

Newsletter: February 10, 2011

#### **Social Studies in the News**

One of the best things about social studies is that every single day there are current events that can help bring abstract issues or difficult concepts alive for our students. Whether it is unrest in Egypt or the deliberations in the Utah legislature, there is a never a shortage of teachable moments. If you have examples of how you use current events to help students learn social studies concepts, I would love to hear them.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, and please let me know about events or opportunities you want to share.

Robert Austin, USOE

#### **Utah Legislative Session**

The legislative session is always a great way to teach about civics. This year there are a few bills and resolutions that are specific to social studies. One is Representative Morley's HB220, which would codify some additional teaching requirements including teaching that the United States form of government is a constitutional republic.

Another is Representative Fisher's H.C.R. 2, a resolution regarding the Utah state flag. Both of these legislative initiatives, and all others, can be followed on the award-winning website <a href="http://le.utah.gov">http://le.utah.gov</a>

The website is simple to use, and students can follow the status of legislation and listen to recorded and/or live debates on legislation.

## **Utah's Flag**

As you may know, the Utah state flag as it is currently represented is out of compliance with state statute. Amateur historian Ronald Fox worked long and hard to uncover some of the mistakes from the past, and news stories, along with the House resolution, are all at this flag resources page created and hosted by our friends at UEN:

http://www.uen.org/core/socialstudies/flag/#utah

#### **African American History Month**

February has been a time to celebrate and honor African-American history ever since Carter G. Woodson began promoting the idea in the 1920's. As social studies teachers, we have an opportunity and obligation to make sure all students, as Gerald Ford stated, "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Our friends at UEN have made these links for your use during African American History month: <a href="http://www.uen.org/core/socialstudies/africanamerican/">http://www.uen.org/core/socialstudies/africanamerican/</a>

The Library of Congress also has links: <a href="http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/">http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/</a>

## 2011 Toyota International Teacher Program to Costa Rica

The program will take place November 19 - December 3, 2011 and the deadline to apply is May 4, 2011. Full-time classroom teachers of all subjects and librarians, for grades 7 - 12, are invited to apply. Please visit our website at <a href="www.iie.org/toyota">www.iie.org/toyota</a> for additional information and application instructions.

#### **Hunstman Seminar: Don't Forget to Register!**

The Huntsman Seminar in Constitutional Government for Teachers, June 20 – 24, 2011, is a five-day, summer seminar intended to improve the quality of civic education in Utah schools. The Huntsman Seminar is a unique opportunity for teachers to gain an in-depth understanding of local, state, and national political issues. Twenty-five to thirty teachers and administrators from Utah are selected as participants and receive a fellowship worth over \$1,000.

Application Deadline: February 25, 2011 <a href="https://www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/seminar">www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/seminar</a>

#### New Research on the Transatlantic Slave Trade

A recent CNN story about a new atlas of the transatlantic slave trade points to research that sheds new light on the slave trade routes, and shows that bilateral trading was nearly as common as the triangular trade. Here is a link to the article and a link to a web site database on thousands of those misery-laden, tragic voyages.

http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/01/05/eltis.richardson.slave.trade/index.html?hpt=C2

http://slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces

### **Judge for a Day Program**

Judge for a Day lets high school students shadow a state judge for one day. The school selects a student to participate in the program based on a Law Day theme-related essay, civic involvement resume, or a teacher nomination letter. The 2011 Law Day theme is "The Legacy of John Adams: From Boston to Guantanamo." The 2011 Law Day theme provides an opportunity to assess and celebrate the legacy of John Adams, explore the historical and contemporary role of lawyers in defending the rights of the accused, and renew our understanding of and appreciation for the fundamental principle of the rule of law. Apply by March 4, 2011, to the Utah State Courts' Public Information Officer Nancy Volmer at nancyv@email.utcourts.gov or fax to (801) 578-3843.

#### Utah Courts: Ensuring Justice for All. 2011 JUDGE FOR A DAY SUBMISSION FORM

Include the following: Name of Student; Name of High School; Student's grade level and age; Student's contact information; Name of courthouse at which the student would like to shadow a judge. Include a student essay, civic involvement resume, or teacher nomination letter.

#### Last Call: C-SPAN's 18th Annual Teacher Fellowship! Deadline: February 11, 2011

C-SPAN invites you to apply for an opportunity to participate in its 2011 Teacher Fellowship Program.

- More Information
- Application

#### **Utah Geographic Alliance Spring Conference:** It's an Amazing World!

Mark your calendars and save the date for the Utah Geographic Alliance Spring Conference on **Saturday, March 26**, 2011, at the Miller Conference Center at Salt Lake Community College in Sandy.

You can register for the conference in OnTrack: http://usoe.truenorthlogic.com/

## Social Studies Saturday Seminar March 19, 2011

The spring Saturday Seminar will once again focus on content and pedagogy sessions for both elementary and secondary teachers. You can use OnTrack to register for the Saturday Seminar as well: <a href="http://usoe.truenorthlogic.com/">http://usoe.truenorthlogic.com/</a>

## **Global Exploration for Educators Organization**

GEEO is a 501c3 non-profit organization that runs professional development travel programs designed for teachers.

GEEO is offering 13 different travel programs for the summer of 2011: India/Nepal, China, Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey/Syria/Jordan/Egypt, Ethiopia, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana, Morocco, Argentina/Uruguay/Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica and Guatemala/Belize/Mexico.

Detailed information about each trip, including itineraries, costs, travel dates, and more can be found at www.geeo.org.

# Deadline Extended for Summer Seminars in American History Due: February 15, 2011

K-12 history, social studies and English teachers are invited to apply to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History 2011 Summer Seminars. Taught by renowned historians on college campuses in the US and the UK, these one-week seminars give educators the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of topics in American history—while gaining practical resources and strategies to take back to their classrooms.

<u>Apply Now!</u> For a complete list of Gilder Lehrman's 2011 seminars, information about full and partial fellowships, graduate credit, and to apply online, visit: <u>Gilder Lehrman Summer Seminars</u>

#### **Constitution Bowl**

The Garfield County (TARs) and Panguitch High School will be sponsoring a Constitution Bowl for all high school students in the State of Utah. Panguitch High School will be hosting the contest on March 17, 2011. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Panguitch High School Auditorium.

The Panguitch High School TARs group is offering a prize of \$500.00 to the winning team and \$250.00 for the second place team. Our prizes are being donated by Attorney General Mark Shurtleff and Senator Orrin Hatch. We will also have individual awards for the winning team as well as a traveling plaque that will reside with the winning school for one year.

We will provide a copy of the questions that will be asked and the rules we will follow to each school requesting them. If your school would like to participate please contact State TARS Chairman Jaelyn Gillett at <a href="mailto:jaelyn21@gmail.com">jaelyn21@gmail.com</a> or (435-676-2168) or TARs advisor Elaine Baldwin at <a href="mailto:5elainebaldwin@gmail.com">5elainebaldwin@gmail.com</a> or (435-676-2403). Questions for the contest will be mailed to your school on February 24, 2011. This will give each school the same amount of time to study the questions being used. Questions for this years contest will cover the entire Constitution. Each team will consist of 5 members. A school may sponsor 1 high school team. This annual contest will prove extremely valuable in helping to teach your students the Constitution.

If you have any questions please contact Elaine Baldwin 676-2403 or Jaelyn Gillett 676-2168

#### Middle East Outreach Center

Don't forget the resources available to you from the Middle East Outreach Center, especially during these times of foment in Egypt. www.mec.utah.edu/outreach

## **Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers**

2011 Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers, co-sponsored by Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society, will hold two institutes this year, June 16 – 21, and June 23 – 28. Spend six days with high-caliber instructors and expert resource people who lead their respective fields, visit the Court to hear decisions and attend a private reception, engage in a thorough study of six recent Supreme Court cases, and participate in sessions on the *certiorari* process, judicial nominations, interest groups, the media, constitutional interpretation, and a moot court

Complete event details and application information is available at <a href="www.streetlaw.org/scsi">www.streetlaw.org/scsi</a> Application and letter of recommendation deadline: March 14, 2011.

# SLC Film Center Announces first annual film festival for children and youth - TUMBLEWEEDS!

From April 1-3, the Tumbleweeds Film Festival will feature films from around the world for young audiences ages 4-14. The first edition of this festival will have a jam-packed program of feature length and short films from around the world made for specifically for children. Some of the international films in the festival will be presented in their original language, with English subtitles that will be read aloud by a "subtitle reader" during the screening. In addition to film screenings, the Film Center is partnering with Spy Hop Productions to present workshops designed to introduce participants to different aspects of filmmaking. The full festival line-up and ticketing info will be announced in early March at their website <a href="www.kidsfilm.org">www.kidsfilm.org</a> -- where you can sign up for instant updates, latest news and start receiving their newsletter.

#### **Roots of Freedom Event**

Roots of Freedom is hosting a free event at the Capitol May 24-26 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday), 2011. You can sign up now by going to <a href="https://www.milestonesatthecapitol.org">www.milestonesatthecapitol.org</a> and following the instructions.

## **New National Geographic Site**

Becca Kirkman, Geography Awareness Week Coordinator, writes:

National Geographic has a new education website! It is still in Beta testing, but it is so nice! They have moved many of the Geography Action, and Geography Awareness Week materials to this new website. The link is: <a href="http://beta.education.nationalgeographic.com/education/teaching-resources/">http://beta.education.nationalgeographic.com/education/teaching-resources/</a> Teachers can customize lesson plans, get the map maker toolkits, and tons of multimedia. It is a one stop shop! I was excited about this new resource, and wanted to share.

## Freedom Riders' 50th Anniversary

There are many ways that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1961 Freedom Rides will be commemorated this year. In May a PBS documentary will air. Explore the collection of <u>Thinkfinity resources related to Civil Rights</u> to prepare your students for the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides.