

AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS NATIONAL MUSEUM

50-state Women Honorees for December 2012

(Read About These Talented Women!)

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

UTAH

Born in Provo, **Virginia Sorensen** (1912-1991), a Guggenheim Fellow, wrote critically acclaimed novels for adult readers, but is best known for her children's books. Her 1957 piece *Miracles on Maple Hill* won the prestigious Newbery Medal as well as the Child Study Award. Some of her other works include: *A Little Lower than the Angels* (1942), *The Man with the Key* (1974), and *On This Star* adapted to a 1997 TV movie *A Loss of Innocence*.



Helen Z. Papanikolas (1917-2004) born in Carbon County, was a historian, novelist, and folklorist. A first generation American, Papanikolas was inspired by her immigrant family and used her work to depict the life of Greek immigrants living in small towns in the American west. She composed memoirs, novels, poetry, and histories to illustrate Greek-American life. For her cultural insights and historical contributions, she received the Fellow of the Utah Historical Society Award (1975), Archbishop of the Americas Iakovos Saint Paul Medal (1972), and the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Utah (1983).

A native of Salt Lake City, **Shannon Hale**, born in 1974, is an author of young adult fantasy novels. Though she has been writing since the age of 10, Hale did not receive notoriety until her first novel *The Goose Girl* was published in 2003. Since then, she has written nine more novels, her most recent being *Calamity Jack* (2010). Hale has received awards including the Josette Frank Award (2003), the Whitney Award (2007), and the Newbery Honor for her 2005 story *Princess Academy*.

VERMONT

Poet and educator, **Lyn Lifshin** was born in 1942 in Barre. Having published over 120 books of her work, Lifshin is often referred to as "The Queen of Lit Mags" and the "Queen of Modern Romance Poetry." Her pieces have appeared in various publications including *Ploughshares*, and *Rolling Stone Magazine*. Some of her poetry collections include: *Barbaro: Leaning South* (1977), *Tangled Vines* (1992), and *Beyond Brokenness* (2009).



St. Albans' **Ann Eliza Smith** (1819-1905) was a poet and novelist. Her first novel *From Dawn to Sunrise* was published in 1876, and was heralded as "the smartest book ever written in Vermont." However, Smith is best known for her following three novels: *Seola* (1878), *Selma* (1883), and *Atla* (1886).



Romance novelist **Karen Anders** first book *Jennifer's Outlaw* was published in 1997 and received the HOLT (Honoring Outstanding Literary Talent) Medallion. Some of her other works include, *The Bare Facts* (1997), *Manhandling* (2004), and *Five-Alarm Encounter* (2011).

VIRGINIA

Born in 1923 in Norfolk, **Naomi Long Madgett** is an African American poet and publisher. At 17, Madgett published her first collection of poems entitled *Songs to a Phantom Nightingale*. Though she never stopped writing, Madgett transitioned into teaching as her primary career and in the 1960s she taught the first black literary course in the Detroit public schools. In 1988, she received the College Language Association Creative Achievement Award for her collection *Octavia and Other Poems*. The Long Poetry Foundation created the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award in her honor. Madgett published over 10 poetry collections, and currently works as the senior editor for Lotus Press which publishes books by black poets.

Poet **Carolyn Kreiter-Faronda**, born in 1946 in Farmville, has published seven poetry books and has been featured in several anthologies including the 2008 Best of the Literary Journals. In 2006, she was named Poet Laureate of Virginia, and during her two year reign she created the "Poetry Book Giveaway Project." Kreiter-Faronda has received dozens of awards including the Edgar Allen Poe Poetry Award (1993), First Place Award in Poetry Competition from the National League of American Pen Women (2005), and the Honored Poet Award from the Middlesex Art Guild in Urbanna, Virginia (2008).



A critically acclaimed television scriptwriter, **Karen Hall** was born in Chatham. She is best known for her work on the hit television series *Judging Amy*, and *M*A*S*H*. Hall has also worked on several other shows including *Eight is Enough* (1977), *Roseanne*, and *The Good Wife* (2010). In addition to receiving seven Emmy Award nominations, Hall has also won the Humanitas Prize, the Women in Film Luminas Award, and the Writers Guild of America Award.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

The United States Virgin Islands is home to several budding literary stars. One of whom is **Coretta S. Louis** who was born on the Island of St. Croix. She developed a love for the written word at a young age, and began writing poetry soon after. In 2004, she released her first poetry collection entitled *Love Struck*.

Barbara Christian was born in 1943 in St. Thomas, where she is an author and professor of African American Studies. Though she has published several books, and over 100 hundred articles, Christian is best known for her piece *Black Women Novelist: The Development of a Tradition*. Her other works include: *Teaching Guide to Accompany Black Foremothers* (1980), and *Black Feminist Criticism: Perspectives on Black Women Writers* (1985).

