

# Dorothy Livesay



(October 12, 1909-December 29, 1996)

One of the leading Canadian poets of the twentieth century.

A social worker, a teacher and a radical journalist, Livesay fiercely protested social habits and policies of oppression and destruction. Even as a child she wrote poetry. Her mother submitted one of her poems to a newspaper and she received a cheque for two dollars. Her first volume of verse, *Green Pitcher*, was published in 1928.

In 1936 moved to Vancouver as the western editor of the Communist journal, *New Frontier*.

In 1937 she married Duncan Macnair, an ardent Theosophist. At the time a number of Theosophists were members of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, which the Macnair family also began to attend. They were pleased with the church's freedom from dogma and pleased that the church embraced strong social concerns. They did not join until 1955. Livesay participated in the Vancouver congregation until she left the city in 1958

Livesay was appointed to the Order of Canada, 1987, and the Order of British Columbia, 1992. After moving to Victoria, where she was a regularly attending and well loved member of the Unitarian Church.