

**Town of Huntington
African American Historic Designation Council**

**2011 Jupiter Hammon Essay & Poetry Contest
Entry Form**

The Town of Huntington African American Historic Designation Council (AAHDC) invites students in middle school and high school to submit either an essay or a poem to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Jupiter Hammon, America's first published African American poet. Hammon was born in Lloyd Neck on October 17, 1711 and died in his nineties around c1806.

Prizes will be awarded for best middle school poem, best middle school essay, best high school poem and best high school essay. Students may submit either an essay or a poem.

Guidelines: The essay and poetry contest is open to middle and high school students in the Town of Huntington. The essay should be no more than three (3) typed, double-spaced 8 ½ x 11 pages and the poem should be no longer than thirty typed written lines.

The theme of the essay should be selected from the following topics:

1. What were the major contributions of Jupiter Hammon?
2. The Importance of Jupiter Hammon's contributions to African American Literature 300 years after his birth.
3. The life and literary works of Jupiter Hammon and their impact on society.
4. Why do we care about Jupiter Hammon 300 years after his birth?

Judging Criteria for Essay: Each entrant may submit one essay that is the original, individual work of the entrant. Essays will be judged on clarity, originality, historical accuracy, grammar, punctuation, spelling, voice, development of ideas, and adherence to the essay page limit. A bibliography of sources must be included and does not count toward the three-page limit.

Judging Criteria for Poem: Each entrant may submit one poem of no more than thirty lines on "Jupiter Hammon." The poem may be submitted in any style or form, provided that the poem is the original, individual work of the entrant. Poems will be judged on originality, creativity, artistic quality, characterization, and adherence to the theme ("Jupiter Hammon") and line limit.

Essays and poems should be submitted with the enclosed cover sheet, which includes the writer's name, address, phone number, grade, school and sponsoring teacher's name. Entrants consent to the publication of their work in the Council's February 2012 booklet. The deadline to enter the contest is September 30, 2011. Essays and poems must be submitted to a sponsoring teacher at the entrant's school by the deadline.

SEPARATE PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN EACH CATEGORY (ESSAY OR POETRY). WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE HENRY LLOYD MANOR IN LLOYD NECK, DURING THE PROGRAM COMMEMORATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF JUPITER HAMMON AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HENRY LLOYD MANOR HOUSE, ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011, FROM 1 P.M. TO 4 P.M.

For additional information, please call Irene Moore, AAHDC Chair at (631) 421-2433 or Robert Hughes, Town Historian at (631) 351-3244

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Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

I submit the attached essay or poem for the 2011 Jupiter Hammon Essay & Poetry contest sponsored by the Town of Huntington African American Historic Designation Council. I have read the rules and guidelines for the contest and agree to abide by them. I promise the attached is my original work.

I give permission to the Town of Huntington African American Historic Designation Council to print my essay or poem in its February 2012 publication and any other publication the Council deems appropriate.

I agree to release and hold harmless the Town of Huntington, the Huntington African American Historic Designation Council, my school, my teacher, contest sponsors, their employees, officers, contest judges, affiliates, and agents from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of action or losses of any kind arising out of my participation in the contest.

Dated: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Both the student and a parent or guardian must sign this form signifying their agreement to the terms of the contest as set forth on this form and in the official contest guidelines.