

For Immediate Release
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Teachers, Students and Writers Read in Response to Arizona's Ethnic Studies Ban

Tucson, Arizona – “Reading Ethnic Studies,” a literary presentation of poetry, fiction and nonfiction will take place on Friday, April 29, 2011 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Casa Libre en la Solana in Tucson. Participants will read original work that responds to the dialogue around Arizona's ethnic studies legislation. The readers include Tucson teachers and high school students, a recent winner of the Bellwether prize in fiction, an NEA Literature fellow, a slam poet, and a Cave Canem fellow. A question/answer period will follow the reading. Admission to the reading is five dollars. The reading is a fundraiser for Save Ethnic Studies.

The event is organized by Arizona Writers for Justice (AWJ) to address the political rhetoric surrounding HB2281. “In the midst of all the rhetoric, the stories of how we're living and understanding our realities often get lost,” says Rae Paris, co-founder of AWJ. “We hope to bring some of these stories to the surface.”

Participants in “Reading Ethnic Studies” will include:

Naomi Benaron
Myrlin Hepworth
Deyanira Nevarez
Django Paris
Rae Paris
Renee Simms
Aisha Sloan

About Arizona Writers for Justice

Arizona Writers for Justice serves as a network and resource for writers of color in Arizona working toward social justice. The organization includes poets, slam poets, fiction writers, visual artists, educators and others. Building on and honoring the traditions of those who have come before, the organization is committed to creating a just, peaceful, and loving place to live and work. For more information please visit <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Arizona-Writers-for-Justice-AWJ/103653299710073>

About Casa Libre en la Solana

The mission of Casa Libre en la Solana is to support and enhance the creativity of professional and novice writers by providing uninterrupted time for work through residency programs; and to provide a venue for classes, readings, and other professional development opportunities. For more information please visit: www.casalibre.org

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Images available upon request.