

Hi,

*The month of May provides opportunities for students to showcase what they have researched and enjoyed learning. After the weeks of preparation for AP exams, there may be time to discuss the primary election in NJ and current events. May is also the month designated to the history, culture, geography, and contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are facing catastrophic effects from climate changes and extreme weather. To Unsubscribe from our List Serve, send an email to [hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu) Hank Bitten, Executive Director*

## **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)

**May 2025**

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

[NJCSS Fall Conference Registration Form 2025](#)

[NJCSS Fall Conference Call for Proposals](#)

### **Support NJCSS with Membership Renewal**

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

[Vote for Board of Directors \(2025-27\)](#) (Deadline is May 31, 2025)

**Student Recognition Awards for 2024-25**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Hall of Fame of Recognized Students** (2018-2025)

**\*First Place Recognition Award**

**Middle School Division**

**Northern NJ - Maria Konds\* (James F. Murray (PS #38), Jersey City** (Nominated by James Lindberg), Asil Abouheiba (Joseph H. Brensinger PS #17, Jersey City), Yohana Serrano Argueta, (William C. McGinnis MS, Perth Amboy), Sophia Barth (Rafael De J.Cordero y Molina School PS #37, Jersey City), Elijah Brown (Walter O. Krumbiegel MS, Hillside). Logan Castillo (Lovell J. Honiss, Dumont), Vihaan Mahajan (Academy 1 MS Jersey City), Isabella Saad (Franklin L Williams PS#7, Jersey City), Makaylah Samaroo (Walter O. Krumbiegel MS, Hillside), Tahjera Trotman (Charles A. Selzer School, Dumont)

**Central NJ - Grace Margerum\* Haddon Heights JSH** (Nominated by James B. Smith), Kaleigh Casimir (William C. McGinnis MS, Perth Amboy), Darisleidy Hernandez (William C. McGinnis MS, Perth Amboy), Jacob Knapp (Roosevelt Intermediate School, Westfield), Henry Mannah (North Brunswick Township MS), Khaled Zeidan (William C. McGinnis MS, Perth Amboy)

**Southern NJ - Will Wenk\* T.E. Harrington MS, Mt. Laurel** (Nominated by Matthew Mortimer)

### High School Division

**Northern NJ - \*Valentina Colacurto, Leonia High School** (Nominated by Timothy Cullen), Jayda Grandison (Dumont HS), Keshavee Khera (Dickinson HS), Yoobi Kim (Leonia HS), Iqra Naz (Infinity Institute, Jersey City), Philip Seto (Pascack Valley HS, Hillsdale), Jiho Shin (Bergen County Technical HS), Nida Waheed (Liberty HS)

**Central NJ - \*Rishay Gupta, Middletown High School South** (Nominated by Nina Balestriere D'Urso), Andrew Hum (Holmdel HS), Eduardo Jones (Ridge HS, Basking Ridge), Hoin Lee (West Windsor Plainsboro HS South), Liam Nolan (Immaculata HS, Somerville), Megan Vogt (Hillsborough HS),

**Southern NJ - \*Marcus Sarao, Egg Harbor Township High School** (Nominated by Eileen Hannigan)

### College Division

#### ***Arlene Gardner Distinguished Scholar Award***

**Lillian G. Bryant** (Manasquan) Virginia Tech

## Teacher Resources

### **New Jersey American Revolution Second Annual Spring Symposium**

#### **REVOLUTIONARY WAR EVENTS IN NEW JERSEY**

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**

Ehinger Center of Drew University  
36 Madison Avenue, Madison, New Jersey  
8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### **SCHEDULE:**

8:15-8:50 Registration and coffee  
8:50-9:00 Welcome and Introductions  
9:00-9:40 The New Jersey Volunteers, 1776-1783 by Todd Braisted  
10:00-10:40 Battle of Springfield and Revolutionary Spirit of 1780 by Kevin Vancio  
11:00-11:40 William Franklin: Divided Loyalty by Richard Bell  
12:00-1:00 Lunch (included)  
1:00-1:40: William Livingston's American Revolution by Jim Gigantino  
1:40-2:00 Q & A and break  
2:00-2:40 Historic New Bridge Landing- a Bergen Battleground by Todd Braisted  
2:40-3:00 Q & A and adjournment

**Cost: \$50 per person (\$25 for students with valid ID). Registration required by April 15, 2025.**

**Call Robert Wong at 908-630-9614 or send an e-mail to [arrt.nj@gmail.com](mailto:arrt.nj@gmail.com) to register**

### **Lafayette, a hero of the American and French Revolutions, visited Morristown on July 14, 1825**

#### **Bicentennial Events!**

Join us on Sunday, July 13 on the Morristown Green (Noon to 4:00 p.m. Parade begins at 12:45)

Join us on Monday, July 14 at the Morris County Library (10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

<http://www.lafayette200.org>

**The Lafayette Bicentennial Education Committee has created innovative K-12 lesson plans that are free to your educators to use. [The American Friends of Lafayette - Education Committee](#)**

For students in grades 6-12, there is **Lafayette! a Revolutionary War Tale**, an engaging and informative graphic novel from the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series written by Nathan Hale. **[Lafayette! \(Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #8\)](#)** We would be happy to send a free copy to all librarians and teachers in your district who intend to use it with their students. **Contact Scott Wild BEFORE May 9, 2025 at 973 879-5845.**

Schedule the educational six-banner **Traveling Exhibit Panel** for free to your high school for up to one week at a time. The exhibit highlights Lafayette's tour and his efforts related to human rights, including the **abolition of slavery, support for women's rights, religious tolerance, and support for democratic governments.**

## **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!)*

## **AAPI**

### **Teach Asian American Stories**

We are also excited to announce a **[full-day, in-person workshop](#)** in partnership with Dr. Khyati Joshi and Fairleigh Dickinson University on May 15. Join us for a day of learning about AAPI history and contributions and workshoping how to infuse these histories into your curriculum. This workshop has sold out the past two years--be sure to register soon. Generous scholarships available

## **Teaching Asian America in the K-12 Classroom**

**Sat. May 31, 2025 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Rowan University, James Hall, 08028**

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

Join us for a dynamic and interactive workshop designed for K-12 educators and pre-service teachers committed to integrating Asian American history and experiences into their classrooms. We will explore the rich history of Asian Americans, with a special focus Seabrook Farms, a significant yet often overlooked chapter of New Jersey history. Experts and educators will provide insights into the broader Asian American experience, the evolving landscape of Asian American Studies, and practical strategies for classroom implementation. Participants will engage in discussions, hands-on activities, and collaborative lesson planning to bring these essential stories to life for their students.

### **Sessions include:**

Seabrook Farms with Dr. Trish Morita-Mullaney

Overview of Seabrook Farms Education and Cultural Center with Larry Ericksen & Sharon Yochida

Introduction to Asian America and Asian Americans in NJ with Christy Lee

The Third Wave of the Asian American Studies Movement with Dr. Sohyun An and Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodriguez

Light breakfast will be provided

Professional development credits, resources, and stipends will be provided to those who complete pre/post surveys

For any questions, please reach out to Isabella Kasegrande: [isabella.kasegrande@aapinewjersey.org](mailto:isabella.kasegrande@aapinewjersey.org) .

## **National Constitution Center**

### **Story Themes for Elementary and Middle School Students**

Participating teachers can choose a story theme from select constitutional topics that best align with what they are teaching in their curriculum. The specific artifact tied to each story theme will remain a mystery until the day of the program, adding an element of surprise for students. Through this exploration, students will connect with the past, the Constitution, and the ways these historical themes shape our world today.

**First Amendment**  
**Civil Rights**  
**American Revolution**  
**Voting Rights**  
**Slavery**  
**Civil War**

[Schedule a Story](#)

## **Teaching the Holocaust**

### **Illinois Museum of the Holocaust**

[Visit their Exhibits and Resources](#)

**Summer Institute will be held on-site at 360 N. State Street in Downtown Chicago.**  
**July 14 – July 18 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
**July 15 | 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

[APPLY HERE](#)

During this intensive, five-day seminar, participants will learn about teaching techniques, methods and resources to teach Holocaust history to their students. The course will include multi-media presentations, guest speakers, and will draw interdisciplinary connections that align with state and national standards. Educators will be equipped to return to their classrooms with deeper knowledge of the Holocaust and rich pedagogical resources. The program will enable them to investigate with their students the ramifications of prejudice, racism and indifference, and the role of the individual in nurturing and protecting democratic values and human rights.

Learn why, how, what, when and where the Holocaust took place, including key political, social, and economic factors that impacted the times that led up to and culminated in the “final solution.”

Explore concepts such as prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, racism, antisemitism, obedience to authority, decision-making, and justice.

Examine the diversity of experiences of individuals targeted by Naziism, including Jewish people, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Roma and Sinti, and Black people.

Use resources including film, interactive text and graphics, diaries, and first-person accounts to actively engage students with the ideas of those involved in the Holocaust and provide a personal dimension to the historical narrative.

TUITION COST: \$150

**Applications must be received no later than Monday, June 23, 2025**

*A limited number of full and partial scholarships and travel stipends are available for those who qualify.*

## **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**

**May 6th 3-4PM AAPI History**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> 3-4PM LGBT Histories in America**

### **Climate Education Resources**

#### ***NJ Grant to Plant Trees at Your School!***

#### **Information and Application** (May 13, 2025 Deadline)

**OER Project's The Climate Project**

**NJCSS Middle School Lesson on New Jersey's Progress in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**NJCSS High School Lesson on The Great Climate Debate**

**Interactive Map of Flooding in Coastal Communities in New Jersey**

**Interactive Map of Flooding in NYC by 2040**

### **New York Historical Society**

**Curriculum Library Highlight**

### **Vietnam War: 1945-1975**

**Opening the Office with David M. Rubenstein Comic Video Series of our Presidents**

**Curriculum Library**

### **Resources for Teaching America's Immigration History: 1607-2025**

Contact **Dr. Harry Stein**, City University of New York

**Preview of Resources**

## **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.

## **Preparing Students for the Primary Election in New Jersey on June 10, 2025**

### **[Ballot](#)**

**[15 Minute video from Energizing Young Voters](#)**  
**[Slide Presentation from Energizing Young Voters](#)**

**The 'NEW' Case Method Civics Resources Workshop**  
**Wednesday, June 18 from 11am-5pm on Zoom**  
**Moderator: Professor David Moss (Harvard Business School)**

**The deadline for teachers to apply is Friday, June 13, 2025**

Interested high school social studies teachers can apply at this [LINK](#), find details on the opportunity in this program overview (click [HERE](#)), and explore further with the links below:

About the Case Method Institute (click [HERE](#) for Video)

Professor Moss, the case method in high schools (click [HERE](#) for Video)

The "History of American Democracy" cases (click [HERE](#) for Website)

All U.S. based high school teachers of U.S. history, civics, and government are invited to join a special professional development program offered by the [Case Method Institute](#) and bring case method teaching into their classrooms. The case method has proven successful in every type of school and classroom, and teachers already participating in the program have reported significant gains in students' academic performance, critical thinking, and civic engagement. Teachers have called the program a "game-changer," a "transformational experience," and a "laboratory for citizenship."

The Case Method Institute's professional development programs introduce the case method—the primary pedagogy used at leading professional schools—and a full suite of cases, including ones on James Madison and the Constitution, Dorr's Rebellion, the coming of the Civil War, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, and many more. The case-based approach focuses on key problems and decisions drawn from U.S. history and places students in the critical role of decision-makers.

Everything is available to teachers at no charge—from the cases and teaching materials to the professional development programs and ongoing one-on-one support with implementation.

## Resources from the NJCSS for Summer Curriculum Work for Social Studies

NJ Model Curriculum Framework with Lesson Resources & Best Practices

[Kindergarten](#)

[Grade 1](#)

[Grade 2](#)

[Grade 3](#)

[Grade 4](#)

[Grade 5](#)

[NJ Model Curriculum for World History in Middle School](#)

[NJ Model Curriculum for U.S. History in Middle School](#)

## Just for Students!

### Become an Eco-Ambassador in Your School and Community

#### For High School Students

Apply by May 23, 2025, and join us in tackling today's global challenges while developing skills that will set you apart.

Apply now: <https://bit.ly/EASL2025>

We are excited to announce that the application for the 2025 Eco Ambassadors Solutions Lab is now open, and we strongly encourage passionate high school students from around the world to apply! Since 2021, SDGs Today and the [Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University](#) have hosted this dynamic virtual program, offering an unparalleled opportunity to explore key topics such as GIS, the SDGs, global citizenship, digital storytelling, and much more.

This year, we invite students to dive into the *Ages of Globalization*, as outlined in Professor Jeffrey Sachs' influential book. This is a fantastic chance to connect with other bright, motivated students from diverse backgrounds, while engaging deeply in the study of world history, science, geography, and data. Whether you're passionate about sustainability, eager to develop your GIS skills, or interested in understanding the evolution of global challenges, this program is designed for you!

As an Eco Ambassador, you'll gain hands-on experience, collaborate with peers, and develop crucial leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. Throughout the program, you'll be given an ArcGIS account and tasked with creating a solution to a local sustainability challenge, applying the knowledge and skills you've learned to make a real-world impact.

The program runs from July 8 to August 31, with two live sessions per week, (Zoom and Google Classroom) providing you with flexible opportunities to learn and grow. Completing the program will earn you a certificate of completion—a valuable asset for your academic and professional future. Learn more about the program: <https://sdgstoday.org/eco-ambassadors-program>

### 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

**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

*Vice President:* Kaitlin Mahaffey

*Secretary:* Katherine DeVillasanta

*Treasurer:* Michael Kenduck

*Executive Director and Editor:* Hank Bitten

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

*President,* Aldo Deodino

*Vice-President,* Cindy Assini

*Secretary,* Jean Marie Seal

*Treasurer,* Gabrielle Rendek

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2025**