

**New from
Sixteen Rivers Press**

P. O. Box 640663, San Francisco, CA 94164

Tel.: 415-273-1303

E-mail: info@sixteenrivers.org

www.sixteenrivers.org

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jacqueline Kudler

This Sweet Haphazard
by Gillian Wegener

The poems in *This Sweet Haphazard* are anything but haphazard in their designs or effects, and while sweetness resides here, it's a sweetness hard-won by looking at life unflinchingly. Wegener's gift is to show us that the ever-changing, the temporal, is as close as we're apt to come to paradise. The second poem in the book, "Chorus," establishes the multiple tensions that exist between person and place, tensions that come under the scrutiny of a shrewd, wry, endlessly inventive eye. These are poems that no one will forget, radiating as they do with Central Valley heat, with the beauty of the ordinary, and with the love of a woman for the "sweet haphazard of home," from which everything here so accurately and ingeniously arises.

PRAISE FOR *THIS SWEET HAPHAZARD*

"In *This Sweet Haphazard*, Gillian Wegener turns her well-tuned ear, her sharp eye, and her considerable intelligence and humor to the California of lightning fires, bulldozed almond trees, and murky rivers with unpredictable currents, as well as that of clear desert night skies, foggy coastlines, and the green light that filters through the sequoias. She sees the beauty and melancholy all around her, and she approaches it with tenderness and without aesthetic pretension. This is a beautiful book of powerful poems."

—Jane Mead, author of *World of Made and Unmade*

"'Place, to the writer at work, is seen in a frame,' writes Eudora Welty. 'Not an empty frame, a brimming one.' Everything is brimming in Gillian Wegener's fantastic new collection of poems: rivers, bees, the Old Mill Cafe, forest fires, churches, Neville Bros. Service, the ghosts of Humboldt County, the streets, shops, and citizens of Modesto, California, and most importantly, the unmapped geography of the human heart. Candid and creative, Wegener charts past and present, interior and exterior, in order to create a poetic landscape we never want to leave." —Dean Rader, author of *Works & Days*

(see over)

This is the fortieth book to be published by Sixteen Rivers Press, a poetry collective dedicated to providing an alternative publishing avenue for Northern California poets. The press is named for the sixteen rivers that flow into San Francisco Bay.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gillian Wegener is the author of two previous books of poetry: a chapbook, *Lifting One Foot, Lifting the Other* (In the Grove Press, 2001), and a full-length collection, *The Opposite of Clairvoyance* (Sixteen Rivers Press, 2008). Widely published, she has won several awards for her work, including the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize in 2006 and 2007, and the Zócalo Public Square Prize for Poetry of Place in 2015. Wegener, a junior high teacher, lives with her husband and daughter in Modesto, where she coordinates and hosts the monthly Second Tuesday Reading Series. She is a cofounder of the Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center and has served as the poet laureate for the city of Modesto.