

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

January 2013

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to school! Since 2014 will mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey, NJCSS has been working with a statewide consortium (“Think 350: NJ 1664-2014”) of history, arts, cultural and educational institutions to develop ideas to celebrate and commemorate this event. Three themes have been chosen for the celebration: innovation, diversity and liberty. 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, please send it to me. If you would like to pilot some of the lessons being developed, please contact me at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu

Best wishes for the New Year!



Arlene Gardner
President, New Jersey Council for the Social Studies
Executive Director, New Jersey Center for Civic Education

NJ Council for the Social Studies

Spring Conference for K-5. NJCSS and NJSSSA are sponsoring a statewide conference for elementary teachers, supervisors and principals on **March 20, 2013**, “*Literacy and Justice for All: Social Studies and the Common Core for K-5*”. The conference will be held at Rutgers University in Piscataway from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Best practices will be showcased to help teachers integrate literacy and social studies. Workshops will feature creative and engaging strategies to make social studies meaningful for all students and to demonstrate how social studies content, including primary sources, can be used to meet common core ELA and math standards. Elementary teachers who would like to share their innovative ideas and teaching strategies with others are encouraged to send a proposal. **Proposals are due February 1, 2013.** The conference is free but requires a refundable \$20 deposit. The Call for Proposals and the Conference Registration form are on the NJCSS website at www.njcss.org. Email Noel Baxter, conference co-chair, at nbaxter@spfk12.org, to answer any questions.

The Docket. Write an article for the NY-NJ Council for the Social Studies journal, *The Docket*. Send it to Alan.J.Singer@hofstra.edu. Here are the topics and deadlines for the upcoming editions:

- Summer-Fall 2013: Teaching with Common Core (due Feb. 1, 2013)
- Winter-Spring 2014: Environmental Issues in NY, NJ, the US and the World (due May 1, 2013)
- Summer-Fall 2014: Local Women Make History (due Dec. 1, 2013)

The **Middle States Council for the Social Studies** conference, “*C-3 in the Middle States*,” will be held **March 1-2, 2013** in Dover, DE. To register go to <http://www.mscsonline.org/registration-form.html>. The conference is \$80, which includes membership and Saturday lunch.

Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies will be held **April 8, 2013** at Sturbridge Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA. For additional information, to send a proposal or to register, go to <http://www.masscouncil.org/>

Hold the date: NJCSS Annual Fall Conference **October 23, 2013**

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NJSSSA

NJSSSA will be meeting on **Jan. 18, 2013** at NJPSA in Monroe. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. It will focus on teacher preparation and implementation of the new teacher evaluation systems. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/NJSSSA-Jan-18> to register. If you are not yet a member of NJSSSA, go to <http://www.njcss.org/> to join.

Student Events

The 26th annual New Jersey State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution High School Competition* will be held on Monday, **February 4, 2013** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. Students develop and use their critical thinking, writing and speaking skills to respond to questions about U.S. history, government, political philosophy and the development and application of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights in a simulated legislative hearing. The two highest scoring teams (New Jersey has an extra wild card team this year) will have the opportunity to represent New Jersey at the National *We the People* Competition in Virginia in April. Teachers interested in observing should contact the NJ Center for Civic Education at 848-445-3413 or civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

New Jersey History Day provides students the opportunity to complete authentic research on a topic of their choosing based on an annual theme 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* (<http://www.nhd.org/AnnualTheme.htm>). If you are interested in learning more or would like to be a judge at one or more of the contests, please e-mail njhistoryday@wpunj.edu. Regional Contests: March 3, 2013 at the College of New Jersey; March 9, 2013 at Princeton University; March 23, 2013 at Kean University; State Contest: May 4, 2013 at William Paterson University (all Saturdays except March 3).

The **Fourth Annual First Amendment Cartoon Contest** is open to high school, middle school, and elementary school students nationwide. Encourage your students to exercise their creativity by entering the First Amendment Cartoon Contest. Six winners will each receive a \$50 gift card. In addition, up to five entries will receive honorable mentions. Winners and honorable mentions will be announced on Law Day, May 1, 2013, and posted online. Deadline for submissions is **March 15, 2013**. For more information and the contest rules/entry form, go to: www.courtsed.org.

A statewide **Project Citizen Showcase** for students in grades 5-12 will be held on **June 4, 2013** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. Students identify a public policy issue that concerns them, conduct research, including interviews with local officials, identify possible solutions and select and promote the solution that they think best solves the problem. This is authentic, cross-curriculum, project-based learning at its best! Students prepare a digital presentation (powerpoint, video, website or other digital media) and present it orally to a panel of community members and to other students at the Showcase. Digital presentations may be sent for display on the *Project Citizen* website without participation in the June Showcase. Teachers interested in having their class participate in the *Project Citizen* Showcase should contact the NJ Center for Civic Education at 848-445-3413 or civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

National Economic Challenge. With support from State Farm®, students apply their economics knowledge and work in teams to compete at State, National Semi-Final, and National Final levels. In each competition, teams of students answer rigorous questions on microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, and current events. At the National Final, students complete rounds of testing, work in teams to solve case problems, and participate in a quick-paced oral quiz-bowl in order to compete for the title of National Champions. To learn more about the competition format, check out the [participation information](#).

Euro Challenge is a free program that enables 9th and 10th grade students to explore economic and other challenging issues facing the euro area, propose solutions, and compete against other teams from across the United States. Student teams select and research an issue and present their findings during regionals in March. The top teams then compete in the national finals at the Federal Reserve Bank of NY in April. Winning teams earn monetary awards and a trip to Washington DC. To register visit www.euro-challenge.org/registration.html or contact Brian Scios at 212-421-2700 or bscios@wise-ny.org

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The **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program** provides awards for outstanding seventh-grade students, including financial support for educational and extracurricular activities, as well as one-on-one help applying to high schools, colleges, summer programs, and more. Students with exemplary academic records and substantial financial need are encouraged to apply. More details are available at <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/young-scholars-program/>. Free webinars about the application process will be held on Thursday, January 10 and Thursday, January 24 at 7 p.m. To register for either session go to <http://cty.jhu.edu/talent/events/webinar.html>. Contact Lionel Foster at 410-735-6270 or email (jkinfo@jhu.edu).

The **2013 SPIRIT of the JERSEYS 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

Classroom Teaching Ambassador Fellowships are available from the U.S. Department of Education. Positions are paid for one year on a full- and part-time basis. Teaching Ambassadors are outstanding teachers with a record of leadership, strong communication skills, and policy insight who contribute their classroom expertise to the national dialogue and in turn facilitate discussions with educators across the country. Additionally, Fellows have strong support from their professional communities and have participated in training or development activities that sharpen their capacity to quickly learn about and contribute to discussions on education policy. More information about the program and application is available at www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellows hip. Application deadline: **January 29, 2013**.

Teaching with Primary Sources. With support from the Library of Congress, the NJ Center for Civic Education is offering an **Advanced** Teaching with Primary Sources workshop on **February 12, 2013** at Rutgers Livingston Campus Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for those who participated in a BASIC workshop or have used primary sources in their classrooms. A \$25 registration fee is required. Breakfast, lunch and a certificate for five hours of professional development will be provided, in addition to extensive resource materials. To register go to http://civiced.rutgers.edu/PRIMARY_SOURCES/overview.shtml or to <http://www.njcss.org/>. A **Basic** Teaching with Primary Sources course will be offered online on Wednesdays, Feb. 27-Mar. 27 at 1:00-2:00 p.m. or 5:30-6:30 p.m. Register online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BV7X96H>. For more information go to: <http://tps.waynesburg.edu/tpseasternregion/events>.

The Newark Museum. On Saturday, **Feb. 23, 2013**, from 2 to 4 p.m., the Newark Museum will be presenting a staged reading of a new play "Raising David Walker," to introduce this early 19th century Black abolitionist as part of the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. Connections to the Museum's art collection will also be made and a discussion with the playwright, director, and actors will follow. The performance is suitable for high school students and adults and is free with Museum admission. For additional information about educational resources provided by the Museum, go to <http://www.newarkmuseum.org/TeacherPrograms.html>.

The **Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers** is offering professional development workshops from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the following topics this winter and spring: "The History and Culture of Asians/Asian Americans in the US" (Feb. 1), "A Brief History of Time...keeping" (February 8), "What Is Africa to Me?" (March 1), "American Families: From the Puritans to the Present" (March 15), "Japanese American Internment: Perspectives on Trans-Pacific Relations, Citizenship, and Labor" (March 12), "The Early Republic 1787-1824: Political, Cultural, and Legal Changes" (April 4), "The New Deal and the Social Safety Net, 1929-Present" (April 17), "American Industrialization: The New Jersey Experience" (April 25). For more information and to register, contact rcha@rci.rutgers.edu or go to: <http://rcha.rutgers.edu/institute-for-high-school-teachers/seminars/2012-2013-seminar-schedule>.

The **National Endowment for the Humanities** is offering 15 different summer seminars and institutes for teachers ranging from two to five weeks at locations across the country. An NEH Summer Seminar for school teachers enables sixteen participants to explore a topic or set of readings with an expert scholar. The core material of the seminar need not relate directly to the school curriculum. The principal goal of the seminar is to engage teachers in the scholarly enterprise and to expand and deepen their understanding of the humanities through reading, discussion, writing, and reflection. NEH Summer Scholars are awarded stipends to help cover travel costs, books and other research expenses, and living expenses, based on the length of the NEH Summer Seminar or Institute: \$2,100 (2 weeks), \$2,700 (3 weeks), \$3,300 (4 weeks), \$3,900 (5 weeks), or \$4,500 (6 weeks). Program descriptions and applications are available at <http://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs>. Deadline for all program applications is **March 4, 2013**.

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An NEH workshop on “[The Hudson River in the Nineteenth Century and the Modernization of America](#)” will be held July 7-12 at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The workshop will focus on the Hudson in the nineteenth century, when the river was simultaneously a commercial thoroughfare, a tourist destination and the scene of dramatic technological, industrial, and environmental changes, all the while celebrated for its iconic natural beauty. Site visits and trips along the river are complemented by lectures and workshops by expert scholars. The program is open to K-12 educators, who will receive a \$1200 stipend for attending and earn professional development credits. See <http://nehudson.ramapo.edu> for a full description and link to application instructions and materials. Registration deadline **March 4, 2013**.

The Center for Civic Education is hosting [Political and Constitutional Theory for Citizens: National Academy for Civics and Government](#) at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The three-week institute will take place July 6–27, 2013. For additional information go to <http://new.civiced.org/national-academy-for-civics-and-government> or contact John Hale at johnnce@aol.com. Registration deadline **March 4, 2013**.

[Educator Academy in the Amazon Rainforest + Machu Picchu](#). This cross-curricular professional development workshop for K-12 formal and informal educators will be held July 2-11, 2013. The Amazon experience is a real world lens through which to view global issues--climate change, global health, sustainable development, energy, population, water, quality of life and the meaning of service. Land cost is \$1985, plus air. \$1000 scholarship available. Deadline **March 8, 2013**. See Syllabus on at <http://www.amazonworkshops.com/educators--naturalists.html>. Contact christa@amazonworkshops.com or 1-800-431-3634.

The [Supreme Court Summer Institute](#), sponsored by Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society, will be held June 13-18 and June 20-25, 2013. The Institute is open to secondary level social studies teachers and supervisors, who will spend six stimulating days on Capitol Hill and inside the Supreme Court learning about the Court, its past and current cases, and how to teach about them from top Supreme Court litigators and educators. For full information and to apply online (under “Registration Info”), go to www.streetlaw.org/scsi_apply. The application deadline is **March 11, 2013**.

[The 1913 Paterson Silk Strike Revisited 100 Year Later](#) on **March 20, 2013** at the Botto House in Haledon, NJ, is a seminar to enable teachers to learn about the historic figures and events that led to the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike and the significance it has 100 years later, as a means of integrating labor and immigrant studies into the classroom. There will also be a Paterson Bus Tour, which includes a tour of Paterson’s historic immigrant and labor sites, on **May 15, 2013**. For additional information call 973-595-7953 or visit www.labormuseum.net.

The [New Jersey Council for the Humanities](#) is offering a five-day Summer Institute, “From the Textbook to the Polling Booth: Politics in Theory and Practice,” July 21-26, 2013 to be held at Kean University. Using the upcoming New Jersey gubernatorial election as a backdrop, this seminar explores key tenets of democratic thought as expressed in works past and contemporary. Participants will think about ways to use these tenets 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/> Deadline: **May 1, 2013**.

“[Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Economic and Civics 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, 2013 at Rutgers University. The focus will be on economic and civic choices or decisions and their impact or consequences in history (the Constitution, the Civil War, the rise of big business, the great depression) and today. The program will include lectures and discussions with scholars and practitioners, a simulated legislative hearing, a budget game, historical roleplaying, primary source analysis, and curriculum development. A registration form will be available on the NJCSS website at www.njcss.org by February 1, 2013. Application deadline is **May 1, 2013**.

Resources for Teachers

Three chapters of the NCSS Bulletin, “[The Human Impact of Natural Disasters: Issues for the Inquiry-Based Classroom](#),” published by NCSS and edited by Val Pang, Jack Nelson and Bill Fernekes, are available online and can be downloaded from the Rutgers GSE website (<http://gse.rutgers.edu>, click “Addressing Natural Disasters in School.”) The full Bulletin can be ordered from NCSS by going to <http://www.socialstudies.org/publications/books>.

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K-4 sample social studies units. Members of NJSSSA and NJCSS have been working for the past year to develop 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 NJSSSA Professional Network site at <http://tinyurl.com/NJSSSA-K4> as well as the NJCSS website at <http://www.njcss.org/>. A committee will be working to develop sample social studies scope and sequence and units for grade 5-8, starting the end of January. Contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested in helping.

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.

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>

Resources for Teaching about the Holocaust and Genocides: *The World We Must Know; The History of the Holocaust as Told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* (Michael Berenbaum); *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (Doris Bergen); *Defining the Horrific: Readings on Genocide and Holocaust in the 20th Century* (William Hewitt); *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* (Samantha Power); *Century of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts* (Samuel Totten and William Parsons); "Echoes and Reflections: Holocaust Education for the 21st century" (curriculum guide and DVD of visual testimony)(Anti-Defamation League at <http://www.echoesandreflections.org/>); Facing History and Ourselves Program at <http://www.facing.org/> including [A Convenient Hatred: The History of Anti-Semitism](#) and an online Holocaust and Human Behavior online course on Feb. 2, 2013.

How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character (Paul Tough). Tough, who has served as an editor at both *The New York Times* and *This American Life*, spent two years interviewing students, teachers, and experts from the fields of neuroscience, economics, and character education. He concludes that success in later life depends on childhood mastery of traits like grit, conscientiousness, curiosity, and optimism rather than simply intelligence, and that these traits can be encouraged in children and can help them pull themselves out of poverty.

Policy/Advocacy

C-3 Framework. The National Council for the Social Studies is working with 22 states, 15 professional organizations, and the Council for Chief State Officers to develop a "College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Inquiry in Social Studies Standards." The purpose of the Framework is to help states upgrade their existing social studies standards. New Jersey is not part of the consortium and has recently updated its social studies standards; however, you may want to look at the Framework for a coherent approach aligned with the ELA common core standards. A Vision Statement is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2012/11%202012%202012%20Vision%20Statement%20College%20Career%20and%20Civic%20Life%20Framework.pdf>. The Framework will be finalized and made public in the spring or summer of 2013.

Teacher Evaluations. Evaluation systems should foster a dialogue about professional practice. As the "experts" in the field, it is in our best interest to engage in the process to help shape that dialogue and "unpack" the frameworks in terms that enhance our profession. Research-based frameworks that identify what we know to be "best practices" are the best protection against the arbitrary winds of politics.

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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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