May this season be one of Reflection, Rejuvenation, Self-Care, Planning & Innovating.

Your perseverance in the face of ever-mounting obstacles and challenges this year has forever defined you. Congratulations on a job well done! Your contribution to the field and to your students is immeasurable.

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Are we there yet? COVID has officially impacted 2 ½ years of all of our lives. For the most part it seems like we are closer and closer to “normal”. But as I teach my students about America’s efforts to experience a “Return to Normalcy” after World War I, I realize, as do my students, that “normal” has been forever altered by our experiences. Though a fully normal routine is beyond our grasp, new norms have already been created and in that process, some constants remain. Namely, the need for new voices and new vision for the Central New York Council for the Social Studies.

As I prepare to step down from the President position at the end of June I look forward to welcoming new leadership on the Council. Our CNYCSS Board has a rich and diverse array of volunteers from Districts as far North as Watertown and as far South as McGraw. I think the Board of the last few years is in some ways the most diverse group of volunteer minded people we have had in recent decades. We also have a mix of middle school and high school teachers as well as those who teach AP and electives. We also are privileged to have had partnerships with local organizations and college and university faculty. We are also incredibly thankful for our Board members who are retirees and provide a well of experience and wisdom and connections.

I often think about the wonderful fellow educators I have been able to count as comrades in arms and wonder about new future Board members I have yet to meet. CNYCSS has existed for many decades because of the spirit of service and volunteerism that is so strong in the field of Social Studies. Is it your turn? Have you been thinking about getting involved in the field in a new way? Please take a look at our list of Board members and consider reaching out to any or all of them to find out more about the next steps if you are interested in joining.

Serving on the CNYCSS Board and in its leadership continues to be an impactful and motivating experience for me. It keeps my perspective from becoming stagnant and insular and provides a reservoir of relationships to pull from when I am uncertain about the future of the field or looking for the most up-to-date information. I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board and am eager to meet whichever one of you may be joining our ranks one day soon!

~ Erica Martin
The CNYCSS is pleased to announce that our Annual Conference will be in person. It will be great to see educators from across New York join together once more to re-connect, collaborate, learn, and celebrate our craft. Additional information will soon follow.

CNYCSS is an approved Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) organization. Click here for full CTLE sponsor list.
Join Your Social Studies Colleagues in Philadelphia, December 2-4, 2022

National Council for the Social Studies is excited to welcome our members and all social studies educators, administrators, and specialists from across the globe to the first face-to-face NCSS Annual Conference since 2019.

The NCSS Annual Conference is the largest gathering of K-12 social studies classroom teachers, college and university faculty members, curriculum designers and specialists, district and state social studies supervisors, international educators, and social studies discipline leaders. The conference will feature:

- 500+ sessions to increase your professional development;
- A growing lineup of featured speakers and panels;
- Opportunities to network and exchange ideas with other social studies professionals; and
- An exhibit hall highlighting the latest resources and services for your classroom, school, or business.
- Clinics, tours, and special social events.

Program and Schedule
Details Coming Soon!
Making Inquiry Possible
The Eighth Annual IDM™ Summer Institute
July 11-12, 2022!

Sponsored by C3 Teachers and National Council for the Social Studies, the IDM Summer Institute is back! This is our 8th year helping teachers learn about inquiry-based teaching and learning in general and the Inquiry Design Model (IDM) and designing inquiries in particular. The institute will be conducted online this year. And, we are sure it will be an experience worth your time!

After another challenging year, we are reminded of the power of inquiry. The pandemic continued, as did the struggle for racial justice, and this year we faced challenges to democracy at home and abroad. With all of this political and social uncertainty—we are all asking questions about our history, how we can make sense of our world today, and who we want to be going forward. Our students need the tools of inquiry, and they need us to help them build the competence and confidence to ask and answer the questions now before us.

We have worked with thousands of teachers and have published hundreds of inquiries online. With more and more states adopting new standards featuring the C3 Framework and inquiry, the need for designing inquiry learning experiences in social studies is greater than ever. In addition to an opportunity to learn about and use the Inquiry Design Model, we will explore the who, what, why, and how of inquiry-based instruction through our Making Inquiry Possible project, featuring teachers working together to build an inquiry culture. For all this and more, join our C3 Teachers community online in July at the 2022 IDM Institute!

Summer Leadership Institute
July 19th- 20th, 2022

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) invites you to join us for its Summer Leadership Institute (SLI), Navigating the Political Landscape of Social Studies!

Currently, social studies, social studies educators, and education as a whole are in a defensive stance as we have become pawns in a misinformation campaign about our content, our methods, and our mission. This year’s two-day SLI event will focus on how we as social studies educators can recapture the narrative of social studies and promote social studies as a central component of preparing all students for civic life.

During this two-day virtual event, NCSS members will learn about the current legal and political challenges confronting teaching social studies and work collaboratively on approaches, tools, and structures that we can put in place at the classroom, local, state, and national levels to navigate the current political landscape.

Registration is free for NCSS Members!
Register Now to Guarantee your seat online! The registration deadline is Friday, July 15, 2022.
KQED Media Academy for Educators
Inspire and Engage Students through Digital Media

Now more than ever, educators need support around digital media literacy skills, in both remote and traditional classroom environments. The new KQED Media Academy offers a set of four free, instructor-led online professional development courses that prepare educators to effectively and meaningfully analyze, evaluate and make media with students to support curriculum goals.

These professional learning courses are open to all educators across the country, including PreK-12 classroom teachers, librarians, TOSAs and anyone who wants to make media-rich, digitally-savvy learning available to students. The Academy will give you the skills and experience you need to connect the dots between digital citizenship, media literacy, 21st Century skills and national curriculum standards.

KQED hosts a variety of in-person and online workshops, webinars and events for educators who want to meaningfully engage their students through media making and civic engagement.

For a complete list of courses go to https://teach.kqed.org/courses

**Video Storytelling Basics**
June 21, 1-2:30pm PDT
**Online workshop; for grade K-12 educators**

Video projects are a powerful way for students to tell their stories, express their views, and share what they’ve learned. Explore a variety of video projects from a range of K-12 classrooms that show the impact of video storytelling, then start your own video to use a model for a student video project in your learning context. You’ll get hands-on experience with video editing tools, as well as classroom resources, modifiable curriculum, and connections to further learning with KQED. Video production beginners and experts will leave with something useful for their practice.

**Youth Voice as Civic Action**
July 20, 9:30am-1pm PDT
**Online workshop; for grade K-12 educators**

Current events make it clear that our work as educators is now more urgent than ever to empower youth with the knowledge, skills and disposition to make positive change through civic action in community and digital spaces. Join KQED and Facing History for an interactive online workshop exploring the pivotal role of young people in civic engagement. Educators will explore civic standards-aligned classroom ready resources, activities and tools designed to help students harness the power of civic action and audio storytelling to share their stories and viewpoints with their peers and wider community.
US History: A New Approach to Teaching the Reconstruction Era
July 25, 2022 - July 28, 2022
Online
How does society rebuild after extraordinary division and trauma, when the ideals and values of democracy are most vulnerable? Join us as we examine the Reconstruction era and learn to teach about this significant period in US history using an approach that helps students connect this history to their own lives and the choices they make today.

Share or Beware: Help Students Fight Misinformation One Click at a Time
August 2, 4-5pm PDT
Online workshop; for grade K-12+ educators (Free)
Support students to develop healthy skepticism without turning into cynics as they gain vital online research and reasoning skills. In this interactive workshop, learn how professional fact checkers avoid falling for misinformation, then practice identifying and evaluating credible sources using a variety of methods. You’ll leave with ideas, teaching tips and ready-to-use resources to help students find reliable sources no matter where they click.

Starting the School Year With Connection and Community
Online
August 3, 2022
Join us to prepare for the coming school year as we explore teaching strategies and flexible resources designed to help you begin getting to know your students and facilitate the process of creating an open, supportive, and reflective classroom community.

The Midterms Are Coming: Help Students Share Their Voice With KQED’s Political Cartooning Youth Media Challenge
August 17, 4-6pm PDT
Online workshop; for grade 6-12 educators (Free)
Tackle the midterm elections before they tackle you! Learn how your students can create political cartoons to share views on important issues and develop their voice in a democratic society. Editorial cartooning has a long history in the United States and draws on a rich visual and symbolic vocabulary to communicate complex ideas in a creative, accessible way. Get ready to get hands-on! We’ll unpack the "visual vocabulary" used in editorial cartoons and create our own. We’ll also talk about how your students can publish their work through the KQED Youth Media Challenge: Political Cartooning With Mark Fiore. No prior artistic experience required!

Make Your Classroom a “No Troll Zone” With a Digital Code of Conduct
August 24, 4-5pm PDT
Online workshop; for grade K-12+ educators (Free)
Tackle the midterm elections before they tackle you! Learn how your students can create political cartoons to share views on important issues and develop their voice in a democratic society. Editorial cartooning has a long history in the United States and draws on a rich visual and symbolic vocabulary to communicate complex ideas in a creative, accessible way. Get ready to get hands-on! We’ll unpack the "visual vocabulary" used in editorial cartoons and create our own. We’ll also talk about how your students can publish their work through the KQED Youth Media Challenge: Political Cartooning With Mark Fiore. No prior artistic experience required!
"Cortland’s history professors are so knowledgeable and passionate about what they do. They gave me all of the tools to be the teacher I am today."

— Caitlin Goodwin ’11, M’16, award-winning middle school teacher and national oratory fellow

A new, fully online master’s in history

For more than 150 years, SUNY Cortland has set a high bar in teacher education. The university’s new and reimagined M.A. in history offers even more proof.

This 31-credit program is delivered fully online with synchronous meetings at convenient times. It is ideal for social studies teachers seeking a master’s degree, with relevant class topics that include required coursework devoted to the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL).

Contact Laura Gathagan, graduate program coordinator, at laura.gathagan@cortland.edu for more information or visit cortland.edu/history-online

Application deadlines *
Summer semester start: April 1
Fall semester start: July 1
Spring semester start: Dec. 1

* Applications submitted after the deadline are considered on a space availability basis.
The Institute offers a wide range of professional development opportunities in American history, from customized in-person training at your school with scholars and master teachers, to rigorous weeklong teacher seminars and online courses for CEUs and graduate credits.

**Teaching Literacy through History**

Teaching Literacy through History (TLTH) is an interdisciplinary professional development program that uses primary sources to improve K–12 education. TLTH workshops are beneficial for elementary, middle, and high school teachers who teach American history, social studies, civics, and English language arts. Learn more

**Self-Paced Courses**

Our Self-Paced Courses are on-demand, graduate-level online courses in American history, taught by eminent scholars. Self-Paced Courses can be used to obtain professional development credit, and can be completed at your own time and pace, with no deadlines or expiration dates. Learn more

**Online Courses**

The Gilder Lehrman Institute’s Online Courses offer you the opportunity to learn from leading scholars of US history in a virtual classroom with other students from across the country. Learn more

**Teacher Seminars**

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History offers rigorous Teacher Seminars for K–12 educators. Held at colleges and historic sites across the US and abroad, the weeklong workshops include daily programs with leading American historians, visits to local historic sites, and hands-on work with primary sources.

Learn more at [https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-and-events/teacher-seminars](https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-and-events/teacher-seminars)
The New York State Board of Regents is committed to civic education that empowers all students to make informed decisions for the public good as members of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. Civic education facilitates the development of civic competencies, which are needed for a democratic society to flourish. Through civic education, students learn how to identify and address problems in their community or school community. Students also learn how to demonstrate respect for the rights of others, respectfully disagree with other viewpoints, and provide evidence for a counterargument. Civic education can strengthen the relationships of schools and students with parents, families, civic leaders, and organizations and community partners.

In January 2020 The Civic Readiness Task Force appointed by the Board of Regents presented their recommendations to the Board of Regents. The recommendations include a Seal of Civic Readiness, a definition of Civic Readiness, and the elements of a Civic Capstone Project.

The application to offer the Seal of Civic Readiness +1 Civics Pathway is now available for all districts and schools in the SED Monitoring and Vendor Performance System located within the Application Business Portal. Schools that wish to offer this pathway for the 2022-2023 school year must complete this initial application by August 1, 2022. Schools will be notified of their status on a rolling basis.

Please contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at 518-474-5922 or via email at emscurric@nysed.gov if you have any questions.

2022-2023 Seal of Civic Readiness Application Information and Guidance

For more information regarding the Civic Readiness Initiative and specifics regarding the Seal of Civic Readiness visit: http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/civic-readiness-initiative
Consider Hosting a Student Teacher This Spring

The SUNY History department invites you to consider hosting a Social Studies student teacher. Payment would be at the SUNY level of $400 as it is considered as a two quarter placement.

We also are now seeking placement for Field Experience students in the greater Cortland area. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jim Miller at james.miller@cortland.edu.

Thank you for supporting the next generation of Social Studies teachers.
Each year, National History Day® frames students’ research within a historical theme. The theme is chosen for broad application to world, national, or state history and its relevance to ancient history or to the more recent past.

The National Contest is the final stage of a series of contests at local and state/affiliate levels. Students begin their journey by presenting their projects in classrooms, schools, and districts around the world. Top entries are invited to the state/affiliate level contests. The top two entries in every category at the state/affiliate level are then invited to the National Contest.

For updates and more details go to: https://www.nhd.org/
CNY Regional History Day Winners

We are very pleased to report that two of the winning projects in the CNY History Day Competition placed in the NYS Contest.

In each case, the students attend Fayetteville-Manlius High School, and have Kristina Jeaneret and Justin Polly as their advisors. This year’s competition theme was: “Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences.”

The Senior Group Documentary, “Operation Just Cause: Was it Really Just?” created by Madelyn Kreuger and Margaret Lorraine placed second in its category at the State Level, and is eligible to compete in the National Competition.

Elena Corman, Ziye Wang and Miranda Zheng placed third in the Senior Group Exhibit with their project, “Gastrodiplomacy During the Cold War: How Warm Food Thawed Tensions,” and is an alternate entry in the National Competition. The National Competition will take place June 12th-16th.

The History Day competition involves students in the 6th through 12th grades creating history projects based on a given theme. The projects may be a paper, a documentary, a website, a performance, or an exhibit, and may be an individual or group project. The Onondaga Historical Association sponsors the Central New York level of the contest, which is the first step. Winners at the CNY Level pass to the State Level, and those winners then advance to the National Competition.

The 2023 History Day theme has been announced!

“Frontiers in History: People, Places and Ideas”

For more information you may go to the National History Day Website or contact Scott Peal at scott.peal@cnyhistory.org.
The CNYCSS invites all members of our social studies community to consider nominating a colleague for one of our Social Studies Educator Awards

The purpose of our awards is to recognize exceptional social studies teachers in our Central New York school community. Nominating a teacher who strives to go above and beyond is a wonderful way to show them that their commitment to teaching and learning has not gone unnoticed. Our support of excellence in the classroom contributes to the professional growth of all teachers.

**Roger Sipher Beginning Teacher Award**
5 years or less in teaching profession
Nominee may be either an elementary or secondary teacher

**Outstanding Social Studies Educator Award**
Elementary Educator Award: Candidate should be a K-5 teacher or librarian
Middle School Educator Award: Candidate should be a 6-8 teacher or librarian
High School Educator Award: Candidate should be a 9-12 teacher or librarian

**Distinguished Educator Award**
Can be an educator at any level, including higher education
Someone who has made a significant and unique contribution to the field of social studies in our area

Visit our website at cnycss.com for information regarding the nomination process and nominate a colleague today!
How to Actively Shape the Future of Social Studies Education in New York State

In 2013, John Langdon and Doug Pelton formed a professional learning community dedicated to finding new approaches to teaching Global History. This 9th and 10th grade teacher team was called PARRE (A practical approach to regaining relevance and enjoyment). The group worked together over the years to make sense of the changes in the state curriculum and testing and to share lesson ideas and tools that worked well in the classroom.

We have continued expanding in 2022 under the title "Global History Group". Any 9th or 10th grade Global History teacher from the region is welcome to join us. Please contact jmedwid@bville.org for additional information.
Celebrate Excellence in Social Studies

Help us celebrate excellence in social studies education! NYSCSS seek your nomination to recognize exemplary social studies professionals in New York State. Consider nominating a colleague or yourself for any of our awards below.

Our annual awards celebrate excellence in teaching and service in social studies education. We honor educators each year in the following areas:

- Outstanding Social Studies Classroom Teacher Award (Elementary)
- Outstanding Social Studies Classroom Teacher Award (Middle School)
- Outstanding Social Studies Classroom Teacher Award (High School)
- Outstanding Social Studies Supervisor Award
- Distinguished Social Studies Educator Award
- John Roy Continuing Social Studies Service Memorial Award
- Susan Wasserman Young Professional Memorial Award
- Benita Jorkasky Outstanding College Educator Memorial Award

To nominate a colleague or become a member visit https://nyscss.wildapricot.org/

Become a Member of NYSCSS

As a member of NYSCSS, you have exclusive access to materials created by the council and its members. These resources include:

- Materials from convention presentations
- Recordings of presentations and webinars
- Assessments and instructional resources for elementary, middle, and high school levels created by the NYSCSS committees
- Access to Teaching Social Studies our biannual journal co-produced with the New Jersey Council for Social Studies
- NYSCSS committees
- Access to previously sent E-Blasts
NCSS membership allows you to access social studies standards, professional learning, and a digital library of teaching materials including instructional documents and educational guides. Plus, you also receive deep discounts on the latest NCSS publications, webinars, and more! These resources are perfect for social studies educators, administrators, professionals, students, retirees, and institutions. Become a part of 10,000 global social studies members who create impact with NCSS resources to prepare future generations for college, career, and civic life!

About National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Our Vision

A world in which all students are educated and inspired for lifelong inquiry and informed civic action.

Our Mission

The mission of the National Council for the Social Studies is to advocate and build capacity for high-quality social studies by providing leadership, services, and support to educators.

Our Community

Founded in 1921, National Council for the Social Studies is the largest professional association in the country devoted solely to social studies education. NCSS engages and supports educators in strengthening and advocating social studies. With members in all the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 35 countries, NCSS serves as an umbrella organization for elementary, secondary, and college teachers of history, civics, geography, economics, political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and law-related education. The NCSS membership represents K-12 classroom teachers, college and university faculty members, curriculum designers and specialists, social studies supervisors, and leaders in the various disciplines that constitute the social studies.

Membership in National Council for the Social Studies is open to any person or institution interested in the social studies. Visit https://www.socialstudies.org/
James Madison Fellowship

Four years ago I had received my rejection letter from the James Madison Memorial Fellowship. Three years ago I received a sticker on my door to pick up a package directly from the UPS sorting facility on Northern Boulevard. Eureka! Persistence paid off and I was a 2016 James Madison Fellow! If you have never heard of the program and are a teacher of U.S. History I cannot encourage you enough to consider applying to the program. While many of us in New York already have a Master’s Degree as a part of our certification requirements, it is also true that many of our Districts recognize with a pay increase additional Master’s Degrees and/or graduate credits. The James Madison Fellowship provides up to $24000 for you to pursue a Master’s Degree in an approved program that has a concentration on the U.S. Constitution.

One of the key highlights of the program was a month spent at Georgetown with your fellow “Fellows”. To say it was amazing is an understatement. Three years later, as my degree has been completed, I’m not certain whether that month in Georgetown was impactful because of the scholars we met or because of the camaraderie of the 4 dozen other teachers who share the journey with me. Teachers from nearly every state and walk of life spending a month together devoted to studying the U.S. Constitution was like a History Summer Camp on steroids. As Lewis Larsen, President of the James Madison Fellowship, reminded us, when will you ever have a month where the primary task is to dive deeply into the creation and implementation of the U.S. Constitution. Those words still echo with me today. Taking graduate courses one at a time over the past 3 years was a regular source of inspiration, but that 4 week period where my only daily task was to discuss and understand more deeply our U.S. Constitution was a once in a lifetime experience.

Three years later, with my degree in hand, I look back nostalgically on that month long experience. The network of friends and fellow teachers I made and still have from that experience is tremendous. As a teacher in New York we often face stiff competition for national fellowships and awards, most particularly with our downstate counterparts. Mainly this is a result of the density of Social Studies teachers. If you are interested in applying for this Fellowship, please reach out to me at ekymaratin@gmail.com. I would love the chance to help out a fellow Central New York colleague have the chance for such a life-changing experience.

~ Erica Martin

Applications for 2023 Fellowships will open on Constitution Day, September 17, 2022. Select “Notify Me” to get an update when it is live. The deadline to submit the 2023 application is March 1, 2023.
Join the CNYCSS or Renew Membership

We Are Proud to Serve as Your Local Council!

For More Information Please Visit:  http://www.cnycss.memberlodge.com/

The Central New York Council for the Social Studies is a regional Social Studies professional organization established to provide services for K-12 teachers with a bridge to higher education. The general purpose of the organization is to provide a network and a forum for Social Studies educators to talk about teaching pedagogy and academic content.

C.N.Y.C.S.S. offers opportunities for educators to:

- Keep abreast of recent scholarly activity in their respective fields through professional development workshops and dinner meetings with featured speakers
- Keep updated with curricular and assessment changes coming from the New York State Department of Education
- Encourage high expectations for the professional development of pre-service and untenured teachers at all academic levels
- Disseminate and receive information through our newsletter
- Act as a clearinghouse of information where teachers can share ideas about classroom materials and methods
- Have a support bridge to the state (N.Y.S.C.S.S.) and national (N.C.S.S.) councils which offer more extensive services to Social Studies educators
- Give input to the state and national departments of education to voice concerns and to suggest policy direction, with the emphasis on promoting the importance of teaching social studies education to all K-12 students
- Act as mentors to other member educators
- Attend local trips to historical sites with their families and students during the summer to encourage appreciation for the resources in our local communities
- Acknowledge and reward exemplary educators
Who and What We Are

Our Services- Collecting, Preserving, Processing, Interpreting, Storing and Exhibiting: The majority of OHA’s time, and resources, are devoted to Collecting, Preserving, Processing, Interpreting, Storing, and Exhibiting the history of Syracuse and Onondaga County. These activities are what define us as a “non-discretionary” art & cultural institution. Every single day, items come to us for consideration for inclusion in our collections. If the item, or collection, is historically significant, we’re not doing our job if we don’t accept it. We have no real control over our workload in this particular part of our business. Over the past few years, OHA has taken on new collections that range from a manila envelope filled with photos to scores of paintings, objects, clothing, and furniture to six tractor-trailers full of the 140 year history of the Syracuse China Company. We are not building a collection simply for the purpose of building a collection. And, almost everything else we do concerns raising and making the money necessary to carry out these activities.

Off-Site Exhibits:
Off-site Exhibits take a variety of forms. These include Temporary and Traveling Exhibits that we produce for many events and organizations. Permanent Off-site Exhibits: OHA has permanent exhibits all over the county, from a 1,500 square foot exhibit on our military history at the War Memorial to an exhibit at Bonadio Group’s headquarters on the Bradley Powered Forging Hammer, which was manufactured in that building and helped build everything from the Trans Siberian Rail Road to the Panama Canal. We also produce Company Exhibits that highlight the history and contributions of companies in our area. A historical company exhibit speaks to that organization’s longevity, adaptability, sustainability, and relevance. They are used for marketing, promotion, and recruiting, as well as employee morale boosting.

Educational Programming:
OHA is an educational institution, so practically everything we do has education at its core, but this category of Services deals specifically with Educational Programming. Our Education Department provides over 120 educational programs per year, from our Living History Tours, like our very popular Ghost walks to Keynote Addresses to lectures to a variety of in-school programs and museum tours to teacher training to curriculum development.

Friday Facebook Live with Curator Bob

Museum to You! Every Friday at 1:30 pm on the Onondaga Historical Association's Facebook page, Curator of History, Bob Searing, will go live in a different part of the downtown museum to take you through the exhibit, objects, and stories housed there. Did you miss one weeks video? No worries! You can re-watch it on OHA's Facebook page or video page.

Explore a virtual museum with the mission to preserve local black history.

Browse our books on black history and prominent historic figures.

Read former, related History Highlights articles.

Watch OHA’s Bedtime Stories.
Educational programs are integral parts of Onondaga Historical Association’s mission. We offer a number of programs that were created especially by OHA’s Education Department. For more educational programs offered and additional details visit;

**She Said, He Said**
The Stantons of Waterloo take part in an Equal Rights Convention of the mid-19th century on women’s suffrage. Meet with the radical thinkers Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her abolitionist husband, Henry Stanton (Henry conducts the meeting as it was improper for a woman to do so at the time.) Learn about the life and times of this unique couple and be ready to debate the controversy of a woman’s role in the society of the day.

**The Danforths of Onondaga County**
Meet Major Asa, his wife Hannah, and their family and friends. The Major and Hannah share the hardships faced by soldiers and their families during the Revolutionary War. Experience snippets of their rugged life in the wild west of Central New York in the late 18th century. Become privy to the trials and tribulations of one of our first families during their life in Onondaga Hollow and help them in the decisions they must make. Experience an insightful interactive adventure of early life in the wilderness for young and old.

**Sluices, Locks and Hoggees**
Meet Syracuse’s own James Geddes who helped to survey an architectural feat in its day, the Erie Canal. Mr. Geddes will guide you through the canal’s history from its earliest conception to its busiest days. You will also be introduced to those who lived and worked on the waterway. Anecdotes and interactive activities will allow the audience to become part of the Erie Canal experience.

**Salt City Abolitionists**
Syracuse was a center of abolitionism in the 19th century and was watched by the entire country. Join two of the Salt City’s crusaders for freedom, Reverend Samuel May (of the May Memorial Church) and Caroline Loguen (who with her husband, Reverend Jermaine Loguen, assisted many on their way to freedom). Learn about, and become part of, an antislavery meeting of the day.
OHA’s Historic Ghostwalk

Recollections from Beyond the Grave
June 3-4 & 10-11

Come experience the newest edition of OHA’s Historic Ghostwalks! Walk through Oakwood Cemetery and hear the stories of those at rest there, including an early Syracuse mover and shaker, a prominent local family, a pair of star crossed lovers, and a murder victim; all amidst the beauty of the cemetery as a backdrop.

Tours run about an hour and a half, and begin every 15 minutes from 6pm-7:30pm on Fridays, and 5:30pm-7pm on Saturdays.

Get your tickets in advance in our gift gallery or online at shop.cnyhistory.org $15 each, or $12 for our members!

Historic Ghostwalks are led by guides to locations in neighborhoods, buildings, and cemeteries where actors in costume portray individuals from Onondaga County’s past. The “ghosts” reveal their lives in 12 to 15 minute vignettes, giving personal insight to those who have preceded us.
Among the nearly one million documents in the OHA archives are two 1864 letters exchanged between two men who never met. In each, the writers try to passionately convince the other to understand their very opposite positions in a war that has torn apart their nation. Learn about the powerful insights into our past that original documents can provide.

Many people have heard about the bold rescue of a fugitive slave from the hands of federal marshals that took place in Syracuse on October 1, 1851. But for much of the story, that event was only the beginning. The aftermath involved arrests, trials, secret journeys, protests against the rescuers plus provocative anniversary celebrations that shocked local officials. Learn the whole story of the Jerry Rescue with this program.

A controversial topic today involves the future of Interstate 81 through Syracuse. This program investigates how it came to be built in the first place and explores how other transportation corridors of the past, such as railroads and canals, had long-term impacts on the shape of our community.

In 1864, when General Grant thought he had Lee’s troops pinned down around Richmond, Southern forces launched a bold move against Washington that almost succeeded in capturing the Union capital. This talk explains the dramatic events of July 1864 and the key role played by the 122nd NY Volunteers, a regiment composed mostly of Onondaga County men.
Experience the Great American Adventure Story of the Erie Canal.

The Erie Canal Museum located in Downtown Syracuse, NY, is dedicated showcasing the 1850 National Register Weighlock Building, the last remaining structure of its kind, and to telling the incredible adventure story of the Erie Canal. Come aboard a full size replica canal boat. Explore life in a canal town. Experience a part of history that played an imperative role in the growth and development of the United States. The Erie Canal Museum is a must-see for adults and children of all ages! For More information visit: [https://eriecanalmuseum.org/](https://eriecanalmuseum.org/)

Current Exhibit - Weighlock Gallery

May 15 - October 31, 2022: *Infrastructure of Empire*

The Erie Canal was the engineering marvel of its day, but has had far reaching consequences that could never have been imagined. In this upcoming exhibit we will explore how the canal was built, how it has changed the physical and social layout of the region, and how it continues to influence New York State.

This exhibit is made possible with support from the Humanities New York
Check out the Erie Canal Museum's digital exhibits. These exhibits showcase a variety of primary sources in accessible detail. Visit: https://eriecanalmuseum.org/exhibitions/digital-exhibits/
Tours and visits are available Call (315)637-9511 TO SET UP A VISIT OR TOUR!

Monday through Friday: 8:30am-3pm
Saturday and Sunday: By Appointment Only

We offer Self-Guided Tours (by which allow you to explore the Center on your own, focus on your special interests and have a facilitator available for dialogue and questions.

- Begin with a short film featuring Gloria Steinem, the country’s first woman Lt. Governor Mary Anne Krupsak, and descendants of Gage.
- Sit at Matilda’s desk and write her a letter.
- Play with 19th century toys.
- Experience being an enslaved person hiding from slave-catchers behind a bookcase.
- Play the piano and sing abolition and women’s rights songs that Matilda sang.
- Spend time in our Oz reading corner.
- Dress up in period clothing.
- Share your ideas about everything from human trafficking and reproductive justice to equal pay for equal work.
You may have missed it, but CNYCSS hosted a series entitled “Museum Row” this past Spring. We scheduled several of our museum partners to share with our membership what they have been working on during the year of COVID. Many of you have likely visited a site or two in your youth or perhaps even in recent years. You might be surprised by how much the beloved sites have changed and how their digital/online presence has expanded in recent years.

One site that has been bumped to the top of my list because of my experience in their virtual workshop is The Seward House. If you haven’t had the pleasure of talking with Dr. Jeff Ludwig, Director of Education or Zachary Finn, Education and Outreach Coordinator, then plan a visit to the Seward House soon. These two gentlemen are energetic and passionate about the work they do at the Seward House.

Dr. Ludwig and Mr. Finn have expanded the virtual tours they have pre-recorded and available on their YouTube channel and two interactive virtual tours. If you are like me, the Diplomats Gallery is a site I always want to really linger at and take a moment to learn who all the interesting people are that Seward had a diplomatic relationship with, or according to the website and Seward, the people that were his “tormentors”.

Beware, their enthusiasm is catching! After their workshop I dug into one of their book recommendations, “The Agitators” by Dorothy Wickenden. Listening to Wickenden recount the correspondence between Frances Seward and her husband was both hilarious and engaging as the two strong-minded Central New Yorkers sharpened their rhetorical knives over their positions on policies that impacted the state of slavery in the country.

Finally, check out their lesson plans for various grade levels. I encourage you to go ahead and take a peek at the lesson plans for a grade level other than your own as it will likely inspire additional ideas for your classroom. Introduce your families to the “bloody sheet” (always a fan favorite) while instilling in them the importance that Central New York played during a key moment in our country’s history.

~ Erica Martin

Seward House Museum YouTube Channel

Current Exhibits
Explore 2000 acres where America made history! Purchase daily general admission, add-on experiences, and after-hours special tours below. Save on your general admission tickets today when you become a member!

Explore the beautiful gardens, discover the epic history, find adventure in signature events, march with the Fifes & Drums, and learn about a historic trade. Visit the reconstructed fort, get lost in the 6-acre historic corn maze, enjoy the Carillon Battlefield hiking trail, and take in the unforgettable view from the top of Mount Defiance with a sweeping vista of Lake Champlain and Vermont’s Green Mountains.

Stay up-to-date with on-site events and exciting virtual programs by visiting the event calendar

Event calendar

Access Educational Content from Home!

Go beyond the historic grounds of Fort Ticonderoga and enjoy our award-winning educational programs digitally! Join engaging, interactive programs and discover the powerful stories of the men and women who lived at Ticonderoga in the 18th century.

Learn More
https://www.fortticonderoga.org/learn-and-explore/center-for-digital-history/

Fort Ticonderoga has an excellent YouTube channel, which you can make use of if an in-person adventure is not available. From material topics like the “bull’s eye” glass of the 18th century to how to understand all those interesting markings on “old” cannons, the Fort Ticonderoga staff has a diverse and engaging collection that you and your students will find enjoyable.
A Few Upcoming Events

Independence Day Weekend 1777
Celebrating freedom by exploring the year 1777 when America was consumed in the labor of liberty. Participate in the fight for freedom when the Northern Department of the Continental Army fought to keep the great fortress of Ticonderoga from falling into British control. Take the experience onto the water aboard the recreated 1920s tour boat Carillon. Dig into centuries of military history during guided tours in the historic gardens. Thrill at the power of artillery during cannon demonstrations and march to the beat of the Fifes & Drums as they perform patriotic music.

Saturday, July 2, 2022 @ 9:30am–5:00pm / Sunday, July 3, 2022 @ 9:30am–5:00pm / Monday, July 4, 2022 @ 9:30am–5:00pm

Battle Reenactment: 1759 Siege of Carillon
In this exciting two-day battle reenactment, discover the last days for Fort Carillon, as 400 French soldiers faced an 11,000-man British Army! With different battle scenarios and living history vignettes, explore the science of siegecraft, the power of artillery – on land and on the water– as General Jeffrey Amherst sought to take Ticonderoga and invade French Canada.

Saturday, July 23, 2022 @ 9:30am–5:00pm

Battle Reenactment: Brown’s Raid
This major battle reenactment and living history weekend will recreate what has become known as Brown’s Raid. Fort Ticonderoga will bring to life the little-known 1777 action-adventure story pulled straight from the pages of Fort Ticonderoga’s history. During the dramatic event, Fort Ticonderoga’s guests will witness first-hand the high-stakes mission undertaken by Colonel John Brown and his patriot militia.

Highlighted programming throughout the weekend will bring to life the American raid on Ticonderoga in their attempt to recapture this strategic fortification. Explore the Royal Navy’s role in the attack and experience the battle from a completely new angle on Lake Champlain aboard tour boat, Carillon. Meet the larger-than-life characters that undertook this daring raid during special programs in the British-held fort and the American camps. Atop Mount Defiance, meet the guard of Rangers who had attacked British-held Fort Ticonderoga with their own cannon. Follow the American raid on Ticonderoga as it unfolds across the landscape and explore the mechanics and weapons of this daring attack through living history demonstrations.

Saturday, September 17, 2022–Sunday, September 18, 2022
Museums for Digital Learning

I recently became an ambassador for a fantastic resource for teachers, especially those of us teaching social studies. Imagine a place where all of the best materials generated by museum education were available and organized for accessibility. Museums for Digital Learning is that place.

https://museumsfordigitallearning.org/

The Museums for Digital Learning (MDL) project was conceived to catalyze and empower museums to come together across disciplinary, geographic, and administrative boundaries to assess the critical gaps in other educational platforms and digital access/use models. That vision informed the MDL platform, an easy-to-access “one-stop-shop” where substantive, interdisciplinary, and dynamic content from museums resides in a malleable digital format for educators and students. MDL worked with educators, scholars, and museum professionals to co-create a platform with ready-to-use classroom resources that were beta-tested by students. MDL features content-tagged, standards-aligned Resource Kits searchable by grade level, subject area and keywords. Resource Kits include activities such as narratives, slideshows, timelines, hotspots, games, ebooks, and annotation activities.

MDL is growing each day thanks to teachers around the country using the website and offering their expertise and feedback. They are currently looking for teachers to complete evaluations:

Teachers of grades K-12 are invited to help the growth and improvement of the Museums for Digital Learning project by offering feedback on the platform! By submitting your information as outlined below, our contracted evaluation group, HG&Co, may invite you (using random sampling) to participate in either a 15-minute survey or a 60-minute virtual focus group. All answers will be reported to the MDL team anonymously. In thanks for your valuable time, we will send you either a $10 gift card or a small gift, like a book or sticker, depending on type of participation.

To become eligible for this valuable study, please fill out this quick online form available in the digital version of the newsletter.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/

~ Caitlin Goodwin
The Digital Civics Toolkit is a collection of resources for educators to support youth to explore, recognize, and take seriously the civic potentials of digital life. The Toolkit draws on the research and work of the MacArthur Research Network on Youth and Participatory Politics (YPP). The Toolkit explores a range of civic opportunities and dilemmas via 5 modules focused on: Exploring Community Issues, Investigation, Dialogue, Voice, and Action.

We invite you to explore the modules and choose the resources that best meet the interests and needs of your students, classroom, and community. The modules were designed for high school students but can be adapted for earlier grades. Each module contains a conversation starter, several activities, and a closing reflection with very broad suggestions. Depending on the age and level of your students, you may need to integrate additional scaffolding and supports. If you would like to dig deeper into concepts, there are links to extension activities. For more information on the ideas in each module, we provide a Teacher Background Information with links to articles, blogs, videos, and further resources.

For More information visit: https://www.digitalcivicstoolkit.org/
Here you will find activities you can use with your students to help cultivate their skills and proficiency in media literacy, critical thinking, and respectful conversation across difference. We have organized the activities to scaffold student skills, starting with teaching students how to examine their own bias, followed by applying their critical thinking skills, and finally practicing the skills they have learned.

For more information visit: [https://allsidesforschools.org/](https://allsidesforschools.org/)
LESSON PLANS
AllSides for Schools offers a variety of lesson plans that provide a comprehensive classroom experience for students learning media literacy and engagement skills.

Relationships First
Introduce students to dialog & appreciating others even when we disagree.

Free Speech
Guide students through discussions on free speech issues, including censorship & our responsibility.

News Literacy
Explore how to assess information and recognize how our own frames influence our responses to information.

explore all lesson plans

Hot Topics

Coronavirus
Stay safe and informed

2022 Elections
Battling for power

Media Bias
Avoid filter bubbles

Economy and Jobs
Keeping the country moving

Russia-Ukraine Conflict
Putin’s invasion and the world’s response

Facts and Fact Checking
Misinformation and reality

ACTIVITIES TO APPLY CRITICAL THINKING

Rate Your Own Bias
Take our bias quiz to find out where you fall on the Left-Center-Right spectrum.

Bias Survey Comparison
Compare your results to classmates and see where your leanings fit into the wider scope of national bias.

Analyze Editorial Cartoons
Learn how to analyze political cartoons. From the Herb Block Foundation

Learn About Bias

Types of Media Bias
Learn how to spot common types of media bias.

Rate Your Bias
Discover your own bias and see how you compare to others.

What is media bias?
How do we define media bias, and is it a bad thing?

Continued on next page
The Story of the Week takes a look at the newest headlines and provides both snip-its and a link to the entire article for student analysis. Articles are already categorized with left, Center, and Right designations. For more information visit: https://www.allsides.com/blog/tags/story-week

**Story of the Week**

Right- and left-leaning news outlets often cover the same stories in drastically different ways. The AllSides Story of the Week provides a weekly media bias breakdown.

**Snippets from the Right**

Draft Supreme Court ruling puts abortion in spotlight in Georgia GOP primary battle

*Washington Times*

"Former Sen. David Perdue, who is trailing incumbent Gov. Brian Kemp in polls by double digits, is working to convince voters that he is the more pro-life candidate. He is pledging to impose an all-out ban on abortion if the Supreme Court ultimately overturns the constitutional right to abortion."

Pro-Abortion Protesters Inflict Mother's Day Violence and Target Supreme Court Justices' Homes

*CBN (analysis)*

"The leaked Supreme Court draft opinion signaling the end of Roe v. Wade made Mother's Day an anxious one for churches and pro-life groups across the country. In Madison, Wisconsin, vandals attacked the offices of the pro-life group Wisconsin Family Action on Sunday with an arson attack and a spray-painted warning that 'If abortions aren't safe, then you aren't either.'"
Snippets from the Left

Congress “Certainly Could” Ban Abortion Nationwide, McConnell Says

*Mother Jones*

"Thirteen states, including McConnell’s home state of Kentucky, have passed “trigger laws” in anticipation of Roe being struck down. The bills would ban abortion statewide as soon as the Supreme Court reversed the Roe ruling. The draft opinion still isn’t in effect, but its leak will only embolden other GOP-led state legislatures to follow suit."

Blue states are preparing to become abortion safe havens

*Vox (analysis)*

"Anticipating the absence of a federally protected right to an abortion, some states have passed their own laws codifying Roe and abortion rights in state law. States including Illinois, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Massachusetts have had those laws on the books for years. New Jersey, Colorado, and Connecticut enacted measures earlier this year, and it looks like California will soon join them."

Snippets from the Center

Yellen: Eliminating abortion rights would have "very damaging" effect on economy

*Axios*

"Eliminating a woman's right to seek an abortion would have 'very damaging effects on the economy and would set women back decades,' Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said while testifying before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee on Tuesday. Yellen's comments come one week after a leaked draft ruling revealed that the Supreme Court is prepared to potentially overturn Roe v. Wade."

Wide partisan gaps in abortion attitudes, but opinions in both parties are complicated

*Pew Research Center (data)*

"Currently, 80% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, up from 72% in 2016 and 63% in 2007. Republicans’ views have shown far less change over time: Currently, 38% of Republicans and GOP leaners say abortion should be legal in all or most cases."
Annenberg Classroom's free resources include over 65 videos on constitutional concepts and Supreme Court cases as well as games, lesson plans, timelines, downloadable books, a glossary, and a Constitution guide.

For More information visit: https://www.annenbergclassroom.org/

Explore
For students, the Annenberg Constitution Guide: What It Says, What It Means; games; Constitution-related timelines; downloadable books; and a glossary of terms.

Educate
For teachers, lesson plans on Supreme Court cases, constitutional concepts, and critical thinking skills; a guide that connects resources to the Constitution's articles and amendments; and recommendations for civics resources.
Lesson Plans

Most of these lessons are based on Annenberg Classroom videos. Teachers may contact info@annenbergclassroom.org to get the Teacher’s Key for the lesson plans. Teachers will also find lessons for teaching critical thinking skills. 60 lesson plans available.

For More information visit: https://www.annenbergclassroom.org/lesson-plans/

Teaching Critical Thinking by Asking: Could Lincoln Be Elected Today?

This lesson plan uses a video series called “Could Lincoln Be Re-elected Today?” from a political literacy project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. The videos imagine political ads from the 1864 Lincoln v. McClellan presidential campaign using modern-day tactics. The lesson incorporates the videos to help classes recognize flaws in arguments in general and political ads in particular and to examine the criteria for evaluating candidates, past and present, for the presidency.

Why the Bill of Rights Matters to You

This lesson will allow students to use primary sources, the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court cases in conjunction with the game “That’s Your Right” and the Annenberg Guide to the Constitution. Students will be able to understand the meaning and importance of the Bill of Rights as well as how it safeguards freedoms and protects citizens from government intrusion in everyday life. Students will focus on primary sources, the Bill of Rights and real-life scenarios to prepare them to play the game “That’s Your Right.” Afterward, students can extend learning by exploring real Supreme Court cases that affect students in schools.

Influential Movements in the Struggle for Women’s Suffrage

This lesson will encourage students to use primary sources in conjunction with the video “The 19th Amendment: A Woman’s Right to Vote” and the timeline found on Annenberg Classroom to understand how various events contributed to the changing views and attitudes on women’s suffrage leading to the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Students will focus on the Abolitionist Movement, the Reconstruction Amendments, and World War I to explain how these events helped or hindered the women’s suffrage movement.
YLI, a program of the [University of Virginia Center for Politics](http://www.virginia.edu/politics/), develops **FREE** education resources designed to assist civics teachers, and encourage students to participate in the political process. [Signup](http://yli236.youthleadership.net/) to access these programs.

A few sample lesson plans are listed below. For more information go to: [http://yli236.youthleadership.net/](http://yli236.youthleadership.net/)

**Rebuilding Democracy**  **Levels:** High School  **Unit:** Civic Education Skills

This lesson plan accompanies the Center for Politics’ documentary, Dismantling Democracy that examines democratic structures of government in the United States and around the world. The film features interviews from across the political spectrum depicts the gradual deterioration of the democratic process. Students will evaluate the current state of democracy across the globe and use that knowledge to propose a civic action plan for their community that will engage citizens in reviving engagement in democratic processes.

**State of the Union**  **Levels:** College/Adult, High School, Home School, Middle School  **Unit:** Foundations of American Government, The Presidency, The Political Process

This lesson is intended to prepare students for watching the State of the Union (SOU) address. Students will learn the Constitutional requirement for the SOU and learn how the SOU has been used by presidents in the past. Students will also learn about the formalities of addressing Congress and the traditions that have been established throughout the nation’s history.

**Talking Turkey: Introduction**  **Levels:** College/Adult, High School, Home School, Middle School  **Unit:** A Call to Action, Civic Education Skills, Political Beliefs and Behaviors

Many elder statesmen have commented on the fact that the collegiality they shared in the past with members of different political ideologies has disappeared in this modern era of polarization. The ability to discuss issues from varying points of view, debate their merits, and compromise on solutions is quickly disappearing from our political process. This is a shame, because the Founders believed that debate, discourse and compromise were important to continuing the tradition of government by the majority with protection for the minority. Perhaps we have lost the art of debate, discourse and compromise. This series of downloadable topic papers is an attempt to start reviving the skills of civil discourse by encouraging teachers, parents, and students to sit down together and really examine the important issues of our day. Each downloadable topic contains talking points from both sides of the issue, links to websites with information from important political figures like the President, governmental agencies, and related organizations. There are also guiding questions to help begin a conversation. This program is recommended for use in the classroom, but more importantly might be a great way to involve your Parent Student Organizations in meaningful discourse and discussion.
Our Vision
iCivics envisions a thriving American democracy supported by informed and civically engaged young people.

Our Mission
We champion equitable, non-partisan civic education so that the practice of democracy is learned by each new generation. We work to inspire life-long civic engagement by providing high-quality and engaging civics resources to teachers and students across our nation.

Our Story
Civics was founded by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor in 2009 to ensure that all Americans have the knowledge and will to participate in our unique experiment in self-government. Since then, iCivics has become the nation’s premier non-profit civic education provider of high-quality, non-partisan, engaging, and free resources to more than 7.6 million students annually, in all 50 states. That equates to the majority of our nation’s middle and high school students. iCivics first-of-its-kind digital civic library includes more than 260 curricular resources, digital literacy tools, professional learning materials, and educational video games. And behind those numbers lie countless young people who now feel the weight of their civic roles and agency. Our engaging resources are proven to improve civic knowledge, skills and dispositions.

Check out middle and High School Unit / Lesson Plans and everything else they have to offer at: https://www.icivics.org/ or click the link below for access to Curriculum Units

Continued on next page
Remote Learning Toolkit For Educators

Just like you, we’re taking this one week at a time. Visit https://www.icivics.org/ for structured activities to help you keep your students engaged and learning.

iCivics exists to engage students in meaningful civic learning. We provide teachers well written, inventive, and free resources that enhance their practice and inspire their classrooms.

Explore our free, easy-to-use games and lesson plans (ideal for Google Classroom, Nearpod, and more!) that will help you prioritize civic learning and keep your students engaged.

Here is just a sample of the options for the High School level:

Presidential Race- Learn about the presidential election cycle and what it takes to run a campaign

Becoming an informed Voter- Elections are coming! Do you have what it takes to choose the best candidates?

Command the Executive- Learn what it takes to command the Executive, branch that is!

Don't Get Fooled- Learn the markers of reliable news and how to spot deceptive posts
Game Odyssey

The iCivics Game Odyssey, built for Google Classroom, turns our free online games into an exciting quest for civics knowledge. Your students can play their way through a series of games each week, claim badges, share their successes, and learn important civics lessons on the journey to becoming a Civic Boss. This is an engaging way for students to apply their knowledge and supplement instruction.

For a complete list of games suited to Upper Elementary, Middle & High School, and English Language Learners visit https://www.icivics.org/games

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Argument Wars
Play Time: 0-15 mins
Argue real Supreme Court cases, and put your lawyering skills to the test.

NewsFeed Defenders
Play Time: 30+ mins
Fight hidden ads, viral deception, and false reporting as a NewsFeed Defender!

Race to Ratify
Play Time: 30+ mins
Make your own history! Are you team Federalist or AntiFederalist?

Branches of Power
Play Time: 30+ mins
Learn to control all three branches of the U.S. government!
After attending the CNYCSS sponsored workshop with April Francis last spring I was reinvigorated. As anti-CRT followers gained ground over the past summer it became increasingly clear that even if what you are teaching is in the New York State framework, teaching about any topic that challenges what some consider the master narrative is opening yourself up to potential headaches. But April Francis opened up some strategies and mindsets that empowered me to teach with little concern about potential pushback.

In a word, the strategy was to focus on the positive. For the Reconstruction unit, each day for the anticipatory activity (Bell Ringer) the students read a brief snippet about the life and accomplishments of African-American leaders during the time, men and women. Though it may seem rudimentary, one of my goals is to simply share more of the stories of the heroes of American history that merit being as well known as Thomas Jefferson and Mercy Otis Warren but are not, often, even by we who teach the stories.

One resource I have used multiple times is a website hosted by the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. As the Phillips Collection celebrates its centennial, I have circled back, once again, to harvest anything new from their website featuring the art of Jacob Lawrence. I have been circling back to their website for the past 6 years and each time I do they seem to have added something new or organized the site in ways that are even better than the year before.

Having the entirety of Jacob Lawrence’s Great Migration series in one easily explored location is a treasure. The way the site is organized it is fairly easy to set your students loose on their own exploration of the 60 panels in the series. But there is a multitude of lessons that can be quickly developed simply by selecting a handful of the panels. By using the panels the principles that motivated the Great Migration are reinforced visually. There are also several video clips of various figures discussing Jacob Lawrence, his art, the Great Migration and more. As one of the artists of the Harlem Renaissance, using this website as a centerpiece for the 1920s is a win-win.

One feature I had not seen before this year presented another interesting activity using the panels. The Phillips Collection has the original captions for all the panels, which Jacob Lawrence wrote before he painted in the 1940s. And they have another list of the captions Jacob Lawrence wrote fifty years later. It is an easy compare and contrast activity that requires students to contextualize both captions. By asking students to support their reasoning for the differences between the captions provides yet another layer of learning in a single activity, which is improving their public speaking and rational thinking.
The Phillips Collection site and the MoMA site (MoMA has half of the panels of the Great Migration series) feature interactive maps for students to explore the path people took to the North and West. It includes the paths of the 1920-1970 Great Migration but also a Reverse Migration tracking movement from 1980-2010. A very interesting connection to the present which deepens the students opportunities to contextualize the past.

Though I am uncertain I have fully given the site its just due I have one more resource to feature. Again, this is a part of the website that I do not recall seeing from past use. The Phillips Collection commitment to improving upon what is already an outstanding resource is why I so strongly recommend using it in the classroom. The final feature is a collection of primary sources pulled from the Library of Congress. They feature Americans who are still in the South and those who have resettled in the North. They are brief and cover a wide range of perspectives and situations. While the set provides already made lesson plans, the richness of the resources makes original lesson planning easy and instinctual for veteran teachers.

I hope you enjoy this site as much as I do and that you enjoy sharing it with your students.

~ Erica Martin
Though the new framework has been out since 2014, I will be candid and say there are still units I haven’t fully aligned. The Roaring Twenties is one such topic where I only recently realized that the scope of what I was attempting to teach included much more than what is listed in the framework. Regardless of my own challenges, the framework lists a few events that I had only recently learned about. The Tulsa Massacre and the East Saint Louis Riots are two atrocities I will be honest and say I knew almost nothing about before a few years ago.

As many of you may have experienced, there is a process as we gain new information, insights, and understandings and then translate them into the classroom. For the two particular events mentioned above I have been devoting quite a bit of time as I mull over how best to approach such tremendously devastating and under told moments.

Of course, as so many teachers do, I went to the internet and looked to see if there were any ready-made and middle school appropriate lessons on the topics. Not much luck in that department. However, the New York Times has an article entitled “What The Tulsa Race Massacre Destroyed” from May 24, 2021 that provided a great starting point. The team of journalists and designers developed a 3D model of Tulsa, Oklahoma’s Greenwood neighborhood. You are able to scroll through the neighborhood and article as the details of the massacre are revealed.

The lion’s share of the article is spent detailing visually and in print, the great success of the African American entrepreneurs of Greenwood. It highlights the individuals that owned and operated multiple profitable businesses in Greenwood and shows a community where all ranks of workers live side-by-side. This approach highlights and applauds the regular everyday success of the iconic small business paradigm that so many in America still value today. This aspect provided a pathway for many students to connect with the individuals of Greenwood.

Continued on next page
In an era where many of us must be mindful of community members’ sensitivity to anything that resembles their thoughts on CRT, this article met my needs. It also enabled the folding in of some geographic reasoning through its use of the 3D modeling and maps of Greenwood within Tulsa. Though it does require a NYT subscription, it may be worth considering the cost.

Because I had not ever taught the Tulsa Race Massacre before I chose to simply scroll through the article and read it aloud to the students. Again, because I had never taught it and had concerns about getting lost in the gruesome sadness of the situation, having this article to ground the conversation seemed to work out well. The link is below and I simply wrapped up the activity by having the students record 2 observations and generate 1 question based on what they heard and saw. We did go over expectations of mindfulness when covering difficult topics the day before we went through the article.

Sharing such challenging and violent events is never going to be easy and it never should be easy. But it is one of the great responsibilities of being a social studies teacher. We share the good, the bad, the impossible made possible, and the determination of humanity. In addition to the New York Times link I am sharing several other links I used to deepen my knowledge of the travesties of the 1920s.

~ Erica Martin


https://reimaginingmigration.org/1917-silent-march-against-lynching/
Interactive Map of the Red Summer & Timeline


https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=56186312471f47eca8aff16a8a990aa8
Visit National Geographic Educational Resources and scroll down to Mapmaker Interactive: https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/education-resources/

Click Create Map where you can add a variety of layers highlighting geographical and historical elements to bring instruction to a new vantage in vivid detail. See below for just a few of the layer options.

“I remember the Day I lost my spirit.” So begins the story of Gertrude Simmons also known as Zitkala-Sa, which means Red Bird. She was born in 1876 on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota and she willingly left home at age eight to go to a boarding school in Indiana. Soon she found herself caught between two worlds…white and Native American. When Zitkala-Sa graduated she became a music teacher, composer and performer. As an adult, she worked as an activist for Native American rights, seeking to build a bridge between cultures. To paint her story the authors adapted three serialized semiautobiographical stories she wrote for the Atlantic Monthly in the early 1900s. Beginning with Zitkala-Sa’s own words they wove additional primary and secondary sources into the text. They reworked her language and substituted modern phrasing for clarity. She died at the age of 61 and as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. and had taken her place in history. At the end of the book is an afterward with two photographs and additional information and a selected bibliography and further reading books and websites.


This story is inspired by true events and told through the eyes of a young boy and this is the deeply moving story of what is regarded as the first Memorial Day. With poignant prose and powerful illustrations from an award-winning team the story shines light on this little known history of this important holiday and reminds us to never to forget Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, which was established to honor those who gave their lives while fighting in the Civil War.

At the end of the book is the author’s note with a photograph followed by another page telling the roots of Decoration Day in Charleston, South Carolina, 1865. After is a Time Line with names of other cities with claims of being the birthplace of Memorial Day. At the very end of the book is a page of notes with a selected bibliography.

The author wrote this book many years after writing a book called TO BE A SLAVE followed by LONG JOURNEY HOME and THIS STRANGE NEW FEELING about the slave experience. After being presented by Rod Brown’s paintings the author realized he needed to write about one man’s confrontation with the American slave experience and the lives of his ancestors. His words were personal, words that spoke from yesterday’s history to today’s. He addresses the reader and implores one not to be passive, but to invest your soul and imagine yourself into the images and to come to terms with a historical experience whose legacy continues to effect us. The author starts with all aspects of the slave experience from the voyage from Africa, arrival in America, the auction block, their everyday life, their pain and sorrow. The author goes on to show how slavery was a business, the Civil War and finally freedom. This moving book provides a deeper understanding of what it meant to be a slave. At the end of the book is a listing of the paintings by Red Brown. Horn Book writes, “Expressive paintings and a powerful, thought-provoking text.”


This is a story about a simple rope that connects generations. For three generation, that rope is passed down, used for everything from jump rope games to tying suitcases onto a car for the big move north to New York City, and even for a family reunion where that first little girl is now a grandmother. The rope is used to frame a compelling story as readers follow the little girl’s journey during the time of the Great Migration, when millions of African American families relocated from the south, seeking better opportunities in the North. At the beginning of the book is the Author’s Note which gives facts about the Great Migration. It is a fiction story and one of hope. The book has wonderful illustrations that help the reader have a better understanding.


This book is a celebration of community activism, “good trouble” and strength in numbers. This exquisitely painted picture book biography honors Claudette Colvin, the teen whose activism launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott which ignited a crucial chain of events with Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is time for young readers to learn about Claudette’s role in the Civil Rights movement. At the end of the book is an Author’s Note with further reading suggestions.

As a child, Marie Tharp’s curiosity was as big as the world she wanted to explore. She longed to become a scientist and study the fascinating life around her. In the mid-1900s women were not welcome in the sciences but Marie refused to give up her dream and got a job in a New York laboratory. Even though she was not allowed on the research boats, she ventured on her own exploration, mapping the ocean floor from her small office with the data her colleagues sent back. Point after point, Marie mapped out a hidden truth: below the ocean depths were mid-ocean ridges…the world’s largest chain of mountains. This discovery not only changed history, it altered its course. Marie showed us that the Earth is continuously moving and evolving.

The book has end papers that show the earth and the mid-ocean ridges. At the end is an Author’s Note with pictures, then questions and answers and further reading. This is an outstanding non-fiction picture book.


This definitive picture book biography of Dr. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy Infectious Diseases, shows readers that to become a scientist you must have an open mind, keep learning and never give up. The author, Kate Messner personally interviewed Dr. Fauci to tell his story and he gives his own tips for future scientists that are included in the back of the book, as well as facts about how vaccines work and much more. There is also an important timeline followed by a Recommended Reading list and Sources for more information. There is an Author’s Note and photographs of Dr. Fauci over time and some acknowledgments. A very timely book.
Keep up to date by visiting the websites of our local Museums and Historical Associations for updates and valuable resources for curriculum planning and classroom instruction

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Center for New Americans, Interfaith Council
https://www.interfaithworkscny.org/
What does being a Board member of CNYCSS entail?

- Every Board member is elected for a 1-year term that can be renewed
- Approximately 5 meetings a year, some in-person and some virtual
- Meetings are typically 90 minutes in length
- Meetings are held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Mondays
- Contribute to the CNYCSS Newsletter as able
- Participate in organizational events
- Promote the organization in your home district and in the field

What is CNYCSS looking for?

- Motivated educators of Social Studies, K-12
- Also welcome are:
  - Library Media Specialists
  - Administrators
  - College faculty

Who to contact if interested?

- Any of our current Board members listed on the back page of this newsletter or reach out to cnycss@gmail.com
- Consider including a brief paragraph about you, your current teaching assignment and your interest and motivations for wanting to become more involved in CNYCSS
- If interested in joining the Board, we would love to hear from you. We generally welcome new Board members at the end of June and their term begins July. Though we are in the midst of confirming some revisions to our Constitution you can read the current Constitution by visiting:

  http://www.cnycss.memberlodge.com/page-1528773
The CNYCSS is a CTLE Certified Organization

Become a Member Today

As a member of CNYCSS you will receive our biannual newsletter as well as exclusive invitations to special guest speakers and dinner meetings as well as our Annual Conference. You will also receive notification of professional development opportunities and grant opportunities. Visit http://www.cnycss.memberlodge.com/

Serve on the CNYCSS Board

As a conduit for collaboration and a voice for Social Studies Educators across Central New York and beyond, the CNYCSS is continually working to strengthen ties with educators across the region. Serving on the Board provides the opportunity to lend one's talents, perspective, and efforts in increasing the role and impact of the social studies across our state. Those interested please contact Erica Martin. ekvmartin@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions

The goal of our newsletter is to shine light on the great work being done by educators in Central New York, connect our members, advocate for Social Studies Education, and provide a link for curriculum and classroom resources. Wish to share a message of advocacy? Want to share a resource that you saw make an impact in the classroom? Please feel free to send your questions and submissions to Troy Killian. Tkillian@scsd.us

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Lynette Avery- Treasurer
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