

—Slug:.....COMM-0847.arts.byway_Hayes_poetry
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—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42850

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 ByWay Books hosts reading by local poet Joanne McNeil
2 Hayes

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 ByWay Books & More, 399 Canal St., will host Joanne
6 McNeil Hayes Sunday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. as she presents her
7 collection of poetry based on the midwestern small town of
8 Naperville, Illinois
9 Jennifer Ramstetter assisted McNeil Hayes with her
10 prairie research. Part of that research was discovering the many
11 connections between Vermont and Naperville with early 19th-

12 century Vermont residents emigrating to Naperville specifically in
13 search of fertile farmland.

14 McNeil Hayes grew up in Naperville, writing poems
15 about midwestern small-town life before moving to Vermont. She
16 earned a Bachelor of Science in English from the University of
17 Wisconsin and a master's in the history of ideas/American studies
18 from Johns Hopkins University. While a professor of English,
19 gender and women's studies, and American history at Greenfield
20 (Mass.) Community College, McNeil Hayes participated in poetry
21 readings in the Northeast and Hawaii.

22 She culminated her midwestern life experiences in her
23 most recent book of poetry, *I am the Prairie*, published in 2025.

24 Ramstetter provided the book's foreword and highlights
25 the connection between the prairie life and the ecology McNeil
26 Hayes's poetry showcases. Ramstetter is a professor emerita at
27 Marlboro College and Emerson College, where she taught
28 biology and environmental studies.

29 For more information, contact the bookstore 802-490-
30 8014 or contact@bywaybooks.co, or visit bywaybooks.co.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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