



# THE SAGE

## WINTER 2009

The Newsletter of The Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers

ATSS/UFT, C/O UFT, 52 BROADWAY, New York, NY 10004, Phone: (212) 510-6389, FAX: (212) 510-6334

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Charles Cogen (*Deceased*)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT / CHAIRPERSON

Greetings, ATSS/UFT members and friends,

The 2008 – 2009 school year is nearly half spent and the 2009 GMNY is upon us. This year's GMNY promises some exciting new features and events. We will play out our theme "Sustaining our Future: The Twenty First Century and Beyond" with a new History Happy Hour sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History. St. Johns University Professor Robert Tomes will draw attention to the first 100 days of FDR's administration, with a view to some actions and positions we might want to look for as President Obama assumes office. And then at our luncheon, Edward F. Ott, Executive Director of the New York City Central Labor Council will share insights as our Hubert H. Humphrey Luncheon Award winner. We have also provided several ways this year that students may be seen and heard across the day. All attendees must register using the form provided on page 3 of this edition. Please note that in order to use FAMIS FUNDS, you must first register and request an invoice

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## COME TO THE GREATER METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009 (SEE PAGES 2-3)

*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, effective citizenship and share scholarship, information, strategies and practices related to the issues important to Social Studies instruction.*

## ATSS/UFT TENTATIVE CALENDER FOR 2009

### ATSS/UFT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings take place at the 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 elected ATSS/UFT Executive Board Members may vote on business items)

- Friday, January 20, 2009 (Inaugural Celebration)
  - Saturday, February 7, 2009 (GMNY)
    - Friday, March 6, 2009
    - Friday, April TBA, 2009
    - Friday, May 8 2009
    - Friday, June 12, 2009

### PROGRAM

- Greater Metropolitan New York Social Studies Conference (GMNY) Saturday, February 7, 2009 (See pages 2 & 3)
- MSCSS Conference, February 26-28, 2009, Salisbury State University, Delaware
  - Yad Vashem – ATSS/UFT Program, March 22, 2009 (site TBA)
  - NYSCSS Conference, April 2 – 4, 2009, Saratoga Springs Hilton, NY
    - Black History Month workshop, TBA
    - Women’s History Month workshop, TBA
      - June Tour, TBA




**GMNY**  
**2009**

**SUSTAINING OUR PLANET:  
CHALLENGES FOR THE  
21ST CENTURY**

THE 49TH GREATER METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009 + 7:30 AM- 4:30 PM  
UFT AT 52 BROADWAY, MANHATTAN

THEME: “SUSTAINING OUR PLANET: CHALLENGES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY”  
**EXHIBITS, WORKSHOPS, SPEAKERS, STUDENT DISPLAYS, BREAKFAST, LUNCH & AWARDS**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:  
ROBERT DYTELL, GMNYCONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON ( [RDYTELL@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RDYTELL@YAHOO.COM)); ROZELLA KIRCHGAESSNER, ATSS//UFT PRESIDENT / CHAIRPERSON; AT (212) 510-6389 (YOU MAY LEAVE A MESSAGE) ([ATSSUFTNYC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ATSSUFTNYC@GMAIL.COM)).  
Directions by public transportation to the UFT-4 or 5 to Wall Street, R to Rector Street, 1 to Rector Street (walk 3 short blocks), A or C to Broadway-Nassau, (walk south 4 blocks) J to Broad Street (walk west 2 blocks) to 52 Broadway.

	<b>2009</b>	<b>SUSTAINING OUR PLANET: CHALLENGES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY</b>
	<b>GMNY</b>	

**GMNY 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Presenter / Student Poster Session / Parent (Luncheon only) ..... \$15.00

**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

List the individuals with whom you wish to be seated at lunch (maximum of ten persons) or table seating will be assigned by staff.



**SPECIAL GARAGE PARKING FEES: PRESENT YOUR PARKING LOT STUB AT THE CONFERENCE AND RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE \$10.00 REBATE**

\_\_\_\_\_ Request for Invoice for payment with NYCDOE Famis funds (please indicate school name / number)

OR, MAKE PERSONAL 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**

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**REPORT ON ATSS/UFT FALL TOUR: BIDDLE, BRISTOL AND BURLINGTON**

The Association of Teachers of Social Studies /United Federation of Teachers proudly presented a full day bus tour including lunch and a formal dinner, "Biddle, Bristol and Burlington: Along the Delaware River," Saturday, October 18, 2008, 7:30 AM to 10:00 PM. The tour, led by Carolyn Herbst, featured guided tours of the house and gardens of the elegant 1825 Greek Revival mansion of Nichols Biddle, head of the Second National Bank, at Andalusia, Andalusia, PA.; lunch at the King George II Inn, Bristol, PA. (the oldest continuously operating inn in the United States, 1680); a walking tour with a costumed guide that includes the inside of several historic homes in a compact historic area, including time for antiques shopping, Historic Burlington, Burlington, NJ.; dinner at the Gallery Cafe, overlooking the Delaware River, Burlington, NJ. The cost was \$155.00 per person, and included lunch and dinner, all admissions, tours and tips. About 30 people attended, including ATSS/UFT President Rozella Kirchgaessner and Executive Board Members Patricia Urevith and Herb (Jimmy) Schwarz

**ATSS/UFT GEOGRAPHY PROGRAMS**

On Saturday, September 27, 2008, ATSS/UFT Executive Board Member John Agnello, who is the NYC representative of the New York Geographic Alliance, conducted an all-day program co-sponsored by the New York Geographic Alliance and ATSS/UFT at Hostos Junior High School, Brooklyn. ATSS/UFT President/Chairperson, Rozella Kirchgaessner addressed the several hundred student and teacher participants. There were speakers, workshops, materials and displays.

On the afternoon of November 19, Rozella Kirchgaessner addressed the approximately 40 high school students, parents, and teachers who attended "Geography Day", at the Academy of Urban Planning in Brooklyn, led by Social Studies teacher Adam Schwartz. This event was also co-sponsored by the New York Geographic Alliance and ATSS/UFT. There were speakers, workshops, awards and student displays. The program was part of a weeklong celebration at the school of the importance of Geography in their lives.

**ATSS/UFT AT NCSS**

Rozella Kirchgaessner, Dr. Brenda Parnes, Robert Dytell Carolyn Herbst and Ollie Fields Thacker represented ATSS/UFT at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Annual Conference in Houston, Texas, held on November 13-16, 2008.

The ATSS/UFT team served in the NCSS House of Delegate (HOD), participated in local and state council leaders meetings, served on NCSS governance committees, attended keynote sessions and workshops, and sought to recruit more exhibitors for the Greater Metropolitan Social Studies Conference.

A highpoint for the ATSS/UFT team at the House of Delegates meetings was when Rozella Kirchgaessner, President/Chairperson of ATSS/UFT, received a Gold Star Certificate which recognized ATSS/UFT for its superior programs and services, as well as being the largest local council affiliated with NCSS.

**ATSS UFT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

On Friday afternoon, November 21, 2008, ATSS/UFT leaders Victoria Braxton, Ollie Fields Thacker and Cynthia Copeland conducted a technology workshop: "Personalized Professional Portfolios: Celebrating Our Uniqueness". The content of the workshop explored ethnic and racial and religious uniqueness, but focus of the workshop involved hands on usage of technology. Use of the Smart Board was explained and participants worked on laptops to build power point portfolios. Rozella Kirchgaessner, George Altomare and Carolyn Herbst as well as classroom teachers attended the workshop.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT / CHAIRPERSON**

*(continued from page 1)*

which your purchasing officer may submit to the Dept of Education with the request for funds. We have moved our January Executive Board meeting to Tuesday, January 20, 2009 from 4:30 – 8:00 at the central UFT in order to properly acknowledge and celebrate the Obama Inaugural events. The Rosa Parks award recipient is not available in February. As this issue goes to press, we are still negotiating the date when we will present this special award. In the mean time, the GMNY is packed with many meaningful and informative events. We hope to see you there.

The year 2009 also provides opportunities to acknowledge the life and work of Abraham Lincoln, Charles Darwin and those social studies professionals that bring social studies alive for our students. Watch the UFT paper, but better yet, join our distribution list, to keep abreast of upcoming events and activities. Look for other past and future workshops in the pages of this SAGE, and look for several ways to keep your geography, economics, civics, history, technology and pedagogic skills fresh and meaningful.

Remember, all Social Studies professionals are welcome at our monthly Executive Board meetings. While only elected board members have voting privileges, we welcome your creativity, your insights and your programming suggestions. ATSS/UFT is your local Social Studies professional organization. We can only address your issues and your needs as we become aware of them. Your organization is only a mouse click away at [ATSSUFTnyc@gmail.com](mailto:ATSSUFTnyc@gmail.com), or on the web at <http://www.uft.org/member/committees/atss/services/>

Let us hear from you often,

Best wishes for a warm and memorable spring.

*Rozella*

## **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), (members/union committees/ATSS/UFT). We are also linked from the National Council for the Social Studies website [www.ncss.org](http://www.ncss.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 fees to join these other social studies councils too. (see forms on page 8)**

**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.**

## **PRE SERVICE EDUCATORS NETWORK**

**If you work with pre-service educators, or are enrolled in a Social Studies teacher preparation program, we are interested in talking to you about the new regents P – 16 initiative. We need your input and your expertise. Please contact our President, Rozella Kirchgaessner at [atssuftnyc@gmail.com](mailto:atssuftnyc@gmail.com) or (917) 355-4451.**

## **ATSS/ UFT MISSION STATEMENT**

**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 SCHOLARSHIP, INFORMATION, STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES RELATED TO THE ISSUES IMPORTANT TO SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTION.**

**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.**

## SOCIAL STUDIES PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS MEMBERSHIP FORM

**ATSS/UFT has created this form to help you join our related 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**

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**

**/ / FIRST YEAR MEMBERSHIP, SPECIAL PRICE, COMPREHENSIVE CATEGORY (ALL PUBLICATIONS). MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NCSS. \$38.00**

**/ / RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP, COMPREHENSIVE CATEGORY. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NCSS. \$70.00**

I WISH TO JOIN THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES (NYSCSS)

**/ / FIRST YEAR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NYSCSS. \$60.00**

I WISH TO JOIN THE MIDDLE STATES COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES (MSCSS)

**/ / FIRST YEAR OR RENEWAL. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MSCSS. \$25.00**

**ENCLOSED IS/ARE (1, 2, 3 ) CHECK(S) MADE PAYABLE TO THE APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION(S)**

**/ / 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 \_\_\_\_\_**

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