2018 Women's History Month Essay Contest

As women who are passionate about teaching young people today about equality and the history of women in the work place, we are delighted to once again sponsor the *Women's History Month Essay Contest* highlighting contributions made by extraordinary women over past decades that have paved the way providing opportunities for women today to advance in society and the workplace.

We invite essay contest participants to take advantage of this opportunity to examine the following essay topic:

Topic: *This year's topic explores the life of **Amelia Mary Earhart,** an American aviation pioneer and author. Earhart was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She received the U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross for this accomplishment. She set many other records, wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences and was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety-Nines, an organization for female pilots. She was a visiting faculty member at Purdue University as an advisor to aeronautical engineering and a career counselor to women students. She was also a member of the National Woman's Party and an early supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment.*

Please examine the status of Ms. Earhart in the early part of the century, what did she endure during her time as a non-traditional woman at that time? What drove her to succeed and how did society portray her? Was the society aware of all her accomplishments? How do you feel she paved the way for women today?

Length: *500-750 words*

Eligibility: *South Plainfield residents in grades 9-12*

Deadline: *April 16, 2018*

Prize: ***First Prize**: $250.00 Gift Card, **Second Prize**: $150.00 Gift Card and **Third Prize**: $100.00 Gift Card. The winners will be announced at the Mayor & Council Meeting in June and also recognized in the local newspaper. The winners will be chosen by the Women's Leadership Committee (Debbie Boyle, Nina Rohrer, April Bengivenga, Shannon Jefferys, Pat DeSantis & Stephanie Bartfalvi) and the Suburban Women's Club of South Plainfield.*

Submit to: *Nina Rohrer*
106 Puha Road
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Email: linarohrer@aol.com
Please include name, address, grade, phone number, and email address on your essay.

Women's History Month is celebrated every March in the United States and is a month-long celebration of women's contribution to culture, history and society. The National Women's History Month honors women who successfully challenged their role in both business and the paid labor force. Women have always worked, but often their work has been undervalued and unpaid. Facing stark inequalities in the workplace (lower wages, poor working conditions and limited opportunities), women has fought for decades to make the workplace a less hostile environment, equal opportunities and equal wages. Please join us in celebrating women's history and advancement in the United States of America.

Famous Firsts in Women's History:

- On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women the right to vote, was declared in effect.
- In 1943, The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League becomes the first professional baseball league for female players.
- In 1977, Janet Guthrie is the first woman to drive in the Indy 500 car race.
- On July 7, 1981, President Reagan nominated Arizona Judge Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the United States Supreme Court.
- In January 1997, Madeleine Albright becomes the first female Secretary of State.
- On March 7, 2010, Kathryn Bigelow becomes the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Director
- On July 26, 2016, Hillary Clinton becomes first female presidential nominee of a major party