February 14, 2022

Dear Principal,

The Healdsburg Museum is pleased to offer students in local schools a chance to participate in our annual Family History Essay Challenge. I have included some flyers and teacher information that can be distributed to your 3rd - 8th grade teachers. The contest does not have to be a class assignment, teachers could just send home the information page and encourage students and families to complete at home. If you are interested in having your students participate in this essay challenge, please distribute the flyers to the appropriate teachers. Feel free to make duplicate copies as needed.

We look forward to reading your students’ essays.

Thank you for your consideration,

Phyllis Chiosso Liu
Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society
Volunteer Education Coordinator
Dear Teachers and Parents,

The Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society is once again offering local 3rd - 8th grade students the opportunity to take part in the annual Family History Essay Challenge. This is a chance for students to bridge the generations and write a story reflecting an event or experience in their family’s past. Perhaps it is a story that has been told over and over again at family gatherings, or a story that can be written by interviewing a grandparent or another older relative about what life was like when they were growing up. We are looking for stories based on a memory rather than biographies or a family tree kind of listing. I am including a sample of a past winning essay.

This essay could be part of a classroom assignment or it could be a voluntary assignment written at home. You do not need to correct them- just send them our way. We want to make this as easy as possible for the classroom teachers. We have a committee of readers that will go through all the essays and score them on a rubric with an emphasis on originality and reader interest.

Each winner of the Challenge will receive a cash prize, a book of the winning essays, and be honored at a special Museum event. They will also have their group picture published in the Museum monthly Review and posted on the Museum’s website. The booklet of winning essays will be on display at the Museum. The winning essays will also be displayed at the Healdsburg Public Library over the summer for friends, family and visitors to enjoy. We encourage you to inform your students about this opportunity and we look forward to reading their essays.

**Essays need to be submitted to phcliu@gmail.com by April 15, 2022**

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Phyllis Chiosso Liu  phcliu@gmail.com  or (707) 696-8968
Volunteer Education Coordinator, Family History Essay Challenge
Moppy

Moppy is my grandmother and she grew up in Healdsburg. When she was a young girl her grandfather bought her a horse; a beautiful palomino named Trigger. Moppy loved Trigger dearly and she boarded him in a nearby pasture because she lived in town. After school she would walk to the pasture, saddle up Trigger and ride him to a nearby arena. After her ride she would take him back to his pasture, remove his saddle and bridle and walk back home. Sometimes Trigger would roll in the grass because it was sweaty and itchy under the saddle. One time as he was rolling in the grass he got his hoof caught in the wire fence. As he pulled and kicked he almost pulled his hoof off. It was hours later when someone found him. Moppy’s family called the vet who sewed him up but the vet said, “He might have a limp,” but Moppy didn’t care. Moppy kept Trigger in the barn and he started to heal up, but as it started getting well the stitches must have started to itch. Trigger started biting and chewing at the stitches, he opened it back up and this time the vet said,” This time he has to be put down.” Moppy cried and cried and cried. Moppy locked herself in her room and said, ‘I’m never coming out!’ But Moppy did. That was over 50 years ago and it still makes Moppy sad to think about Trigger to this day.
Annual Family History Essay Challenge
2022
Grades 3-8

Discover Your Family’s History

Interview an older family member and ask them to recall a memorable event in their life. Write an essay highlighting this story. We are looking for an essay about a single event, not a biography. Your story can be about a funny, important or interesting event that your relative experienced.

We look forward to reading your essays!

Essay Requirements

- Typed, 12 point, Times New Roman font
- Single spaced, one page of text max (will be returned for editing if exceeds limit).
- Top right hand corner of your essay must include full name, grade and school.
- Attach as a Word document to phcliu@gmail.com
- Margins should be- Top: .75 Bottom: .75
  Left: 1 Right:.75

Essays will be judged on interest to the reader, style, spelling and grammar.

Prizes will be awarded at each grade level
1st place- $100  2nd Place- $75  3rd Place- $50  HM- $25
Please include the following student information with Essay

Student’s First and Last Name________________________________________________

Grade________________________

School________________________

Teacher_________________________

Teacher’s Email____________________

Parent Contact (Needed in order to notify winning Students’ families).

Parent Name____________________

Parent Email____________________

Parent Phone Number________________

Mailing Address________________________

**Essay Deadline: April 15, 2022**

Email completed essays and student information as a Word attachment to phcliu@gmail.com

Questions? Contact Phyllis Liu, Volunteer Education Coordinator at phcliu@gmail.com or call (707) 696-8968