

# AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS NATIONAL MUSEUM

## 50-state Women Honorees for May 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)

### IDAHO

Romance novelist, **Rachel Gibson**, born in Boise, has been a fixture on the *New York Times* Best Seller List since her writing debut in 1998 with *Simply Irresistible*. Known for her fast-paced and humor, she received the RITA Award, The Golden Heart Award, and the National Readers Choice Award. Some of her works include: *Nothing But Trouble* (2010), *Rescue Me* (2012), and *Crazy Sweet Fine* (2103).

Moscow's **Carol Ryrie Brink** (1895-1981) is an author of young adult novels. Her first, *Anything Can Happen on the River*, published in 1934, was followed by over 20 more novels, several plays, and poetry collections. In 1936 the Phi Beta Kappa won the Newbery Medal, and the Lewis Carol Shelf Award for her 1935 novel *Caddie Woodlawn* which she later turned into a 1945 stage play.

Pulitzer winner **Marilynne Robinson**, born in Sandpoint in 1943, is a novelist and essayist. In 1980 she received the Hemingway Foundation Award for best first novel for her book *Housekeeping*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in fiction. In 2005 Robinson was the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for her novel *Gilead*. She has also won the Orange Prize for Fiction, and the Ambassador Book Award.

### ILLINOIS

**Leslie Ullman** (1947- ) whose work has been published in *The New Yorker* and *The Kenyon Review*, has been writing poetry for over 4 decades. She is a two-time recipient of the National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship Award, and in 1997 she received the Iowa Poetry Prize for her collection *Slow Work Through Sand*. For 27 years she taught creative writing at the University of Texas, El Paso. She teaches skiing in Taos where she spends winters.

Born in Evanston, **Kim Yale** (1953-1997) is a writer and editor of comic books, and is AWWNM's first honoree in the category of graphic novels. Though her career was prematurely ended due to her untimely death from breast cancer, Yale left a lasting mark on the world of comics. She has written for the most esteemed publications in that genre including DC Comics and Marvel. Yale also worked with the Friends of Lulu organization which promotes women in comics. The group created the Kimberly Yale Award for Best New Talent to honor Yale's contribution to the comic industry.

Born in 1974 in Chicago, **Kira Salak** is a journalist and non-fiction writer. Though best known for thrill-seeking adventures, Salak has made a name for herself in the literary world. She has published three books and appeared in the *Best American Travel Writing* five times. She has been awarded the PEN Award for journalism and the Prague Fellowship Award in creative non-fiction. Salak is also a two-time winner of the Lowell Thomas Gold Award for Best Foreign Article.

### INDIANA

*I Love Lucy* script writer and author, Indianapolis native **Madelyn Pugh** (1921-2011) is best known for her work on the iconic television comedy series. She is credited with creating the character *Lucy*, a beloved fixture in American culture. Pugh also worked on the spin-off series *Here's Lucy* and *The Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Show* as well as other popular television programs. Throughout her career, Pugh was nominated for an Emmy several times, won a Golden Globe Award, was named Times Woman of the Year by the *Los Angeles Times*.

**Meg Cabot**, born in Bloomington in 1967, is an author of romantic and paranormal fiction for young adults. She has written over 50 books, she is best known for her series *The Princess Diaries*, which was later made into two Disney movies. Cabot has been nominated for an Edgar Allen Poe Award and a Queen of Teen Award. She has received the New York Public Library Books for Teens Award, and the Evergreen Young Adult Book Award.

Born in Highland in 1957, **Debra Kemp** writes historical fiction novels. Kemp draws mainly from Arthurian legends and names them as the inspiration for her House of Pendragon books series. She was a finalist for the 2005 EPPIE Award and the Dream Realm Award.

### IOWA

**Eleanor Hoyt Brainerd** (1868-1942) born in Iowa City, published 10 novels in her lifetime—many written for young women. She worked as a columnist for several magazines including *Vanity Fair* and *Ladies Home Journal*. In 1919 she published a biography of her parents entitled *Our Little Old Lady*. Some of her other works include: *The Misdemeanors of Nancy*, *Bettina*, and *How Could You, Jean?*

Stephen King favorite, Iowa City native, **Chelsea Cain** (1972- ) began writing humorous books such as *Does this Cape Make Me Look Fat?* *Pop-Psychology for Superheroes*, but she transitioned into thriller novels. Her popular *Heartsick* series for which she received the Best Fiction Award from Amazon.com and was named 6<sup>th</sup> Best Book of the Year by horror best-seller Stephen King. That series has been translated into over 20 languages and is awaiting a film.

Ames native **Jane Espenson** (1964- ) has won an Emmy, a Writers Guild of America Award, and an Indie award for her television writing. She has worked on or produced popular television series, including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Game of Thrones*. She was a screenwriter or producer on cult television shows such as *Firefly*, *Tru Calling*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Dollhouse*. In 2003 and 2012, she won the Hugo Award for best dramatic presentation. In 2009 she won an Emmy Award for short-format live-action entertainment program.