

# The POINT!



E-Letter for Western Pennsylvania Social Studies Educators  
Vol. 12 No. 2  
February 2019

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## What's the Point?

Why continue to publish the POINT? Social studies education has been deemphasized in many schools in order to provide more time for test preparation. Civic education has disappeared in many schools contributing to, but not the cause, of the current political polarization and lack of compromise. Students are exposed to unlimited information from the Internet that may be accurate or may be fake. How to tell the difference? Social studies classes can help.

The purpose of this publication is to keep teachers informed about local programs in professional development, student competitions like History Day, programs about genocide and race relations, threats to educational freedom, video series on Vietnam, and general news about education.

In this issue, we call attention to the **STOP THE VIOLENCE PITTSBURGH** at Soldiers and Sailors Hall; **NATIONAL HISTORY DAY** at Heinz History Center, **JEWISH PARTISANS IN WORLD WAR II**, The **VETERANS EDUCATION** Video Program, and the **CHOICES "CONFRONTING GENOCIDE"** at the University of Pittsburgh.

The POINT reprints items from various publications and sources from the web and provides links for more information about each item.

The WPCSS WebSite will be available for the next year as it was procured on a multi-year contract. This web site offers links to a variety of videos and other materials. Several people have praised the site for having some pertinent materials.

Once Again, a de-emphasis of social studies education has always been present but over the past 20 years it became a serious problem. Civics education as well as other subjects have disappeared in many schools. This has contributed to the current political polarization and lack of compromise. While **math** and science are important for **earning a living**, **social studies** is necessary for **learning how to live!**

## 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>



### Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall

Educational Tours and Programs

William Marshall, Director of **Stop the Violence Pittsburgh**, is pleased to announce our Dream Team of Education for the 2019 **Black History** program for High school Students from Western PA. we plan to reach some 1500 students. Our event has been supported by Governor Tom Wolf and Mayor Pedutio (please see Letters/Proclamation below)

This free event is scheduled for Monday February 25th , at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum, 10am2pm, for high school students. Your School will be able to bring 50 students to the event. A lunch will be provided for students. Below is an outline of the program and list of the instructors.

### Topics and Instructors

1. Overview of 1619 African arrival in North America (Jamestown), North American slavery and indentured servitude—John Ford Sr. retired Soldiers & Sailors Curator & Historian.
2. Slave Revolt: 1739 Stono Revolt, 1741, NY sve Revolt, Gabriel Possey, Denmark Vesey & Nate Turner—Associate Professor Alaine Elizabeth Roberts Pitt.
3. The Evolution of Black music, slavery hymns and beyond— Dr. Nelson Harrison, Pitt
4. Pittsburgh's Underground Railroad—Historian Sarah J. Martin, PPS
5. Blacks in the Civil War-Western Pa Heroes— Professor Rashid M. Sundiata, CCAC
6. Jim Crow in Western PA—Professor Chris Moore, PCN; and
7. 7. Civil Rights Icons through the Pictorial Eyes of Teenie Harris—Charlene Foggie -Barnett, CMOA

SEE LINK BELOW FOR COMPLETION AND RETURN VIA EMAIL>

[STOPTHEVIOLENCE@YAHOO.COM](mailto:STOPTHEVIOLENCE@YAHOO.COM)

Thanks for your time.

William Marshall. • Director • Stop the Violence Pittsburgh  
 1105 Success Street. • Pittsburgh, PA 15212

[Registration Form](#)

[Governor Wolf Letter](#)

[Mayor Peduto Proclamation](#)

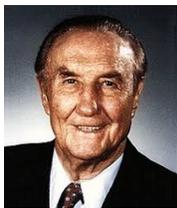
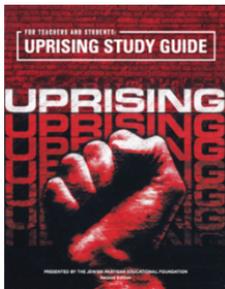


# The Point

For  
Western Pennsylvania  
Social Studies Educators  
EDITORS  
Leo R. West  
John Warner

*The Point* is the  
e-newsletter  
of the former WPCSS  
issued monthly via e-mail.  
WPCSS was a non-profit 501c  
organization dedicated to promoting  
the teaching and learning of social  
studies in Western Pennsylvania

Leo West  
11533 Clematis Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-3105



Strom Thurmond

## NHD Pittsburgh 2019

National History Day Pittsburgh competition will take place during the last weekend in March at the Heinz History Center with all student entries based on the theme of **Triumph and Tragedy in History**.



**Registration is open now** and will close at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 4.

**Middle School Competition Day:** Saturday  
March 30, 2019

**High School Competition Day:** Sunday March 31, 2019

Those interested in participating in NHD this year or those who would like to serve as volunteer judges, contact Amanda Mcallen at:

[aemcallen@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:aemcallen@heinzhistorycenter.org).

## Jewish Partisans in World War II

- Introduction to the Partisans [short film](#)
- Resistance Basics [video course](#)
- Jewish Partisans Saving Jews [study guide](#)
- Jewish partisan [biographies and video testimonies](#)
- Teaching with *Defiance* [curriculum](#) and [video course](#)
- Jewish Women in the Partisans [study guide](#)

The Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation now offers more than 25 additional partisan biographies on our [Jewish Partisan Community](#) website.

If you would like to receive a copy of *Fighting Back: Armed Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust*, JPEF's Educator Toolkit, for use in your classroom, please email me at [sheri@jewishpartisans.org](mailto:sheri@jewishpartisans.org).

Thank you for continuing to inspire your students by teaching them about the history and life lessons of the Jewish Partisans.

## In 8 States, Public Schools Are Named for Segregationists

A growing movement to shed Confederate names on public schools has drawn attention in recent years. But public schools named in honor of segregationists haven't drawn the same level of scrutiny. [Read more.](#)  
Data: Schools Named After Segregationists

*The useless men are those who never change with the years.*

*J.M. Barrie, writer*

### Veterans National Education Program

Below is a link to the Veterans National Education Program's Initiative on the Vietnam War and the Iraq War. It is not yet a finished product. We have several teachers looking and providing a critique. There are more aspects to the wars that we plan to add.

Notice under supporters for our efforts (second item) are 6 Medal of Honor Recipients. I am looking forward to speaking to you.

Bob McMahon • President Veterans National Education Program • Cell 610-585-5682

Veterans National Education Program • PO Box 354 • Newtown Square, PA 19073

The new webpage for the Vietnam War & Iraq War Initiative content is up on the website at this link:

<http://v-nep.org/in-the-classroom/vietnam-war-iraq-war-initiative/>

It can be found under the *In the Classroom* dropdown in the navigation (last item in the list).



### Students learn to hear others' political views

Ohio high-schoolers enrolled in political science course have the opportunity to hear directly from extremists to learn how to engage with those espousing views differing from their own. Teacher Judi Galasso, a 30-year veteran of the class, and co-teacher Jonathan Duffy say the course trains students to listen to the views of others and engage respectfully, with the hope of avoiding confrontations that have gone viral. The Associated Press (1/28)



### Do students know enough about the Constitution?

(Pixabay)

More than half of high-school juniors in Delaware do not fully understand government, data show, despite a state mandate to teach social studies and about the US Constitution. As Constitution Day is celebrated today, various scholars share thoughts about what's behind a lack of knowledge about history, government and the Constitution. Dover Post (Del.) (9/12)



### Quiz Yourself: How Much Do You Know About Dyslexia?

Take our quiz and then see your results, detailed answer explanations, and additional readings on the topic.

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### Teacher: Higher teacher salaries benefit all

Officials should work to adopt higher base salaries for teachers, as well as monetary incentives for educators, asserts Lauren Lieberman, a long-time special-education teacher. In this commentary, she writes that the move would help attract and retain top teachers -- and help to promote equity in the education system. The Hechinger Report (1/17)



*The power to command frequently causes failure to think. -  
Barbara Tuchman, author and historian (30 Jan 1912-1989)*

## [DeVos: Make civics education a priority](#)

DeVos (Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

US Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said civics education should be more of a priority in K-12 schools and colleges during a Constitution Day celebration Monday in Philadelphia. DeVos also called on colleges to avoid limiting speech on their campuses -- efforts she said sometimes target conservative voices.

[Education Week \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (9/17), [The Associated Press](#) (9/17), [The Washington Post \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (9/17)

## [15 States Have Set Aside Nothing to Pay for Retired Teachers' Health Care, Study Says](#)

A new analysis found that states owe billions of dollars toward unfunded health care costs for retired teachers. [Read more.](#)

## [State lawmaker wants politics out of classroom](#)

Measure would keep teachers from talking about current events.

**Pennsylvania** lawmaker Will Tallman is not seeking re-election in November. But if the Adams County Republican has his way, he will go out with the passage of a monumental bill that would re-write free speech rules in schools by banning discussions centered around modern-day civics, politics and science in classrooms.

## **Confronting Genocide: Never Again? A workshop on Human Rights and Genocide**

During this interactive workshop, you will:

**EXPLORE** two Choices curriculum units (provided) and discuss ways to implement them into history, geography or current issues courses;

**EXPERIENCE** the Choices options role-play activity, which builds students' ability to discuss contested issues from multiple perspectives; and

**NETWORK** with colleagues in social studies education from across the area.

Saturday, March 2, 2019

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

University of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA

Units provided: [Confronting Genocide: Never Again](#) and [Competing Visions of Human Rights: Questions for U.S. Policy](#)

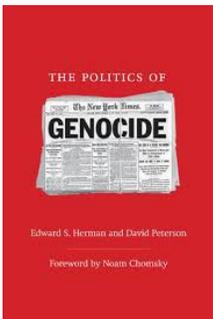
**Sponsored by the Global Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh.**

**PA teachers can receive Act 48 credit.**

**[Register](#)**

## [How to use inquiry-based lessons in social studies](#)

Educators using the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies State Standards can use the Inquiry Arc strategy to help students investigate and answer a compelling question of social importance, writes Andrew Miller, an instructional coach at Shanghai American School. Miller discusses the Inquiry Design Model and how to incorporate project-based learning into the standards. [Edutopia online](#) (1/2)

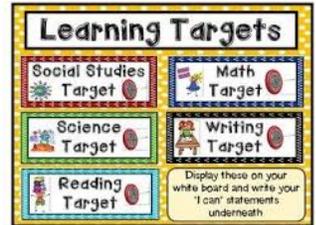


## **Teacher: How to balance teaching social studies, other skills**

Edutopia online (11/15)

Universal skills like reading, writing, and speaking should be applied by students across disciplines and departments. Students should be practicing at least one of the three in every class, every day. But assigning a reading and telling students to talk or write about it is not enough. We need to continue to teach kids how to read through the years—helping them advance in using literacy strategies, annotating, or taking notes.

The same goes for speaking, in small- and large-group discussions, delivering speeches, and debating. And the same also goes perhaps most importantly for writing: how to summarize, paraphrase, quote, explain, analyze, persuade, and so on. These academic skills take consistent practice to master and should be taught regularly in all subjects but particularly in the social studies because social studies provides such a rich opportunity for skill development—students can learn how to think and read critically, how to speak and write persuasively, how to corroborate sources and make and defend an argument.



## **Websites offer resources for history, social studies lessons**

eSchool News (11/16)

History and social studies had reputations for being boring. To many students, these subjects mean reading long-winded textbooks and memorizing incessant facts. They don't necessarily see the importance of studying something that happened hundreds or thousands of years ago.

Getting students to really care about what they're learning involves bringing the subject to life for them. Thanks to the internet, there are so many ways for students to experience the past. History and social studies feel more real as students participate in these interactive and immersive activities. The resources are endless, but here are our online charter school's 10 favorite websites. eSchool News (11/16)



## **Letters help reunite Holocaust survivor, rescuers**

A stack of letters written during World War II has helped reconnect a German man who as a child fled the Nazis with a relative of the family who helped with the escape. Journalist Uri Berliner recounts the tale of how his 94-year-old father, Gert, survived and how he has retraced his father's journey to Sweden and the US.

National Public Radio (11/14)



## **Students explore alternatives to college**

Several states, including Michigan and Colorado, are working to help high-school graduates understand all options available to them, including career and technical education. Wendy Wang, director of research at the Institute for Family Studies, says about one-third of students enroll in college, but advises youths to focus on skills they need to be successful in the workforce.

Deseret News (Salt Lake City) (1/19)



*A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against its government. -  
Edward Abbey, naturalist and author (29 Jan 1927-1989)*

### How to integrate play in early education

Play is an important part of how children learn, writes Amanda Armstrong, a doctoral candidate at New Mexico State University. Armstrong shares several strategies to help integrate play in early education, including recognizing that students have varied play preferences based on their culture and other factors. [Edutopia online](#) (1/17)



### Students study Great Depression with project

Students at a Tennessee school built a Depression-era shantytown as part of interdisciplinary lessons that combined science, social studies and math. Students studied the time period and then collected disposable construction materials to build their shacks.

[The Manchester Times \(Tenn.\)](#) (1/16)



### Students promote recycling to family, friends

Students at a Massachusetts school are learning about the importance of recycling and how to reuse materials in their computer and economics classes. Students made presentations and informational display boards about how to separate common household items for recycling.



### 'Why Are You a Teacher?' Your Answer Should Change Over Time

It's not uncommon for teachers to be asked about their philosophy of education, writes Domonique Dickson. Here's why it's important that they keep reflecting on the purpose of their work. [Read more.](#)



### These Are the Four Top Teachers in America

Educators from Oklahoma, Washington, D.C., Alaska, and Virginia were named 2019 National Teacher of the Year finalists. [Read more.](#)

### Children Come to School Holding Stereotypes. Teachers Can Help Break Them

Connecting with other children across cultural divides can help students question their biases, writes Justin Minkel. [Read more.](#)



### Is Geography Destiny? The Debate Over Boosting K-12 Quality

No one likes the idea that where you live sets your future. But there's division over just how education can help break that link. [Read more.](#)



### 'Culturally Relevant' Education Drives African-American Family to Home School

Monica Utsey, a Washington, D.C., mother of two, wanted her sons to learn the full history of black people, which has been a driving force in her decision to home school them. She's part of a small but growing community of black parents opting to teach their children at home. [Watch the video.](#)



*Little Strokes, Fell great oaks. -Benjamin Franklin*



## Buchwald Summer Fellowship

We are pleased to announce a summer graduate study program for secondary school social studies teachers. The Buchwald Summer Fellowship in American History and Government will provide up to 50 teachers the opportunity to study in depth the people, events, and ideas they teach every day.

- The fellowship covers the full cost of tuition, room, board, and books to participate in a weeklong summer graduate course offered through our [Master of Arts in American History and Government](#) degree program.
- Fellows are expected to participate fully in the weeklong course, complete assigned readings prior to their arrival on campus, attend each class meeting during the week, contribute actively to class discussions, and complete any written assignments required for the course.
- Each course begins on Sunday afternoon at 4:30 pm EST and concludes around 3:30 pm on Friday. Fellows must commit to arriving on-time Sunday and are expected to remain until the conclusion of the course on Friday.
- Fellows who successfully complete all course requirements will earn 2 semester hours of graduate credit from Ashland University.

**Applications are due March 1, 2019**

[More Information on Buchwald Fellowships](#)  
[Apply for a Buchwald Fellowship](#)

## [Students create virtual history tour of their town](#)

Three Connecticut high-school students have created a virtual reality map of their town featuring seven locations that include text describing the history of the sites. The project was part of Google's #LoveWhereYouLive project and the students' tour has been added to the Google Expedition app. [The Westerly Sun \(R.I.\) \(12/23\)](#)



## Show Me The Evidence

I am excited to announce the date for the second biennial **Social Studies Symposium** at the *Allegheny Intermediate Unit*! Stay tuned for more information but please save the date for the morning of Tuesday, **October 22, 2019**. Our last symposium in 2017 totaled nearly 200 K-12 educators and 20 partners from around the region. This symposium is **free** for all so please plan to have your organization host a table to share your Social Studies offerings. Please contact me if you have any questions. Dr. Paul Cindric, Program Director • Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Education



## [Learning should be a conversation with students](#)

Teachers are often seen as content experts who design lessons with little feedback, writes education consultant Katie Novak. That kind of instruction assumes students have no input to offer about our teaching and their learning. Cast off the one-size-fits-all model with the Universal Design for Learning framework to give individual students more choice in curriculum and instruction.



## [Students exchange gingerbread men, postcards](#)

Students at a North Carolina elementary school are learning about geography and enhancing their literacy skills by writing messages and exchanging gingerbread men drawings with students in other states. Students have written postcards and sent their own drawings of gingerbread men featuring details of their home state to classrooms in 45 states. [The Wilson Times \(N.C.\) \(12/21\)](#)

