

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

April 2014

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Published by the New Jersey Center for Civic Education
for the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies.

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NJCSS/NJSSSA Spring Elementary Conference

The second annual spring conference for K-5 educators, "Student Growth: Reading and Writing through Social Studies," held on March 19, 2014 at Rutgers University in Piscataway was a rave success! Two hundred and thirty-five elementary educators heard from keynote speaker, award-winning children's author Trinka Hakes Noble; saw a presentation about the immigration experience by Living Voices; participated in three workshops about integrating literacy and social studies; and talked with a variety of exhibitors about classroom resources available from publishers, universities and nonprofit organizations.



Keynote Speaker Author Trinka Hakes Noble explains how her book, *The Scarlet Stocking Spy*, can be used as both literature and for its historical content in an elementary classroom

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 9-10: Put a Little New Jersey in Your Classroom
July 23-24: Integrating Civics and Economics
July 30: Advanced Teaching with Primary Sources
Oct. 22: NJCSS Annual Fall Conference
Nov. 21-23: NCSS Conference, Boston, MA
Dec. 9: Basic Teaching with Primary Sources



Scott Bortnick, Charlene Hall and Kate Vanderheyden from Scotch Plains-Fanwood discuss service learning at the March 19th conference



Anthony Fitzpatrick from the New Jersey Dept. of Education talks about strategies for showcasing student growth at the March 19th conference

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Elizabeth Rainer from Living Voices plays the roles of young girls immigrating to Ellis Island



Rebecca Mitchell from the Philadelphia Museum of Art explores the use of visual arts and the Common Core

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

Pre-Service Conference. On March 29, over 40 pre-service teachers from colleges and universities across New Jersey and beyond participated in a workshop hosted by the NJSSSA, "Acing your interview: How to get your first social studies teaching job". The workshop, held at Busch Campus Center at Rutgers in Piscataway, opened with a presentation by NJSSSA President Matt Mingle, who provided practical advice on preparing for interviews and demo lessons. During the second part of the workshop, eleven supervisors from various districts provided the participants with opportunities to answer common interview questions, and offered feedback about cover letters and resumes. It was a useful day for everyone: pre-service teachers were given valuable information to help them in their job search and the supervisors were able to meet candidates for potential job openings.

SAVE THE DATE: The spring meeting for supervisors will be held on **May 16, 2014**. The tentative agenda include: SGO update and activities, information about Common Core and PARCC, a presentation by Pearson on social studies materials, Board elections, and a discussion on middle school social studies.

National Council for the Social Studies

SAVE THE DATE: The annual conference will be held **November 21-23, 2014** in Boston. Registration opens June 1st. Go to <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference>.



NJ Council for the Social Studies

SAVE THE DATE: The next annual NJCSS Fall Conference will be held on **October 22, 2014**. **Get approval before school ends!**

If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the fall social studies conference, use the **Call for Proposals** form at www.njcss.org to send your proposal by **June 1, 2014**.

If you would like to nominate an outstanding social studies teacher for the NJCSS **Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award**, use the Teacher of the Year Award form on the njcss website and send your materials by **September 1, 2014**. The award will be announced at the annual fall conference in October.

Membership renewals will be sent in August. Everybody should be a member!

Rho Kappa, the National Social Studies Honor Society for high school students, provides national recognition and opportunities for exploration in the social studies. 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>.

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Student Events



Project Citizen involves students in understanding public policy and emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government. Students learn how to interact with government agencies to effect change. [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from the 2011 *Project Citizen Showcase*. The class project portfolios from 2012 and 2013 are online at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/pcportfolio.html>. In recognition of New Jersey's 350th anniversary in 2014, the projects for 2013-14 should focus on statewide rather than local issues. To participate in the annual *Project Citizen* Digital Showcase, register your class by emailing civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu. Class projects for 2013-14 will be accepted until **May 23, 2014**. For additional information about *Project Citizen*, go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/projectcitizen.html>



The [New Jersey State House Tour Office](#) offers a field trip to the State House--a unique opportunity to bring to life the classroom lessons on state government, state history, and civics. Walking through the same hallways as historic and current leaders, students in kindergarten through high school witness government in motion and learn the essential role each citizen plays in our state. To learn more about the tours and programs available at the New Jersey State House go to http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/kids/tour_ed_brochure.pdf, or call 609-847-3150. The State House Express provides funding (\$300-\$350) to schools to pay for the transportation costs for middle and high school classes to travel to the State House. To take advantage of this program, email gminor@rci.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-9384, x 245.

The [Council for Economic Education](#) is sponsoring a Financial Literacy competition. [Sign](#) up and register your class for free access to **Gen i Revolution**. Encourage your students play and explore the 15 mission to learn important personal finance concepts. While playing, students

brainstorm ideas for a new 16th Mission. The 16th Mission should fall within one of six categories: earning income, buying goods and services, saving, using credit, financial investing, and protecting and insuring. Winners get prizes and the chance to have their mission actually developed and added to CEE's free online personal finance game! Applications accepted starting April 1st at <http://www.councilforeconed.org/events/gen-i-revolution-contest/>

Professional Development

A *"Teaching the World"* Forum will be held at Rutgers University's Cook Campus Center on Thursday, **April 24**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free, but space is limited. Contact Kathleen Myles (kathleen.myles@gse.rutgers.edu) to register. The **Rutgers Graduate School of Education** has been working with the Longview Foundation for the past four years on a project to internationalize teacher education in NJ. The Forum will feature award-winning filmmaker Alrick Brown and UN Global teaching and Learning project director Bill Yotive, as well as projects underway around the state addressing global and international education, notably in the area of teacher pre-service and continuing education, also will be highlighted.



[Colonial Williamsburg](#) has six elementary, two middle and two high school summer programs for teachers in **June and July 2014**. The sessions for elementary teachers will focus on the colonial and the early nation period "on location" in Williamsburg, and nearby Jamestown and Yorktown. The program for middle school teachers will focus on the period from 1607 to the Civil War and will include a visit to historic sites in Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, and Richmond, Virginia. The program for high school teachers will use a thematic approach to American history to debate issues of unity vs. diversity, private wealth vs. commonwealth, law vs. ethics, and freedom vs. equality. The cost is \$2,200; however 18 scholarships are available for teachers from New Jersey for this summer. For additional information visit <http://www.history.org/teach>

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NJ350. The New Jersey Center for Civic Education and the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies have received a small grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to identify, develop, pilot and disseminate classroom lesson about New Jersey. If you have an outstanding lesson about New Jersey that you would like to share, or if you would like to pilot some of the lessons being developed, please contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. A one-day summer institute to help teacher integrate New Jersey into their social studies curriculum, "Put a little New Jersey in Your Classroom," will be held on **July 9, 2014** at Rutgers University in Piscataway for upper elementary teachers and on **July 10, 2014** for secondary school teachers. Registration deadline **May 1, 2014**. Go to www.njcss.org or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> for more information and a registration form.

Summer Constitutional Seminars at James Madison's Montpelier in Virginia include "The Presidency and the Constitution" on **July 18-20, 2014**, and "Suffrage in America" on **July 23-25, 2014**. The cost for educators each two-day workshop is \$50. There are a limited number of scholarships available for New Jersey teachers. To find out more information and to register go to <http://learn.montpelier.org/seminars>.

The NJ Commission on Holocaust Education is leading its annual tour of Holocaust sites in Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland and the Netherlands **July 15-29, 2014**, guided by Maud Dahme, a hidden child during the Holocaust and former members of the NJ State Board of Education. The total cost of the two-week trip including air, hotel, meals, etc. is \$3,500 with a \$2,500 scholarship from the NJEA to offset the cost for participating NJEA members. For an application and additional information go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/programs/07152914trip.pdf>

"Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Civics and Economics with History, Geography and 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, 2014** at Rutgers University. The focus will be on economic and civic choices or decisions and their impact and consequences in history. The program will include lectures and discussions with scholars and practitioners, as well as interactive classroom activities. Application deadline is **May 1, 2014**. Go to www.njcss.org or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> for a registration form.



Teaching with Primary Sources: Evidence-Based Learning is a statewide project of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education and the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies to help students develop critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making skills. The next workshop is scheduled for **December 9, 2014** for grade 3-12 teachers. For teachers who have participated in prior professional development and would like to be trained to offer professional development in their school districts, advanced training will be held on **July 30, 2014**. [Click](#) for additional information and the registration forms or go to <http://www.njcss.org> or <http://civiced.rutgers.edu>.

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is offering the following travel programs for teachers for summer 2014: Japan, India/Nepal, Italy, Portugal/Spain, Amalfi Coast, Greece, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Thailand/Laos, Cambodia, China, Russia/Mongolia/China, Turkey, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana, Morocco, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Peru, and the Galapagos Islands. The registration deadline is **June 1**. For additional information go to www.geeo.org or call 1-877-600-0105.

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Resources for Teachers



With the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey in 1664, there will be many events throughout the year commemorating, celebrating and educating about New Jersey.

The *New Jersey Historical Commission* is sponsoring the development of a series of videos, "It Happened Here in New Jersey," highlighting innovation, diversity and liberty in the history of New Jersey.



Crossroads of the American Revolution is developing a series, "Meet Your Revolutionary Neighbors," that includes short stories about individuals who "lived, worked, struggled and fought in the American Revolution" that will engage adults and students alike in appreciating New Jersey's contributions. See the stories as they develop at <http://www.revolutionarynj.org/share-your-story/>



The *NJ Center for Civic Education* and the *NJ Council for the Social Studies* are working with New Jersey teachers to develop, pilot and disseminate classroom lessons about New Jersey for all grade levels.

The videos will be shown on NJTV and the videos and lessons will be available on the Commission website at <http://nj.gov/state/historical/>, the NJ350 website at <https://officialnj350>, the NJ Center for Civic Education website at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> and the Council's website at www.njcss.org.

The *Museum of Early Crafts & Trades* in Madison, NJ, is offering an exhibits lecture series, "The American Revolution in New Jersey: Where the Battlefield Meets the Homefront":

- Sunday, April 13th at 2pm: "With No Means of Support to Subsist On"--Prof. Adelberg will examine how certain types of people gained and lost wealth during the Revolutionary War. Sunday May 4th at 2pm--James J. Gigantino presents "Slavery and Abolition in Revolutionary New Jersey"
- Sunday June 1st at 2pm--Eleanor H. McConnell presents "New Jersey's Early Iron and Salt Industries"
- Sunday July 13th at 2pm--Todd W. Braisted presents "A Nest of Tories': The American vs. American Battle of Fort Lee, 1781"

To reserve a seat call: 973-377-2982 ext.10. Price: \$7 Non-Members, \$5 Seniors/Students, \$3 members.

The *New Jersey Historical Commission* is offering a series of lectures, *New Jersey: A History of the Garden State*, by leading historians, exploring New Jersey's history from its Native American heritage to its role in the American Revolution, industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and today. The lectures will be held on Friday, **May 2**, 2-3:30 p.m. at Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing and Saturday, **May 17th** 2-3:30 p.m. at Monmouth County Library in Manalapan. For additional information go to www.history.nj.gov.

The 10th annual *Spirit of the Jersey's State History Fair* will be held on Saturday, **May 10, 2014**, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (RAIN OR SHINE) at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, NJ. Parking \$8. For more information email historyfair@dep.state.nj.us or call 609-737-0623.

If you have information about an event, resources, professional development or other activity of interest to social studies educators, please send it by the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's enewsletter to Arlene Gardner at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. Information will be included at the discretion of the editor.

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