

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

September 2011

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

The Annual NJCSS Conference is the only time that social studies teachers, supervisors and university faculty across the state meet to share ideas, concerns and materials. This year's annual conference, "From Local to Global: Social Studies and the iGeneration," will be held on **Thursday, October 27, 2011**. It includes a wide variety of plenary and breakout workshops by teachers, supervisors, faculty as well as the opportunity to see the most up-to-date resources available and to talk with your colleagues. Go to <http://www.njcss.org/index.php> to see the tentative conference program and registration form.

Join us for the annual conference and renew your annual membership in NJCSS with one registration form! The combined conference and membership registration fee is \$65 for teachers or \$80 for supervisors for joint membership in NJSSSA. Go to the NJCSS website at <http://www.njcss.org/index.php> to **REGISTER NOW!**

We would like to raise the profile of social studies by continuing to acknowledge a **Social Studies Teacher of the Year**. The award will be presented at the annual NJCSS Conference. Send your nomination of a social studies teacher who you think is dedicated and skilled, demonstrates strong ability to foster excellence, possesses strong content area expertise, incorporates innovative instruction materials and demonstrates professional involvement in social studies educational activities by **September 30th** to Steve Schels at sschels@earthlink.net with a short explanation of why you are nominating this teacher.

HOLD THE DATES: March 8-12, 2012: Middle States Council for the Social Studies, Baltimore, MD
 April 3-5, 2012: North East Regional Conference for the Social Studies, Sturbridge, MA

Sept. 11 Materials

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the tragic and heroic events of September 11, 2001. To help students understand and to learn positive lessons from this event, many organizations have prepared excellent resources, materials and lessons for classroom use.

- See the resources available on the official [U.S. Department of Education 9/11 resource page](#).
- See the *9/11 Curriculum: Terrorism, Security and Remembrance Lessons for the Classroom* available on the NJ Holocaust website at http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/news_topics_issues/911.html (K-12)
- From NCSS, a variety of resources and lesson plans on 9/11 and the war in Iraq: <http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/moments>
- See 9/11 lesson by the Constitutional Rights Foundation at <http://www.crfc.org/lessons/sep11.php>, including [Good Citizens in a Time of Emergency](#), How did ordinary people respond to the attacks of September 11, 2001? This lesson looks at how ordinary people acted in extraordinary ways and explores ways to practice good citizenship every day as well as in times of emergency or disaster (for Upper Elementary/Middle School)
- See lessons from the Center for Civic Education on 9/11 and the Constitution: [On American Identity, Diversity, and Common Ground](#) (grades 7–12) and [Remembering 9/11: Building Tolerance](#) (grades 5–8) at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>
- See list of lessons at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2011/08/23/resources-for-teaching-about-9-11/>
- PBS, "America Responds": A lesson that is cited and used by several other sites as well: <http://www.pbs.org/americaresponds/educators.html>
- A digital archive of pictures of objects having to do with 9/11: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/september11/>

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- A podcast on the post-9/11 landscape: <http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/podcast-episodes/post-landscape-30336.html>
- Teaching guides and webcasts: <http://www.911memorial.org/teaching-guides-0>
- George Bush's presidential address on 9/20/01: <http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/deliberative-topics/war-peace/george-w-bush-an-address-to-a-joint-session-of-congress-and-the-american-people-20-september-2001/>
- "War, Terrorism, and our Classrooms": http://www.rethinkingschools.org/special_reports/sept11/index.shtml
- *New York Times* article on how to teach about 9/11: <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/19/how-do-you-teach-about-911/>
- Remembering September 11, available at Pearson's Online Learning Exchange: <http://www.onlinelearningexchange.com/content/products/remembering911.html>
- Large databases of resources: http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson244.shtml and <http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/911>.
- The September 11th Education Program: <http://www.learnabout9-11.org/>

Constitution Day Materials

On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document that became the [Constitution of the United States](#). As recognition of this important day in our nation's history, Congress designated September 17 [Constitution Day](#). But don't be limited to one day a year: every day should be Constitution Day! We live with the benefits and limitations of our 228 year-old Constitution every day. As the National Constitution Center's website urges, this is an opportunity to "develop habits of citizenship in a new generation of Americans." Below are a variety of materials about the Constitution that you may want to use or adapt for use in your classroom:

- A variety of lessons and materials may be found at the main website of the [National Constitution Center](#) at http://www.constitutioncenter.org/ncc_progs_Constitution_Day.aspx, including a [Bill of Rights Game](#) (Elementary-aged students reconstruct the Bill of Rights in this fun interactive game); a Founders' Library Lesson Plan (Highlights the three spheres of civic education: civic knowledge, active citizenship, and democratic deliberation); and To Sign or Not/ to Sign Constitution Day Lesson Plan (Students examine and understand the role of the people in the Constitution).
- [Constitution Day lessons](#) prepared by the [Constitutional Rights Foundation](#) for elementary (Five Famous Supreme Court Cases), middle (The President, the Chief Justice and the Cherokee Nation) and High School (The Brown decision: What does it mean today?) at http://www.courtsed.org/courts-in-the-classroom/teacher/constitution_day.htm
- The [Colonial Williamsburg Foundation](#) has an Electronic Field Trip, "A More Perfect Union," which tells the story of the ratification of the Constitution and has as the first person narrator a young student from the late 1700s. Online video streaming is available 24/7 from September 6 to September 30, 2011, along with opportunities for students to email historical character Benjamin Franklin, interactive online games, downloadable resources and lesson plans for grades 4-8. Go to <http://giftnation.history.org>
- Downloadable lessons for Grades K–12 with teacher instructions from the [Center for Civic Education](#) at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>
- "Charters of Freedom" activities at the [National Archives](#), including "Meet the Founding Fathers and "Join the Signers of the Declaration, at <http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html>
- The [American Bar Association](#) has an extensive website of lessons involving the Constitution at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/constitution_day.html
- [PBS](#) has a series of Constitution lessons focused on "rediscovering George Washington" at <http://www.pbs.org/georgewashington/classroom/index.html>.

Social Studies Issues

New Civic Mission of Schools report. On Sept. 15, 2011, the National Civic Mission of Schools Campaign released its updated report to the 2003 Civic Mission of Schools Report. The report provides research-based evidence of the decline of civic learning in America's schools and presents six practices that should be at the heart of every school's approach to civic learning. It provides recommendations for education policymakers to ensure every student acquires the civic skills and knowledge needed for an informed, engaged citizenry. You can find the full report at <http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/>

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Professional Development

Introduction to the Constitution. The Center for the Constitution is offering a free, online course, "Introduction to the Constitution," just in time for Constitution Day. Learn more at: <http://center.montpelier.org>.

Princeton University faculty are teaching a workshop for K-12 teachers on "The Many Faces of Modern Asia" that will be held at Princeton University on Friday, **October 21, 2011**. Go to <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/maraas/>. Email lesley86@hotmail.com with any questions.

Teaching with Primary Sources. NJCSS and the NJ Center for Civic Education have received a small grant from the Library of Congress to provide a program of professional development for NJ teachers. The professional development program will focus on the use primary sources as part of instructional strategies promoting evidence-based learning and decision making. The first workshop will be Tuesday, **November 29, 2011** at Rutgers University in Piscataway, followed by two after-school workshops Jan.-May 2012. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> for additional information and a registration form.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution offers supplementary materials that integrate U.S. history and government with critical thinking activities, including a simulated legislative hearing process that improves student writing and speaking skills. 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. Independent studies report that students who use the *We the People* materials outperform other students on political knowledge and philosophy and are more politically tolerant than students who use traditional textbooks and teaching approaches. A workshop will be held at the NJ Law Center in New Brunswick for NJ teachers grades 3-12 on **November 30, 2011**. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/WTP/WTP-reg-2011.pdf> for more information and a registration form. High School Competition February 2, 2012.

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. [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from last year's *Project Citizen Showcase*. A workshop will be held at the NJ Law Center in New Brunswick for NJ teachers grades 3-12 on **December 7, 2011**. Go to http://civiced.rutgers.edu/PROJECT_CITIZEN/PC-reg-2011.pdf for more information and a registration form. On-line digital portfolio showcase starting January 1, 2012.

A Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education is being offered to middle and high school teachers in New Jersey. 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. 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.

Resources for Teachers

Living Voices is providing a free public performance of their new presentation, "Our Revolution: The meaning of liberty from the perspective of an African American soldier," on Saturday, **October 22, 2011**, at 2:00 p.m. at Washington's Headquarters in Morristown, NJ. For additional information contact 973-539-2016. Living Voices has a series of live performance and video presentations available for your schools. Go to <http://www.livingvoices.org/main/main.html> to see the descriptions.

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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. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/CONFLICT/overview.shtml> for a sample lesson, 4-minute video, teacher comments and an order form. Contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu for additional information or questions.

Free online lessons from the **Constitutional Rights Foundation** include: America's Economic Crisis Lessons, America Responds to terrorism, *Brown v. Board* 50th Anniversary, Educating about Immigration, Educating about Intellectual Property, Election central Resources, School-based Service Learning and more. For an index of free online lessons go to <http://www.crf-usa.org/online-lessons-index/free-lessons-index.html>.

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>.

Historical Documents of New Jersey and the United States, including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. Constitution and the New Jersey Constitution, is available for free from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. Contact 1-800-FREELAW or www.njsbf.org to request copies for your class. The order form is also available [online](#).

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. These engaging games, lessons and other materials for upper elementary and middle school grades can be found online at <http://www.icivics.org>.

Teachers College Columbia University has developed a curriculum about the federal budget, national debt and national deficit called *Understanding Fiscal Responsibility*, organized around the core question "How should we address our nation's fiscal challenges today and in the future in a manner that is consistent with our values and traditions?" It aims to provide multiple perspectives about the challenging fiscal issues to help youth become informed citizens and make their own decisions. Go to <http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/>.

Teaching Global History: A Social Studies Approach, by Hofstra University Professor Alan Singer, offers an alternative thoughtful approach to pre-packaged textbook outlines and materials for high school classes. It is available in paperback from Routledge. Go to <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415875493/>.

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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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