

New Poems and Reading by Local Author

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Two new books, by Janet McMillan Rives, a local poet, were released this spring. “*On Horsebarn Hill: Poems*” (Kelsay Books) is the author’s third poetry chapbook. Gene Twaronite notes, “In these searing, yet, joyous memory poems, Rives takes the reader back on a journey to where it began.” That beginning was the upstairs apartment in a farmhouse on the edge of the University of Connecticut campus amid various barns, pastures and fields. Her early childhood in this locale set the stage for the author’s appreciation of nature, solitude and family as reflected in this poetry collection.

“*Thread: A Memoir in Woven Poems*” (Finishing Line Press) took shape several years ago in a class sponsored by The Learning



Janet McMillan Rives.



Curve of Tucson. Realizing that Rives enjoyed writing both poetry and memoir, the instructor, Molly McKasson, suggested she create hybrids in which memoir prose is woven into existing



poems. “With chapters moving around in time and place, with lines of poetry that sharpen the focus, [Rives] takes us vividly into what the child saw as a cathedral of trees, to explore memory and

beauty and poetry itself, to discover the connections threading past to present,” writes Meg Files.

In mid-August, Rives participated in a poetry reading at the Peregrine Book Company in Prescott, Arizona. She was joined by Bonnie Wehle of Tucson (bonniewehle.com) who read from her poetry chapbook, “*A Certain Ache: Poems in Women’s Voices*” (Finishing Line Press) and from her new collection, “*Little Altars*” (Kelsay Books, forthcoming 2025).

Janet Rives will be reading her poems as part of the Tuc-

son Arts Poetry Series (TAPS) at 3:30 p.m. at the Tucson Desert Arts Museum, located at 7000 E. Tanque Verde, in Tucson on Saturday, October 26. All are welcome. For more information about Janet McMillan Rives, visit janetmrives.com. In addition, be sure to check out the Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church website readings (mountainshadowschurch.org) for updates about this or other books. The church library includes books by members and friends of the church. You are invited to visit our library and check out our books. Contact the church office; see the website for information. All books mentioned in this article are also available from the publishers and at Amazon.