

# The POINT!



E-Letter of the Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies  
Vol. 11 No. 10  
October 2018

**The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Conference  
October 18—October 20, 2018  
Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg East  
4751 Lindle Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17111**

**Conference Theme: PCSS: *Where It All Comes Together***

Social studies are the axis around which all other subjects revolve; math, science, language arts, music, dance and visual arts. The incorporation of knowledge from all of these subjects in our society is what defines our history, our culture and our future. Social studies encourage students to utilize information and skills from a variety of content areas to formulate ideas and opinions, apply processes and express their conclusions, concerns and solutions.

For information, Contact:

[Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies](#)



**North Hills instructor named Pennsylvania History  
Teacher of the Year.**

Joe Welch, who teaches 8th grade **social studies** in **North Hills**, was named PA History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American **History**.

At North Hills Middle School, eighth-grade social studies teacher Joe Welch brings American history to life through many lesson plans and assignments anchored in storytelling.

His students remix songs and create animated videos to explore different historical periods, illustrate children's books to explain primary sources, and use augmented reality to detail presidential administrations. Mr. Welch and his colleagues frequently bounce lesson ideas off each other to come up with the next new approach.



*I have one share in corporate Earth, and I am nervous about the management. -  
E.B. White, writer (11 Jul 1899-1985)*

**IN PROMOTING OUR MISSION TO FOCUS ON LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY, WPCSS ANNUALLY PRESENTS TWO \$100 SAVINGS BONDS FOR THE BEST LOCAL OR FAMILY HISTORY EXHIBIT IN BOTH JUNIOR AND SENIOR ENTRIES OF THE LOCAL NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION AT THE HEINZ HISTORY CENTER**

## Soldiers & Sailors Hall!

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum houses a vast collection of primary and secondary documents and military artifacts. It is their mission to promote the use of these educational items and create an understanding for all groups who visit the museum. They provide a rich learning experience for all people by exploring the deeds and sacrifices of ordinary citizens during extraordinary circumstances.

The Education Dept. 412.621.4253 Tim Neff x 219  
<http://www.soldiersandsailorshall.org/education.html>

## VISITPA.COM

In keeping with our mission of supporting efforts to include local history, WPCSS suggests clicking on the site heading this blurb. Featured are various areas of the state that are not generally known but easily accessed. While some involve hiking and following a trail, others are roadside attractions .

### Our Towns: From Arnold to Zeli, from struggling to striving, community bonds remain in Western Pa.

The reporters went to communities within a two-hour radius of Pittsburgh that are as small as Rices Landing, which has fewer than 500 residents, and no bigger than Oil City, with nearly 10,000. They traveled east, west, north and south, meeting with mayors, council members, business owners, community activists, police chiefs, historians, natives, newcomers and more — basically, anyone they found willing to talk in parks, diners and elsewhere.

These stories will appear weekly in the P-G and can help to provide information on local history and geography. The latest: **Brookville: Vibrant, outdoorsy and a great place to raise a family**

#### • MORE LOCAL HISTORY MODELS •

### Ill. students map graves, study history

A class of Illinois high-schoolers are mapping local cemeteries, which includes a geographical analysis of the area and research into the lives of those buried there. This is the fourth year of the project in Andrew Quain's Human Geography class, and Quain says students so far have mapped 13,000 graves. The Pantagraph (Bloomington, Ill.) (9/25)

### Family history project inspires Ky. students

A class of Kentucky high-school students spent time researching their family trees for a lesson aimed at teaching them about how they and their families can change the world. Students say the project helped them spot similarities with other families and has sparked interest in careers based on their heritage. The Ledger Independent (Maysville, Ky.) (9/11)



*The Point*

**Western Pennsylvania Council for the  
Social Studies**

**Richard Williams**

**President**

**Leo R. West**

**Secretary / Treasurer**

**The Point is the**

**e-newsletter**

**of WPCSS**

**issued monthly via e-mail.**

WPCSS is a non-profit 501c organization

dedicated to promoting the teaching and  
learning of social studies in Western

Pennsylvania

Western Pennsylvania Council for the

Social Studies

c/o Leo West

11533 Clematis Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15235-3105

[wlrw@yahoo.com](mailto:wlrw@yahoo.com)

**Advisory Board**

Kay Atman

Steve Bullick

Paula Calabrese

John Ford

Ron Gancas

John Larner

Tim Neff

Mike Rydeski

Carl Walzer

Jeff Zeiders



## Pittsburgh Holocaust Center

The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh has planned a year of innovative and practical programs for teachers and students. You will find more information and dates to save in the email below.

Our newest educator, Emily Bernstein, will become the point of contact for teachers interested in engaging with the Holocaust Center. She has a background in Elementary Education and ran a school library. We are thrilled to add her to the team. [Field Trip Funding](#)

On October 29, students and teachers are invited to join us for our free livestream featuring survivor [Magda Brown](#) and a demonstration of Interactive Testimony AKA "The Hologram", both visiting Pittsburgh from Chicago, Illinois.

### Theater Teacher Trainings w/Prime Stage

In partnership with Prime Stage Theater, we will be holding a teacher training, "Teaching the Holocaust Through Theatrical Arts", at four times during the year in different locations across the county. The dates of these trainings are:

Friday, October 12 • Friday, November 30 • Friday, January 1 • Friday, February 22

## Operation Finale: The Real Story of The Capture of A Nazi War Criminal | A Lecture

Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

### Duquesne University

Former Mossad agent Avner Avraham will talk about Operation Finale, the capture and trial of Adolf Eichmann, a Nazi and chief architect of the Holocaust. Avraham served as a consultant on the major motion picture Operation Finale, and also curated an exhibit, which pre-dated the film and featured declassified materials seen outside Israel for the first time. 90 minutes, with Q&A session.

## Women, The Holocaust, and Genocide: 2018 Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference

October 21 - 23, 2018

### SETON HILL UNIVERSITY

11th triennial Holocaust Education Conference will feature: Keynote address by Wendy Lower, John K. Roth Professor of History and George R. Roberts Fellow and Director of Mgrublian Center for Human Rights, Claremont McKenna College. International Holocaust and genocide scholars addressing the topic of "Women, the Holocaust, and Genocide." Presentation of the Nostra Aetate Award to Victoria Barnett, Director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Programs on Ethics, Religion and the Holocaust. Exhibits by artists Carolyn H. Manosevitz and Rev. Robert Keffer, O.S.B.

[Register here.](#)

### The Billionaires Pushing Charter School Expansion in States



Dollar for dollar, the beleaguered movement to bring charter schools to Washington state has had no bigger champion than billionaire Bill Gates.

The Microsoft co-founder gave millions of dollars to see a charter school law approved despite multiple failed ballot referendums. And his private foundation not only helped create the Washington State Charter Schools Association, but has at times contributed what amounts to an entire year's worth of revenues for the 5-year-old charter advocacy group.

### We are a deeply stupid country

The 'stable genius' continues to win for the rest of us losers.

By Dana Milbank

My fellow Americans, we are a deeply stupid nation.

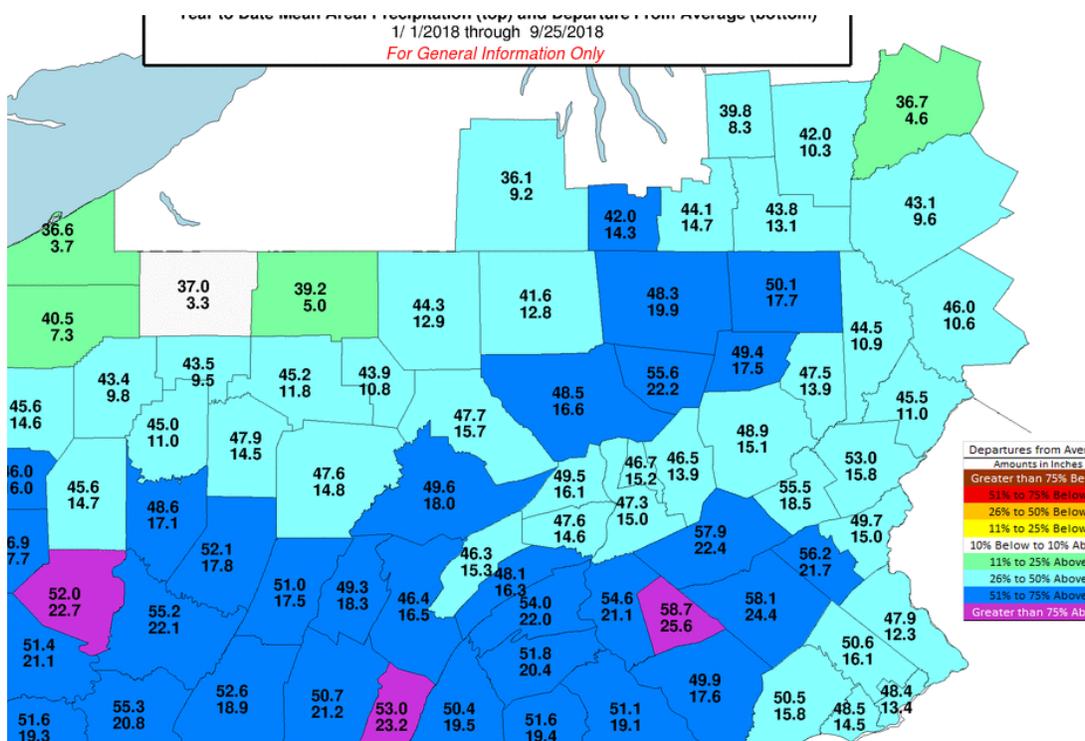
I know this must be the case because President Trump has repeatedly informed us that we are a "stupid country" — he offered this opinion on at least nine occasions since he launched his campaign for the presidency — and he should know. As he reminded us after his NATO meeting last week, he is a "very stable genius."

It is furthermore the president's highly intelligent opinion we have been led by "stupid people" and "our laws are so corrupt and stupid." • [Read more »](#)



### Deviation from the Norm

Social Studies does it all. Having students examine a rainfall map of Pennsylvania invades the territory of both math and science. What questions arise as one looks at the deviation of rainfall this past summer compared to historic records?



### Ghosts of Washington Haunted History Walking Tours

The Bradford House Museum will host the annual *Ghosts of Washington Haunted History Walking Tours* on Friday, October 19, and Saturday, October 20 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Narrators in 18<sup>th</sup> century attire will lead small groups around the Main and Maiden Streets vicinity while telling historic tales of the macabre and mysterious. Tours will leave from the garden of the museum, 175 South Main Street, Washington, every 20-30 minutes and last about 45 minutes. Free parking is available on the street or in nearby city lots. Cost is \$10 per person and may be purchased at the event or in advance at [www.bradfordhouse.org](http://www.bradfordhouse.org). Hot beverages, snacks, and souvenirs will be available. To book a group of 10 or more for a tour, please call 724.222.3604.



GHOSTS OF WASHINGTON  
HAUNTED HISTORY  
WALKING TOURS  
OCTOBER 19 & 20  
6:00 - 9:00 P.M.  
\$10 PER PERSON  
WWW.BRADFORDHOUSE.ORG

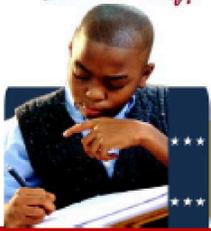


**ALL WELCOME!**



Type to enter text

**Write an Essay!**



**GET INVOLVED!**  
Enter your class with a written essay on an issue facing our democracy.

Open to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes in public, private, or parochial schools in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 9, 2018**

**1 GRAND PRIZE: \$1,000**      **3 RUNNER-UP PRIZES: \$500**

Check payable to the winning school to be used toward a program that promotes civic learning and engagement in the student body.

Check payable to the winning school to be used toward a program that promotes civic learning and engagement in the student body.

**TOP 8 ENTRIES**  
The Top 8 Finalists will receive classroom copies of the "We the Civics Kids" curriculum as well as civics library for their school. Finalists will also be invited to make a final presentation on December 7, 2018, in advance of Bill of Rights Week.

**More Information at RendellCenter.org**



Rules and Submission Criteria on the Following Page →



**OFFICIAL RULES AND ENTRY SUBMISSIONS**

The Citizenship Challenge is an opportunity for 4-5th grade classrooms in the Greater Pittsburgh area to express themselves regarding a current issue facing our democracy. Classroom teams will be asked to write an essay that addresses their team's point of view on the issue. Teams should take one position and defend their argument in a concise written document of a minimum of 300 words. The contest is drawn from PA Civics standards relating to principles and documents of government; rights and responsibilities of citizens; and information on how government works.

**This Year's Citizenship Challenge Question:**  
*To become President of the United States, the Constitution states that an individual is required to be a natural born citizen — meaning born in the United States. Do you think this requirement should remain or be removed from the Constitution?*

**WHO CAN ENTER:**  
The Citizenship Challenge contest is open to students/classes in grades 4-5, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

**HOW TO ENTER:**  
The deadline for submissions is November 9, 2018. Have your voice heard! Classrooms should submit their entry in an essay form and may include a supplemental PowerPoint or video. Essays should be a minimum of 300 words. Essays should be double-spaced using Times New Roman 12pt. Essays should include a cover sheet with the following information:  
School name | Grade level | Teacher's name | Teacher's email | School phone number | Class size

Essays need to be submitted by midnight on November 9, 2018 to [bspecker@rendellcenter.org](mailto:bspecker@rendellcenter.org) or mailed to:  
Beth Specker, The Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement,  
Annenberg Public Policy Center, 202 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3806

Once your entry has been submitted, you will receive confirmation that the judging committee has received your submission. If you have any questions about your submission, contact Beth Specker, Executive Director, The Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement at [bspecker@rendellcenter.org](mailto:bspecker@rendellcenter.org) or call 215-746-6336.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**  
The PSSA Persuasive Scoring Guideline will be utilized. The essays will be judged on the four areas of Focus, Content Development, Organization, and Style. Each area will be worth 25 points.

**GOOD LUCK!**  
We look forward to your entry!

**RendellCenter.org**

NOTE: The above documents can be enlarge by Clicking twice on the area you wish to read.

Essays need to be submitted by midnight on November 9, 2018 to [bspecker@rendellcenter.org](mailto:bspecker@rendellcenter.org) or mailed to:

Beth Specker, The Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement,  
Annenberg Public Policy Center, 202 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3806

Once your entry has been submitted, you will receive confirmation that the judging committee has received your submission. If you have any questions about your submission, contact Beth Specker, Executive Director, The Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement at [bspecker@rendellcenter.org](mailto:bspecker@rendellcenter.org) or call 215-746-6336.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

The PSSA Persuasive Scoring Guideline will be utilized. The essays will be judged on the four areas of Focus, Content Development, Organization, and Style. Each area will be worth 25 points.

**GOOD LUCK!** We look forward to your entry! [RendellCenter.org](http://RendellCenter.org)

## In The Tunnel

Thursday, Oct. 11 - Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018

### August Wilson Center

Direct from Israel, the acclaimed Geshen Theater brings their stunning new production to Pittsburgh's Cultural District. Hailed by the Israeli press as, "An extraordinary production. Stunning for right and left, Arabs and Jews, natives and immigrants, soldiers and civilians, religious and secular." Get a discount of \$5 by entering the code CWBFIRSTS.



## 2019 Poland Open House Meeting

Sunday, October 14, 2018, 5 p.m.

### Rodef Shalom

Meet with Dr. Zipora Gur and our staff to learn more about our Poland study seminar. This powerful and life-changing travel seminar offers participants a distinctive view of Jewish history before, during and after the Holocaust in Poland.

## 2019 Greece Open House Meeting

Sunday, October 14, 2018, 7 p.m.

### Rodef Shalom

Meet with Dr. Zipora Gur and our staff to learn about this exciting study seminar. Back by popular demand, Classrooms Without Borders is offering a historic study seminar to explore Greece and its national and Jewish heritage



## NCSS Member Spotlight: Mark Kissling

How does citizenship education vary by community? What does civic participation look like today? In a polarized political climate, are teachers afraid to engage with students on current controversial or hot topics? NCSS member Mark Kissling, assistant professor of social studies education at Penn State, discusses these topics and more in a recent podcast interview for Penn State's McCourtney Institute for Democracy. ([Listen here](#)) NCSS Member Spotlight:



## The Art of Disagreement in Social Studies Class

*Brendan Bell*

On Monday, I raised a series of tensions that states, schools, and practitioners face when it comes to effectively implementing civics instruction. Notions of good citizenship—and thus good civics classrooms—can look different depending on personal values and priors. But one frequently floated idea is that schools must better equip students with the necessary skills and dispositions for civil discourse. . . .



*I am patient with stupidity but not with those who are proud of it.*

*-Edith Sitwell, poet (7 Sep 1887-1964)*

## Presentation on the Youth Court Initiative of Western Pennsylvania ...

### Development of the Youth Court Initiative Model

The Youth Court Initiative of Western Pennsylvania is developing an in-school youth court model to demonstrate effective restorative justice principles at the high school and middle school levels. This work reflects learnings from student experiences at the Chester High School Youth Court, Chester, Pa., from 2007 to 2011 (See Appendix C and Appendix D).

At the Chester High School, students who “went through the court process” as respondents were required to go through the youth court training program and serve on the youth court jury. Through the rigor of completing the disposition process and demonstrating their understanding of restorative justice principles through jury service, these students learned how to assume personal responsibility for their own behavior by working cooperatively with others in order to take ownership of and to “run” the court. Youth who have admitted guilt to selected offenses will go before a peer jury to receive dispositions that can range from community service to jury duty, with letters of apology, essays and community service as other possible dispositions for the youth.

Since September 2011, **Dr. Darla Gerlach** at the Shaler Area Middle School, has piloted youth-court-related activities that will prepare seventh and eighth grade students for responsible roles as citizens in society. This work, coupled with training materials from Appendix E: Youth Court Coordinator’s Manual, Second Edition (Volz, Saiyed, Laubach and Williams, August, 2013), will provide the basis for training middle and high school students in this area to be responsible for youth court management. These efforts have been supported by **Dr. Kathryn Atman** who has actively promoted the Youth Court movement in Western Pennsylvania.

The most common offenses include truancy, profane language, class disruption, defiance, cell phone violations, and hall walking. Student offenders admit the conduct for which they are charged. The court hearing consists of jurors questioning the respondent (student offender) to bring out the facts and encourage an explanation of extenuating circumstances. Dispositions include jury duty, community service, written apologies, essays, and dispositional contracts to bring about restorative justice, not punishment.

Dispositions may include letters of apology, jury training and duty, essays, and community service. The dispositions will support the material students learn in the social studies classes. Social work interns and faculty from the School of Law at University of Pittsburgh will assist the youth courts. An advisory committee is being established to advance the Southwestern Pennsylvania Youth Court Initiative in the Pittsburgh Area. The Young Lawyers Section of the Allegheny Bar Association is interested in supporting youth courts in the Pittsburgh area. The Allegheny Bar Association Bar Leadership Initiative (BLI) researched successful youth courts in Pennsylvania. In an attempt to combat the growing truancy problem in Allegheny County BLI



The Affects of YouthCourt on Teens.



**Educators advocate for geography in social studies**

Some educators, lawmakers and others in New Jersey say a lack of knowledge about geography is hurting US students. A focus on testing in other subjects has shifted the focus away from the subject, which educators say can help students learn about the US and world history and the cultures different from their own. The Sparta Independent (N.J.) (8/30)

**Native American fort found in Conn.**

Archaeologists have uncovered a Native American fort dating back to the 1600s in Norwalk, Conn. Researchers also found arrow and spear tips, among other artifacts, believed to be about 3,000 years old. The Associated Press (8/29)

**Lessons about slavery teach more than history**

Teaching about slavery can help students develop empathy, educators and experts said while participating in a teacher-training program at Virginia's Stratford Hall, birthplace of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. During the event, the K-12 teachers heard from a professor, an education psychologist and peers about strategies for addressing slavery, such as not using classroom simulations involving students and instead using age-appropriate books and biographies in lessons. The Washington Post (tiered subscription model) (7/31)

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

School or Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Position and Grade level \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$10.00 Amt. enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Check made out to WPCSS

**\* NOTE: Most communication will be handled by e-mail. Please include e-mail address in order to be informed of coming events. Also, check with your school tech director to see if the fire wall will allow you to receive *The Point*, usually about is size 10 mb. Some firewalls reject attachments over 2 mb.**

**Send application and dues to:**

**Leo R. West Treasurer • 11533 Clematis Blvd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15235**