

The Mid-Valley Poetry Society
presents

The Beauty & Peril of the Natural World

a Poetry in Performance event featuring

**Poets Amy Minato & Pepper Trail
with Photographer Joel Zak**

2:00-4:00 p.m., Sunday, September 1, 2019

E. G. Siegmund Meeting Room, Stayton Public Library

515 N. First Ave., Stayton, OR

OPEN MIC · ADMISSION FREE · DONATIONS APPRECIATED

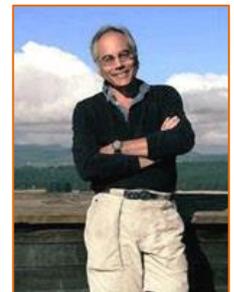
This event features two Oregon poets whose knowledge and love of the natural world, and concern for its future, infuses their poetry. Their readings will be accompanied by projected images from the work of a landscape photographer who shares that love and concern.

Amy Minato is author of two poetry collections, *Hermit Thrush*, (Inkwater Press, 2016) and *The Wider Lens* (Ice River Press, 2004), and a memoir, *Siesta Lane*, (Skyhorse Press, 2009). She holds an MFA in Creative Writing and an MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon and has received a Literary Arts Fellowship for her poetry and a Walden Residency for her prose. She teaches writing through Literary Arts, Multnomah Art Center, Fishtrap, and Breitenbush Retreat Center, and sustainable living education at Portland State University. Amy lives with her husband and two children in Portland, Oregon. In summers they migrate to the Willowa Mountains to skip rocks on the lake and sleep beneath skies crazy with stars.



Pepper Trail grew up outdoors, and spends as much time there as possible. His poetry has been published in *Rattle*, *Atlanta Review*, *Ascent*, *About Place Journal*, *Windfall*, and elsewhere, and his environmental essays appear regularly in *High Country News*. He has received a Playa Residency for his writing on climate change, and currently serves on the Playa board. He is the author of three poetry collections—*Flight Time* (2014), *Cascade-Siskiyou: Poems* (2015; a finalist for the Oregon Book Award in Poetry), and *An Empty Bowl* (2018). Pepper lives in Ashland, Oregon, where he works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Joel Zak recounts that his passion for ‘seeing’ images began during a family outing when he first saw how the warm morning light played on a vast field of wheat in the Oregon farm country. He marveled at how it accentuated each individual grain and sculpted wide, lavish, gold contours, changing a common field into something that expressed more than what it was. Since then he has played in that light and its infinite variations, creating images that express another way of seeing and that evoke the extraordinary beauty of the Northwest. He has lived and worked in many areas of the U.S., yet as a native and again resident Oregonian, he was always compelled to return home, drawn inexorably by the stunning diversity of our landscape.



After an opening set by the featured performers, there will be an intermission with book and photograph sales and light refreshments. Then audience members will have an opportunity to perform in an open mic. The program will close with a finale by the featured performers.

Contact: MVPS Chair Eleanor Berry <eberry@wvi.com>

Program Made Possible, in Part, by a Grant from the Marion Cultural Development Corporation