

Book & Leaf Press Release (final)

10 Park Street

Brandon, Vermont

Adventures in fact and fantasy

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Kathleen McKinley Harris and **Ray Hudson** are two longtime friends who have both published new books, Harris in 2017; **Hudson** in 2018. **Harris** has always taken Vermont as her main subject matter, while **Hudson**, who lived and worked in Alaska for many years, has been inspired by that state's Aleutian Islands. Both authors will be presenting their newest books, which explore adventures in both fact and fantasy.

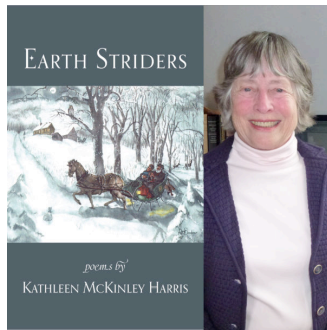
Kathleen McKinley Harris' latest book, ***Earth Striders***, recalls her girlhood summers in Stowe, Vermont where her father was an early ski jumper and skier (before lifts). She has a long history in Stowe, where her grandfather was a selectman and state representative. Seven Days writes, *"With titles that evoke farming, horses and wildlife, these poems by Kathleen McKinley Harris transport readers into a childhood of wonder and adventure amid everyday life in rural Vermont."* **Harris** recounts her transition from a horse-crazy girl who hears "the hooves beat the hard road" and feels "the rhythm of the walk and trot" to a young woman wondering "what in the world / I'm growing into?" Sara London writes, *"Harris's poems breathe out vapors of a pastoral Vermont revived in the tradition of Robert Frost. Richly narrative, they amplify the jangling, clattering, swishing rhythms and vernacular of yesteryear's farm life."* Harris' poems transcend time and place and speak to the journeys we all go through as we find our individual selves.

Ray Hudson's, ***Ivory and Paper: Adventures In and Out of Time***, begins in Vermont with thirteen-year-old Booker who leads a sheltered existence - until a spellbinding relic throws him skidding into a world of magic and myths come to life. Anna is an Unangaâ teenager looking for answers after her long-absent mother reappears in her life. When a mysterious bookmark brings them together on the Aleutian Islands, they're sent on a dangerous quest to return a magical amulet to Anna's Unangan ancestors. **Hudson** lived and worked in Alaska for many years, and has always been captivated by its history, especially that of the Aleutian Islands. Seven Days writes, *"Hudson brings the verdant, treeless islands to life in evocative prose, whether describing a modern harbor or a ceremonial parka made of bird skin and seal fur."* Midwest Review offers, *"The wonderful literary quality of this story is delightful. . . For the reader who may never have been to Alaska, this story reflects the wonder of the land honestly. It made me feel at home. Although this book is written for young adults, adults can also fully enjoy it."* Hudson's crystalline prose captures the mystical quality that permeates Aleutian life.

Please join us for magical and entertaining evening with these two accomplished Vermont authors who are sharing writing from worlds that they love. You are sure to be transported into memories, and adventures that delight and entertain. The public is also invited to participate in the **Open Mic** from 6-6:30 before the reading. Support Vermont talent and keep expanding our community of lovers of the written word!

Bios below:

BIOS



Kathleen McKinley Harris is a graduate of Middlebury College and has a master's in English from Case Western Reserve University. She has attended the Breadloaf Writers' Conference and the Vermont Studio Center. William Morrow, Jr. published her children's book, *The Wonderful Hay Tumble*, in 1988. Her poem, "Bear Fear," won the 1999 Ralph Nading Hill, Jr. Literary Award. Her poems have been published in **Vermont Ink**, **Snowy Egret**, **Potato Eyes**, **Willard & Maple VIII**, **The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Bulletin**, **Vermont Life**, **Blueline**. She is the 1999 third place winner in **The Comstock Review** poetry contest and was a finalist in the 2001 **Sow's Ear Poetry Review's Contest**. Her poem, *Cat from the Animal Shelter*, appeared in June Cotner's anthology, **Animal Blessings** (Harper, 2000). She is a former teacher, and for several years co-published a newspaper covering Charlotte, Ferrisburgh, and Vergennes, Vermont. She is the editor of Craig Burt's memoir, *We Lived in Stowe* (2003). She is presently the editor of the **Chittenden County Historical Society Bulletin**, a quarterly, and former copy editor of the Vermont Farm Bureau quarterly, **Vermont Fences**. She has also directed and acted major roles in plays and musicals.



Ray Hudson: Although Ray Hudson has lived in Middlebury, Vermont, since 1992, he continues to focus his writing on Alaska's Aleutian Islands. In 2017 he was recognized by the Alaska Historical Society for outstanding long-term contributions to Alaskan history. He has published articles and books in Aleutian history and ethnograph and is author of *Moments Rightly Placed, An Aleutian Memoir*. The *Guardian* included this memoir among the ten best books on Alaska. His poetry has appeared in numerous journals. He will read from his young adult novel, *Ivory and Paper: Adventures In and Out of Time*, published by the University of Alaska Press in 2018 and from other writings.