

Media Contact: Linda Church, 2811 NE Holman Street
Director Art & Culture Program, Portland, OR 97211
Concordia University;
lchurch@cu-portland.edu
503-493-6370

**Concordia University -
Portland**

For Immediate Release

Concordia University Libraries' Art & Culture and Mountain Writers Series present readings by well-known authors, Jim Heynen and Barbara Drake.

Author Readings: *Ordinary Sins* by Jim Heynen deftly captures the oddest of individuals to discover the most universal of themes. *Morning Light* by Barbara Drake is an exploration of lessons learned coupled with an appreciation of the landscape of western Oregon.

Portland, Oregon –

Event date: Thursday, November 20, 2014; 12:00noon to 1:30pm. Concordia University Libraries' Art & Culture Program and Mountain Writers Series are excited to co-sponsor author readings by distinguished authors, Jim Heynen and Barbara Drake. This event is free and open to the public and will be held in the George R. White Library and Learning Center (room 108), located at Concordia University.

Jim Heynen is perhaps best known for his collections of short prose featuring young farm boys: *The One-Room Schoolhouse: Stories about the Boys* (Vintage), *Boys House: New & Selected Stories* (Minnesota Historical Society Press), *Fishing for Chickens: Short Stories about Rural Youth* (Persea), and *The Man Who Kept Cigars in His Hat* (Graywolf). He is also the author of poetry and young adult fiction. Heynen lives in St. Paul, MN with his wife, Sarah T. Williams, formerly the Books Editor for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

Ordinary Sins: A boy curses the world following his first trip to daycare. A retired army general plays in a sandbox under the cover of night. A girl becomes so enamored with cherries that they begin to blossom from her ears. In Jim Heynen's caring hands, these glimpses of surprising tics and obsessions offer an empathetic, and beautiful, portrait of humanity. Complemented by the evocative illustrations of renowned artist, Tom Pohrt, these profound explorations of the human condition introduce us to a strangely recognizable world that celebrates our flaws and idiosyncrasies, illuminating the humor, sadness, and wonder of life.

Barbara Drake's books and chapbooks of poetry include *Driving One Hundred* (published in 2009 by Windfall Press), *Love at the Egyptian Theatre*, *What We Say to Strangers*, *Life in a Gothic Novel*, *Bees in Wet Weather*, and *Small Favors*. She is also the author of a memoir, *Peace at Heart: an Oregon Country Life*, from Oregon State University Press, and *Writing Poetry*, a widely used college textbook, in print since 1983. Her writing appears in numerous

For Release – September 2014

literary magazines and anthologies. *Peace at Heart* was an Oregon Book Award finalist in 1999. Drake taught creative writing, environmental literature, and book arts at Michigan State University and Linfield College.

Morning Light: When Barbara Drake and her husband left Portland and moved to a small farm in western Oregon's Yamhill Valley, they saw it as a temporary relocation— in *Morning Light*, Drake articulates the lessons she's learned from her long stint of country living with records of native wildflowers, an encounter with an elderly man who lived on her farm eighty years ago, and an old family recipe for wild blackberry pudding: readers will come to know Oregon better through this book.

Concordia University Libraries' Art & Culture program is dedicated to educating and inspiring our students, faculty and the greater Portland community by providing a variety of events intended to increase public awareness and access to art and culture in our community. The Concordia Arts and Culture program consists of events including an art gallery for approximately 100 pieces of hung art, display cases and pedestals for 3-D art display, art demonstrations and educational workshops, music presentations, author and poet readings, school days for community children of elementary and high school age, and more. All events are free and open to the public.

Since our founding in 1973, **Mountain Writers Series** has sponsored and facilitated thousands of literary events, broadcasts, readings, conferences, seminars and workshops. We have become one of the nation's largest and longest running networks to celebrate the written and spoken word. Poets and writers of regional, national, and international reputation have been welcomed into our community by Mountain Writers Series to share with our audiences and to experience the literary life of Portland and the Northwest.

For more information contact: Linda Church – lchurch@cu-portland.edu or call 503-493-6370. Our website address is: www.cu-portland.edu/academics/library/library-events.

Located in Portland, Oregon, Concordia University is a regionally accredited, private university that specializes in undergraduate and graduate programs of professional study. It is grounded in a strong Lutheran Liberal Arts tradition with a FTE student body of approximately 5,500 enrolled in its College of Education, College of Health & Human Services, School of Management, College of Theology, Arts, and Sciences, and School of Law.