

**Honoring Gary Young as
Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate**

WHEREAS, Gary Young is an internationally-known poet and artist whose works include *Braver Deeds, Hands, Days, The Dream of a Moral Life, No Other Life*, and most recently, *Pleasure*; and

WHEREAS, Gary has received a Pushcart Prize, the James D. Phelan Award, the Peregrine Smith Poetry Prize, the Lyric Poetry Award, the William Carlos Williams Award, and in 2009 The Poetry Society of America places him in the company of such luminaries as Elizabeth Bishop and EE Cummings after naming him the recipient of its prestigious Shelley Memorial Award; and

WHEREAS, his honors include grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Vogelstein Foundation, the California Arts Council, and two fellowship grants from the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, since 1975 he has designed, illustrated, and printed limited edition books and broadsides at his *Greenhouse Review Press*. His print work is represented in numerous collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, The Getty center for the Arts, and special collection libraries through the country; and

WHEREAS, his work has appeared in the foremost literary journals, including Poetry, Antaeus, The Nation, Antioch Review, The Missouri Review, and American Poetry Review; and

WHEREAS, fellow poet Christopher Buckley says about Gary, “he is an original poetic voice, that rare poet who writes finely crafted poems that know music, and drive beyond the autobiographical to a more inclusive or expansive subject, and do so with grace and humility. Despite all the in-fighting and posturing of our times, there is still room for beauty and truth, and one place to find it is in the poetry of Gary Young.”; and

WHEREAS, Gary has been named Poet Laureate by a group which included representatives from the Santa Cruz Public Library System, Poetry Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services, the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission, the County Office of Education, and the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neal Coonerty, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, acting on behalf of all members of the Board and the Santa Cruz County community, do hereby proclaim Gary Young as Santa Cruz County’s Poet Laureate and honor him for his significant contributions to advancing and enlivening the art of poetry in Santa Cruz County.