

Joan Brodsky Schur

20 East 9th Street, New York, New York 10003

jbschur@gmail.com

www.joanbrodskyschur.com

OVERVIEW

Educator of social studies teachers, curriculum developer, author.

Highlights: Contributor to professional journals; writer of curriculum materials including on-line lessons for PBS and the National Archives; book author and editor on topics including strategies for teaching American history, the literature of American immigration, the Arab American experience. Instructor for Bank Street College Continuing Professional Studies. Board Member of the Middle East Outreach Council (2008-2012). Former member of the TeacherSource Advisory Group for PBS Online. Social Studies Consultant to the Village Community School and City & Country School, NYC. Social studies and English teacher at VCS from 1981 to 2002.

Fields of Interest: American History, Immigration, Anthropology, Islam in World History, Modern European History, and literature related to those fields.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Author of *Eyewitness to the Past: Strategies for Teaching American History in Grades 5-8*. Stenhouse Publishers, 2007.

Editor of *Coming to America: The Arabs*. Greenhaven Press, 2005.

Author of *Immigrants in America: The Arab Americans*, a book for school libraries, Lucent Press, 2004.

Co-author of *In A New Land: An Anthology of Immigrant Literature*, National Textbook Company, 1994. A literary anthology for high school students with suggested writing activities and a Teacher's Manual. (Now published by McGraw-Hill)

Curriculum Materials

Advocating for Abolition: Staging an Abolitionist Convention, co-author. Interact Publications, 2011.

Author of over 25 lessons for PBS Online (www.pbs.org) including lessons for the Ken Burns films *Jazz*, *The West*, *The Civil War*, and for The American Experience, P.O.V. and other programs.

Author of lessons on international law, world trade, and travelers for *The Indian Ocean in World History*, <http://www.indianoceanhistory.org/>

Curriculum Contributor, *Interweaving Cultures: Islam in Southeast Asia, A guide for Teachers and Students*. New York: Asia Society, 2007.

Activity Writer for *The Idea of America*, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. 2008

Curriculum Writer, the Educator's Guide for *The War: A Ken Burns Film* distributed in print to schools throughout the U.S.A. PBS & WETA, 2007.

Curriculum Writer, Educator's Guide to the Ken Burns film *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*, distributed in print to schools across America. PBS & WETA, 2005.

Author of lessons for The Islam Project.org, including 7 commissioned to accompany the film "Muslim American Teens Speak," 2004.

"Alexander Graham Bell's Patent for the Telephone and Thomas Edison's Patent for the Electric Lamp," in Our Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service. National History Day, 2003.

Contributing Author, The Constitution Community, National Archives and Records Administration: www.nara.gov/education/cc. One of 9 U.S. teachers asked by the Archives to write lessons for its Website. 1998

Creator of the series American Letters, Interact, 1986 and author of American Letters 1913-1929 and American Letters 1930-1945. (Co-author of the remaining 3 booklets covering 20th century American history.)

Journal Articles

"Advocating for Abolition: Staging an Abolitionist Society Meeting" with Andy Robinson. Social Education (National Council for the Social Studies) Vol. 74 No. 4 (September 2010)

"The Baghdad that Was: Using Primary Sources to Teach World History." Social Education, Vol. 73 No. 1 (January/February 2009).

"Teaching about Religious Phobia in the United States," Spring 2010. "People and the Land in Iran: A Lesson in Human Geography," Spring 2008 among other lessons published in Perspectives: The Newsletter of the Middle East Outreach Council.

"Puritan Day: A Social Science Simulation." Social Education Vol. 71. No.7 (November/December, 2007)

“Sindbad the Sailor and the Eastward Journey of Islam.” Education About Asia (Association for Asian Studies). Vol. 10, No. 1 (Spring 2005).

“Trade, Travel and Scholarship in Dar al Islam: A Simulation Activity.” Social Education Vol. 66 (Nov.-Dec. 2002).

“We Are Living History: Reflections of a New York City Social Studies Teacher.” Social Education Vol. 65 (October 2001).

“Learning Across Cultures: From New York City to Rotorua” with Claire Schnell. Social Education Vol. 63 (March 1999).

“Teaching about the Irish Famine in New Zealand and the USA” with Claire Schnell. The New Zealand Journal of Social Studies Vol. 7 (June 1999).

“From Fiction to Field Notes: Observing Ibo Culture in *Things Fall Apart*.” Social Education Vol. 61 (Nov/Dec 1997).

"The Literature of Immigration and the Lives of Adolescents: Finding Common Ground." Language Arts Journal of Michigan Vol. 12 (Spring 1996).

"Students as Social Science Researchers: Gender Issues in the Classroom." Social Education Vol. 59 (March, 1995).

"No Taxation Without Representation: A Simulation Activity." Social Education Vol. 56 (January 1992).

"Updating the Issues in 'Julius Caesar.'" Notes Plus (National Council of Teachers of English) March 1992.

"A Recommendation for Tom Sawyer." Notes Plus (December 1991).

"Students as Newspaper Reporters During the Civil War." Social Education Vol. 53 (January 1989).

"Letter Exchanges: Living Through the Past in a Fictional Correspondence." Social Education Vol. 48 (April 1984).

"Question Charts and Interconnection Charts." Social Education Vol. 45 (April 1981).

"Helping Students to Visualize What They Read." English Journal Vol. 69 (February 1980).

"History Comes Alive: A Hypothetical Election Debate." The Social Studies Vol. 69 (July/August 1978).

"Maps and Graphs: 'The Total is More Than the Sum of its Parts.'" New England Social Studies Bulletin Vol. 34 (Winter 1976-77).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TEACHER TRAINING

- Nov. 2010 “The Medieval Suqs of Baghdad and Their Influence on Renaissance Art” with Karima Alavi. “Three Extraordinary Thematic Units - and How To Build Your Own” with NCSS President Syd Golston, both at National Council for the Social Studies, Denver.
- Nov. 2009 “Advocating for Abolition: Staging a Mock Abolitionist Society Meeting” with Andy Robinson, NCSS Annual Conference, Atlanta.
- Oct. 2009 Full-day workshop presenter for the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding of Georgetown University, with Susan Douglass. Presented at Northern Illinois University for the Rockford Public Schools, Illinois.
- Feb. 2009 “Reenacting Past Elections Using Primary Sources.” The 49th Annual Greater Metropolitan New York Social Studies Conference.
- Nov. 2008 “The Legacy of Confucianism in the 20th and 21st Centuries” with Kevin Lawrence of China Institute and Karri Ankrom.
“Third World Literature for World History Classes” with Syd Golston and Donna Schell. Both at NCSS Annual Conference, Houston.
“Using *Sindbad the Sailor* to teach about the Eastward Journey of Islam” presented at Georgetown University in conjunction with MEOC.
- July, 2008 “Travel and Trade on the Indian Ocean: Teaching Strategies” presented at Yale University for the Teacher Institute “From Silk to Oil” hosted by Programs in International Educational Resources.
- June, 2008 “Re-enacting Past Elections Using Primary Sources” held at the National Archives, Northeast Region in partnership with the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and the NYC Department of Education
- Nov. 2007 “Student-Created Scrapbooks of the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras” with Christina Pelekanos and Jared Williams.
“Bridging to Literature: 12 Short Stories for American History Classes” with Syd Golston and Donna Schell. Both at NCSS Annual Conference, San Diego.
- July & Nov, 2007 “Teaching about Muslim Cities: Classroom Strategies” presented at Yale University for the Teacher Institute “Metropolis: City Living from Timbuktu to Tashkent” hosted by Programs in International Educational Resources and again for the Middle East Outreach Council’s annual conference in Montreal.
- Feb. 2007 “Incorporating the Study of Islam into the Curriculum” a twelve-hour workshop presented at the Scarsdale Teacher Institute, New York.

- Dec. 2006 “The Baghdad That Was” part of a session organized by Syd Golston on teaching world history with primary source documents. National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Nov. 2004 “Incorporating Islam into the Social Studies Curricula” part of a pre-conference clinic moderated by the American Forum for Global Education. National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Baltimore.
- Nov. 2003 “Writing to Learn/Learning to Write: 12 Great Secondary Activities” with Syd Golston. NCSS Annual Conference, Chicago.
- April, 2003 “Islam and the World,” presented by the American Forum for Global Education, N.Y.C.
- March, 2003 “Islam and World History: Making Connections Through A Simulation of Trade and Travel,” with Andy Robinson. Association of Teachers in Independent Schools, NYC.
- Nov. 2002 “Trade and Travel in the Islamic World: A Simulation Activity.”
“The Rights of Women in Islam” with Karima Alavi.
Both at the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Phoenix.
- Oct. 2002 Chair, “Using Archives as Teaching Tools.” Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. Poughkeepsie, NY.
- March 2002 “Trade, Travel and Scholarship in Dar al Islam.” Presented at Asia Society, co-sponsored by the American Forum for Global Education, New York City,
- Spring 2002 “Religion as a Key to Teaching the Middle Ages: Judaism, Christianity and Islam” with Andy Robinson. Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies, Boston.
- Spring 2000 “Using the National Archives Websites to Create Document-Based Lessons.” Association of Teachers in Independent Schools, NYC.
- Fall 1999. “The Irish Famine: A Cross-National Curriculum to Foster Global Responsibility.” National Council for the Social Studies. Annual Conference, Orlando Florida.
- Fall 1999 “Using Teacher Resources at the National Archives Websites.” Long Island Council for the Social Studies.
- Fall 1998 “Sharing Family Folklore Across Cultures.” National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA.
- July 1997 “New Zealand and the US: Long Distance Interactive Projects that Help Students Explore Personal and National Identities,” with Claire Schnell.
Connections 97: Education for Responsible Citizenship an international conference held at the University of Sydney, Australia.

- Spring 1997 "Beyond Pen Pals: Long-Distance Innovative Projects." Association of Teachers in Independent Schools, NYC
- Spring 1995 "Common Themes in Immigrant Literature and the Lives of Adolescents." Spring Conference of the National Council of Teachers of English, Minneapolis.
- Spring 1995 "Literature of the American Immigrant Experience: Connecting Students' Lives to a Diverse Culture." Association of Teachers in Independent Schools, NYC.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 1996-to date Reviewer of articles submitted to Social Education.
- 2008-2012 Elected to serve on the board of the Middle East Outreach Council, a national network of resources for educators and an affiliate of the Middle East Studies Association.
- 2005 Invited to serve on WNET's Advisory Board for *Access Islam*.
- 2004-2005 Hired to create a school visit for high school students for Lefferts Historic House in Brooklyn, NY based on primary sources in their archives. Also created an after-school activity on Dutch cooking.
- 2002-2004 Invited to serve on the TeacherSource Advisory Group of PBS Online
- 2002-2005 Appointed Vice Chair of the International Activities Committee of the National Council for the Social Studies, 2002-2004.
- 1996-1998 Alumni Council Representative, The Dalton School, NYC.
Organized a symposium at The Dalton School for alumni educators.
- 1999-2000 Wrote "New York: A Magnet for Writers" for the American Collection Website (www.ncteamericancollection.org) of the National Council for Teachers of English.
- Summer 1995 Bibliography on Literature of Immigration prepared with Sari Grossman, distributed to the Institute of Writing, Reading and Civic Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education.

FUNDED STUDY AND TRAVEL GRANTS

- Spring 2011 Educators' tour of Turkey funded through Ohio State University.
- Summer 2007 Travel with Yale University Programs in International Educational
& 2005 to Morocco and Turkey,
- Summer 2003 Recipient of a grant to study and tour China, Mongolia and Tibet with the American Forum for Global Education.
- Summer 2001 Recipient of a Fulbright-Hays grant to study and travel in Eastern Turkey.
- Summer 1998 Dar al Islam Teachers' Institute, Abiquiu NM. Completed "Understanding and Teaching about Islam" under a grant from the Institute.
- Summer 1997 Visit to schools in New Zealand funded in part through a grant from the Village Community School.
- Summer 1995 Completed "American Women's Lives" with a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities Teacher Institute, Albany, NY. Wrote unit on women in the Civil War.
- Summer 1991 Completed "Primarily Teaching" funded by the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Learned to use primary source material in the Archives to develop teaching materials. Wrote unit on "Anti-Slavery Petitions and the Gag Rule."

Other Travel:

Frequent travel in France. Fluency in conversational French used on trips to Tunisia with GEEO and as Course Instructor in Morocco for Bank Street College. Extensive personal travel in Western Europe.

MEMBERSHIPS, DISTINCTIONS, TEACHING CERTIFICATES

Listed in: Who's Who in America, 2000
Who's Who of American Women, 2007
Who's Who in American Education, 2008

Certifications: New York State, English 7-12; New York City, English. Junior High

Memberships: National Council for the Social Studies; Association of Teachers in Independent Schools, Organization of American Historians, Middle East Outreach Council, ASCD Educational Leadership, Society for History Education.

TEACHING & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Educating Teachers

- 2005- Instructor, Bank Street College Continuing Professional Studies, New York City. Developed and presented courses at the College for teachers-in-training and Head Teachers; Instructor for Cultural Explorations in Morocco: Implications for Educators in Multicultural Settings held in Morocco spring 2010 and 2011.
- 2001-11 VILLAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, New York City.
Social Studies Coordinator, 1st to 8th grades. Meet with teachers, run team meetings, develop curricula, teach model lessons in classrooms, guide curriculum mapping, maintain and develop resource center, present to staff and families, provide staff with professional development opportunities.
- 2002- CITY & COUNTRY SCHOOL, New York City
Social Studies Consultant for 5th through 8th grades. Individual and team meetings, Support professional growth, teach model lessons, etc.

Teaching and Other Administrative Experience

- 1981- VILLAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Teacher 1981 to 2002: 8th Grade American History and English, 7th Grade Islamic World, Anthropology and English, 6th Grade Immigration and English.
Elective Courses: Legal Rights, Newspaper, Debate, World War II, Play Reading, Model Congress, Poetry Workshop.
High School Advisor, 1981-1992.
Coordinator, Upper School (6th-8th grades), 1985-87.
Staff Representative to the Council (governing board) of VCS, 1985-87 and 1994-1996.
- 1971-78 CITY & COUNTRY SCHOOL, New York City
Teacher 8th grade English and American History
High School Advisor
Staff representative to the Executive Committee (governing board), 1973-1978
2004 - Consultant to teachers of social studies, 6th -8th.
- 1970 - 1971 INTERMEDIATE PUBLIC SCHOOL 52, Bronx, NY
Official Teacher, Class 6-10.
English Teacher, 6th grade.
Special Reading Teacher of "problem children" in the 5th - 7th grades.

EDUCATION:

1969-71 New York University, Graduate School of Education,
Master of Arts In Teaching. (The M.A.T. program included 18 credits of English literature
at the N.Y.U. Graduate School of Arts and Science as well as a paid internship in
New York City public school system.)

1965-69 New York University, College of Arts and Science, Bronx, NY. B.A.
Major: English Minor: History.