

# *NJ Social Studies Network News*

*A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education*

**January 2012**

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## **NJ Council for the Social Studies**

The next meeting of the officers, directors and committee members of the **New Jersey Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)** will be held on Thursday, **January 26, 2012**, at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, in Piscataway, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. There is a large agenda but the focus of the meeting will be for the membership, publications, awards, and program committees to plan for next year. If you are a member and would like to join us at this meeting and/or work on one of the NJCSS committees, send me an email at [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu).

**NJCSS Membership.** If you are not a member of NJCSS, what are you waiting for? We need everyone's help in providing a statewide network through which social studies educators can share information, strategies and practices to advocate for and enhance the teaching of social studies in the state. This is especially true when major changes in education are being proposed by the governor. With your help, we will be able to continue to send these newsletters and other information, we will be able to sponsor additional professional development including webinars, and we will be able to better advocate for needed changes. Working together we can create a resurgence of social studies. One year membership is \$25. One year joint membership with NJSSSA is \$40. Members receive two editions of The Docket each year, reduced rates at the annual conference, and the opportunity to work with your colleagues towards the goal of having all New Jersey students becoming informed, engaged citizens. A membership form is attached.

## **Affiliated organizations**

The next **NJSSSA** meeting will be held at NJPSA, 12 Centre Dr., Monroe, on **Feb. 3, 2012**. To register for the meeting, go to <http://tinyurl.com/3rvnp95>.

The **Greater Metropolitan New York Social Studies Conference** will be held on Saturday, **Feb. 4, 2012** from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the United Federation of Teachers Conference Center, 52 Broadway, New York City. For more information and a registration form, go to [http://www.uft.org/files/events/gmny\\_conf\\_2-4.pdf](http://www.uft.org/files/events/gmny_conf_2-4.pdf)

The **Middle States Council for the Social Studies** annual spring conference, "*Relevancy and Rigor with a Diverse Audience*," will be held at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Baltimore, Maryland, on Friday, **March 9, 2012**. In addition to concurrent workshop sessions, historical tours to Camden yards, Ft. McHenry and a Civil War Exhibit will be offered on Saturday, March 10, 2012. Discount prices for pre-registering before February 15, 2012. For a tentative schedule, registration form and other information go to <http://www.mscss.net/MSCSSwebsitenevmainpage.html>.

The **Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies (NERC)** will hold its annual conference, "*The Role and Future of Social Studies*," on **April 3-5, 2012** at Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA. With nearly 100 different workshop sessions and clinics over two and a half days, NERC's 43rd annual conference promises to be quite worthwhile. The conference is being organized by the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies this year. To see a tentative agenda and to register go to <http://www.ctsocialstudies.org/>

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## Student Events

Congratulations to Maura Andreula's social studies class at Roy W. Brown Middle School in Bergenfield, NJ, which placed fourth in the ***iCivics Impact Challenge Contest***. Maura explains: "iCivics presents students and teachers with a hands-on approach to learning civics. The multitude of subjects covered in the games allows teachers to match up almost any civics lesson with an application activity. Besides games, the iCivics website also contains curriculum units with individual lessons that can be easily accessed. Each student-centered, interactive lesson includes objectives, procedures, and necessary handouts. These resources can be used on their own as a complete course or as individual reinforcements to other lessons. I used the games and lessons in conjunction with the We the People middle school program and the two resources were able to be seamlessly used in conjunction with one another."

High School students (15-17 years old) are invited to apply to participate in a leadership exchange with **Indonesia** for three weeks in July 2012. Through **Legacy International**, students will receive training in environmental action and will travel in Indonesia free of charge. For more information and an application, go to <http://www.legacyintl.org/our-oprograms/Indonesia-u-s-youth-leadership-exchange>. Don't wait: The deadline is **February 1, 2012**.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey State ***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** High School Competition will be held on **February 2, 2012** at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. *We the People* involves students in understanding the philosophical and historical background and current relevance of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The competition is in the format of a simulated legislative hearing. Teachers interested in observing this event—which provides an excellent performance assessment—should contact Marci Small at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu).

The **Constitutional Rights Foundation** is sponsoring its third annual First Amendment Cartoon Contest open to elementary, middle and high school students nationwide. The theme of this year's contest is Free Expression through the rights of the people to "peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Six winners will each receive a \$50 prize. Five others will receive honorable mention and will be posted at [www.courtsed.org](http://www.courtsed.org). Deadline for submissions is **March 16, 2012**.

This year's **Project Citizen Showcase** will be done digitally. Teachers may send one project (if you have many, send us the best one!) from grades 3-12. The digital portfolio may be in any digital format: a powerpoint, Photostory (available free online), a website, a DVD, a movie using Movie Maker (available free online) or other software, Live Binders (a free online source that allows you to create interactive "binders" online and to upload pictures, videos, and other interactive content), or any other type of computer-based presentation that you can send by link to a website. Teachers should send an email to [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) with the title of the project, teacher's name, grade, name of course, school and an email address where comments and questions related to the project can be sent along with a link to the project. The links will be placed on our Project Citizen website at [http://civiced.rutgers.edu/PROJECT\\_CITIZEN/portfolio.shtml](http://civiced.rutgers.edu/PROJECT_CITIZEN/portfolio.shtml). The digital portfolio should identify: the problem selected and why it was selected; alternative policies; the policy selected and why; an action plan; reflections about the process and what was learned and a backup digital binder with research, letters, etc. We will accept portfolios through **May 2012**. For more details about **Project Citizen**, see the explanation under **Resources for Teachers** on page four below.

## Professional Development

The **Council for Economic Education** is offering a variety of one-day seminars at the HSBC National Center for Economic and Financial Education in New York City, including: Predatory Lending and Identity Theft: Preventing Students from Being Ripped Off, for grades 6-12, on **Feb. 2**, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Managing Risk: Learning How Insurance Can Minimize Financial Catastrophes, for grades 6-12, on **Feb.7**, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; and World History and Economics, for grades 6-12, on **Feb. 10**, 9:00-3:00p.m. For more information and to register go to <http://www.councilforeconed.org/nationalcenter/workshops.php>.

**Gilder Lehrman** is offering a variety of one-week Teacher Seminars in American History for Summer 2012. The deadline to apply is **Feb. 15, 2012**. For an overview and application go to [http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/seminar\\_overview.php](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/seminar_overview.php)

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**Teaching with Primary Sources.** NJCSS and the NJ Center for Civic Education are currently offering a program of three workshops on Teaching with Primary Sources for middle and high school teachers (grades 5-12). The focus is on finding and using documents and images to teach history through inquiry and the examination of evidence. Thirty teachers from across the state are involved in the first year's program of one full-day and two after-school workshops. Teachers must participate in all three parts of the program and receive ten hours of professional development and curriculum materials. We will be sponsoring a similar program again during 2012-13. If you are interested in participating, please contact Arlene Gardner at [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu).

A conference about "**Learning Change in Changing Times**," will be held on **March 3, 2012** at the Microsoft New England Research and Development Center in Cambridge, MA. For additional information go to [http://tiny.cc.Register2012](http://tiny.cc/Register2012).

The **American Labor Museum** is sponsoring a workshop for teachers on Wednesday, **March 21, 2012** at the Botto House National Landmark in Haledon, NJ, to commemorate the centennial of "*The Bread and Roses Strike, Two Cities on Strike, Lawrence, Massachusetts & Paterson, NJ*." Historians and educators will discuss methods of integrating labor and immigrant studies into the curriculum. Teachers will receive five professional development hours and teaching materials for grades 4-12. Registration fee: \$45 for museum members, \$50 for non-members. For further information or to receive a registration form by mail, fax or email call the Museum at (973) 595-7953 or email [labormuseum@aol.com](mailto:labormuseum@aol.com). To register online visit [http://www.labormuseum.net/?p=annual-special-events&event\\_id=325](http://www.labormuseum.net/?p=annual-special-events&event_id=325).

**A Sustainable Schools Conference** will be held on **March 28, 2012** at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Monroe, NJ, sponsored by EIRC, NJASA, NJDOE and NJDEP. For additional information go to [www.eirc.org](http://www.eirc.org)

The Foreign Policy Research Institute is sponsoring a History Institute for teachers, "**Great Battles and How they have Shaped American History**," on Saturday and Sunday, **April 21-22, 2012** at the First Division Museum in Wheaton, IL. Email [history@fpri.org](mailto:history@fpri.org) for additional information on how to apply.

The **University of Massachusetts** Dartmouth and NEH will offer a five-week Summer Seminar on Interpretations of the Industrial Revolution in Britain from **June 24 to July 27, 2012**. The program will include one week in London and four weeks at the University of Nottingham. NEH will provide a \$3000 stipend toward international travel expenses. Applications and other information are available at <http://www.usmassd.edu/ir/>. Applications are due **March 1, 2012**.

The **EdTechTeacher** summer workshop series features a variety of history selection, including the Civil War and World War II with Technology and Teaching Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome with Technology, Ipad classrooms, and Primary Sources, from **June 25 through August 3** at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. For additional information and to register go to <http://edtechteacher.org/summer2012>

The Mississippi Valley Archeology Center at the **University of Wisconsin** is offering a three-week National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute **July 9-27, 2012** to explore how Native Americans and European Americans have adapted to the Upper Mississippi River Valley over the past 13,500 years. The Institute will include a one-day excavation, field trips to archeological sites, hands-on laboratory workshops and classroom activities. NEH Summer Scholars received a \$2700 stipend to help offset their expenses. Applications and other information is available at <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac.neh.htm>. Deadline for applications is **March 1, 2012**.

The Asian Education Media Service at the **University of Illinois**, Urbana-Champaign, is hosting an NEH Summer Institute for teachers **July 9-August 3, 2012** on Chinese Film and Society. A stipend of \$3300 for travel and lodging is available. For more information and an application go to [www.aems.illinois.edu/nehchinesefilm](http://www.aems.illinois.edu/nehchinesefilm). Deadline: **March 1, 2012**.

The **HistoryMakers** 2012 NEH Summer Institute will study African American history from Reconstruction to the present in Chicago, Ill, **July 8-August 3, 2012**. Participants will received \$3300 less the cost of accommodations at the Hyatt McCormick Place hotel. For additional information and an application go to <http://www.thehistorymakers.com/edday/> Deadline: **March 1, 2012**.

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## Resources for Teachers

**Trekking the Planet.** On Jan. 28, 2012, two Trekking the Planet travelers will embark on a 426-day expedition to explore the cities, peoples, history, economics, topography, nature and customs of 50 countries in six continents, along with treks to 11 of the world's most remote and unspoiled places. The mission of this venture is to provide free materials while enroute to help schools better educate students about human and physical geography. Teachers will be able to access 60 free planned weekly four-page modules online by signing up at <http://www.trekkingtheplanet.net/educators>

**iCivics** is designed to reinvigorate civics teaching through engaging games, lessons and other web-based materials at <http://www.icivics.org> for upper elementary and middle school grades. A new game, *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 by players running for president from the primaries through Election Day. Players have to make choices about their party, platform, vice president, and where to fundraise, poll, and spend their campaign dollars on appearances and advertisements as they strive for their 270 electoral votes. The game is available at <http://www.icivics.org/games/win-white-house>.

**Project Citizen.** Classroom sets of Level One (middle school) Project Citizen books are available for the cost of shipping, which is approximately \$18. Project Citizen involves both service learning and civic education. Students identify a local or state problem, research ways to resolve it, decide on the best solution and develop a plan for implementing it. In the process, students learn about federalism, public policy, how to influence change, and they improve their local community. A study by the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas found that students who participated in **Project Citizen** developed a greater understanding of the complexity of public policy, a commitment to active citizenship, and learned important communication skills. The materials set forth a process to help teachers guide their students through a project. The classroom set of materials includes 30 student textbooks plus a teacher's guide. If you are interested in obtaining a free classroom set of materials by simply paying the shipping costs, send an email with your name, grade, school and school address to: Marci Small at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu). High school classroom sets are available for \$295 plus shipping at <http://store.civiced.org>.

**Conflict Resolution and United States History** offers an engaging way to involve students in grades 5-12 in considering historical documents and multiple perspectives in order to better understand what happened in the past and why. The printed materials include a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for case studies of conflicts in American history ranging from the colonial period through the 1990s as well as a DVD. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/CONFLICT/overview.shtml> for a sample lesson, 4-minute video, teacher comments and an order form. Contact [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) for additional information or questions.

**We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** offers supplementary materials that 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>

The **Constitutional Rights Foundation** has free online lessons, including America's Economic Crisis Lessons, America Responds to terrorism, *Brown v. Board* 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Educating about Immigration, Educating about Intellectual Property, Election central Resources, School-based Service Learning and more. For an index of free online lessons go to <http://www.crf-usa.org/online-lessons-index/free-lessons-index.html>.

**C-SPAN Classroom** is a free membership service dedicated to supporting educators' use of C-SPAN programming in their classrooms. The website, <http://c-spanclassroom.org>, provides access to hundreds of video clips which you can download and stream online, lesson plans, conference and fellowship opportunities for educators. Right now, C-SPAN is offering a FREE Presidential Timeline Poster to all new C-SPAN Classroom members. In addition, teachers and students can win prizes by competing in StudentCam, an annual documentary competition. For more information email [educate@c-span.org](mailto:educate@c-span.org).

**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>.

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**Historical Documents of New Jersey and the United States**, including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. Constitution and the New Jersey Constitution, is available for free from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. Contact 1-800-FREELAW or [www.njsbf.org](http://www.njsbf.org) to request copies for your class. The order form is also available [online](#).

**There are numerous interesting opportunities and resources available that might be especially useful for teaching African-American history during the month of February:**

***A Place out of Time: the Bordentown School*** is a documentary that tells the story of an elite, all-Black, Boarding school that thrived for 70 years in segregated New Jersey, an educational utopia in an era when racial discrimination was law and custom. This PBS documentary on New Jersey African American history is available with curriculum for grades 9 -12. To order DVD go to: <http://teacher.shop.pbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=4188648> A Series of ten lessons to accompany the DVD is available at: [www.pbs.org/teachers/aplaceoutoftime/](http://www.pbs.org/teachers/aplaceoutoftime/)

***Taking Good Care: A History of Health & Wellness in the Black Community***, the 32nd Annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, sponsored by the New Jersey Historical Commission, will be held on Saturday, **February 18, 2012**, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, at Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University, Newark. Dr. Jocelyn Elders, former U.S.. Surgeon General, will lecture. Free and open to the public.

***I Ain't No Three Fifths of a Person***, a dramatic reenactment produced in partnership with George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Museum & Gardens and Fairfax County (Virginia) Public Schools, will air on February 22, 2012 from 1-2 p.m. (ET), for students in grades 9-12. It will broadcast this program via satellite and online video streaming. To provide a broader historical context, the human point of view presented by the enslaved men and women in the dramatic scenes is interwoven with interviews from prominent historians and comments from the actor/historical interpreters themselves. Register by going to <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/index.html>

## Social Studies Issues

**Christie's Education Agenda.** Watch for updates as legislation regarding tenure, charter schools and teacher evaluation work their way through the legislature. We'll send copies or summaries of bills.

**Required Middle School Civics Course.** A new bill to require a minimum of one year of civics in middle school will be introduced in the new legislative session. As soon as it is, we will send copies. In the meantime, you can send an email to [senkean@njleg.org](mailto:senkean@njleg.org), [asmdiegnan@njleg.org](mailto:asmdiegnan@njleg.org), [aswwagner@njleg.org](mailto:aswwagner@njleg.org) and to your local state legislator (go to [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us) for a listing) to tell them that every New Jersey student deserves to have a civics class. Remind your legislators that creating citizens with the knowledge, skills and desire to participate in a democratic society is the very purpose for which public schools were established. A healthy democracy depends on the participation of citizens, and that participation is learned behavior. It doesn't just happen. Help to get social studies back in the classroom. Contact me at [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu) or 848-445-3413 with any questions or if you'd like any additional information.

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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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