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National #WritersResist Movement Comes to Phoenix
Local Authors to Read Sunday January 15th at Burton Barr Public Library

PHOENIX, AZ (January 3rd, 2017) . . . On Sunday, January 15th, 2017 at 3 pm, prominent authors from all over the state of Arizona will gather at Burton Barr Central Library (1221 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003) to show their solidarity with the national #WritersResist movement, read work from a diverse American literary canon, and reassert their commitment to the ideals of democracy.

Authors reading at the event are locally and nationally recognized professors, poets laureate, founders of presses and reading series, civil rights activists, competitors on national slam poetry teams, winners of awards from the American Book Association and PEN America, recipients of grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and more. Authors include:

Andrea Avery
Sally Ball
Matt Bell
Harold Branch
Adrienne Celt

Natalie Diaz
Rosemarie Dombrowski
Fatima Halim
Alison Hawthorne Deming
Myrlin Hepworth

Cynthia Hogue
Leah Marché
Farid Matuk
Alberto Ríos
Joy Young

“This is unprecedented,” states Jake Friedman, founder of local journal and small press Four Chambers. “I cannot think of a time in recent memory that such an impressive and diverse group of authors have come together in the state of Arizona for an event of this magnitude and scale, particularly one that is open to the public, free, and advancing a renewed public agenda for the fundamental civil rights of free speech, self-determination, and liberty.”

In addition to sharing work from historical voices within America's diverse literary tradition, the event will also raise awareness for several local non-profits. Musical accompaniment will be provided by Joe Willie Smith.

The flagship Writers Resist event is co-sponsored by PEN America and will be held in New York City, where prominent writers, including American poet laureates Robert Pinsky and Rita Dove, will gather to “re-inaugurate” their commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy.

Writers Resist was launched after the recent elections by the poet Erin Belieu under the belief that, in order to heal and move forward as individuals and a nation, writers must recommit their focus to the fundamental ideals of democracy and social justice for all. Belieu also co-founded VIDA, a feminist organization dedicated to gender parity in the literary landscape.

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