

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

March 2025

hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu

2025 NJCSS Conference

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Reflecting, Debating & Celebrating for 250 Years"

Monday, October 20, 2025, Busch Student Center at Rutgers

[NJCSS Exhibitor Registration Form 2025 PDF](#)

[NJCSS Fall Conference Registration Form 2025 PDF](#)

[NJCSS Fall Conference Call for Proposals PDF](#)

Support NJCSS with Membership Renewal

[RENEW ONLINE](#) (Pay by PayPal or PO)

NJCSS Student Recognition Awards (Deadline is March 15, 2025)

Every student nominated receives a certificate and congratulatory letter

One student in each category and geographic area receives a plaque

These Certificates are Valued by Students and their Parents

[NJCSS Middle School Student Award](#)

[NJCSS High School Student Award](#)

[Arlene Gardner College Student Award](#)

NJCSS Teacher Recognition Awards (Deadline is April 30, 2025)

Every teacher nominated receives a certificate and congratulatory letter.

One teacher in each category and geographic area receives a plaque and gift card.

[Elementary Teacher Award](#) (Grades K-5)

[Middle School Teacher Award](#) (Grades 6-8)

[High School Teacher Award](#) (Grades 9-12)

Teaching Social Studies

The Winter-Spring edition is on our website, www.njcss.org

We thought you might enjoy these articles during Women's History Month

[NJ Women's History](#) (Selections by century and topic)

Jersey Girls

[Marion Thompson Wright](#) (East Orange)

[Sarah Moore Grimke](#) (Eagleswood)

[Angelina Grimke Weld](#) (Perth Amboy)

[Betsey Stockton](#) (Princeton)

[Mary Mapes Dodge](#) Newark)

[Caroline Bamberger Frank Fuld](#) (Newark)

[Jennie Carolyn Van Ness](#) (Orange)

[Margaret Creswell](#) (Atlantic City)

[Nell Doremus](#) (Ridgewood)

[Anne Ryan](#) Hoboken, Morristown)

Call for NJ History Day Judges

Two Ways to Judge

As in previous years, the website and paper categories will be judged completely online - meaning that if you select those categories, you can complete your judging on your own schedule. Online judging begins about two weeks before each contest, and results are due the Thursday before the contest. If you prefer to join us in person on contest day, please choose documentary, exhibit, or performance as your preferred category. In-person judging is a single-day commitment. Judges begin at 8 AM and are usually done by 2:00 PM.

Contest Dates and Registration

We ask judges to register on zFairs, the contest platform. Each contest has a separate zFairs registration page. Please use the links below to register. Our new Registration Guide helps walk you through the process. **Even if you registered in previous years, you must create a new account, as we do not retain your personal data.**
Please save your username and password.

Saturday, March 8, 2025 - Metro Regional Contest at Monmouth University [Register for Monmouth](#)

Sunday, March 16, 2025 - Northern Regional Contest at St. Elizabeth University [Register for St. Elizabeth](#)

Saturday, May 3, 2025 - New Jersey State Contest at William Paterson University [Register for WPU](#)



Judge Training Sessions

[March 11, 7:00 PM](#)

QUESTIONS???? njhistoryday@wpunj.edu

Teacher Resources

Calling All Educators: Apply for the Teach Asian American Stories Fellowship!

Are you passionate about making Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) history an integral part of your classroom and beyond? The Teach Asian American Stories (TAAS) Fellowship is an exciting opportunity for public school educators to deepen their knowledge of AAPI history and gain the skills to train fellow teachers.

Through this 10–12 month program, Fellows will work closely with Dr. Khyati Joshi at Fairleigh Dickinson University, participate in expert-led workshops, receive coaching and mentorship, and facilitate professional development sessions on AAPI history.

Fellows will also be equipped with essential resources to help bring these critical stories into more classrooms.

Join a dynamic cohort of educators committed to expanding inclusive education in New Jersey and beyond!

Fellows receive a total stipend of \$2,000, a grant of up to \$500 for classroom materials, a collection of foundational books A credential co-signed by Fairleigh Dickinson University, AAPI New Jersey, and Teach Asian American Stories, and mentorship and support

[Applications](#) are now open—apply today! (Deadline is March 23, 2025)

New Jersey Historical Commission

Presenting the RevolutionNJ Video



If you are still getting caught up with what we're doing at RevolutionNJ, here's an easy primer. Recently shot at the Old Barracks in Trenton, with some help from Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy, the RevolutionNJ Video proudly explains New Jersey's critical importance to the American Revolution, and how New Jersey will lead the country in commemorating the 250th Anniversary in 2026. Take a look and get excited for what's coming next!

[Watch the Video](#) (3 minutes)

The New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution

JSSAR Elementary School Poster Contest – Deadline April 30

SGT. MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL Middle School Brochure Contest – Deadline April 30, 2025

For more information visit njssar.org/edu

Speakers and Resources for Your Classroom. More battles and skirmishes were fought in New Jersey than in any other state. The New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution (NJSSAR) can help you find qualified speakers for your classroom, homeschool, or organization on various Revolutionary War topics. Topics include colonial life, soldier life, founding documents, spies during the revolution, letter writing, colonial toys, medicine, and cooking. We can also talk about local events and New Jersey's role during the revolutionary era. Our speakers, or speaker recommendations, maybe academics, educators, authors, historic site staff, or public historians. Some of our speakers can come dressed in period clothing. NJSSAR can advise educators about field trips to New Jersey or other Tri-State Revolutionary War sites. For more information or to answer questions, go to njssar.org/edu-speaker

Reading the Revolution NJSSAR.org has a list of recommended books on the American Revolution for young readers at this link <https://tinyurl.com/2kca3bdk>

THE AMISTAD COMMISSION

Exciting News for New Jersey Educators!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Curriculum Support Website designed specifically to enhance your work in the classroom. This innovative platform is packed with resources, tools, and support to help you deliver engaging and effective lessons.

www.njamistad.com

Key Features:

Comprehensive Lesson Plans: Access a wide range of lesson plans tailored to New Jersey's curriculum standards and the Amistad Law.

Interactive Tools: Utilize interactive tools and digital resources to make learning more dynamic and fun for your students.

Professional Development: Find opportunities for professional growth with our curated selection of workshops, webinars, and training materials.

Collaborative Community: Connect with fellow educators, share best practices, and collaborate on new ideas through our community forums.

Engage Students Directly: Take advantage of the new opportunities for students to have direct access to the new website.

Engaging Parents and Districts:

We are excited to offer additional resources for New Jersey parents and school districts on how to strategically support implementation of the Amistad curriculum mandate.

Visit the Curriculum Support Website today and take your classroom experience to the next level!

Amistad Commission's 2025 Summer Curriculum Institute

. This year's event will take place from August 4th to August 7th at Stockton University-Ocean Campus in Atlantic City.

[Register Now](#)

(Last summer this popular event filled quickly!)

"Fly for Freedom"

With NYC based performer Jasmine Coles

Produced by Living Voices

[Home Front / War Front](#) : [Fly for Freedom](#) a new historical multimedia program featuring the little-known stories and contributions of working women in the World War II aeronautics industry, amplifying the experiences of Black women through the Rosie the Riveters who built planes, the Tuskegee Airmen, and the Double Victory campaign.

[Reserve for your school Today!](#)

[Living Voices Home Page](#)

NJ Center for Civic Education Workshops

Registration: [NJ Center For Civic Education - Events-](#)

Are you looking for resources and strategies that will engage your middle school students in civics? We have lots of materials and ideas for you that will be demonstrated and shared at this whole day (8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) workshop at Rutgers Busch Campus Center in Piscataway.

March 11, 2025: Teaching Civics in Elementary Grades

For pre-service and current elementary teachers interested in resources and strategies for teaching civics in elementary grades, including connections across the curriculum.

Registration: [NJ Center For Civic Education - Events-](#)

March 18, 2025: Project Citizen workshop for grades 3-12



Project Citizen is a project based civic education program for students grades 3-12. Students learn how public policy is developed and how they can effect change. The workshop will help teachers understand how they can guide their students through the process of identifying an issue, researching possible solutions, developing the best solution and creating an action plan for its implementation. Sample classroom books will be distributed at the workshop. Class projects are shared at the annual state Project Citizen Showcase each June.

Registration: [NJ Center For Civic Education - Events-](#)

April 2, 2025: We the People workshop for middle and high school teachers



We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution provides an understanding of the political philosophy underlying our Constitution and Bill of Rights and their impact in history and relevance to current-day issues. The materials include critical thinking exercises and activities and cooperative learning techniques to develop participatory skills, while

increasing student knowledge of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. The culminating activity is a simulated legislative hearing with the opportunity for high school classes to compete in an annual state (and national) competition. Any U.S. History or U.S. Government class, and especially AP classes, can benefit from We the People. Sample classroom books will be distributed at the workshop.

All events are held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rutgers University, include lunch, and are offered without charge.

Registration: [NJ Center For Civic Education - Events-](#)

Contact Bob O'Dell at ro205@scarletmail.rutgers.edu or Arlene Gardner at arlenega@sas.rutgers.edu with any questions.

National Constitution Center Constitutional Rights in the Headlines

Presidential Term Limits

A member of the House of Representatives has proposed changing the Constitution to allow current President Donald Trump the option of running for a third term as president. [Teach the Topic](#)

Executive Orders

President Donald Trump has issued a series of executive orders addressing immigration, foreign affairs, federal spending, and more. But what exactly are executive orders, and how do they fit into our constitutional system? [Teach the Topic](#)

Birthright Citizenship

The question of who qualifies for U.S. citizenship at birth has been a topic of debate for years, but it has gained renewed attention recently. [Teach the Topic](#)

Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminars Online

The Gilder Lehrman Institute is once again offering ten Teacher Seminars Online, giving K–12 educators, librarians, community college instructors, and museum professionals the opportunity to study with eminent American history professors and dive deep into primary sources with master teachers. Each seminar is composed of lectures that you can watch on your own schedule as well as live Zoom sessions featuring the scholar, Gilder Lehrman master teachers, partner organizations, and your peers.

Registration for Teacher Seminars is just \$25 per seminar (with discounts available for three or more registrations), and each seminar comprises between 22 and 24 professional development hours.

To learn more and register for our ten Teacher Seminars Online, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Summer PD Opportunities

[Visit this page to learn more and begin your application.](#)

(Deadline: March 7, 2025)

[Explore all Summer 2025 professional development options](#) (22 Great Programs!)

Immigration is in the News

Exciting Opportunity for Educators: Ellis Island Spring Professional Learning Program

Unique Experience: This program happens right on Ellis Island! It's an immersive experience that you won't find elsewhere. **Walk in the Footsteps of Immigrants:** You'll tour the unrestored hospital buildings and the National Immigration Museum with a Ranger guide. It's a powerful way to understand the immigrant experience.

Develop Engaging Lessons: You'll learn about EduProtocols, to create engaging and effective lessons that are adaptable for different learning styles, content areas, and grade levels.

March 26 or 28, 2025

Time: 8:35 am - 3:05 pm (with a ferry departure and security screening)

Location: Ellis Island (ferry leaves from NJ or NY)

Cost: \$300 per educator (includes lunch, electronic resources, and a PD certificate). You'll need to purchase your own ferry ticket (for general admissions) from Statue Cruises. Space is limited to 25 educators in grades 2-12.

[Registration Form](#)

Contact: Barbara De Santis at bdesantis@saveellisland.org or 201-332-8485 x3.

Additional Information: The program accepts purchase orders, credit cards, and checks. They're an approved NY DOE vendor, but registration payments are non-refundable.

NJ Department of Education Learning Lounge

Future Learning Lounge Social Studies Sessions

The "More Than Just A Month" series empowers educators to create a more inclusive and accurate representation of history, moving beyond designated heritage months to weave diverse narratives and perspectives throughout the K-12 social studies curriculum. Participants will learn to identify instructional gaps, incorporate underrepresented voices and utilize primary sources from a wide range of perspectives in order to foster critical thinking about historical events and their modern implications.

More Than Just a Month Series

The "More Than Just A Month" series empowers educators to create a more inclusive and accurate representation of history, moving beyond designated heritage months to weave diverse narratives and perspectives throughout the K-12 social studies curriculum. These professional development sessions explore the underrepresented histories that have shaped America. Participants will gain practical strategies for incorporating these diverse perspectives into the K-12 curricula, fostering a more inclusive and representative understanding of American history.

REGISTER TODAY

March 4th 3-4PM Women's History

April 2nd 3-4PM Jewish American History

April 8th 3-4PM Religious Diversity

April 9th 3-4 PM Sikh American History

May 6th 3-4PM AAPI History

June 3rd 3-4PM LGBT Histories in America

Plan now for Earth Day 2025!!!

As the scenario of an average world temperature increasing by 1.5 degrees is becoming a reality, teachers and students are the most influential resource for addressing this critical issue. The science is unambiguous!

Thank You for all you are doing in your school and community!

The Global Threat of Drying Lands

UN COP 29 Climate Action Reports

Surging Seas

Extreme Heat

Energy Transition

Methane

Greenhouse Gases

Register for the New Jersey Student Climate Challenge

Deadline is April 9, 2025

The New Jersey Student Climate Challenge is open to New Jersey public school students in grades 6 to 12. Under their teacher's mentorship, teams of 2 to 12 students complete a school or community project that addresses a cause or impact of climate change. Each team creates a digital story about the project and completes a Climate Challenge submission form by April 9, 2025. First, second, and third place middle and high school winners are recognized at an Awards Ceremony hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy. School winners receive grants to advance their climate education initiatives ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

Every year, over 1 billion people across the planet observe Earth Day on and around April 22. For 2025, our 55th anniversary year, the theme **Our Power, Our Planet**, is on solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and tidal generated energy. Through the engagement of students and teachers, the goal is to triple our use of renewable energy by 2030!

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

Climate Education Collaborative

In April 2024, the New Jersey Department of Education established regional Climate Change Learning Collaboratives (CCLCs) at Stockton University, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Monmouth University, and Ramapo College of New Jersey. The

CCLCs provide local education agencies (LEAs) with free professional development, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to aid in their implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) supporting climate change education across all nine content areas.

In March 2025, each CCLC will host a culminating event to showcase LEAs' climate change education initiatives. All LEA staff and students are welcome to participate in their regional CCLC's culminating event.

Stockton University – [Registration](#)

Date: Monday, March 3, 2025

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Southern Regional Institute & Educational Technology Training Center, Galloway, NJ

Rutgers University – New Brunswick – [Registration](#)

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Time: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Rutgers Lifelong Learning Center, New Brunswick, NJ

Monmouth University – [Registration](#)

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Rebecca Stafford Student Center, West Long Branch, NJ

Ramapo College of New Jersey – [Registration](#)

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2025

Time: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Location: New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, Lyndhurst, NJ

New York Historical Society

Curriculum Library Highlight

Anna May Wong

Anna May Wong, Hollywood's first Chinese-American leading lady, broke through racial barriers to change the face of cinema forever. Explore more groundbreaking stories in our Women & the American Story video series.

[Video](#)

[Curriculum Library](#)

Gilder Lehrman Traveling Exhibits (Rent or Purchase)

Frederick Douglass

Alexander Hamilton

Development of the U.S.

Voting

Immigration

World War 1

World War II



[Frederick Douglass: Advocate for Equality](#)—available for purchase or rental—features an exploration of the full trajectory of Douglass's epic life from 1818 to 1895. Viewers will learn about Douglass's escape from slavery, his work as an abolitionist, and his tireless fight for full equality for all individuals.

This exhibition includes six freestanding retractable panels, each 33 x 81 inches, designed to easily fit into any classroom, library, or lobby.

Purchased copies will arrive within 7-10 business days and four-week rentals are available as scheduling allows. We also offer discounted "rent to purchase" plans for schools and libraries—email exhibitions@gilderlehrman.org to learn more.

The Holocaust Resource Center at Kean University

Kean University's 17th Annual Human Rights Conference

We are the future: How GenZ is Changing the World

Friday, March 21, 2025 • 9am - 1pm

Keynote Speakers



David Hogg (Parkland HS survivor and gun control activist)



Tiana Day (Founder of Youth Activists for Change)

For more information, contact Dr. Adara Goldberg agoldber@kean.edu

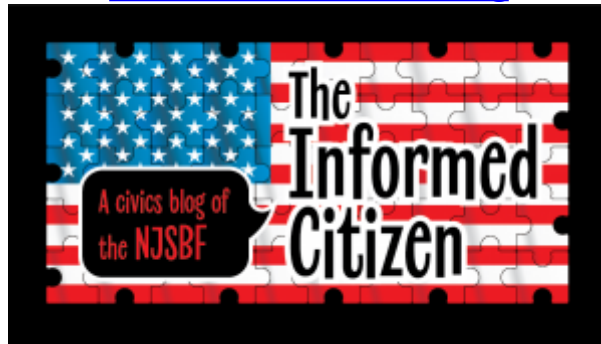
Wilkins Theatre • 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083
Students in grades 7-12 are invited to join us for this year's Human Rights Conference!

Tours of the HRI Gallery exhibit, box lunch, and a resource toolkit will be provided.

[RSVP by March 7, 2025](#)

New Jersey State Bar Foundation

[The Informed Citizen Blog](#)



[Engaging & Amazing Resources](#)

The **New Jersey State Bar Foundation** has released free civics curriculum guides to help teachers participate in our Law Fair and Law Adventure mock trial competitions. Law Fair and Law Adventure help to fulfill the new State mandated civics education requirements. (NJ Learning Standard 6.3.8 Civics PR.5) In these competitions (entry deadline is January 31, 2025), students and their teachers write original mock trial cases according to rules provided.

Princeton Battlefield Society

Great New Video! (9 minutes)

Thomas Clarke

[Watch Today!](#)

Washington Crossing Park

Field Trips and Free Educational Resources for Teachers Information

The historical interpreters at Washington Crossing Historic Park have created numerous resources to support virtual or in-class instruction about the colonial era, Washington's Crossing of the Delaware River, and the Ten Crucial Days.

Some resources, including virtual and in person field trips, are available on a limited basis for a discounted rate or free for schools receiving Title I funding. For more information about this, please reply to this email!

Changing the Name of a Natural Feature or Place



The [U.S. Geological Survey](#) in the Department of the Interior approves the names of places within the United States and its borders. The process takes about six months. The renaming of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America is an opportunity for students to understand continuity and change over time, the identify places within the U.S. and the world, and to have fun renaming rivers that border their community.

Although the United Nations has adopted conventions on international bodies of water and the Law of the Sea ([UN Agreements](#)), they have not been ratified by all countries.

Examine the [names of seas](#).

Just for fun!

Can the Baltic Sea be renamed the Denmark Sea? What about the Norwegian sea, Sea of Japan, South China Sea, etc.

Can the Delaware River be renamed the Pennsylvania or New Jersey River?

How would the Passaic or Raritan River be renamed since it flows through multiple municipalities?

Ford's Theatre Virtual Programs

March 4 at 1 p.m. ET: The Power of Oratory (Free)

President Lincoln masterfully used oratory, the art of public speaking, to inspire his constituents and his words continue to guide our nation today. Students will actively examine the calls to action in The Gettysburg Address to discover what Lincoln wanted his listeners to do and why. [REGISTER](#)

March 25 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. ET: Lincoln's Lasting Words (Free)

Two of President Lincoln's Speeches are carved onto the walls of the Lincoln Memorial: the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural Address. Why were these two speeches selected to be etched in stone? Why do they still matter to us today? Ford's Theatre and the National Park Service explore the historical context and lasting legacies of these speeches and how we remember President Lincoln. This program will include live interaction, a short introduction to Ford's Approach to Oratory, and a close reading of historical texts and primary source images. This program is presented through the Presidential Primary Sources Project. [REGISTER](#)

Just for Students!

America's Field Trip! **250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence** ***"What does America Mean to You?"*** **Grades 3-12** **Deadline: April 16, 2025**



In 2026, the United States will mark our Semiquincentennial: the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Today's young people are the leaders, innovators, and thinkers who will shape the next 250 years — and it's important their voices are heard as we commemorate this historic milestone.

America250 and RevolutionNJ invite students in **grades 3–12** to be part of America's 250th anniversary by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — with the opportunity to earn an unforgettable field trip experience at some of the nation's most iconic historic and cultural landmarks.

Students are asked to submit writing or original artwork in response to the contest's prompt: **"What does America mean to you?"** First-place awardees will receive a spectacular field trip to one of America's iconic sites. Learn more and get involved at <https://america250.org/fieldtrip>.

Kid Witness News (KWN) 2025

KWN is a global student-team video production competition. This year, student teams will tackle social issues aligned with one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations. You can learn [more about the goals here](#). Participants will create a video of 3 minutes or less on their chosen topic. Winning teams from the US will advance to compete with students from other countries at the KWN Global Summit, and exciting prizes will be awarded to the top teams!

Video Submission Deadline: June 6, 2025
Age Eligibility: 10-18 years old
Open to New Jersey students only

Visit the [KWN website](#) for more details and to [register](#) your team today.

Professional Conferences

2025 NCHE Conference

“All History is Local”

St. Louis, Missouri

March 20-22, 2025

NCSS Future Conferences – PLAN AHEAD!

2025 – December 5- 7 Washington, D.C.

2026 – December 4 – 6 Chicago

NJ Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)

President: Joseph Dwyer

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Treasurer: Michael Kenduck

Executive Director and Editor: Hank Bitten

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