

# *NJ Social Studies Network News*

*A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education*

**December 2010**

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## **NJ Council for the Social Studies**

Dear Colleagues:

One of the reasons that social studies has been given short shrift in the schools is that the separate disciplines of history, geography, civics and economics have never fully come together to support each other and their common goals. Yet it is only by working together towards common goals that we will ever make our voices heard. Math and language arts are strong because they have huge memberships and speak with one voice.

Over 3000 New Jersey social studies teachers and supervisors are receiving this E-newsletter. I ask you to support your profession by working with others as a group. Become a member of NJCSS. [Click](#) for the membership form. The next NJCSS meeting is January 20, 2011 at Rutgers College Avenue Campus in New Brunswick. Become part of the conversation about issues that concern you. [Click](#) to join the New Jersey Social Studies Teachers Community professional network and [sign up](#) for an individual account with access to the site's discussion forums, shared event information, and posts by other members.

Happy Holidays!



Arlene Gardner  
NJCSS President, 2010-2012  
Executive Director, NJ Center for Civic Education

**National Study on the State of Social Studies Teachers.** Members of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) are undertaking a National Study on the State of Social Studies Teachers to learn more about social studies education across the nation. The results of the study may be used to provide accurate information to policy makers about the role of social studies in the school curriculum and to develop workshops addressing areas of need in teaching social studies. Several hundred New Jersey social studies teachers have already responded. Participation is strictly voluntary. By completing the questionnaire, you are giving your informed consent to be involved in this project. If you choose to complete the online survey, your responses will be anonymously stored in a data file. To complete the online survey, go to <http://surveyshare.com/survey/take/?sid=103914>

**Patriot's Week, Dec. 26-31 in Trenton.** Tours of the Masonic Temple, the Old Barracks, the Trent House, Washington's Crossing, State House Civics Tours, a reenactment of the Battle of Trenton and Princeton, puppets, harpsichord concert, fifes and drums, colonial card games, a cemetery stroll, lectures and more. Go to [www.patriotsweek.com](http://www.patriotsweek.com).

**Do you want to be part of a unique program for Back History Month?** On **February 10, 2011**, the movie "On the Shoulders of Giants" will be shown from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Science High School in Newark, followed by a live question and answer session with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Rutgers University Prof. Clement Price, Newark Mayor Corey Booker, Princeton University Prof. Cornell West and Newark high school students. You can have it videostreamed at not cost to your school if you have high speed internet, a projector and screen. You will be given a password to go to a website for the program. The movie is about the Harlem Rens ("the greatest team that you've never heard of"), as well as the historical context of the Great Migration, jazz, the Harlem Renaissance and the personal context of working hard to achieve goals. [Click](#) to see the study guide with questions and activities. Check with your tech person and your principal and/or superintendent and let me know if you would like to participate by sending an email to [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu).

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## NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

The NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association will be meeting on **February 3, 2011** at NJPSA's Conference Center in Monroe, Township. The topic of discussion will be assessment. Become a joint member of NJCSS and NJSSSA for \$40/year. [Click](#) for a joint membership form or contact Kristin Fox, president, at [kfox@bernardsboe.com](mailto:kfox@bernardsboe.com) or Steve Maher, treasurer, at [smaher@chatham-nj.org](mailto:smaher@chatham-nj.org)

## Middle States Council for the Social Studies

Register now for the Middle States Council for the Social Studies Conference to be held at the College Avenue Campus Center of Rutgers University in New Brunswick on Friday, **March 18, 2011**. [Click](#) for the conference registration form.

## Student Events

Regional *We the People* high school competitions will be held **January 11 and 13, 2011** with the top six classes competing at the State *We the People* High School Competition on **February 4, 2011** at the State House in Trenton. The competition for middle schools will be held on Wednesday, **March 30, 2011**, at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, in Piscataway. Participation is free. Interested teachers who are not bringing a competing class may observe. The winning high school class will represent the state in the National *We the People* Competition in April. [Click](#) for more information.

The **National History Day** program is seeking participants and judges for the Southern Competition at Kean University on Sunday, **March 27**; the Northern Competition at Seton Hall University on Saturday, **April 2**; and the State Competition at William Paterson University on **May 7, 2011**. Northern Counties include: Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Sussex, Morris and Warren; Southern Counties include all other counties including Essex and Union. The deadline for on-line registration for all categories (papers and website entries) is **February 1st**. Students developing website entries must use Weebly and go through the Weebly Portal on the NHD website [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org). [Click](#) to register your class or to help judge.

**First Amendment Cartoon Contest.** Encourage students to exercise their creativity by entering the First Amendment Cartoon Contest sponsored by the Judiciary of California and the Constitutional Rights Foundation in celebration of the Bill of Rights. The contest is open to K-12 students nationwide. Six winners will each receive a **\$50 gift certificate**, and up to five entries will receive honorable mentions. Winners and honorable mentions will be announced on Law Day, May 1, 2011, and posted online. Deadline for submissions is **March 18, 2011**. Go to [www.courtsed.org](http://www.courtsed.org) for details or [click](#) to download a contest flyer.

This year's **Project Citizen Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation** will be held on **Wednesday, May 25, 2011** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. Classes and after-school programs for middle and high school students (grades 5-12) may participate. Interested teachers who are not bringing a competing class may observe. The first-place portfolio will be on display at the New Jersey State House and will represent New Jersey at the National *Project Citizen* Showcase at the annual meeting of the Conference of State Legislatures in July 2011. [Click](#) for more information or contact [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu).

**State House Tours** are available for grades K-12 Mondays through Fridays, as well as Make-a-Law! mock legislative programs for grades 3-12. The tours and programs are free. Reservations should be made by contacting the Tour Office at 609-633-2709. The **State House Express** Program administered by the Eagleton Institute of Politics provides \$300 grants to offset the cost of busing middle and high school classes (grades 6-12) to the State House. For more information contact Gloria Minor at [gminor@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:gminor@rci.rutgers.edu) or at 732-932-9384, ext. 245.

## Professional Development

**Weekend programs at James Madison's Montpelier, VA.** The Center for the Constitution at Montpelier, James Madison's Virginia home, is offering weekend programs for teachers, including: Introduction to the Constitution Feb. 11-13, 2011; James Madison and the Bill of Rights Mar. 11-13, 2011; and the Constitutional Structure of Government Apr. 8-10, 2011. The seminars

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cost approximately \$1250 per teacher to host; however, thanks to the generosity of private donors, the Center has a limited number of scholarships available to cover the cost of rooms, meals, reading materials, teaching resources, and \$400 towards travel costs for teachers in Virginia, Maryland, D.C., North Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and California. A \$50 non-refundable application fee is required upon acceptance into a seminar. For further information and to register go to <http://center.montpelier.org/content/teacherprograms>

***Representative Democracy in America*** Online Course will be offered February 13–March 26, 2011. Participants may register online at [www.nnu.edu/cereg](http://www.nnu.edu/cereg) until January 28, 2011. The course fee is \$85. Upon successful completion of the pass/fail class, teachers may earn one graduate credit. The online course features a directed exploration of the Alliance for Representative Democracy websites: Center for Civic Education, Center on Congress at Indiana University, and the National Conference of State Legislatures. Six online lessons include scholarly background presentations, investigation of lesson plans, data resources, and online interactive games. The registration form is not specific to the class. The course information is posted at [www.nnu.edu/pdcourses](http://www.nnu.edu/pdcourses). Contact Dan Prinzing at [dan@idaho-humanrights.org](mailto:dan@idaho-humanrights.org) with any questions.

**China Institute Spring Study Tour: April 16-25, 2011.** The study tour includes visits to natural parks, schools, and historical and cultural sites that will contextualize Yunnan's unique role in China's history and contemporary society. Thanks to the generosity of the Freeman Foundation, China Institute is able to offer this tour to educators at the rate of \$950, which includes airfare, meals, lodging and tour activities. Application deadline: January 24, 2011. [Click](#) for eligibility requirements and to download an application, or contact Caitlin Hopping at [chopping@chinainstitute.org](mailto:chopping@chinainstitute.org).

## Summer Institutes

**Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers: June 16-21 and 23-28, 2011.** Sixty social studies educators will be selected to attend the six-day Institutes in Washington, DC. Co-sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society and Street Law, Inc., the Institute is designed to expand and strengthen instruction about the history, operation, and cases of the Supreme Court of the United States. Application deadline: March 14, 2011. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** Summer Institute July 10-13, 2011. Focused on the history and principles of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the *We the People* materials are easily integrated into a civics, U.S. History or U.S. Government class, or as a stand-alone curriculum. A four day Summer Institute for teachers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania will be held at the Rutgers Conference Center in New Brunswick. Participating teachers will receive curriculum materials and certificates for 30 hours of professional development and free classroom sets of books. The Institute is free; however, a \$30 non-refundable registration fee is required to reserve your place. Applications are due May 6, 2011. [Click](#) for additional information and a registration form.

**National History Day** is sponsoring a summer institute for teachers and students July 18-28, 2011 in Normandy, France. Fifteen teacher/student teams will engage in a rigorous study of D-Day. Students and teachers will be immersed in lectures presented by leading World War II historians, participate in a scholarly study of the World War II monuments in the D.C. area and walk in the footsteps of history on the beaches of Normandy. [Click](#) for more information and an application or e-mail Ann Claunch at [ann@nhd.org](mailto:ann@nhd.org). Deadline: February 1, 2011.

***Project Citizen*** Summer Institute July 22-28, 2011. This process-based civic education program for grades 5-12 emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government and involves students in understanding public policy. Classes identify a community problem, research the problem, evaluate alternative solutions, and create a political action plan to enlist local or state authorities to change or develop a policy to improve the situation. The 2011 *Project Citizen* Summer Institute for teachers from the northeast will be held at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI. Participating teachers will receive free classroom sets of *Project Citizen* materials. Application deadline: March 1, 2011. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

**China Institute Teach China Summer Study Tour** for K-12 educators July 1-31, 2011. The tour will commence with participation in the World History Association's international conference in Beijing and will feature educational visits to sites in Beijing, Guangzhou, Suzhou, Shanghai, and Taipei, Taiwan. The focus of the tour is on understanding 21st century China, and includes curriculum development as a major component. The month-long tour costs participants \$950, including international airfare between Newark and Beijing. [Click](#) for more information and an application. Application deadline: January 14, 2011. If you have any questions, contact Caitlin Hopping at [chopping@chinainstitute.org](mailto:chopping@chinainstitute.org).

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**Gilder-Lehrman** offers 39 week-long Summer Seminars with an American historian. [Click](#) for additional information and a registration form. Application deadline: **February 1, 2011**.

The **National Endowment for the Humanities** offers a variety of Summer Seminars and Institutes in Spain, Italy, France, London, Austria, and Mexico as well as at historic sites and colleges and universities in the United States. Application deadline: **March 1, 2011**. [Click](#) for additional information on seminars. For information about Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops [click here](#).

## Resources for Teachers

See *Project Citizen*, a civic education program that emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government, in action on **Classroom Close-Up** when it airs on NJN-TV on Monday, **December 27** at 7 p.m. and Saturday, **January 1** at 9 a.m. or [click](#) to see the 5 minute show at your convenience.

*Conflict Resolution and United States History* offers an engaging way to involve students in grades 5-12 in considering historical documents and multiple perspectives in order to better understand what happened in the past and why.. The printed materials include a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for case studies of conflicts in American history ranging from the colonial period through the 1990s as well as a DVD. [Click](#) for a sample lesson, 4-minute video, teacher comments and an order form. Contact [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) for additional information or questions.

**C-SPAN Classroom** is a free membership service dedicated to supporting educators' use of C-SPAN programming in their classrooms. The website, <http://c-spanclassroom.org>, provides access to hundreds of video clips which you can download and stream online, lesson plans, conference and fellowship opportunities for educators. Right now, C-SPAN is offering a FREE Presidential Timeline Poster to all new C-SPAN Classroom members. In addition, teachers and students can win prizes by competing in StudentCam, an annual documentary competition. For more information email [educate@c-span.org](mailto:educate@c-span.org).

**Free resource materials about Africa** from the New Jersey Center for Civic Education. Eight units from the early African kingdoms of the 7th century to the emerging democracies of the 21st century are available [online](#).

**Free Interdisciplinary social studies and language arts lessons** for grades 4-12 are available [online](#).

The **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** invites schools to become affiliates and join its network of American history schools and receive professional development, free and discounted publications, documents, recorded lectures, traveling exhibits, technical assistance, advice and guidance. To apply contact [affiliates@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:affiliates@gilderlehrman.org), call 646-366-9666 or visit [www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org) for more information.

**Take 2** offers students the opportunity to edit National Geographic-quality raw footage to create their *own* documentaries and shorts. Teachers do *not* need to have any video or editing skills – teaching tools are available in the supporting materials that come with the professional footage, curriculum and teaching tools. Visit [www.take2videos.org](http://www.take2videos.org) or contact Karin Muller at [Karin@karinmuller.com](mailto:Karin@karinmuller.com)

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Thanks for your support, and please feel free to contact our office with any questions, or for additional information on any of the programs we offer.

If you have information that you would like to share with other New Jersey social studies teachers and/or supervisors, please send it by the end of the month for the next month's E-newsletter.

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