Constitutionally Speaking promotes civics education in New Hampshire. This issue recaps the successful event featuring Sandra Day O'Connor, and features three upcoming events on "Money, Democracy, and the Constitution," as well as other upcoming events in our state and civics curriculum resources.

Money, Democracy, and the Constitution

October 2014

Dear New Hampshire Educator,
I would love to hear how you and your school celebrated Constitution Day. Please share ideas and photos with me at martha@constitutionallyspeakingnh.org so that I may share them with others.

Sandra Day O'Connor and David Souter, retired Supreme Court Justices, civics education advocates, and friends who can disagree in a civil manner, spoke to a capacity crowd at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord on Wednesday, Sept. 17, Constitution Day. A generous grant from the William W. Treat Foundation allowed the event to be free to the public. Constitutionally Speaking, with its partners, prioritized students and teachers having access to this event; approximately 300 New Hampshire educators and students attended. Ten books written and signed by O'Connor were won by lottery by 10 students in the audience. After the discussion of the importance of civic education and civic involvement for our democracy, the Justices graciously offered to meet and take photographs with twelve school groups. It was a memorable and inspiring event for all who attended.
Milford High School students got a chance to meet Justices O'Connor and Souter.

Photo by David Wolowitz

Constitutionally Speaking will proceed with its second season of informative and meaningful civics programs with symposia on November 8 at the UNH School of Law, and on February 19, 2015, at Saint Anselm College (entitled *Money, Democracy, and the Constitution I and II.*) On November 20 Exeter High School will host an interscholastic conference on *Money, Greed, and Corruption* for high school juniors and seniors. Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns has accepted our invitation to deliver the King Lecture of the NH Supreme Court Society in the spring of 2015, subject to scheduling. More details to follow soon.

I am still looking for civics coordinators for middle and elementary schools! If you are willing to serve as a liaison between Constitutionally Speaking and your school and if you are interested in sharing ideas and resources with other educators, please email me at martha@constitutionallyspeakingnh.org

Please also offer your feedback on our Constitutionally Speaking With Educators newsletter and Constitutionally Speaking’s teacher resources. Visit our website to take a brief survey.

As Sandra Day O’Connor noted, not all of our students will be astronauts, professors, or Supreme Court Justices. But all of them will be citizens.
Constitutionally Speaking
Upcoming Events

Money, Democracy, and the Constitution I

Symposium on “The Debt Ceiling and the Separation of Powers” and “Taxing, Spending, and Judicial Review”

UNH Law’s Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership & Public Policy, Concord, NH

Saturday, November 8, 2014, 8:30-2:00

This symposium, most relevant for high school teachers but interesting to any citizen, is sponsored by the Peterson Foundation and hosted by Constitutionally Speaking. It will consist of two panels, each consisting of three 20-minute TEDx-style talks followed by moderated Q & A. The first panel, titled “The Debt Ceiling & the Separation of Powers,” will focus on the policy and constitutional issues raised in connection with last year’s debt ceiling showdown. The second panel, titled “Taxing, Spending, and Judicial Review,” will explore Congress’s practice of attaching conditions to federal funds and the Supreme Court’s recent ruling --in the Affordable Care Act decision-- establishing new limits on Congress’s authority in this regard.

John M. Greabe, who teaches Constitutional Law at the UNH School of Law, will moderate.

Panel One (8:45-10:30 a.m.) will consider the propriety of Congress withholding approval to raise the debt limit without financial reform. Michael Coenen of Louisiana State University Law Center will offer an overview of the
various positions advanced with respect to Presidential power and the debt limit and will connect those positions to broader constitutional disputes about executive power. Ilya Shapiro of the Cato Institute and Philip Wallach of the Brookings Institution will then share their opposing views on whether the President can act on his own in the event that Congress fails to raise the debt limit.

Panel Two (10:45 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.) will consider the phenomenon of Congress attaching conditions to federal grants, focusing specifically on the way the Affordable Care Act sought to expand Medicaid coverage. Leah A. Plunkett, a former legal aid lawyer and now a professor at the UNH School of Law, will lead off the panel by explaining the contours of federalism and the general points of tension surrounding Medicaid expansion and other federal conditions on grants to states. Professors James Blumstein from Vanderbilt Law School and Nicole Huberfeld from University of Kentucky College of Law then will present contrasting views of whether the Supreme Court should use judicial review to oversee and potentially strike down such conditional spending programs, as it did in the Affordable Care Act case.

You can read speaker bios on the Constitutionally Speaking website here.

Brown bag lunches will be provided for registrants. Lunch will follow the second panel, over which attendees will engage in facilitated discussions of the morning’s talks. This event is free but requires registration with Idell Champagne at Idell.Champagne@law.unh.edu

Save the Date!
Money, Democracy, and the Constitution II:
Campaign Finance and Election Law
The New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH
Thursday, February 19, 2015 6-8 p.m.

The panelists will present, discuss, and then engage in a short question and answer period.

MODERATOR:
Interscholastic Conference for Students on Money, Greed & Corruption

Exeter High School

November 20

“Humans have a complicated relationship with money. Ayn Rand described money as the "root of all good," while Karl Marx (following 1 Timothy 6:10 and a host of ancient thinkers) thought money was closer to "the root of all evil." Money allows people on opposite sides of the world to exchange things of value with great efficiency. Money motivates us, for better or for worse, to do things we wouldn’t otherwise do. Money can eclipse other values. How does money influence our government, our political system, and our lives?”

During this free half-day conference, students will consider and discuss how one can live a good life and be a good citizen in a world largely motivated by money. Presentations by award-winning UNH professors Scott Smith (Classics) and Nick Smith (Philosophy) will be followed by a question and answer period. A list of suggested readings and films will be made available to teachers ahead of time.

To register, contact Kathy Mathis at kmathis@nhhc.org or 224-4071.
Conference is in Boston in 2014! *The Civic Mission of Schools: Let Freedom Ring!*

**John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, 900 Boylston Street, Boston**

**November 21-23**

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns and Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates will speak. Vital issue session topics will include “Closing the Gap in Civic Education” and “Civic Learning Success Stories: State Initiatives to Restore the Civic Mission of Schools.”

For more information, [visit this website](#).

This school year the NH Council for the Social Studies conference will be held March, due to the national conference in Boston being scheduled for November.

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**Democratic Deliberation of Controversial Issues in the Social Studies/Civics Classroom**

**Saint Anselm College’s Institute of Politics**
Saturday, December 13th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m

Dr. Diana Hess and Dr. Paula McAvoy will deliver a keynote presentation to the public in the morning. The afternoon will provide an extended opportunity for K-12 teachers to talk about their plans for implementing these techniques in their classroom. Hess and McAvoy are associated with the Spencer Foundation, which advocates for and supports the “New Civics.” New Civics is civics education not simply as a grounding in historical and procedural knowledge of systems of government, but, more broadly, as education, whether in schools or elsewhere, that develops skills, knowledge, and dispositions that lead to informed and reasoned civic action. 

Hess and McAvoy co-authored *The Political Classroom: Evidence and Ethics in Democratic Education.*

“The Political Classroom uses powerful research to reveal the complexities of engaging students in "best practice" discussions of the controversial political issues they will confront throughout their lives. In doing so, Hess and McAvoy show how important teachers are to fulfilling the promise of democracy in our time.”

- Michelle M. Herczog, President, National Council for the Social Studies

For more information on this December event, please contact Ann Camaan at acamaan@anselm.edu

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New Hampshire Humanities Council’s Humanities To Go!

Upcoming events relating to Civics

“Making Sense of the Civil War” Discussion Series in Milford

The NH Humanities Council has awarded a grant to the Wadleigh Memorial Library in Milford for a lecture and film series based on “Making Sense of the Civil War” project created by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The lectures will take place at the library over four Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Sept. 17, Oct. 1, 15, and 29). Books in the series include *March* by Geraldine Brooks, *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* by James McPherson, and *America’s War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation* by Edward Ayers. Films will be screened and discussed on Wed. Sept. 24 at 6:30 (*Glory*), and Wed. Oct. 2 at 6:30 (*Lincoln.*) Denise Askin of St. Anselm College will lead the discussions. The series is free but registration is
strongly suggested.
Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford
249-0645

“Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire”
Rebecca Rule regales audiences with stories of the rituals, traditions, and history of town meeting, including the perennial characters, the literature, the humor, and the wisdom on this uniquely New England institution.
Oct. 18, 1 p.m.
Joseph Patch Library, 320 NH Rt. 25, Warren
Veronica Mueller 764-9072

Many other educational opportunities are available throughout our state thanks to the NH Humanities Council. Visit this website.

City Council Meeting: Performed Participatory Democracy
In Keene, October 2014

The Redfern Arts Center at Keene State College is spearheading a unique project that will explore civic engagement through a variety of programs. This project will include:
Engage! Picturing America through Civic Engagement, an exhibit at the Keene Public Library, Monday Oct.6 from 3-4:30 and continuing until Oct. 27.

The Connection Between Creativity and Civic Engagement, a public talk at the Keene Public Library, October 12 at 2 p.m. Aaron Landsman and Mallory Catlett will lead this exploration.

The Role of Students as Local Citizens, a discussion led by the Keene State College Debate Club, at the Putman Science Center at Keene State on Oct. 21st at 6 p.m.

City Council Meeting: Performed Participatory Democracy, the main event, will be the result of a yearlong residency by New York artists Aaron Landsman, Mallory Catlett, and Jim Findlay. At Heberton Hall in Keene, on Wed., Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. Come and be part of live democracy in action.
UNH Continuing Education
Teaching the American Revolution (grades 5 - 8)
At Portsmouth/Pease
Wed., November 12, 9:30-4:00, led by Denise Dayton
$149.00, lunch included.
This workshop focuses on making the American Revolution fun and meaningful for middle-level learners. We will look at lessons in critical thinking and debate as well as ideas for hands-on projects and learning activities for all types of learners. New Hampshire's role and involvement in the Revolution will be a particular focus including the impact of New Hampshire and its significance not only to New England, but to the entire country. Learn more at this website.

UNH Cooperative Extension offers Workshop on Civic Engagement, Community Building, and Facilitation Skills
UNH Campus, 83 Main Street, 334-336 Memorial Union Building, Durham
October 15, 9-11:30 a.m., $25 fee
Learn more at this website.

Ron Elving of National Public Radio Speaks With Laura Knoy
UNH School of Law, Concord
Thursday, October 16, 5:30 p.m.
The Couch Family Foundation, New Hampshire Public Radio and The Warren B. Rudman Center at UNH School of Law are coming together once again, this time featuring a talk by Ron Elving of National Public Radio. Mr. Elving keeps his eyes squarely on the personalities, issues and public opinion that shape contemporary politics, including elections and the actions of Congress and the White House. His book, Conflict and Compromise: How Congress Makes the Laws was published in 1995 to rave reviews. NHPR's Laura Knoy will host this event, and audience questions will be encouraged. There will be a complimentary reception following the conversation. There is no cost to attend, but space will be limited. To register, please visit this website.

Curriculum links

**Elementary School**


“A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution” by Betsy and Giulio Maestro. With accurate historical information, this easy-to-understand book tells why and how the Constitution of the United States was created. Includes a map, a table of dates and a summary of the Articles of the Constitution.
Middle School
Three different trial reenactments aimed at middle school students:


Constitution Role Play: Whose “More Perfect Union?”
[http://zinnedproject.org/materials/constitution-role-play/](http://zinnedproject.org/materials/constitution-role-play/)

High School
Reclaiming Our Democracy: Healing the Break between People and Government by Sam Daley-Harris.

This book describes how people around the world have dropped their cynicism and hopelessness and joined with others in joyfully making the difference in the world they have always dreamed of making.


The Exchange, NHPR, September 24, “Money in Politics” with guests:

**Dante Scala** – associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of New Hampshire. He’s also a fellow at UNH’s Carsey School
Brian Wallstin – digital reporter for NHPR. He covers campaign funding in N.H. races.

https://www.opensecrets.org/resources/dollarocracy/

For more civics curriculum resources for all ages, visit Constitutionally Speaking’s website:
http://www.constitutionallyspeakingnh.org

"We have a complex system of government. You have to teach it to every generation." – Sandra Day O’Connor