer Legacy School in New York, NY. 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.

“Paul is one of our exceptional educators who has proven his outstanding commitment to teaching the Holocaust throughout his career,” said JFR President Roman Kent. “By participating in the Summer Institute, we are confident that he 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.”

JFR LERNER FELLOWS ANNOUNCED  
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The JFR continues its work of providing monthly financial assistance to more than 275 aged and needy Righteous Gentiles, living in 18 countries. Since its founding, the JFR has provided more than \$40 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. For more information, visit <https://jfr.org/>.