

## Electronic News from the Michigan Council for History Education

April 2021, Vol. XIX, No. 8

Dear Friends of MCHE

Two issues of significance for history educators will call for thoughtful reflection as well as creative teaching strategies: Legislative Redistricting and the Education for American Democracy proposal. Both topics call for discussions among educators as well as the community at large. To provide some background and opinion, attached are documents providing some background on each topic. Please let me know your thoughts by emailing me at [jam1776@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jam1776@sbcglobal.net)

Also, I urge you to consider registering for, and attending, the "Virtual" Conference of the National Council for History Education, Thurs.-Sun., April 8-11. Their programs have provided high quality presentations on a wide range of topics. You can earn 18 SCECH Credits when you "virtually" attend. See the attachment on the NCHE Conference

Check out the Freep article "Michigan audits debunk stolen election claims once and for all" by Jocelyn Benson, Secretariat of State" at <https://www.freep.com/story/opinion/contributors/2021/03/04/michigan-election-audit-election-voter-fraud/6918417002/>

NOTE: A thoughtful article on the COVID 19 impact on our lives is "15 Lessons the Coronavirus Pandemic Has Taught Us-What We've Learned over the Past 12 months Could Pay Off for Years to Come" in the AARP Bulletin, March 4, 202. Check it out at <https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2021/lessons-from-covid.html>

My thanks to all the writers/editors who contributed so much of the info compiled here.

Jim McConnell, MCHE E-Notes Editor

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For more info, visit MCHE on Facebook and the website at <http://teachinghistoryinmi.org>  
Questions, comments, corrections can be emailed to [teachinghistoryinmi@gmail.com](mailto:teachinghistoryinmi@gmail.com)

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### Attachments

#### Redistrict In Michigan

1. American Revolution Semiquincentennial Quiz
2. NCHE Conference, Thurs.-Sun., April 8-11
3. Sheep in Wolves Clothing. National Council for History Education Virtual Conference
4. Redistricting—CIRC

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1. Gilder Lehrman offers PD, with SCECH available from MCHE

"We are pleased to announce that a new digital professional development program in our 'How Did We Get Here?' series is now open for registration," MCHE President Elect Nick Orłowski said. On Tuesday, April 6, 8 - 10 p, the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History will present "Race Relations and African American Experiences: The Long Civil Rights Movement." The program features Ohio State University historian Hasan Kwame Jeffries and expert advice from an award-winning master teacher. All participants will receive a Teaching Literacy through History lesson plan (The Long Civil Rights Movement: Violent v. Nonviolent Protest, 1843-1966) optimized for online teaching, other classroom-friendly resources, and a certificate for two hours of professional development credit. For more info, visit <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/civicism/event/info?reset=1&id=1631>

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2. Earn 18 SCECH Credits when you "virtually" attend NCHE National Conference, Thurs.-Sun., April 8-11—Register Now!

With a theme of "Place and Time," the 2021 NCHE meeting offers an intriguing focus for the great keynotes presentation, workshop sessions and tours over the four day program. If you are a MCHE/NCHE member (see #1 above), you qualify for a discount on the registration fee. However, you must join via MCHE and provide three weeks for processing at both state and NCHE levels. Join NOW to take advantage of this savings. Conference details at <https://ncheteach.org>

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### 3. MCHE seeks nominees for Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards—Deadline May 1st!

MCHE offers three history teacher awards named in honor of MCHE founders Annette and Jim McConnell. The three award categories are elementary (K-5/6), secondary (5/6-12), and pre-service. Nominations for this award are due by May 1, 2021. Click on "Contests & Awards" at <https://www.teachinghistoryinmi.org>

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### 4. Hauenstein Center, GVSU, continues to offer high quality history events

Among the upcoming highlights in April and May at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Grand Valley state University, are:

(A) Thurs., April 22, 7:15 pm H.W. Brands, "The Educator and the Emancipator."

In his most recent book, *The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and the Struggle for American Freedom*, Brands tells the story of two adversaries who had a different vision of what the future of the United States should look like. For more info or to RSVP, visit or call (616) 331-2770

(B) Wed.-Thurs., May 26-27, Midwest History Conference, "The Midwest at the Intersection of Past and Present". As in 2016, the 2020 election year shined a spotlight on the Midwest with its battleground states. This conference continues a vibrant discussion which has grown significantly over the last six years, a collaborative conference designed to spark – and sustain – a revival of Midwestern studies in American historiography. More info on conference details at <https://www.gvsu.edu/hc/midwestern-history-conference-377.htm>

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### 5. USS Alliance and the Last Battle of the American Revolution

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution (focusing on the Semiquincentennial of the July 4, 1776, signing of the Declaration of Independence, Michael Deren "The Past in Person" (Visit <https://touring.michiganhumanities.org/project/michael-deren-the-past-in-person-history-and-you-involved/> ) Deren states, " Another interesting historic piece by "The History Guy". Click on the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLeSh8wk310>

BONUS: The intriguing story of the creation of the U.S. Navy is found in "Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy" by Ian W. Toll.

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### 6. Check out "Grover Cleveland's 1884 Election" on C Span 3

I just finished watching this lively, informative presentation on C SPAN 3: American History. The political commentary is valuable and insightful. Check out <https://www.c-span.org/video/?508447-1/grover-clevelands-1884-election>

Description: University of Kentucky Professor Mark Summers told the story of Democrat Grover Cleveland's 1884 election over Republican James G. Blaine. Both candidates faced moral questions during the campaign. Cleveland, that he fathered an illegitimate child and Blaine, that he used his congressional position for corrupt purposes. But, in the end, Cleveland's reform-minded ideas on the civil service system and money in politics prevailed in one of the most closely contested races in U.S. history.

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### 7. Library of Congress lessons.

For the 160th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/civil-war-through-a-childs-eye/> This is a middle school lesson plan for 8th graders which focuses on children's views of the Civil War through the use of primary sources. This lesson also helps develop the difference between primary and secondary sources.

(From Dick Cooley, GVSU)

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### 8. River Raisin's National Battlefield Park programs/events/ From the River

(From Dick Cooley, GVSU) <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/teaching-civics-voting-rights.htm> This link from the River Raisin website to the National Park Service focuses on an issue under current debate and proposed legislation, voting rights. It is a middle school lesson plan which analyzes why people vote or do not vote, some of the barriers to voting, how to increase voter turnout and requires students to provide specific textual evidence for their findings in primary sources.

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### 9. Colonial Williamsburg

This elementary level lesson plan studies 18th Century gardening as it also examines 21st Century food insecurity, a particular problem during the current pandemic. The lesson ends with students planning their own home garden. <https://resourcelibrary.history.org/sites/default/files/18th-CenturyGardeners.pdf>

(From Dick Cooley, GVSU)

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### 10. PBS offers education programs

This is a high school lesson plan which deconstructs consumerism. It includes a 25 minute film which examines the environmental, economic and social repercussions of increasing global consumerism.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zg1FDJpN6mRONqHHNIbCnodu7u\\_3dfRNzfAPmF-VY1U/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zg1FDJpN6mRONqHHNIbCnodu7u_3dfRNzfAPmF-VY1U/edit) (From Dick Cooley, GVSU)

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### 11. Law Day Opportunities

Celebrate this national event on the theme Advancing the Rule of Law Now with 30-minute field trip programs (Zoom) that discuss how laws shape students' lives and make them safer and more predictable.

Programs will feature Q&A with a justice, judge, or other representative of the judiciary.

-- May 3 --

9:30am | High School/College - Register at [https://miscao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_aVpDqgTeS8elpGw9hMfQrQ](https://miscao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aVpDqgTeS8elpGw9hMfQrQ)

11am | Elementary/Middle School - Register at [https://miscao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yQcHyKhsRs-Qh1wFjGWidg](https://miscao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yQcHyKhsRs-Qh1wFjGWidg)

1pm | Elementary/Middle School - Register at [https://miscao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tG0zmY8dTt2Rb6PbBYxgJw](https://miscao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tG0zmY8dTt2Rb6PbBYxgJw)

[https://miscao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tG0zmY8dTt2Rb6PbBYxgJw](https://miscao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tG0zmY8dTt2Rb6PbBYxgJw)

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### 12. MI Council on Economic Education- Teaching Economics in American History

Virtual PD-Saturday, April 24, 2021, 9am-2pm, Via Zoom. Teachers will receive \$100 stipend, 20 copies of the text, and five SCECH credits. Course is limited to the first 45 teachers that sign up.

Questions: Contact- Derek D'Angelo, Derek D'Angelo <derek@michiganecon.org> Register: <https://www.michiganecon.org/event-4173145>

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### 13. MCCE - Michigan Mock Trial Volunteers Needed for the State Finals

Mock Trial transforms students into attorneys and witnesses creating appreciation for the law, life-long critical thinkers, and members of a civic community. Volunteers are needed to assess and encourage developing young legal minds! Mock Trial is expanding to include courtroom illustration, journalism, and middle school events! Questions: Contact Ellen Zwarenstejn [ezwarenstejn@miciviced.org](mailto:ezwarenstejn@miciviced.org) To Volunteer Go To: [www.miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial](http://www.miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial)

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### 14. MGA- Check out Geography education resources

Go to MGA to view and download the lesson plans, supplements, and supports for integrating geography into your curriculum and learning activities. Questions: Contact [mga@cmich.edu](mailto:mga@cmich.edu)

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### 15. Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center ([courts.mi.gov/learningcenter](http://courts.mi.gov/learningcenter)) will offer virtual programs on Law Day (May 3) featuring Q&A with a Justice, and Exploring Careers in the Law for high school students (July 20). A new slide deck Justice Coleman: First Woman on the Michigan Supreme Court shows how her early life helped her become a trailblazer. See the website for details or email Rachael Drenovsky, [drenovskyr@courts.mi.gov](mailto:drenovskyr@courts.mi.gov).

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### 16. Michigan Women History Center (<https://miwf.org/>)

WomanUp & Celebrate! Grand Rapids, April 21 and in Detroit on April 28.  
(From Nadine Hall, Greenhills School, Ann Arbor)

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### 17. History News Network (<http://historynewsnetwork.org/donations.html> )

Features articles for Historians: The History Behind Demands for “Trial by Combat”, FDR and the Need for Truth and An Unwanted Journey “Home”: Black American Internees in World War II Europe.

(From Nadine Hall, Greenhills School, Ann Arbor)

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### 18. Other Michigan Museums

\*Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (<https://www.thewright.org/visit>)

--Virtual Gallery Tour: includes Ibrahim Mahama, In-Between the World and Dreams and Portal of Sankofa: Adinkra Doors

--Black Action Figures: It Figures-Adversity and Overcoming, Wednesday, starting March 31st, 4:00pm

\*Arab American National Museum (<https://arabamericanmuseum.org/>)

--Reading Coffee, Writing the Future with Levon Kafafian, two sessions: 1-4pm, Saturday, April 3 & Saturday, April 10.

--English-Arabic Storytime Online: Ten Ways to Hear Snow & The World Is Not A Rectangle, 1:00pm, Monday, April 26.

\*Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus (<https://www.holocaustcenter.org/>)  
Yom HaShoah Virtual Commemoration, Thursday, April 8, 7:00pm.  
(From Nadine Hall, Greenhills School, Ann Arbor)

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19. Clements Library/UM (<https://clements.umich.edu/>)

The Clements Bookworm: Online Event for History Lovers on May 19, 2021 at 10:00-11:00am.  
Panelists and featured guests discuss history topics.  
(From Nadine Hall, Greenhills School, Ann Arbor)

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20. Historical Society of Michigan

The Historical Society of Michigan will be presenting a virtual lecture by John Geisler of Western Michigan University called "From Pathway to Expressway: A History of the Sauk Trail: on Tuesday, April 6, from noon to 1:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 14, between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m., Thomas J. Noer of Carthage College will be giving a virtual lecture, "Soapy Williams: The Conscience of the Democratic Party." For more information about these and other "History Hounds" lectures, see <https://hsmichigan.org/2020/11/03/history-hounds/>.

(From Jana Pisani, Ferris State University)

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21. "Bridge" (The Center for Michigan)

--Ron French, "Free College Tuition in Michigan: Which Schools Offer What," March 8, 2021. See <https://www.bridgemi.com/topics/talent-education>

--Ron French, "Michigan's Game-Changing Preschool Program 'Untenable' without More Funding," March 10, 2021. See <https://www.bridgemi.com/topics/talent-education>

(From Jana Pisani, Ferris State University)

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22. "This Month in History," from "The History Place"

--April 2, 1792--Congress established the first U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

--April 10, 1945--The Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald was liberated by American troops.

--April 24, 1800--The Library of Congress was established in Washington, D.C.

--April 30, 1948--The country of Israel was established as Palestinian Jews declared their independence from British control.

(From Jana Pisani, Ferris State University)

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23. George Washington's Mount Vernon

George Washington's Mount Vernon is offering free five-day digital institutes as professional development opportunities for K12 teachers this summer. The six thematic programs will be held between June 14 and August 6 of 2021. Stipends of \$750 will be provided to all teachers who are accepted to, and attend, the George Washington Teacher Institutes for these programs. For more information, see <https://www.mountvernon.org/education/for-teachers/teaching-institutes-professional-development/digital-professional-development/digital-institutes/>

(From Jana Pisani, Ferris State University)

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#### 24. Michigan Freedom Trail Commission searches for Presentation Proposals

In partnership with the Michigan History Center, the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission is seeking presentation proposals for their 2021 Fall Conference. Due to the potential for both virtual and in-person conference formats, the MFTC is looking for proposals which may be flexible to both venues. As in previous years, the conference seeks to share the stories of Michigan's freedom seekers and activists, as well as create an opportunity for collaboration and networking. Proposals for presentations are due June 1st, 2021. Stay tuned for conference registration information. (from Kailie Burk , Rockford Schools)

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#### 25. Voices and Votes: A museum which could travel to your town

The Michigan Humanities Council is sponsoring a traveling museum during 2021 and beyond. The exhibit, Voices and Votes, brings the U.S. struggle for political equality to life with an array of primary sources, including photographs, video, and memorabilia. The Museum's first stop will be in Big Rapids from March 27-May 9, with subsequent stops across the state of Michigan. Teachers, professors, and other community education professionals should consider contacting James Nelson with the Michigan Humanities Council at [jnelson@mihumanities.org](mailto:jnelson@mihumanities.org) with requests to bring the museum to your town.

(from Kailie Burk , Rockford Schools)

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#### 26. Rosie the Riveter and Michigan's Motor City Heritage

The Michigan Motor City Heritage area offers regular Continuing Education opportunities through their "At Home Series." Additionally, many past presentations are archived on their webpage, many filled with high-quality historical research and primary source ripe for the taking. One such presentation by Alison Beatty covers the role of women during World War II and how many "Rosies" worked in Motor City at the Ford Motor Willow Run plant. Her presentation provides detailed explanations on the challenges and responsibilities taken up by women during this time period. This and many others archived on the Motor City Heritage Area website offer opportunity for Continuing Education or classroom instruction. (from Kailie Burk , Rockford Schools)

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#### 27. The Henry Ford Museum offers Historical Evidence of Conspiracy Theory consequences

Many Educators across Michigan are aware of The Henry Ford Museum and the quality sources available both at the Museum and through the online archives. Few, however, are aware of the man, Henry Ford's, complex past as an anti-semitic. As owner of the Dearborn Independent, Ford published a series of conspiracy theories, blaming Jewish people for the world's ills; newspapers which were distributed to his dealerships and business partners. The Museum acknowledges this dark past and the damages potentially done by Ford during this era. Additionally, they provide a plethora of primary sources as evidence of this past, allowing teachers to dig into this reality with their students and discuss both the consequences and causes of racism and misinformation in our nation's past and present (Mi K-12 7.2.1). (from Kailie Burk , Rockford Schools)

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#### 28. C SPAN offers great resources for educators

Bell Ringers, Lesson Plans & Much More: Our C-SPAN Classroom website <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/> is updated regularly with FREE resources for social studies teachers. Check it out for C-SPAN Video Library content related to 117th Congress, the Senate elections in Georgia and more.

Did you miss something? Don't forget! You can watch all C-SPAN programs anytime after they air with C-SPAN's Video Library.= <https://www.c-span.org/quickguide/> The FREE Video Library currently contains nearly 265,000 hours of video — every program that has aired since 1987!

The THREE C-SPAN networks are:

\*\* C-SPAN covers the House of Representatives,

\*\* C-SPAN2 covers the Senate and on the weekends becomes Book TV,

\*\* C-SPAN3 provides additional public affairs programming — including press briefings, congressional hearings and speeches — and on the weekends becomes American History TV

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### 29. Interesting Info shared by Michael Deren

(A) Learn about Michigan's Interurban Railway System from the Grass Lakes Lost Railway Museum/ Check it out at [www.lostraiwaymusuem.org](http://www.lostraiwaymusuem.org) (I did not know this museum existed.) Visit [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=493711021403931&id=190977700968037](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=493711021403931&id=190977700968037)

(B) Tom Woodruff is an illustrator for great books that are in most public and school libraries, in Michigan. He does wonderful drawing workshops (in person pre-pandemic and free currently on-line). History and story-telling and illustrations combined. Appropriate for all ages.. For details, visit <https://www.woodruffdesigns.com/>

(C) "The History Guy" offers insights on "Pandemic and 1918: How History and Illness Intertwine." Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbXolvI70e8>

(D) Watch "2010 Documentary-"We Heard the Bells: The Influenza of 1918"

Available on C SPAN, this 52 minute video describes research on the 1918 influence epidemic and its aftermath. Visit. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbEefT\\_M6xY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbEefT_M6xY)

(F) "DID WEATHER CHANGE HISTORY?"

This very interesting article by Norm D. Bloom offers several examples of how the weather directly impacted significant historical events. Worth sharing with students. Visit <https://www.almanac.com/did-weather-change-history>

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### 30. Time to make summer travel plans?

As we hope we can 'control' the pandemic and begin thinking about summer travel, here is a list of the ten most popular National Parks. How many have you visited (Annette and I have visited nine, missing Olympic.)

1. Great Smoky Mountains NationalPark (12.1 million visits in 2020), 1st in 2019

2. Yellowstone National Park (3.8 million), 6th in 2019

3. Zion National Park, Utah (3.6 million), 4th in 2019

4. Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado (3.3 million), 3rd in 2019

5. Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming (3.3 million), 8th in 2019

6, Grand Canyon National Park (2.9 million), 2nd in 2019

7. Cuyahoga Valley National Park,Ohio (2.8 million), new entry in top 10

8. Acadia National Park, Maine (2.7 million), 7th in 2019

9. Olympic National Park, Washington state (2.5 million), 9th in 2019

10. Joshua Tree National Park, California (2.4 million), new entry in top 10