

A Resolution to Honor the Memory of Ursula Meyer

Whereas, Ursula Meyer was a member of the American Library Association and the California Library Association during her professional career that exceeded 40 years; and

Whereas, She served communities large and small in Washington state and California; and

Whereas, She earned a B.A. and teaching credentials at UCLA and the MSLS at the University of Southern California and did post graduate work in library administration at the University of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, She served with distinction in the California Library Association as a member of its Government Relations Committee, as a Councilor for eight years, and as its President in 1978, the critical year of Proposition 13, and as President of the California County Librarians' Association; and

Whereas, She served the California State Library, the County Supervisors Association of California, and the UCLA Graduate School of Library and Information Science as an active and interested member of their various advisory committees; and

Whereas, She served the city of Stockton and the county of San Joaquin for more than 20 years as Library Director and, in retirement, continued to energize her community through her work with the Rotary Club and with citizens groups in support of the library and against privatization of public agencies; and

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Whereas, Her early life experience fleeing the Holocaust profoundly influenced her values; in particular, her support of democratic ideals and institutions—first and foremost the public library—that exist to maintain democracy in this country, her compassion for new immigrants and refugee communities, her sensitivity to their needs and to the library messages we send to those individuals through staff, materials, services, and facilities, and her strong defense of intellectual freedom; and

Whereas, Her legendary candor and forthrightness, directed at anyone with whom she came into contact, has displayed her love of controversial issues, dialogue with quick thinkers who have strong viewpoints, librarians with “fire in the belly” and all people with passionate, committed and caring natures; and

Whereas, She was admired, respected, and remembered for her contributions to the library profession by speaking her mind on professional issues whether or not her views were popular or politically correct, never hesitating to go where when angels fear to tread, always taking a stand and prodding her profession to think.

Resolved, That the membership of the American Library Association highly commends Ursula Meyer, posthumously, for her dedication to intellectual freedom and the library’s commitment to defend the privacy of customer records and her long and illustrious participation and contribution to the library profession.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels

ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

In New Orleans, Louisiana