EVENT TITLE: Scarlet Tanager Books Presents *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California*

Event Description:
The editors and three contributors will read from the anthology *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California*, which was a finalist for the 2019 Eric Hoffer Book Award for Poetry. Some of the poems celebrate the beauty and diversity of California ecosystems; others show environmental destruction and change. Because fire and rain are such important factors shaping California ecosystems, the anthology includes many poems about the effects of fire, rain, drought, and climate change throughout the state.

EVENT CATEGORY: Poetry Reading

Event Organizer & Moderator:
Lucille Lang Day is the award-winning author of 10 poetry collections, including *Becoming an Ancestor*, two children’s books and a memoir. A coeditor of two poetry anthologies, *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California* and *Red Indian Road West*, she holds an MFA in poetry and a PhD in science education. Her poetry collection *Birds of San Pancho* will be published by Blue Light Press this fall.

Event Participants:
**Ruth Nolan**, coeditor of *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California*, is a professor at College of the Desert, Palm Desert, CA, and the editor of *No Place for a Puritan: The Literature of California’s Deserts*. A former BLM California Desert District wildland firefighter, she is a widely published writer/scholar whose work focuses on California’s deserts. Her poetry collection *Ruby Mountain*.

**Cathy Barber** lived in San Mateo, California, for nearly twenty years. In 2016 she returned to her native Ohio to be nearer family. Her work has been published in many journals including *Kestrel*, *Haight Ashbury Literary Journal*, and *Canary*. She has an MFA in poetry from Vermont College of Fine Arts and an MA in English from California State University East Bay.

**Barbara Crooker** is the author of *Radiance*, winner of the 2005 Word Press First Book Award; *Line Dance*, winner of the 2009 Paterson Award for Excellence in Literature; *More; Gold; Small Rain*; and *Barbara Crooker: Selected Poems*. Her latest books are *The Book of Kells*, winner of the Best Poetry Book 2018 Award from Poetry by the Sea, and *Some Glad Morning*. 
Caryn Davidson was a park ranger in the education branch of Joshua Tree National Park and also the park liaison for the Artist-in-Residence program. Her work has been published in *L.A. Weekly, LAICA Journal, The Stone, Pacific Crest Trailside Reader, GEO, Spillway, Phantom Seed,* and various Joshua Tree National Park publications.

**OPENING REMARKS:**

Good afternoon, and welcome to Scarlet Tanager Books Presents *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California*. Thank you very much for being here.

My name is Lucille Lang Day, and I coedited *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California* with Ruth Nolan. Today Ruth and I will be reading from *Fire and Rain* along with three of our contributors.

*Fire and Rain* is an anthology of poems about California ecosystems. Including more than 250 poems by 149 contributors, it received an Artist Embassy International Literary/Cultural Arts Award and was a finalist for the 2019 Eric Hoffer Book Award in Poetry. The anthology is divided into eight sections corresponding to bioregions: Coast and Ocean; Coastal Redwoods; Hills and Canyons; Fields and Meadows; Desert; Rivers, Lakes, and Lagoons; Sierra Nevada and Cascades; and Cities Towns, and Roads. Fire and rain are two of the most important factors that shape California ecosystems, and the anthology includes many poems about the effects of fire, rain, and drought throughout the state.

We are now in the midst of a worldwide environmental crisis. For the past fifty years, global temperatures have been increasing faster than at any other time in human history; dozens of species are going extinct every day. Poetry cannot solve these problems, but it can illuminate them and generate discussion. Ruth and I hope that our anthology will do that. My press, Scarlet Tanager Books, is donating all of profits from *Fire and Rain* sales to seven environmental organizations.

**BOOK INFORMATION**