

# **The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS TO BRING TEACHERS FROM SIX STATES TO GERMANY, CZECH REPUBLIC AND AUSTRIA FOR INTENSIVE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PROGRAM**

NEW YORK – The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) has selected 11 middle and high school teachers and Holocaust center personnel from six states to participate in its 2019 European Study Program in Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria from July 9<sup>th</sup>-July 17<sup>th</sup>. Through lectures and visits to authentic Holocaust sites, these educators will gain a deeper understanding of the complex and tragic history of the Holocaust.

The program is a high-level, intensive and immersive educational experience that includes visits to concentration camps, ghetto sites and Holocaust memorials. Noted historian Robert Jan van Pelt, one of the world's leading experts on the Holocaust, is serving as the accompanying scholar for the European Study Program.

The trip will begin with the group traveling to Munich where they will explore the buildings which once housed the Nazi headquarters and documentation centers as well as the city's White Rose Pavement Memorial. Following their stop in Munich, the group will travel onto Nuremburg, Prague and then Vienna. The study program will include excursions to the Flossenburg, Theresienstadt, and Mauthausen Concentration Camps, and the Hartheim Castle, a T-4 site as well as Holocaust related and Jewish historical sites in each of the cities. A visit will also be made to Lidice in the Czech Republic.

Throughout the Study Program and on the last day of the study program, participants will have an opportunity to review and reflect on what they learned during their time at these important sites of the Holocaust, and how to bring those lessons into their classrooms.

Teachers selected for the program are English or social studies teachers at the middle or high school level, have taught for at least five years, are at least four years from retirement, and currently teach the Holocaust in their classrooms. Also participating in the Study Program are

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Holocaust Museum staff. All participants are Alfred Lerner Fellows and have completed the JFR's Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University.

“As we continue to move further away from the Holocaust, it is more important to teach this period in history to the next generation,” said JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl. “By focusing our efforts on helping teachers actually see and experience the places where these complex events occurred, we believe it enhances their understanding and enables them to be more effective instructors in their classrooms.”

“Visiting and studying at authentic Holocaust sites helps teachers to better understand the enormity of the Holocaust and aids in, making them more effective educators. We designed the program to help educators learn, touch, and see the history of the Holocaust so they can present it in a more meaningful and insightful way to their students and colleagues when they return to their schools,” she added.

### The 2019 European Study Lerner Fellows include:

- Mindy Walker of Holt High School in Tuscaloosa, AL
- Jean Zeldin of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education in Overland Park, KS
- Judith Schancupp of the Georgia Holocaust Commission, based in Sandy Springs, GA
- Paul Deards of The Speyer Legacy School in Manhattan, NY
- Kelly Zuniga of the Holocaust Museum Houston in Houston, TX
- Tamara Savage of the Holocaust Museum Houston in Houston, TX
- Carol Manley of the Holocaust Museum Houston in Houston, TX
- Bradd Weinberg of Carver Community Middle School in Delray Beach, FL
- Julie Gates of Loggers' Run Middle School in Boca Raton, FL
- Maureen Carter of the Palm Beach County School District, based in Boca Raton, FL
- Steven Field of the New York University School of Medicine in Manhattan, NY

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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/>.