

**AMADOR PUBLISHERS, LLC**  
611 Delamar NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107  
505-344-6102, [info@amadorbook.com](mailto:info@amadorbook.com)  
[www.amadorbooks.com](http://www.amadorbooks.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2012  
Contact: Zelda Gatuskin, 505-344-6102  
E-mail: [Zelda@amadorbooks.com](mailto:Zelda@amadorbooks.com)

**A Remembrance & Farewell to Adela Amador**  
*Author, Publisher, Philosopher, Cook*

Adela Amador, the woman who gave her name to our "little press that could" died on May 25, 2012, one month short of her 90th birthday. She was co-founder of Amador Publishers as well as an author and longtime contributor to *New Mexico Magazine*. Her work includes recipe books and a collection of stories told in her distinctive native New Mexican voice.

Adela was reared in Placitas where she grew up learning the traditional women's skills of sewing and cooking. During the 1960s she moved to Albuquerque. She first worked at J.C. Penney Company and later opened her own drapery shop, Draperies by Adela, in 1980. The shop was located on North Fourth Street and for many years, even after she stopped doing the sewing herself, she still visited it every morning.

At age 47 Adela decided she wanted to go back to school and she attended the University of New Mexico. At 52 she received her degree in Spanish Literature and a minor in

Philosophy. While in college she began writing *cuentos* (folk tales) for an assignment, and some were published in anthologies at UNM. This, combined with the encouragement of her husband Harry Willson (1932-2010), convinced her she was a writer. She began work on a cookbook that would become Amador Publishers' most popular title and would help sustain the company.



**AMADOR PUBLISHERS, LLC**  
611 Delamar NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107  
505-344-6102, [info@amadorbook.com](mailto:info@amadorbook.com)  
[www.amadorbooks.com](http://www.amadorbooks.com)

*Twelve Gifts: Recipes from a Southwest Kitchen* is a 22-page cookbook composed of twelve recipes ranging from dinner ideas to desserts to margaritas. The opening author's note, written in Adela's own hand, explains that all of the recipes are "simple, tasty and easy to make." This little book has sold over 12,000 copies and is in its fourth printing. The book caught the attention of *New Mexico Magazine*. Soon after its publication, Adela began writing their "Southwest Flavor" food column, in which a unique Adela short story or anecdote preceded the recipe(s) of the month.

Adela's column, which was about much more than food, would become the magazine's most popular feature. She held this writing position from 1993 to 2006. In 2000, a collection of her "Southwest Flavor" articles and recipes was published under the same name. Adela also authored a collection of short stories and reminiscences, titled *Undercurrents: New Mexico Stories Then and Now*, about the lives of different peoples of New Mexico over the past century. Jorge Gabaldo said of Adela's work, "*Escribe con el corazon en el punto de la pluma*" ["She writes with her heart on the point of her pen"].

Adela will be remembered through her written words as well as through her presence within the hearts of those that knew her. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to both the Willson and Amador families. A celebration of Adela's life will be held on Sunday, June 10 at 2:00 PM in the Salon Ortega at the Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 Fourth Street SW, Albuquerque.

Amador Publishers, LLC continues under the leadership of author-artist Zelda Leah Gatuskin, who became owner and editor-in-chief in 2010. The press will stay true to the mission Adela and Harry declared at its inception in 1986: Dedicated to peace, equality, respect for all cultures and preservation of the biosphere.