

# ***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)

**November 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 NJSL
  - 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/>

## Take a Digital Visit to Raritan Landing

### Uncovering Raritan Landing

#### Understanding the Importance of Sources and Evidence in Current Events

One of the challenges of discussing developing issues in the classroom is evaluating the sources of where students and parents receive their information. An alternative to discussing controversial issues is to inquire about the sources of information.

**What do we know?**

**How did we verify what we know?**

**Which sources agree on this?**

**What is the bias in the source?**

**What do we need to know?**

#### Possible Sources for Developing Issues

Council on Foreign Relations  
Center for Strategic & International Studies  
Atlantic Council  
U.S. Institute of Peace  
United Nations

Columbia University Middle East Institute  
Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies  
Princeton University Near Eastern Studies  
NYU Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

*New York Times*  
*Washington Post*  
*Jerusalem Post*  
*Wall Street Journal*  
*The Economist*

Reuters  
BBC  
Al Jazeera  
National Public Radio  
Bloomberg  
Associated Press  
PBS

#### Veterans Day

**Saturday, November 11, 2023**

Possible dates for school remembrances – Wed. Nov. 8 and Mon. Nov. 13.

#### President Wilson's Radio Address to the Nation 100 Years ago on 11/10/1923

In November 1923, the world was falling apart and this 4 minute radio address might be of interest to you as we focus on our global issues in 2023. President Wilson passed on February 3, 1924, three months later.

## 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.

### **Eyewitnesses to the American Revolution**

Ten Crucial Days

Activity Cards and Video Presentations

[www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org) and on the [NJCSS 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Blog](#)

### **New Jersey Historical Commission**

***Unfinished Revolution:***

***New Perspectives on the American Revolution in New Jersey***

November 17, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1 Memorial Drive, Trenton, NJ

[Tickets Available Here](#)

### **William Paterson University**

#### **Short Film and Discussion: A Holocaust Journey**

November 2, 2023 – Thurs 4:00-5:15 PM

To Attend by Zoom: [Register at this link.](#)

"A Holocaust Journey: Lessons We Learned," directed by Lisa Reznik, presents the experiences of a group of students at Saint Elizabeth University who traveled to Germany and Poland with survivors, children of survivors, and community members in 2016 to try to comprehend the reality of the Holocaust. We will watch a special 30-minute version of the film and have the opportunity to discuss it with Dr. Harriet Sepinwall, who arranged the trip, and Lisa Reznik, who directed the film. Teachers will receive a "teacher's toolkit" guide created by the speakers that expands upon the content in the film.

## **The Forgotten History of the World's First Trans Clinic: How Hatred Begins**

November 16, 2023 – Thurs 4:00-5:15 PM

To Attend: [Register at this link.](#)

Author and historian [Dr. Brandy Schillace](#) will give a talk and lead a discussion based on [her article in the \*Scientific American\*: "The Forgotten History of the World's First Trans Clinic"](#). This presentation is part of the Office for Student Diversity and Inclusion's Transgender & Non-Binary Awareness Week.

Alison Dobrick, Ed.D. she/her/hers  
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William Paterson University  
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[dobricka@wpunj.edu](mailto:dobricka@wpunj.edu) [www.wpunj.edu](http://www.wpunj.edu)

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



Teaching About Current Issues: Genocide, U.S.-Russia Relations, and More with the Choices Program's Award-winning Curriculum

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:30 am**

***Leonia, NJ***



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***

## Professional Development at Fairleigh Dickinson University

**Teaching AAPI History and Contributions** - taught by Dr. Khyati Joshi (Fall '23 beginning 11/13 on Mondays)

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

**Teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide**- taught by Frank Stebbins of Facing History and Ourselves (beginning 11/8)

**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/>

## The E Pluribus Unum Project [theepuproject@gmail.com](mailto:theepuproject@gmail.com)

We, The E Pluribus Unum Project (TEPUP), would like to invite NJ K-12 teachers, curriculum supervisors and K-12 administrators to our inaugural conference, the **Black Asian American Solidarity Professional Development Event** on October 11 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Princeton University Carl Fields Center. [Here](#) is the link to register.

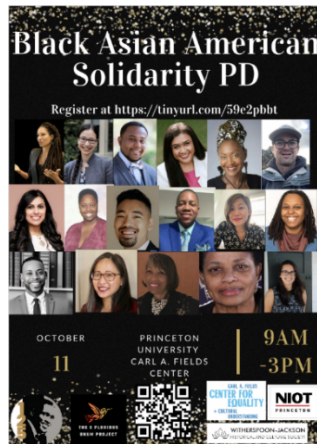
Opening Remarks - Dr. Ruha Benjamin of Princeton University

Keynote Address - Dr. Beth Lew-Williams of Princeton University

Amistad Curriculum - Dr. Patrick Lamy, Executive Director of the Amistad Commission

**Hidden Voices Curriculum** - Dr. Khyati Joshi of Fairleigh Dickinson University

There will be ten options for “make-and-take” small group sessions for teachers and curriculum supervisors on Black history, AAPI history and Cross Cultural Solidarity.



## 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 indirectly, causes change.*

### NJ History Day Resources

Margaret Renn, New Jersey State Coordinator

Email: [rennm@wpunj.edu](mailto:rennm@wpunj.edu)

## 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, November 7, 2023 (Election Day):

Two concurrent workshops: New Jersey History and Government for Grades 3-5 and We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution for Grades 4-8

Wednesday, December 6, 2023: Engaging Students in Middle School Civics

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

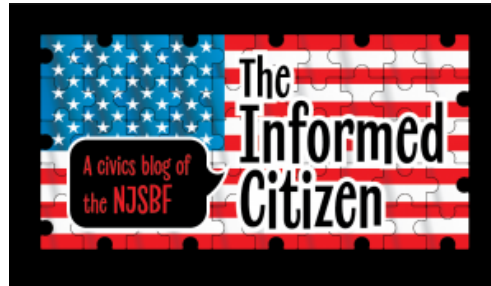
[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

### [Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education](#)

Richard Quinlan, Director, Phone: (973) 290-4351, [holocaustcenter@steu.edu](mailto:holocaustcenter@steu.edu)  
November 8, 2023, 11:00 a.m. Adi Rabinowitz, Director of Activist Holocaust Education.

December 4, 2023, 12:00 p.m. Providence Umugwaneza, will discuss her work, "Next Couple Hours" on the 1995 Rwandan Genocide.

**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.

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](#)

## **Just for Students!**

### **The Abram Karch/Thomas Jefferson Lecture Series**

A Special Zoom Session for Students – It's Free

#### ***Exploring Turning Points in Jeffersonian America***

**Thursday, November 30, 2023 (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**



**REGISTER TODAY!**

This program, presented by William Paterson University, will prepare students for the 2024 NJ National History Day Theme: “Turning Points in History”

### **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: [ludmilaprahina@msn.com](mailto:ludmilaprahina@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!](#)**



## **Professional Conferences**

### **NJ Historical Commission**

***Unfinished Revolution: New Perspectives on the American Revolution in New Jersey***

**Nov. 17, 2023**

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1 Memorial Drive, Trenton, NJ

**[Tickets Available Here](#)**

**NJ Council for History Education**

**Princeton University – Dec. 1, 2023**

**Keynote Speakers:** Lindsay Chervinsky, Allen C. Guelzo, and Linda Colley

**[Register Today!](#)**

**NCSS Nashville, TN (Dec. 1-3, 2023)**

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

**“Meet us in the Music City”**

**<https://www.socialstudies.org/conference>**

**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,* Steven Maher

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

**Friday, January 26, 2023** Virtual 9AM-12PM

**Friday, May 17, 2024**

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