

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

November 2014

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

The Annual Fall Conference of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies was held on October 22, 2014 at Rutgers Busch Campus Center in Piscataway. Over 320 social studies educators--pre-service teachers, university faculty, supervisors and K-12 classroom teachers--participated in this day of professional development and sharing, which included 30 workshops, 25 exhibits, a keynote address, videos about New Jersey's history for NJ350, awards and doorprizes. Some highlights:

The Council will NOT be sponsoring a spring conference for elementary teachers in 2015 due to the time pressures of PARCC assessments. Instead, a two-day conference will be offered next fall: **October 20, 2015** (for grades K-8) and **October 21, 2015** (for grades 6-12). Go to www.njcass.org for the Call for Workshop Proposals form to submit by June 1, 2015 for the 2015 NJCSS Conference.



Keynote speaker Montclair State University Prof. Dr. Fernando Naiditch talks about culturally responsive teaching in the social studies classroom



Conference participants sample and discuss the use of various classroom materials with exhibitors



Denville middle school teacher Matt Farber presents a workshop on "Game-Based Argumentative Thinking"



Jefferson Township teacher James Smith demonstrates a way to teach about New Jersey and the American Revolution using community resources

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NJ Dept. of Education social studies coordinator Beverly Plein discusses the Common Core and model assessments



Scotch Plains teacher Julianne Gorton discusses "Steps to Success with Service Learning"



A compilation of videos, "It Happened Here: New Jersey" are shown from the NJ350 website



Kathleen Brennan, from Mt. St. Mary Academy, shares tips on how to teach U.S. History through the lens of economics



NJCSS President Bill Wingren presents the 2014 Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award to Burlington High School teacher Dawn Lambert



NJSSSA President and conference chair Noel Baxter presents the Social Studies Educator of the Year Award to Nutley Social Studies Supervisor Award to Robert O'Dell

NJSSSA

The next meeting of New Jersey social studies supervisors will be held on **January 30, 2015** at NJPSA in Monroe. If you have not become a joint member of NJCSS and NJSSSA, you can still register by going to www.njcss.org.

National Council for the Social Studies

The annual NCSS conference will be held on **November 21-23, 2014** in Boston. Confirmed speakers include Ken Burns, Eric Foner and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Don't wait! Register at <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference>.

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Nominate a woman who has made a significant influence on New Jersey history for the New Jersey Women's History website! Nominees should be women who had a substantial impact on New Jersey women's history prior to 2000. Learn about current women highlighted on the website at www.njwomenshistory.org. To nominate a woman, or learn more about the guidelines, visit <http://www.njwomenshistory.org/nominations> or contact Kris Myers at kmyers@alicepaul.org. The deadline for nominations is Friday, **January 30, 2015**.

Social Studies Policies

Revised New Jersey State Social Studies Standards. The New Jersey Department of Education has incorporated the minor language changes that were suggested to clarify and consolidate some of the CPIs in the state social studies standards. You can find the revised standards at <http://www.nj.gov/education/news/2014/standards/SS.pdf>.

Student Events



We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The annual New Jersey State ***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** High School Competition will be held on **January 21, 2015**. For additional information and to see a five-minute video about the program go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/wethepeople.html>. If you are interested in bringing a competing class or observing the state competition contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu. If you are interested in free access to the *We the People* ebook for middle or high school, go to www.civiced.org.

New Jersey History Day is looking for Volunteer Judges for the 2015 student competitions:

- Sunday, **March 1** at Rutgers University
- Saturday, **March 7** at Kean University
- Saturday, **March 28** at Princeton University
- Saturday, **May 2** State Competition at William Paterson University

For more information, contact Nicolette Solomita at njhistoryday@wpunj.edu.



Project Citizen involves students in understanding public policy and emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government. The New Jersey State Project Citizen Digital Portfolio Showcase will be held online. Digital portfolios must be submitted by **May 22, 2015**. If you plan to send a class project, register your class by **January 23, 2015** by emailing civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu. [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers. For additional information about *Project Citizen* and projects from the last three years go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/projectcitizen.html>

Virtual Supreme Court competition offers teams of two high school students the opportunity to research cutting-edge constitutional law, write persuasive appellate briefs, argue against other students through video chats, and try to persuade a panel of attorneys during oral argument that their side is correct. The members of the grand-prize winning team will receive a free trip, including airfare and one night of hotel accommodations, to Washington, D.C. to attend the ConSource Constitution Day celebration in September 2015. Teachers interested in having their students participate should sign up at www.HarlanInstitute.org to get started. Send questions to info@harlaninstitute.org or info@consource.org.

The World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest can help bring technology and creativity into your high school social studies classes. The contest challenges students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges: available farmland, global education, or the sixth extinction. Students can win up to \$1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is **February 19, 2015**. Go to www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest for guidelines and resources.

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Speak Truth To Power Video Contest gives middle and high school students the opportunity to embrace the responsibility of making the world a better place through learning about social justice. The contest is a collaboration with the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, the American Federation of Teachers and the Tribeca Film Institute. Judges will look for 3-5 minute videos that demonstrate independence, content knowledge and creative storytelling. The winning film will be premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. For details, resources and a look at past winners, visit: www.speaktruthvideo.com



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 starting a local chapter at your high school. Visit <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org>. for more information.



Office of Legislative Services State House Tour. Trained staff and volunteers provide tours and programs that match school curriculum and bring the lessons of the classroom to life in our State's capitol. Go to http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visiting_teacher_guide.asp for additional information. To schedule a visit or ask a question, call the Tour Office at 609-847-3150.



Eagleton's Youth Political Participation Program "**State House Express**" program provides awards of up to \$350 to help eligible middle and high school classes to pay for bus rental costs to take classes on field trips to the State House in Trenton. Visit yppp.rutgers.edu for application details and teacher resources.

Professional Development



The New Jersey Forum, presented by the New Jersey Historical Commission in partnership with The New Jersey State Archives, New Jersey State Museum and Kean University, will be held at Kean University on **November 21-22, 2014**. The Forum will feature notable public historians and scholars. Roundtable discussions and panel sessions will explore new research on New Jersey's history. For more information visit www.history.nj.gov or www.officialnj350.com.



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 provide teachers with an ability to use primary sources to help students develop critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making skills. The next workshop will be held on **December 9, 2014** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. The workshop will be repeated on **April 2, 2015**. [Click](#) for additional information and the registration form.

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Princeton East Asia Seminar for K-12 teachers offers free seminars at Princeton University once a month on Saturdays, November 2014-May 2015 and a study tour of China and Japan or South Korea. For information contact Richard Chafey at chafey@princeton.edu or Lesley Solomon at lesley86@hotmail.com.

The **Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers** provides teachers with an opportunity to work with noted scholars for in-depth study and analysis of topics central to their teaching. All workshops run 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Visit <http://rcha.rutgers.edu/institute-for-high-school-teachers/seminars/2014-2015-seminar-schedule> for a full schedule, course descriptions and registration information.

Resources for Teachers



Put a Little New Jersey in Your Classroom. To commemorate the 350th anniversary of New Jersey, the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies and the New Jersey Center for Civic Education have received a small grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to collect, create, pilot and disseminate classroom lessons about New Jersey that will help teachers to teach about the people, places and events that shaped the development of the state, and to place historical events and sites in New Jersey into the broader context of United States and world history.

Currently, 20 of the 60 lessons are online at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/njlessons.html>. Additional lessons will be uploaded after they are piloted this fall. If you have a lesson about New Jersey that you would like to share, or if you would like to pilot any of the lessons email agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu.



With the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey in 1664, the **New Jersey Historical Commission** is

sponsoring the development of a series of 90 second videos, "It Happened Here in New Jersey," highlighting innovation, diversity and liberty in the history of New Jersey. The videos are being shown on NJTV and the videos and lessons are available on the Commission website at <http://nj.gov/state/historical/>, and the NJ350 website at <http://officialnj350.com/>.

Want to join in **the NJ350th Anniversary Celebration** before 2014 comes to a close? **NJ350 Pop-Up Stores** with New Jersey mugs, "Jerseyopoly" board games, "Goodnight, Jersey" children's book, and state-branded books about New Jersey's history, food, politics, quirks and more are "popping up" in towns around the state between now and the year's end, including:

- Atlantic City—Nov. 13-15
- Montclair—Nov. 21-29
- Bridgeton—Dec. 5-7
- South Orange—Dec. 11-14
- Trenton—Dec. 26-31



Crossroads of the American Revolution has a variety of education resources about the American Revolution in New Jersey, including field trips, trunk shows, information about battles and encampments and a timeline, at www.revolutionarynj.org/learn; as well as lectures, walks, exhibits, reenactments and games from Bergen County to Cape May at www.revolutionarynj.org/events; and short stories about individuals who "lived, worked, struggled and fought in the American Revolution" at www.revolutionarynj.org/meet-your-revolutionary-neighbors. Visit your "Revolutionary Neighbors" to get a first-hand perspective on the American Revolution in New Jersey.

Tour Alice Paul's home on Saturday, **November 8th** and the second Saturday of each month. A tour of Paulsdale, the Mt. Laurel birthplace of Quaker suffragist Alice Paul who led the final campaign that achieved women's right to vote, is offered at 12 noon and 1 p.m. For information contact Claire Schmieder, program associate, at claires@alicepaul.org or 856-231-1885.

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“Memory After Belsen”. This documentary feature film follows the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor as she discovers the reality of her grandmother's experience. Her journey to the Bergen-Belsen grounds serves as a springboard for exploring issues of memory. Voices of leading scholars and educators contribute to this unique program on the future of Holocaust memory and how it is portrayed in contemporary culture through film, the arts, human rights initiatives and education. The film will be shown on Thursday, **November 20th** at 6:30 p.m., followed by a meeting with the filmmakers, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place in New York. **RSVP:** joshua@strmedia.com. For more information: www.memoryafterbelsen.com

Living Voices brings to your school a distinctive performance of theater, video and interaction that involves students in a visceral and compassionate understanding of key episodes in American history. Programs include the American Revolution, Immigration, Women's Rights, the Gold Rush, the Depression, Japanese Internment, Civil Rights, the Holocaust, and others. For more information email livingvoices@livingvoices.com or go to the website at www.livingvoices.org.

Gordon Thomas Ward provides unique historical programs for schools. Author, musician, and former teacher, Ward offers programs for schools or classrooms for teachers and students, grades 4-12. Acoustic performances of original songs and projected photos are included in the shows, which include the writing process, legends and history, local railroad history, Lewis and Clark, the poetry of Robert Frost, the Trail of Tears, and New Jersey's role in the Revolutionary War and *The*

Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Visit www.gordonthomasward.com for additional information and correspondence.

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

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