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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Amador Publishers Celebrates Poets / Authors with"Book Bash" on Sunday, October 19, 2014 1:30-4:00 PM at the Albuquerque Center for Peace & Justice, 202 Harvard SE

Founded in 1986 by beloved Albuquerque authors **Harry Willson and Adela Amador**, Amador Publishers has hosted many a "Book Bash" over the course of almost three decades. This year's event takes place at the **Albuquerque Center for Peace & Justice** on **Sunday, October 19, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM**, and features Virginia **poet Robin Matthews**, local **musician Frank G. Johnson**, and author-artist **Zelda Leah Gatuskin, Amador's editor-in-chief**. There will be a short program about the press and new releases, with readings by Matthews, Gatuskin and special guests. **Frank Johnson** will perform songs of the '60s and '70s. The public will be invited to join in during an **open mic for poetry**. The event is **free and open to the public; refreshments will be served**.

CELEBRATING NEW TITLES FOR 2014: The press is releasing two new titles this fall

***Another Spring*, collected poems, by Robin Matthews** begins with recently penned reflections and reminiscences of a lifetime. They bridge the leap back to the author's work of the 1970s, from which the poems continue to move back in time, as the mind does naturally in memory. The result is an evocative portrait of the 60s and 70s, against which one man's interactions with nature and society are traced in a spare yet lyrical style. **Robin Matthews** grew up in rural New Jersey. Trained as a printing press operator, he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Viet Nam War. Following his discharge, he moved to Manhattan and co-founded the poetry magazine *Sanskaras* with Ronald Hobbs. Matthews left the east coast and mainstream America in 1970 to start a family and pursue an alternative lifestyle in New Mexico. After returning to work and residence in the southeast, he took a long hiatus from poetry. Now retired, Matthews has resumed his writing.

***"The Holiness of the Real" - The Short Verse of Kenneth Rexroth* by Donald Gutierrez** is the authoritative guide to the shorter works of San Francisco poet Kenneth Rexroth, reissued in a revised second edition at the behest of Hector and Trajan Gutierrez in memory of their parents, the author and artist Marlene Zander Gutierrez, whose work graces the cover. Donald Gutierrez (1932-2012) published five books of literary scholarship and criticism, primarily on modern literature, during his career as a professor of the Humanities. He received a New Mexico Eminent Scholar Award in 1989. *Feeling the Unthinkable* (Amador, 2012), Gutierrez's collection of essays and reviews on social justice, which he authored during retirement, was a NM-AZ Book Award winner. Professor Gutierrez had an intriguing personal connection to Kenneth Rexroth and the San Francisco poetry scene of the 1950s; this firsthand association, combined with sensitive scholarship and a passionate social conscience, made Professor Gutierrez eminently qualified to champion Kenneth Rexroth as a poet and personality for the ages.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE MILLER ALLEN: Author had made her home in Scotland

Michelle Miller Allen died of complications from surgery on April 18, 2014 in Dunipace, Scotland, where she had made her home since 2005. She was 64. While she was known to her friends in New Mexico as a creative artist, author and editor, in Scotland she became an environmental campaigner who helped lead a revival of the River Carron. "She was described as a tireless community champion who loved the footpaths and green spaces in and around Denny and Falkirk, and worked hard to improve them for the benefit of all" (*The Falkirk Herald*, May 4, 2014). Naturally she applied her literary skills to the task, editing the *New Leaf News* for the Community Green Initiative, the organization she helped to found.

Michelle was a self-described "army brat." Born in North Carolina, she traveled extensively in her childhood. She attended school in New Orleans, and eventually settled in New Mexico, where she worked as a paralegal while earning a Masters degree in Theater from UNM. Her poetry, short fiction and articles appeared in various literary and arts magazines in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and online. Her plays were produced at venues throughout New Mexico, and her book of fiction, *Hunger in the First Person Singular* (Amador Publishers, 1992), won the New Mexico Press Women's Best Book Zia Award. Miller Allen was the mastermind and lead editor of Amador's anthology, *Christmas Blues, Behind the Holiday Mask* (1995). Her novel *Journey from the Keep of Bones*, was awarded First Runner Up for Best Visionary Fiction, 2003 by the National Coalition of Visionary Resources. In 2007, she published the posthumous memoir of Elizabeth McBride, *Last of the Nice Girls*. She was in the process of completing two mystery novels.

Michelle had made her home in Jemez Springs for a number of years. She moved to Scotland following the death of her husband, Rick Allen, but continued to operate her production company, Green Phoenix Productions, an effort dedicated to "encourag[ing] creative people to keep creating in order to counteract the destructive forces on the planet."

Wherever Michelle landed, she brought people together, energized and inspired. She has left her mark on the hearts of many on both sides of the Atlantic.

Zelda Leah Gatuskin, now editor in chief of Amador Publishers, will offer a tribute to her friend and "literary big sister," who helped to establish a national and international reputation for our homegrown press.

MUSIC, AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION, "BOOK BASH" TRADITIONS

Music for this year's Book Bash will be provided by **Frank G. Johnson**, and attendees are invited to sing along. Many will recognize Frank from his appearances with the Highland Hightoners and the Enchanters Chorus as conductor and pianist. A graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music, Frank holds a Masters degree in Vocal Performance from UNM; he teaches music, voice and piano to students of all ages.

Interspersed with the music, Book Bash guests will have a chance to read their own poems or favorite poems during **Poetry Open Mic** segments. Says Gatuskin, "The Book Bashes have always been about encouraging everyone's creative writing. Harry and Adela and Michelle and I realized early on that it wasn't that much fun to just be out there selling ourselves. We wanted to be in a dialogue with other artists and the community at large. I think each of us - and every Amador author - felt or feels that in some way reading and writing saved us. The Book Bash honors the literary arts."