

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

April 2013

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

NJ Council for the Social Studies

The March 20, 2013 Statewide Conference for Elementary Educators sponsored by NJCSS and NJSSSA, “*Literacy and Justice for All: Social Studies and the Common Core for K-5*,” was a rave success. More than 200 K-5 educators participated in workshops ranging from economics to primary sources to democratic communities and historical thinking and visited with the exhibitors. Anthony Fitzpatrick, with the NJ Department of Education, challenged teachers to shift toward more critical thinking than rote learning. His presentation and those of many of the workshops are available on the NJCSS website at www.njcass.org.



Teachers and Exhibitors at the March 20, 2013 Conference for Elementary Educators



Conference Keynote Speaker Anthony Fitzpatrick, NJ Department of Education



Adrienne Stack, Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District teacher, talking about children thinking like historians



Laura Oliynik, Jefferson Township Public Schools teacher, explaining a model for teaching about New Jersey

NJCSS Elections May 1. If you are currently a paid member of NJCSS, you will receive a ballot by email on May 1st to be returned by May 15th.

SAVE THE DATE: NJCSS Annual Fall Conference **October 23, 2013.** Get board approval this spring for the fall conference.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Send a workshop proposal for the NJCSS Annual Fall Conference **October 23, 2013.** The forms are available on the NJCSS website at www.njcass.org. Proposal deadline: **June 1st.**

[Back to top](#)

NJ350: Help leave a legacy for New Jersey teachers and students. 2014 will mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey in 1664. NJCSS has been working with a statewide consortium of history, arts, cultural and educational institutions to develop ideas to celebrate and commemorate this event following the themes of liberty, diversity and innovation. A variety of curriculum materials tied to these themes and to the core content standards are being developed and gathered to bring the dynamic stories of New Jersey's first 350 years into the classroom. The educational resources will be made available online and will be demonstrated at workshops, conferences and summer institutes during 2013-2014. If you have an outstanding lesson about New Jersey that you would like to share or if you would be willing to pilot some newly-developed lessons, please contact Arlene Gardner at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu.

NJSSSA

The next general NJSSSA meeting will be held on **May 10, 2013** at NJPSA in Monroe, starting at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will include a discussion about Student Growth Objectives (SGOs) with Anthony Fitzpatrick from the NJ Dept. of Education, a presentation from the College Board about the new AP US History curriculum and exam, and the Choices program. To register go to <http://tinyurl.com/NJSSSA-May10th>

NJSSSA had its second meeting to develop **sample social studies lessons for grades 5-8** on Thursday, April 11. A Context and Framework for Social Studies is available at www.njcass.org. A summary of essential skills and sample units for U.S. and world history aligned with the common core and NJ social studies standards will be available this summer.

Social Studies Issues

Last week, the New Jersey Department of Education released information about student assessments and teacher evaluations. Since social studies is NOT a tested subject, social studies teachers will need to prepare Student Growth Objectives (SGOs), which offer more flexibility than Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) required in tested areas. SGOs may include portfolio assessments, such as portfolios of student work or student projects, and performance assessments, such as a persuasive speech, in addition to traditional pen and pencil tests. The online AchieveNJ guide gives the following as an example of how to identify an area that needs growth: A 10th-grade social studies teacher finds on the free response portion of the pre-assessment that some students were unable to clearly use evidence to support their points of view. He sets a Specific SGO that deals with this particular skill. He consults the [Common Core State Standards in social studies](#) to assist in developing appropriate activities and assessment questions. SGOs must be approved by the principal, or the principal's designee, by November 15, 2013, with any changes to an SGO approved by February 15, 2014. Full information about SGOs, the process, the forms and the time framework, is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/AchieveNJ/resources/AchieveNJResourcesGuide.pdf>.

Student Events

New Jersey High School Econ Challenge. Congratulations to Bergen Academies for the Adam Smith Division honors and to West Windsor High School for the David Ricardo Division honors.

National Geography Bee. An eighth-grader at Warren Middle School won the New Jersey Geography Bee held at Rowan University on April 5, 2013 and will go to the national competition in Washington, D.C. in May.

Rho Kappa, the National Social Studies Honor Society for high school students. Sponsored by the National Council for the Social Studies, Rho Kappa is the only national organization that recognizes high school juniors and seniors for excellence in the field of social studies and participation in community service. Consider applying to start a local chapter at your high school. For more information, go to <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org>.

New Jersey History Day provides students the opportunity to complete authentic research on a topic of their choosing and to present their research in the form of an exhibit, documentary, performance, website or academic paper to a team of professionals. Students with the top research products compete at the national contest in Washington DC. See the recently aired episode about NJ History Day on Classroom Close-Up at <http://www.njea.org/about/classroom-close-up>. The 2013 theme is *Turning Points in History*. If you are interested in learning more or would like to be a judge at the state competition on **May 4th** at William Paterson University, e-mail njhistoryday@wpunj.edu.

[Back to top](#)

The annual state **Project Citizen Showcase** for students in grades 5-12 will be held digitally. Class portfolios prepared in any electronic format (powerpoint, video, website or other digital media) must be received by the NJ Center for Civic Education no later than **May 24, 2013** (and will happily be accepted earlier) at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu. Projects should identify a public policy issue of concern, summarize research, identify possible solutions and select and promote the solution that the class believes will best solve the problem. This is authentic, cross-curriculum, project-based learning at its best! [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from the 2011 *Project Citizen Showcase*. Teachers interested in having their class participate should contact the Center at 848-445-3413 or civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

The **2013 SPIRIT of the JERSEY State History Fair** is set for Saturday, **May 11**, at Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville from 11am-5pm, rain or shine. For additional information visit www.njhistoryfair.org or email historyfair@dep.state.nj.us.

Professional Development

A **Paterson Silk Strike Centennial Conference** will be held at William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ on **May 20 and 21**, 2013. On May 20th, presentations, with a keynote by Bloomfield College professor emeritus Steve Golin, and discussions will address numerous aspects of the strike. On May 21, there will be a daylong guided bus tour of locations significant to the history of the strike in and around Paterson. Registration is \$30. Deadline **May 10, 2013**. For more information call 973-595-7953. To register go to <http://bit.ly/10arXT0>.

The **Center for Economic Education** is offering a free workshop for grade 6-12 teachers on **Learning, Earning and Investing and Gen i Revolution (free online personal finance game)** on **May 14**, 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., at the International Rescue Committee, 122 East 42nd St., NYC. Click on the workshop title to go to the registration form.

Teaching with Primary Sources webinar. A free online course, TPS: Basics is available Thursdays, May 9-June 6 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for professional development providers and education faculty. The workshop will help teachers address student literacy, critical thinking and the application of content as required by the Common Core State Standards, using digitalized primary sources from the Library of Congress. The course includes independent assignments and five one-hour chat discussion sessions model inquiry, teaching and learning. Work individually and in collaboration with BASICS peers to complete and develop learning activities to share with your colleagues. Participants receive a certificate for fifteen hours of professional development. Click to view the [TPS:BASICS Agenda](#) or to register for the [May 9 - June 6, 2013](#) program.

NJ Association Federal Program Administrators (NJAFPA) is holding its Spring Training Institute at Harrah's Atlantic City, **May 29 and 30, 2013**. The Institute will include Charlotte Danielson as the keynote speaker on May 29th and Tracey Severns, Chief Academic officer at the NJ Department of Education on May 30th. To register go to <http://www.njeducatorsprofessionaldevelopment.com/>

The **American Red Cross** is offering a [2013 summer institute](#) for educators on [Exploring Humanitarian Law](#) to be held **July 29-August 1, 2013** at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Educators will return to their classrooms with an array of tools and resources to teach respect for human life and dignity, the principles and protections of the Geneva Conventions and the role of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations in times of armed conflict. A \$150 fully refundable [application](#) fee is required. Accommodation and meals will be covered by the American Red Cross. Stipends are available to help defray travel costs. For questions visit the [EHL website](#), or contact [Phebean Cole](#) at (202) 303-5224 or ehl@redcross.org.

The **Center for the Constitution** at Madison's home, Montpelier, in Virginia, is offering a summer seminar, **The Constitutional Structure of Government: Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances, July 10-12, 2013**. Applicants are accepted on a rolling basis. Once accepted, applicants must submit a \$50 nonrefundable registration fee. Go to <http://learn.montpelier.org/seminars/179>.

The **Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia** is offering a five-day summer institute, **July 15-19, 2013**, for K-12 teachers, **Making Sense of Money and Banking**. Taught by Federal Reserve economists, economic education specialists, and staff from state centers on economic education, the course addresses money, banking, and the Federal Reserve System, with grade-

[Back to top](#)

level-specific breakout sessions aimed at providing teachers with usable classroom lesson plans. The course includes a history of central banking and a visit to the sites of early central banking, which are part of Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park. Registration fee: \$50. Register online at <http://www.philadelphiafed.org/education/teachers/training-programs/index.cfm>

The **New Jersey Council for the Humanities** is offering two five-day Summer Institutes to be held at Kean University: ***Upstream, Downstream: Managing Water, Sustaining Communities, July 14-19, 2013*** and ***From the Textbook to the Polling Booth: Politics in Theory and Practice, July 21-26, 2013***. The Managing Water seminar seeks to look at water through multiple disciplines and will include a water-based poetry and prose bibliography for use in English, History, and Science classrooms. Using the upcoming New Jersey gubernatorial election as a backdrop, the Politics in Theory and Practice seminar will explore key tenets of democratic thought as expressed in works past and contemporary as launching points to prepare their students for active citizenship. For additional information and an application go to <http://njch.org/programs/program-teacher-program/> A registration fee of \$100 is due upon acceptance. Deadline: **May 1, 2013**.

Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge, PA, is offering a summer institute, ***Teaching American History & the Medal of Honor Legacy, July 21 - 26, 2013***. Teachers will study modern American international conflicts, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan with recognized experts, and meet and interact with Medal of Honor recipients and discover their stories of valor and heroism in the face of mortal danger. Participants will explore the character traits exemplified by MOH recipients and develop classroom curricula that connects students to America's past and prepares them for a future as engaged responsible citizens. They will also visit Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, Declaration House, the National Museum of American Jewish History, and the Medal of Honor Grove. Go to <http://www.freedomfoundation.org/GraduateProgram3.cfm>.

Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Economic and Civics with History, Geography and the Common Core, a two-day summer institute for middle and high school U.S. history, economics and civics teachers sponsored by the **NJ Center for Civic Education** and the **NJ Council for Economic Education**, will be held on **July 23-24, 2013** at Rutgers University. The focus will be on economic and civic choices or decisions and their impact and consequences in history (the Constitution, the Civil War, the rise of big business, the great depression) and today. Registration fee: \$50. Application deadline extended to **May 15, 2013**. Go to www.njcss.org for a registration form.

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is offering 23 different travel programs for the summer of 2013: India/Nepal, Italy, Portugal/Spain, Amalfi Coast, Eastern Europe, Budapest to Istanbul, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Comfort Thailand, Thailand/Laos, Cambodia, China, Comfort China, Russia/Mongolia/China, Turkey, Morocco, Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Kenya/Tanzania, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana. **Registration deadline: June 1st**. The trips are 8 to 24 days in length and are designed to be interesting and affordable for teachers. GEEO provides teachers professional development credit, educational materials and the structure to help them bring their experiences into the classroom. Detailed information can be found at www.geeo.org or call [1-877-600-0105](tel:1-877-600-0105).

World History and Economics is a one-day professional development program for grade 6-12 teachers to be held **August 14, 2013** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hamilton, NJ. Cosponsored by the **Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, the New Jersey Council for Economic Education, and the Council for Economic Education**, the workshop will be taught by the economic education advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and will introduce teachers to a series of simulations, role-playing activities, group activities, classroom demonstrations, and informational texts about world history and economics for middle and high school students. Register online by **August 7** at newjersey.councilforeconed.org/events/.

Resources for Teachers

April is Financial Literacy Month. Financial literacy for students is an important tool to improve the financial capability of our youth and communities. Students should be taught how to handle money—both at home and in school. This will help reduce the economic impact of the long-term recession that now grips many communities across the country. [Teaching kids about money](#) has a great impact on their future. Grasping even the most basic lessons gets students considering available options before making important monetary decisions; in turn, this careful consideration may help them avoid personal debt and improve their chances of achieving financial security. The earlier the process begins the better! See financial literacy lessons for all grade levels at www.econedlink.org/ and some ideas for elementary grades as part of the K-4 sample lessons at www.njcss.org.

[Back to top](#)

April 22 is Earth Day. Earth Week is okay too! Several countries celebrate an entire month. Begun as an environmental teach-in in 1970, Earth Day is a necessary reminder that we should not take our planet and its many resources for granted. For exciting Earth Day lessons go to <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/earth-day-lesson-plans-matt-davis>

iCivics, the web-based civics program initiated by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for upper elementary and middle school students has two new games: "We The Jury" and "The Drafting Board". "We the Jury" has players serve on a jury and evaluate evidence, persuade their fellow jurors, and reach a verdict in a civil case. "The Drafting Board" has students read background materials, select a position, pick evidence to support their side, anticipate and rebut arguments from the other side, and write a well-polished persuasive essay about civics topics, such as free speech rights of students, the Electoral College, and the role of interest groups in politics. Go to <http://www.icivics.org>

Beyond the Bubble History Assessment. Developed by Stanford University and the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program, this website, <http://beyondthebubble.stanford.edu/>, offers assessments that gauge historical thinking, using Library of Congress documents; provides rubrics for teachers to use; and offers examples of students work.

NJ DataBank. The Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration has developed a databank of information about New Jersey at nj databank@newark.rutgers.edu. The data posted on this site comes from recognized organizations with links back to the original source. The NJ DataBank was developed in the belief that data driven policy making is the key to the advancement of people, the quality of community life and the sustainability of our shared environment.

K-4 Sample Social Studies Units. Members of NJSSSA and NJCSS developed a sample social studies scope and sequence and sample social studies units for grades K-4. You may find these useful as you update your social studies program or your classroom lessons. You can find the grade level units for each grade, along with a scope and sequence chart and graphic, at the NJCSS website at <http://www.njcss.org/> as well as the NJSSSA Professional Network site at <http://tinyurl.com/NJSSSA-K4>

Conflict Resolution and United States History. Planning for next year? Looking for high quality, inexpensive materials for your U.S. history classes? Ten reasons to consider *Conflict Resolution and US History: The Colonial Period through Reconstruction and The Gilded Age through the 1990s*.

1. The historical background materials were prepared with the help of 30 prominent historians, including Eric Foner, Pauline Maier, and Gary Nash.
 2. The 20 historical roleplaying activities actively engage and motivate students.
 3. They help students to understand multiple perspectives and to develop critical thinking, problem-solving and public speaking skills.
 4. Each historical case study has dozens of relevant primary source materials on a CD ready for teachers to use.
 5. Each historical case study has classroom handouts and powerpoints prepared on a CD for teachers to use or adapt.
 6. The activities involved students in democratic processes, negotiations, moot courts, mock congressional hearings, etc.
 7. Students learn that history is the result of decisions made by individuals and groups rather than simply an inevitable flow of events as it is often presented in textbooks.
 8. Appreciating that history is the result of decisions made in the past gives young people a sense of agency, rather than apathy, that their decisions can have an impact.
 9. Teachers consistently report that their students gained a richer understanding of history using the *Conflict Resolution and U.S. History* materials and teaching strategies.
 10. The materials are cost effective: you only need to buy one book for each teacher rather than a text for every student.
- For a short video of students, a sample lesson, and an order form go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/CONFLICT/overview.shtml>.

[Back to top](#)

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 to:

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