

Constitutionally Speaking promotes civics education in New Hampshire. This issue focuses on civics activities for the summer, and follows a fourth grade class on a visit to the three branches of state government.

Constitutionally Speaking

A Rewarding Summer Agenda

June 2015

Dear New Hampshire Civics Educator,

I hope you have plans to revitalize this summer and get ready for a fascinating and busy year ahead: full of candidates, campaigns, meaningful discussion, and spirited yet civil discourse.

Constitutionally Speaking and the NH Institute for Civics Education are proud to announce a new partnership with **NH Community College System's First in Nation Civics Engagement Initiative**. Chancellor Ross Gittell and Chair Anna Grace Holloway are leading an effort to design a civics and policy course offered online through all NH Community Colleges. The participant students (both community college students and high school students) in the course will have an opportunity to design and ask questions of the presidential candidates who will be speaking at each of our community colleges throughout the upcoming year. We will let you know more about events and registration as details become available. Learn more about the program [here](#), and also [here](#).

The NH Institute for Civics Education is in the process of collecting and editing many excellent units, lessons, and assignments written by NH educators and inspired by the workshop with Peter Levine and Akhil Amar in Feb. and March, *Cultivating Participatory Citizens*. We will have these resources on the Constitutionally Speaking website by Sept. 1.

The upcoming NHICE workshop for elementary educators, *Planting Seeds for Participatory Citizens*, is now full and has a wait list. We will share materials that come from that experience and from that group of educators in future newsletters and on the Constitutionally Speaking website.

Constitutionally Speaking will be hard at work this summer creating a DVD of Constitutionally Speaking events and speakers from this past school year. The DVD will serve as a resource and rich background for teachers. In addition, Concord High School social studies teachers Chris Herr and Tristan Black-Ingersoll will be creating a Teacher's Guide which will address many of the ideas and topics discussed at CS events, but will translate them into materials and language engaging to high school students.

I have also included in this newsletter summer reading, summer events, and, as always, additional upcoming professional development activities and curriculum resources.

Enjoy your break!

Your colleague,



Martha Madsen, Ed.M.

Director, Educational Outreach and Curriculum
Constitutionally Speaking



Students from Andrea Cameron's 4th grade class from Canterbury, NH, visited the NH Supreme Court Chamber recently.

Teacher Feature

Fourth Graders Learn About All Three Branches of Government in Concord

Andrea Cameron and her fourth grade class from Canterbury visited all three branches of NH State Government in a few hours last month. She prepared the students using her standard NH social studies text and had them create a lapbook (from Teachers Pay Teachers, "[Local and National Government Lapbook](#)" by Amber Polk).

Andrea contacted Virginia Drew at the State House, who helped her arrange the agenda for the day. First, they visited the Governor's Office and the Executive Council's offices (and peeked in on their meeting). They visited the Legislature, meeting with Rep. Howard Moffett, who represents Canterbury. They held a mock debate and voted (using voting machines) on whether or not all light bulbs sold and used in NH should be LED ("green") light bulbs. Rep. Moffett explained that if a representative did not vote, that rep was required to stand in the front of the assembly and explain why he/she did not vote, and get "booed!"

The class visited the state senate, got to sit in senator's seats, and learned that the chamber room was originally used for the NH Supreme Court. They learned why the dome of the state house is gold -- because a U.S. president, Franklin Pierce, is from New Hampshire -- and visited the hall of historic flags, which was a favorite among many students. They remembered seeing blood and bullet holes in some of the flags. William Riley, a Canterbury student, wrote, "My favorite part was being in front of the State House and seeing the magnificent, powerful pillars. The statues are amazing and if you look straight up you will see the gold dome with the majestic eagle on top."

At the Supreme Court, Canterbury students met with Justice Gary Hicks. They learned that the justices select which justice will be assigned to a particular case by picking cases randomly out of a special silver pitcher -- a pitcher donated by Justice Robert James Peaslee's widow in the 1950's. The members of the Supreme Court have drawn their case assignments from this pitcher for over 50 years.

Another student favorite was getting to sit in Justice's chairs! Students learned that each justice has a certain chair (the Chief Justice sitting in

the center) based on seniority. They asked Justice Hicks questions about the kinds of cases he had heard in the past. “One would think the Supreme Court would be a dry subject for students at this age, but my students were absolutely fascinated,” noted Cameron.

As a follow-up language arts assignment, Cameron asked her student to write a thank you letter (in business format and using cursive) to either Representative Moffett or Justice Hicks.

Last month Cameron was a featured guest on NHPR’s The Exchange along with Milford High School civics teacher David Alcox. The program was inspired by the controversial voting down of House Bill 373, a bill proposed by a 4th grade class from Hampton Falls advocating that the Red Tailed Hawk be named the state’s raptor; the radio program also focused more generally on the state of civics education in NH.

Resources

Andrea Cameron and Dave Alcox on The Exchange: [Sizing Up Civics Education, April 2](#)

Washington Post article on the [Red Tailed Hawk controversy](#)

NH [Judicial Branch Website](#)

NH [House of Representatives/ State Senate/ Governor’s Office](#)

Governor Hassan’s [page for kids](#)



Andrea Cameron's class in front of the State House.

Interesting summer reads for the civics nerd

[“Civil Education: A Balm for Our Increasingly Polarized Society?”](#) by Gary Marx, *Education Week*.

Article in Concord Monitor on the [YMCA Youth and Government model state legislature session](#):

The Hanover High School Council, the school’s democratic governance organization, has been in existence there since the 1970’s. [This 1996 article](#) from *Democracy & Education* describes the Council’s origins and procedures. You can also download [this article](#).

Three articles describing **engaging and meaningful civics learning experiences for elementary school aged children** which took place in Boston, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia:

1. [An Early Civics Education for Young Bostonians](#)
2. [Children Are Citizens](#)
3. [Youth Mayoral Forum](#) Organized by Rendell Center Elicits Poignant



Fourth grade students sitting in the NH Senate chamber.

Professional Development Opportunities

Frontiers of Democracy

June 25-27

**Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and
Public Service
Tufts University
145 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111**

[Visit the website](#)

Law and the Economy

July 14 and 15

St. Louis, MO

Free two-day workshop for middle and high school teachers.

The United States Courts and the Judicial Learning Center, along with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, will co-host a FREE two-day workshop for middle- and high-school teachers. This new program explores connections between core constitutional principles and today's vibrant economy. The program starts each day at the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse, 111 South 10th St., with observation of a live courtroom and sessions with judges and other legal professionals. Afternoon sessions at the St. Louis Fed at One Federal Reserve Bank Plaza, Broadway and Locust St., include presentations by research economists, lesson and activity demonstrations, and tours of the new and award-winning Inside the Economy® Museum.

This event is FREE, but registration is required by July 7, 2015.

Parking, lunch, and educational materials will be provided. For more information please contact: Rachel Marshall at Rachel_Marshall@ca8.uscourts.gov or Mark Bayles at mark.a.bayles@stls.frb.org.

[Visit the website.](#)



Free Online Course on Presidential Primary

Andy Smith and Dante Scala of the UNH Political Science Department will be offering a [free online course](#) in the fall on the presidential primary: It will run Oct. 19 - Dec. 1 and will offer high school and middle school teachers lesson materials and ideas. Register [here](#) or [here](#).

Save the Date!

Dianna Terrell of Saint Anselm College, Dennis Perrault of Campbell High, and Joe Onosko of UNH are planning an all-day presidential primary event for teachers at Saint Anselm College on **Saturday, October 3rd, 2015**.

The NH Council on the Social Studies conference will take place on **Nov. 3rd, 2015**, in Manchester, NH.



NH Humanities Council Events

Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor?

Wednesday, July 1, 7:00 p.m.

Moultonborough Public Library, 4 Holland St., Moultonborough

We all think we know the story of Benedict Arnold, the American Revolutionary War general who fought for the Continental Army but then defected to the British. Recalled mainly as a traitor for his **1780 defection**, Arnold had risked his life and fortune for American freedom in courageous exploits between 1775 and 1778, when the dream of independence was at its most fragile. As an officer in the Continental Army, Arnold ably led American forces in desperate circumstances - against impossible odds, in a blinding snowstorm, through a howling wilderness, and against the extraordinary might of the Royal Navy. George Morrison will take you on a journey through New England, Canada and New York tracing the complex story of this infamous American icon.

Contact: Nancy McCue 476-8895

A Visit with Abraham Lincoln

Friday July 3, 3:00 PM

**Meredith Bay Colony Club, 21 Upper
Mile Point Dr., Meredith**

Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Steve Wood, begins this program by recounting his early life and ends with a reading of the "Gettysburg Address." Along the way he comments on the debates with Stephen Douglas, his run for the presidency, and the Civil War.

Contact: Sonya or Chelsea 279-1500

New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and their Impact on American Society

Thursday July 9, 7:30 PM

**New Boston Community Church, 2
Meetinghouse Hill Rd., New Boston**

New England's colonial meetinghouses embody an important yet little-known chapter in American history. Built mostly with tax money, they served as both places of worship and places for town meetings, and were the centers of life in colonial New England communities. Using photographs of the few surviving "mint condition" meetinghouses as illustrations, Paul Wainwright tells the story of the society that built and used them, and the lasting impact they have had on American culture.

Contact: Lisa Rothman 487-3867

I Can't Die But Once - Harriet Tubman's Civil War

Thursday July 9, 7:00 PM

**Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St.,
Amherst**

Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti's characterization of Harriet Tubman is a lucid, well-researched biography about the remarkable life of an enduring

warrior. As Harriet Tubman, she weaves a tale of truth, pain, courage and determination in the quagmire of racial exploitation. The United States Government enlisted Tubman as a scout and spy for the Union cause and she battled courageously behind enemy lines during the Civil War, but Tubman is best known for her role as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. Though she is one of the most famous women in our nation's history, we have come to know her life through fictionalized biographies written for school children. Quezaire-Presutti separates reality from myth to reconstruct a richer and far more accurate historical account of Tubman's life.

Contact: Ruslyn Vear 673-2288

Abraham Lincoln: From Springfield, Illinois to Exeter, New Hampshire and Beyond

Thursday August 13, 7:00 PM

Sheridan House, 391 Back Ashuelot Rd., Winchester

Lincoln's political life evolved from humble origins to culminate in the presidency of the United States and his leadership during the American Civil War. An illustrated lecture traces the crucial political years of transition from 1858 to 1861 when Lincoln became a national candidate for office and traveled widely. He came to New Hampshire to see his son Robert Todd Lincoln at Phillips Exeter Academy and while he was in NH he addressed audiences in Concord, Dover, Exeter, and Manchester.

Presented by Richard D. Schubart, Phillips Exeter Academy.

Contact: Erin Robb 239-8918

Revolutionary New Hampshire

Wednesday September 9, 12:30 PM

First Congregational Church Parish Hall, 1548 Hopkinton Rd., Hopkinton

In 1760, New Hampshire had a stable government. That government collapsed by 1776 and it took until the early 1790s to restore the stability

of the pre-Revolutionary era. Jere Daniell shares a history of these changes that is both fascinating and complex. Choose from three topics: "The Coming of Revolution," "The New Hampshire Town That Joined Vermont," or "The Origins of the New Hampshire State Constitution."
Contact: Alison Vallieres 774-3681

African American Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire During the American Revolution

Wednesday September 9, 7:00 PM

Folsom Tavern, 164 Water St., Exeter

One of the most interesting aspects of the American Revolution is the role played by African Americans in the fight for independence. Both free Blacks and those that were enslaved were key elements in manning state militias and Continental Army units, as well as serving on the high seas in the Navy and on privately armed ships. Indeed, their service to New Hampshire, as well as the other New England colonies, was crucial in a conflict that lasted nearly seven years. Prohibited by existing laws from serving in military units and largely considered "undesirable elements" by southern patriots and even many in New England, how is it that these Black soldiers came to fight for the cause of liberty, even when their own personal liberty was not guaranteed? Glenn Knoblock examines the history of Black soldiers' service during the war, including how and why they enlisted, their interaction with white soldiers, service on the battlefields, how they were perceived by the enemy and the officers under whom they served, and their treatment after the war.

Contact: Abby Pietrantonio 772-2622

Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire

Wednesday September 16, 7:30 PM

**Holderness Historical Society, Rte 3
(Curry Place behind Post Office),
Holderness**

Drawing on research from her book, *Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire, the Present, the Past, and the Future*, 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 of this uniquely New England institution.

Contact: Holderness Library 968-7066

For more excellent upcoming humanities events this summer, [visit this website](#).

American Independence Festival

Sat., July 18, 2015 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**American Independence Museum,
Exeter, NH.**

[Visit the Website.](#)



Concord State House Hall of Flags

Curriculum resources:

Elementary School:

“Children Are Citizens” from Project Zero, Graduate School of Education, and by public school elementary students in Washington, D.C.

<http://wissit.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Children-Are-Citizens-Book-2015.pdf>

“When Third-Graders Are Advocates,” from *Teaching Tolerance*.

<http://www.tolerance.org/blog/when-third-graders-are-advocates>

“Our World, Our Rights: Teaching about Rights and Responsibilities in the Elementary School,” Amnesty International.

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/pdfs/OurWorldOurRights.pdf>

“UN Convention on the Rights of Children in Child-Friendly Language”, Unicef.

<http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf>

“I Have the Right to Be a Child” lesson plan.

https://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/i_have_the_right_0.pdf

Middle School:

<http://www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org/>

For upper middle school or high school, a comprehensive unit on climate change for “citizen scientists” with resources, questions, and final projects.

http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/22/guest-post-climate-change-questions-for-citizen-scientists/?_r=0

Lessons on National Parks for elementary, middle, and high school students. From the Smithsonian Tween Tribune

<http://tweentribune.com/mmr-04-20-2015>

Taking a Stand: Models of Civic Participation by Facing History and Ourselves.

<https://www.facinghistory.org/for-educators/educator-resources/lessons-and-units/taking-stand-models-civic-participation>

Argument Wars game by icivics

<http://www.glasslabgames.org/games/AW-1>

Mini-lesson on Constitutional Convention by icivics

<https://www.icivics.org/teachers/lesson-plans/constitutional-convention-mini-lesson>

High School:

<http://www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org/>

Constitutional Rights Foundation's Bill of Rights in Action Home Page and Archives:

<http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/>

The National Constitution Center's *Constitution Daily* offers podcasts and videos on topics such as phone metadata, capital punishment, Citizen's United, and by speakers such as Akhil Amar and Joseph Ellis.

<http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/2015/05/town-hall-video-was-citizens-united-wrongly-decided>

A First Amendment case from New Hampshire that made its way to the United States Supreme Court in 1977 was presented at the New Hampshire Council for the Social Studies Spring Symposium on Thursday, March 19, 2015. One of the original attorneys who worked on the case, Jack Middleton, took part in the workshop for New Hampshire teachers, alongside two of the original authors of the associated LRE materials, attorney Linda Johnson and retired teacher, Art Pease. The materials include the Teacher's Manual and the original 27-minute movie, along with alignments to the Common Core State Standards and correlations to the New Hampshire social studies frameworks.

<https://www.nhbar.org/law-related-education/NHCSS-2015-Conference.asp>

"Most- and Least- Trusted News Outlets In America," *Business Insider*.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/here-are-the-most-and-least-trusted-news-outlets-in-america-2014-10>

The Learning Network from the New York Times, "Year-End Roundup 2014-15/Social Studies, History, Geography, Civics."

http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/05/27/year-end-roundup-2014-2015-social-studies-history-geography-and-civics/?emc=edit_in_20150528&nl=learning&nid=68475078

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



Constitutionally Speaking is a collaboration of The New Hampshire Humanities Council, The New Hampshire Institute for Civic Education, The New Hampshire Supreme Court Society, the Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership & Public Policy, Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth College, and St. Anselm Institute of Politics.

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