

2011 **Saint Paul**

ALMANAC



2011 Saint Paul Almanac © Arcata Press. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission, except in the case of brief quotations used in critical articles and reviews.

Community editors: Aleli Balagtas, Richard Broderick, Collette DeNet, Andrew Hall, Barbara Haselbeck, Jewel Hill Mayer, Tiffany Lee, Donna Legato, Angela Mack, Rose McGee, Sandra Opokua, Jennifer Ouellette-Schramm, Uri-Biia Si-Asar, Jeanne Pinette Souldern, Deborah Torraine, Libby Tschida, Diego Vázquez Jr., Gaoiaong Vang, Bee Ver Xiong, and Mai Yang Xiong

Copy editor: Sharon Parker

Cover art "Downtown Saint Paul" © 2008 Michael Birawer, www.michaelbirawer.com

Cover designer: Ellen Dahl

Designer and typesetter: Donna Burch

History facts researcher: Steve Trimble

Proofreader: Mary Keirstead

Publisher and managing editor: Kimberly Nightingale

Saint Paul city map on pages xviii–xix and

Saint Paul downtown map on pages xx–xxi © 2007 Ellen Dahl

Excerpts from *Business As Usual* by David Haynes (Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 1997).
Copyright 1997 by David Haynes. www.milkweed.org

Excerpts from *Crusaders for Justice* by Arthur McWatt (Minneapolis: Papyrus Publishing, 2009).
Copyright 2009 by Arthur C. McWatt.

Excerpt from *A Choice of Weapons* by Gordon Parks (New York: HarperCollins, 1966). Copyright 1966 by Gordon Parks.

Limerick © 2010 Garrison Keillor. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Poem © Langston Hughes. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-0-9772651-6-9

Printed by Sentinel in Minnesota
United States of America

Saint Paul Almanac
PO Box 16243
MN 55116
www.saintpaulalmanac.com

Saint Paul Almanac is a subsidiary of Arcata Press, a nonprofit publisher.



Contents

Acknowledgments	xiii–xv
Introduction	xvii
City of Saint Paul map	xviii–xix
Downtown Saint Paul map	xx–xxi
2011 Yearly Calendar	xvii
Calendar: Plus Saint Paul Stories, Facts, Quotes, and Poems	1
January	3
New Year by Donna Isaac	3
My Favorite Place in Saint Paul by Divine Uchegbu	6
Poem for the Second Inauguration of Mayor Chris Coleman on January 4, 2010 by Carol Connolly, Saint Paul Poet Laureate	7
Winter by Diane Wilson	8
Still Life, St. Paul by Carolyn Williams-Noren	10
Dead Letters by Cary Waterman	11
The Jewel by Evelyn D. Klein	12
Winter Wonderland and the Hunt for Treasure by Brie Goellner	14
Anthem by Norita Dittberner-Jax	15
Mickey’s Diner by Sebastian Tippett	18–19
Old Saint Paul by W. A. Alexander	22–23
Painting the Town by James McKenzie	24
Voices of Hope Mural by James McKenzie	24
Secrets by Kathleen Vellenga	26
February	27
Cold Night by Tim Nolan	27
An Ode to 90 by Jim Palmer	28
Winter Carnival 1887: A Ghost Story by John Reimringer	30–31
Great-Grandma’s Fur Coat by Rosemary Ruffenach	34–35
Valentine’s by Jeri Reilly	36
Sixth-Grade Cookie Competitors by Steve Trimble	38–39
In Nomine Patris by Marianne McNamara	42–43
The Hmong Wedding by Boa Vang	44–46

March	47
Early Spring by Diane Wilson	47
March by Garrison Keillor	48
A Man's Epiphany at O'Gara's by Gordy Palzer	50–51
Not Your Typical Irish Dancer by Deb Pleasants	54–55
Poem by Langston Hughes	56
Building a Bridge with Words by Wendy Brown-Báez	58–59
Tracks by Tish Jones	62–64
World War II—The Home Front in Highland Park by Patricia Cummings	65–66
April	67
Benediction by Marianne McNamara	67
Untitled by Kevin Walker	68
Seventh Place: Saint Paul's Window on the World by Daniel Gabriel	70–71
Avian Celebrities on Como Lake by Laurie Hertzell	74–75
Remembering Katie McWatt through Arthur's Words by Anura Si-Asar	78–79
Angels in the Skyway by Terry Ford	82
The Farmers' Market by Olivia Berven	83
A Normal Wet Rainy Day in Saint Paul by Frances Fuller	86
Rachel's Trees by Karina Strom	87
High Water by Captain Bob Deck	88–90
May	91
A Little Brown Bird by Julia Klatt Singer	91
Gordon Parks recalling 1920s Rondo by Anura Si-Asar	94–95
Shell at the Science Museum by Anne Holzman	96
My Mother's Garden by Tiffany Lee	98–99
Untitled by Rachel Kowarski	100
Too Big for My Skin by Desdamona	102–103
Teaching My Children Our Culture by Yolanda Vasquez	106
My Journey to Saint Paul by Truly Paw	106
School Bus Bullies, Superheroes, and Why I Remember the Kitchen by Adrian Schramm	107–109
Another Crossing by W. F. (Bill) Cento	110

June	111
Tadpoles by Dallas Crow	111
The Gift by Jim Bour	114–115
Learning to Fly in the Wright Building by Carol Hall	118–119
A dog on a walk by Patricia Owen	120
Our Fort at Mystery Creek by Leslie Walters	122–123
Differences between the U. S. and My Country, Burma by Wah Eh	126
Coffee Shops with Chocolate Stuff on Grand Avenue by Rose McGee	127–129
Chocolate Sweet Potato Pie by Rose McGee	129–130

July	131
At the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center by Richard Broderick	131
The City by Virginia Dippel	132
Bing Cherries by Mike Finley	134–135
Self-absorption, Mine by Jewel Hill Mayer	136
David Daniels—Notes from a Brief Saint Paulite by Dwight Hobbes	138–139
Would You Look at That! by Carol Pearce Bjorlie	140
My Frogtown Neighbor . . . and Friend by Karen Trudeau	142
The Grand Prize by Adam Swanson	143
A Difficult Memory by Adán Gonzáles	143
The Poetic Sidewalks of Saint Paul by Judith Niemi	146–147
Lexington by Loren Niemi	148
Pilfered Pretty Ribbons by Beverly (Halgren) Siedow	150–151
Payne Avenue Farmers' Market by Diane Wilson	152
Farm Life by Sydney Oliver	153
Summer by Dwayne Williams	153
River Cop by Mary Kay Rummel	154

August	155
Foul Ball by Anne Holzman	155
Butterflies on Selby by David Lyndale	156
Hidden Falls: A Love Story by Anika Fajardo	158
The Como Pool by Sam Hope	159
Mississippi by Jules Nyquist	160
College Park by Jamie Steinmann	162
Ron the Beatnik Artist, Irvine Park, 1957 by Karen Karsten	163

Intervention by Deborah Torraine	166–167
The Day I Became Famous by Kindra Hall	170–171
The Giant Slide by Ellie Thorsgaard	172
Diary of a State Fair Yard Parking Attendant by Melanie Homan	173–174
September	175
have you by Dick Byrne	175
Softer Than a Coffin Nail by Jonathan Schill	178
One Small Sure Thing by Margaret Hasse	179
Grace Flandrau on Victorian Summit Avenue Respectability by Steve Trimble	182–183
Bootlegger by Anne Marie Field	184
I See London (via Saint Paul) by Ann E. Bronson	186–187
The View from the Black Dog: RNC 2008 by Stacy Remke	190–192
Goodnight Saint Paul by Kevin Finley	193–194
October	195
University Ave by Loren Niemi	195
Warriors by Hannah Jacobson	198
Potato Zen by Deborah Torraine	199
The East Side Smells Like Home by Kindra L. Molin	202
everything is here by Nora Murphy	203
My Ministry Call by Min. Danny Givens Jr.	206–207
The Man Across the River by Alexander J. Theoharides	210
Peace in Harmony by James McKenzie	211
Fall by Julia Klatt Singer	212
A Community Builder in the Heart of Saint Paul by Uri-Biia Si-Asar	214–216
Molly and Me—Rescuing Fiona by Paul Bartlett	217–218
November	219
Signs by Ethan McKiernan	219
Recollections of Growing Up on Saint Paul’s East Side in the 1940s by Dr. Gerhard Johnson and Kate Cavett	222–223
The Story of My Life by Curt Vue	226
Italian Pie Shoppe by Gabe Vasquez	227
Cafe Latté by Frida Eiane	230

The Door to Everything and Nothing by Patricia Kirkpatrick	231
A Cat's Night Out by Matthew Walkosz	234–235
Butter Is Better at Mickey's by Jeanne Pinette Souldern	236–237
The Russian Tea House by Lia Chin-Purcell	238
December	239
Cherokee Ave (First Floor) by Ben Weaver	239
Tiger Jack by Mike Hazard	240
Como Park on a Winter Night by Sharon Shinomiya	242–243
My First Winter by Sandra Opokua	246
Coming to Saint Paul by Falis Mohamud	246
Barnes & Noble by Jake Frisell	247
10,000 years ago by Chelsea DeArmond	248
Coming to Minnesota by Pat Pack	250–251
Dinner at Dorothy Day (2009) by Steven Lukas	254
Men on Corners by Georgia A. Greeley	255
The House on Blair Avenue by Jennifer Harvey	258–259
The Ever-Changing East Side by Kate Ellefson	260–261
Cover Artist Michael Birawer Offers a Fanciful View of Saint Paul by Dwight Hobbes	262–263
The Last Roundup by Bill Cosgrove	264–266
Washing of the Feet by Daniel Bachhuber	267
From the High Bridge by Linda Back McKay	268
Saint Paul Listings	269
Events	270
Health and Fitness Events by Teri J. Dwyer	290
Coffeehouses and Tea Shops	297
Restaurants	301
Theaters	315
Music Venues	318
Dance Venues	320
Art Galleries	321
Bookstores	322
Museums, Historical Sites, and Tours	323

Food Co-ops	326
Sports	327
Saint Paul Public Libraries	328
Saint Paul District Councils	331
Voter Registration	333
Saint Paul Parks	334
Contributors' Biographies	337
Community Editors' Biographies	347
Gordon Parks High School Media Project by Paul Creager	349
Try the Saint Paul Almanac Where's the Flower? Game	351
2011 Yearly Planner	352
Looking for Writers	356
Community Editor Apprentice Project	359
Subscription Form	360
Notes	361

For information on events listed in the
calendar section, see pages 270–296.

Acknowledgments

The Saint Paul Almanac is a people's meeting space for sharing the stories of our community through our annual book, public readings, community editor mentorship program, and other activities that showcase and honor local voices.

Lots of support is needed and appreciated, from envisioning what should be in each new Almanac, writing for it, selling it, financially supporting it, to even translating our work into American Sign Language for our live shows and televised readings. Our community would like to include you, so think about how you may want to contribute to our people's almanac. You may have a story to share, photographs to contribute, dollars to send our way to keep us afloat, or some other skill or service you could bring to the Almanac as we work to share the stories of our community.

A whole host of people and organizations supported the Almanac this year, including the committed Saint Paul Almanac community editors: Aleli Balagtas, Richard Broderick, Collette DeNet, Andrew Hall, Barbara Haselbeck, Jewel Hill Mayer, Tiffany Lee, Donna Legato, Angela Mack, Rose McGee, Sandra Opokua, Jennifer Ouellette-Schramm, Uri-Biia Si-Asar, Jeanne Pinette Souldern, Deborah Torraine, Libby Tschida, Diego Vázquez Jr., Gaoiaong Vang, Bee Ver Xiong, and Mai Yang Xiong. Working together, this multigenerational, multicultural group read and rated hundreds of your stories and poems, and along the way learned or taught copyediting and content-editing skills. If you are interested in becoming a Saint Paul Almanac community editor, more information is available on page 359.

Love our cover? Thank painter Michael Birawer for his stunning surrealist rendition of our river city and cover designer Ellen Dahl for bringing it all together. Donna Burch expertly designed the book's interior, and graciously managed the jigsaw-puzzle task of fitting in all the stories, photos, illustrations, captions, history and calendar dates, and more.

This year our photography took a big leap into new territory when photographer Wing Young Huie graciously gifted us photographs from the University Avenue Project: The Language of Urbanism: A Six-Mile Photographic Inquiry. Wing Young Huie, with the support of Public Art Saint Paul, transformed University Avenue into a six-mile art gallery of over four hundred photographs. Wing's images reveal the dizzying socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic realities of the residents who work, live, and attend school along this avenue. It's our avenue, and we love it.

Saint Paul's Gordon Parks High School began an extensive multiyear media project, Transitions: University Avenue, to document University Avenue—

before, during, and after light rail construction—through photographs and recorded stories of the people who work, live, and attend school along the avenue. Thank you to Transitions: University Avenue photographers and Gordon Parks High School students Brittany Andrews, Doug Martinez, Jenieca Ingram, Ka Ying Thao, and Tanisha Brandt for their photographs this year. And thank you to Tobeche Tobechukwu, director of photography for the project; Paul Creager, GPHS curriculum and media arts coordinator; Kathy Kelly, GPHS community coordinator; Steve Lindberg, GPHS administrator; and the site council at GPHS. Read more about this project on page 349.

Thank you to our other photographers, Patricia Bour-Schilla, Allen Zumach, Melvin Giles, Daniel Tilsen, Jonathon Monto, and Tom Conlon. Illustrator Andy Singer roamed Saint Paul and recorded in pen different parts of our city, and Claudia Stack-Kremer created paintings of quintessential Saint Paul haunts. Artist Lara Hanson drew the images of Lowertown Reading Jam performers in the events section. Thank you to Northstar Imaging Inc. for scanning our Lowertown Reading Jam artwork.

We also feature the fine poetry of the 2010 winners of the Saint Paul Sidewalk Poetry Contest: Dallas Crow, Rachel Kowarski, Pat Owen, Jeri Reilly, and Kevin Walker. Marcus Young created and organizes this impressive celebration of poetry in the city with support from Public Art Saint Paul.

A big thank you goes to Sharon Parker, our hardworking copy editor, and her keen attention to detail; Mary Keirstead, our proofreader; and Jonathon Monto, for organizing the Almanac calendar dates, both in the book and on the website, and managing coffee shop reading dates, plus photography at readings and work on our Twitter and Facebook accounts. Steve Trimble researched all of our history dates, quotes, and birthdays, plus Steve and Anura Si-Asar chose already-published pieces to include in this year's Almanac. Ann McKinnon and Ann Nelson deftly managed our publicity and marketing; Nigel Parry orchestrated the redesign of our new website with an up-to-date Saint Paul city calendar, entertainment listings, updates on Almanac happenings, videos of our readings, and more. Check it out at: www.saintpaulalmanac.com. Community editor Jeanne Pinette Souldern helped with typing and copyediting, while community editor Aleli Balagtas did final viewing of the proofs. Nora Murphy helps us write grants that are compelling to read. Who knew it could be done?

Anya Smith and Jessica Huppler provide American Sign Language interpreting for our readings. Each writer's piece springs to life through Anya's and Jessica's hands. Thank you to Jen Ouellette-Schramm from the Minnesota Literacy Council for sending her students' stories to the Saint Paul Almanac and inviting us into her classroom to share what the Almanac is all about.

Thank you to Daniel Tilsen for being our all-around fix-it-and-delivery guy and to Jay Dick at Dynamex for managing our book warehouse needs.

Thank you to Michelle Bierman, our liaison with Saint Paul Public Schools, for collecting the stories from Saint Paul Public School students and managing the Saint Paul Almanac writing contest. And our sincere thanks to CPA Bernard L. Brodkorb for keeping our nonprofit in good financial order.

The Black Dog Cafe and Golden Thyme Coffee Café are our mobile offices. Thanks to Sara, Andy, and Stacey Remke, owners of the Black Dog, and to Stephanie and Mychael Wright, owners of Golden Thyme, and everyone working at both cafés for making us feel welcome.

Saint Paul Almanac board members Ilka Bird, Carol Connolly, Sooriya Foster, Metric Giles, Cathie Hartnett, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Ann McKinnon, Tim Nolan, Uri-Biia Si-Asar, and Daniel Tilsen are moving us strategically forward as our organization grows.

And a special thank you to the funders and supporters of our organization: Metropolitan Regional Arts Council whose support was made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008, the City of Saint Paul Cultural STAR Program, The McKnight Foundation, Lowertown Future Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation, Travelers' Arts & Diversity Grants Committee, Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, KFAI Radio, the Black Dog Cafe, Clouds in Water Zen Center, the online Twin Cities Daily Planet, and our individual donors for your kind and generous contributions. Without your support, the Saint Paul Almanac would not exist.

More information about the events listed on the calendar pages is available by checking the event listings, pages 270–296. Events with websites directly on calendar pages are not listed in the events section. We try to be as accurate as possible with our event dates, but they are subject to change.

—Kimberly Nightingale