

# **The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society**

“Fiction is of great value to any people as a preserver of manners and customs--religious, political and social. It is a record of growth and development from generation to generation.”

Contending Forces (1899)



## **2025 Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Memorial Student Scholarship and Creative Writing Awards**

The Pauline Hopkins Society (<http://www.paulinehopkinssociety.org>) is pleased to invite submissions for the Pauline Hopkins Memorial Student Scholarships. The awards are intended to commemorate the life and work of Boston- and Cambridge-based writer Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins (1859-1930), who lived and worked in the area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A dynamic polymath and extremely prolific writer, Hopkins first came to prominence when she won an award for an essay she wrote as a teenager on the “Evils of Intemperance and Their Social Remedy.” She went on to write several popular plays, novels, short stories, and essays, and was editor-in-chief of *The Colored American Magazine* from its creation in 1900 until 1904, when the magazine moved its offices to New York.

This year, there will be two \$100 cash scholarships presented to students of African heritage of a Cambridge or Boston Public high school, college, or university. One scholarship will be for the best essay, and one scholarship will be for the best piece of creative writing. Scholarships will be awarded to students whose writing encapsulates the topics of social justice, ideals of Black feminist thought, and/or the genre and writing style employed by Hopkins.

**Interested candidates can submit a creative piece (up to 2500 words) or/and essay (between 1000 and 2500 words) via email to [Phsstudentaward@gmail.com](mailto:Phsstudentaward@gmail.com) by March 3, 2025.** Only one essay and one creative writing entry is permitted per student. Essays and creative pieces must be solely the work of the entrant.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Essays and creative pieces will be judged on style, originality, and content. For essays, judges will look for writing that is lively, clear, articulate, and logically organized. For creative pieces, judges will look for work that is unique, substantive in purpose or meaning, and reflective of Hopkins’ style. Winning pieces must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the significance of social justice—a topic of central and lifelong interest for Hopkins—and how [Hopkins](#) incorporated this crucial subject within her writing. Participants may submit entries in both award categories, but can only win an award in one category.