



Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins

The Newsletter of

The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society

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Restoring a Legacy – Thoughts from the President

*“Republics exist only
on the tenure of
being constantly
agitated.”*

*We cannot live
without the voice in
the
wilderness—
troubling the waters
that there may be
health in the
flow.”*

—from “Munroe Rogers”
editorial for the
Colored American Magazine,
November 1902

In 2014, the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society explored additional approaches to rewarding its members and to promoting scholarship on Hopkins's life and works. Indeed, committee chairs and members launched important initiatives that will introduce Hopkins to the next generation of young scholars and will continue to define her complex legacy. We welcomed new and returning leadership, established awards for a high school essay and the best scholarly publication on Hopkins, offered an online credit card payment system, experimented with a Facebook page, and continued our strong presence at the American Literature Association Conference. All of these developments speak to the important work of the PEHS. In formal meetings members and officers have debated ways to continue to attract more members, and I think that Awards and Monuments Chair Nicole Aljoe (Northeastern University) provided an important framework from which to articulate the benefits of membership. Aljoe observed that the Hopkins society gives scholars the rare gift of being able to collaborate with and receive support from others who are invested in the important work of bringing more attention to Pauline Hopkins's brilliant oeuvre and its influence on American arts and letters.

Hopkins Disciples

The PEHS continues to be a leader in Hopkins research. According to webmaster Mary Frances Jimenez (formerly of University of Maryland, College Park), the PEHS website has one of the highest locations in search engines when scholars type in the author's name, PEHS, or related words and phrases. Indeed, the most frequently visited sections of the page are the Hopkins Biography and Bibliography. We are now using social media as well to provide information on Pauline Hopkins. Amy Bennett-Zendzian (Boston University) launched the PEHS Facebook page earlier this year.

At the 2014 American Literature Association Conference, we offered another provocative open topics panel, which was moderated by distinguished Hopkins scholar, and former PEHS President, John Gruesser. The panelists, JoAnn Pavletich (University of Houston-Downtown), Kerstin Rudolph (College at Brockport SUNY), and Brian Sweeney (College of St. Rose) offered fresh perspectives on a range of intriguing topics in Hopkins works, postmodernism, black masculinity, and Washington, D.C. We hope that Boston and Cambridge college-bound African American female high school graduates will also study Hopkins, perhaps for the first time, due to our new Pauline Hopkins Memorial High School Scholarship, which will award \$150 to the best essay on any aspect of social justice.

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Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society
Annual Meeting Minutes
American Literature Association Conference
Washington, DC
May 22, 2014

The annual meeting of the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society was held on Thursday, May 22, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by the Historian, John Gruesser, who presided over the meeting in April Logan's absence.

The minutes of the May 25, 2013, meeting, which were previously distributed, were approved.

Due to the significant number of officers' reports submitted in advance, and the small number of attendees at the meeting, John moved that the reports be briefly summarized with a focus on action items instead of being read verbatim. The motion carried.

Alisha Knight summarized the Treasurer's report, noting that the Society currently has \$3,315. The Treasurer (Jill Bergman) reported that the Society's annual income will be \$510 assuming all members continue as members and consistently pay their dues. Jill has investigated establishing an online payment system and has identified one of the University of Montana's website creators, Amy Stout, to establish an online payment system for the Society. Amy is willing to do this for a small, one-time fee of \$160, which would include any follow-up assistance. The consensus among the attendees was to follow Jill's recommendation for the Society to hire Ms. Stout to set up this system.

Alisha summarized the Newsletter Editor's report, noting that Karin would like to establish a December 1 submission deadline. In addition, while the newsletter is currently accessible via the website as a pdf file, Karin Hooks has asked whether or not it should be distributed via the Society's listserv so that it receives more attention. Mary Frances Jimenez noted that the real question is whether or not individuals who have not paid their dues should receive the newsletter. John also wondered whether non-members should be on the listserv at all. After some discussion about the way in which the listserv is used to promote the Society and attract members, we reached a consensus that there is no need to limit access to the listserv.

Mary Frances Jimenez summarized her Society Web Master report, noting which pages are visited most frequently: the landing page, the Hopkins Biography and the Bibliography. She recommends changing the location of the announcements so that it is no longer the entry page in order to encourage visitors to view the other resources on the site. This led to a discussion of the Society's Facebook page. Alisha summarized Amy Bennett-Zendzian's Facebook Page manager's report, noting Amy has explained how Facebook manipulates newsfeeds. According to Amy, Facebook "by its nature is not a particularly efficient way of reaching either new or even existing fans of the PEHS." With this in mind, she recommends that we use it to redirect people to the official website.

John summarized the Membership Officer's report, noting that there are 26 paid members, which is a decrease from last year (32 members). John noted that this is an "off year" for ALA attendance since the conference is not in Boston this year. Eric has reported that he continues to be concerned about our ability to retain members and offer/articulate a set of benefits tied to membership that would encourage more people to join the Society. Attendees wondered what other societies offer. Alisha noted that this question came up last year and Eric had volunteered to query other societies about their membership numbers and benefits. JoAnn Pavletich and John both noted that the high school essay contest and publication award are exciting new initiatives that should attract more members. Alisha noted that perhaps the Society shouldn't focus as much on explaining "what's in it for me?" but should encourage people to think about what they can bring to an organization committed to giving Pauline Hopkins's work more attention. John suggested we can also invite more higher-profile scholars to the panels to serve as respondents and attract more interest in the Society. JoAnn suggested that we look at Boston area organizations to become Institutional Members.

John summarized the Awards and Monuments Committee Chair's report. This past year, Nicole Aljoe continued to develop the proposal for the two awards (one for scholars and one for a high school student). She has reported that after consulting with the Treasurer, the Committee recommends lowering the prize

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In 2014, the PEHS also expanded its projects to support the production as well as distribution of Pauline Hopkins's research. Scholars are encouraged to contribute a submission to our first Pauline Hopkins Society Scholarship Award contest, which will award \$100 to the best article or book published on Pauline Hopkins and/or her work. The submission deadline is January 30, 2015. The application fee for the contest is waived for PEHS members whose dues are current through December 2014. Lastly, our website now includes a "Reviews" section that features reviews of recent books related to Hopkins.

All of these activities build a creative, energetic community of scholars and educators. We also provide other small ways to participate in this fellowship of Hopkins disciples. Newsletter editor Karin Hooks (Lorain County Community College) welcomes Hopkins-related articles, reviews of books of relevance, and reports on intriguing finds for the "Research & Archive Notes" section. In addition, our listserv has many subscribers, and it would be wonderful if all of us could use this resource more often to field questions, ask for advice, or discuss pedagogy. Each one of us should try to post a message to the listserv at least twice this year to allow the PEHS to chart the ongoing dialogue about the many ways Hopkins speaks to our imaginations, students, and contemporary dilemmas. You might also choose to "like" and share posts on the PEHS Facebook page. The number of "likes" a Facebook page receives determines the chances that Facebook will share future posts on others' newsfeeds.

Leadership Openings

Another important opportunity for participation is through our standing committees: Program Committee, Research and Publications Committee, and Awards and Monuments Committee. All of them could use more members to enrich their brainstorming and to share in their (modest) work. In fact, this year members undertook or returned to leadership roles on committees: former Program Chair Tanya Clark (Rowan University) has returned as Membership Officer; JoAnn Pavletich (University of Houston Downtown) is our new Program Committee Chair; and Dolores Sisco (Youngstown State University) and Kerstin Rudolph (University of Mississippi) will generously share their time with the Research and Publications and Awards and Monuments committees respectively. Mary Frances Jimenez (formerly of University of Maryland, College Park) has enjoyed her tenure as Webmaster, but she hopes that another member would like to learn more about the PEHS by undertaking her position. We also will need to appoint a new Awards and Monuments Chair at the 2016 business meeting. In the PEHS, anyone who values Hopkins's work can play a part in championing its study and recognition.

Other Upcoming Activities

Looking forward, we are once again sponsoring great panels at the annual American Literature Association Conference to be held next year in Boston, MA. We are honored to announce that Professor Elizabeth Ammons (Harriet H. Fay Professor of Literature, Tufts University) will serve as the respondent on the "Hopkins Twenty-Seven Years Later" panel, and we are sponsoring an open topics panel to encourage research into new areas and dialogue about pedagogy. Please note that only PEHS members can present on panels. Our new credit card payment system should make it easier for U.S. and international scholars to become members or renew their membership. The membership form and more detailed information on our activities, including the CFPs and awards, are available on our website.

On behalf of the PEHS Executive Committee, I encourage you to use your talents and skills to help restore and celebrate Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins's legacy.

Sincerely,

April Logan, PEHS President
Salisbury University

2014 American Literature Association Hopkins Society Events

The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society sponsored an Open Forum Panel at the ALA Conference held May 22-25, 2014, in Washington, D.C. This panel invited scholars to consider any aspect of Pauline Hopkins's work, from her being cast as a "black exaltada," a revolutionary (but figuratively motherless) daughter, an anti-imperialist or internationalist, a mystic, and a writer of the American Dream. The list of panelists and paper titles follows:

Session 4-H Open Topics Panel on Pauline Hopkins (Bryce: 2ndFloor)
Chair and Respondent: John Gruesser, Kean University

1. "Pauline Hopkins' Proto - Postmodernism," JoAnn Pavletich, University of Houston - Downtown
2. "All in the Family?: Black Masculinity and Diasporic Identity in Pauline Hopkins's *Of One Blood*," Kerstin Rudolph, College at Brockport SUNY
3. "In and Out of the Potomac: Hagar's Daughter and the Politics of National Reunion," Brian Sweeney, College of St. Rose, Albany NY

In conjunction with the African American Literature and Culture Society, the Charles Chesnutt Association, the Paul Laurence Dunbar Society, the Toni Morrison Society, the Ralph Ellison Society, the John Edgar Wideman Society, and Pennsylvania State University, The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society hosted a reception following Marita Golden's poetry reading.

New Website on Hopkins's Contemporary Sutton Griggs

As with many early African American writers, little was known until very recently about the life of Sutton E. Griggs (1872-1933), a Southern Baptist minister who published more novels in book form than any other turn-of-the-twentieth-century US black author. However, this situation has begun to change, as hundreds of historical newspapers, local and national, African American and mainstream, have been digitized and as documents relating to his life and some of his hitherto unknown nonfiction writings have become available. A very different Sutton Griggs is emerging from these materials: a dynamic figure, often embroiled in controversy, who devoted himself to literature for a much longer period and to a much more profound extent than has ever been previously imagined. Besides providing images of, information about, a detailed chronology of the life of, links to texts by, and a bibliography of secondary sources relating to the author, a major purpose of the Sutton Griggs website is to draw attention to the forthcoming scholarly editions of all five of Griggs's novels to be published by West Virginia University Press in its *Regenerations: African American Literature and Culture* series. The first of these editions will be *The Hindered Hand; Or, The Reign of the Repressionist* (1905), edited by Hanna Wallinger and John Gruesser, which is scheduled to appear in late 2016 or early 2017. This important new resource can be accessed here: <https://sites.google.com/a/kean.edu/suttongriggs/>.

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amounts to \$150 (for scholars) and \$300 (for high school students) to bring them in line with the Society's annual income. John noted that the actual award ceremony should take place at the ALA conference, like at the end of one of the panels. Alisha noted that the general body already voted last year to approve the creation of the awards, so at this point,

Alisha summarized the Program Committee Chair's report. Last year, Colleen agreed to contact other author societies, like CLA, to investigate how we can broaden our cooperative relationships. There were no additional suggestions for 2015 panel sessions other than what Colleen noted in her report (i.e., an expert panel and/or an open panel on Hopkins and her contemporaries.)

John solicited suggestions for filling various positions that had or will become vacant in the near future. JoAnn expressed an interest in serving as the Program Committee chair, if needed, otherwise, she is interested in serving on the Program Committee. Mary Frances is willing to continue as the Society's Web Master, if needed. Alisha noted that Nicole is planning to step down as chair of the Awards committee next year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alisha Knight
PEH Society Secretary

CALL FOR PAPERS
PAULINE E. HOPKINS SOCIETY
American Literature Association
26th Annual Conference
May 21-24, 2015
Boston, MA

**The Pauline E. Hopkins Society will sponsor two sessions at
the 26th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association.**

Panel One: Twenty-Seven Years Later:

Pauline Hopkins's four novels were republished twenty-seven years ago in 1988. *The New Era* and *The Colored American Magazine* are now available online. Proposals that address some aspect of this history are invited. For example, given the increased accessibility of Hopkins' work, what is her place today in African American studies? Is it time for a new critical edition of her work? What characterizes the past twenty-seven years of Hopkins scholarship and what has it taught us? Proposals that examine Hopkins' four novels as a collection of literary/political interventions in African American efforts for justice are also welcome. For example, what developments, patterns, themes, etc. in the oeuvre demand attention? How did Hopkins develop as a writer over the course of her career? What is her cumulative contribution to literary cultural studies?

Professor Elizabeth Ammons will serve as the respondent on this panel. Full drafts of papers will be needed by May 1.

Panel Two: Open topics panel:

PEHS will host one panel with papers on any aspect of Pauline Hopkins' work.

Instructions for proposal submission:

- Abstracts for both panels should be about 300 words and be accompanied by a brief CV.
- Proposals should be sent to JoAnn Pavletich at pavletichj@uhd.edu by January 5, 2015.
- Subject line of email is: Hopkins/ALA panel one (or two).
- AV needs should be included in the proposal.
- Membership in the Pauline E. Hopkins Society is required of presenters.

**Information on the Pauline E. Hopkins Society can be found at:
<http://www.paulinehopkinssociety.org/>.**

Get Involved! PEHS Committees

The Pauline Hopkins Society needs you! Please consider joining one of our committees and offering your time and expertise to help advance Hopkins scholarship. From our bylaws:

The Program Committee shall serve as a liaison to various societies and associations; draft, generate, and circulate calls for papers for conference panels; help establish a Pauline Hopkins presence in like-minded organizations; select conference panel participants; propose projects and programs; and present slates of proposed panels to the Executive Committee for approval.

The Research and Publications Committee shall compile an annual list of scholarly publications, creative projects and research efforts concerning the life and writings of Pauline Hopkins and information pertinent to the purpose of the Society. It shall also work to help keep the writings of Pauline Hopkins in print and available to students, teachers and readers.

The Awards and Monuments Committee shall make recommendations for citations for outstanding scholarly work published on Pauline Hopkins in book and article form as well as other noteworthy projects that advance the purpose of the Society. It shall make recommendations for sponsorship of monuments and memorials to be erected in honor of Pauline Hopkins at sites and on occasions appropriate to the purpose of the Society. It shall also make Society Honorary Membership recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Volunteer for a committee by indicating your interest when you return your membership form or by contacting our Membership Officer, Tanya Clark: clarkt@rowan.edu.

We Need Membership Renewals!

If you have not already done so, please take a moment and **renew your PEHS membership now**. Our society needs your participation in order to continue promoting study of the life and work of Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins.

The Hopkins Society also offers new and old members the chance to join at the Lifetime Membership level. We strongly encourage scholars committed to Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins's work and legacy to consider this membership level.

The \$250 fee may be paid as a single lump sum or through two consecutive annual payments. In addition to the convenience of never having to renew your membership, this option protects you from any possible dues increase(s) during your lifetime. Even if dues remain the same for the next three decades, the Lifetime Membership will put you ahead, as it is equivalent to 17 years at the current Regular Member level.

But most importantly, this initial investment will lay the groundwork for the Society's future meetings and projects to honor Hopkins. Please consider supporting these efforts by **filling out the membership form on page 7** and choosing the Lifetime Membership level.



Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society Membership Form for 2014-2015



Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

This membership is: _____ a renewal (or) _____ a new membership

Membership Category:

_____ Founding Member. Annual dues: \$15

Note: Founding Member status is open *only* to members who joined before 31 August 2010.

_____ Regular Member. Annual dues: \$15

_____ Graduate Member. Annual dues: \$10 Open to current graduate students

_____ Student Member. Annual dues: \$10 Open to current undergraduate and high school students

_____ Institutional Member. Annual dues: \$250

_____ Lifetime Member. Single payment of \$250 or two consecutive annual installments of \$125.

If paying by installments, this is installment _____ of two.

Hopkins Society Service: Please circle committees on which you might be willing to serve.

Research/Publication Committee
 Awards/Monuments Committee

Program Committee
 Other Service Work

This application and your payment should be mailed to:

Tanya Clark, Hopkins Society Membership Offer
 Department of English
 Rowan University
 201 Mullica Hill Road
 Glassboro, NJ 08028

Checks/money orders should be made payable to the University of Montana, which currently houses the Society accounts. Payment must be made in U.S. funds through either check or money order; international scholars are encouraged to contact the membership officer to discuss other options if this presents difficulties. Membership questions can be emailed to Tanya Clark at clarkt@rowan.edu.

Hopkins Society Executive Board

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April Logan, Assistant Professor, Salisbury University [aclogan@salisbury.edu]

Vice President

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JoAnn Pavletich, Associate Professor, University of Houston-Downtown [PavletichJ@uhd.edu]

Chair, Monuments and Awards Committee

Nicole Aljoe, Assistant Professor, Northeastern University [n.aljoe@neu.edu]

**The
Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins
Society**

Requests to join the HOPKINSSOCIETY listserv may be submitted to Mary Frances Jiménez, listserv administrator: mfj@umd.edu.

<http://www.paulinehopkinssociety.org>

To submit information for possible inclusion on our website, please contact Mary Frances Jiménez, mfj@umd.edu