

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

November 2013

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

The **Annual Fall New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Conference** held on Wednesday, **October 23, 2013** was a fabulous success by any measure! More than 320 social studies educators and 25 exhibitors participated in this year's fall conference, which was held at Rutgers University in Piscataway. This year's conference theme, "Social Studies at the Core: Authentic Teaching, Learning and Assessment," was addressed by a variety of presenters from New Jersey school districts, universities and national organizations. Participants called the day "amazing, exciting and useful." "Fabulous." "Strong break-out sessions." "Every year I come to the conference and get at least one new great idea to use the classroom." "Definitely the best conference I have been to the past six years."



Lawrence Charap from the College Board talks about the new AP US History exam



Rutgers Prof. Ross Baker discusses bipartisanship



Bill Wingren from Montclair explains the We the People program and the Common Core



Manhattan College Prof. Harry Stein shares ideas for learning more quickly and forgetting more slowly



Georgian Court Prof. Nancy Sardone demonstrates economics lessons for elementary grades



NJ social studies educators discover the latest social studies classroom materials



Edison's Angela Smith and Sayreville's Kevin Bloom share ideas about using primary sources



NJ Historical Commission director Sara Cureton and Kean history Prof. Jonathan Mercantini invite educators to be part of NJ350

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If you are going to the NJEA Convention, stop by the NJCSS table and come to the NJCSS-sponsored workshop, *"Making History Relevant, Making History Real,"* on **Thursday, November 7, 9:15-11:00 a.m.**

Spring Conference for K-5 Educators. NJCSS and NJSSSA are sponsoring a statewide conference for elementary teachers, supervisors and principals, **"Student Growth: Reading and Writing through Social Studies,"** on **March 19, 2014.** 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 standards. There is a \$25 registration fee. Go to <http://www.njcss.org> for the Call for Workshop Proposals and the conference registration form. Workshop proposals are due February 1, 2014. Registration deadline is March 7, 2014.

The Docket is the professional journal of the New Jersey and New York Councils for the Social Studies. The next edition, **Winter-Spring 2014,** will focus on "Local Women (NY and NJ) Who Made History". If you have a lesson or idea on this topic, send it to Alan Singer, editor, at Alan.J.Singer@hofstra.edu, by **December 1, 2013.**

SAVE THE DATE: The next annual NJCSS Fall Conference will be held on **October 22, 2014.**

Awards

The 2013 NJCSS Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Jefferson Township high school teacher Dan Papa at the October 23, 2013 annual fall NJCSS conference. Past recipients of this annual award include: Brenda Noble, Maxson Middle School, Plainfield; Judy Aronson, Dwight Englewood High School, Englewood; and John Russell, Burlington City High School.



NJCSS Past President Fred Cotterell congratulating Hank Bitten for receiving the 2013 Social Studies Educator Award



NJCSS President Arlene Gardner reads the NJCSS Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award to the 2013 recipient, Dan Papa, from Jefferson Township High School

The 2013 NJSSSA/NJCSS Social Studies Educator Award was presented to Hank Bitten, retired social studies supervisor from the Ramapo-Indian Hills Regional High School District. Prior recipients of this lifetime achievement award are William Fernekes, former supervisor at Hunterdon Central Regional High School and now an adjunct at the Rutgers Graduate School of Education; and Fred Cotterell, former supervisor at Paramus School District and now an adjunct at Montclair State University.

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

NJSSSA will be meeting at the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association facility in Monroe on:
January 31, 2014: AP US History and Technology Resources, Constitutional Review & Vote, C3 Framework Follow-Up
May 16, 2014: Common Core and Social Studies, Board Elections, PARCC, Teacher Evaluation Debrief
A link will be available before each meeting for those interested in attending to register.

National Council for the Social Studies

It is not too late to register for the Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies, to be held in St. Louis, MO, **November 22-24, 2013.** Go to the NCSS website at www.socialstudies.org for additional information, to become a member and to sign up for the conference.

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Middle States Council for the Social Studies

The annual Middle States Conference, "C3: A World of Inquiry," will be held on **February 21-22, 2014** in Falls Church, VA. Send a workshop proposal by using the vendor/presenter form and/or register to participate at <http://www.mscssoonline.org/>. In addition to speakers and workshops, this year's conference will include a special trip to Mount Vernon.

Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies

The Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies will be held **April 7-9, 2014** at Sturbridge Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA. To register go to <http://www.masscouncil.org/>

Student Events

First Freedom Center is holding its 21st annual **First Freedom Student Competition**. This **national essay and video contest** offers **9th-12th grade students** an opportunity to compete for **\$2,500 awards** as they examine the history and implementation of freedom of religion and conscience in American democracy and the world today. This school year's topic asks students to write about international religious freedom. Students will be introduced to Article 18 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the place of religious liberty in U.S. history and U.S. foreign policy. Their task will be to assess current-day events in terms of international human rights and history. For the topic, guidelines, registration, classroom poster, student flyer and other details, visit www.firstfreedom.org. The online student registration deadline is Monday, **November 18, 2013**. New Jersey has had several winners over the past ten years.

The **National History Bee and Bowl** is getting set for its fourth year of history quiz tournaments across the USA. The History Bee (for individual students) and History Bowl (for teams) are two separate history quiz competitions which are held throughout the USA in a series of regional competitions. The top students and teams qualify for the National Championships in the spring. The questions reference all eras and fields of history, including history of the arts, sciences, religion, historical geography, and even a bit of sports and entertainment history. For more information on the elementary and middle school division, see www.historybee.com. For the high school division tournaments, go to www.historybowl.com and www.hs.historybee.com. Cost: \$75 per student; \$150 for school. Deadline to register is **January 24, 2014**.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution provides an understanding of the political philosophy underlying our Constitution and Bill of Rights and their impact in history and relevance to current-day issues. Materials are available for upper elementary, middle and high school grades. An enhanced high school *We the People* e-book is now available at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/publications/ebooks/new-enhanced-ebook>. A statewide high school competition in the format of a simulated legislative hearing is held annually. See a five-minute video about the program produced by Classroom Close-Up at <http://bcove.me/wcuf1cbi>. The 2014 State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* high school competition will be held on **February 5, 2014** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. If you would like to bring a class to participate in the competition or if you would like to observe the competition, contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. The winning state teams will meet for the National *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* competition April 26-29, 2014 in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

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 **February 14, 2014** 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>

World of 7 Billion Video Contest. Bring technology and creativity into your high school social studies classes by incorporating the World of 7 Billion video contest into your syllabi. Challenge your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between a world population at 7 billion and one of the following: climate change, global poverty, or water sustainability. Students can win up to \$1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is **February 21, 2014**. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at www.Worldof7Billion.org

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ConSource and the **Harlan Institute** are hosting the second annual **Virtual Supreme Court Competition**. This year's question is the scope of the President's recess appointment powers. Teams of high school students research constitutional law, write persuasive appellate briefs, argue against other students through video chats, and try to persuade a panel of attorneys during oral argument. The first stage has student teams writing an appellate brief arguing for one side of a topic by **February 28, 2014**. Teams then advance and the top two teams compete virtually in front of a panel of prominent appellate attorneys in May of 2014. The winning team will receive a free trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the ConSource Constitution Day celebration in September 2014. Members of the runner-up team will each receive an iPad. For additional information go to ConSource_Inc@mail.vresp.com.

New Jersey History Day is an exciting and comprehensive way to address and integrate English, Science, Technology, Math, Drama, and History. The program gives your students the chance to engage in primary research individually or as a group and to present their findings through papers, projects, performances or media. The 2014 National History Day theme is "Rights and Responsibilities". Three regional competitions will be held in the spring: **March 8** at Princeton; **March 29** at Seton Hall and **April 6** at TCNJ. The state contest will be Saturday, **May 3, 2014** at William Paterson University. More judges are needed. For further information and to sign up as a judge, go to <http://nj.nhd.org/state.htm> or email NJHISTORYDAY@wpunj.edu.

Euro Challenge offers 9th and 10th grade students an opportunity to explore the economic and political issues facing the euro area, propose solutions, and compete against other teams from across the United States. Student teams select from a range of challenge issues, such as the debt crisis in Greece, the challenges to growth in Italy, or the aging population in countries like Germany, and research and present their findings during **regional competitions in March**. The top teams then compete in the national finals at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in April. Winning teams earn monetary awards and a trip to Washington DC. To register, visit www.euro-challenge.org/registration.html or contact Chelsea Ziobro at 212-421-2700 or cziobro@wise-ny.org for more information.

The **National Economics Challenge** enables high school students to apply their knowledge of economics in a fun, challenging, and rewarding contest. The Adam Smith Division is for students enrolled in advanced placement economics or international baccalaureate programs and the David Ricardo Division is for students enrolled in one semester or less of general economic courses. The top four teams from the state competitions in each division meet in New York City in **May** for the National Economics Challenge Finals. For more information, visit the [National Economics Challenge page](#).

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>.

Professional Development

Crossroads of the American Revolution has partnered with George Washington's Mount Vernon, NJ Division of Parks and Forestry, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, NJ Historical Commission, Monmouth Battlefield State Park, and Morristown National Historical Park to present **George Washington and the War for Independence in New Jersey**. Educators are invited to learn about the role that George Washington, Monmouth, and Morristown played in the founding of our nation at **FREE** workshops. **George Washington's Mount Vernon in Monmouth** will be held at Monmouth Battlefield State Park on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, 9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. To register go to <http://gwmvmonmouth.eventbrite.com>. **George Washington's Mount Vernon in Morristown** will be held at Morristown National Historical Park on Friday, Nov. 15, 2013, 9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. To register go to <http://gwmvmorristown.eventbrite.com/>

The **Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers** is offering the following seminars, taught by Rutgers University faculty, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the 2013-2014 academic year:

- Fri., Nov. 15: The Centrality of Graphic Illustrations for Teaching World History
- Thurs., Nov. 21: The Culture of the 1960s
- Thurs., Dec. 5: Ceramics and Society in Global History
- Sat., Dec. 7: North America's Spanish and Mexican Frontiers, 1500-1850

Click [here](#) for registration information.

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The **Council for Economic Education** is offering a series of workshop in New York City for area teachers:

- Nov. 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: [Teaching Economics Using Children's Literature and Play Dough](#) (K-6)
- Dec. 3, 4:30-7:30 p.m.: [Global Lessons with Common Core Alignment, and How to Apply for Free Trips to Germany](#) (5-12)
- Dec. 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: [Google Apps, Gen i Revolution and Board Games to Teach Economics and Personal Finance](#) (5-12)

[Visit the CEE website](#) for information on presenters, workshop locations and how to register for these FREE professional development opportunities. For more information, contact Doug Young at DYoung@councilforeconed.org

The Alliance for NJ Environmental Education is sponsoring its 29th annual Conference, "Cultivating Environmental Citizenship," on **January 24-25, 2014** at the Crowne Plaza in Plainsboro. Go to www.anjee.org for information and registration.

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. For teachers interested in hands-on workshops to help them develop standards-based classroom activities using primary sources and inquiry-based instructional strategies, a professional development workshop for **upper elementary teachers and librarians** will be held at Rutgers University on **January 29, 2014**. A day-long workshop for **secondary school social studies teachers and supervisors** will be held at Rutgers University on **February 12, 2014**. An advanced workshop for teachers who have participated in prior professional development and would like to be trained to offer professional development in their school districts will be held on **April 2, 2014**. The goal is not only for students to better understand the past but also to help students develop critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making skills. [Click](#) for additional information and the registration forms or go to <http://www.njcss.org>

Princeton University's East Asian Studies Program is offering its annual seminar on Teaching East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) for K-12 teachers. Teachers receive instruction from Princeton faculty in various disciplines, including history anthropology, art, religion, and literature. The seminar leader provides materials and methods for bringing East Asia into the classroom. A grant from the Freeman Foundation provides texts, curriculum materials, a small stipend, and the opportunity to apply for a subsidized study tour. In the past twelve years, over fifty New Jersey teachers have traveled to East Asia through this program. The seminar meets one Saturday per month at Princeton University. For questions and a full brochure and application, email lesley86@hotmail.com

A **Graduate Certificate Program in Holocaust and Genocide Education** is being offered by the College of Saint Elizabeth beginning in **spring, 2014**. The certificate can be completed in one year, with classes in the late afternoon/early evening and summer. Courses provide educators with knowledge and critical understanding of the Holocaust and contemporary genocides as well as strategies and resources for curriculum development, teaching, and assessment. Those accepted to the program who enroll in the first course, "Genocide and Human Rights in Modern History", may apply for one of ten \$500 Inaugural Scholarships. For course details go to <http://www.cse.edu/herc>. For further information, contact apply@cse.edu.

Colonial Williamsburg has six elementary, two middle and two high school 5-6-day summer programs available for teachers in June and July 2014. 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>

A Summer Study **Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers' Program** will be held **July 1-19, 2014**, including a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C, and travel to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. Teacher's share of the costs is \$3000. For additional information and the application go to <http://www.hajrtp.org/>. Deadline for applications is **March 14, 2014**.

"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.

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Resources for Teachers

Election Lessons. In anticipation of the gubernatorial and state legislative elections this **November 5th**, we've put election lessons on www.njcss.org and <http://civiced.rutgers.edu>. ALSO REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht. The College of Saint Elizabeth is presenting a free, public program, "*The Future of Survivor Testimony*," on **November 11**, 7:30 – 9:15 p.m., as the opening event for its Week of Holocaust Remembrance. The program is co-sponsored by the Office of the Governor, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, and the Holocaust Council of MetroWest. For additional information, contact: holocaustcenter@cse.edu.

The **New Jersey Historical Commission** is sponsoring its annual conference with Eagleton Institute on Saturday, **November 16, 2013**, at Rutgers University Douglass Campus Center, New Brunswick 9:00 – 4:30. The conference will explore the office of the New Jersey governor from the Colonial Era to the present. A panel of former governors, moderated by MSNBC host of Up, Steve Kornacki, will consider the role the media played in their administrations. Michael Birkner of Gettysburg College will begin the day with a talk about the unique powers of New Jersey's executive and highlight some of the trailblazing governors who personally shaped state history. Marc Mappen, Barbara Salmore and John Wefing will explore 350 years of the governorship in a lively panel discussion. For more information about the conference visit www.history.nj.gov and <http://governors.rutgers.edu/>. Registration deadline: **November 8, 2013**.

The **Foreign Policy Research Institute's** Nov. 2-3 History Institute on "*The Invention of the Modern Middle East, Post-World War I, and the Reinvention of the Middle East, Post-Arab Spring*" will be live-streamed in three segments: Saturday day at <https://new.livestream.com/accounts/5077589/events/2472369>; Saturday night at <https://new.livestream.com/accounts/5077589/events/2508282>; and Sunday day at <https://new.livestream.com/accounts/5077589/events/2508289>. The webcast will also be archived at: www.fpri.org

NJ350. New Jersey began as a royal gift from the King of England in 1664. In 2014, New Jersey will be turning 350! Numerous events are being planned across the state to celebrate and commemorate the 350th anniversary. *The Star-Ledger* will be publishing "This Week in New Jersey History" starting in January 2014. A series of New Jersey-focused classroom lessons are being developed and will be available online for teachers. For additional information about events and resources, go to <http://www.officialnj350.com>. 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.

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.

Legislators Back to School. If you would like to invite one of your members of the New Jersey State Legislature to your classroom, go to www.njleg.state.nj.us/ to find your members of the state legislature and their contact information. You may also want to contact Dawn Temperino at the NJ Legislature at dtemperino@njleg.org for additional information about planning for your legislator's visit.

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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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