



Newsletter: March, 2011

A Tree in the Forest

We all know the famous question: If a tree falls in a forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound? I was thinking about that question as I saw images of people falling to the ground in nations trying to free themselves from the shackles of autocracy and dictatorship. How do we – and our students -- manage to “hear”? For one, we hear because of the bravery of those writers of the first drafts of history, be they professional journalists or ordinary citizens, who will not let the free press be squelched by dictators. The events around the globe make for some incredible lessons in character, bravery, and principles central to the rule of law. If you have found excellent resources to help students gain a better understanding of what is happening in protest movements around the world, please let me know.

Robert Austin, USOE

Utah Legislative Session

As the legislative session continues, bills continue to be proposed that would have an impact on social studies education in the state. The State Board of Education voted to oppose Representative Morley’s HB 270 and Representative Sandstrom’s HB 322. Other bills of note with a specific impact on social studies are HB 269 and HB 327.

These legislative initiatives, and all others, can be followed on the award-winning website <http://le.utah.gov>. 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 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: <http://usoe.truenorthlogic.com/>

Belfer National Conference for Educators, July 13-15, 2011

For three days, participants are immersed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's exhibits while learning historical content from top scholars and addressing teaching the Holocaust with Museum educators and leading Holocaust educators. Here is the Mapping Initiative that has been created in partnership with Google Earth:

<http://www.ushmm.org/maps/>

For the Social Studies Belfer, they will focus on using maps to teach about the Holocaust. You may learn more about the Belfer National Conference by going to

<http://www.ushmm.org/education/foreducators/prodev/belfer/>.

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

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.

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 the area. 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 www.streetlaw.org/scsi
Application and letter of recommendation deadline: March 14, 2011.

Program for Teaching East Asia - National Consortium for Teaching about Asia 2011 Summer Institute on China for Secondary Teachers

21st-Century China: Global Issues, Classroom Applications" is open to secondary social studies teachers nationwide and is also designed as a national enrichment program for alumni of NCTA seminars. The

residential program runs from July 17-22, 2011, on the University of Colorado-Boulder campus. The institute will focus on China's role in the world through examination of key domestic and international issues and global relationships.

Teachers will be selected for the program on a rolling-admission basis from January 20-**March 4, 2011**. All costs of the residential program are covered by a grant from the Freeman Foundation and teachers receive a travel and living expense stipend. For additional information contact jon.zeljo@colorado.edu for information, or access the application packet at the TEA website at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/cas/tea/programs/downloads/2011SummerInstAppfillable.pdf>

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 www.kidsfilm.org -- where you can sign up for instant updates, latest news and start receiving their newsletter.

Roots of Freedom Event

Roots of Freedom, a Utah-based non-profit devoted to civic education, is hosting a free event at the Capitol May 24-26 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday), 2011. You can sign up now by going to www.milestonesatthecapitol.org 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: <http://beta.education.nationalgeographic.com/education/teaching-resources/> 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.

Important Teaching American History application dates:

Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: **March 4, 2011**

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: **April 4, 2011**

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: **June 2, 2011** Teaching American History application information is now available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teachinghistory/applicant.html>

AMERICAN RED CROSS EXPLORING HUMANITARIAN LAW EDUCATOR TRAINING

From Liz Chacado, American Red Cross:

Help your students promote respect for life and human dignity, advocate responsible behavior, and understand the rules governing war, through Exploring Humanitarian Law, an innovative, modular curriculum offering primary source materials and strategies that reinforce and enrich existing curricula and educational programs. Training is offered free of charge and includes a copy of the EHL curriculum on a CD, materials and resources; certificate of participation. Continuing Education units are also available.

For further information on EHL and Educator Workshops please contact:

Liz Chicado, American Red Cross International Services Chair at chicado@comcast.net or 801-77305499; Craig Bjorklund, Davis School District at cbjorklund@dsdmail.net or 801-402-4947

Dawn Hauser, Granite School District at dlhauser@graniteschools.org or 385-646-4547

Dessie Olson, Salt Lake School District at dessie.olson@slcschools.org or 801-578-8572

This website is for teachers and students. www.redcross.org/ehl



Get the tools you need to engage your students in public policy.

Learn about public policy and policymaking from experts in the field.

All Expenses Paid

Free round trip airfare, lodging, meals, and set of textbooks included.

Application and information available at www.civiced.org/PCinstitutes.

Apply by March 1, 2011, and receive priority consideration!

Southern Poverty Law Center Award

The Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program is seeking nominations for a new award that will honor educators who excel at teaching students from diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

The Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Culturally Responsive Teaching has been created to recognize outstanding teachers and promote their practices in the nation's schools. Teachers are invited to apply for the award at www.tolerance.org/award. The deadline for applications is June 1.

Attention AP Teachers!

The first annual Intermountain AP Summer Institute includes sessions in Human Geography and U.S. History. Instructors are College Board Certified and were selected due to their expertise and record of excellence. You will find registration information on our website at <http://bit.ly/intermountainAPSI>

July 11-14, 2011, 8:00-4:00, Northridge High School, in Layton, Utah Contact Victoria Hansen, vihansen@dsdmail.net or 801-402-5145.

Conference registration includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and AP materials! Seating is limited and is on a first come, first serve basis. We anticipate the conference filling up quickly.

