

# I WANT POEMS

## SAINT LOUIS



Saint Louis, Missouri

V2n10 October 2025

## Featured



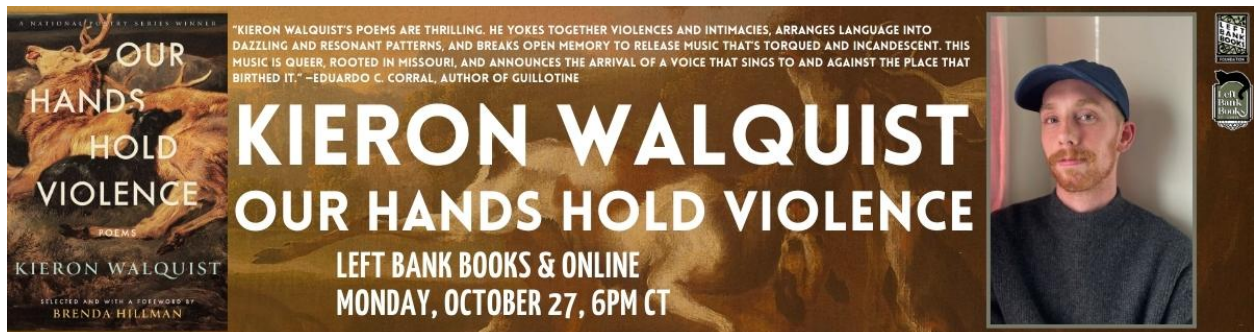
Missouri Botanical Garden - Sachs Museum

Saturday, October 11

11a and 1p

Devin Johnston will read his poems, as well as prose excerpts related to olfactory experience, from pink evening primroses to ambergis to chanterelle mushrooms.

[More Info](#)



## Even More Cool Stuff

---

### Poetry at the Point: Jamie Wendt & Glendal Wallache

Tuesday, October 28

7:30p

in-person at [Focal Point](#) + Livestream event [here](#)

### A Night of Art + Action + Community: The Future is Female Exhibition

Wednesday, October 8

5p

21c Museum Hotel St. Louis

Featuring Poet Laureate of St. Louis Pacia Elaine Anderson along with Tiffany Shlain, Brittan Huges, Hillary Elfenbein, and Miranda Rectenwald.

[More Info](#)

### Poemtober + Poemtober Halloween Party

Halloween Party and Open Mic

Thursday, October 30

7p – 8:30p

High Low Listening Room

Watch the St. Louis Poetry Center Instagram for daily Poemtober prompts: [@stlpoetrycenter](#)

Saint Louis Poetry Center is thrilled to partner with [Inktober](#) this year to bring you Poemtober. Each day throughout October, we post a new word prompt to our social media channels. Use that word to inspire your writing -- and then come share your work at a community reading. We are here to support and encourage writers, and hope this project helps us all shift from that summertime haze into a place of creative generation.

In conjunction with Poemtober, Saint Louis Poetry Center will host a special Halloween poetry party. Come share your Poemtober poems and bring your friends! Featuring a Poemtober open mic, snacks and a cash bar. You do not need to participate in the open mic to attend the event. Costumes encouraged!

## Workshops

---



### Poetry Workshop Facilitated by Holly Sinclair: Fall Session

Wednesday, October 1

6p - 8p

At Tiny Postcards (4700 Virginia Ave, STL 63111)

[More Info](#)



### Sunday Workshop:

Facilitator: TBA

Sunday, October 19, 1:30p – 4p

This will be a traditional/revision workshop.

Submissions are due October 12.

[More Info](#)



### Hey Pickpocket Writing Workshop with Allison Cundiff

Thursday, October 2

5:30p – 7p

Subterranean Books

[More Info](#)



### Babler Poetry Society

Saturday, November 1

10am – 12p

Richmond Heights Memorial Library

[More Info](#)

## Open Mics

<b>Heavy Anchor Last Wednesdays</b> <p><a href="#">October 29</a>: Hosted by Bobby Stevens &amp; Kyle Brandt-Lubart. Sign up at 7p; readers begin at 8.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>	<b>Re: Born Reconstituted! TikTok Tavern Third Tuesdays</b> <p><a href="#">October 21</a>: Hosted by and featuring Matthew Scott Freeman (who has a new book). Starts at 7p.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>	<b>Spellbound: Open Poetry Mic 1st and 3rd Sundays</b> <p><a href="#">October 5 and 19</a>: From 7p – 10p at Lady Layre on Morgan Ford.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>
<b>Wordup! Every Tuesday</b> <p><a href="#">Tuesdays in October</a>: Live music, poetry, and comedy in The Grove.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>	<b>Pages in Pacific First Fridays</b> <p><a href="#">October – Check their Facebook</a>: First Friday of every month at Pages in Pacific (sending some poetry love to those of you across the river).</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>	<b>Rage &amp; Poetry First Tuesdays</b> <p><a href="#">October 7</a>: Featured readers and an open mic every month. Doors open at 7p.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>
<b>Community Poetry Open Mic Night Third Wednesdays</b> <p><a href="#">October 15</a>: Family-friendly open-mic Community Poetry Open-Mic night. Dogwood Social House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. 5:30p - 8:00p.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>	<b>The Lyrics and Laughs Interlude Ground Sharp Studios</b> <p><a href="#">Mondays</a>: Join hosts Artiz of Wordz, Gigi, &amp; The Cosplay Poet at the soft opening of their new mic space from 7p – 10p.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>	



<p>PAST ISSUES AND MORE GOOD STUFF ON THE <a href="#">WEBSITE</a>:</p> <p><a href="https://iwantpoems.wixsite.com/i-want-poems">HTTPS://IWANTPOEMS.WIXSITE.COM/I-WANT-POEMS</a></p>	<p>FOLLOW US ON BLUE SKY</p> <p><a href="#">@iwantpoemsstl.bsky.social</a></p>
---	--

## Read Something

*Vital Signs*, Vincent Casaregola (Finishing Line Press 2025)

In Casaregola's first full-length poetry collection, "Death is always, I Fear, in the Middle." While the poem inserts it as the unspoken future of the speaker and spouse – indeed, all speakers and spouses – it is also between the reader and nearly every poem in the collection. The pleasure of the book is negotiating the same middle ground as Death itself does.

In the first section, the middle space is the side effect of trauma, "sparking blue-white from the third rail/a flashing light and a threat..." that meets us fair and square along with danger. It then backs off into the theoretical as an active shooter in "Emergency Procedure Guide" before turning into the ending of a capriciously bad day as the culmination of a host of surprise misfortunes in "Imminent Disaster."

In Section II, Death becomes the outcome best approached with patience after catastrophic accidents and richly led lives draw to a protracted close. A keen sense of irony pops up in some of these poems. One can perhaps be forgiven for having mixed feelings about kinda loving the stanza in the cleverly written "Prostate" that sighs

Not much to be lost but these small  
Sacks of fertilizer, long past any use  
Something left behind in the old barn  
Of this body...

Ouch. There is also a troubling sense of relief to find Jarrell's Ball Turret Gunner, last seen being hosed out of the whom of his airplane, still alive, albeit wishing for the freedom of death.

The Case History Monologues are much less concerned with physical death – although there are plenty of ghosts and active shooters – in favor of the splashier sorts of mental illnesses: hallucinations, tragic awkwardness, cutting, etc. The sense of hope imparted by preemie with a mere hole in its heart is a triumph of the careful ordering of the collection.

One of the best pieces in the book is in the final section that reflects on the whole <covid> thing. "Descent into the Underworld" is an accomplished call to antiquity to create context from all our loss as

We find, in those echoes,  
New presence beyond fear or even hope,  
Find the upward curve past hard descent.

Death may be everywhere but not today, and not for us, the reader; for now, we rise against it.