

February 1, 1916

MAGGI H. MEYER

June 19, 2006



Born: Margaret Eloise Hatcher
Fargo, North Dakota



“Glamour Girl” in Los Angeles, 1939



Berkeley, 2005
Photo by Jannie Dresser

CITY OF BERKELEY PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF MAGGI H. MEYER

WHEREAS, Maggi H. Meyer, a resident of Berkeley since 1946, has been an exceptional and inspirational fixture in the City of Berkeley’s arts and culture. Born February 1, 1916 in Fargo, North Dakota, Maggi has devoted a lifetime to community service and the development of a poetry community in the East Bay. Now 90 years young, she has often said “Poetry is important to me, but I didn’t make room for it until I was 60”; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of her career, Maggi has contributed to poetry in the Bay Area through her numerous published works, including seven chapbooks of her poetry, as well as six full books of poetry and prose that are currently held in the Library of Congress. Her poetry has also appeared in numerous publications; and

WHEREAS, Maggi has been instrumental as a driving force behind the Bay Area Poets Coalition (BAPC), a regional poetry organization, by serving in multiple organizational capacities, including service as the editor of BAPC’s poetry newsletter Poetalk. Maggi has served as a past president for Alameda Poets, where she was also editor of their anthology in 1989. She has also been an invaluable volunteer for Poetry Flash, and other literary arts and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, through her work in educating Berkeley residents of all ages, Maggi has touched their hearts and lives with well-loved poetry and community service. Maggi has taught students at Berkeley’s Malcolm X Elementary School, where she has inspired children to write and enjoy poetry; and

WHEREAS, Maggi has been acknowledged by many local and regional literary groups throughout her career. Her honors include the AAUW’s Ruth Murray Jones Award, and the Claire and Michael Sheinberg Award, presented for outstanding service to Alameda Poets.; and

WHEREAS, her no-nonsense style of candor, humor, and compassion has provided a source of comfort and inspiration throughout her life’s work. Maggi has been, and continues to be a tremendous gift to the people (and poets) of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, on April 29th, 2006, the 6th Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival will honor Maggi H. Meyer with its Lifetime Achievement Award for the wonderful and truly exciting work that Maggi has accomplished;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that that I, Mayor Tom Bates, do hereby recognize and proclaim APRIL 29TH AS MAGGI H. MEYER DAY in the City of Berkeley and invite all citizens of Berkeley to reflect upon and honor the lifetime achievements of Maggi H. Meyer and the impact she has left upon the City of Berkeley.