

Join us on Saturday, February 10th for our Branch Meeting and Luncheon



Finding Your Most Powerful Words

featuring Clive Matson

What I Learned from the Beat Generation (And What I Wish We Hadn't Learned)

- First thought, best thought
- Writing as an expression of the body

- Suspicion of boundaries
- Honesty and impulse
- Sacraments and direct experience
- Vitality of Myths

What I bring to the talk is forty years of experience leading workshops and coaching writers of all kinds. I've little by little seen that my original training was sound, provocative, and instructive, so I'll quote Pound, Williams, Creeley, Ginsberg and show how their dictums apply to today's writing. The guidance is crucially important now that we're entering a time similar to the 1960s when we are at odds with our government, the Sixth Extinction looms globally, and politically we're in decades similar to what Chaucer called "this sour and hungry time."

Clive Matson (MFA Columbia University 1989) hung out in New York in the early 1960s with Beat Generation writers and that immersed him in streams of passionate intensity that run through us all. He writes from the itch in his body, to the delight of his students, and that's old hat, according to *Let the Crazy Child Write!* (1998). He's published nine volumes of poetry and, amazingly, his seventh book, *Squish Boots* (2002), was placed in John Wieners' coffin. He received the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles National Literary Award in 2003 and the City of Berkeley Lifetime Achievement Award in Poetry in 2012. In 2017 he presented at the European Beat Studies Conference in Paris, where he premiered his long poem, *Hello Paradise, Paradise Good-bye*. Visit Clive at Wikipedia or www.matsonpoet.com.