

# I WANT POEMS

## SAINT LOUIS



Saint Louis, Missouri

V2n12 December 2025

## Featured

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### An Evening of Emily Dickinson



In celebration of Emily Dickinson's birthday, the Babler Poetry Society, in collaboration with Saint Louis Poetry Center, is delighted to present An Evening of Emily Dickinson. Known for her originality and sly wit, Dickinson shaped American poetry with her short, sharp lines and gift for image-making. Her poems, by turns playful and mysterious, continue to surprise and inspire readers around the world. Join us as we honor one of literature's most brilliant and unconventional voices.

December 8 @ 7p  
Focal Point, Maplewood

[More Info](#)

### Another Evening of Emily Dickinson: Saint Louis Art Museum

Member Lecture and Book Club: Echoes of Poetry: Emily Dickinson and the Saint Louis Art Museum Collection. Features Amy Torbert, Curator of American Art. Ticketed Event.

December 10 @ 6p – 7p  
The Farrell Auditorium

[More Info](#)

## Open Mics

<b>Heavy Anchor Last Wednesdays</b> <p><a href="#">December 17</a>: Hosted by Andy Prescott. 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="#">December 16th</a>: Hosted by Matthew Scott Freeman, with a solid lineup of groovy featured readers. Starts at 7p.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>	<b>Spellbound: Open Poetry Mic 1st and 3rd Sundays</b> <p><a href="#">December 7 and 21</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 December</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="#">December</a>: – <a href="#">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</b> <p><a href="#">December 4</a>: Featuring Apollo Chastain, Olli Sure, Kyle Brandt-Lubart. @ The Kerr, 21 O’Fallon St. Doors open at 7p.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>
<b>Community Poetry Open Mic Night Third Wednesdays</b> <p><a href="#">December 17</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>	<b>ARTICA Open Mic Night Greenfinch Theater Monthly</b> <p><a href="#">December</a>: <a href="#">Check their website</a>. An evening of creativity, connection, and spontaneous art-making for poets and other artists. From 6p – 10p.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info</a></p>



<p>PAST ISSUES AND MORE GOOD STUFF ON THE WEBSITE:</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>
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## Read Something

It's that time of year when 5:30pm becomes the new Midnight. Let us cope together by reading poetry. If you'd like to take a tour of St. Louis poets, I suggest starting with my custom curated [Sealy Challenge](#). You'll find a calendar of 31 books written by poets with significant ties to St. Louis. If you'd like to read more broadly, I've got you! Here's a list of a few of the volumes I've read recently, all of which I checked out from the St. Louis Public Library's gorgeous Central Branch.

*Coral Road Poems*, Garrett Hongo (811.54 Hongo)

The poems span the poet's family history of Japanese sugarcane labor on the Hawaiian Islands, World War II, and the author's complex sense of belonging – whether it is on the mainland or Hawaii.

*Equivalents*, Jessica Baran (811.6 Baran)

A numbered series of imagistic prose poems that, if pressed, I would say express bewilderment. Poem #13 is perhaps the best. The end cap is a traditionally lineated ekphrastic poem based on a panoramic painting of the Mississippi River Valley at the SLAM.

*Inventing Difficulty*, Jessica Greenbaum (811.6 Greenbaum, Jessica)

In this early collection, the poems feel nearly claustrophobic; the speaker's world is so contained that every exterior is interior. Interestingly, this includes the baby poems at the end.

*Acts*, Reece Spencer (811.6 Reece Spencer)

A memoir in poetry of the author's service as a new priest at the Anglican Cathedral in Madrid, his homosexuality, and the death of his mother. Lyrical with the overriding mood being wistful.

*Rue*, Kathryn Nuernberger (811.6 Nuernberger Kathryn)

Nuernberger has little use for the short poem. These are long and discursive and dense with thoughts about intimacy and relationship. Her motif is herbal medicine, particularly tinctures used as abortifacients.

*Theodore Roethke Selected Poems*, Ed. Edward Hirsch (811.54 Roethke Theodore)

Of these, the earlier rhyming poems and the children's verse are my least favorite; that said, the early poems traffic in the highly charged relationship with his father, and the tight structure is essential to their control (the children's verse is just silly and a bit odd, honestly). I found the "North American Sequence" fascinating. Because I usually think of Roethke in terms of his anthologized works like "My Papa's Walz," this long, strongly Whitmanesque sequence comes as a surprise. Spoiler: it's beautiful and so much sadder than Whitman.