

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous

**80 Main Street
West Orange, NJ 07052
973-736-1800
www.jfr.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarah Wilbur
Steinreich Communications
(212) 491-1600
swilbur@scompr.com

28 HOLOCAUST EDUCATORS FROM 13 U.S. STATES RECEIVE COVETED LERNER FELLOWSHIPS

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

ELIZABETH, New Jersey – The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) has selected 28 middle and high school teachers and Holocaust center staff from 13 states as 2023 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 Fellows participated in the JFR’s Summer Institute for Teachers, an intensive five-day course that took place at the Hilton Newark Airport from June 24 through June 28.

The program is a high-level, intensive academic seminar in which participants are exposed to noted Holocaust scholars, including: Doris Bergen of the University of Toronto; Benjamin Hett of Hunter College; renowned author and historian Rebecca Erbelding; Peter Hayes of Northwestern University; Lawrence R. Douglas of Amherst College; Steven Field of New York University’s Grossman School of Medicine; Avinoam Patt of the University of Connecticut; Edward B. Westermann of Texas A&M University and Robert Jan van Pelt of the University of Waterloo. 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 for at least five years, are at least five years from retirement and currently teach the Holocaust in their classroom.

“There are three main goals of the JFR’s Summer Institute, which include: providing teachers with a graduate level course on the Holocaust; pedagogical connections with other

JFR LERNER FELLOWS ANNOUNCED 2023
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teachers and their curriculum so they learn what has worked and what has not; and to give them additional resources for the classroom,” said JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl.

The 2023 Lerner Fellows are:

- Rebecca Giannelli from St. John Brebeuf School in Niles, IL
- Emma Herr from Alabama Holocaust Education Center in Birmingham, AL
- Rachel Reinhart from Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham, AL
- Amy Riggins from Douglas High School in Douglas, AL
- Peter Wilson from UMS-Wright Preparatory School in Mobile, AL
- Alexandra Young from Phillips Preparatory in Mobile, AL
- Susan Burns from Palm Beach Gardens Community High School in Palm Beach Gardens, FL
- Kelly Warsaw from INSIGHT Through Education in Palm Beach Gardens, FL
- Paul Sauberer from Okeehelie Middle School in West Palm Beach, FL
- James Johnson from Forest Hill Community High School in West Palm Beach, FL
- Angie DalBello from Mill Valley High School in Shawnee, KS
- Kelly Pratt-Booth from Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, KY
- Jennifer Reeder from Blue Springs High School in Blue Spring, MO
- Alexis Eldridge from Cranford High School in Cranford, NJ
- Mary Houghtaling from Kittatinny Regional High School in Newton, NJ
- Danielle Purdy from Ocean City High School in Ocean City, NJ
- Joseph Truisi from Cedar Drive Middle School in Colts Neck, NJ
- Sarah Vanderheyden from Mullica Township School District in Elwood, NJ
- Fredy Reyes from Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, NJ
- Julie Vaughn from Our Lady of Victory in Cincinnati, OH
- Emily Loeb from Pittsburgh Holocaust Center in Pittsburgh, PA
- Stephanie Necessary from Walhalla High School in Walhalla, SC
- Kayla Stephens from Hand Middle School in Columbia, SC
- Ingrid Patino from Holocaust Museum Houston in Houston, TX

JFR LERNER FELLOWS ANNOUNCED 2023

TAKE 3-3-3-3

- Shawna Zak from Lamar Consolidated High School in Rosenberg, TX
- Joshua White from White River Valley High School in South Royalton, VT
- Beth Poole from Brier Terrace Middle School in Brier, WA
- Michael Ready from Kalama Middle/High School in Kalama, WA

The nationally acclaimed Fellowship program is named in memory of Alfred Lerner, the founding chairman and chief executive officer of MBNA Corporation, who died in October 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 more than 110 aged and needy Righteous Gentiles, living in 11 countries. Since its founding, the JFR has provided more than \$44 million to aged and needy rescuers. 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://www.jfr.org/>.