

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

May 2010

[Professional Development](#) • [Student Events](#) • [Resources for Teachers](#) • [Social Studies Issues](#)

Hold the Dates:

October 26, 2010: New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, "Voices and Visions for the 21st Century"

October 19 and December 2, 2010: *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* workshops

December 8, 2010 and January 12, 2011: *Project Citizen* workshops

March 19, 2011: Spring conference sponsored by Middle States Council for the Social Studies and NJCSS

NJ Council for the Social Studies

Workshop Proposals. If you are interested in submitting a proposal to do a workshop at the **October 26, 2010 NJCSS Annual Conference** please complete a [workshop proposal form](#) and submit it by **June 30, 2010**.

NJCSS Membership. The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies offers professional development, resources, opportunities to share problems, concerns and great ideas, and advocacy for social studies. Be part of this newly reconstituted, dynamic, statewide organization. Membership is only \$25 a year and runs from September 1 of each year through August 31st. It includes a \$10 discount at the October 26, 2010 NJCSS conference, the Social Science Docket, and an opportunity to improve your teaching as well as the state of social studies in New Jersey. Use the [membership form](#) to join now!

Serve on an NJCSS committee. If you would like to work on the annual fall conference, the regional spring conference or any other NJCSS committees, please call or email Arlene Gardner at 732-445-3413 or agardner@njcpre.rutgers.edu.

Student Events



Plainfield's Maxson Middle School places first in the NJ State Project Citizen Showcase on May 26, 2010.

[Back to top](#)

Project Citizen is a process-based civic education program for grades 5-12. It emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government and involves students in understanding public policy. Classes identify a community problem. They 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. It is both a service-learning and a civic education project. An annual state showcase is held where school projects are displayed and orally presented. This year's **Project Citizen Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation** was held on **Wednesday, May 26, 2010** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. Schools from Bergenfield, East Orange, Montclair, Perth Amboy, Plainfield, Plainsboro, Ridgefield Park, South Brunswick, Springfield, and Westfield participated. Maxson Middle School placed first, Ridgefield Park Junior High School placed second, and Costley Middle School in East Orange placed third. All three portfolios will be in display at the New Jersey State House the first week of June 2010. The first-place portfolio will represent New Jersey at the National Project Citizen Showcase at the annual meeting of the Conference of State Legislatures in July 2010. [Click](#) for more information about *Project Citizen*.

Professional Development

Summer Institutes

Buddhism in Chinese History, a free five-day Summer Institute for K-12 educators cosponsored by the Confucius Institute and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers University will be held **July 6-10**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Livingston Campus, Rutgers University. Contact Caitlin Hopping at 212-744-8181, ext. 144 or chopping@institute.org. Deadline: June 18, 2010.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Summer Institute for middle and high school teachers from Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will be held **July 11-14, 2010** at Valley Forge, PA. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy as well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. All expenses are paid. A refundable deposit is required along with your registration by **June 11, 2010**. Participating teachers will receive a free classroom set of curriculum materials and certificates for 30 hours of professional development. [Click](#) for an application or contact Arlene Gardner at NJCLRE at 732-445-3413 for additional information.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Summer Institute for upper elementary teachers will be held on the James Madison Campus in Harrisonburg, Virginia **July 16-23, 2010**. [Click](#) for additional information and an application.

Project Citizen Summer Institute for middle and high school teachers from the northeast will be held **July 19-25, 2010** at Newport, RI. All expenses are paid. If you are not available these dates, Summer Institutes will also be held in Boise Idaho or Louisville, KY, July 12-16, 2010. You will need to pay your travel expenses to these other locations. [Click](#) for an [application](#) form and additional information.

NEH National Academy for Civics and Government, an intensive, three-week program for upper elementary, middle and high school teachers, will be held **July 10-31, 2010** in Los Angeles, CA. For additional information contact smith@civiced.org.

The Prelude to War: 1859-1861 is an online three-credit graduate course to be held July 5-29, 2010, with a three-day workshop at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, offered by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and American Public University for \$150. To register contact ydeal@apus.edu or 877-777-9081, ext. 3764.

"The Times They are A-Changin': Teaching the 1960s", a professional development workshop for educators will be held on Wednesday, **July 21, 2010**, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Vietnam Educational Center in Holmdel, NJ. Fee: \$30. Deadline for registering: July 14th. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

Academic year programs

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution workshops will be held on **October 19** and **December 2, 2010** at the NJ Law Center in New Brunswick. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

Project Citizen workshops will be held on **December 8, 2010** and **January 12, 2011** at the NJ Law Center in New Brunswick. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

[Back to top](#)

The Rutgers Graduate School of Education offers an [Ed.D. in Education program](#) to help future and current leaders develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to solve problems of practice and improve instructional quality and a [Ph.D. in Education program](#) to prepare students to become researchers in academia, government, and the private sector. For more information contact beth.rubin@gse.rutgers.edu or ben.justice@gse.rutgers.edu.

Sister Rose Thering Endowment for Jewish-Christian and Holocaust Studies offer scholarships for K-12 teachers to enroll in the graduate department of Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University. The program includes one course per semester for four semesters (12 credits) to receive a certificate or to use as part of a matriculated master's degree program. The deadline for applying for Fall 2010 is August 1, 2010. For more information visit the [website](#) or contact marilyn.zirl@shu.edu or 973-761-9006.

Resources for Teachers

A film Screening and Q & A **“Revolution ’67”** will be held on Wednesday, **June 2, 2010**, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Museum of the City of New York. **“Revolution ’67”** recounts the black urban rebellions of the 1960s, often relegated to footnotes in U.S. history. \$10 fee to be paid at the door. Participants will receive a component of “Teaching Revolution ’67: A curriculum for High Schools. RSVP by contacting ezipris@mcny.org. Video clips and accompanying curriculum are available [online](#).

“Teaching New York in the 60s and 70s: Political Challenges,” a professional development day for middle and high school teachers will be held on Thursday, **June 10, 2010** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Museum of the City of New York. It will focus on America's Mayor: John V. Lindsay and the Reinvention of New York as well as an examination of the documentary, Vietnam: A Television History. Cost \$60. Educators will receive classroom-ready lessons, online resources and materials from the exhibition. RSVP by contacting ezipris@mcny.org.

Are you frustrated with expensive and limited American history textbooks? Do you want to engage your students in considering historical documents and multiple perspectives in order to better understand what happened in the past and why? You may want to consider ***Conflict Resolution and United States History***, a curriculum package for U.S. history teachers for grades 5-12. You only need to purchase one per teacher rather than one for each student. 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 showing middle and high school students engaged in role-playing historical figures. An evaluation by teachers using the materials found them to be very motivating for their students. Nine out of ten teachers indicated that the materials made their history course richer. Click for a [sample lesson](#) and [order form](#).

Critical thinking units and resource materials about Africa. Eight units from the early African kingdoms of the 7th century to the emerging democracies of the 21st century are available [online](#).

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

Summer Reading and Visit

Take some time this summer to check out some valuable books that have been published the past year:

[*Controversy in the Classroom: The Democratic Power of Discussion*](#), by Diana Hess (2009), demonstrates through empirical research from classrooms throughout the nation why schools have the potential to be powerful sites for democratic education and why the purposeful inclusion of controversial issues in the school curriculum can build the skills and dispositions that young people need to engaged citizens in a democratic society (Paperback \$33.81).

[*Fifty-Two Words My Husband Taught Me*](#), by Joy Rodino, offers an inspiring memoir about Congressman Peter Rodino and his vision of the Founding Fathers and the fifty-two words of the Preamble to the Constitution. It provides a real life example of what the Founders were attempting to capture in setting up a representative democracy “to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity” (Paperback \$14.95).

[Back to top](#)

[*The Life and Times of Richard J. Hughes*](#), by John B. Wefing, a biography of the only person in New Jersey to serve as both governor and chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, provides an interesting background for understanding politics in New Jersey in the 1960s and 70s (Hardcover only \$32.50).

[*Teaching History for the Common Good*](#), by Keith Barton and Linda Levstik (2009), evaluates competing ideas about the purpose of teaching history and explains how educators can help students understand the past as a way of to make decisions about current issues by teaching history with the goal of creating informed, engaged citizens in a pluralistic democracy rather than simply “covering” history (Paperback \$34.72).

Visit some local historical sites for your own enjoyment and to enhance your classes next year:

See the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism’s [website for historic sites](#), which has extensive listings, descriptions and contact information alphabetically by county.

Social Studies Issues

Online Community for New Jersey Social Studies Teachers. The new online community at <http://njssteachers.ning.com> for New Jersey social studies educators is up and running. You can join (there is no cost) to share materials and ideas, ask questions, voice concerns and participate in discussions with other members of the New Jersey social studies education community. [Click](#) to visit the site, [sign up](#) for an individual account and join the New Jersey Social Studies Teachers Community. Once you’ve signed up you will have full access to the site’s discussion forums, shared event information, and posts by other members.

Efforts to have a required civics course in middle school are underway. A generation ago, students had civics courses at the upper elementary, middle and high school levels. Unlike 30 other states, New Jersey does not require a single civics course at any time in the K-12 education of our young people. What is required is a course about NJ history, geography and community civics (no one is quite sure what community civics is) at the upper elementary level (most schools teach something about NJ in 4th grade) and 2 years of U.S. history in high school, which is supposed to include “the U.S. Constitution and institutions of American democracy.” A bill had been introduced in the NJ State Legislature in 2007 to require a course of study in civics at intermediate schools. However, it was opposed by the State Department of Education and died. Florida has recently enacted a required civics course. We can do it in New Jersey too. See the history of the [New Jersey Coalition to Support the Civic Mission of Schools](#). Contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu to join this historic effort to ensure that our young people have the opportunity to understand what it means to be a citizen in a democratic society. With receding time for social studies, every required course is critical!

[Back to top](#)

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.

**New Jersey Center for Civic Education
Rutgers, The State University
Lucy Stone Hall, B303-311
Piscataway, NJ 08854**

(732) 445-3413 • (732) 445-3420 (fax)

civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu • <http://civiced.rutgers.edu>