

# Poems of Witness: Speaking the Truth, Going to the Heart

WITH JOHN FOX, CPT

April 21 & 22, 2017 | Brighton, MA

*Poetry allows one to speak with a power  
that is not granted by our culture.*

~ Linda McCarriston

This coming year of 2017 asks us to speak up and speak out, and by doing this, strengthen a community of conscience and caring.

Yet, within our country and living on this fragile planet, it is a challenge in the midst of heart-breaking social and political realities to express and give shape to YOUR unique voice; your poetic voice that is

- humane and beautiful
- fierce, courageous and noble
- creative and compassionate

*You see, we cannot  
ignore history.  
History doesn't go  
away. The past  
isn't back there, the  
past is here too.*

~ Lucille Clifton



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Your voice is necessary now and needed more than ever to bear witness to what you care about in this life. What is at risk for you? What do you care about?

Rather than write the polemical, we will explore a voice that leans into the cathartic and generative.

Our retreat will draw upon the poetry of Thomas Merton, William Stafford, Adrienne Rich, Edward Abbey, Mark Nepo, Naomi Shihab Nye, Lucille Clifton, Joy Harjo, Thich Nhat Hanh, Marge Piercy, Howard Zinn, Anna Akhmatova, Diane di Prima, Lisel Mueller, Audre Lorde, Terry Tempest Williams, Nadine Pinede, Yusef Komunyakaa and the poetry of children.

My intention and purpose is to encourage a poem-making that speaks truth, treasures beauty and empowers us to recognize our common ground.

Beginning and experienced poets/writers are welcome. It will be valuable and safe for anyone with a desire to express their truth and creativity.

### Friday Evening & All-Day Saturday Retreat

Friday, April 21, 7:00 - 9:30pm

Saturday, April 22, 9:30am - 4:30pm

#### Location

The Theological Institute  
149 Washington Street  
Brighton, MA 02135

Fee: \$135

Lunch for retreat included.

#### For More Information:

Dan Burns at (781) 910-6315  
or [deacondanburns@gmail.com](mailto:deacondanburns@gmail.com)

Click [HERE](#) to register online.

Registration limited to 15.

THE INSTITUTE  FOR  
*Poetic Medicine*

*To awaken soulfulness in the human voice*



## REGISTRATION FORM

Reserve your place for *Poems of Witness* by mailing this registration form and a check for \$135 for Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, payable to Dan Burns, 120 Thompson Road, North Weymouth, MA 02191. Alternatively, you may send a deposit for \$40; balance of \$95 due day of event.

Retreat is limited to 15.

Two scholarships offered. Please contact John Fox at [John@PoeticMedicine.org](mailto:John@PoeticMedicine.org) to inquire.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: work ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_