

# AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS NATIONAL MUSEUM

## 50-state Women Honorees for April 2013

(Read About These Talented Women!)

[www.americanwomenwritersnationalmuseum.org](http://www.americanwomenwritersnationalmuseum.org)

(\* Each month, AWWNM's 50-state Project features premier American women writers from four states)

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Born in DC in 1961, **Isabel Wilkerson** won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize in journalism for coverage of Midwestern floods; and a profile of a 4th grader from South Side Chicago. Wilkerson was the first black woman to win the Pulitzer for journalism. She has also received the George S. Polk Award, and the Journalist of the Year Award from the National Association of Black Journalists.



Pulitzer winner **Leonora Speyer** (1872-1956), the daughter of a Count, was a popular poet and violinist. In 1927, she received the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for her collection *Fiddler's Farewell*. She authored numerous poetry collections, featured in several anthologies, and won the Golden Rose Award.



Playwright and professor **Paula Vogel** (1951- ) rose to prominence with her play *The Baltimore Waltz*, about AIDS-related issues. Although she won the Obie Award for best play in 1992, she is best known for her piece *How I Learned to Drive* which won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1998. Her other compositions include: *And Baby Makes Seven* (1984) and *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (2004).



### FLORIDA

Two remarkable, feisty, mega-talented writers about Florida, lived in parallel time periods:



"Relentless reporter and fearless crusader," Presidential Medal of Freedom winner **Marjory Stoneman Douglas** (1890-1998) was still advocating for preserving the Everglades until shortly before her death at age 108. Her 1947 book *River of Grass*, depicted the Everglades as a national treasure, not a swamp to be drained for developers' profit.

**Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings** (1896-1953) who chronicled rural Florida life, won the 1939 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for *The Yearling*, about a boy who adopts an orphaned fawn. In 1956 she won a posthumous Newbery Medal for her children's book *The Secret River*. She was friends with major writers of her era including Zora Neale Hurston, and Mary McLeod Bethune.



**Karen Russell**'s debut novel *Swamplandia!* was named a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Her short stories have been featured in anthologies and publications including: *The Best American Short Stories*, *Granta*, and *The New Yorker*. Russell (1981- ) received the 2011 Bard Fiction Prize and the New York Public Library's 2012 Young Lions Fiction Award. She is a writer-in-residence at Bard College.



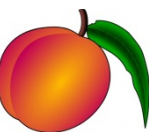
Nationally syndicated columnist **Kathleen Parker**, born in 1951 in Winter Haven, wrote the book *Save the Males: Why Men Matter, Why Women Should Care*, and has written for *The Baltimore Sun*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Time*. She won the H.L. Mencken writing Award in 1993, and the Pulitzer Prize for Journalism Commentary in 2010.

### GEORGIA

**Mary Hood** born in 1946 in Brunswick, writes short stories about the American South. In 1984 she won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction for her story *How Far She Went*. Her 1986 work *And Venus is Blue* won the Lillian Smith Book Award and the Townsend Prize for Fiction.



Though known as the wife of the 39th President of the United States, **Rosalynn Carter** (1927- ) is a success in her own right. In addition to her activism on behalf of women and children, Carter has authored several books including her 1984 autobiography entitled *First Lady from Plains*. She is also a prominent advocate for the mental health community. In 2010 she co-authored a book discussing the mental health struggle titled *Within Our Reach: Ending the Mental Health Crisis*. She has been named Georgia Woman of the Year and has also received the Jefferson Award for Public Service.



**Georgia Douglas Johnson** (1877-1966) was a poet and popular figure in the Harlem Renaissance. Her first poem, published in 1916, would be followed by many others. Some of her works include: *The Heart of a Woman* (1918), *Bronze* (1922), and *A Sunday Morning in the South*. In 2010, Johnson was inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame.

### HAWAII

Honolulu native **Kiana Davenport** is best known for her critically acclaimed novels *Shark Dialogues* and *Song of the Exile* which examine the struggles of Polynesian people living in western society. Her most recent book *House of Many Gods*, a Hawaiian family saga, connects with the previous two. Her works have been translated into fourteen languages. She received the Eliot Cades Award in Literature and a National Endowment for the Arts writing Fellowship.



**Katy Manger**, born in 1956 in Honolulu, writes in the genre of tart noir, a subsection of crime fiction. She is best known for her *Casey Jones* and *Hubbert and Lil* book series, though she has written books outside of those series. Manger also writes under the pennames Gallagher Gray and Chaz McGee.