I-HOTEL
848 Kearny St

Former location of the Kearny Street Workshop (the oldest multidisciplinary arts nonprofit addressing Asian Pacific American issues in the US). The site of a drawn-out political battle on behalf of its Filipino-American tenants, who were forcibly evicted in 1977. Notable members included author, activist and academic Russell Leong and Jessica Hagedorn, a leading voice in contemporary Filipina-American literature.

1) BEAT MUSEUM
540 Broadway between Columbus & Romolo

2) RE/SEARCH
20 Romolo #B between Broadway & Fresno

3) CAFE TRIESTE
609 Vallejo at Grant

4) GRANT STREET COFFEE JOINTS
between Grant & Varennes

5) BOB KAUFMAN ALLEY
off Grant between Broadway & Fresno

6) JACK MICHELINE ALLEY
off Grant between Filbert & Greenwich

7) VIA FERLINGHETTI
off Union between Jasper & Stockton

8) GINO AND CARLO’S
548 Green Street between Stockton & Grant

9) IZZY’S PLACE (RIP) / WILLIAM SAROYAN
848 Pacific between Stockton & Powell

10) CHINATOWN
Waverly Place, off Washington, between Stockton & Grant

International Hotel, 848 Kearny between Washington & Jackson

11) KEROUAC ALLEY
off Columbus between Pacific & Broadway

12) CITY LIGHTS BOOKSTORE
261 Columbus at Broadway

Beat legend Jean-Louis "Jack" Kerouac (March 12, 1922 – October 22, 1969), born in Lowell, Massachusetts, left an indelible mark on the mythology of San Francisco, despite his only periodic residence here. His seminal 1950 book On The Road, detailing a road trip he took to San Francisco in 1947, has never been out of print since its publication.

Kenneth Rexroth (December 22, 1905–June 6, 1982)

One of the last of the old guard bohemians, Kenneth Charles Marion Rexroth, moved to SF in 1927 from Indiana, and stayed until 1968, when he moved to Santa Barbara. He was a columnist, critic, translator, and champion of the arts. He was considered a mentor by Ferlinghetti, and famously presided over the reading at the 6 Gallery where Allen Ginsberg first read "Howl". His street is on the corner of Vallejo and Columbus, a block north of City Lights.

Secret Reading

Keep Reading

SECRET ROUTE LIST (PULL)

OR TURN THE PAGE
Search, was born Harold Martin River of Red Wine (nee Pardee Alley Stairs) 6) JACK MICHELONE ALLEY February 27, 1998) Silver, adopted an amalgam of Jack (which was actually Mitchell) as his preferred moniker. He was a book of poetry, championed by Jack Kerouac, who wrote the introduction. In later years he influenced a movement of "outlaw" poets, particularly Alan Kaufman, whose remains a seminal volume of outsider perspective. His street was dedicated in 2003, separate from the original twelve renamed in 1988.

2) RE/SEARCH PUBLICATIONS/RICHAND BRAUTIGAN 20 Romolo #B and Destroy money from Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Allen Ginsberg, RE/Search expanded its focus to documenting subcultures of many kinds—industrial music, "modern primitives," iconoclasts such as JB Ballard and William Burroughs, etc. RE/Search has Richard Brautigan (Jan 30, 1935-Sept 16, 1984) According to literary historian, Don Herron, Vale opposed a proposal from City Lights to change Romolo St. to Richard Brautigan, because he didn't want to have to change the address name on his business license and publishing concern. To this day, there is no Richard Brautigan Street in San Francisco, though he lived in SF off and on from 1956 until his death, by suicide, in Bolinas, CA.

"work" to this day.

3) CAFE TRIESTE: 609 Vallejo Founded in 1956 by Giovanni "Gianni" Giotta, a fisherman, immigrant window washer, and opera enthusiast, credited with introducing San Franciscans to the cappuccino, is still known as one of the key locations where the beats gathered while visiting City Lights, as well as the hangout for modern-day writers such as former Poet Laureate of San Francisco, Jack Hirschman, and the now deceased neighborhood poet George Tsongas who wrote a book of poetry about the Cafe, entitled Trieste Chronicles. Francis Ford Coppola famously finished his screenplay for The Godfather on a manual typewriter in the back corner.

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4) GRANT STREET COFFEE JOINTS (RIP) COFFEE AND CONFUSION: 1339 Grant Boho coffee shop & hangout spot in the 50s & 60s. First place in SF that Janis performed, 24 hours after she arrived in town from Texas, in 1969.

COFFEE GALLERY: 1353 Grant Coffee Gallery was known in the 50s & 60s for its six-hour jam sessions, David Meltzer’s Blabbermouth open mic series, and bohemian vibe. Poets such as Bob Kaufman, George Tsongas, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti performed here, as well as musicians such as Creedence Clearwater Revival, the Grateful Dead, Duke Ellington, Grace Slick, and Janis Joplin.

CO-EXISTENCE BAGEL SHOP: 1398 Grant Thanks to their daytime hours, open mic events, and a racially-mixed crowd, Co-Existence was a highly influential player in the beat milieu until 1966. It was also the preferred hangout of Bob Kaufman, and was so often a target of law enforcement, that a tip jar was put out on the counter to collect bail money.

7) VIA FERLINGHETTI (see Price Row) It's impossible to speak of literary San Francisco without invoking poet, publisher, and City Lights bookstore founder Lawrence Ferlinghetti (born March 24, 1919), who spearheaded the renaming of the original twelve streets, and in 1994, was honored by the city of San Francisco with a street all his own: Via Ferlinghetti, smack in the middle of his beloved North Beach. Despite being older than many of the beats, Ferlinghetti has outlived most of them, and still goes into the bookstore to "work" to this day.

8) GINO AND CARLO'S / JACK SPICER 548 Green Street One of North Beach's last remaining "old school" Italian bars, Gino and Carlo's was considered the "living room" of 1950s poets, linguist, and lecturer Jack Spicer (January 30, 1925 – August 17, 1965). Co-founder, in 1954, of the infamous Six Gallery, where Allen Ginsberg debuted his iconic poem, "Howl," Spicer along with fellow poets (and fellow homosexuals) Robert Duncan and Robin Blaser formed a coterie they dubbed the Berkeley Renaissance, an offshoot of the greater "San Francisco Renaissance" spearheaded by Kenneth Rexroth and Madeline Gleason, and anthologized by Warren Tallman and Donald Allen in The New American Poetry: 1945-1960.