

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

October 2015

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

The NJCSS annual fall conference, *Invigorating Your Social Studies Classroom*, will be held on Tuesday, **October 20 for grades K-8** and Wednesday, **October 21 for grades 9-12**. Each day includes 28 exciting workshops, numerous exhibits, a keynote speaker and awards. Time is running out—the deadline for reduced price, early bird registration ended today—**October 9th**. Registration after October 9th cost \$10 more for each day.

The conference and membership registration form, as well as draft programs, can be found online at the Council's website at www.njcss.org. Checks, purchase orders and Paypal are accepted. Registration is confirmed within a week of receipt. **If you have not received a confirmation, it means we have not received your payment.** Email civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu with any questions.

If you are unable to participate in the fall conference, you can still become a member of NJCSS. The membership form is available at www.njcss.org. Checks, purchase orders and paypal are accepted. One year's membership is still only \$25, or \$40 for joint membership in NJSSSA.

NJEA

The NJCSS is sponsoring several social studies workshops at the NJEA Convention:

- "Put a Little New Jersey in Your Classroom" at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5th.
- "Teaching with Primary Sources," at 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6th
- Inquiry-Based Learning in the Social Studies Classroom," at 3:00-4:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6th

New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association

If you are a current, former or prospective social studies supervisor, join the NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association. Membership includes the NJCSS biannual journal and online resources, as well as three all-day meetings each year and a google group network. One year's joint membership in NJSSSA/NJCSS is \$40.

NJSSSA meetings for 2015-2016 will be held at NJPSA in Monroe on:

- October 9, 2015
- January 15, 2016
- May 6, 2016.

On March 4, 2016, NJSSSA will sponsor a workshop for elementary supervisors at Rutgers University in Piscataway.

National Council for the Social Studies

The annual NCSS conference will be held **November 13-15, 2015** in New Orleans. The conference includes tours, clinics, a film festival, speakers, meetings and lots and lots of workshops. For additional information and to register go to <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference>.

National Council for History Education

The National Council for History Education is holding its annual conference, "Crossing Borders," at Niagara Falls, New York on **April 21-23, 2016**. Submit a workshop proposal by **October 19, 2015** using the form at <http://www.nche.net/conference/submitproposal>.

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Awards

The New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance offers annual awards for innovation and creativity in teaching New Jersey studies. Educators should submit a written description of a project and the creative methods used in the classroom (such as oral history, primary sources, interdisciplinary and technological programs) to Dr. Raymond Frey, chair of the NJ Studies Academic Alliance, at freyr@centenarycollege.edu by **October 15, 2015**.

Professional Development

Webinars by the National Archives sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education:

- **Oct. 7**—Using Primary Sources in the K-12 classroom—register at <http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=23014>
- **Nov. 4**—How the National Archives Supports Educators—register at <http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=23015>
- **Dec. 2**—the Bill of Rights and its impact—register at <http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=23016>

The **Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers** is offering the following programs taught by Rutgers faculty and held at the Rutgers New Brunswick campus this fall from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

- *Anglo-Saxon Literature from Beowulf to the Battle of Maldon*—Oct. 16
- *Slave Culture and Resistance in History and Memory*—Oct. 23
- *Shakespeare and Performance: teaching and Reading*—Oct. 30
- *The Ottoman World Empire*—Nov. 13
- *Health, Culture and Society*—Nov. 18
- *Lincoln and the Civil War*—Dec. 11

For additional information and to register go to <http://rcha.rutgers.edu/>

The Rutgers Center for European Studies is hosting its annual **Teach Europe** workshop for teachers on Friday, **October 30th** from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the Rutgers New Brunswick campus. Designed for language arts, social studies and history teachers with an interest in Europe, the program provides continuing education credits. There is no

fee to attend, however, registration is required. For additional information contact european@rci.rutgers.edu or call 848-932-8551.

The College of Saint Elizabeth is sponsoring a 25th Annual ***Kristallnacht Commemoration*** the week of **November 9-13, 2015**. For additional information, go to <https://www.cse.edu/kristallnacht/>

The **NJ Historical Commission** is sponsoring a workshop, ***Fighting for Justice: 20th century Activism in New Jersey***, on **November 21, 2015** at the Paul Robeson center at Rutgers University in Newark. Join authors, scholars and activists as they explore a century marked by the pursuit of justice and equality for all. Cost is \$35. Deadline to register is November 16th. For additional information and to register go to http://nj.gov/state/historical/dos_his_2015-1121.html.



Put a Little New Jersey in Your Classroom. Middle and high school teachers are invited to a one-day workshop to learn about and to help develop lessons about New Jersey history and government that will enhance and your U.S. History classes and make history more real for your students. The workshop will be on **December 8, 2015** at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University in Piscataway. To register send an email to civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu

Rutgers University is offering a series of seven professional development programs during **January 2016** addressing the science and social aspects of nonpoint source water pollution. For more information or to register contact Roberta Hunter at 732-431-7260 x 7266 or Roberta.hunter@gse.rutgers.edu.

Seton Hall University is offering a 15-credit ***United Nations Studies certificate*** that can be completed in less than a year. The courses will be taught by experienced practitioners and seasoned educators. The program will focus on active learning assignments, including op-eds, memo writing, and policy analysis. Applications are welcome for **Spring 2016**. For additional information go to <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/certificate-united-nations-studies.cfm> or contact Daniel Kristo at Daniel.kristo@shu.edu or 973-275-2142.

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Resources for Teachers



Crossroads of the American Revolution has a list of historic sites that offer school programs as well as a variety of educational resources about the American Revolution in New Jersey. You can also visit your Revolutionary Neighbors and use the newly-published teachers guide for classroom discussion at www.revolutionarynj.org. There is a reduced membership fee of \$20 for New Jersey teachers who want to join the statewide effort to support our revolutionary heritage in the state. Go to <http://revolutionarynj.org/donations-membership/product/membership/>



New Jersey Mock Student Elections. The New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors and the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies are offering New Jersey teachers engaging classroom lessons and resources (some of which will change with each election, some of which are perennial) and the opportunity to have students in grades 5-12 vote in a Mock Student Election. This year there are only local elections, including members of the New Jersey Assembly. Information and classroom materials may be found at www.njmockelection.org. **Voting will take place between October 26 and October 30.** Interested school districts should identify a volunteer (step up supervisors!) to serve as the district mock election coordinator, who will collect the votes by grade and enter them in the site when the voting window opens October 26th. Each district should have only one coordinator to ensure the validity of the votes. To register as a district mock election coordinator, please send an email to njme@njmockelection.org.

“Transformation and Remembrance” is a documentary by NJEA’s television series, Classroom Close-up, about a group of New Jersey educators visiting Holocaust sites in Germany, Czech Republic, Poland and the Netherlands and their students. The video can be found at <http://classroomcloseup.org/transformation-remembrance/>



Over 30 lessons with correlations to New Jersey and common core standards, primary source documents and images and other handouts, focus questions, objectives, and links to additional resources and places to visit in New Jersey, are online at www.njcss.org and <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/njlessons.html>. Upper elementary teachers could use these lessons as a full curriculum about New Jersey history. More lessons for secondary grades will be added on a regular basis. If you have a lesson about New Jersey that you would like to share, send it to Arlene Gardner at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu.



To commemorate the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey, the New Jersey Historical Commission has sponsored 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 available on the Commission’s website at <http://nj.gov/state/historical/>, and the NJ350 website at <http://officialnj350.com>, along with lessons.

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

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The **State House Express** provides awards of up to \$350 to eligible middle-school and high-school teachers of government, civics, history, and other social studies classes to visit the State House. State House Express student groups have the option of participating in a simulation of the legislative process during which they learn more about the process of bill passage and practice the skills of debate, discussion, negotiation, compromise and voting. Learn more about the pieces of legislation that will be used this academic year. For additional information go to <http://yppp.rutgers.edu/for-teachers/state-house-express>.

The **National History Club** brings students and teachers from around the country with a real passion for history together in discovering, learning, reading, writing, teaching and living history. Activities are shared by each club navigates its course. For more information contact Robert Nasson at rnasson@nationalhistoryclub.org

Raritan Valley College Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is offering a program, "High School learning through Experience," with holocaust and genocide survivors on Monday, **October 26** from 9 a.m. to noon at the College. For more information and to register go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/programs/workshops/102615hs.pdf>

The **American Labor Museum** and the Passaic County Education Association invite students grades 3-12 to submit a creative writing, visual arts, or computer arts project addressing teachers' work in the classroom, role in the union, role in the community, and impact on the student. Original projects and registration forms must be received by **November 14th**. Selected student projects will appear in an exhibit, **Celebrating Teachers**, at the museum, which will be unveiled with a reception on November 21, 2015 at 1 p.m. For a registration form and/or further information, call (973) 595-7953 or email labormuseum@aol.com



We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is the largest civic education program in the country. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The materials are easily integrated into a civics, U.S. History or U.S. Government class, or as a stand-alone curriculum. *We the People* ebooks are available for middle and high school grade. Go to www.civiced.org. The annual New Jersey State **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** High School Competition will be held on **January 29, 2016**. Contact agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested in bringing a competing class or observing the state competition.



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 are due by **June 3, 2016**, but teachers planning on submitting a project should register by emailing civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu by **February 26, 2016**. Middle and high school class projects with the highest scores will be sent to the National Project Citizen Showcase. [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>.



National History Day. The theme for the 2015-2016 National History Day program is "Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History". Three regional New Jersey History Day events will be held in mid-March with the final State History Day Competition on **May 7, 2016**. For additional information go to <http://nj.nhd.org/>

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The Harlan Institute and The Constitutional Sources Project (ConSource) are sponsoring their Fourth Annual **Virtual Supreme Court** competition for high school students. This year the competition focuses on Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin (II), exploring whether race conscious affirmative action is consistent with the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Teachers interested in participating should sign up on FantasySCOTUS at HarlanInstitute.org, add an account, read the problem, and get started. For further information go to info@consource.org.

New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

President: Joseph Orlak, Supervisor, Pascack Valley Regional High School District
Vice President: Brian Cameron, Supervisor, Garfield Public Schools
Secretary: Angela Smith, Jefferson Middle School, Edison
Treasurer: Christine Gehringer, Supervisor, Washington Twp. Public Schools, Sewell
Executive Director and Editor: Arlene Gardner

Host International Exchange Students. Host or find families in your school district to host international high school exchange students supported by the U.S. Dept. of State. Hosting international exchange students supports cross-cultural understanding not only in local communities and schools, but around the world when the students return home and share their experience. The international exchange students are competitively selected and are provided on-going support throughout their exchange. Most of the students are here from roughly August 15 through June 15th. Learn more and fill out an interest form at www.hosting.state.gov or email youthprograms@state.gov.

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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. Information will be included at the discretion of the editor.