

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

April 2011

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

SAVE THE DATE: NJCSS Annual Conference: October 27, 2011.

REGISTER NOW! Combined conference and membership registration fee \$65 for teachers \$80 for joint membership in NJSSSA. See the attached forms or go to the NJCSS website at <http://www.njcss.org/index.php>.

Every New Jersey social studies teacher and supervisor should be part of NJCSS. Only by working together can we improve the teaching and learning of social studies in the state. Your fees support the annual conference, the biannual DOCKET, the monthly newsletters, and lobbying and curriculum efforts.

SUBMIT A WORKSHOP PROPOSAL: [Click](#) for the NJCSS Conference Workshop Proposal Form. Deadline: June 30, 2011.

NJSSSA

SAVE THE DATE: NJSSSA final meeting of the year: **May 19, 2011**.

Student Events

Community Middle School in Plainsboro won first place in the annual New Jersey State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* Simulated Legislative Hearings for middle schools on March 30, 2011. Churchill Jr. High School in East Brunswick placed second and Maxson Middle School in Plainfield third. Congratulations to all the participating students for doing an excellent job responding to questions about the history and political philosophy underlying the U.S. Constitution Bill of Rights and their application to controversial issues in the past and today.

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 grades 5-12 are invited to participate. 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 2011. *Project Citizen* is a process-based program that helps students to understand public policy by identifying a local public policy problem, researching the problem--including interviews with local public policymakers--identifying possible alternative solutions, selecting a solution that is both constitutional and practical, and developing an action plan for getting their solution implemented. It is both service learning and civic education. A study by the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas found that students who participated in *Project Citizen* developed a greater understanding of the complexity of public policy, a commitment to active citizenship, and learned important communication skills. Students around the world, including developing democracies, are involved in *Project Citizen*.

[Click](#) to access the class roster or contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu for more information, to bring a participating class or to observe this oral and written performance assessment. Class rosters must be submitted by May 6, 2011 to participate.

[Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from last year's *Project Citizen Showcase*.

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Professional Development

A **Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education** is being offered to middle and high school teachers in New Jersey at the are invited to apply to the Master Teacher Institute (MTI) in Holocaust Education at the Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at the Rutgers New Brunswick campus. New courses will begin in September 2011. Each course will meet five times over the semester. The program is designed to develop expert teachers in Holocaust studies who will serve as resource providers in their schools, districts, and communities. Leading scholars and experienced educators in the field of Holocaust studies will engage participants and address the complex methodological issues involved in teaching about this subject. Participants will receive resource materials; access to leading scholars in Holocaust studies, including access to Rutgers faculty and resources; and professional development credit. To be eligible, teachers must have a minimum of three years teaching experience and three years of involvement with Holocaust/genocide education. For further information or to download an application, visit <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu> or call 732-932-2033. There is no fee to participate in this program.

The **National Constitution Center** is offering the *Women of Power Show*. It takes a look at extraordinary women throughout history. Students learn about the issues women faced while trying to secure equal rights. The show also explores passage of the 19th Amendment and the new roles of women in society. Students learn about courageous women who defied the norms of society and paved a path for future generations. They discover America through the stories of the women who persevered to establish equality for ALL citizens. For more information or to book the program, contact thcp@constitutioncenter.org.

Summer Institutes

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. Deadline for applications: **May 6, 2011** (don't wait!). [Click](#) for additional information and a registration form.

The **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** is hosting its annual National Conference for Social Studies Educators, July 13-15, 2011 at the Museum. The program is designed for secondary educators and community college faculty who have five or less years of experience in teaching about the Holocaust, although educators with more or less experience may also attend if there is sufficient space. The conference is free and participants will receive free books and teaching materials, lunch on two days and a \$100 voucher to use in the Museum Shop. Participants must assume the transportation and hotel costs; however, a limited number of scholarships are available. Go to <http://www.ushmm.org/education/foreducators/prodev/belfer/> to learn more and to register online.

A summer training program about **Dharmic traditions** followed by people practicing Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism will be held at UMass Dartmouth July 18-22 and July 25-29. Teachers selected can receive either three graduate credits or a \$500 stipend for the five-day session through a Uberoi Foundation Fellowship. Participants will also be provided with curriculum materials. Local housing will be available for teachers traveling from other areas to attend the program. For additional information, go to <http://www.umassd.edu/indic/uberoi/>.

The **American Red Cross** will conduct its 4th Annual [Exploring Humanitarian Law Summer Institute](#) in Washington, D.C. August 1-4, 2011. The training institute is intended for secondary school teachers and college faculty who are interested in teaching EHL in the classroom. Participants will receive the EHL curriculum and resources to enable them to explore humanitarian law and principles. EHL offers activities that can be used as a whole or mixed and matched into current lessons. High-quality materials, including news accounts, photos, letters, videos, case studies and interactive projects bring real events and people to life, helping to connect lessons of the past with events of today. Registration is \$150 and a limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, please email: EHL@usa.redcross.org.

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Resources for Teachers

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 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.

Electronic New Jersey provides online access to an expanding set of curriculum units—now 23—using New Jersey history content for instruction about core themes in U. S. History. For classroom teachers grades 5-12. You can access the materials at <http://njdigitalhighway.org/enj/> or <http://njdigitalhighway.org/educators.php>.

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

iCivics, the web-based education project spearheaded by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, is designed to reinvigorate civics teaching and learning about the Supreme Court, the judiciary and how the three branches of government work together for upper elementary and middle school grades through online games and lessons. The ever-expanding materials can be found at <http://www.icivics.org>.

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 or contact Karin Muller at 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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Please note that the Center's area code has changed from 732 to 848 as part of the new Rutgers University telephone system.