

AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS NATIONAL MUSEUM

50-state Women Honorees for March 2013

(Read About These Talented Women!)

www.americanwomenwritersnationalmuseum.org

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

CALIFORNIA

 **Francis Marion** (1888-1973), the most renowned woman screenwriter of the 20th century, in 1930 was the first woman to win an Oscar for screenwriting. In 1932 she won a second Oscar. Born in San Francisco, Marion transitioned to Hollywood from working as a WWI combat journalist for the *San Francisco Examiner*. In 1930 Marion won an Oscar for screenwriting (*The Big House*). Her 1972 memoir is *Off With Their Heads*. She won a second Oscar in 1932 for *The Champ*. Marion is a descendant of American Revolutionary war hero "The Swamp Fox" Frances Marion (1732-1795).



Los Angeles native **Jane Smiley** (1949-) is a novelist and short story writer. In 1985, she received the O. Henry Award for her short story *Lily*. She won the Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 1992 for her novel *A Thousand Acres*, a story based on William Shakespeare's *King Lear*. Her other works include a novella *Age of Grief* (1987), and the novel *Private Life* (2010). She was a Fulbright Scholar and is a member of the American Academy of Arts & Letters.

Another LA native, **Laurie Garrett** (1951-) is a science journalist and best-selling author. In 1996, she received the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism for her series of articles examining the Ebola virus outbreak in Zaire. Garrett has also authored several books including *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health* (2005) and *I Heard the Sirens Scream: How Americans Responded to the 9/11 and Anthrax Attacks* (2011).



COLORADO



Harvey, a 6'3" tall rabbit invisible to everyone except his best friend, social outcast Elwood P. Dowd, hopped Denver-born playwright **Mary Coyle Chase** (1906-1981) to a 1945 Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Chase worked as a journalist for the *Rocky Mountain News*. Although Chase wrote fourteen plays and two children's novels, her family-fare comedy, later made into a film starring Jimmy Stewart, remains a beloved, enduring American staple.



Margaret Coel (1937-) descendant of Colorado pioneers, is a *New York Times* bestselling author of the acclaimed *Wind River Mystery Series* and the award-winning *Chief Left Hand*. The Colorado Historical Society's list of the Best 100 Books on Colorado history includes two of her books. Her articles have appeared in *The New York Times* and *Christian Science Monitor*.



In her 1881 work *A Century of Dishonor*, Interior Department Agent **Helen Hunt Jackson** (1830-1885) wrote of the effects of government actions on Native Americans. Her 1884 novel *Ramona*, focused on Native Americans in Southern California, is said to have been reprinted about 300 times, and has been adapted for film, TV and stage productions. She was a classmate of iconic American poet Emily Dickinson with whom she exchanged a life-long correspondence.

CONNECTICUT

When children's television writer **Suzanne Collins** "hit it big" with her *The Hunger Games*, a futuristic trilogy, she really HIT IT BIG: an international blockbuster best-seller. Born in 1962 in Hartford, she has been writing for over 10 years. *The Hunger Games* has recently been made into several post-apocalypse films. In 2010, she received the Georgia Peach Book Award for teen readers, and the following year she won the California Young Reader Medal in addition to her many other awards and accolades.



Eileen Albrizio born in 1963 in Hartford, is a poet and editor whose work has been published in periodicals including *The Common Ground Review* and the *Underwood Review*. Albrizio has poetry volumes entitled *Messy on the Inside*, and *Rain--Dark as Water in Winter*, as well as several plays, novels, and short stories. In 2008 she received the New Boston Fund Individual Artist Fellowship. Her spot news stories were awarded first prize honors from Associated Press and the Society of Professional Journalists, when she worked as a broadcaster.



Born in Middletown, **Katharine Brush** (1902-1952) began her career as a columnist for the *Boston Traveler*, but soon transitioned into writing short stories and novels. Her 1929 story *Him and Her* won the O. Henry Award for Best Short Short. Her novel *Young Man of Manhattan* was named the 9th best-selling novel in the United States in 1930 and was made into a comedy film starring Ginger Rogers and Claudette Colbert as flappers.

DELAWARE

Romance novelist **Colleen Faulkner** born in 1962, has published several novels including her works *Eternal*, *Undying*, and *Immortal*. In 1999 she was awarded the Diamond Award for Literary Excellence in the state of Delaware.



Born in 1960 in Wilmington, **Bertice Berry** began her career as an entertainer and comedienne, and had her 1993-1994 nationally syndicated talk show entitled *The Bertice Berry Show*. She later turned to writing, penning her own memoir, *I'm On My Way, But Your Foot is on My Head*, as well as several other books.