

## **MaryLee Hayes Bio**

As a young girl, MaryLee Hayes began freelance writing and journalism pursuits by writing, printing and distributing a regular newspaper-journal that contained stories, cartoons, interviews and poems. When she was sixteen, her first book of stories was professionally printed.

At age 20 she graduated as a registered nurse, and completed studies with the Famous Writers School of Westport, Connecticut. Through the years she wrote numerous poems and stories, getting much of her work published. She graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a Writing Emphasis.

Continuing her love for journalism, MaryLee was the managing editor of the *Alaska Women Speak* women's journal for 8 years, and had two additional books published. Her biggest endeavor to date was co-editing the *Alaska Women Speak Anthology* book, which was published by Ember Press in 2021.

She appreciates her on-going writer's view of the Chugach Mountains, where she lives in her log cabin near Eagle River.