



## Indiana Historical Bureau

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## NEWS

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### “Gallery After Dark: The Poetry of Kenneth Rexroth” Poetry and Jazz Event and Reception in South Bend, Indiana

Join The History Museum of South Bend on Thursday, June 29 for a celebration of poet and writer, Kenneth Rexroth. The evening of poetry and jazz will begin at 7:00 pm at the museum, located at 808 W. Washington St., South Bend, Indiana 46601. Attendees can enjoy a wine-and-cheese reception, visit the exhibit “Our Amazing Cabinet of Curiosities: Keepers of History for 150 Years,” and listen to the poetry of South Bend native Kenneth Rexroth, as read by professors from the University of Notre Dame, reporters from the *South Bend Tribune*, and several other distinguished guests. Special guests include Andrew Leavitt, son-in-law of Kenneth Rexroth. Those wishing to attend the celebration are asked to register beforehand at (574) 235-9664, ext. 232. The cost for non-members is \$16, and for members is \$14.

The evening will also include brief remarks from staff of the Indiana Historical Bureau as well as photos of the new state historical marker installed this month that commemorates Rexroth’s literary contributions. The new marker is located in front of Rexroth’s birthplace at 828 Park Ave., South Bend.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “**Kenneth Rexroth**”:

Poet and writer Kenneth Rexroth was born in this house in 1905. He settled in San Francisco in 1927 and began publishing poems regularly by 1930s. His collections *In What Hour* (1940) and *The Phoenix and the Tortoise* (1944) explored themes of love, nature, and politics. By late 1940s, he paved the way for San Francisco Renaissance and influenced the Beat Generation. Rexroth became a conscientious objector actively opposed to World War II and Japanese-American internment. By the 1950s, his work combined poetry with jazz. Throughout his career, he remained a central figure in American literature, while writing extensive cultural and literary criticism. Until his death in 1982, he translated the work of Japanese and Chinese poets.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For over 100 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1946, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. Over 600 of these markers have been installed over the years.

For more information about the Indiana Historical Marker Program and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at <http://www.IN.gov/history> or call (317) 232-2535. For more information about the June 29 reception, please call The History Museum at (574) 235-9664, ext. 232.