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### MESSAGE FROM THE ATSS/UFT PRESIDENT/ CHAIRPERSON, ROZELLA KIRCHGAESSNER

*Welcome home!* We spend so much time living Social Studies with our students, their families, and our colleagues, that what "we do" as social Studies educators becomes one of the homes we inhabit.

As the 2007 – 2008 school year begins, the details of the latest Department of Education restructuring have begun to fall into place, and your ATSS/UFT Executive Board has been busy welcoming, advocating and planning. Please look for articles in this SAGE concerning the new teachers we met at the New Teacher Orientation Fair (page 2), our fall trip (page 2) and the invitation to recommend a colleague (or yourself) for the Bernard A. Cohen (formerly the John Bunzel) Award (pages 8-9). We have defined our Mission (below) and expanded our vision of how to attain those goals (page 3). Our calendar is on page 2.

*Who is the ATSS/UFT?* We are. Thanks to our agreement with the UFT during the merger in 1978, your ATSS/UFT dues are included in the UFT dues you already pay. You do not have to join. We do encourage you to become active participants by contributing to our periodicals, attending our workshops and annual conference, and spreading the word about new or tried and true approaches to reaching students and addressing critical issues about the people and places that make our world dynamic and interesting. Our network expands beyond the walls of K – 12 classrooms. We share the resources of a wonderful city, with active cultural institutions, colleges and universities.

*Connections...* You do need to submit an application, however, for membership in our state (NYSCSS) and national (NCSS) organizations (See coupons on page 12) and our Fall Trip. Many of the resources available to us are a mouse click away. Check out the invitation to C-Span on page 10. Have a question, email me personally at [atssuftnyc@gmail.com](mailto:atssuftnyc@gmail.com). I look forward to meeting, greeting, and working with you.

*Rozella*

*The MISSION of the Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers is to provide a network wherein Social Studies educators and related professionals may advocate for Social Studies education and share scholarship, information, strategies and practices related to the issues important to Social Studies instruction.*

## ATSS/UFT TENTATIVE CALENDER FOR 2007-2008.

### ATSS/UFT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings take place at UFT Headquarters, 50 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 4:30 to 6:30 PM, and are open to all New York City Social Studies Professionals. Only ATSS/UFT Executive Board Members can vote on business items)

- Friday, September 7, 2007
- Friday, October 12, 2007
- Friday, November 16, 2007
- Friday, December 14, 2007
- Friday, January 11, 2008
- Friday, March 7, 2008
- Friday, April 11, 2008 (tentative)
  - Friday, May 9 2008
  - Friday, June 13, 2008

### ATSS/UFT SPONSORED EVENTS

Pre Service teacher educator network open house, TBA

Fall trip Saturday, October 27, 2007

Going Global, TBA

SMART technology seminar, TBA

NCSS Convention, November 30 – December 2, 2007, San Diego, CA

Greater Metropolitan New York Social studies Conference (GMNY) Saturday,  
February 9, 2008

Yad Vashem, Sunday, January 27, 2008

MSCSS Convention, February 28-29, 2008 Wilmington, Delaware, Doubletree

NYSCSS Convention, April 2 – 5, 2008, Buffalo Hyatt

Black History Month workshop, TBA

Women's History Month workshop, TBA

## ATSS/UFT AT DOE NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION FAIR

Rozella Kirschgassner, Brenda Parness, Robert Dytell, ATSS/UFT Greater Metropolitan New York Social Studies Conference (GMNY) Chair, and Carolyn Herbst staffed the ATSS/UFT exhibition booth at the Department of Education (DOE) New Teacher Orientation Conference at the Javits Center on August 24, 2007 to advertise our programs. The new teachers were very enthusiastic.

### ATSS/UFT FALL FOLIAGE TOUR

ATSS/UFT Past President / Chairperson and current Executive Secretary, Carolyn Herbst conducted our annual Fall Foliage tour on Saturday, October 27, 2007. 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, "Historic Houses and Land on the Hudson River," leaving from, and returning to, UFT Headquarters, 52 Broadway, Manhattan. These tours, to various sites have been conducted by ATSS/UFT since 1981. The 2007 October tour will provided a full day exploring historic and cultural sites in Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, New York, including a guided tour of Philipsburg Manor, focusing on early American farm life, where a special program will take place that day on the "Legends of Sleepy Hollow," and a guided tour of the house and inner garden of Kykuit, the Rockefeller Family residence, known for its Asian, European and Modern American art collections), with lunch at the Philipsburg Manor Mint Café and a formal dinner at the Sunset Cove Restaurant, overlooking the Hudson River, in Tarrytown. Thirty-seven people participated. The tour cost \$125.00 per person, all-inclusive. The tour was advertised in the Events column of the New York Teacher, on our UFT website.

### ATSS/ UFT MISSION

The **MISSION** of the Association of Teachers of Social Studies/ United Federation of Teachers is to provide a network wherein educators and related professionals may advocate for Social Studies education, effective citizenship and share information, scholarship, strategies and practices related to those issues that are both relevant and important.

*We envision the ATSS/UFT as a valuable resource for teachers*

- *Ensuring that, as a professional committee of the United Federation of Teachers in New York City, we serve the interests of UFT members and other related Social Studies professionals as a effective vanguard organization, reflecting the concerns of New York City educators while maintaining our long standing affiliations with the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the New York State Council for the Social Studies (NYSCSS);*
- *enhancing the ability of Social Studies professionals to provide instruction that addresses New York City, New York State and national standards;*
- *using emerging technologies to maintain effective lines of communication among Social Studies educators and related professions;*
- *maintaining a web site organized by topic and strategy containing useful links to current resources and relevant cultural institutions;*
- *providing workshops, publications and conferences aimed at communicating information and strategies about issues related to a clearer understanding of our city, state, nation and world;*
- *and, at all times, supporting the ability of individuals to learn and grow as knowledgeable and effective members of our global community.*

## GMNY

THE 47TH GREATER METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE  
 ATSS/UFT SSSA + SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2008 + 7:30 AM- 4:30 PM  
 UFT AT 52 BROADWAY, MANHATTAN

THEME: "REDEFINING SOCIAL STUDIES: 2008 AND BEYOND"  
**EXHIBITS, WORKSHOPS, SPEAKERS, BREAKFAST, LUNCH & AWARDS**  
**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL STUDIES AFFILIATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about the Conference? Check one:  Chapter Chair  Dept. Chair/AP/Principal  UFT Paper  
 E Mail  GMNY Mailer  Other- please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Conference registration only.....\$30.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conference registration with Reception and Luncheon.....\$45.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Full-time student (with I.D.) registration only.....\$15.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Full-time student (with I.D.) with Reception and Luncheon ..... \$30.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Presenters (Reception and Luncheon).....\$25.00

**SPECIAL REGISTRATION FEES FOR NEW TEACHERS (5 YEARS OF LESS) IN THE  
 NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (VERIFICATION THROUGH UFT FILES):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Conference registration only.....\$20.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conference registration with Reception and Luncheon.....\$35.00

**ON-SITE REGISTRATION FEES:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Conference registration only.....\$40.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conference registration with Reception and Luncheon.....\$55.00

**SPECIAL GARAGE PARKING FEES:**

**CHECK THIS BOX IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED ABOUT SPECIAL GARAGE  
 PARKING FEES (IF AVAILABLE).**

List the individuals with whom you wish to be seated-up to a maximum of ten persons, or table seating for lunch will be assigned by staff.

**PURCHASE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ONLY 10 OR MORE REGISTRANTS. SCHOOL IMPREST FORM MAY BE AVAILABLE - A PRINCIPAL**

**CHECKS OR PURCHASE ORDERS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 18, 2008**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ATSS/UFT. SEND THIS FORM AND FEES TO:**

**GEORGE ALTOMARE**  
 C/O ATSS/UFT (GMNY)  
 52 BROADWAY – 12<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT::

ROBERT DYTELL, GMNYCONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON; ROZELLA KIRCHGAESSNER, ATSS//UFT PRESIDENT / CHAIRPERSON; AT (212) 510-6389 (YOU MAY LEAVE A MESSAGE) . YOU MAY ALSO E-MAIL ROBERT DYTELL AT [RDYTELL@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RDYTELL@YAHOO.COM)

Directions by public transportation to the UFT-4 or 5 to Wall Street, R to Rector Street, 1 to Rector Street (walk 2 to 3 blocks) or A or C to Broadway-Nassau, (walk south 4 blocks) to 52 Broadway. See check-off box above for possible garage parking options.

## GMNY

### THE GREATER METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

an invitation to present a workshop, poster session or unit plan at GMNYSSC

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2008 - 7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

**UFT Headquarters Building  
52 - Broadway  
New York, NY, 10004**

**Conference Theme:** *REDEFINING SOCIAL STUDIES: 2008 AND BEYOND*

NAME/PRESENTER \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**F YOUR PRESENTATION** \_\_\_\_\_

AUDIENCE LEVEL: \_\_\_ ELEMENTARY \_\_\_ JHS/IS \_\_\_ HS \_\_\_ SUPERVISORS \_\_\_ GENERAL

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM – INCOMPLETE OR ILLEGIBLE FORMS CANNOT BE PROCESSED.

**SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION:** In forty words or less, describe the workshop as you would like it to appear in the conference booklet. It should contain some reference to objectives, content and methodology. ( We reserve the right to edit summaries to fit into the booklet )

***PLEASE NOTE:** All presenters must list their specific audio-visual needs at the time of initial submission. It is not possible to make last minute audiovisual accommodations for presenters.*

NOTE: You may provide a facilitator for your workshop. If you cannot provide a facilitator, we will provide one for you. Please list the following information:

NAME OF THE FACILITATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: PLEASE NOTE: ALL PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE.**

Please return this form by NOVEMBER 20, 2007 to:

RON CAMPANA  
GMNYSSC PROGRAM CHAIR  
52 BROADWAY – 12<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

If you have any questions , call the UFT at (212) -598-7772 or RON CAMPANA at 212-598-6848. You can also send E-Mail to [rcampana@uft.org](mailto:rcampana@uft.org) or Ronin7@warick.net.

**ABOUT ATSS/UFT**

**ATSS/UFT was founded in 1937 as The Association of Teachers of Social Studies. In 1978, the organization merged with the United Federation of Teachers. Today it is one of the UFT's most active professional committees. From the time ATSS/UFT merged with the UFT, there have been no membership dues. If you work in New York City as a Social Studies professional, and if you are a UFT member, and / or participate in our programs, you are a member of ATSS/UFT. Members receive information through UFT *New York Teacher*, our web page at [www.uft.org](http://www.uft.org).**

**ATSS/UFT is the largest local Social Studies professional council in the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). Our representatives sit in the House of Delegates and serve on committees. Other area councils affiliated with ATSS/UFT and NCSS are the New York State Council for the Social Studies (NYSCSS) and the Middle States Council for the Social Studies (MSCSS). Besides running excellent conferences they also provide members with very worthwhile professional publications on social studies content, lesson planning and educational research.**

**Even though you are automatically a member of ATSS/UFT, we highly recommend you pay the annual dues to join these other social studies councils too. (see forms on page 12)**

**Several members of the ATSS/ UFT Executive Board also serve, or have served, on the Executive Boards and committees and have presented workshops at NCSS, MSCSS and NYSCSS conferences. As a member of any and all of these councils, you may also want to more actively participate in them above and beyond taking advantage of the publications and conferences they offer.**

**ATSS AT NCSS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:  
ADVOCATING FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES**

**ATSS/UFT President/ Chairperson Rozella Kirchgaessner, and Carolyn Herbst, ATSS/UFT Executive Secretary represented our council at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Summer Leadership Institute in July 2007 in Crystal City, Maryland (near Washington, D.C. The meeting was open to state and local council leaders of NCSS affiliated councils. Other participants from our area were Mary Duffin, NTSCSS vice-President, Maria Sanelli, MSCSS President, and Steve Goldberg, Westchester CSS. Our activities included lobbying for the Social Studies and for "No Child Left Behind" legislation on Capitol Hill, sharing information on running conferences, and formulating resolutions for the NCSS House of Delegates annual Meeting in San Diego, California in late November and early December 2007.**

**CONGRATULATIONS! AWARD TO BRENDA PARNES**

**Brenda Parnes, ATSS/UFT Vice President / Vice-Chairperson was recognized by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York for her achievements as an archivist. The award is given out annually during Archives Week, which takes place each October.**

**MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY HISTORY DAY**

Please join us at the Museum of the City of New York for exciting opportunities during the 2007-2008 School Year. The Museum is FREE the last weekend of every month for educators and their families. Bring your School ID or letterhead for free admission and a 15% discount at the Museum Shop!

**JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3rd FROM 4:30 – 6:30 PM FOR A HISTORY DAY CELEBRATION AND LAUNCH FOR NEXT YEAR’S EVENT AT THE MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK!** We invite you to come and see a special installation of winning projects from the 2007 competition and find out how to participate in New York City History Day. Materials for next year’s program will be available and teachers and parents will have an opportunity to sign up for a History Day workshop.

The Frederick A.O. Schwarz Children’s Center at the Museum of the City of New York invites your students to participate in New York City History Day on Sunday, March 30, 2008. New York City History Day is an education program that engages students in grades 6-12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Students decide on a topic of interest related to this year’s theme, Conflict and Compromise, and work individually or in small groups to create an imaginative exhibit board, original website, multimedia documentary, dramatic performance, or research paper.

On Sunday, March 30th, student participants from the five boroughs will come together and have the opportunity to present their work to a team of volunteer judges from universities, cultural institutions, government offices and other agencies at the Museum of the City of New York and the New York Academy of Medicine. All entry forms, in addition to website and paper entries, must be received by March 3, 2008.

Come to the Teacher and Parent workshops to receive materials to participate in the program, view arrange of projects in the various categories, view the Museum's exhibit of winning projects from the 2007 competition, review a step-by-step process for creating a History Day project, and discuss thesis writing exercises, how to best use historical sources, and the various approaches to addressing the History Day theme.

These workshops will take place on the following dates: Tuesday, October 23, 4:30 - 6:00 PM; Sunday, October 28, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM; Tuesday, November 27, 4:30 - 6:00 PM; Wednesday, December 5, 4:30 - 6:00 PM.

Please contact Joanna Steinberg at 212.534.1672 x 3402 or [jsteinberg@mcny.org](mailto:jsteinberg@mcny.org) to RSVP or to request further information.

**ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SOCIAL STUDIES/UNITED/FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
SOCIAL STUDIES SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION**

**THE BERNARD A. COHEN AWARD FOR SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION  
(Formerly the ATSS/UFT John Bunzel Award)**

Bernard Cohen, 69, passed away on May 9, 2004. He gave 48 years of service as a social studies teacher and guidance counselor/ college advisor, principally at Benjamin Cardozo High School in Bayside, Queens, N.Y. He was President/ Chairperson of ATSS/UFT 1983-85, Vice-President/ Vice-Chairperson of ATSS/UFT, 1981-83, and Chairperson of the ATSS /UFT Greater Metropolitan New York Social Studies Conference (GMNY) for over 40 years. He was active in other social studies councils: Past President and conference chair of MSCSS, House of Delegates member, and a member of various committees of NCSS, local arrangements chair of the NCSS annual conference in New York City in 1986, member of the Board of Directors and conference planning, budget and finance, and resolutions committee of NYSCSS and led the NYSCSS delegation at NCSS. He was Vice-President of the Guidance Chapter of the UFT and on the SUNY/CUNY Advisory Boards. He was a member of the UFT Committee for Members Who Are Capably Disabled, a delegate at the UFT Delegates Assembly, the NYSUT Representative Assembly and the AFT Delegates Assembly. Bernie was a brave fighter against cancer and refused to stop working. He worked at Cardozo until Sept. 2003 and continued to attend UFT meetings until Feb. 28, 2004 when he received, in person, an award from ATSS/UFT for chairing the GMNY Conference for over 40 years. The conference was dedicated to him. He is deeply missed by all who knew him or knew of his good works.

**AWARD APPLICATION**

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

School & School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_ N.Y.C. License \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Full-Time Employment Emphasizing Social Studies. Give Title/Position, Place  
And Number of Years, Starting With The Most Recent Position.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(The sponsor may be a colleague, or supervisor, or Principal, or oneself.)

Sponsor's Title & School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THE BERNARD A. COHEN AWARD FOR SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION***(continued)*

**Send completed applications to:** Rozella Kirchgaessner, President of ATSS/UFT, 52 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10004, The Deadline for applications is January 6, 2008. For further information, call ATSS/UFT at 212-510-6389.

**Selections will be made by a joint committee of classroom teachers and supervisors. Judgments will be made on the basis of qualities and achievements outlined below, with special emphasis on classroom endeavors. FOUR AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN: ONE TO A TEACHER ON EACH LEVEL (ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE/JR. HIGH SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL) AND ONE TO A SUPERVISOR.**

**After filling in the information on Page 1, please list and/or describe the achievements of the nominee on separate sheets of 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Your list must be legible and must conform to the outline below, and must be labeled by category. The application is to be no more than five pages, including the Page 1 previously described. It is suggested that the nominee retain a copy of the application for his/her files.**

**AWARD CRITERIA**

**Professional Performance in School: Scope of course(s) grade (s) taught, department and school responsibilities relating to social studies ( either assigned or sharing with colleagues), team planning or other team activities, development of classroom materials, heading of programs, utilization of outside resources, revision of curriculum, development of programs, innovative methodology, clubs or extra-curricular activities involving students, related compensatory time positions, administrative or coordinating activities related to social studies, assembly programs and performances relating to social studies, other, etc.**

**Professional Performance Out of School: Curriculum development, in-service training given, holding office or committee membership related to social studies, attendance at conferences, advisory committee work, standardized test preparation, coordination of special programs, other, etc.**

**Awards: Related to social studies.**

**Grants: Written or received and/or coordinated.**

**Scholarship: Degrees, graduate programs, summer institutes, fellowships. Scholarships, exchange programs, other, etc.**

**Publications: Books, articles, reviews, columns, editorial work related to social studies.**

**Any other activities or achievements relating to social studies education.**

**Please complete as many criteria categories as apply to you.**

## C-SPAN CLASSROOM AND THE 2008 ELECTION CYCLE

Teacher & Senior Consultant, C-SPAN Teacher Fellow 2002

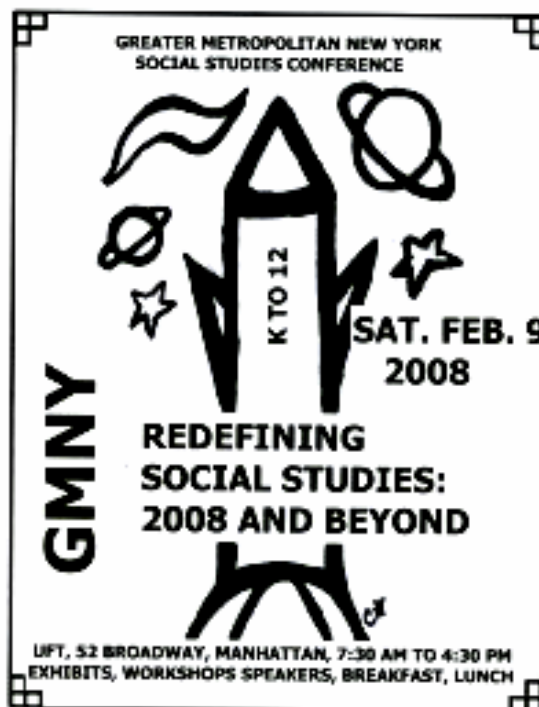
As a social studies teacher and current Washington State Council for the Social Studies board member, I'm writing to encourage you and your colleagues to take full advantage of C-SPAN Classroom during the upcoming school year and 2008 election cycle.

C-SPAN Classroom provides social studies and civics teachers with curriculum resources that are non-partisan and provided without cost to educators and their students. The resources are developed by C-SPAN, a private, non-profit company created in 1979 by the cable television industry as a public service. C-SPAN provides coverage of a variety of public affairs and political events most notably the Congress, President and Supreme Court. A 2006 study by the Pew Research Center identified CNN, 60 Minutes and C-SPAN as the top three "most trusted sources" of news in the United States.

By registering for a free C-SPAN Classroom membership teachers will gain access to a searchable database of current and archived video clips, teacher resources as well as student activities and student contests. Additionally teachers become eligible to receive special teaching tools like free DVD video clip collections and classroom posters that are sent out periodically. Teachers can register at <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Registration.aspx>.

As the 2008 election cycle unfolds, K-12 teachers will also find rigorous, relevant and authentic resources to support standards based civics and government instruction at [www.c-spanclassroom.org](http://www.c-spanclassroom.org). C-SPAN Classroom provides teachers with lessons and supplemental materials as well as unrestricted taping and viewing rights for C-SPAN-produced programming.

In three decades of teaching high school civics, I found C-SPAN to be an indispensable source of Bias free primary sources.



**HISTORY, A JAPANESE-AMERICAN ARTIST, HIS CATS, AND A BEAUTIFUL FILM**

There are glorious drawings of cats, fiery explosions of color depicting the bombing of Hiroshima, and bleak views of Japanese-American internment camps in the American west. The film is called "The Cats of Mirikitani". I met the co-producer at a screening in a small art theater in Manhattan. The film was produced and directed by Linda Hattendorf. The co-producer's name is Masa Yoshikawa. I have not met the artist. His name is Jimmy Mirikitani, but he is alive and well and living in lower Manhattan.

His story is an inspiration, and so is the film about him, "The Cats of Mirikitani."

Mirikitani is an 80+-year-old Japanese-American street artist who paints cats as well as the bombing of Hiroshima and Japanese-American internment camps in World War II. The documentary film unfolds, not as a batch of talking heads, but as a constantly brain-boggling narrative story as it is uncovered by the film-maker, that has a beginning, a middle and a happy end.

Mirikitani was born in Sacramento, CA, but at the age of 3 was taken by his mother back to her home in Hiroshima. His father wanted him to enter a Japanese naval academy when he was 18, but he said he was an artist, not a fighter, and he refused to go. Instead, he went back to the United States where a sister and some cousins were living. All his family that was left in Japan were killed in the bombing of Hiroshima. During World War II he and his sister were put in a Japanese-American internment camp, where he taught art. He thought he lost his U.S. citizenship and did not know he regained it, so upon his release from the camp he parted with his sister and stayed below the radar for earning a living. He worked for several rich Americans in New York City as a cook and/or driver, including Jackson Pollack and a rich man who lived on Park Avenue for many years. When the Park Avenue man died he lived on the street as a homeless artist, mostly in Washington Square Park and then in Soho. In Soho the film-maker took an interest in him and his work. After 9/11, when she found him coughing on the street, she took him into her apartment. She continued to film him as she continued to help him as the story unfolds. She helped him recognize his regained citizenship, helped him find a cousin who writes poetry, helped him find his sister whom he hadn't seen or heard from in 60 years, helped him get social security benefits and an apartment in a senior facility in lower Manhattan where he now teaches art. The film-maker watched and filmed at the emotional return of Mirikitani to the internment camp and reunion with his family.

Since the story hinges on the events of 9/11 significant attention is paid to a comparison between hysteria concerning Muslims today and Japanese in World War II. The film is also visually gorgeous. It is in English, but there are subtitles in standard English when Mirikitani speaks in a heavy Japanese accent.

The film's format allows it to be easily broken into segments for classroom use on all the above topics. The classroom teacher can easily develop learning strategies for each segment.

When I met the co-producer at the screening, I said it was great it was getting so many honors, but it also deserves to be in the classrooms all over the United States. After a year or two of awards, it should have a longer life in the schools.

The film has been entered in a number of film festivals and has won several awards. There is a website: [www.thecatsofmirikitani.com](http://www.thecatsofmirikitani.com), which includes an e-mail address to contact Jimmy Mirikitani, who will be celebrating his 87th birthday in June, 2007.

The film will be available for sale on DVD (74 minutes) at \$29.95 shortly, through Customflix, [www.customflix.com/230573](http://www.customflix.com/230573) (It may be pre-ordered now, but will be ready December 1, 2007). The DVD will also be available for distribution through an educational group, The Center for Asian American Media, (800) 343 5540 (after October 1, 2007) for educational purposes.

SOCIAL STUDIES PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS MEMBERSHIP FORM

**ATSS/UFT has created this form to help you join the various professional associations. If you have any questions, or want additional information, feel free to call ATSS/UFT at (212) 510-6389. Weekdays, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.**

**Send this form and a separate check for each council you wish to join payable to the organization as stated.**

**Remember, you are a member of ATSS/UFT without paying a membership fee if you are a New York City Social Studies profession and/or participate in our programs.**

**Send to: Treasurer, ATSS/UFT, 52 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York NY 10004**

**ENCLOSED IS/ARE CHECK(S) FOR JOINING:**

**/ / NCSS / / NYSCSS / / MSCSS**

**MY LEVEL OF INTEREST IS:**

**/ / PRE-K / / ELEMENTARY / / MIDDLE/ INTERMEDIATE/ / HIGH SCHOOL  
/ / COLLEGE / / OTHER \_\_\_\_\_**

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_**

**ZIP \_\_\_\_\_**

**SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_**

**SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_**

**ZIP \_\_\_\_\_**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_**

I WISH TO JOIN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)

**/ / FIRST YEAR MEMBERSHIP, SPECIAL PRICE, REGULAR CATEGORY (JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER).**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NCSS. \$32.50**

**/ / RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP, REGULAR CATEGORY (JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER). MAKE CHECK  
PAYABLE TO NCSS. \$60.00**

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