

I WANT POEMS



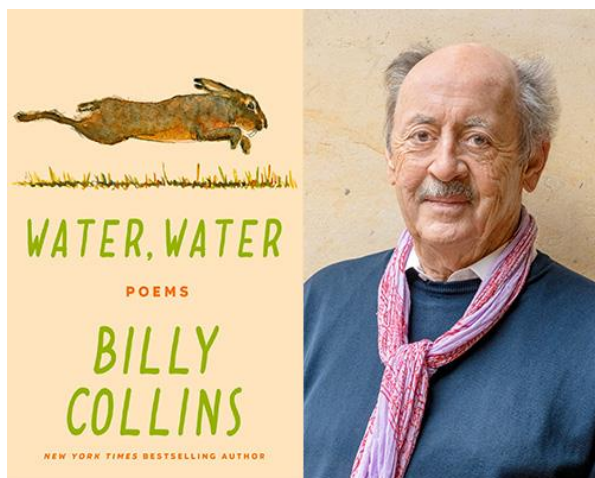
Saint Louis, Missouri

V1n2 December 2024

Welcome to the **I Want Poems** newsletter. All the information about poetry events in the St. Louis Metro in one place and out to your inbox. New to this issue are a couple of *Page Three* features. Just in case you want to read some poetry, we will be reviewing books by local poets and letting you know about some poets you can check out from our very own book palace, the St. Louis Public Library.

Want to subscribe? Have an event you would like to list? A new book out? Send an email to iwantpoems@gmail.com.

Featured Poetry Readings



Friday, December 13th, 2024
Clark Family Library @ 7pm

This is a ticketed event presented by the St. Louis County Library Foundation. The former US Poet Laureate will be in conversation with Wash U's Mary Jo Bang. An individual ticket is \$32 and includes a copy of his latest book of poems, *Water, Water*. If you're bringing a date, it's \$40. There will be a signing line. [More info](#).

december in December: *A Literary Celebration!*

Featuring:



Nicole Adabunu



Margaret Hermes



Aiden Heung

Join us for the launch of Vol. 35.2 with an evening of poetry and prose, featuring readings by Nicole Adabunu, Margaret Hermes, & Aiden Heung. Light refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public!

Thursday, December 7th — 4:30 - 6:30 p.m
@ Grant's View Library — 9700 Musick Ave,
St. Louis, MO 63123



DECEMBER EVENTS
decembermag.org

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
 St. Louis County Library

Open Mics

Spine Indie Bookstore Every Sunday

All 5 Sundays in December: Featured Poets to be announced. Their poetry nights are inclusive and supportive. It is a perfect place to read for the first time, try new material, experiment, or share your published work. Door: 6pm. Poetry: 7:00-10:00

[More Info](#)

Re: Born Reconstituted! Third Tuesday

December 17th: Featuring Brett Underwood and Jim McGowin, with a dynamic open mic to follow. Hosted by Matthew Scott Freeman. Heads up! Born will be moving to Joe's Cafe in January

[More Info](#)

New! Poetry on the Rocks Luvwoo Bar

Fresh Launch January 13th: Featuring Danielle Coffyn. Arrive by 7pm to sign up for the open mic. Readings begin at 7:30. Hosted Caiti Quatmann.

[More Info](#)

Wordup! Every Tuesday

Tuesdays in December: Live music, poetry, and comedy in The Grove.

[More Info](#)

New! First Friday Poetry

December 6th: First Friday of every month at Pages in Pacific (sending some poetry love to those of you across the river).

[More Info](#)

Literary Magazines

River Styx

For half a century, *River Styx* has cultivated contemporary literary arts in St. Louis and beyond through its magazine and community programs. *River Styx* is an independent publisher.

[Find It Here](#)

The Spectacle

A joint project of the English literature and creative writing graduate students at Washington University in St. Louis, *The Spectacle* publishes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and visual art twice a year.

[Find It Here](#)

HNDL Magazine

St. Louis-based online magazine featuring the work of ND, disabled, & spoonie creatives.

[Find It Here](#)

Boulevard

Available in print and online, *Boulevard* is a biannual literary magazine publishing contemporary fiction, essays, interviews, and poetry. Based in St. Louis, Missouri. Read internationally. Established in 1985.

[Find It Here](#)

december

Founded in 1958 amidst the little magazine and small press movements, *december* has a storied legacy of nurturing emerging voices and celebrating innovative work from seasoned creators. It publishes fiction, essays, poetry, and art twice a year.

[Find It Here](#)

\$ Poetry is Currency

St. Louis-based online magazine that, in brief: rejects cultural preoccupation with financial worth, seeks poets who write what they believe most important, regardless of economics and the market, and refuses to stay silent or act polite.

[Find It Here](#)

St. Louis Poet Writes Book

All Politics is Local

Wikipedia Apocalyptica, Steven D. Schroeder. swallow::tale press (2022).

If you're looking for confessional poems full of personal tragedy and introspection, you won't find them here. For Schroeder, the world is going to hell in a handbasket, and he's going to tell you how and why. The primary target of his relentless irony is the hegemony of late-stage capitalist consumerism. No poem is clearer about this than "The Real Problem," which declares that all of consumerism's solutions are "more/addictive and contagious/and toxic than the problem" -- among its other deceptions.

Much of the irony is couched in clever rhetoric and word play. In "Official Statement," a poem about the collusion between police use of force and political power, the power structure demurs with "The city was like that/when we found it – no *founded* it – no *founded* it. The poem "Mad Libs" gives away the game by exposing the formula: "With (*plentiful resource*) depleted,/gangs grew like (*sense impression/invoking fire*)".

In other places, poems such as the wry and funny "X" and "Words to Try to Survive the Night," bring heart to the collection. In addition, there are some startlingly lyrical lines tucked into the satire. In "Yellowed," the color motif is expressed best with the striking "Because we said so was why/*nicotine stain* and *still a bruise*/replaced the other paints." Or take "The Road," which springs "the horizon loomed close enough for us/to touch

promise on the sunlit side" on the reader amid the imagery of deep destruction and despair.

Published in 2022, many of these poems arise out of sensibilities sharpened during the first Trump presidency and the pandemic; yet, none of them have suffered the dated fate of so many written during that period. Schroeder is angry, but he isn't superficial – and he hasn't lost focus.

I Checked It Out

With my personal poetry library spiraling out of space and budget, I've started hitting the collection at the St. Louis Central Public Library. I read these this month and liked them:

This Blue, Maureen N. McLane (811.6 McLane). The National Book Award Finalist badge on the cover + FSG made this one feel like a safe bet. The poems feature simple language, clear imagery, and lean toward the philosophical. They're divided into short, related sections (Spain, New Hampshire, Birds, etc.).

Or, on being the other woman, Simone White (811.6 White Simone). My first impression was of a speaker a little unhinged. Then I began speaking the poems aloud to myself, and I realized that this a woman who is *beat*. This book-length poem is a meditation on the demands of divorced (Black, brilliant, and pissed) motherhood, Heidegger, trap music, and sexual relationships.

PAST ISSUES AND MORE GOOD
STUFF ON THE [WEBSITE](#):

Extra Extra

A couple of cool events that just came across my inbox.



River Styx hosts a special virtual event featuring a slate of literary magazine editors in conversation on the editorial process as viewed from both sides of the page. The second half of the event will be open to audience questions.

[More Info](#)

And at Dunaway Books on South Grand:

Thursday October 17th - We will be hosting a special poetry reading featuring local poets RC Patterson, Cierra Lowe, Denmark Laine, T. James Chapman, Heather Kays, Alexis Guffey, and, returning for one night only, Jesse Eikmann. Doors at 7:00, poetry at 7:30. No cover!

[More Info](#)