

50-state Women Honorees for October 2012

(Read About These Talented Women!)

www.americanwomenwritersnationalmuseum.org

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

OKLAHOMA



Red Oak native **Rilla Askew**, (1951-) winner of innumerable writing honors, is AWWNM's in-person honoree November 14 at a Washington, D.C. event, cosponsored with Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, and OCFB, as part of AWWNM's 50-state Project. (See **State Meant 4 U** page of www.americanwomenwritersnationalmuseum.org.)

Emmy nominee, screenwriter **Cindy Chupack**, (1973-) was honored for her writing on the TV hit series *Sex and the City*. The Tulsa native also wrote screenplays for *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and *Coach*. Her nonfiction book *The Between Friends*, discusses single women, dating and relationships.



Joyce Carol Thomas (1938-) born in Ponca City, is an African-American playwright, author and motivational speaker, who has authored over 30 children's books. Her 1982 novel *Marked by Fire* won a National Book and American Book Award. Her plays include *A Song in the Sky* (1976).

Phi Beta Kappa **Carolyn Gimpel Hart** (1936-) born in Oklahoma City, specializes in "cozy" genre mysteries. Her novel, *Letter From Home*, set during WWII, was a Pulitzer Prize fiction nominee. She was nominated for the Agatha Award nine times, won three times—as well as many prestigious writing honors.



OREGON

An author and illustrator of children's books, **Clare Turlay Newberry** (1903-1970) was born in Enterprise. She is famous for her drawings of cats which appeared in *Mittens* (1936), *Pandora* (1994) and *Frosty* (1961). *The NY Times* heralded her first book *Herbert the Lion* as "refreshingly imaginative."

2007 Pulitzer Prize winner **Debby Applegate** (1968-) author of *The Most Famous Man in America*, a biography of Henry Ward Beecher, which was named best book of the year by *The NY Times*, won the Melcher Book Award and the Victorian Society in America Book Award. Applegate, born in Eugene, taught American history at Yale.



Hillsboro native **Lisa Gardner** authors fiction thrillers including *The Killing Hour*, *The Next Accident* and *Gone*, a novel set in a fictitious Oregon town. She has also written romance novels under the pen name Alicia Scott.

PENNSYLVANIA

Playwright author **Bebe Moore Campbell** (1950-2006) was reared in Philadelphia. Her 1986 book *Successful Women, Angry Men* began her career, and her *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine* was a *NY Times* Notable Book. Mental Illness was her lifelong interest and cause. She received awards from the NAACP and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women.

Barbara Neely (1941-) of Lebanon wrote the Blanche White series about a Black maid who solves murder mysteries. She won a 1992 Agatha Award for *Blanch on the Lam*, and won a 1993 Anthony Award for the same novel.



Journalist **Rebecca Harding Davis** (1831-1910) an editor at the NY Tribune, known as the "pioneer of literary realism," is best known for her 1861 nonfiction *Life in the Iron Mills*, depicting the plight of 19th century industrial workers. Davis' work was revived in the 1970s when writer Tillie Olsen found a collection of Davis' work in a junk shop!

RHODE ISLAND

Patrician **Edith Roelker Curtis** (1893-1977), born in East Greenwich, moved in "old money" upscale social circles. Her book *Anne Hutchinson: A Biography* (1930), was followed by *Lady Sarah Lennox* (1946). American Pen Women honored her *A Season in Utopia* with a 1962 Biennial Award for best nonfiction book.



Former flight attendant **Ann Hood** (1956-) authored *Somewhere Off the Coast of Maine*, *The Knitting Circle*; and *Red Thread*, about adoption of Chinese babies. Her work *Comfort*, details her struggle to cope with the 2002 death of her five-year old daughter. She has won two Pushcart prizes and other literary awards. She now teaches at NY University.

Roman Catholic liturgy undergirds RI-born **Catherine Imbruglio's** 2007 first poetry book *Parts of the Mass* which received the 2008 Norman Farber Award plus the Merit Award in Poetry from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. Her poetry continues to be published in various periodicals.

