

# NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

September 2014

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## Published by the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

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## NJ Council for the Social Studies

### A Message from the president:

*Welcome back to school! I am thrilled and humbled to be starting my term as President of the NJ Council for the Social Studies. I urge you all to become members of this growing, thriving statewide organization, which is helping to support and enhance the teaching of social studies in our ever changing and challenging educational climate.*

Bill Wingren, Montclair High School

The **Annual Fall Conference of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies** will be held on **October 22, 2014**. Reflecting both the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Jersey and our increasingly globalized world, this year's theme is "Embracing the Past and Shaping the Future: New Jersey and the World." The conference will include speakers, exhibitors, videos, materials, over thirty workshops, and a great opportunity to meet and share with your colleagues. The registration form, including a draft agenda and a list of workshops, is available online at [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org) (and attached for your convenience). **REGISTER NOW!** The registration deadline is **October 10, 2014**. Forms mailed before the deadline will receive an early-bird discount: \$75 for teachers and \$90 for supervisors.

The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies  
and  
the New Jersey Center for Civic Education  
**have moved to:**  
**Rutgers University, Busch Campus**  
**640 Bartholomew Road Suite 101-103**  
**Piscataway, NJ 08854**

**Become a member.** If you are unable to participate in this year's annual conference, you can still become a member of NJCSS. As a member of NJCSS, you will be supporting the teaching of social studies and keeping abreast of news and events. You will also receive the biannual journal. Membership is \$25 for teachers and \$40 for joint membership with NJSSSA for supervisors. A membership and subscription form is available on the website at [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org) (and attached for your convenience).

**NJCSS Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award.** One social studies teacher is selected each year to be the Social Studies Teacher of the Year and presented an award at the annual conference. The nominating form is available online at [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org) (and attached for your convenience). Send the completed form and supporting documentation by **September 15, 2014** to NJCSS Awards Chairman, Joe Kovacs, at [kovjos17@yahoo.com](mailto:kovjos17@yahoo.com).

## NJSSSA

The new officers for the NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association are:

- Noel Baxter, President
- Bob O'Dell, Vice-President
- Steve Maher, Treasurer

NJSSSA Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- Oct 17, 2014
- Jan 30, 2015
- May 8, 2105

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## National Council for the Social Studies

**SAVE THE DATE:** 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. For additional information and to register, go to <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference>.

## Social Studies Policies

**Thank you** to everyone who sent comments about the U.S. Department of Education's Priorities. The mark up of the bill by the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Human Services and Education doubled the set aside for Civics in the SEED (Professional Development) Program for future grant competitions. It also required a report on the costs and timeline for implementing the NAEP tests in Civics and History. The language notes that it will be difficult for Congress to track progress in these subjects in the absence of the evaluations. This language shows increased interest in improving Civics and History and will direct the attention of the Department and the National Assessment Governing Board. The House Appropriations Committee has yet to take up its version of the 2015 Appropriations Bill. We need to stay on top of this and continue to write to members of Congress as well get additional information.

**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>.

**NJ State Department of Education task force developing model assessments.** Three teams of educators met July 28-August 1 to work on developing assessments for US History I, US History II and World History. The educators identified student learning objectives and stimulus materials (e.g., seminal documents, charts, maps, political cartoons, essays, transcripts) to be used in the design of assessments for Units 1-3 in each of the courses. Questions are being developed for assessment tasks that ask students to evaluate arguments, interpret data, take a position, cite evidence, and demonstrate an understanding of discipline-specific concepts and terminology. The tasks are being designed to serve as a model for teachers to use for both formative and summative assessments.

## Student Events

**United States Senate Youth Program.** Each year, two high school juniors and seniors are selected as delegates to represent New Jersey during this week-long educational program in March in Washington, D.C. and receive a \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship. During Washington Week, student delegates hear major policy addresses by Senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, and participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. New Jersey public and non-public high schools are invited to nominate a junior or senior to submit an application to this highly competitive program. The deadline for students to submit their applications is **October 10, 2014**. For more information, go to <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/ss/syp/> or contact [Beverly.plein@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:Beverly.plein@doe.state.nj.us).



***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** is the largest civic education program in the country. Since its inception in 1987 more than 28 million students have participated. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-as solving activities, cooperative learning and simulated legislative hearings help develop intellectual and participatory skills. Independent studies reported that students who used the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* materials outperformed other students on political knowledge and philosophy and are more politically tolerant than students who use traditional textbooks and teaching approaches. The materials are easily integrated into a civics, U.S. History or U.S. Government class, or as a stand-alone curriculum. An ebook is now available for high schools. If you are interested in considering this program you can have **free** 28-day access to the *We the People* ebook by going to [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org). The annual New Jersey State ***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** High School Competition will be held on **January 21, 2015**. Contact [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu) if you are interested in bringing a competing class or observing the state competition.

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**Virtual Supreme Court competition.** This 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 esteemed attorneys during oral argument that their side is correct.

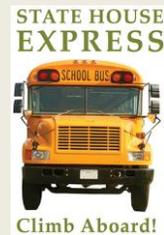
The members of the grand-prize winning team, the Solicitors General of FantasySCOTUS, will receive a free trip, including airfare and one night of hotel accommodations, to Washington, D.C. to attend the ConSource Constitution Day celebration in September 2015. Teachers interested in having their students participate should sign up at [www.HarlanInstitute.org](http://www.HarlanInstitute.org), add an account, read the problem, and get started! Send questions to [info@harlaninstitute.org](mailto:info@harlaninstitute.org) or [info@consource.org](mailto:info@consource.org).



**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](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 is now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 State House Express Program [online](#). This small grants program provides **awards of up to \$350** to eligible middle-school and high-school teachers of government, civics, history, and other social studies classes. The grants are designed to help pay for bus rental costs to take classes on field trips to the State House in Trenton for special guided tours and first-hand examination of the legislature's role on our system of representative democracy. Visit [yppp.rutgers.edu](http://yppp.rutgers.edu) for application details and teacher resources.

## Professional Development



**Virtual Economics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.** The New Jersey Council for Economic Education is sponsoring this free three-hour professional development program on **September 22** at Seton Hall University and on **October 2** at Rider University (5-8 p.m.) that introduces teachers to the most comprehensive tool for teaching economics and personal finance. Participants receive a free *Virtual Economics* flash drive with over 1400 activity-based lessons that meet the requirements of financial literacy and align with state and common core standards, as well as three hours of professional development credit. For more information, go to <http://newjersey.councilforeconed.org/events/>.

**Stock Market Game.** For teachers interested in participating in the 2014/2015 Stock Market Game, the New Jersey Council for Economic Education and the SIFMA Foundation will hold a free teacher training workshop on **October 1** (4:30-6:30 p.m.) at Rutgers University's Busch Campus Center in Piscataway. For more information on The Stock Market Game and to register to play, go to [www.stockmarketgame.org](http://www.stockmarketgame.org). To register for the workshop go to <http://newjersey.councilforeconed.org/events/>.

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## Resources for Teachers

### **Resources and lessons for teaching about September 11th:**

- 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>
- 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>
- 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](http://www.rethinkingschools.org/special_reports/sept11/index.shtml)
- Databases of resources at [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson244.shtml](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/lesson-plans>



**Constitution Day Lessons.** Most Americans know that July 4<sup>th</sup> is our nation’s birthday. Far fewer Americans know that **September 17<sup>th</sup>** 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. Here are some of the resources available:

- **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>
- **Icivics** offers games and lesson plans about the constitution at <https://www.icivics.org/teachers>
- **National Archives** at [www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html](http://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](http://www.pbs.org/georgewashington/classroom/constitution_day.html)

The lessons will be archived under “Resources” at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> and [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org) for the future.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will participate in a conversation as part of the Sixth Annual Capital City Constitution Day celebration on **Sept. 12** at 1 p.m. at George Washington University Law School. Although you probably will not be able to attend, the discussion will also be streamed live at [http://fora.tv/event/a\\_constitutional\\_conversation\\_with\\_us\\_supreme\\_court\\_justice\\_ruth\\_bader\\_ginsburg/livestream](http://fora.tv/event/a_constitutional_conversation_with_us_supreme_court_justice_ruth_bader_ginsburg/livestream)



**Put a Little New Jersey in Your Classroom.** The 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary offers a once in a generation opportunity to leave a legacy of lessons about New Jersey for classroom teachers. The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies and the New Jersey Center for Civic Education received a small grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to collect, create 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.

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Sixty lessons are in the process of being developed. Each lesson includes: suggested grade levels, objectives, correlations with state and common core standards, essential questions, activities, links to primary sources and historical websites, suggested assessments, and extensions such as field trips to related historical sites. Lessons will be available online, as they are piloted this fall, at the websites of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies ([www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org)) and the New Jersey Center for Civic Education (<http://civiced.rutgers.edu>).

We hope to be able to offer a second round of workshops focused on teaching about new Jersey in the summer of 2015. If you have a lesson about New Jersey that you would like to share with others, or if you would like to pilot any of the lessons that have been developed, email [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu).



With the 350<sup>th</sup> 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/>.



**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](http://www.revolutionarynj.org/learn); as well as lectures, walks, exhibits, reenactments and games from Bergen County to Cape May at [www.revolutionarynj.org/events](http://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](http://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.** Saturday, **Sept. 13** 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](mailto:claires@alicepaul.org) or 856-231-1885.

The Alice Paul Institute is seeking nominations for the 2015 **Alice Paul Equality Awards** to be presented at a gala event in March. The awards honor individuals who capture the spirit of Alice Paul and, either directly or indirectly, continue her mission of advancing women's equality in America. Nomination forms can be completed on the Alice Paul Institute's website, [www.alicepaul.org](http://www.alicepaul.org), or by contacting the Institute at 856-231-1885 or [psalvador@alicepaul.org](mailto:psalvador@alicepaul.org). The deadline for submitting nominations is Tuesday, **Sept. 30**.

**"Memory After Belsen"**. This documentary feature film follows the granddaughter of a 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 20<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:joshua@strmedia.com). For more information: [www.memoryafterbelsen.com](http://www.memoryafterbelsen.com)

If you have information about an event, resources, professional development or other activity of interest to social studies educators, please send it by the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's enewsletter to Arlene Gardner at [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu)/ Information will be included at the discretion of the editor.

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