

The POINT!



E-Letter of the Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies
Vol. 6 No. 4
April 2013

2013 National History Day WPCSS Albert Goldsmith Award Winners

Juniors: Gina Baker - The World War II Jeep: From Butler to Berlin
Bellmar Middle School Teacher: Ross Farmer

Seniors: Madison Gogal - Silent Spring: Rachel Carson's Loud Movement
St. Joseph's High School - Teacher: Michael Stitt



Gina with Betty Arenth, Senior Vice
President of the Heinz History
Center.



Madison with Ted Frick of Bayer Material Sciences.

NHD
NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY



Judges Art Glaser and James Krebs
at the Rachel Carson exhibit.



The World War II Jeep: From Butler
to Berlin

515 students participated in the local competition of National History Day this year at the Heinz History Center, a 10% increase over last year. WPCSS is proud to present annual Awards for the best exhibits that focus on Local History, in honor of Albert Goldsmith, long time member and benefactor of WPCSS.

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>



Activist and Actor Martin Sheen to Receive Thomas Merton Award

Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 5-8 PM

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, 4141 Fifth Avenue,
Oakland.

Pittsburgh, PA - Annually, the Thomas Merton Center presents its Thomas Merton award to a nationally or internationally known person or organization that witnesses the values for peace and social justice that the Center and its name sake Thomas Merton stand for. Martin Sheen has been chosen to be its next recipient. With his faith firmly rooted in non-violence, Martin Sheen is an outspoken advocate working to oppose war, the death penalty, and other social injustices. The Thomas Merton Center will recognize his long list of peace and justice accomplishments at this year's award reception. For more information visit: www.thomasmertoncenter.org.



Friendship Hill National Historic Site - Friendship Hill ...

Visit the restored country estate of Albert Gallatin, a Swiss emigrant. Albert Gallatin is best remembered for his thirteen year tenure as Secretary of the Treasury during the Jefferson and Madison administrations. In that time he reduced the national debt, purchased the Louisiana Territory and funded the Lewis & Clark exploration. Gallatin's accomplishments and contributions are highlighted at Friendship Hill, his restored country estate.



Victorian Vandergrift Museum & Historical Society!

724-568-1990

The Victorian Vandergrift Museum & Historical Society is devoted to preserving the history of this amazing town so that generations to come can take pride in the town they call home. Designed by Frederick Olmstead, Vandergrift has gently curving streets that follow the natural contours of the hills. Olmstead also designed New York's Central Park.



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

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National History Day

The WPCSS Albert Goldsmith Award for the best Individual Exhibit focused on local history consists of a certificate and a monetary award of \$50. The original award included a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond but due to changes in how bonds may be purchased, it has become difficult to continue this practice. In the past, bonds could be purchased at most banks. Now they can only be purchased on line and only by someone having an account with the Treasury Department.

We are pleased that each year participation in the History Fair has increased but disappointed that senior entries have declined. This event provides students with a way to learn through a project which involves selecting a topic, doing research, deciding how to present their findings and entering the competition.

They have several options. As individuals, they may write a paper, construct an exhibit, produce a video or other media presentation, or perform on the stage. With friends they can develop team work in completing any of the categories mentioned except the paper. In all instances, they become involved in applying what they have learned in many subjects, including math, language, and the arts. Knowledge becomes useful and meaningful.

Listed below are the top three entrants in the Senior division for:

Senior Papers

3rd place - Jeff Bergman - *The Gilded Illusion of Bretton Woods: The turning point in global monetary policy* - McMurray, Washington, Peters Township High School - **Teacher - Rebecca Bowman**

2nd place - Andrew Episcopo - *The Iranian Hostage Crisis* - Monroeville, - Gateway Senior High School - **Teacher - Shawn Whelan**

1st place - Gabriel Schroeder - *Hell No, We Won't Glow: Three Mile Island as the Turning Point for Nuclear Power* - Natrona Heights - St. Joseph High School - **Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli**

Senior Group Documentary

3rd place - Megan Kaminski, Carlee Mentecki - *I Have Become Death": The Development of the Atomic Bomb* - Natrona Heights - St. Joseph High School
Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli

2nd place - Nick Larimer, Ryan Williams - *East Wind, Rain: Was knowledge of the Pearl Harbor attack a turning point in U.S. involvement in World War II?*
 McMurray - Peters Township High School - **Teachers Rebecca Bowman, Josh Elders**

1st place - Joshua Bowman, Joshua Larimer, Jason Lee - *Fighting Lead with Lies: How deception was the turning point for Allied victory in Europe* - McMurray, Peters Township High School - **Teachers - Rebecca Bowman, Josh Elders**

Feedback ♦ ♦ ♦ Thanks for more helpful information and links! PC

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Senior Group Performance

3rd place - Laura D'Alessandris, Alexandria Hartle, Claire Preston, Lydia Scheer, Bria Schneiderlochner - *Coconut Grove Fire* - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School - Teacher Michael Stitt

2nd place - Samuel Beaver, Jesus Munoz, *Remember the Alamo* - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli

1st place - Rachel Schratz, Katelynn Kletzli, Erica Mendel, Morgan Connolly, Maria Castello - *From Tragedy to Turning Point: Fire at the Factory* - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School - Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli

Senior Group Exhibit

3rd place - Paige Robinson, Nicollette Mielecki, Mallory Milberger, *Insulin: A Shot Today, A Life Tomorrow* - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School - Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli

2nd place - Mallory Boggess, Niah Laughery, Isabella Augustine, Brittany Premick *No Easy Walk:" The Children's March for Civil Rights* - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School - Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli

1st place - Sara Chaudhry, Rocco Vitalone, Kenneth Stevens, Benjamin Farina, Jordan Doman - *A Nations Heals: The Vietnam Memorial* - Monroeville, Gateway Senior High School Teacher - Shawn Whelan

Senior Group Website

3rd place - William Aikins, Jason Fisher - *They Shot Papa Dead:" The Bullet that Ended Civil Rights in America* - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School - Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli

2nd place - Shane Coffield, Jacie Goudy - *Copernican Heliocentrism and the Dawn of Modern Science* - Washington, Trinity Area School District, Trinity High School - Teacher - Janice Kuhn

Senior Group Website

Continued from page 4

1st place - Joie Zabec, Alexandra Haduch - Pearl Harbor: The Day of Infamy - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School - Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli

Senior Individual Documentary

3rd place - Jessica Moody - Rohr's Reconnaissance: Bridging the Gap to Victory Belle Vernon, Belle Vernon Area High School - Teacher - Ross Farmer

2nd place - Katheryn Brock - The Typewriter is Holy": How the Beat Generation Transformed America Through the Uncensored Word - Washington, Trinity High School - Teacher - Janice Kuhn

1st place - Elyse Kaplan - The Seven Years' War: Forging the Fate of a Continent - Uniontown - Uniontown Area High School - Teacher - Michael Brown

Senior Individual Performance

3rd place - Jacquelyn Marchi - Penicillin - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School - Teacher Michael Stitt

2nd place - Sophie Belch - The New Deal: A Turning Point in the American Spirit Oakmont, Riverview Jr./Sr. High School - Teacher - Kenneth Kubistek

1st place - Mitchell Farrell, White Christmas–Red Snow": The Turning Points of the Battle of the Bulge Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School Teacher Rosanne Pucciarelli

Senior Individual Website

3rd place - Tasha Brownfield - The Allegheny Portage Railroad: The Tie That Binds - Belle Vernon, Belle Vernon Area High School - Teacher - Ross Farmer

2nd place - Eva Gnegy - Uncovering the Universe: Edwin Hubble - Washington, Trinity High School - Teacher - Janice Kuhn

1st place - Jenna McGreevy - FDR and the New Deal - Natrona Heights, St. Joseph High School - Teacher - Rosanne Pucciarelli

*A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take
the helm."*

--Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian playwright

Junior Paper

3rd place - Joseph Mullen - *The Advent of the Free Press* - Gibsonia, Pine Richland Middle School - **Teacher - Joe Bailey**

2nd place - Natalie Bialon - *Them Damned Pictures: An Examination of Boss Tweed and Thomas Nast* Belle Vernon, Bellmar Middle School - **Teacher - Ross Farmer**

1st place - Isabelle Schroeder *Death and the Spanish Lady: The 1918 Influenza Pandemic; A Biological, Political, and Technological Turning Point for Mankind* - New Kensington - Mary Queen Of Apostles School - **Teacher - Evelyn Quaide**

Junior Group Documentary

3rd place - Melissa Zentz, Olivia Palmieri, Victoria Trott - *How Television Transformed American Entertainment* - Gibsonia, Pine Richland Middle School - **Teacher - Sue Bartley**

2nd place - Elli Fritz, Isabella Sanzi, Rita Lakhssassi, Lindsey Hartmann - *The Fight For Women's Suffrage: The Movement That Changed America* - Gibsonia, Pine Richland Middle School - **Teacher - Joe Bailey**

1st place - Hannah Day, Sierra Lynn - *The Making of the Man: George Washington and the 1755 Braddock Campaign* - Belle Vernon - Bellmar Middle School - **Teacher - Ross Farmer**

Junior Group Performance

3rd place - Haley Coscarelli, Samantha Moretti - *Titanic: The Turning Point for Saving Lives at Sea* - New Kensington, Mary Queen Of Apostles School - **Teacher - Janet Casper**

2nd place - Shreya Sharma, Angela Roberts, *The Sound of Silence: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring* - McMurray, Peters Township Middle School - **Teacher - Josh Elders**

1st place - Scout Best, Addie Best - *From Guantanamera to the Bay of Pigs: The poetry and politics of José Martí* - Confluence, Turkeyfoot Area, Hidden Hills Homeschool - **Teacher - Jody Best**

Junior Group Exhibit

3rd place - Danielle Vulcano, Adianna Williams - *Mr. Gorbachev, Tear Down this Wall!* McMurray, Peters Township Middle School - **Teacher - Josh Elders**

2nd place - Evan McLoughlin, Ram Mehta - *The WPA: Putting the Nation Back to Work* Pittsburgh, Kentucky Avenue School - **Teacher - Roberta Kardell**

1st place - Holly Jones, Sunayna Smith - *The Impact of West Side Story on Popular Culture* Sewickley, Sewickley Academy - **Teacher- Mike Cesario**

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Junior Group Website

3rd place - Evan Juncal, Noah Adams, Richard Kwon, Hunter Baxter, Logan Dewitt
Two Bullets That Changed the Course of History - Gibsonia, Pine Richland Middle School -
TEACHER - Joe Bailey

2nd place - Jalen Thomas, Jack Noftz, Theo Caloyer - *The Salk Vaccine: Healing the World*
Pittsburgh, Kentucky Avenue School - **TEACHER - Roberta Kardell**

1st place - Sarah McGowan, Kendyle Bennett - *The "Gentleman's Agreement:" The Color Line Comes to Baseball* - Belle Vernon - Bellmar Middle School - **TEACHER - Ross Farmer**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL - CONTESTANTS AND TEACHERS - FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

Help support our friends at Washington & Jefferson College and
the Washington County Historical Society

A HISTORICAL SYMPOSIUM REMEMBERING **REBECCA HARDING DAVIS** Valedictorian. Journalist. Literary Pioneer.

Born and educated in Washington, PA, Rebecca Harding Davis ascended to national prominence in the 19th Century with her pioneering and provocative writing. Join us as we dedicate a new Pennsylvania State Historical Marker and celebrate her life and legacy.

**The Symposium Will Take Place on
Washington & Jefferson College Campus
and Nearby Historical Houses:**
Swanson Science Center, Dieter Porter, LeMoyné House,
and Bradford House

For a complete schedule and to register visit the [Symposium Website](#)

Rebecca Blaine Harding Davis (June 24, 1831–September 29, 1910; born Rebecca Blaine Harding) was an American author and journalist. She is deemed a pioneer of [literary realism](#) in [American literature](#). She graduated [valedictorian](#) from [Washington Female Seminary](#) in [Pennsylvania](#). Her most important literary work is the [novella *Life in the Iron Mills*](#), published in the April 1861 edition of the [Atlantic Monthly](#) which quickly made her an established female writer. Throughout her lifetime, Harding Davis sought to effect social change for blacks, women, Native Americans, immigrants, and the working class, by intentionally writing about the plight of these marginalized groups in the 19th century.



Do Textbooks Still Have a Place in Schools?

(March 14, 2013, Finding Common Ground Blog)

"It's not so much that we're afraid of change, or so in love with the old ways, but it's that place in between that we fear. It's like being between trapezes; it's Linus when his blanket is in the dryer ... there's nothing to hold on to."

Marilyn Ferguson

Most toddlers walk around with their little blankets. Of course, they call them binkies, blankies and a whole list of other cute names. Just like Linus, toddlers feel unsafe without their blankets because it offers them a level of safety. To young children, it feels unnatural to sit in their carriage or on their bed without their favorite comfort item clutched in their hand.

Many educators feel the same way about textbooks.[Continue](#)



The State of Global Competence

(March 15, 2013, Global Learning Blog)

... Heather Singmaster reported on the shortage of opportunities for students to learn a foreign language in this country. This week she looks at states that are showing support for not only language learning, but for a fully integrated, globally competent education.



Social Studies: But we're not testing for that this year

Started by David Mark Thomas, Classroom Teacher

I was flabbergasted to learn that some schools in Indiana - and I suspect there to be many others - basically skip the teaching of Indiana History in the 4th grade due to the time resources needed for instruction on subjects on the state tests that year.

With teacher's salaries and contract renewals now dependent upon test scores, school officials openly discourage instructional time being spent on social studies at that grade level. This is what reform is all about.



Fight the bureaucracy with best practices

A variety of factors have squeezed the fun out of today's classrooms, but it doesn't have to be this way, explains educator and author Mark Barnes. In a recent ASCD EDge blog post, Barnes, who developed the Results Only Learning Environment, writes that "it's up to teachers to ignore the bureaucracy and do what's right for students and for education." He explains just what that looks like in the post. [Read on.](#)



Using interactive games to teach students about money

Games can be used to improve students' understanding of money, writes Andrew Miller, an educational consultant and online educator. In anticipation of Financial Literacy Month in April, Miller shares a list of games, compiled by Ohio educator Brian Page. In one game, students -- or players -- manage a "day club" for vampires, while another game, Financial Football, allows students to score points by correctly answering financial questions. [Edutopia.org/Andrew Miller's blog](http://Edutopia.org/Andrew-Miller's-blog) (3/12)



Put Student Prayer Back in Schools? It Never Left

(March 18, 2013, Of, By, For Blog)

State-sponsored prayers in public schools, parents argued, violate the Establishment Clause ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion,"). And in 1962, the highest court in the land agreed, [by a 6-1 decision](#). As Justice Hugo Black wrote, "**We think that the constitutional prohibition against laws respecting an establishment of religion must at least mean that in this country it is no part of the business of government to compose official prayers for any group of the American people to recite as a part of a religious program carried on by government.**"

In its majority opinion, the Court tried to clarify a central point we've been misunderstanding ever since. "**It might well be said that one's education is not complete without a study of comparative religion or the history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization,**" wrote Justice Tom Clark. "**It certainly may be said that the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities. Nothing we have said here indicates that such study of the Bible or of religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education, may not be effected consistently with the First Amendment. But the exercises here do not fall into those categories. They are religious exercises, required by the States in violation of the command of the First Amendment that the Government maintain strict neutrality, neither aiding nor opposing religion.**"

Worth Reading

Social Studies is the study of how society and the world works. The headlong rush to STEM, Common Core and incessant testing has pushed it off the radar almost completely. The children who have passed through the high-stakes testing intestine that public education has become are remarkably uninformed young adults. A great many of them don't have the basic knowledge about American society, much less the greater outside world, to evaluate what they read/hear in what passes for public debate in this country. They are easy meat for the Big Lie and for political demagogues. —[Richard Sloan](#) • [View this comment and respond.](#)

Student Responsibility for Learning

(March 20, 2013, Walt Gardner's Reality Check Blog)

Reformers emphasize that teachers are the most important in-school factor in learning. Up to a point, that view is accurate. But it doesn't tell the whole story by a long shot.

... what happens if students don't want to be in school in the first place? What magic do teachers possess to make them want to learn? Before Evan Hunter, author of "The Blackboard Jungle," became famous, he taught in a vocational high school in New York City. He summed up his failure in the classroom this way: "I was trying, but they weren't buying." ...

People who are brutally honest get more satisfaction out of the brutality than out of the honesty." -- Richard Needham, Canadian humorist



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**

Win \$25! Find the answer!

The person who finds the answer must e-mail the editor, wlrw@yahoo.com with subject heading "Got the Point." The first email with the correct heading and answer will win \$25, provided they are a member. Non-members will receive \$15 + a membership. The program is limited. Only one winner a month and no repeat winners in a given year.

EXAMPLE OF CLUE: A program of FDR. (An article mentions TVA)

Or

CLUE:: He probably did not sleep here. (A picture of the Washington monument.)

Have fun! Look for answers in each issue.

.....

TODAY'S RIDDLE

Do you have a security blanket???

Name the article and page number suggested by this statement:

Last month's contest had no entries.

NOTE!

If there are no entries this month, we will retire the contest until a later date.