

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ONEBOOKAZ VOTES ARE IN – ARIZONANS CHOOSE BOOK TITLES FOR 2009

PHOENIX, AZ – ONEBOOKAZ 2009 will feature two books by Arizona authors, both originally from Nogales. Alberto Ríos' *Capirotada* is the adult selection, while Roni Capin Rivera-Ashford's *Hip, Hip Hooray, It's Monsoon Day!* is the kids' selection and the first bilingual ONEBOOKAZ title.

Both books were chosen by Arizonans through an online vote that took place during the month of September. Each winning title was up against five other nominees. Mr. Ríos' book received 46% of the public vote in the adult category, and Ms. Rivera-Ashford's book received 31% of the public vote in the kids' category. Both of the winning titles feature Arizona people, places, and culture, fulfilling the newest goal of the ONEBOOKAZ program: to help Arizonans read their way to the upcoming State Centennial in 2012. As Arizona prepares for its one hundredth birthday, ONEBOOKAZ provides an opportunity for its citizens to come together to read and discuss books that increase their knowledge and appreciation of Arizona's unique history and culture.

Brought to Arizona in 2002, and coordinated by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records' Center for the Book, ONEBOOKAZ is an exciting literacy program that brings **communities together through reading**. Beginning in April every year, this program encourages communities across the State of Arizona to read the *same* book at the *same* time and to participate in discussions, programs, and events centered on that book. One title is chosen for adults to read, and one title is chosen for kids. ONEBOOKAZ celebrates literature in the state of Arizona by encouraging the reading and exploration of a book and by fostering a sense of community through the shared experience of reading the same book, discussing themes and involving participants in the various events connected with the book.

ONEBOOKAZ 2009 kicks off on April 12, 2009 at the Tempe Center for the Arts with a literary evening and awards ceremony with the authors. Other activities include statewide author talks, book signings, book discussions, and many more events planned in Flagstaff, Phoenix, Prescott, Tucson, and other cities. To read excerpts from the books, to learn more about the authors, to read about the other nominees, and to find out about ONEBOOKAZ events happening around the state, visit [www.onebookaz.org](http://www.onebookaz.org) and [www.onebookaz.org/kids](http://www.onebookaz.org/kids).

Both authors will also be appearing at the Tucson Festival of Books of at the University of Arizona campus on March 15, 2009. For more information, visit <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org>.

In *Capirotada*, Alberto Ríos shares his experiences growing up in Nogales, Arizona where he learned to value the unique cultural mix of the area, much like *capirotada*, a Mexican bread pudding, made with lots of different ingredients and traditionally served at Lent. Ríos came of age among a mixture of peoples, ideas, and traditions in both his community and his family (his mother is from England, his father from Mexico). Finely crafted and emotionally powerful without being heavy-handed, this well-balanced narrative recalls the universal experiences of childhood and unique personal reminiscences of the author.

Alberto Ríos is the author of ten books of poetry, three collections of short stories, and a memoir about growing up on the border. National Book Award finalist and recipient of the Western

Literature Association's Distinguished Achievement Award, Ríos teaches at Arizona State University. His next book, *The Dangerous Shirt*, is forthcoming from Copper Canyon Press.

*Hip, Hip Hooray, It's Monsoon Day!* is a story of how many people anticipate and celebrate the coming of the monsoon season, which largely defines North America's spectacular Sonoran Desert. As the story unfolds, Aaron and his family introduce us to cultural traditions and meteorological wonders, and to the animals and plants of this region.

Roni Capin Rivera-Ashford, born to a pioneering Jewish family, grew up in Nogales, Arizona, on the U.S. - Mexico border. Her stories come from her childhood days in the Sonoran Desert where she still lives and writes. Roni has spoken Spanish and English from birth. She was a bilingual pre-school and elementary teacher and translator for nearly 30 years. She also taught Pima College Extension night courses and earned her Librarian's Endorsement at the University of Arizona.

ONEBOOKAZ is presented by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Arizona Library Association, and Maricopa Community Colleges, in partnership with libraries, museums, and educational institutions in Arizona; with support from APS, *The Arizona Republic*, Follett Library Resources, KAET, Phoenix College, Sun Sounds of Arizona, and the Phoenix Book Company. Additional sponsorship and partner participation is always available and welcome.

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