

# ***NJ Social Studies Network News***

***A Publication of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies***

A print copy is available on our website, [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org)

**December 2023**

[hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu)

## **NJCSS Student Recognition Awards**

**Deadline: March 15, 2024**

**NJCSS Middle School Students** (Grades 6-8)

**NJCSS High School Students** (Grades 9-12)

**NJCSS NJ College Students** (*Arlene Gardner Award*)

## **NJCSS Teacher of the Year Awards**

**Deadline: April 30, 2024**

**NJCSS Elementary Teacher Award** (Grades K-5)

**NJCSS Middle School Teacher Award** (Grades 6-8)

**NJCSS High School Teacher Award** (Grades 9-12)

## **NJ Amistad Commission's Exemplary Lessons Award**

The Award committee selects **two teachers** to receive the Amistad Commission's Exemplary Award: One teacher representing Grades K-8 and one teacher representing Grades 9-12.

Each award recipient receives \$2,500 in recognition of his or her extraordinary contributions. Additionally, the recipient's school district will receive \$2,500.

### **The Exemplary Lesson Criteria:**

- The lesson must include a list of all materials, resources, media, and technology used to create the lesson. Student projects should be included.
  - The lesson must identify the grade level, period in America History, and NJSLS
  - The lesson must be videoed and be no longer than 45 minutes.
- Any students that can be visible in the video, **MUST HAVE A** district waiver for them to appear on a district/state website.
  - A written copy of the lesson plan, describing the time breakdown of each activity, (anticipatory, practice, assessment, and follow-up) activities.
- The lesson must be approved by the school administrator and documentation must be provided.

Each Approved Exemplary Lesson will receive a \$300 award for use of their lesson. The submission of the lesson must be submitted before April 1, 2024.

Please submit a copy of your lesson to [Trevor.Melton@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Trevor.Melton@doe.nj.gov) **before April 1, 2024.**

## **Middle States Social Studies Council Teacher Recognition Awards**

The MSCSS conference is in late February in Annapolis. MSCSS includes NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, and D.C.

The Middle States Council for the Social Studies is looking for nominations in eight categories for their 2024 awards. A list of each of the awards can be found on the MSCSS website listed below, as well as a link to the nomination form. **Nominations will be accepted through December 23, 2023.** Any questions regarding nominations can be directed to Kevin Wagner at [wagnerk1973@gmail.com](mailto:wagnerk1973@gmail.com)

Website - <https://www.midstatescouncil.org/mscss-awards-descriptions/>

## Drumthwacket

### Dates and Times of Open Houses



## Morven at Christmas Festival of Trees



[Video](#)

## Teacher Resources

### **The Amistad Commission's New Jersey History Day Contest**

The Amistad Commission is in the process of creating a social studies contest on African American History in New Jersey. We are seeking educators with **experience in elementary education, specifically a background in fourth and fifth grade social studies**. We also will welcome other educators, mainly those with National History Day experience, and those with technology, science, art, English and History expertise. The goal of this committee will be to create a one-day contest, on New Jersey's local History, that will highlight the contributions of African Americans. The contest will be limited to 50 student projects this year.

#### ***Duties of the Amistad Commission's History Day Committee:***

Committee members will serve a one-year term, minimally.

One person will serve as the chair for the committee, for one year.

Groups will meet virtually bimonthly to discuss model for a one-day contest to be held in February of 2024.

The committee will be responsible for creating the framework on the one-day contest, scoring rubrics and questions for the participants on their projects.

Committee Chair or designees will present at the Amistad Summer Curriculum Institute  
Committee members will be expected to attend the contest and serve as coordinators or judges  
Each member of the History Day Committee will receive \$1,000 for a year of service (July 1 to June 30, 2024.)  
If you are interested in serving on one of the above committees, please email your resume and indicate your preferences regarding an assigned committee to: [Trevor.Melton@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Trevor.Melton@doe.nj.gov) before November 15, 2023.

## **RevolutionNJ is implementing a History Happened Here Local History project for students grades 5 to 12**

**Deadline: December 8, 2023**

During the 2024-2025 school year, six educators will be running a trial version of the program in their classes, using materials provided by RevolutionNJ to help their students navigate the research process. **The selected educators will receive a stipend of \$1,500 to participate in the trial.**

Requirements include attending a one-hour virtual training, assigning the project to at least one class (or club), teaching provided modules on research practices, sharing exemplar projects, administering a student survey, and attending an online debriefing. Interested applicants should fill out a Google form: <https://forms.gle/zvTU1baRT68vmBdo9>.

### [History Happened Here Trial Application](#)

Any questions, please email Bob Fenster, the Educational Program Specialist with RevNJ, at [robert.fenster@sos.nj.gov](mailto:robert.fenster@sos.nj.gov).

### [Monticello for Educators](#) [Digital Education Programs](#)



We offer two different digital education programs for your K-12 students. Check out the program descriptions and email us at [digital.learning@monticello.org](mailto:digital.learning@monticello.org) with any questions!

On this hour-long virtual tour, a Monticello guide will lead your students in real-time through the first floor of Thomas Jefferson's mountaintop home. Learn about Thomas Jefferson and his ideas that helped shape a nation, Monticello as an architectural icon and the stories of the free and enslaved people who lived and labored on this plantation.

Pricing: This one-hour tour is \$20 and exclusively uses Zoom to connect. The cost of this program is waived for Title I schools.

Availability: We offer Live Virtual Tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year.

[Book a Live Virtual Tour online here](#) or email us to schedule!

## Princeton Battlefield

Sunday, January 7, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

## Professional Development at Fairleigh Dickinson University

Teaching African American History and Contributions (Spring '24 beginning in April)

Teaching LGBTQ+ History and Contributions at the MS/HS Levels (Spring '24 beginning in April)

The courses will run 5 weeks via zoom.

Interested teachers could register for the courses as non-matriculating FDU students and earn credit.

<https://www.fdu.edu/admissions/graduate/>

## Professional Development with the New York Fed!

Join the New York Fed for "Unpacking Passport to Social Studies Grade 12 Economics" on **December 14, 2023**. This in-person professional development opportunity at the New York Fed will familiarize you with the NYC DOE Passport to Social Studies grade 12 Economics curriculum and New York Fed economic education resources to support your learners.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Explore More from the New York Fed  
Click on the image and text to register



Student Research: Register by February 15th for your student team to pursue publication in the Journal of Future Economists



Save the Date: Our next in-person educator professional development program will be offered January 29, 2024. Register now!



**Classroom visits: Invite a New York Fed educator into your classroom**

## **Brown University's Choice Program**



Teaching About the Vietnam War, Japanese American Incarceration in WWII, and Other AAPI Topics in the History Classroom

**Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:30 am**  
**Leonia, NJ**

### **NJ History Day** ***Turning Points in History***

*To celebrate our 50th anniversary, NHD's theme will be Turning Points in History. This year's theme invites you to consider questions of time and place, cause and effect, change over time, and impact and significance.*

*A turning point in history is more than just an important event that happened a long time ago. It is more than a new idea or a particular action taken by an individual. A turning point is an idea, event, or action that directly, or sometimes indirectly, causes change.*

#### **NJ History Day Resources**

Margaret Renn, New Jersey State Coordinator Email: [rennm@wpunj.edu](mailto:rennm@wpunj.edu)

## National Climate Assessment Report – 2023



### [Get the data for your county in the Interactive Atlas](#)

County name	Bergen County
Temp Days 100 F	5
Temp Days 105 F	1
Temp Days 95 F	18

*In New Jersey, a study was commissioned to better understand the integration of the needs and challenges of underrepresented and socially vulnerable populations into coastal hazards planning.*

## NJ Center for Civic Education

### High School U.S. History Course Should Include Civics, Economics and New Jersey History: Resources and Professional Development now Available!

The initial curriculum guide, which will be on the Center's website at <https://civiced.rutgers.edu/civics/high-school-civics-history-and-economics> by fall 2023, includes a variety of suggested civics, economics and New Jersey history lessons, activities, and resources for New Jersey high school teachers to integrate into their United States history course.

A professional development workshop to share, demonstrate and discuss the materials will be held at Rutgers University's Livingston Campus Center in Piscataway on October 9, 2024 (Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day). The workshop is free. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Materials will be provided. If you would like to satisfy this long-standing mandate, which has been codified in social studies standards, or if you are looking for some new ideas to enrich and enliven your U.S. History class, join us. To register go to <https://civiced.rutgers.edu/events/range.listevents/>

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024: Project Citizen (grades 3-12)**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024: Infusing Civics, Economics and New Jersey history into High School U.S. History**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024: Teaching Controversial issues and Media Literacy (K-12)**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024: Civics for grades K-5**

**Thursday, May 9, 2024: Engaging Students in Middle School Civics**

Contact Bob O'Dell at [ro205@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:ro205@scarletmail.rutgers.edu) or Arlene Gardner at [arlenega@sas.rutgers.edu](mailto:arlenega@sas.rutgers.edu) with questions.

**Protecting Human Rights, Human Dignity, and the Environment:  
75 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)**

**Montclair State University**

**Contact: John Terry, [jterry@bernardsboe.com](mailto:jterry@bernardsboe.com)**

Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education  
Saint Elizabeth University, Morristown, NJ

**[REGISTER TODAY!](#)**

**The Informed Citizen Blog  
NJ State Bar Foundation**



Great resources and perspectives on issues

**[informedcitizen.njsb.org](http://informedcitizen.njsb.org)**

## **Climate Education Resources**

The NJCSS is collecting Best Practices lessons you did with your students last year. Send them to Hank Bitten [hb288@sasmailrutgers.edu](mailto:hb288@sasmailrutgers.edu)

**Discuss and Debate these Possible Solutions  
United Arab Emirates COP 28 Climate Change Conference  
November 30 – December 12, 2023**

December 8th: In line with the Youth, Children, Education and Skills thematic, programming on the T&I Hub Stage will focus on the role of technology in reducing the impact of climate change on the youth and the need to drive youth inclusion in climate action. Day 8 will examine technology solutions facilitating education and skills for climate, future-proofing education through tech literacy and empowering the youth through technology. It will also explore the role played by open knowledge sources and online platforms in enabling empowerment of the youth.

**What is the most efficient strategy to reach Net Zero through energy transition technology? [Princeton University](#)**

## **New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution Announces Scholarship Contests for 2023 - 2024**

New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution announces Youth Education Contests, Programs, and Grants for grades 3 to 12 and the SAR History Teacher of the Year Grant. These include an

**Elementary School Poster Contest**

**Middle School Brochure Contest**

**High School Essay Contest, High School Oration Contest**

**Eagle Scouts Program**

**Junior ROTC Program**

**2023 Reverend John Witherspoon American History Teacher of the Year Grant.**

Awards range from \$25 for the Elementary poster contest to \$600 for the High School contests. State winners will be submitted to the National Society for entry into the national competition and additional scholarship prizes. National awards have scholarships of up to \$5,000 for the high school levels. For more information about the New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution Council of Youth Programs, along with other teaching resources about the American Revolution, visit [www.njssar.org/edu](http://www.njssar.org/edu)

The 2022 SAR History Teacher of the Year Grant was awarded to **Robert N. Schulte**. Mr. Schulte teaches 8th grade Social Studies at **Reynolds Middle School, Hamilton (Mercer) Township School District**. Mr. Schulte has led seminars at the National Council for Social Studies on the importance of teaching the American Revolution. For more information about Mr. Schulte, visit [www.njssar.org/schulte](http://www.njssar.org/schulte)

Contact: Roger S. Williams

Chair, Education Committee

New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution

609-389-5657

## **FDU Teacher Workshop: A Brief Overview of Asian American History**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

**4:30 – 6 PM**

**Virtual**

Fairleigh Dickinson University & Teach Asian American Stories present a virtual workshop with scholar Dr. Khyati Joshi and TAAS Fellow Dr. Dakashna Lang. This 1.5 hour, virtual workshop will focus on providing middle school and high school teachers an overview of Asian American history from 1700-2000s and highlight Asian American contributions to immigration and citizenship laws that shape the United States. Teachers will leave with practical resources, tools, and ideas on how to weave AAPI contributions into their existing curriculum. Free and open to all. Professional Development hours awarded.

[REGISTER](#)

## **2024 Applications Are Open Now!**

**Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.**

**Summer Teacher Institutes and National Oratory Fellows**

Whether you are looking for a week-long summer teacher institute, or a year-long fellowship, Ford's Professional Development Programs offer teachers unparalleled experiences in and beyond D.C. Dig deep into primary sources and diverse perspectives; spark historical curiosity; and join an extraordinary network of fellow educators from around the country.

"... a unique platform for educators to exchange insights, collaborate, and broaden our horizons, thus empowering us to make a profound impact on the lives of our students."- Set in Stone 2023 Participant

***The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation***

***Civil War Washington***

**July 7-12, 2024**

[Learn More and Apply](#)



Explore the gritty, complex, precarious city that was wartime Washington through the lives of Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and individual citizens and residents of the nation's capital.

***Set in Stone: Civil War Memory, Monuments and Myths***  
July 21-26, 2024

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Examine how people have sculpted the narrative of United States history through monuments and memorials in our nation's capital. Investigate how the legacies of the Civil War and Reconstruction – slavery, freedom, race and power – shape public memory.

***National Oratory Fellows***  
School Year 2024-2025

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Build your own leadership skills and cultivate student voices by learning the art and science behind compelling and effective public speaking and integrating it into your classroom. As a fellow, you will develop and strengthen skills to teach text analysis, public speaking, performance and speech writing in your classroom.

## **Just for Students!**

### **Kean's 16th Annual Human Rights Conference Spreads Nelson Mandela's Message**

**Ndaba Mandela**, the grandson of former South Africa president and human rights icon Nelson Mandela, will lead a list of internationally renowned speakers headlining the **Kean University Human Rights Conference on Friday, December 8**.

The conference – organized by the Human Rights Institute (HRI) at Kean – this year marks the 75th anniversary of the passage of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, with the theme *Freedom, Equity and Justice for All*.

The Human Rights Conference will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on December 8 at Wilkins Theatre on Kean's Union campus. The event is free and open to the public, but attendees must [register online](#).

Joining Mandela as speakers will be **Sophia Kianni, an Iranian-American climate change activist and the youngest appointed United Nations advisor**, and **John Prendergast, a *New York Times* best-selling author and co-founder, with actor George Clooney, of the human rights organization The Sentry**.

Kianni is a student at Stanford University and founder of Climate Cardinals, an international nonprofit that translates climate information into more than 100 languages.

Prendergast's organization, The Sentry, is an investigative and policy team that follows the dirty money connected to war criminals and transnational war profiteers. He has worked for the White House, the State Department, the National Intelligence Council, and held other posts. He is also a former Anne Evans Estabrook Human Rights Senior Fellow at Kean. Felice Vazquez, senior vice president of planning and special counsel to the president at Kean, said past HRI conferences have explored issues such as disability justice, food insecurity, and the importance of voting.

"The Human Rights Conference is an important event at Kean each year, and helps the University expand its reach and spread its message of freedom and unity," Raue said. "We are excited to bring these speakers to the Kean community and to recognize human rights leadership."

The conference coincides with the last day of the exhibition *WE DECLARE* at Kean's Human Rights Gallery. A large-scale mural created by Kean alumnus and Artist-in-Residence Ricardo Roig this semester, it features many well-known global human rights activists and honors the 75th anniversary of the U.N. declaration.

For more information, visit the [Human Rights Conference webpage](#).

**Prakhin International Literary Foundation Award**  
***The Truth about the Holocaust and Stalinist Repression***

[www.prakhin.org](http://www.prakhin.org)

“The Truth about the Holocaust and Stalinist repression” award recognizes the best literary work by students of high schools and college in efforts to involve students who should learn from the hardships of our ancestors. The goal is to teach students human values such as compassion, forgiveness and tolerance.

Every year, we grant awards to the literary and artworks that stands out to us the most.

**The submission deadline for all work is on December 30, 2023.**

Contact Information: [ludmilaprakhina@msn.com](mailto:ludmilaprakhina@msn.com); phone: 201-741-0833; w-site: [www.prakhin.org](http://www.prakhin.org)

**Panasonic Foundation and the Foundation for Impact on Literacy and Learning**  
***Eco Citizenship Contest***



The Panasonic Foundation and FILL have collaborated for ten years in New Jersey and five years in Colorado to provide the Student Eco Citizenship Program at no cost to classrooms in these states. This is an important contest and activity supporting our interdisciplinary learning standards for Climate Education in Social Studies.

***The 2023-2024 program is open for registration and will continue to ask students in grades 5-8 to define environmental issues, create actions to solve the issue, apply the actions in their community to help solve the problem and lastly evaluate their actions conducted and share their results.***

Student teams will be able to submit their work into the annual Eco Diary competition.

**Ten New Jersey student teams and five Colorado student teams will be awarded prizes along with their teacher!**

**[REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE!](#)**

A promotional graphic for the Eco Citizenship Program. It features three young girls smiling and holding a document. The text reads: "EMPOWER AND EDUCATE TOMORROW'S ECO CITIZENS". Below the image, it says "FREE lessons and resources for grades 5-8." and lists four steps: 1. Student teams create a solution to an environmental issue, 2. Implement the solution, 3. Document outcomes in an eco diary, 4. Submit eco diary into statewide competition for opportunity to win team & teacher prizes. At the bottom, it says "To register visit [www.EcoCitizenship.org](http://www.EcoCitizenship.org)". There is also a logo for the Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Program and a small Panasonic logo at the bottom left.

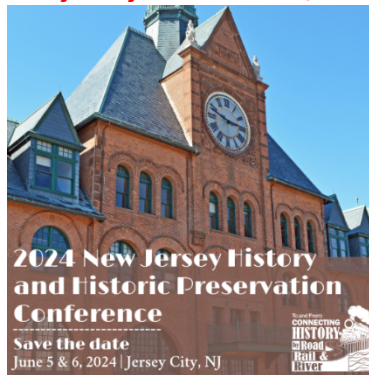
## Something for You!

### [New Jersey Historic Roadway Study](#)

*I enjoyed this information as it provides the history of highway transportation and shows how NJ has been a leader in the 20<sup>th</sup> century on public safety. Download the document and Use Control F to learn about the roads in your county.*

## Professional Conferences

### **2024 New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference – Jersey City – June 5-6, 2024**



### **NCSS Future Conferences – PLAN AHEAD!**

**NOVEMBER 22 – 24 2024**

104th NCSS Annual Conference

John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center  
900 Boylston St **Boston, MA** 02115

**DECEMBER 5 – 7 2025**

105th NCSS Annual Conference

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
801 Mt Vernon Pl, NW **Washington, DC** 20001

**DECEMBER 4 – 6 2026**

106th NCSS Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency **Chicago**  
151 E. Wacker Dr Chicago, IL 60601

### **NJ Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)**

*President:* Michael Kenduck

*Vice President:* Joseph Dwyer

*Secretary:* Christine Gehringer

*Treasurer:* Kaitlyn Mahaffey

*Executive Director and Editor:* Hank Bitten

## **NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association (NJSSSA)**

*President, Nicole Sanyigo*

*Vice-President, Aldo Deodino*

*Secretary, Cindy Assini*

*Treasurer, Gabrielle Rendek*

### ***Schedule of Meetings for 2023-24***

**Friday, January 26, 2024** Virtual 9AM-12PM

**Friday, May 17, 2024**

in person at NJPSA in Monroe 9AM-3PM (breakfast and lunch served)