

the **BOOK NOOK**

## ■ Reading by poet Megan Alpert

LA GRANDE — Megan Alpert, poet and journalist, will read at the next ACE Writing Project gathering, a virtual event beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17.

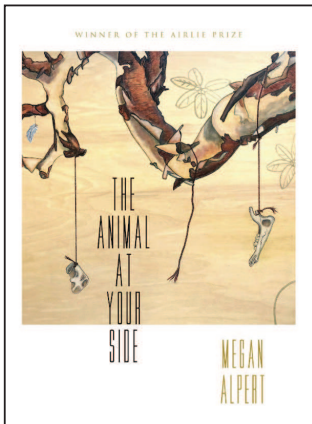
Alpert's 2020 poetry collection, "The Animal at Your Side," won the Airlie Prize and was a finalist for the National Poetry Series. Her poems have appeared in Colorado Review, Copper Nickel, Crab Orchard Review, Quarterly West, Cincinnati Review, Denver Quarterly and many others. As a journalist, she has reported for The Atlantic, Smithsonian, The Guardian and Foreign Policy.

According to Shaindel Beers, author of "Secure Your Own Mask," "The Animal at Your Side" spans worlds — Eastern Europe, China, Ecuador, folktale, and myth — all of these worlds equally sinister and haunting. In poems where we feel 'the whirr-click of war beginning . . .' the poet learns that the best way to survive is to become 'the same color as rocks, water, / anything I walked past, / see-through.' This is Megan Alpert's gift to us — radical empathy — so we can shape-shift through these worlds as she has."

Wednesday's free event will conclude with a community open mic. Sign-up begins at 6:45 p.m. (maximum 10 readers, each with a five-minute reading limit).

To access the Zoom gathering, register at [www.artcentereast.org/calendar/](http://www.artcentereast.org/calendar/) then scroll down and choose the Feb. 17 Writing Project.

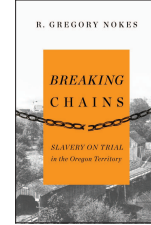
The ACE Writing Project is held the third Wednesday of the month and facilitated by Nancy Knowles and Amelia Ettinger.



## ■ Join the Brown Bag Book Club

JOSEPH — The Feb. 23 Brown Bag hosted by the Josephy Center will be a gathering of the Black History Month Book Group. Beginning at noon, the virtual book group will discuss "Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory" by R. Gregory Nokes.

"Breaking Chains" tells the story of the only slavery case adjudicated in Oregon's pre-Civil War courts: *Holmes v. Ford*. Through the lens of this landmark case, Nokes explores the historical context of racism in Oregon and the West, reminding readers that there actually were slaves in Oregon. Join the discussion via the Zoom link at [www.josephy.org/event/black-history-month-book-group-brown-bag](http://www.josephy.org/event/black-history-month-book-group-brown-bag).



Copies of the book are on sale at the Josephy Center, (\$19.95 less a 20% book group discount, so \$14 for a book you will want in your library). Buy the book online at [www.josephy.org/product/breaking-chains-slavery-on-trial-in-the-oregon-territory](http://www.josephy.org/product/breaking-chains-slavery-on-trial-in-the-oregon-territory).

**ATTENTION READERS**

GO! editors are seeking book reviews written by local readers and information on book clubs and other literary happenings in Northeast Oregon. Send submissions and ideas to [lkelly@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:lkelly@lagrandeobserver.com).

**GENRE BOOK CLUB**

Cook Memorial Library's Genre Book Club meets online Thursday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. This month members will discuss dystopian and post-apocalyptic fiction they've read. The club is free and open to all adults. Join anytime. Email [rpeacock@cookmemoriallibrary.org](mailto:rpeacock@cookmemoriallibrary.org) for the meeting login.

**CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

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The Center for Human Development, Inc., Medications for Addiction Treatment Program (MAT) offers hope and healing to individuals and families suffering from Opioid Use Disorder. Our team of certified drug and alcohol counselors, licensed medical providers, and certified recovery mentors help treat opioid addiction through medication, counseling, and the support of family and friends.

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**Valentine's Dinner**  
February 13th and 14th, 4-8PM  
Reservations recommended as we have to seat at 50% capacity • 541-575-1970

2 - 10oz Rib Eye, soup or salad, roll and choice of potato; comes with an appetizer and a dessert to share - \$50  
Add on a lobster tail or sauteed or breaded shrimp for \$14 each

**Grubsteak Mining Co.**  
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