

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

The annual conference of the **New Jersey Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)** was held on October 27, 2011 at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Setting the tone for this year's theme, "From Local to Global: Social Studies and the iGeneration," was Ramapo Professor Richard Langheim who demonstrated how and why 21st century technology can be used to enhance teaching in the social studies classroom. More than 220 teachers and supervisors participated in 24 workshops ranging from the Civil War, America and the Holocaust to Electronic New Jersey, Virtual Economics, Project-Based Learning, Oral Histories, and 9/11Curriculum Initiatives. The participants also enjoyed learning about the resources available from 25 publisher and nonprofit exhibitors. Several participants called it "the best conference yet" and said that it was "difficult to decide between the great workshop offerings". The day included some fabulous door prizes from the exhibitors. The 2011-2012 Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Judy Aronson from Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood. In addition, a Social Studies Educator Lifetime Award was presented to Fred Cotterell, formerly supervisor in Paramus and now teaching at Montclair State University. The day concluded with "Journey from the Dust," an uplifting performance from Living Voices about how one young man through pluck and persistence never lost hope in his dreams during the Great Depression.



Prof. Richard Langheim discusses 21st century technology



Conference participants enjoy talking with conference exhibitors



Joe Refinski leads a workshop on project-based learning



Social Studies Educator Lifetime award recipient Fred Cotterell and NJ Social Studies Teacher of the year Judy Aronson show their awards

NJCSS Membership. If you have not yet joined NJCSS, you can still join for this year by going to the NJCSS website at <http://www.njcass.org/index.php> One year membership if \$25. One year joint membership with NJSSSA is \$40.

The Docket. In January 2012, all NJCSS members will receive the next edition of The Docket, the joint publication of the New Jersey and New York Councils for the Social Studies. Each issue includes theme-related and non-themed articles, lesson plans, learning activities, as well as book, movie and museum reviews for K-12 social studies teachers. Upcoming themes include: Summer-Fall 2012-Teaching about the Tea Party, Popular Movements and the 2012 Election; and Winter-Spring 2013—150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and New York/New Jersey abolitionists. If you would like to contribute an article to The Docket, please submit it to Alan Singer at Alan.J.Singer@hofstra.edu by Feb. 1, 2012 for the Summer/Fall 2012 edition and by Sept. 1, 2012 for the Winter/Spring 2013 edition.

The **Middle States Council for the Social Studies** is seeking workshop proposals for its annual spring conference. The form is available online at <http://www.mscss.net/MSCSSwebsiteneuhomepage.html>. The deadline for submitting a workshop proposal has been extended to **Nov. 30, 2011**.

HOLD THE DATES: **March 9, 2012:** Middle States Council for the Social Studies, Baltimore, MD
 April 3-5, 2012: North East Regional Conference for the Social Studies, Sturbridge, MA

The next meeting of **CASE** will be held at the Rutgers Club on Friday, **Jan. 20, 2012**. To register email agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu.

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>.

Professional Development

The **Rutgers Center for European Studies** is sponsoring a "Teach Europe" workshop on Friday, **November 18, 2011** (9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) for teachers of Languages, Social Studies, and Art. Participants will be exposed to innovative teaching strategies working with professors. The Teach Europe program offers yearly workshop seminars to provide participants with fair and updated information about the European Union, its multicultural nature, its economy, role and impact on today's world, and its relations with the United States. Upon completion of the program, CEUs or Credit Hours will be granted to the participants. There is no charge for the workshop, but registration is required at [this link](#), where the preliminary program is also available.

Teaching with Primary Sources. NJCSS and the NJ Center for Civic Education are 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. The first workshop will be Tuesday, **November 29, 2011** from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rutgers University in Piscataway. The second and third workshops will be on **February 9, 2012** and **March 22, 2012** from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the same location. Teachers must participate in all three parts of the program and will receive ten-hours of professional development. A \$25 refundable registration fee is required. [Click](#) or go to http://civiced.rutgers.edu/TPS_registration_form_Fall2011.pdf for additional information and a registration form.

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. The NJ Center for Civic Education is providing a day-long workshop focused on integrating the **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** materials into grades 3-12 curriculum on Wednesday, **November 30, 2011** at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A moot court, simulated legislative hearing and other engaging teaching strategies will be demonstrated with historical and current constitutional issues. A \$40 registration fee is required. Materials, breakfast, lunch and 6 pd hours are included. Deadline extended to Nov. 22. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/WTP/WTP-reg-2011.pdf> for more information and a registration form. The New Jersey State *We the People* High School Competition will be held on February 2, 2012.

Project Citizen helps students to understand public policy by researching a problem, identifying possible alternative solutions, selecting a solution that is both constitutional and practical, and developing an action plan for getting their solution implemented.

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It is both service learning and civic education. [Click](#) to see a 5-minute demonstration and discussion by students and teachers from last year's *Project Citizen Showcase*. The NJ Center for Civic Education is sponsoring a *Project Citizen* workshop for NJ teachers grades (grades 3-12) on **December 7, 2011** at the NJ Law Center in New Brunswick from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A \$40 registration fee is required. Materials, breakfast, lunch and 6 pd hours are included. Go to http://civiced.rutgers.edu/PROJECT_CITIZEN/PC-reg-2011.pdf for more information and a registration form. Starting January 2012, classes will be able to send links to their completed projects to be placed on a *Project Citizen Showcase* website and will be able to view and comment on other projects.

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: *AP Economics: Course Updates, Best Practices, and Improving Test Results* (grades 10-12) Saturday, **December 10, 2011** (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) and Integrating Smart Board technology into your Social Studies Curriculum on **December 14, 2011** (4:30-7:30 p.m.) for grades 6-12. . 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

Resources for Teachers

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. Teachers of grades 5-12 may enter their classes to participate in the iCivics Impact Challenge at <http://www.icivics.org/impact-challenge-2011>. Registered students can begin earning points for their class by playing iCivics games. When the contest ends **Nov. 30th**, the class with the highest points will win a virtual visit from Justice O'Connor! There is also a new game, *Win the White House*, which allows players to run for president from the primaries through Election Day. *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 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>.

NJ Sustainable Schools Project will select 20 schools to participate in a program sponsored by the EIRC and the NJ School Boards Association to determine whether the process of greening existing school facilities results in lowering operating costs and improving student achievement. To apply to participate go to <http://njsustainableschoolsproject.com>

PNC Christmas Price Index-SIFMA Stock Market Game Challenge asks middle school students (grades 6-8) participating in the Stock Market Game a chance to win \$4000 by estimating the cost of each of the gifts in the traditional holiday song, *Twelve Days of Christmas*, and the total cost of this year's PNC Christmas Price Index. In addition to their estimates, students must also write a brief statement explaining how they arrived at their conclusions. Contest entries are being accepted through **November 23, 2011** at 4 p.m. For contest rules and to submit an entry go to <http://sifma.oeg/smgcorner.priceindex>

By the end of November, many of the resources and presentations from the annual fall NJCSS conference will be available under "resources" on the NJCSS website at <http://www.njcss.org/index.php>.

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 for additional information or questions.

The **Constitutional Rights Foundation** has free online lessons, including America's Economic Crisis Lessons, America Responds to terrorism, *Brown v. Board* 50th 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>.

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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.

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>.

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 to request copies for your class. The order form is also available [online](#).

Making Citizens: Transforming Civic Learning for Diverse Social Studies Classrooms by Rutgers Graduate School of Education Professor Beth Rubin is now available at <http://www.routledge.com/9780415874625>. (\$34.95 paperback).

Teaching Global History: A Social Studies Approach, by Hofstra University Professor Alan Singer, offers an alternative thoughtful approach to pre-packaged textbook outlines and materials for high school classes. It is available in paperback from Routledge. Go to <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415875493>. (\$54.95 paperback).

Social Studies Issues

Governor Christie's Education Agenda. On September 23, the US Department of Education announced that the federal government would invite states to apply for flexibility from the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). States would be granted flexibility in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive state-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. The first application deadline was November 14. Late Friday, Nov. 4th, I received a copy of the draft outline for the New Jersey Department of Education's application seeking numerous waivers from NCLB requirements. Comments were accepted only until Nov. 9th. Please let me know if you saw the draft application and if you sent comments. We will have to watch much more carefully as Governor Christie pursues his "Education Agenda" since it can have a huge impact on teaching in NJ.

Required Middle School Civics Course. A-1631 has been waiting for the New Jersey Legislature to meet so that it can be updated to require a minimum of one year of civics in middle school. You can find a copy of the current bill and proposed updates as well as a two-page explanation at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/ADVOCACY/overview.shtml>. Then, take action! Send an email to senkean@njleg.org, asmdiegman@njleg.org, aswwagner@njleg.org and to your local state legislator (go to www.njleg.state.nj.us for a listing). 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 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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