WHEREAS

Mary Rudge, a resident of the East Bay since 1956, has been an exceptional and inspirational figure in writing, arts and educational communities that serve the East Bay in the capacities of poet, artists, teacher, editor, journalist, radio and television producer, and community organizer;

WHEREAS

Rudge has contributed throughout the course of her career to poetry with the publication of several books and chapbooks: *Water Planet*, for which Négritude poet and first president of Sénégal Leopold Sedar Senghor wrote the preface; *For Ireland*; *Oakland is a Holy City*; *Hungary, Austria, and Other Passions*; *Maps for Poets; When the Rapture Comes; FAR OUT on Telegraph Avenues (A Handbook for Trekkers); Passport Always Everywhere Poems; The Human Face of Love; Sri Lanka Firewalk Tour; Beat She Can't Be Beat; Going to China—and other places; Spirit Woods; From the Heart of the Bay; Bus Poems; The Fringe; Ipagpatawad Ninyo Kami (Pardon Us): Poems for the Philippines; Struck Lodestone*

WHEREAS

Rudge edited and co-edited numerous anthologies creating a public space for voices that might have otherwise gone unheard: *Farewell to Armaments*; *State of Peace: The Women Speak*; *Women's Words: War and Peace*; *Poems from Street Spirit: Justice News and Homeless Blues; Reaping poems, cries, chants, tributes, songs, for the farmworkers!; As Many as Oak Leaves: Poets in Oakland; The Ina Coolbrith Circle Anthology*; and for ten years she edited the international journal, *Poets and Peace International;*

WHEREAS

Rudge received her A.A. and Certificate in Television production at Laney College, her B.F.A at California College of Arts and Crafts, continued her education at San Francisco State University, University of California in Santa Cruz, and San Miguel de Allende University in Mexico as taught for ten years at the Twin Pines school, a multicultural, arts-oriented school, and has promoted writing and arts in East Bay schools;

WHEREAS

Rudge founded and produced for twelve years the TV show *Star Rover* on Alameda cable channel to showcase the arts and literature by those under-represented in the media and has produced many radio programs on KPFA, most recently on the poetry of the Occupy Movement;

WHEREAS

Rudge has been presented with Honorary Doctorates in Greece, Taiwan, and New York, Golden Pegasus award by the California Federation of Chaparral Poets, named

"Princess of Poetry" in Italy, crowned in San Francisco City Hall as an International Poet Laureate;

WHEREAS

Rudge has served as Poet Laureate for the City of Alameda since 2002 and promoted poetry and writing by organizing Poets' Week, school poetry contests, a 3 day Celebration of Writers, readings at the Webster Street Fair, a poet laureate program for high school students, and rode in the Mayor's Parade on the 4th of July;

WHEREAS

On May 11, 2013, the 11th Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival will honor Mary Rudge with its Lifetime Achievement Award for the truly valuable creative and critical work that she has accomplished.