

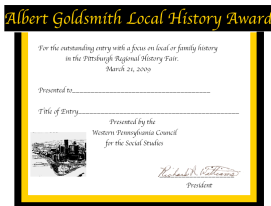
The POINT!



E-Letter of the Western Pennsylvania
Council for the Social Studies
Volume 2 No. 4 April 2009

Lindsay Stough of Trinity High School Takes WPCSS Albert Goldsmith Award for Local History

Lindsay Stough of Trinity High School received the first annual Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Albert R. Goldsmith Award for the best entry on local or family history in the Regional History Fair competition at the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center on Saturday, March 21, 2009.



Lindsay's exhibit focused on the life and career of Andy Warhol. The display featured pictures of Warhol and his work. The exhibit shown at right, was clear, concise and easily understood without the need to ask questions for clarification. Captions were clear and large enough

to be read at a comfortable distance. The triptych display was pleasing to the eye as well..

Over 500 students participated in the Western Regional Fair at the Heinz History Center this year, setting a record for participation. Working individually or in small groups of five or less, students in grades 6-8 (junior division) and 9-12 (senior division) researched a historical topic, and then wrote a historical paper, created a documentary, designed a Web site, wrote and staged a performance, or produced an exhibit that explored the theme, *The Individual in History*.

The regional competition at the Senator John Heinz History Center . Medals were awarded to the top three entries in all categories. Regional winners move on to the state contest held at Millersville University and potentially to the national contest held in College Park, Maryland. Lindsay's project, while not one of the top three, was the best exhibit focusing on Local history.and earned her a certificate and a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond...



Class Project features Family Histories and Cultures.

Swampscott, MS teacher Donna Kielty's class project features family histories and cultures. When Clarke School revised its social studies curriculum, Kielty and Judy Flynn, the other second grade teacher in the school, developed the family history project to complement it. The new curriculum focuses on who "Americans" are, from Native Americans to recent immigrants.

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Class Project: Family Histories and Cultures.

Continued from Page 1

"The students see that unless they are Native American, their families originally came from somewhere else," explained Kielty. "Our curriculum also includes learning about famous landmarks from other countries," Kielty added. "This project ties everything together nicely in a way that students can connect to themselves."

After the class completes a unit on Native Americans and Kielty offers a brief introduction to immigration in America, her students are challenged to find out about their own heritage. Parent support is encouraged as students take on their first assignment -- to create a family history report, in which they discuss two countries their ancestors came from. The reports include flags, maps, and reports about famous sites from each country. After the reports are shared, students create a "family history project" about one of the countries.

The project can be done in several possible formats:

- **Culture Kit:** Fill a box with five items that relate to your country. Decorate the box so it reflects your country. Then write about the significance of the five items.

- **Diorama:** Create a diorama of a famous site and write a brief paragraph about it.

- **Travel Poster:** Create a travel poster showing several sights to see in your country.

- **Language Picture Dictionary:** Learn eight words in the language of your country. Write each word and its English equivalent, and draw a picture for each page.

For More Information, See:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/teacher_feature/teacher_feature125.shtml/startpage/

iCue Has New Resources on Innaugurations

iCue has created a wonderful new resource all about inaugurations. It features presidential speeches going back to McKinley's second inaugural (in 1901!), as well as related news segments and mini-documentaries produced by iCue.

Check out the following link that will take you directly to the special section on our website. We hope you'll find this a helpful teaching tool.

<http://www.icue.com/portal/site/iCue/chapter/?vgnnextchannel=314a2ef11ac65110VgnVCM10000a7c3d240RCRD&chapterchannel=d1fcb44e8fed110VgnVCM2000006fc3d240RCRD>

iCue (www.icue.com) is a free, educational website created by NBC News.

Washington Post Quotes from Past

A very useful Washington Post articles has quotations from the "best and the worst inaugural speeches:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/daily/graphics/inaug_bestworst_011905.html

•••From Jack Larner in Texas.

2009 NCSS Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the Year Awards.

The postmark deadline has been extended--the new deadline date is May 1, 2009!

There is still time to submit an application!!! Therefore, if you know of an exceptional social studies teacher please encourage them to apply or nominate them for the NCSS Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the Year award. Guidelines and criteria for this award can be found on the NCSS website at <http://www.socialstudies.org/awards/teaching>. You can download the cover page from the website or email excellence@ncss.org for a copy of the information.

Call for Manuscripts

Social Education April 2010 Technology Issue

Michael J. Berson and Meghan McGlinn Manfra, editors of the instructional technology section of *Social Education*, invite the submission of articles that focus on innovative uses of technology in the social studies classroom.

Manuscripts should adhere to Author Guidelines at www.socialstudies.org/publications/editorial. The editors strongly encourage submissions by classroom teachers or collaborative partnerships between university faculty and classroom teachers that describe creative ways to integrate technology into teaching and learning. Editorial assistance for classroom teachers is available, and suggestions can be found at www.socialstudies.org/publications/teachers.

It is requested that potential authors first contact Michael and Meghan as soon as possible with any ideas prior to sending a complete manuscript. Please send manuscripts to both editors as e-mail attachments in MS Word and in hard copy by **September 15, 2009**.

Michael J. Berson
Social Science Education
University of South Florida

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies

Name _____

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Dues: \$5. 00 Amt. enclosed _____

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*** NOTE:** Most communication will be handled by e-mail. Please include an e-mail address in order to be informed of coming events.

Send application and dues to:

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Professional Development By Subject

Starring: Donna Kielty

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"Every year I am so impressed with how creative the family history projects are," says Donna Kielty. "From an oatmeal box Leaning Tower of Pisa to a shoebox double-decker bus, the projects are so enjoyable to see. There is so much pride as the students share information about their countries."

 This double-decker bus diorama was created by Maeve.

A few years ago, when [Clarke School](#) in Swampscott, Massachusetts, revised its social studies curriculum, Kielty and Judy Flynn, the other second grade

teacher in the school, developed the family history project to complement it. The new curriculum focuses on who "Americans" are, from Native Americans to recent immigrants. "The students see that unless they are Native American, their families originally came from somewhere else," explained Kielty.

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 Riain takes students down under with his Australian culture kit.

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