

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

September 2012

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

This year's NJCSS Conference, "*Social Studies and the Common Core: Moving Forward*," will be held on **Wednesday, October 24, 2012** at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, Piscataway. It will include two plenary and 27 breakout workshops for elementary, middle and high school teachers, as well as the opportunity to see the most up-to-date resources available and to talk with your colleagues. The annual conference is the only time that social studies teachers, supervisors and university faculty across the state come together to share ideas, concerns and materials.

Join us for the annual conference and renew your annual membership in NJCSS/NJSSSA with one registration form! The combined conference and membership registration fee is \$75 for teachers and \$90 for supervisors (joint NJCSS/ NJSSSA membership). If you are unable to go to the conference, join us a member for \$25 (\$40 for joint membership). Membership includes *The Docket* (the journal of the NY and NJ Councils for the Social Studies), e-newsletters, social studies listserv, website resources and meetings. Both forms are attached and also available on the NJCSS website at <http://www.njcss.org>.

The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies can now be found on your favorite social media sites! Visit the new twitter account for NJCSS at <https://twitter.com/NJCSSNetwork> to follow topics of interest to social studies. "Follow Us" on our Twitter feed: twitter.com/njcssnetwork, "Like Us" on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NJCSSNetwork , and "Subscribe" to our Tumblr blog: njcssnetwork.tumblr.com/. It only takes a second to follow! Don't forget to spread the word to your colleagues!

Nominate a dedicated, skilled, innovative and active social studies teacher for **Social Studies Teacher of the Year**. Use the attached form or go to <http://www.njcss.org> and send your nomination of by **September 28th** to Steve Schels at sschels@earthlink.net. The award will be presented at the annual NJCSS Conference.

NJCSS is sponsoring two 90-minute social studies workshops at the NJEA Convention: "Making History Relevant—Making History Real," and "Teaching 9/11 for Content and Conversation." Join us and check out the NJCSS counter at the convention.

Hold the dates: Middle States Council for the Social Studies conference **March 1-2, 2013** in Dover, DE.
NJCSS Conference for Elementary Teachers **March 20, 2013** in Piscataway, NJ to help NJ teachers integrate social studies with common core language arts standards and the NJ state social studies standards.

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

Joint NJCSS/NJSSSA membership is \$40. Joint membership and conference fee is \$90. The NJSSSA will be meeting on **Friday, Sept. 28, 2012** at NJPSA in Monroe. To register contact Steve Maher at smaher@chatham-nj.org

National Council for the Social Studies

The Annual conference of the National Council for the Social Studies will be held in Seattle, WA, **November 15-17, 2012**. With speakers like Sandra Day O'Connor, Walter Parker and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and more than 500 workshops, you don't want to miss it. To register go to <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference>. Join the Social Studies Chat, sschat.ning.com/, a network dedicated to connecting social studies educators everywhere: tinyurl.com/8yb448a. Join the weekly live chats via Twitter Mondays at 7pm EST (Twitter hashtag: #SSCHAT)

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Student Events

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. We invite you to consider applying to start a local chapter at your school. For more information, go to <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org>.

A **Mock Student Election**, sponsored by the NJSSA and NJCSS, will be held this fall for New Jersey students in grades 5-12. Students are invited to participate in what will be the largest student-driven civics project in the United States, as part of the National Mock Student Election. They will have the opportunity to select candidates in federal and state elections and talk about issues that concern them. Instructions for teachers to register their classes to participate in the mock election as well as lessons for classroom use are available at <http://www.njmockelection.org/>. Additional materials and ideas will be added to the website in the next few weeks. The National Student Mock Student Election will take place online **October 25-November 1**. Led by the Pearson Foundation, which will tabulate the votes, more than 60 national civic, educational and business organizations are supporting this endeavor. Give your students the opportunity to make their voices heard!

Have your high school students join **Our Voice Our Future** via a live, interactive webcast on **Oct. 11 at 1 p.m.** at the site of the 2012 Vice Presidential Debate at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. This non-partisan event will be moderated by a national media representative in partnership with Centre College and the Harvard University Institute for Politics. Students from across the U.S. will gather to discuss the 2012 Presidential race, the role of debates in American politics, how noteworthy debates have influenced past Presidential campaigns, and topical issues of public policy. Teachers can register for this free event online at www.2012vpdebate.com and will receive discussion guide materials and webcast log-in instructions via a follow-up email.

The **New Jersey State House Tour Office** offers free educational tours and programs about the State House for NJ students. A field trip to the State House is a unique opportunity to bring to life 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. For more information or to sign up for a tour, go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> or call the Tour Office at 609-847-3150.

The annual **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. For professional development and materials, see below. Teachers interested in having their class participate or in observing should contact the New Jersey Center for Civic Education at 848-445-3413 or civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

A statewide **Project Citizen Showcase** for students 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 interview with local officials, identify possible solutions and select and promote the one 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. For professional development and materials, see below. 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 or in observing the *Project Citizen* Showcase should contact the New Jersey Center for Civic Education at 848-445-3413 or civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu.

Professional Development

Living Voices is offering a special free performance of "Our Revolution," the meaning of liberty from the perspective of an African American soldier, on Saturday, **October 13, 2012**, at 1 p.m. at Washington's Headquarters, 30 Washington Place, Morristown, NJ. Call 973-539-2016, x 260. Living Voices will also present a preview of four of its most popular presentations at Churchill Jr. High School in East Brunswick on **October 18, 2012** from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. It will include a preview of its programs on the Holocaust, Civil Rights, Women's Suffrage and Japanese Internment. To register go to <http://education.state.nj.us/events>.

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Teaching with Primary Sources workshop. With support from the Library of Congress, the New Jersey Center for Civic Education and the History Dept. of Montclair University are offering two one-day workshops for grade 3-12 teachers at Rutgers University in Piscataway. A Basic workshop will be held on **October 30, 2012**. It will demonstrate hands-on activities to help teachers understand how to access the vast array of maps, documents, audio, video, and other materials available online at the Library of Congress and other websites and how to integrate these resources into exciting evidence-based classroom learning. An Advanced workshop will be held on **December 11, 2012** for those interested in additional professional development. To register go to http://civiced.rutgers.edu/PRIMARY_SOURCES/overview.shtml

2CENTs: Narratives of Immigration is a weekend course providing 16 hours of professional development by the **NJ Council for the Humanities**. A complement to NJCH Summer Teacher Institute seminars, the workshops provide an alternative option for educators seeking non-residential intensive workshops. Led by university professors, the workshops challenge and engage educators, revitalizing their teaching and offering new information and materials to be brought back into K-12 classrooms across the state. The program will take place **November 3-4, 2012**, at Rutgers University. Applications are due September 30. For more information visit <http://www.njch.org/2CENTs.html>. Questions? Email mwhealan@njch.org.

Teach Europe is an annual workshop for teachers hosted by the Center for European Studies at Rutgers University to be held on **November 2** (9am-2:30pm). The program is designed for teachers of languages, social studies and history with interests in Europe and provides continuing education credits. As in previous years, the talks and workshops are supported by a number of European consulates and language studies associations. There is no fee to attend but registration is required. Register online at <https://ce-catalog.rutgers.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=50524>.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution offers classroom materials for grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 that integrate U.S. history, government and political philosophy with critical thinking activities, including a simulated legislative hearing process that improves student writing and speaking skills. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy and the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. A workshop demonstrating the **We the People** materials and approaches, and correlations with common core and state standards, for grade 3-12 teachers will be held at Rutgers University on **November 28, 2012**. To register go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/WTP/WTP-reg-2012.pdf>

Project Citizen is a process-based program that helps students to understand public policy by identifying a local public policy problem, researching the problem, identifying possible alternative solutions, selecting the solution that is both constitutional and best meets the problem, and developing an action plan for getting their solution implemented. It is an across-the-curriculum project approach that is both service learning and civic education and offers a performance assessment for state and common core standards. [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from last year's **Project Citizen Showcase**. A workshop for grade 3-12 teachers will be held at Rutgers University on **December 5, 2012**. To register go to http://civiced.rutgers.edu/PROJECT_CITIZEN/PC-reg-2012.pdf

Resources for Teachers

Constitution Day Materials

On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document that became the [Constitution of the United States](#). As recognition of this important day in our nation's history, Congress designated September 17 [Constitution Day](#). But don't be limited to one day a year: every day is an opportunity to develop the habits of citizenship! Below are a variety of materials about the Constitution that you may want to use or adapt for use in your classroom:

- "Charters of Freedom" activities at the **National Archives**, including "Meet the Founding Fathers and "Join the Signers of the Declaration, at <http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html>
- For an interactive constitution go to http://ratify.constitutioncenter.org/constitution/index_no_flash.php on the website of the **National Constitution Center**
- The **Center for Civic Education** has downloadable lessons for grades K–12 with teacher instructions at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>
- The **Constitutional Rights Foundation** has prepared lessons for elementary (Five Famous Supreme Court Cases), middle (The President, the Chief Justice and the Cherokee Nation) and high school classes (The Brown decision: What does it mean today?) at http://www.courtsed.org/courts-in-the-classroom/teacher/constitution_day.htm

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- **iCivics** has Constitution day materials at <http://www.icivics.org/teachers/lesson-plans/constitution-day>
- **The American Bar Association** has an extensive website of lessons involving the Constitution at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/constitution_day.html
- **PBS** has a series of Constitution lessons focused on “rediscovering George Washington” at <http://www.pbs.org/georgewashington/classroom/index.html>.

Conflict Resolution and United States History engages students in understanding the complexity of decision-making by individuals and groups in history. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/CONFLICT/overview.shtml> for a sample lesson, 4-minute video, teacher comments and an order form. Materials for grade 5-12 teachers include a printed text; a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for 20 case studies of conflicts in American history from the colonial period through the 1990s; and a DVD. May be used as a supplement or substitute for a U.S. history text. Take advantage of the SALE!

The **Constitutional Rights Foundation** has free online lessons, including America’s Economic Crisis, America responds to Terrorism, *Brown v. Board* 50th Anniversary, Immigration, Intellectual Property, Elections, School-based Service Learning and more at <http://www.crf-usa.org/online-lessons-index/free-lessons-index.html>

C-SPAN Classroom is a free membership service to help social studies teachers enhance their teaching through C-SPAN’s primary source programming and websites. The site is password-protected, yet remains free of charge. Membership gives educators access to their own library to store C-SPAN Classroom videos and video clips, supplementary materials such as lesson plans and handouts, and special offers like C-SPAN’s American Presidents Timeline poster. Go to <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/About.aspx> for more information.

Electronic New Jersey provides online access to an expanding set of curriculum units—now 23—using New Jersey history content for instruction about core themes in U. S. History for classroom teachers grades 5-12. You can access the materials at <http://njdigitalhighway.org/enj/> or <http://njdigitalhighway.org/educators.php>.

iCivics is a web-based civics program initiated by retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor for upper elementary and middle school students at <http://www.icivics.org>. *Win the White House* teaches students about the electoral process, the role of the Electoral College, and the influence of media in shaping public opinion. Players make choices about their party, platform, vice-president, and where to fundraise, poll, and spend their campaign dollars as they strive for 270 electoral votes. The game is available at <http://www.icivics.org/games/win-white-house>. More free, online games and activities will be added in October.

National History Day resources are available at the **Library of Congress**. Every Thursday, **Sept. 20-Oct. 25, 2012**, from 5 to 7 p.m., workshops to help teachers gain experience and skills using the SCIM-C inquiry model, will be offered. Participants will be prepared to coach students in identifying, finding and interpreting Library of Congress primary sources for use in National History Day projects and other applications. Register online at <http://tps.waynesburg.edu/upcoming-events>

“**Understanding Fiscal Responsibility**,” is a curriculum about the federal budget, national debt and budget deficit developed by **Teachers College at Columbia University** to prepare students to make informed and independent assessments. The curriculum, which may be used with U.S. history, civics, global issues or math, can be found at <http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/>. Web resources can be found at <http://edlab.tc.columbia.edu>.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution materials integrate lessons about U.S. history and government through critical thinking activities that improve student writing and speaking skills. There are specifically-designed materials for upper elementary, middle and high school grades. To order classroom sets of these excellent, inexpensive materials, go to <http://store.civiced.org>.

Light on the Prairie, by Nancy Plain, looks at the photos and the story of Solomon Butcher, who recorded the settling of the western frontier after the Civil War and provides an understanding of the hardships of “homesteading” in the Great Plains. Plain is the author of nine children’s books, including *With One Sky Above Us: The Story of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians*, and *Sagebrush and Paintbrush: The Story of Charlie Russell, the Cowboy Artist*, both winners of the Spur Award for Best Western Juvenile Nonfiction. Her books have also won the Carter G. Woodson Honor award and First Place in Children’s Nonfiction from the National Federation of Press Women. Available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

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The Best Job in Politics: How Governors Succeed as Policy Leaders by Alan Rosenthal, from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, is now available from CQ Press on Amazon. Professor Rosenthal has written extensively about state legislatures, but his new book is about how governors exercise leadership to achieve their policy goals. The book draws on responses to a survey of former governors and personal interviews with former governors, as well as biographies and memoirs to examine governors in the fifty states from 1980 through 2010.

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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.

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