

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

September 2013

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

The **Annual Fall Conference** of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies will be held on Wednesday, **October 23, 2013**, at Rutgers University in Piscataway. This year's theme is "Social Studies at the Core: Authentic Teaching, Learning and Assessment". Join your colleagues for a day of professional development, sharing and discovering new resources and ideas. Get board approval NOW! The conference and membership registration form is available at www.njcss.org **Deadline: October 1, 2013**. If you are unable to participate in the annual fall conference, you should still join as a member. Use the membership and subscription form at www.njcss.org. The NJ Council for the Social Studies is the only statewide membership organization that supports the work of social studies educators.

The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies can now be found on your favorite social media sites! Visit the 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!

Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award. At the Annual NJCSS Conference, the Council will recognize a social studies teacher of the year. Nominate a teacher who is dedicated and skilled, demonstrates strong ability to foster excellence, possesses strong content area expertise, incorporates innovative instructional materials and demonstrates professional involvement in social studies educational activities. The Teacher of the Year Award form can be found at www.njcss.org and is also attached. Send your nomination by **September 15, 2013** to: Joseph Kovacs, NJCSS Awards Committee Chair, 111 Stony Road, Edison, NJ 08817 or kovjos17@yahoo.com.

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association

The New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association (NJSSSA) was formed to help social studies supervisors share their experiences, concerns and ideas and to work collaboratively on issues of mutual concern. The NJSSSA has worked with the New Jersey Department of Education to improve the proposed 2009 social studies standards and the "Model Curriculum for High School". Members of the association also worked on sample K-4 lessons (available at www.njcss.org) and are currently working on a sample middle school curriculum. Become a joint member of NJSSSA and NJCSS. Joint membership forms for the NJCSS conference and membership or membership and subscription for the Docket and online resources only for 2013-14 are available at www.njcss.org.

NJSSSA meetings are held at the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association facility in Monroe. The schedule of NJSSSA meetings for 2013-2014 is as follows:

September 27, 2013: Main Topic: Finalizing Student Growth Objectives. Additional Topics: Board Elections, Constitutional Review, C3 Framework Overview, Gubernatorial Mock Election
January 31, 2014: Main Topic: AP US History and Technology Resources. Additional Topics: Constitutional Review & Vote, C3 Framework Follow-Up
May 16, 2014: Main Topic: Common Core and Social Studies. Additional Topics: Board Elections, PARCC, Teacher Evaluation Debrief

A link will be available before each meeting for those interested in attending to register.

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National Council for the Social Studies

The Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies will 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.

Save the dates:

Nov. 22-24, 2013: National Council for the Social Studies Conference, St. Louis, MO
Jan. 29, 2014: Teaching with Primary Sources Workshop for elementary teachers and librarians, Piscataway, NJ
Feb. 5, 2014: *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* High School Competition, Piscataway, NJ
Feb. 12, 2014: Teaching with Primary Sources Workshop for secondary school teachers, Piscataway, NJ
Feb. 21-22, 2014: Middle States Council for the Social Studies Conference, Falls Church, VA
March 19, 2014: NJ Council for the Social Studies Conference for Elementary Educators, Piscataway, NJ
April 7-9, 2014: Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies, Sturbridge, MA

Student Events

Holocaust Education program for teachers and their students. The College of Saint Elizabeth Holocaust Education Resource Center invites teachers and their students in grades 6–12 to attend a special Holocaust education program co-sponsored with the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education on **November 12**, 9:00 a.m.–12 Noon. The program includes testimony of Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter, screening of the documentary film, “*The Void: In Search of Memory Lost*,” and discussion with students and the film’s director. There is no charge but pre-registration is required and accepted on a first-come, space-available basis. To register, email teacher name, school, address, subject/grade, number of students, and telephone number to holocaustcenter@cse.edu.

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. There is a performance assessment/culminating activity in the format of simulated legislative hearings. To see students responding to questions about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and their application in history and today at the 2013 New Jersey State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* high school competition, go to <http://bcove.me/wcuf1cbi> for a 5-minute video produced by Classroom Close-Up. The 2014 State *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* high school competition will be held on **February 5, 2014**. 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 team winning the state competition meets with the winners from 49 other states and 3 territories to compete in the National *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* competition in Virginia and Washington, D.C. in April. For additional information about *We the People*, go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/wethepeople.html>.

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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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.

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 come to New York City in May for the National Economics Challenge Finals. In the final rounds, the students answer rigorous questions on microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, and current events. The format includes a written exam, critical thinking and quiz bowl rounds. For more information, visit the [National Economics Challenge page](#).

New Jersey History Day is an exciting and comprehensive way to address many areas of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. It also provides a unique opportunity to integrate many areas of the curriculum such as English, Science, Technology, Math, Drama, and of course, History. This 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"**. The state contest will be Saturday, **May 3, 2014** at William Paterson University. Regional competitions will be held in March. Email NJHISTORYDAY@wpunj.edu for further information and look through the website at <http://nj.nhd.org/state.htm> for more details.

NJ350. New Jersey began as a royal gift from the King of England in 1664. In 2014, New Jersey will be turning 350! Since its creation, New Jersey has played a pivotal role in the shaping of American life and culture. Numerous events are being planned across the state to celebrate and commemorate the 350th anniversary. In addition, *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.

Professional Development

The Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources BASICS is on a webinar designed for educators who lead PD for colleagues, formally or informally. BASICS models inquiry teaching and learning, incorporating primary sources at each stage of the inquiry cycle through classroom-ready model activities and time-tested practices. Working individually and collaboratively, participants complete and develop inquiry-based learning activities. Wednesdays, Sept, 18 to October 16, 5:30-6:30 p.m. (online chat sessions). Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BASICS-REGISTRATION-091813-101613>.

National History Day Resources at the Library of Congress—Level II. Prepare to coach students in finding and interpreting Library of Congress primary sources for use in National History Day and other projects. Thursdays, October 3 to November 7, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Register at <http://tps.waynesburg.edu/tpseasternregion/events>.

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 middle and high school social studies teachers 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.

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Paulsdale, the Mt. Laurel birthplace of Quaker suffragist Alice Paul, offers tours on Second Saturdays, including Saturday, **September 14, 2103** at 12 noon and 1 p.m. Tours include a 15-minute presentation about Alice Paul's life and work and a guided tour of the first floor of the property where visitors learn about the Paul family's daily life in the house and its present day use as a girl's leadership center. The cost is \$5 per person. For information about group tours or future tour dates, contact the Alice Paul Institute at 856-231-1885 or info@alicepaul.org or visit its website, www.alicepaul.org/events.

A Graduate Certificate Program in Holocaust and Genocide Education will be 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 genocide as well as strategies and resources for curriculum development, teaching, and assessment. Those accepted to the program and 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.

Resources for Teachers

Resources and lessons for teaching about September 11:

- Resources available on the official [U.S. Department of Education 9/11 resource page](#)
- NJ Holocaust website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/911/>
- NCSS: <http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/moments>
- Center for Civic Education on 9/11 and the Constitution: [On American Identity, Diversity, and Common Ground](#) (grades 7–12) and [Remembering 9/11: Building Tolerance](#) (grades 5–8) at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>
- Lessons at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2011/08/23/resources-for-teaching-about-9-11/>
- PBS, "America Responds": <http://www.pbs.org/americaresponds/educators.html>
- <http://gresyn0.100webspaces.net/lessons/Remembering911.pdf>
- "War, Terrorism, and our Classrooms": http://www.rethinkingschools.org/special_reports/sept11/index.shtml
- Databases of resources at http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson244.shtml and <http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/911>.
- The September 11th Education Program: <http://www.learnabout9-11.org/>
- For Action Initiative addressing the global context of 9/11 and how student can take action <http://www.foractioninitiative.org/>
- Responding to Terrorism: Challenges for Democracy www.Choices@brown.edu

Constitution Day Lessons. Most Americans know that July 4th is our nation's birthday. Far fewer Americans know that **September 17th** is the birthday of our government, the date in 1787 on which delegates to the Philadelphia Convention completed and signed the U.S. Constitution. The ideas on which America was founded--commitments to the rule of law, limited government and the ideals of liberty, equality and justice--are embodied in the Constitution, the oldest written constitution of any nation on Earth. **Constitution Day** is intended to celebrate not only the birthday of our government, but the ideas that make us Americans. Many organizations across the country offer a variety of resources to students, educators, and the general public about the U.S. Constitution:

- **Bill of Rights Institute** at <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/educator-resources/constitution-day-resources/>
- **Center for Civic Education** at <http://new.civiced.org>
- **Constitutional Rights Foundation** at <http://www.crf-usa.org/constitution-day/constitution-day-lesson-plans-kindergarten-middle-and-high-school.html>
- **Freedoms Foundation** online lessons on the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. [Click here](#) for a lesson on free speech and press. [Click here](#) for a lesson on freedom of assembly and petition.
- **Icivics** offers games, lesson plans and a message from former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at http://www.icivics.org/Constitution_Day

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- **National Archives** at www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html
- **National Constitution Center** at <http://constitutioncenter.org/learn>
- **Public Broadcasting Service** Rediscovering George Washington program at www.pbs.org/georgewashington/classroom/constitution_day.html

These lessons will be archived under “Resources” at www.civiced.rutgers.edu and www.njcss.org for the future.

For Action Initiative. Five North Plainfield, NJ School District educators have been selected as the first annual For Action Initiative Teacher Fellows. The For Action Initiative advances the educational mission of the "Families of September 11." The North Plainfield educators include Dr. Hope Blecher, District K-12 Supervisor of Language Arts Literacy, Social Sciences and Media Services; Michele Armento, High School Academic Support English Teacher; Susan Feibush, High School and Middle School Media Center Librarian; Michael Mulry, High School Social Studies Teacher; and Suzanne Sapega, Middle School Reading Teacher. The group will receive \$4,000 to develop programs that take teachers, K-12 students, and community members beyond traditional subject matter to explore world politics and the roots of terrorism. Dr. Blecher says, “In a district where half the population speaks one of 100 languages other than English at home, we must instill a sense of mutual respect and community. This program plants seeds of knowledge and curiosity with the hope that our young people will act in ways that demonstrate their commitment to one another, their awareness of the past, and a respect for our collective future.”

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.

Legislators Back to School. October is National Legislators Back to School Month. However, New Jersey offers this program all year long! 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 dtemperino@njleg.org for additional information about planning for your legislator’s visit.

New Jersey is the “Crossroads of the American Revolution.” More revolutionary war events crossed this state than any other. For a listing of events at historic sites near you, go to <http://www.revolutionarynj.org/events/>

SAVE the DATE! The 2014 **SPIRIT of the JERSEYS State History Fair** will be held **Saturday, May 10, 2014**, at Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville. It will observe both the Fair’s 10th anniversary and NJ’s 350th. Additional information and updates will be posted at www.njhistoryfair.org. Inquiries can be addressed to historyfair@dep.state.nj.us or the Office of Historic Sites at 609-777-0238.

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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:

*New Jersey Center for Civic Education
Rutgers, The State University
Lucy Stone Hall, B208-216
Piscataway, NJ 08854*

(848) 445-3413 • civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu • <http://civiced.rutgers.edu>