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***Friends of the Beat Museum Hosts “Beatnik Shindig” Conference
in San Francisco, June 26 – 28, 2015
Largest Beat Generation conference in over 20 years!***

The Beatnik Shindig held in North Beach and at Fort Mason Center is designed to appeal to a broad audience - novices, experts, scholars and casual observers alike to gather, network, interact, learn and have fun.

The momentous following and interest in the Beat Generation today is growing, especially with younger people, likely because the themes of the Beats are timeless - travel, exploration, a search for self, sexual identity and a spiritual quest. Everything that most young people consider to be "normal" in the world today the Beats blazed the trail on: racial equality, gender equality, gay & lesbian rights, environmentalism and saving the planet. The Beats were focused on all of these issues decades before they became mainstream.

The Beats influenced everyone - starting with Bob Dylan and The Beatles and along with the Hippies were the first groups of non-conformists to come of age with electronic media (radio & television) so their message went around the world. The Beats were and still are considered to be the true hipsters.

Featured Speakers

- David Meltzer - original Beat writer & poet
- ruth weiss - original Beat poet (note ruth always spells both her first & last names lower case)
- The children of Neal & Carolyn Cassady (Cathy, Jami & John Allen Cassady)
- Al Hinkle - friend of Cassady, Kerouac & Ginsberg & featured as Big Ed Dunkel in "On The Road"
- David Amram - internationally acclaimed musician & composer and featured in the 1959 cult film "Pull My Daisy" with Kerouac & Ginsberg
- Dr. Philip Hicks - psychiatrist who in 1955 told Allen Ginsberg it was OK to be gay and quit his job & write poetry - this led to the writing of "Howl."
- Twenty-one year old transgender activist, musician and motivational speaker Ryan Cassata.
- Gerd Stern - the man blamed for 50 years as the person who "lost" the famous Neal Cassady "Joan Anderson Letter" that has recently resurfaced and is expected to eventually be sold for millions of \$.

Including

- Beat Biographers & Historians
- Professors & Teachers
- Writers, Musicians, Film Makers
- Dozens of Poets
- Music, Movies, Symposia, Panel Discussions, Beat Celebrities and more

Free Events to be held at Friends of The San Francisco Public Library - Reader's Bookstore*

- Poetry Writing Workshop
- Young Scholars Discussing The Beats
- How to Self-Publish in 2015
- The Politics of Poetry
- Developing Your Authentic reading Voice

The Beatnik Shindig will be educational, fun, inspiring and historic. Most events are ticketed and some are free including the Hudson car show. Tickets can be purchased in advance on Eventbrite.

Friends of the Beat Museum (aka Foundation for Creative Expression) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit that in close association with the Beat Museum, and in partnership with other prominent cultural institutions organizes and presents literary and arts events, exhibitions, educational programs, and now the Beatnik Shindig conference.

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