

# *2005 Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest*



## Women Changing America

Sponsored by:  
Iowa Commission on the Status of Women  
Iowa Department of Education  
State Historical Society of Iowa



**Celebration Day**  
**Thursday, March 17, 2005**  
**9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Iowa State Capitol**

**9:30 - 9:45 a.m.**

Winners and their invited guests meet on the ground floor of the Capitol. Students, teachers, principals, and essay subjects are to pick up their name tags.

**10 a.m.**

Awards ceremony with Lt. Governor Sally J. Pederson, Kennedy Conference Room, ground floor.

**11:30 a.m.**

Tour of the Capitol. (Optional) If we get separated, meet us at the desk on the first floor of the Rotunda for the start of the tour.

**12 noon**

Lunch on your own. (The State Capitol Cafe is on the ground floor.)

**1:00 p.m.**

Introduction in the House, second floor, and meet with Representatives.

**1:15 p.m.**

Introduction in the Senate, second floor, and meet with Senators.

# **Awards Ceremony**

## **10:00 a.m.**

### **Kennedy Conference Room**

#### **Welcome**

by Kimberly Painter, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Chairperson

#### **Proclamation Reading by Lt. Governor Sally J. Pederson**

March as Women's History Month Proclamation

#### **Awards Presentation**

by Kimberly Painter; and Stephanie Hamilton, Program for Women in Science and Engineering at Iowa State University

(As the students' names are called, they should move forward to receive their prizes from Gail Sullivan, Iowa Department of Education Chief of Staff, then approach Painter to receive their certificate. As the teachers' names are called, they should move forward to receive their prizes from Sullivan.)

Students/teachers will be recognized in the following order:

- 1) 6-7th Grade Category
- 2) 8-9th Grade Category
- 3) Edith Rose Murphy Sackett
- 4) Women in Science & Engineering

#### **Brayton Presentation**

by Anita Walker, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Director

#### **Closing**

by Kimberly Painter

# **2005 Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest Winners**

## **6-7 Grade Category**

- First Place: Sophia Dove, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Jennifer Stoffer, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids
- Second Place: Johanna Uthoff, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Lori Danker, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids
- Third Place: Ariel Sinclair, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Sue Griswold, Woodrow Wilson Junior High, Council Bluffs

## **8-9 Grade Category**

- First Place: Robyn Michelle Johnson, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Donna Bohlmann, Eddyville-Blakesburg High School
- Second Place: Annie Klodd, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Karen Shayer, Indianola Middle School
- Third Place: Kathryn M. Skilton, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Bev Berns, Nashua-Plainfield High School

## **Best Essay on Women in Science and Engineering for 6-7 Grades**

- First Place: Courtney Ruff, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Sue Griswold, Woodrow Wilson Junior High, Council Bluffs

## **Edith Rose Murphy Sackett Award on the Best Essays on a Woman Volunteer**

- First Place: Suzanne Sontag, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Jane Kennedy, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny
- Second Place: Korbin Hoffman, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sponsoring Teacher: Jennifer Stoffer, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids

*Editor's Note: Essays were typed as submitted.*



# 6-7 Grades: First Place



## Wangari Maathai by Sophia Dove

Even though I've never met her, I know that Wangari Maathai is a wonderful person. Though some people may look down their noses at her dreadlocks, I am certain she has an amazing heart.

Wangari was born on April 1, 1940 in Nyeriin, Kenya, one hundred miles from Nairobi. She was the oldest daughter of six children. Her parents were subsistence farmers.

Wangari went to Lumuru Girls High School in Kenya, yet she received her scholarship at Mount Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. She was the first woman from Africa to earn a doctorate degree, which was in biology.

When Wangari's husband ran for Parliament, which he won, she saw how many people were malnourished from deforestation, a process which leaves no land to be farmed. Women had to walk long distances to gather firewood and couldn't make nutritious meals for their children. As well, deforestation caused part of Kenya to become desert. Wangari helped women to find jobs, "because," she says, "women here are responsible for their children... they can't sit back, waste time, and see them starve."

In 1977, Wangari started the Green Belt Movement, her greatest accomplishment yet. The Green Belt Movement is an organization of women who plant trees in Kenya. "We started with seven trees in a small park in Nairobi," she recalls. "We had no nursery, no staff, and no fund. People were asking us were to find seeds."

The Green Belt movement soon gained support of the National Council of Women in Kenya and expanded rapidly. The trees are planted and cared for by women, then transferred to local schools, churches, and other smaller organizations.

This past December, Wangari won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the Green Belt Movement. Wangari Mathai is the first woman of color to win such a prize for the African continent.

Wangari has protected the environment, and saved many peoples lives. She is an environmentalist, feminist, human rights activist, and educator. Maathi not only identified problems; that, in itself can sometimes be difficult. She acted. She moved to solve the problems. This is what makes Wathari Maathi such a strong woman, and one who should be forever remembered in history.

### References

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- "The Peace." All Things Considered. National Public Radio, December 6, 2004.
- "Wangari Maathi." Biography Today. Ed. Kevin Hillstrom. Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics, 1997.



# 6-7 Grades: Second Place



## Marian Wright Edelman by Johanna Uthoff

“I realize that I do not fight just for me and my people of the South when I fight for freedom and equality. I realize I fight for the moral and political health of America as a whole, and her position in the world at large.”

Marian Wright Edelman, my mentor, was born on June 6, 1939, in Bennettsville, South Carolina. Her parents were Arthur Jerome Wright and Maggie Leola (Bowen) Wright. She had four siblings. Her father was a Baptist preacher and taught her family about Christianity and influenced Marian greatly in regard to doing service. Sadly, her father died when she was only fourteen. His last words to her were, “Don’t let anything get in the way of your education.”

When Marian was older she graduated from Yale Law School and became a civil rights lawyer. She fell in love with Peter Edelman and they were married. They had three children. She helped organize the Poor People’s campaign. After that, she founded the Children’s Defense Fund for poor, minority, and handicapped children. She is also the author of several books. Among them are Families in Peril and An Agenda for Social Change. Her many awards include 1991 ABC’s Person of the Week, “The Children’s Campaign”; Mac Arthur’s “Genius” award, and more than sixty-five honorary degrees!

Marian is my mentor because she never gave up. Even after Martin Luther King’s death, she continued to fight for all people’s rights. She showed the world that it doesn’t matter if you are black or white; if you have brown, black, red or blond hair; if you cannot walk or see or hear. You still have the same rights. I really admire her for that!

All of her struggling really paid off in the end and changed thinking. It truly gives me hope that if you really try and believe in yourself you can do anything. I know that Marian will pass on knowing that she made a difference.

“Never work just for the money or the power, they will not save your soul or help you sleep at night.”  
Marian Wright Edelman was truly an amazing woman, which is why she is my mentor for life.

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# 6-7 Grades: Third Place



by Ariel Sinclair

My essay is about an Iowa woman named Ada Hayden, who did not get very much recognition for her accomplishments in Iowa. I am just learning about Ada Hayden and a little piece of Iowa history. Ada was born in Ames, Iowa on August 14, 1884. Her parents were David and Christina Hayden; Ada was their only child. Ada, who grew up on a farm, became interested in preserving natural beauty and the love of native prairie land on her family's land. A small piece of land belonging to her family was left alone to grow in its own natural state. This interest as a child would soon become her profession in the future.

Ada was encouraged to study botany in college, by Dr. Louis Pammel, who became her mentor and was the chair of the Botany department. Ada received her Bachelors degree in 1908. After graduating at Iowa State College, now called Iowa State University, Ada became a graduate assistant at the Shaw school of Botany in Missouri, she then went on to Washington State University and obtained her maters degree in botany. Ada did return to Iowa in 1911 as an instructor and graduate student. Ada's doctorate was then earned in 1918, which made her the first woman to receive this in Iowa. This was one remarkable accomplishment of Ada Hayden as at the time there were only four people in Iowa who had earned a Ph.D.

Ada was appointed Assistant Professor of Botany at Iowa State in 1920. She taught a great deal of the time until 1934 when her appointment was changed to position in research in the Agriculture Experiment Station. Ada took over as curator in 1934 when R.I. Cratty retired, but she was not given the formal title as curator, Dr. George Goodman, who was a taxonomist on the faculty had the formal title. Dr. Hayden assisted Dr. Pammel in his research and contributed a great deal to all his major works. Ada assisted him with writing, photography, and illustrations.

Ada devoted herself to prairie preservation and research after Dr. Pammel died and wrote 29 papers about Iowa flora. Dr. Duane Isley, who was a professor at Iowa State, said Ada published the best native flora survey of any part of Iowa. Ada campaigned for a system of prairie preserves, two of which were named the Hayden and the Kaslow prairies. In 1947, Dr. Hayden pointed out that Iowa's prairie once covered 80 percent of the state and was now reduced to remnants.

Thirty years later her work was cited when the first comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management programs began. Ada described the diversity of species comprising health prairies. Ada viewed native prairies as valuable, living scientific laboratories, where soil types, endangered species, and wildlife management could be studied. Ada's devotion to the conservation of Iowa prairies is now being recognized and used in Iowa, as it is part of our heritage. It did not really gain much momentum until Ada's death in 1950. The natural prairies are beautiful and I appreciate Ada Hayden's hard work.

## Bibliography

Prairies Forest and wetlands, by Janette R. Thompson  
Places of Quiet Beauty, by Rebecca Conard  
The Iowa National Resource, by A Heritage Series





# 8-9 Grades: First Place



## A Person, A Woman, A Star Light

by Robyn Michelle Johnson

I have often come home very miserable and worn out. I do not always understand the actions and degrading words of my peers and a few teachers'. On one of these days, I had a history assignment, to read a section from a book describing a woman much like myself. She, too, could not understand the actions of her peers, and she was able to fight for her beliefs. Right away, I was able to relate with her, and my connection gave me a thirst to know more about this woman. In reading about her, I found that we share many of the same characteristics, and that she has characteristics that I want for myself. Her name is Amelia Jenks Bloomer.

In Homer, New York in 1818, Lucy and Ananias Jenks had a girl named Amelia. From the very start Amelia was very intelligent and dominant, she taught school with only a few years of education. Later she met her husband, a lawyer, who supported her through all her endeavors. Together they moved to New York, Ohio, and Iowa. In moving to different places, Amelia began to realize the depths of the American women's plight which led her into the world of politics and the struggle for women's rights.

In order to communicate about reforms for women, Amelia founded a newspaper in 1849 called The Lily, where she wrote numerous articles advocating women's rights, higher education, and law reform. Her newspaper became very popular, and reached over 4,000 homes. It was the first woman suffrage journal in the United States. The newspaper disseminated many ideas; one of them was the "Bloomer" outfit for which Amelia is known. The "Bloomer" outfit was safe and comfortable, unlike the whalebone and metal corsets that could cause medical problems and deformation of the body. Wearing the Bloomer outfit meant many things: to be ostracized by the public, and wearing it gave women a sense of empowerment. Though Amelia and many other reformers stopped wearing the "Bloomer" outfit, it made huge reforms in the spirit of women, fashion, and later in women's rights.

Amelia addressed the issue of women and children having no rights under the law. She advocated women receiving their paychecks, instead of their husbands. In addition, she demanded that children be protected by laws from havoc caused by alcohol, and to have women and children not seen as a man's property. Many laws were passed to help these citizens. Amelia's passion has helped all women and children.

In Iowa, Amelia was the first president of Iowa Woman's Suffrage Association. Even though she was no longer writing for The Lily, and she was not a national figure, but she remained active in reform. As a pioneer state, Iowa needed guidance, and Amelia grabbed the change to educate Iowa women until her death on December 30, 1894. Amelia helped make a path to Iowa's greatness.

Amelia Jenks Bloomer has inspired the young and old. Through her writing, speaking, and actions Amelia has made it possible for women to get their names on their paychecks, for children to be protected by the law, reforms in fashion, and the way society treats women. To me, Amelia has strengthened my voice, to speak out clearly against degrading words and actions that are used against other people and me. Also, I need to take charge of situations that I question because if Amelia had not taken action, it would be many years for women to not be the underdogs in a society. Amelia is a shining star, to which I aspire.

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**Internet:**

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## 8-9 Grades: Second Place



### Susan B. Anthony: Leading Women of America by Annie Klodd

"Men their rights and nothing more, women their rights and nothing less" were words spoken by Susan B. Anthony, one of the greatest female abolitionists, suffragists, and temperance advocates of all times. The difference she made to our country will always have an effect on how I live today and in the future.

Born in Adams, Massachusetts in 1820, she was raised a Quaker and taught temperance and the ability to care for others from a young age. When Susan was a young woman, her father's anti-slavery organization began having meetings at their home, and Susan was soon involved by doing small tasks for the group. In 1846, she took her first job as a teacher for a meager \$110 a year.

This new job opened Susan's mind to the working conditions of women teachers. She later attended teachers' conventions to offer ideas of raising teachers' pay and asked that women have fair chance to speak at conventions. Susan believed that everyone's minds think alike academically, and argued for coeducation and equal opportunities for all students regardless of race, color, religion, or sex. In the 1890's she went further by meeting with the University of Rochester, who promised to admit women if she was able to raise enough money. Over the next ten years Susan ran a committee and raised over \$50,000; in 1900, women were first admitted to the college.

As a Quaker, Susan considered drinking liquor sinful. She joined the Daughters of Temperance, a women's group who promoted self-control. Shortly after joining, she became president of the Rochester D.O.T. and started a petition to pass a law limiting liquor sales in New York. Unfortunately, the state legislature turned down her 28,000 signatures because most of them were from women and children.

Susan knew that the women's vote could be just as important as the men's. In 1866 she founded the American Equal Rights Association to deal with the issue and two years later published her own newspaper, "The Revolution," to promote justice. Soon her association developed the idea of getting the vote for women one state at a time. In 1869 Wyoming became the first state to allow women to vote. Through the next few years Susan's campaign kept going strong until she and a group of friends attempted to vote and were arrested. The judge later charged her \$100 without discussing her case.

Along with all of her other efforts, Susan also campaigned for a law to give married women the right to own property. For seven years she traveled, held meeting, and gave speeches to collect signatures for the cause. She

presented her work to the state legislature, and in 1860 the New York State Married Women's Property Bill was made into a law, mostly because of Anthony's efforts.

Susan B. Anthony should be a role model for all women of America. She dedicated her entire life to making a difference for every American citizen and did so without doubt or hesitation. She stepped forward to do things that, back then, were unheard of and ridiculed by many. Susan has taught me to trust my instincts to do what's right and what I believe in, no matter what others think or say. Our country is a much better place because of her, but her work will never be finished until others follow in her footsteps.

### Works Cited

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## 8-9 Grades: Third Place



### **Christie Vilsack: Changing America in Small Strokes** by Kathryn M. Skilton

Women change America in many ways. As a wife, mother, teacher, and political activist, Iowan Christie Vilsack is changing America as a role model for women of all ages. Mrs. Vilsack urges women to get the best education they can, choose issues to support and advocate for, stand up for what they believe in, and support each other. She encourages women to imagine themselves as candidates in elections, or behind the scenes people, "the power behind the power," according to her.<sup>1</sup> As Iowa's First Lady and an inspiring role model, she is leading by example.

As a teacher, Mrs. Vilsack teaches language arts and journalism. She tries to give her students as many experiences and opportunities as she can. She teaches them about themselves and how, as she says, to develop "voice" in writing. She introduces them to many good role models, like the people she looked up to who helped her develop self-confidence because, she says, "Most of us aren't born self-confident. We develop these characteristics."<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Vilsack hopes girls will become leaders in their own rights, "I hope women will aspire to be good at whatever they choose, not live through their husbands and their children. Family is the most important part of my life, but I like having an identity of my own," she says.

From a very early age, Christie Vilsack has been tied to politics. Starting at age 10, she made a political statement by putting bumper stickers all over her bike during a presidential campaign. In high school, she started her own club similar to the Young Democrats of America. She headed a campaign for Lieutenant Governor in her home county during college. Mrs. Vilsack also supported her husband, Tom Vilsack, in his quest to become Governor of Iowa. As a speaker at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, she reached out to voters on a national scale too.

While Christie Vilsack has embraced the traditional jobs of First Lady for Iowa, she has developed her own goals and platforms. Among these are encouraging literacy in children and getting youth involved in politics. To achieve these goals she developed the "Reading Champions" program to spark children's interest in reading, and the "Capitol Project" to give high school students the chance to work with their legislators, the Governor, and herself.

I met Mrs. Vilsack at the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony in August 2004. At the ceremony, she gave a speech in which she said, "I wish we could fill this auditorium with middle school girls to show them these inspiring women."<sup>3</sup> While talking to her afterward I realized what a warm, gracious, and inspiring woman she is. She inquired about my activities, and when she learned I was interested in politics, suggested that I look into the Capitol Project. I was amazed that the First Lady of Iowa would take interest in me, a ninth grade student.

As one of the middle school girls Christie Vilsack spoke about, I believe her story should be written into history to inspire women of all ages to change America by their actions. As she says, "I think we change America in small strokes—at the local level-by advocating every day for what we believe—even if we lose. We have to keep trying."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Christie Vilsack, e-mail to the author, 19 Dec. 2004.

<sup>2</sup>Christie Vilsack, e-mail to the author, 19 Dec. 2004.

<sup>3</sup>Christie Vilsack, "Women's Hall of Fame Induction Speech," Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Iowa Historical Society, Des Moines, 21 August 2004.

<sup>4</sup>Christie Vilsack, e-mail to the author, 19 Dec. 2004.

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# Best Essay on Women in Science and Engineering for 6-7 Grades



**Dr. Helen Brooke Taussig**  
by Courtney Ruff

Dr. Helen Brooke Taussig is considered to be the founder of pediatric cardiology. She received numerous awards and honors throughout her medical career, but becoming a doctor and staying a doctor was not easy. She would have to overcome many challenges and obstacles. The way she faced these challenges and obstacles in order to achieve her dreams is what makes Dr. Helen Brooke Taussig truly inspirational.

Dr. Helen Brooke Taussig was born on May 24, 1898 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Helen Taussig was often sick as a young child which caused her to miss a lot of school. After she caught whooping cough, she began to lose her hearing. Helen's mother died of tuberculosis when Helen was only 11 years old. Helen was also found to be dyslexic. She overcame the death of her mother, her chronic illnesses, and her dyslexia to eventually excel in school.

In 1917, Helen graduated from the Cambridge School for Girls. In 1921, she graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. She then entered Harvard's School of Public Health. While studying at Harvard, one of her professors suggested that Helen should specialize in cardiac research. With the encouragement of her professor, she applied at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland which was one of the few medical schools that accepted women. She graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1927. By the time she graduated, she had lost all of her hearing which presented yet another obstacle for her to overcome.

Although she was deaf, Helen Taussig decided that she would go into medical practice and she would specialize in pediatric cardiology. Helen received a two year internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital's Children's Heart Clinic. Because she was deaf, she learned to read lips and to listen with her fingers to her patients' hearts.

She began studying cardiac diseases and soon became interested in congenital heart trouble. She then started to classify and describe the many heart malfunctions that might be responsible for the plight of blue baby syndrome, a condition whose color indicates inadequate oxygenation of the blood. Helen realized that the major problem was in the lack of blood flow to the lungs.

When Dr. Alfred Blalock came to Johns Hopkins in 1941, Helen suggested that the construction of the patent ductus might provide the answer to the abnormal decline in oxygen content in children with blue baby syndrome. Dr. Taussig, Dr. Blalock, and Vivian Thomas, a surgical technician, developed an operation to help children with blue baby syndrome. It took much work and experimentation before the procedure was ready to be tried. Their procedure was first performed on November 9, 1944 on a very ill, high-risk patient who was deeply blue in color and who could not eat without gasping for air. After the operation the patient's condition improved.

Dr. Taussig and Dr. Blalock published their work in the Journal of the American Medical Association. This had an immediate impact worldwide, and the procedure ended up helping tens of thousands of children. Dr. Taussig and Dr. Blalock made many clinical presentations and case demonstrations in the United States and Europe. Their success attracted patients to Johns Hopkins and brought more physicians to learn their procedural techniques.

Dr. Helen Brooke Taussig continued to research cardiac birth defects. In 1959, she was appointed professor of pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins Medical School and in 1963 she retired. Dr. Helen Brooke Taussig is remembered today through the work at the Helen B. Taussig Children's Pediatric Center at the Johns Hopkins Medical Center.



## Resources

<http://www.africanamericans.com/HelenBrooketaussig.htm>

<http://www.workersforjesus.com/dfi/956.htm>

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# » Edith Rose Murphy Sackett Award on the Best Essays on a Woman Volunteer: First Place «

by Suzanne Sontag

Vivian Marie Lohrer Cronbaugh, my grandmother, has played a big role in history because of her volunteerism and the important things she has done for her family, community and world. She has made a great impact on my life and every time I go to visit her I wish I could be just a little more like her.

Born March 2, 1942, in a farmhouse near the very small town of Watkins, my grandmother learned at an early age what it was like to have responsibilities. At age five she started milking cows, gathering eggs to pack into cases, and mowing the lawn. At ten, she even drove the tractor. Her family played games, sewed, read, invited neighbors to play cards or chat in the evening. They never watched television because it was not available to them until my grandmother was about fourteen.

My grandmother went to college where she studied music and later attended a business school. My grandmother has also always been a wonderful mother and role model as well as being an active community member.

When she became a mother she chaperoned school trips and helped at Sunday school. She became a 4H leader and helped over one hundred children with art, agriculture, cooking, sewing and other projects that were going to the fair. They did service projects such as caroling at a Braille school on Christmas. Then because she was so involved she was recognized as an honorary 4-H member.

In the late 1970's, my grandmother was asked to fill a post on the Benton Community School board for five years as a board member. She helped make decisions like how to build a new high school. She disliked the harder decisions such as when the board closed an old grade school her children had attended. Also, she helped hire principals, and enjoyed purchasing school buses, textbooks, and stadium seats for schools. She always enjoyed visiting classes and representing the public. She did all this as the only woman on the board and she sometimes felt she was not on the same level as the men, but she held on anyway and for that I admire her even more.

My grandmother does lots of things to better her community. She has been a member of the Jolly Neighbors Club for over thirty-five years. This volunteer group sews projects such as lap blankets and caps that are given to hospitals, nursing homes, and children's homes. As a musician she has directed church handbell choirs, and formed a community handbell group of adults and children. They performs at nursing homes about once a month. She also baby-sits and takes elderly people to the doctor. She has helped me personally by teaching me crafts and games, encouraging me with my musical instruments and helping me with my studies in fun ways.

Internationally she made a difference by having foreign exchange students live with her and her family. One student that comes to mind is now a speech pathology professor and has become a U.S citizen. She quotes in a letter to my grandmother, "I thought about how you and your whole family embraced me 21 years ago when I arrived in Cedar Falls. I was 17 at the time and having a family that cared about me gave me so much comfort."

I hold respect for my grandmother because of all the things she has done for the good of her family, community and world. By taking the best from her past and sharing it with others, she is rewriting history for future generations and me.

## References

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Constantinidou, Fofi. Letter. 18 December 2005.

# » Edith Rose Murphy Sackett Award on the Best Essays on a Woman Volunteer: Second Place «

## Dorothy Weinberger

by Korbin Hoffman

My great-grandmother should be written into history because she has helped many people and continues to do so. She helps people by doing many volunteer jobs and contributing to the community. She lives in Artesian, South Dakota and is eighty-one years old.

Dorothy Faye Weinberger was born April 27, 1923, in South Dakota. She was young, but has many memories of the Great Depression Era, better known as the “Dirty Thirties” in South Dakota. Her great-grandmother had homesteaded the farmhouse that she lived in, in 1883. Her father was born there, and she too, was born there on the kitchen floor. Due to the heavy mortgage and many years of drought, her parents lost the farm. At age seventeen, she moved to a new home.

Many years later, when she married, she and her husband bought back the house she was born in, and moved it to where their present home was. Dorothy and her husband, Charles Weinberger, raised their two children there. The house and farmland is still in the family today.

Living through hardship helped mold Dorothy into the woman she is today. She is a strong, selfless woman that cares about her environment and other people.

Since retiring in 1981 in Artesian, South Dakota she began doing many volunteer services. Artesian has a population of 157. These services were, and are, dedicated to helping others in her small community.

Dorothy is a member of the First Lutheran Church in Artesian. She volunteers as the church treasurer. She pays all of the bills and payroll. This is very important to the church and its members. She will continue to volunteer there as long as she is able.

Dorothy is the secretary of the Artesian American Legion Auxiliary, an organization that assists with many of the community’s projects. They serve meals for the Veterans Banquet in November, after funerals for family and friends, and Memorial Day. The Legion assists four times a year with the local blood drive.

Dorothy currently writes weekly for the local news column in the Sanborn Journal Newspaper. The news she writes consists of family activities and local gatherings. She spends most of her Monday morning gathering news from local families. Artesian citizens welcome and enjoy the product of her hard work.

In August of 1999, the Tri-State Neighbor Newspaper named my great-grandmother “Person of the Decade”. This says many things of the type of person she is and has become.

My great-grandmother took care of me through my earlier years, and taught me many things. She taught me to appreciate the things that some take for granted. She teaches me how to conserve and make the most of all we’ve been given, and appreciate the little things in life.

Her friends and family believe she should be written into history also:

“She never says anything bad about anyone else.” – Don Weinberger, son.

“She is interested in everything about the community.” - Bev Morris, friend.

“She has done a lot of good things for a lot of people.” – Judy Wormstadt, distant relative.

“She is friendly to people, informative, and in contact with the community.” – Shirley Vinz, high school friend and remaining friends today.

My great-grandmother Dorothy has been an inspiration to many. She has spent countless hours serving the community. She has taught me that family is something that should be valued to the fullest. She has inspired me to pursue my dreams. I am very grateful that Grandma Dorothy is, and always will be a big part of my life.

### References

Weinberger, Dorothy. "Remembering the Depression." Tri-State Neighbor 27 August, 1999, sec. B: 1B+.  
Weinberger, Dorothy. Personal Interview. December, 2004.

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## JUDGES

**Tiffany Bandow**, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women  
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**Brad Clark**, GLBT Youth in Iowa Schools Task Force  
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