

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

September 2010

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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 18-19, 2011: Spring conference sponsored by Middle States Council for the Social Studies and NJCSS

NJ Council for the Social Studies

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!

NJCSS Conference. The annual state social studies conference, "Voices and Visions for the 21st Century," will be held on Tuesday, **October 26, 2010**, at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, in Piscataway, NJ. The conference will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Thirty different workshops will be offered along with two plenary sessions and a large number of exhibitors. Breakfast and lunch will be served. This is the only statewide opportunity by and for New Jersey social studies educators. Registration is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. Pre-service teachers at New Jersey institutions of higher education may register for \$35, which includes a year's free membership in NJCSS. There is a special group conference fee of \$100 for up to five teachers or pre-service teachers who are current paid NJCSS members from any single school district or university. Go to the new [NJCSS website](#) or [click](#) for the conference registration form.

Serve on an NJCSS committee. If you would like to work on the annual fall conference, the regional spring conference or other NJCSS committees, please contact Arlene Gardner, NJCSS President 2010-2012, at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu or 732-445-3413.

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

The NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association will be meeting on **October 7, 2010**; February 3, 2011; and May 19, 2011. Join your colleagues by becoming a joint member of NJCSS and NJSSSA for \$40/year. NJSSSA will also be having a meeting and workshops at the NJCSS Conference on October 26th. [Click](#) for membership and conference registration forms. Register for the new NJSSSA professional network site and for the October 7th meeting by going to <http://tinyurl.com/2a9ckz7>

NJSSSA and NJCSS have launched an Awards program and seek your nomination of someone who has advanced the field of social studies education with exceptional service. This is a great way to show our appreciation for our dedicated members as well as to draw attention to the critical importance of social studies education. The Award for Outstanding Service will be announced at the October 26th Conference. Send your nomination to <http://tinyurl.com/2w6qz3v> by September 27th.

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Constitution Day

The National Council for the Social Studies is sponsoring a 2010 Constitution Day Poster Contest for K-12th grade students. Entrants must create a poster that demonstrates how the freedoms embodied in the U.S. Constitution affect their daily lives. Entries will be judged on both artistic merit and relevance to the U.S. Constitution. Entries must be post-marked or uploaded by October 1, 2010. For more information, visit www.ConstitutionFacts.com.

Find information about the Constitution Day Essay Contest for middle and high school students at <http://www.consource.org>

Materials and ideas for Constitution Day (September 17th) are available from a wide variety of sources, including the following:

<http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>
http://www.crf-usa.org/constitution_day/constitution_day_home.htm
<http://www.justicelearning.org/constitutionday/index.asp>
<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html>
<http://www.constitutionday.us>
<http://www.abaconstitution.org>
http://www.pbs.org/georgewashington/classroom/constitution_day.html

How about making every day Constitution Day? Use September 17th as a starting date for integrating the U.S. Constitution into history, geography, civics, economics and current events!!

Professional Development

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is focused on student understanding of the institutions of American democracy as well as the contemporary relevance of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Materials have been specifically designed for upper elementary grades, middle school grades and high school grades. Annual state competitions are held for middle and high school classes. All-day workshops demonstrating the *We the People* materials will be held on **October 19** and **December 2, 2010** at the N.J. Law Center in New Brunswick from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The same program will be offered both days. Registration is \$30. Participating teachers will receive 5 hours of professional development, breakfast and lunch, and a free classroom set of materials and a teacher's guide. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

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, 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. *Project Citizen* workshops will be held on **December 8, 2010** and **January 12, 2011** at the N.J. Law Center in New Brunswick from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The same program will be offered both days.. Registration is \$30. Participating teachers will receive 5 hours of professional development, breakfast and lunch, and a free classroom set of materials and a teacher's guide. [Click](#) for additional information and to register.

A Financial Literacy Summit for K-12 N.J. educators and policymakers will be held on Wednesday, **October 13, 2010** at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, Piscataway from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. with keynote speaker Elisabeth Leamy, Consumer Correspondent for ABC News, two breakout sessions and exhibits. Registration deadline Sept. 30, 2010. Go to <http://education.state.nj.us/events>, click on October 13 and select NJ Financial Literacy Summit to register.

Teach Europe is an annual workshop for teachers hosted by the Center for European Studies at Rutgers University to be held on Wednesday, **October 20** (9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.). The program is designed for teachers of world languages, social studies and history with interests in Europe and provides continuing education credits. As in previous years, the talks and workshops are supported by a number of European consulates and language studies associations. There is no registration fee; however, registration is required. [Click](#) for more information and the **Teach Europe** registration form.

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George Washington Workshops will be held on **October 22, 2010** at Morristown National Historical Park and on **October 29, 2010** at WheatonArts in Millville. For more information contact: education@mountvernon.org.

East Asia Seminar for Teachers. Princeton University is offering interdisciplinary seminars for teachers about East Asia in World History one Saturday per month from **November 2010 through May 2011**, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The seminars are free but participants must register by October 20th and commit to attend all sessions. Participating teachers will receive 30 hours of professional development, a text, curriculum materials, a stipend, and the opportunity for a highly-subsidized trip to Asia. For further information contact lesley86@hotmail.com or 215-439-7101.

Student Events

The annual *We the People High School Competition* will be held on Friday, **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 may observe. The winning high school class will represent the state in the National *We the People* Competition in April. [Click](#) for more information about *We the People*.

This year's *Project Citizen Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation* will be held on **Wednesday, May 25, 2011** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. Classes (grades 5-12) and after-school programs for middle and high school students may participate. Interested teachers 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 about *Project Citizen*.

Resources for Teachers

The **Collegiate Alliance for Social Education** (CASE) invites university education faculty, teachers and especially pre-service teachers to a free Pre-Service Conference on Friday, **October 1, 2010** at Annunciation Hall at the College of St. Elizabeth, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m., for workshops and discussions about valuable materials and teaching strategies for teaching social studies in NJ. The conference is free but registration by Sept. 27 is necessary. For additional information or to register, contact Prof. Daly at James.Daly@shu.edu.

Conflict Resolution and United States History. 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? Are you frustrated with expensive and limited American history textbooks? 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, a short video, teacher comments and an order form. Contact civiced@njcre.rutgers.edu for additional information or questions.

Free 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](#).

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, call 646-366-9666 or visit www.gilderlehrman.org for more information.

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The [Center of History and New Media](#), at George Mason University, is offering FREE historical thinking posters to any social studies educator to use in the classroom. Just in time for the new school year, Teachinghistory.org has created a two-sided Historical Thinking Poster--great for promoting varying levels of cognitive skills in the social studies. You can read about and view the poster at <http://teachinghistory.org/nhec-blog/24174>, and [click](#) to request a poster.

Social Studies Issues

[Click](#) for information about registering for Phase 2 of New Jersey Department of Education workshops, Creating 21st Century New Jersey: Statewide Systemic Model for Continuous Professional Learning and Growth.

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.

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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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