

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 17

1 July 1974

Bill Mac Kay, editor  
St. Mark's Church, 2nd Avenue  
& Tenth St., New York 10003.

The Poetry Project has been brought to a slow simmer for the summer months. The only break in the July doldrums will be a group reading by Lewis Warsh's workshoppers (repeat quickly), Wednesday, the 17th, at 8:30 p.m. Featured in this mini-extravaganza are poets Forest Bell, Michael Clayton, Patricia Jones, William Kushner, Diane Raintree, Dom Sotelo and Jill Tietelman. Otherwise, things will be winding down & up until Monday, September 2, when genial Ed Friedman reassumes his role as open reading/performance night m.c. & all-around good guy.

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Wednesday night happenings begin October 2. Among those occurring next season are John Ashbery, Bobbie Louise Hawkins, Kathy Acker, Stanley Kunitz, Harry Mathews, Ed Dorn, and Alice Notley. Other all-star evenings lack only final confirmation. For further instructions, keep your radio on.

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The rest of the Fall schedule remains unarticulated, gestates slowly in the immaculate mind of director Anne Waldman. Nevertheless, one can guess that it will include two or three workshops, a lecture series and a raffle.

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An expert typist might bring solace to the life of young poet Dennis Phillips, who has become a bleary-eyed shut-in reworking a mammoth (700 page) mss. Terms are negotiable. Home base is 178 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

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Michael Brownstein will make a rare public appearance on the campus of Cornell University, July 30.

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Due momentarily from Angel Hair Books (Box 257, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York 10009) is John Wieners' Hotels, transcribed from his amazing reading at St. Mark's this year. An astounding Gordon Baldwin drawing graces the cover. Two dollars.

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Alice Notley stands on her own two feet in Out There 4. Editor Neil Hackman offers three score pages of Notley poems, appreciatory essays by Andrei Codrescu, Tom Clark, Peter Kostakis and himself, and lurid covers by Rochelle Kraut, all for \$1.50. From 6711 N. Sheridan, Chicago, Illinois 60626.

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Allen Ginsberg & Peter Orlovsky are doing "zen carpentry" in Kitkitdizze.

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Yanagi is a big brawny mimeo job out of New College of California (Box 248, Sausalito, California 94965). The multitudes herein assembled include Clark, McClure, Berkson, McNaughton, Meltzer, MacAdams, Borregaard, Wieners, Gallup, Palmer, Padgett, Kyger, plus some amply talented unknowns. Priceless in several senses.

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The World will not be coming out for "a long time", due to a screaming lack of funds. However, somewhere over the rainbow, in the distant future, looms a second issue of reviews & commentary.

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One of New York City's finest, the Phoenix Book Shop moves from 18 Cornelia to 22 Jones imminently. Owner Bob Wilson should be pooped, having just completed compiling & publishing Gertrude Stein: A Bibliography. This exhaustive, 228-page book covers every aspect of Great Mother's work: all books, pamphlets by her or with contributions by her, all magazine appearances, translations of her work into foreign languages, all recordings, musical settings, previously uncollected recipes, ephemera, fugitive items, even a complete list of the published work of Alice B. Toklas. Obviously a labor of lifelong love. Fifteen dollars, cloth-bound. Due mid-month from Phoenix.

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Wave theory takes a new step forward in Tom Clark's unpublished mss., In Malibu, ready to be freaked into print at a publishers' command. Address inquiries, c/o The Newsletter.

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Mayans rejoice in the publication of Olson: The Journal of the Charles Olson Archives, skillfully edited by George Butterick, University of Connecticut Library Special Collections Dept., Storrs, Connecticut 06268. Launch issue now available, \$3.50. Subscriptions, \$10 per annum.

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Would someone please save our church? The building is gradually slipping into total disrepair, the grounds disintegrate before our eyes. Pipes leak, walls crack. The condition of our steeple would drive Quasimodo to tears. Something must be done. St. Mark's Church is not only a building of incalculable historic importance, predating all but one public building in the city, but a home of dozens of cultural & social groups essential to the life of this community.

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Angels & friends should contact Steve Facey at the Church, OR4-6377, for a report which outlines solutions.

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The latest course in the Institute of Further Studies "Curriculum of the Soul" is Michael McClure's full-bodied Organism, a radiant cluster of energetic poems. (Favorite line: "Odor of hummingbird mint crunched under boot heel.") Two dollars from Box 482, Canton, New York 13617.

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Jim Carroll, the 21-year-old Perfect Master, has a little puppy named "Joe", his very first dog. Jim was last seen riding a bike down Bolinas' Elm Road.

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Occult Witnesses, edited by Alan Davies at 1359 Commonwealth Avenue, Allston, Mass. 02134, will appear late this month with contributions by Tom Clark, Jonathan Cott, Bill Corbett, Larry Fagin, the late Steve Jonas, John Wieners, Lewis Warsh and especially Maureen Owen. One dollar and fifty cents.

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Dick Gallup has completed a year as Poet-in-Residence for the state of West Virginia.

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The Poetry Project has received a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts which will allow us to flow next year.

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Kenward Elmslie is tending his garden in Vermont.

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Finally available, a reprint of The Floating Bear, #1-37 (complete run), the now legendary and defunct magazine edited by Diane DiPrima and LeRoi Jones. Nearly six hundred pages, beginning with Michael McClure and ending with Freewheelin' Frank Reynolds. Sandwiched in between is enough meat to keep all you poetry guppies gooey-eyed for a month: Snyder, Ashbery, Ginsberg, Koch, Waldman, Lamantia, Kerouac, Burroughs, O'Hara, Spicer, Wieners, Creeley, Duncan, Olson, the Brönte sisters, myriads. Begin price negotiations with Laurence McGilvret, Box 852, La Jolla, California.

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Aram Saroyan still looking for land up north, hoping all the New York School poets aren't mad at him for his recent open letter. Of course not. Meanwhile, his two lovely children thrive on California sun parental affection.

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Don Allen beaver busy on his collection of Frank O'Hara letters.

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The mysterious Leon resurfaces in The World of Leon, masquerading as Big Sky: Number Seven. A witty introduction by Donald Hall doesn't help at all. A dollar fifty from editor Bill Berkson, Box 272, Bolinas, California or direct from the author.

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Also in the offing from Big Sky are Ron Padgett's Crazy Compositions and a postcard, yes, a postcard by Lewis MacAdams.

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The Yale Lit 143:3 sports a "portfolio of contemporary American poems & translations". Showcased are works by Clark, Berkson, Towle, Zavatsky, Warsh, Seidman, Enslin, North, Kelly, Henry, Rothenberg, Nötley, Schjeldahl, Padgett, Violi, the wealth of nations. Two dollars at automats, bookshops, or from Box 243A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.

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Ed Dorn working on new issue of Bean News with excellent hip high-style printers Holbrook Teeter & Michael Myers.

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Extensions 8 feature work by W.S. Merwin, Carter Ratcliff, as well as household names as Aloisio Magalhães and Fayad Jamis. Two dollars. The editors' desk is located in Post Office Box 383, Cathedral Station, New York, N.Y. 10025.

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"Hoosick Falls", a musical farce by Jane DeLynn, hits the stage, August 8, at the Theatre for the New City, 113 Jane Street. Performances Thursday-Sunday, August 8-11, 15-18, and 12-25. Go.

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Rebecca Wright (Brief Lives) off to a farm in home state Missouri.

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Kenward Elmslie, Kenneth Koch, and James Schuyler occupy #24 of Penguin's Modern Poets series. Guest editor John Ashbery deserves a hearty handshake for his careful selecting.

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Anne Waldman, John Giorno & Bernadette Mayer will be doing a "poetry event" for the huddled masses in Lewistown, New York (near Buffalo), August 26-September 1. If you can't stay the whole week, at least attend the zenith, Wednesday, August 28.

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The announcement of grants to New York State magazines & presses by the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines left the Poetry Project reeling. The World, the official Project magazine (though in no way paid for by designated P.P. funds) received only \$500 of a \$4000 grant request, hardly enough to offset costs from the last issue, much less pay for future ones. Larry Fagin's Adventures in Poetry Press had its request for funding rejected because of "insufficient quality". Unnatural Acts, edited by Bernadette Mayer and Ed Friedman, was granted \$500 of a \$2000 request. The Poetry Project Newsletter was deemed ineligible to receive aid as a literary magazine. More tragically, Angel Hair Books (edited by Anne Waldman & Lewis Warsh) received \$500 of a \$6000 request, just enough to cover a \$445 publishing debt. Of all the publications linked even tangentially to the Project, only Maureen Owen's Telephone (awarded \$750) received a realistic grant.

It seems futile to dispute the CCLM assessments; one can only bemoan them, translate the decisions into magazines postponed or cancelled, books unpublished or abandoned.

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Reports of the triumph of Robert Wilson's "A Letter for Queen Victoria" at the Spoleto Festival filter back to Adrenalin City.

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A Bolinas-based publication, Shelter, boggles the mind, straightens the back. A mixed bag of anthropology, outdoors advice, autobiography, pictures, pictures, pictures. Six dollars. Mail orders to Mountain Books, P.O.B. 4811, Santa Barbara, California 93103.

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Teaching spiritual poetry at The Naropa Institute this summer will be Allen Ginsberg, Anne Waldman, and Diane DiPrima. A group reading is slated for July 30.

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The Burckhardtts and Edwin Denby are summering in Maine. Meanwhile, assistant Newsletter editor Regina Beck is lounging in her Lower Eastside flat.

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The Jane Forth Fan Club is now accepting correspondence, c/o Robert Read, 72 Thompson Street, New York.

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Applications for the fall semester of The New York School of Poetry are now available. Deadline for registration is August 15.

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I want to continue to receive The Newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed \$1.00 for mailing.

How poecile and endearing is the Porch  
it lingers there in the dying light  
a school of fish, scared and wise  
Sappho is teaching Socrates is  
teaching Virgil is teaching Nadia  
and Ned everyone is teaching someone  
this is Greek civilization! Come on in

- Frank O'Hara

12.7.61

THE POETRY PROJECT  
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TO

Phil Whalen!

c/o Zen Center

300 Page Street

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA



First Class Mail