



## **OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT**

**MISSION STATEMENT, BYLAWS AND ANNUAL REPORTS**



**OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT**

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Director: Max Wickert

Advisory Board: Carl Dennis, Ann Goldsmith, Katka Hammond

**OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT:  
MISSION STATEMENT, BYLAWS AND ANNUAL REPORTS**

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### *MISSION STATEMENT*

The mission of OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT is to support and nurture contemporary poetry in Western New York, with special focus on the Greater Buffalo Area. Outriders seeks to recognize and support poets and writers who fall within the scope of this mission by (1) trying to discover major new talents through occasional prize competitions; (2) providing venues for readings by poets and writers; (3) publishing significant new works in the OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT press; (4) marketing and distributing the titles printed in said press both locally and nationally; (5) pursuing, when available, funding from private or public sources for these activities.

OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT was established as a Foundation for the purpose of making grants to other organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## **BYLAWS**

### ARTICLE ONE: NAME, PURPOSES, POWERS AND OFFICES

Section 1.1. Name. The name of this Foundation is OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT.

Section 1.2. Purposes . The Foundation is organized and will be operated exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of its Mission Statement and in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision or provisions of any subsequent United States revenue law (the "Code"). These purposes shall include but are not limited to the making of grants to other organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for one or more of such purposes.

Section 1.3. Powers. The Foundation is a nonprofit foundation and shall have all of the powers, duties, authorizations and responsibilities as defined by New York State law, provided, however, that the Foundation shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor engage directly or indirectly in any activity, that would contradict its mission or invalidate its status as a foundation that is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Section 1.4. Offices. The registered offices of the Foundation shall be at 314 Highland Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222. The Foundation may have, in addition to its registered office, offices at such places, both within and without the State of New York, as the DIRECTOR may from time to time determine or as the activities of the Foundation may require.

### ARTICLE TWO: OFFICERS

Section 2.1. OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT shall be administered by the DIRECTOR and an ADVISORY BOARD. All activities, property and affairs of the Foundation shall be managed by its DIRECTOR who may exercise all such powers of the Foundation and do all such lawful acts and things as are permitted by law, by the Articles of Infoundation or by these Bylaws. The DIRECTOR shall report at least once annually to the ADVISORY BOARD and seek its advice about future activities. The final decision of such activities shall, however, rest solely with the DIRECTOR.

Section 2.2. Number and Qualifications of Officers and Terms of Office.

- (a) The office of DIRECTOR shall be filled by the Foundation's FOUNDER, Max Wickert, for life or until such a time as he shall formally relinquish the office and appoint a successor or successors. If he should die or be incapacitated before being able to appoint a successor, that successor shall be appointed by a majority vote of an *ad hoc* committee consisting of the

ADVISORY BOARD and the FOUNDER REPRESENTATIVE as defined in Section 6.4 of these Bylaws.

- (b) The ADVISORY BOARD shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members appointed by the DIRECTOR. Its membership may be increased at the discretion of the DIRECTOR. The DIRECTOR shall also have the right to remove from the ADVISORY BOARD any member whom he deems unsuitable. ADVISORY BOARD members should be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and demonstrate a history of active involvement in the cause of contemporary poetry. Their appointments shall be for life. Any member of the ADVISORY BOARD shall have the right to resign from it at any time, provided he or she give formal notice to the DIRECTOR, who shall thereupon seek a replacement.

### ARTICLE THREE: COMMITTEES

Section 3.3. EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. The EDITORIAL COMMITTEE shall consist of the DIRECTOR (*ex officio*) and such other members as he shall name at his discretion. The EDITORIAL COMMITTEE shall receive and judge all submission for publication by the OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT press. The final decision for or against publication shall rest with the DIRECTOR.

Section 3.4 FISCAL COMMITTEE. The FISCAL COMMITTEE shall consist of the DIRECTOR (*ex officio*) and such other members as he shall name. At least one of these members shall be a Certified Public Accountant or person of equivalent qualifications. The FISCAL COMMITTEE shall monitor all financial transactions of OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT, including but not limited to fees paid to poets, publishing costs, advertising and publicity, administration of outside grants, investment and taxation. For the purposes of consistent reporting the fiscal year shall be defined as January 1 through December 31. No later than April 1 of each year, the FISCAL COMMITTEE shall issue a written annual report on all financial activities of OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT during the preceding fiscal year. The FISCAL COMMITTEE shall also have the authority pursuant to Section 4.1(b) of these Bylaws to make Small Grants.

Section 3.5: READINGS COMMITTEE. If and when the Foundation decides to sponsor a poetry reading, the Director shall appoint an ad hoc READINGS COMMITTEE, with a membership to be determined by him. The READINGS COMMITTEE shall decide upon poetry readers, the dates and venues of their readings, remuneration or honoraria (if any). It shall have the authority pursuant to Section 4.1(b) of these Bylaws to make Small Grants

#### ARTICLE FOUR: GRANTMAKING

Section 4.1 Grants. Any vote of any committee on the making of grants, while a DIRECTOR as provided in Section 2.2(a) of these Bylaw is serving, shall require the approval of such DIRECTOR. There shall be two types of grants: (a) Publishing Grants: these may be given to cover costs incurred in the publication of books, monographs, flyers or publicity by OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT and approved by the EDITORIAL COMMITTEE as provided in Section 3.3 of these Bylaws. (b) Readings Grants: these may be given for honoraria to readers of poetry, or for the cost of rental of halls or other locations in which such readings are held, or for advertising and publicizing these readings, at the discretion of READINGS COMMITTEE as defined in Sections 3.3 and 3. 5 of these Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE FIVE: OFFICER COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYEES

Section 5.1. Compensation. The compensation, if any, of all officers of the Foundation shall be fixed from time to time by DIRECTOR. It shall be considered desirable that the Director, the Advisory Board and all committee members, with the exception of the CPA appointed to the FISCAL COMMITTEE serve *pro bono*, without any financial compensation. However, the Director may singly decide when occasion warrants to compensate them for necessary and reasonable expenses. Such compensation shall be given according to the terms defined by Section 4946 of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder and by the Treasury Regulation Section 51.4942(d)-3(c), provided that such compensation and reimbursement of reasonable expenses shall not be excessive.

Section 5.2. Employees. As of the time of its foundation, OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT has no "employees" as defined by the Internal Revenue Code. In the event that the project grows sufficiently to require such employees, these Bylaws shall be amended in accordance with Federal and State law.

#### ARTICLE SEVEN: MISCELLANEOUS

Section 6.1. Dividends Prohibited. No part of the net income of the Foundation shall inure to the benefit of any private individual and no dividend shall be paid and no part of the income of the Foundation shall be distributed to its DIRECTOR or officers. The Foundation may pay compensation in a reasonable amount to its officers for services rendered and may compensate and reimburse its DIRECTORS as provided in Section 5.1 of these Bylaws.

Section 6.2. Loans to Officers and DIRECTOR Prohibited. No loans shall be made by the Foundation to its officers or DIRECTOR, and any DIRECTOR voting for or assenting to the making of any such loan, and any officer participating in the making

thereof, shall be jointly and severally liable to the Foundation for the amount of such loan until repayment thereof.

Section 6.3. Use of Profits. Profits, if any, from all Outriders press sales and admissions to readings, minus necessary expenses, shall be redirected to future Outriders projects. No officer or employee of the foundation shall have gainful access to them, but may be compensated for reasonable expenses pursuant to Section 6.1 of these Bylaws.

Section 6.4. FOUNDER REPRESENTATIVE. The term "FOUNDER" shall refer to the Director, Max Wickert. Upon his death, he may be represented by an Initial FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE, in the following order of priority: (1) his wife, Katka Hammond; (2) his daughter, Morgan Wickert; (3) his sister, Gabriele Wickert.. Upon the death, incapacity or resignation of all such Initial Family Representatives, the successor FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE shall be the eldest living lineal descendant of such Initial FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE (who is willing to serve as a FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE), unless such Initial FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE has appointed a successor in the manner provided above. If such FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE cannot be found or is unwilling to serve, the foundation shall be considered dissolved *ipso facto*.

Section 6.5. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended as needed. All amendments shall require formal approval by (1) a majority vote of the ADVISORY BOARD and (2) the DIRECTOR.

Section 6.6. Dissolution. In the event of the FOUNDER's death and the unavailability of a successor as provided in Sections 2.2(a) and 6.4 of these Bylaws, OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT shall be dissolved in accordance with the law. The DIRECTOR or his estate shall be solely liable for all outstanding debts and obligations of OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT at the time of its dissolution. All funds or assets remaining in the foundation's possession, if any, shall be donated to Just Buffalo Literary Center, Buffalo, NY, or to a suitable other literary charity.

## *ANNUAL REPORTS*

### **1968-70—Outriders Poetry Project: The Origins**

Outriders was founded in autumn 1968 by Max Wickert and Dan Murray, then at SUNY/Buffalo, and Doug Eichhorn, then in the Creative Writing Program at Syracuse University. Its original mission was to sponsor exchanges of readings among young poets at various universities in New York State.

In its initial season, it held only one reading, on November 13, 1968, co-sponsored by Salt Mound Press, Syracuse, NY, and featuring John Logan, Shreela Ray, Robert Hass, Daniel Murray and Max Wickert. The reading was held at Sharp Maxwell Auditorium, Syracuse University.

The founders hoped to create a lively interchange among up-and-coming poets in upstate New York. The Project almost immediately went into hibernation. It was not resuscitated until two years later, when Max Wickert became its exclusive director and reconceived it as a reading program for the greater Buffalo area. It resumed operation in Fall 1970. The pages that follow here reproduce the reports furnished to the membership at the end of each academic year. Please note that the information in each (including credits and addresses) has often been superseded. The current contact address for Outriders is:

Outriders Poetry Project  
Max Wickert, Director  
314 Highland Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
Tel/fax: (716) 882-1642  
Email: *wickert@buffalo.edu* (or) *maxwickert1@mac.com*

**Outriders Poetry Project**

640 Parkside Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14216

Max Wickert (Director), phone: (716) 835-0909, 831-4927

Esther Swartz (Poetry-in-the-Schools), phone: (716) 831-2735

**1970-71: FIRST ANNUAL REPORT** (Year ending August 31, 1971)

**EVENTS SPONSORED BY OUTRIDERS**

**I. POETRY TUESDAYS:** Poetry readings at coffee-houses, cocktail lounges, or other facilities in the community. All 1970/71 Poetry Tuesdays were held at Aliotta's Lounge, 1180 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, NY. Readings began with one or more featured poets, then became open. Featured readers in every case waived all fees (except the free drinks provided by Aliotta's).

**Fall 1970 Series:**

October 13: Robert Hass and Phil Dow

October 20: Dan Zimmerman and Bill Cirocco

October 27: Howard Wolf and Carl Dennis

November 3: John Logan

November 10: Max Wickert

November 17: Charles Baxter

November 24: Arthur Axlerod

December 1: Mac Hammond

December 8: William Cirocco

December 15: Andrew Taylor

**Spring 1971 Series:**

February 2: Alan Feldman

February 9: Bill Jungels, Travis Howell, and Ed Smallfield

February 16: Judith Kerman

February 23: Michael S. Levinson

March 2: Alan Feldman

March 9: Albert Cook

March 16: Raymond Federman

March 23: Shreela Ray

April 13: Marty Cohen

April 20: Jayne Lynne Stahl and Rick Papenhausen

April 27: John Logan

May 4: Phil Dow and Robert Hass

Visitors from out of town who dropped in and read during open readings included the following:

John Wieners (October 20)  
Robert Bly (November 3)  
Lee Harwood (November 3)  
David Kelley (November 3)  
Allen Ginsberg (November 17)  
Daniela Giuseffi (November 24)  
Bill Butler (February 16)  
Shirley Kaufman (March 23)

## II. SPECIAL EVENTS

November 24: A Third World Poetry Festival, with José-Angel Figueroa and Pedro Pietri (at Aliotta's Lounge)  
March 30: Second Third World Poetry Festival, with Felipe Luciano, Pedro Pietri, and José-Angel Figueroa reading in English; Edna Rivera reading in Spanish; and folk singer Liza Mesiah (at SUNY/Buffalo)  
May 6: A Reading by C.W. Truesdale (co-sponsored by Outriders, SUNY/Buffalo Department of English and NYSCA Poets and Writers; at SUNY/Buffalo)  
August 3: A Summer Poetry Reading at Aliotta's, with John Logan, Alan Feldman, Frank Antonazzi and Max Wickert

**III. POETRY-IN-THE-SCHOOLS:** Outriders acted as a facilitating agency for this program, which is run on a state-wide basis by the New York State Arts Council's Poets and Writers Division (Galen Williams, Director). The two other local co-sponsors in the Buffalo area are the SUNY/Buffalo English Department and the Office of Cultural Affairs, SUNY/Buffalo. The entire Buffalo operation is directed by Esther Swartz, Presidential Assistant for Cultural Affairs, SUNY/Buffalo. The events in the program are described in detail by Ms. Swart in her article for *The Reporter* III:4 (Buffalo: September 30, 1971), pp. 7-8. The following is a brief survey:

March 1: Carolyn Kizer, Riverside High School, Buffalo, NY  
March 22-23: Shirley Kaufman, Bennet High School, Buffalo, NY;  
Kensington High School, Amherst, NY; and Williamsville North High School, Williamsville, NY  
April 21: Al Young, Lafayette High School, Buffalo, NY  
April 28: Erica Jong, Williamsville North High School  
May 3: John Logan, Kenmore West High School, Kenmore, NY  
May 4: Andrew Taylor, Hutchinson Technical Institute, Buffalo, NY  
May 7: C.W. Truesdale, Williamsville North High School

The program reached a total of at least 1000 high school students in an intimate, non-reading exchange with practicing poets. Its scope is expected to double in 1972.

#### PROSPECTS FOR 1971-72

**POETRY TUESDAYS:** These will move from Aliotta's to The One-Eyed Cat, 28 Bryant Street, Buffalo, NY. The Fall Series is expected to begin on October 19 and will probably run for six weeks. All reading will begin at about 9:30 p.m.

**POETRY-IN-THE-SCHOOLS:** Poets and Writers (NYSCA), encouraged by the success of last year, is doubling its grant investment in this.

**FINANCIAL:** The Poetry Tuesdays, the presently defunct Inter-University Poets' Exchange envisioned when Outriders was founded in 1968, and the Special Events will face eventual attrition if Outriders continues to be dependent on talent located in the Buffalo area or passing through it and willing to read for nothing. Outriders is hence conducting a fund-raising drive. Money collected in it will be used primarily to pay the traveling expenses of young, published poets who are willing to read in the Poetry Tuesdays series without further compensation; secondarily, for special events, like last year's Third World Poetry Festivals, which serve to bring poetry into the non-academic community-at-large.

Outriders is non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible. Make checks payable to OTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT and mail to Max Wickert, 604 Parkside Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216.

#### PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT

**Frank Antonazzi** is an undergraduate at SUNY/Buffalo. He has studied writing with Irving Feldman and John Logan.

**Arthur Axlrod** has written and published poetry (*Anonym*, *Intrepid*, and other little mags) since his sophomore year in high school. He is now a sophomore at SUNY/Buffalo, where he was enticed by Robert Creeley and others.

**Charles Baxter's** first book, *Chameleon*, was published by Four Rivers Press in 1970.

**Robert Bly** won the National Book Award for *The Light Around the Body*. He edits *The Seventies* and continues to be a conspicuous embodiment of the best American political conscience. City Lights recently published his *The Teeth-Mother Naked At Last*.

**Bill Butler** owns and manages the Unicorn Bookshop and Press in Brighton, England, which was recently disrupted by bobbies for peddling such "pornographic" items as *Caterpillar* and *The Evergreen Review*.

**William Cirocco's** *The Rain* was published by the University of Buffalo Press in 1968.

**Martin Cohen** contributes to little mags and is working on his doctorate at SUNY/Buffalo. He has a special interest in modern possibilities for epic.

**Albert Cook** is the founding father of the Buffalo renaissance in SUNY's English Department. The stampede began when he became Chairman. His long and distinguished bibliography includes two volumes of verse, *The Connections* and *The Charges*, as well as a verse translation of *The Odyssey*.

**Carl Dennis** has poems in more than a dozen little mags. He is Associate Professor of English at SUNY/Buffalo, and was for two years chairman of its Poetry Committee.

**Phil Dow**, a contributor to many journals, has been several times anthologized, most recently in Geof Hewitt's *Quickly Aging Here*. He has taught at San Francisco State and Buffalo.

**Raymond Federman**, a well-known Beckett scholar, is also the author of a bi-lingual (French-English) book of verse, *Among the Beasts*. His novel, *Double or Nothing*, was published by Swallow Press this year.

**Alan Feldman** was editor of *The Columbia Review* while a student in New York. He has taught in Metropolitan high schools and has published verse and stories in numerous mags including *New American Review*, *Panache*, *Roy Rogers* and others. He is presently editing a selected Frank O'Hara.

**José-Angel Figueroa's** poems have appeared in many underground journals. He frequently gives and organizes readings at Casa Puerto Rico in the NY *barrio*.

**Joel Fineman** is a student of John Logan's and a nationally notorious amateur poker fiend.

**Allen Ginsberg** is Allen Ginsberg. For Outriders he read unpublished Kerouac after a day of tireless mantra-chanting elsewhere.

**Daniela Giuseffi** has been an actress. An experimental play of hers has been performed off-Broadway and her work has appeared variously, most recently in *The Paris Review* and *Choice*.

**Mac Hammond's** two poetry volumes are *The Horse Opera* and *Cold Turkey*.

**Lee Harwood**, the English poet, is the author of *The White Room* (Fulcrum).

**Robert Hass** has written for *The Nation*, *Poetry*, *Hudson Review*, etc. and has been included in Paul Carroll's *The Young American Poets*. He teaches in California because his family is happy there.

**Travis Howell** began writing while a student of Robin MacGowan's at Berkeley. He now sleeps in the shadow of John Logan with whom he shares an apartment. He will soon wake up.

**Erica Jong**, presently holding a NY Cultural Council Fellowship, is married to a psychologist at Barnard. Her book, *Fruits and Vegetables*, is very sexy and was published in 1970.

**Bill Jungels**, in addition to poems in *Choice*, *Rapport*, and elsewhere, has produced a number of exquisite photographs.

**Shirley Kaufman** won the International Poetry Forum's US Award in 1969 with *The Floor Keeps Turning*. Penguin will soon issue her translations from Hebrew.

**David Kelley** has recently published his first book with Wesleyan. He teaches in the State University College of NY at Geneseo.

**Judy Kerman** won the Undergraduate Poetry Prize while at the University of Rochester. She is the editor of the feminist poetry magazine, *Earth's Daughters*, and directs the writing workshop at the Allentown Community Center, Buffalo, NY.

**Carolyn Kizer** is the author of several volumes of poetry, most recently *Knock Upon Silence*. Her adaptations from the Chinese (especially of Tu Fu) are well known.

**Michael S. Levinson** is a merchant marine. His poems have appeared in a number of little magazines, and his first book, *The Book of Lev*, a comic-epic-babbling retelling of the Fall, was privately printed in Buffalo in 1970.

**John Logan's** four volumes of poetry will soon be followed by a *Selected Poems*. He is the founding editor of *Choice* and has been poetry editor for *The Nation*, *Poetry Northwest*, and *The Critic*. We love him.

**Felipe Luciano** is one of New York City's "Last Poets" and stars in the film, *Right On!* He is a former chairman of The Young Lords. He teaches at JHS 136, The Bronx.

**Richard Papenhausen's** work has appeared in various littles, including *Armadillo*.

**Pedro Pietri**, a NY Cultural Council Fellowship holder for 1971, was born in Puerto Rico and has served in Vietnam. He has published in countless defunct littles, but his poetry is basically and powerfully oral and may be heard on a recording, *Aquí Se Habla Español*, issued by Casa Puerto Rico (NYC) in 1970.

**Shreela Ray** won the NY/YMCA "Discovery" Award in 1968. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Choice*, *Prologue*, and *Presence* and elsewhere. She spent most of 1970 in India, the country of her birth.

**Ed Smallfield** is the winner (over two other contestants) of the only poetry contest ever judged by the Outriders Director.

**Jayne Lynne Stahl**, an undergraduate at SUNY/Buffalo, has published poems in various littles and is trying to live down Gregory Corso's calling her "a female avatar of Rimbaud."

**Esther Swartz** is Assistant to the President for Cultural Affairs at SUNY/Buffalo. Her office administers a number of University-wide events, including the annual Fenton Lectures, various intra-departmental ventures, especially in such fields as media and dance, and unique "festivals" like last year's Native American Conference, which featured a much-noted galaxy of political and cultural spokespersons for American Indians.

**Andrew Taylor**, a young Australian poet visiting the US on an ACLS grant, has recently published his first volume, *A Cold Change*.

**C.W. Truesdale** is the new editor of *The Minnesota Review*, the founder of New Rivers Press, and the author of four volumes of poetry, the most recent of which is called *The Master of Knives*.

**Max Wickert** was born in Augsburg, Germany, and became a US citizen in 1958. His poems and translations have appeared in *Poetry*, *Chicago Review*, *Choice*, *Malahat Review*, and elsewhere. With Hubert Kulterer, he has translated Tuli Kupferberg's *1001 Ways to Live Without Working* into German (Vienna, 1971). With Dough Eichhorn and Dan Murray, he founded Outriders in 1968.

**John Wieners'** newest book, *Nerves*, is published by Cape/Goliard.

**Howard Wolf's** poems appear in recent issues of several journals, including *The Mediterranean Review*. Howard is also the author of several original psycho-social articles on teaching.

**Al Young** is Writer-in-Residence at Stanford. His first book of poems, *Dancing*, was published by Totem/Corinth; his novel, *Snakes*, is just going into paperback and selling like hotcakes.

1971-72: SECOND ANNUAL REPORT (Year ending August 31, 1972)

**EVENTS SPONSORED BY OUTRIDERS**

**I. POETRY TUESDAYS:** Weekly evening readings in an informal setting off any campus or specifically "cultural" premises. Each evening consists of an hour's reading by a featured poet of some distinction (who usually donates his efforts), followed by an open reading until interest or attendance flags. In Fall 1971, these readings moved from Aliotta's Lounge to The One-Eyed Cat, 28 Bryant Street, Buffalo, NY. An exceptionally faithful and lively group of regulars made it a rewarding series. Moreover, co-sponsorship of a featured reader on one occasion and a bit of luck on others made possible the appearance of several poets from out of town.

**Fall 1971 Series:**

October 19: Open Reading (with surprise visitor Mac Hammond)  
October 26: John Logan, with folk-singer son John Logan II  
November 2: William Sylvester  
November 9: Frank Parman and Terry Moore  
November 16: Peter Levitt and Frank Antonazzi  
November 30: Lyle Glazier  
December 7: Tony Petrosky, Travis Howell and James Mann  
December 14: Michael Casey

**Spring 1972 Series:**

February 22: Rob Swigart  
February 29: Carl Dennis  
March 7: Mindy Aloff  
March 14: Charles Wattenberg and James Paul  
March 21: Bill Zavatsky (co-sponsored by the Literary Arts Committee,  
SUNY/Buffalo)  
March 28: Peter Simpson  
April 12: Gary Margolis  
April 19: A. Poulin and Tony Piccione  
April 26: Max Wickert and John Logan

Unscheduled visitors from out of town who dropped in and in some cases read during open reading were:

Charles Levendosky (October 19)  
Mike Finn (November 2)  
Dan Murray (December 7)  
Morton Marcus (March 7)  
David Ignatow (March 28)

**II. SPECIAL EVENTS:** Outriders collaborated in the SUNY/Buffalo Literary Arts Committee's Summer Poetry Festival, in which the following Outrider poets gave readings:

July 11: Shreela Ray, James Luke and Max Wickert

July 13: Alan Feldman and Mike Finn

**III. POETRY-IN-THE-SCHOOLS:** 1971/72 was the last year this program (see Annual Report 1970/71) operated under Outriders auspices. In future it will be independent, though still under the able direction of Esther Swartz. The following poets visited Buffalo area schools in the program during 1971/72:

Erica Jong

Alan Feldman

John Logan

Phil Dow

Robert Hass

A. Poulin

Bill Matthews

Morton Marcus

Bill Zavatsky

Felipe Luciano

David Ignatow

Carl Dennis

Max Wickert

**IV. PUBLICATIONS:** Outriders has launched the production of a series of poetry brochures.

The first of these, Max Wickert's *All the Weight of the Still Midnight*, has been available since February 1972. The second, an anthology from the work of poets featured on Poetry Tuesdays, will be entitled *Outriders One* and is now in preparation. These brochures sell for \$1 at Outriders events (\$1.50 elsewhere). Proceeds, if any, will be used to fund future events.

#### **PROSPECTS**

**Poetry Tuesdays** will once again move, this time from The One-Eyed Cat to The Library Lounge, 3405 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, NY. Featured readers already announced include Dave Kelly, Mike Finn, Burton Weiss, Bill Cirocco and Charles Baxter. Watch for announcements.

**Publication:** *Outriders One* is expected to be ready in the early Spring of 1973.

**Financial:** Won't somebody please give us a grant? We will use the money only for two purposes: to defray transportation and eating expenses of out-of-town visitors, and for publicity. Contributions are welcome and orders for brochures are solicited. Make checks payable to Outriders Poetry Project and send to Max Wickert, 640 Parkside Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216.

1972-73--THIRD ANNUAL REPORT (Year ending August 31, 1973)

EVENTS SPONSORED BY OUTRIDERS

**I. POETRY TUESDAYS:** Weekly reading in an informal setting of any campus or “academic” premises. Each evening consists of an hour’s reading by a featured poet of some distinction (who usually donates his services), followed by an open reading. In Fall 1972, these readings moved from their former home, The One-Eyed Cat, to the upstairs dining room of The Library: An Eating and Drinking Emporium, 3405 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, NY. This year, private donations made possible the appearance of two readers from out of town, David Kelly (Geneseo) and Mike Finn (Little Valley, NY).

**Fall 1972 Series:**

October 10: David Kelly  
October 17: Mike Finn  
October 24: Burton Weiss and Bernhard Frank  
October 31: William Cirocco  
November 7: An Election Night Special  
November 14: Charles Baxter  
November 21: Open reading only  
November 28: John Howell  
December 5: Dennis Anderson  
December 12: Pol Ndu

**Spring 1973 Series:** Cancelled (see below)

Unscheduled visitors from out of town who dropped in and, in some cases, read from their work during open readings:

Milton Kessler (October 10)  
Charles Molesworth (October 17)  
Charles Martin (October 31)  
C.W. Truesdale (November 14)  
Daniel Murray (November 21)

**II. BAD NEWS:** With the end of the Fall 1972 series, the Outriders Project has been indefinitely suspended. There are several reasons for this:

- (1) The director, Max Wickert, has a sabbatical year coming up. Expecting to be out of town during it, he was unable to find a reliable replacement to take over—i.e. someone who would promise to organize readings, take care of publicity, and be present at the readings each week.
- (2) The management of our host restaurant, The Library, has changed. The new people in charge do not think poetry readings are good business. We are hence one more forced to look for a change of venue and have had no suitable offers.
- (3) We have funding difficulties. Donations have dwindled to a trickle, and efforts to secure grant money have been unsuccessful. We have, of course, operated on a

shoestring all along, but we now find ourselves faced with the choice of either quitting, or of doing completely without the occasional infusion of new blood via out-of-town visitors. Quitting is better than the rotational inbreeding guaranteed by the alternative.

As of September 1973, then, the Outriders Poetry Project will be in a state of suspended animation. Perhaps when the Director returns from his sabbatical by Fall 1974 the Project will still have life enough to resurrect. You can help to accomplish this by sending your letters of support and/or donations NOW.

### III. LOOSE ENDS

- (1) The Outriders Monographs are still halted at Number One (Wickert's *All the Weight of the Still Midnight*). Of the 250 copies printed, over 100 are still in stock, available on request at \$1.50 per copy. Number Two (the anthology entitled *Outriders One*) is virtually complete in typescript—a fine representative selection of poems by about thirty Outriders readers. However, we are \$100 out of pocket, and the book cannot go to press until this deficit is made up.
- (2) The Poetry-in-the-Schools Program, now completely independent of Outriders, though begun under its wing, continues thrivingly in the capable hands of Esther Swartz. Next year it will be administered by Neil Baldwin.

### IV. A LAST (OR PERHAPS SECOND-LAST) WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Though we're grinding to a momentary halt, I think we can be proud of we have accomplished for the Buffalo poetry scene. We helped Poetry-in-the-Schools get started, we hosted appearances (both official and unofficial) by about one poet from out of town every two months for all three years of our existence. Attendance at our readings was generally good. If it sometimes dipped to a dozen or so, we have on occasion drawn as many as 300 to a reading, and we have averaged about fifty per night. If statistics mean anything, a conservative estimate would be that we helped to bring about 2,500 people in immediate, personal, and informal contact with poets and their work. About half of this audience would not, I should think, have had this advantage, had it not been for us. I want to take this opportunity to share this pride with our contributing poets, our faithful regulars, our donors, and the management of the three pubs who acted as our hosts. I look forward to the future and am confident that some time we can do it again.

### **1973-76--INTERIM REPORT 1**

After the suspension of its Poetry Tuesdays in the winter of 1973, the activities of the Outriders Poetry Project were limited to sporadic forays by its Director. These included a brief and unsuccessful attempt to affiliate Outriders with the poetry workshops in the CEPA Gallery; a plan, eventually abandoned, to ally Outriders with the SUNY/Buffalo campus-wide poetry competitions, sponsored first by the UUAB Literary Arts Committee and later by the Academy of American Poets, for both of which the Director was Faculty Coordinator; and occasional sales of Outriders monographs. Regular readings were not resumed until Spring 1977.

## OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT

182 Colvin Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14216  
(716) 875-0910  
Max Wickert, Director

### 1977-78--FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT (Year ending August 31, 1978)

- I. HISTORY:** After five years of semi-hibernation, Outriders was invited to resume its regular program of readings at the Tralfamadore Café, 2610 Main Street, Buffalo, NY. The ensuing relationship with the Tralf and its owner, Ed Lawson, proved to be extremely cordial and led to two extraordinarily successful reading series. At present the Project is once more vigorously alive and promises to remain so in future years.
- II. WEEKLY READINGS:** Our only departure from earlier practice was the elimination of "open readings" after performances by featured guests. Two series were held, the first consisting of fourteen readings on Wednesday evenings in the Spring, and the second, of four consecutive Sunday nights in the Summer. Estimate attendance figures are given in parentheses after each listing below.

#### Spring 1978 Series:

- February 8: Fiction with Raymond Federman (80)  
February 15: William Sylvester (70)  
February 22: Jim Guthrie (50)  
March 1: Carl Dennis (70)  
March 15: Elaine Rollwagen and Joe Chamberlain (50)  
March 22: Detective fiction with Kevin Saviola (40)  
March 29: Jeanne Hill and Joan Murray (60)  
April 5: SUNY/Buffalo 1978 Winners of the Academy of American Poets Prize:  
Margaret Henderson, Ansie Baird and Barbara Copley; and of the  
Axlrod Prize for Best Undergraduate Poem (100)  
April 12: Fiction with Carlene Polite (25)  
April 19: A Farewell Reading by Albert Cook (80)  
April 26: Two Poets from Rochester—Shreela Ray and Cornelius Eady (35)  
May 2: A Benefit for Choice Magazine with John Logan, Milton Kessler and Tom  
O'Leary (Co-sponsored by SUNY/Buffalo Department of English) (100)  
May 9: R.D. Pohl, Mary Rickert and Max Wickert, with performance artist Linda  
Phillips-Palo (80)  
May 16: William Navero and Kathy Rudy (60)

#### Summer 1978 Series:

- July 9: Dennis Maloney (20)  
July 16: Michael S. Levinson (15)  
July 23: Robert Daly and Gary Storm (40)

July 30: Dan Murray and Max Wickert (75)

### III. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- (1) **Videotapes:** The Choice Benefit (May 2) was videotaped and edited by Hendryk DeLeeuw of Rochester, NY, and the tape has been placed in the Outriders archives. Copies are available for \$30/reel directly from us. The reading by Carlene Polite (April 12) was videotaped by Sunship Communications, 1377 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14215 (tel: 716-886-0442). For further information about this tape, inquire there.
- (2) **Memberships:** As of March 1978, Outriders is an official affiliate of N.E.W. (Niagara-Erie Writers), the regional writers' alliance serving the five counties of Western New York. Outriders Director Max Wickert serves as Chairperson of N.E.W.'s Bylaws Committee, as well as on its Fiscal and Special Events Committees.
- (3) **Artpark Festival:** Max Wickert also acted as Coordinator and Director of the Artpark Poetry Festival (July 5-30), cosponsored by Artpark, SUNY/Buffalo and N.E.W. The Summer Series at the Tralfamadore was held in conjunction with the Festival, which included readings and/or residencies by (among others) Louis Simpson, David Ignatow, Gerald Stern, Marvin Bell, Anselm Hollo, Harriett Zinnes, the Four Horsemen, and John Gill.
- (4) **Grant Application:** Outriders has applied for a grant to cover fees of out-of-town readers during the 1978-79 series. Notification of the results should come by September.
- (5) **Publications:** Eighty copies of Outriders Monograph No. 1 (Wickert's *All the Weight of the Still Midnight*) are still in stock and may be purchased for \$1.50 each. Outriders Monograph No. 2 (Outriders One: An Anthology) has been deferred for summer 1979 publication.
- (6) **Roycroft:** Max Wickert and former Outriders readers Ansie Baird and Jim Guthrie were among the featured readers at the annual Roycrofters Convention in Orchard Park, NY, on June 17, 1978.
- (7) **Publicity:** Outriders readings by Bill Sylvester and Carl Dennis were the subjects of feature reviews by Jeff Simon in the *Buffalo Evening News*; the Fall Series was also discussed in a long article in the "Musebeat" column of the *News* by Fran Clark.

### IV. BUDGET

#### Income:

Patrons . . . \$20  
Donations at readings . . . \$85.00  
Monograph sales . . . \$6.00  
TOTAL \$111.00

#### Expenditures:

N.E.W. Membership fee . . . \$15.00  
Publicity . . . \$16.00  
Videotape purchase . . . \$40.00  
Writers' fees . . . \$40.00  
TOTAL \$111.00

## **V. FUTURE PLANS**

The Fall 1978 Series at the Tralfamadore Café will once more be on Wednesday nights, at 8:30 p.m. It will begin on October 4 and continue through December 13.

Donations are urgently solicited to help us meet expenses, especially since we intend to draw much more heavily on out-of-town talent than in the past. A contribution of \$10 or more will add you to our list of "Patrons" and entitle you to free mailings of all Outriders publicity and announcements.

## OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT

182 Colvin Avenue  
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Max Wickert, Director

### 1978-79--FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT (Year ending August 31, 1979)

Regular Outriders readings continued on Wednesday nights at the Tralfamadore Café, 2610 Main Street, Buffalo, NY. We gratefully acknowledge the following for helped us to launch an exceptionally successful season: (1) Robert Creeley, who generously gave a benefit reading attended by nearly 200 people who paid \$1 each to hear him; and (2) Poets and Writers, Inc., who awarded us a matching grant-in-aid. Between them, we were able to pay honoraria and/or travel expenses to four outside readers. These are indicated by asterisks in the schedule below.

#### Fall 1978 Series:

October 4: Benefit Reading with Robert Creeley  
October 11: Nancy Barnes, Ahn Behrens and Jimmi Canfield  
October 18: Jarold Ramsey\*  
October 25: Rosmarie Waldrop\*  
November 1: Peter Levitt and Robert Creeley  
November 8: Carol Frost\*  
November 15: Open Reading

#### Spring 1979 Series:

March 26: Boria Sax  
April 23: Anthony Piccione\*  
May 7: Wickert, Father and Son [see description below]  
May 14: Ken Brauchler and Gail Fischer  
May 21: Byron Dibble and R.D. Pohl, with member's of John Logan's Creative Writing Seminar

The reading on May 7 was an event of special note. It was planned as a Father's Day tribute, highlighting the poetry of Outriders founder Max Wickert and the paintings and drawings of his artist father, Stephan P. Wickert. The Tralfamadore became, temporarily, an art gallery. Twenty-two works by Stephan Wickert (posters, caricatures, linoleum cuts, paintings, drawings and one sculpture) were mounted on walls and pedestals to form an exhibition that stayed up for two weeks. The reading was also the exhibition opening, and featured, aside from Max Wickert, the following other writers, all reading works on the them of fathers (or at least parents) and offspring: Esther (Swartz) Harriott, Mac Hammond, Anna Hammond, John Logan and Howard Wolf. Sadly, Stephan Wickert could not attend the opening because he suffered a heart attack the day before. He has, however, recovered and is doing well.

## OUTRIDERS PARTICIPANTS

**Nancy Barnes** is a painter who has exhibited at Essex Gallery, Buffalo, and elsewhere. She has only recently turned to poetry.

**Ahn Behrens** is a charter member of the feminist collective, *Earth's Daughters*.

**Ken Brauchler** was the 1976 winner of the Axrod Prize for the best poem by an undergraduate at SUNY/Buffalo.

**Jimmi Canfield** grew up in the Deep South and now teaches at Erie Community College.

**Robert Creeley**, along with Allen Ginsberg perhaps the single most influential American poet alive, is Samuel P. Capen Professor of Poetry and the Humanities at SUNY/Buffalo and the author of more than fifty books of verse, fiction, autobiography and criticism. He lives in Buffalo with his wife Penelope.

**Byron Dibble**, a virtuoso fiddler, experiments in combining music and poetry. He is a member of John Logan's Creative Writing Seminar at SUNY/Buffalo.

**Gail Fischer** twice won Honorable Mention in the SUNY/Buffalo Academy of American Poets student poetry competition. More recently her work has been featured in a special issue of *Audit*.

**Carol Frost** has published two books of poetry: *The Salt Lesson* (Gray Wolf) and *Liar's Dice* (Ithaca House). Her appearance at Outriders was funded in part by a grant from Poets and Writers, Inc.

**Mac Hammond's** first book of poems, *The Horse Opera*, was published by the Ohio State University Press in the late 'fifties. Since then he has published two other books of verse, *Cold Turkey* (Swallow Press) and *Six Dutch Hearts* (Bellevue). His work has appeared in many journals. He lives with his wife Katka and two children in downtown Buffalo. He is Professor of English and head of the M.A. Writing Program at SUNY/Buffalo.

**Anna Hammond**, seventeen, is Mac Hammond's daughter who will be graduating from Nichols School next summer.

**Esther Harriott**, formerly known as Esther Swartz, is the daughter of the eminent Canadian scholar, Isidore Goldstick. Since the 'sixties she has been Assistant to the President for Cultural Affairs at SUNY/Buffalo. Her critical reviews have appeared in *The Reporter*, *The Buffalo Evening News*, and elsewhere. She also writes a regular literary column for a Buffalo newspaper. She is the mother of two teen-age children, a daughter and a son, and is presently writing a doctoral dissertation on contemporary American drama.

**Peter Levitt** is a candidate for the MA in Creative Writing at SUNY/Buffalo.

**John Logan** is one of the most honored poets on the SUNY/Buffalo faculty. His books include six volumes of verse (*Cycle for Mother Cabrini*; *Ghosts of the Heart*; *Spring of the Thief*; *The Anonymous Lover*; *New Poem*; and *The Zig-Zag Walk*) and one of prose (*The House that Jack Built*). He has also published short stories and criticism. In addition to Buffalo, he has taught at Notre-Dame, San Francisco State, St. John's College of Annapolis and the University of Washington. He has received many awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, and has been widely anthologized. He is the father of nine children.

**Anthony Piccione** is the author of *Anchor Dragging*. He teaches creative writing alongside A. Poulin and William Heyen at SUNY/Brockport. His appearance at Outriders was funded in part by a grant from Poets and Writers, Inc.

**R. D. Pohl** last year won both the Axrod Prize for best poem by an undergraduate and the Academy of American Poets Buffalo College Poetry Prize. He continues to study writing with John Logan.

**Jarold Ramsey** taught at the University of Washington and the University of Victoria (Canada) before moving permanently to the University of Rochester. He is the author of *The Space between Us* and *Love in an Earthquake*. His appearance at Outriders was funded in part by a grant from Poets and Writers, Inc.

**Boria Sax** is a graduate student at SUNY/Buffalo with a special interest in film.

**Rosmarie Waldrop**, an acclaimed experimental poet, is the author of *The Aggressive Ways of the Casual Stranger* (Random House) and edits Burning Deck Press with her husband Keith Waldrop. She teaches in the Creative Writing Program at Brown University.

**Max Wickert**, director of *Outriders*, was born 1938 in Augsburg, Germany, and immigrated to the US with his parents and sisters in 1952. Educated at St. Bonaventure and Yale Universities, he has taught at Nazareth College in Rochester and is presently Associate Professor of English at SUNY/Buffalo. He is the author of a monograph of poems, *All the Weight of the Still Midnight* (*Outriders*, 1972) and of numerous verse publications in magazines including *Poetry*, *Choice*, *American Poetry Review*, *Malahat Review*, *Michigan Quarterly* etc. He has given many readings in Buffalo and elsewhere and is also active as a translator of German verse (Georg Trakl, Hubert Kulterer) into English, and of American verse (Tuli Kupferberg) into German. In addition to his poetry, he has published critical prose on Spenser, East German literature, and on opera.

**Stephan P. Wickert** now lives in retirement in Rochester, NY. He was born in Giessen, Germany, and educated in art and pedagogy at the Technische Hochschule in Munich. Before and after World War II, he taught art, first at a private "Internat" near Rosenheim, Bavaria, and later at the Realgymnasium in Augsburg. As a painter, sculptor, and graphic artist he frequently exhibited in Giessen, Augsburg, and Munich, and contributed book illustrations, political cartoons, and advertising designs to a number of German publications. He emigrated to the US in 1952 with his family and settled in Rochester, where he briefly taught design at the Rochester Institute of Technology, picked up freelance contracts from the advertising firm of Rumrill and Company, and contributed political cartoons to the Gannett newspaper chain. From the late 'fifties onward, he worked as an industrial designer at the Graflex division of Singer Precision Instruments. He has practiced virtually every form of painting and drawing—abstract, landscape, portraiture, book-illustration, line drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and various forms of applied art—but his special gift is caricature, in which he has developed a style very much his own. An amalgam of the Weimar-Republic's *Simplizissimus*, of *Jugendstil*, and of the tradition of Wilhelm Busch is refined by him in a uniquely personal and witty way, which acquires specially poignant overtones when he begins to assimilate the subjects and motifs of American life. Nothing illustrates this better than the series of posters, some of them on view in this exhibit, which he designed to advertise Graflex picnics and Christmas parties.

**Howard Wolf**, Professor of English at SUNY/Buffalo, has published a number of poems in journals. He co-edited a college writing text which uses autobiography as a basic skill. His commentary on the "generation gap" in various national journals led, last year, to the publication of his critical memoir, *Forgive the Father* (New Republic Books). He lives in Buffalo with his fourteen-year-old daughter Alexis.

## 1979-2010--INTERIM REPORT 2

After the Spring 1979 series, Outriders director Max Wickert organized a second annual Summer Poetry Festival at UB, June 5-13. Featured participants included:

John Frederick Nims  
William Stafford  
Raymond Pterson  
Gerald Stern  
Mark Rudman  
Irving Feldman  
David Ignatow  
Virginia Terris  
Anselm Hollo  
Allan Kornblum

Most of these poets, in addition to their official appearances at the university, read informally in the Outriders setting, but meantime Outriders was losing its principal venue. The Tralfamadore Café had been bought out by entrepreneurs and moved to fancy new quarters in downtown Buffalo. There it functioned principally (and very successfully) as a high-end jazz club. It had no room for poetry readings.

Meanwhile, Max Wickert, the Outriders director, was suffering from crippling personal difficulties and also losing interest. When he recovered, his energies shifted principally to his own writing and translation projects. He felt that the days of the old-fashioned poetry reading were more or less over.

Thus Outriders was forced into a long hibernation.

In 2006, Max Wickert retired from teaching at SUNY/Buffalo. Two years later, Oxford University Press published his translation of Tasso's *The Liberator of Jerusalem*. He suddenly found himself with a lot of time on his hands, with a little money to invest, and with the need to pick up some of the older threads of his career.

It seemed pointless to revive Outriders as a reading series, since other organizations such as Just Buffalo and Hallwalls, to say nothing of UB's Poetics Program, were filling this need quite adequately. But it seemed worthwhile to revive the project with its emphasis shifted from readings to publication. This meant relaunching Outriders as a small press.

The first new Outriders book, Ann Goldsmith's *The Spaces Between Us*, is being published in April 2010. Future projects include a book of fiction, Martin Pops' *Minoxidyl and Other Stories* (scheduled for Fall 2010), the long-delayed *Outriders Anthology* (due early 2011), and a new collection of poems by Max Wickert entitled *No Cartoons* (mid 2011). In addition, an annual competition is planned to which all writers living in or significantly associated with the greater Buffalo area may submit. The winning entry each year is to be published as an Outriders monograph.