So what the heck is the Saint Paul Almanac anyway?

Here at the nonprofit we keep the theme to Saint Paul and our doors wide open, welcoming literary giants, everyday residents, snowbirds, students, new English-language learners, and lovers of Saint Paul who live in other corners of the world, to send us stories and poems about our small chunk of global real estate. In keeping with our commitment to civic engagement, we include a yearly events calendar of all things Saint Paul and the birthdays of notable people who have lived in our city and made a significant contribution to it or the larger world. We offer historical facts, quotations, and trivia about Saint Paul too. Listed in the back of the book are our favorite restaurants, along with the city’s independent coffee shops, health and fitness events, museums and tours, music and dance venues, theaters, art galleries, bookstores, food co-ops, and sports.

So why build an almanac around a city?

We do this to remind ourselves of the sacredness of our place on earth—how we move, live, and exist here, how we reach out and support one another. At the Saint Paul Almanac, we’re convinced that our city places, spaces, and people deeply affect each of us.

And it’s to remind ourselves of our strong belief in democracy and community. In past years, we recruited volunteers from every part of the city to go into their communities and collect stories. This year, the Almanac’s stories were selected through a new process we at Arcata Press call democratic editing. We recruited eight community editors, ranging from high schoolers on up, from many cultures and many corners of our city, who collected a record-breaking 400-plus stories and poems. Using anonymous judging, the community editors debated, rated, voted, and decided which of these stories and poems to include in this year’s Almanac. Each of them gave time and care to every piece they read. Initially, they disagreed with each other often and heatedly. Eventually, they reached agreement based on their collective commitment to the democratic editorial process.

I dedicate the 2010 Saint Paul Almanac to the eight community editors who so unstintingly gave themselves to the shaping of this Almanac’s contents: Richard Broderick, May Lee-Yang, Donna Legato, Chamath Perera, Uribiia H. Si-Asar, Deborah Torrance, Libby Tschida, and Diego Vázquez, Jr.

We hope this year’s experiment in democratic editing will continue, becoming yet another great Saint Paul story.
Thank you, Steve Trimble, our Saint Paul historian, for finding all the local birthdays, quotations, facts, and trivia interspersed throughout the book. Luckily for us, Steve is really good at it, and we now have a library of over 400 birthdays to include in future volumes.

At the Minnesota Literacy Council, Jen Ouellette-Schramm, Susan Godon, Melissa Martinson, Guy Haglund, and Andrea Echelberger helped us gather stories from writers. Jen and her East Side class were kind enough to invite me to their classroom for a civic-engagement writing discussion.

Jamela Pettiford and her class at New Foundations brought their strong, loving, creative energy to the writing classes Deborah Torraine and I participated in. Thank you, Jamela and New Foundations writers!

Michelle Bierman, our liaison with Saint Paul Public Schools, worked diligently to collect the charming stories we are publishing this year from Saint Paul Public School students. Thank you, Michelle.

Our thanks to CPA Bernard L. Brodkorb and accounting/bookkeeping specialist Dawn Trexel, who keep our nonprofit in financial order.

And then we have our spectacular *Saint Paul Almanac* production team: cover artist Kevin R. Brown, typesetter and designer Donna Burch, copy editors and proofreaders Jan Zita Grover and Sharon Parker, staff photographer Patricia Bour-Schilla, and illustrators Andy Singer and Kirk Anderson. May Lee-Yang improved the writing quality of the restaurant listings, Teri Dwyer wrote the Health and Fitness Events section, and Donna Legato, Libby Tschida, and Deborah Torraine fact-checked the rest of the listings. Nigel Parry kept our website in fine shape. I want to thank all of you for your heavy lifting.

Thank you to photographers Heatherjo Gilberston, Tobechi Tobechukwu, Steve Rouch, Beth Kainz, and Tom Conlon for contributing your artistry to the project. Thank you, Eric Mortenson, Patrick Blaine, and Nick Duncan of the Minnesota Historical Society Library, and Susan Hoffman and Julie Tarshish of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest, for your help in locating photos for this year’s edition.

Thank you to Ann Nelson and Ann McKinnon for organizing our publicity and marketing for 2010, Shelagh Connolly and Deb Fisher for assisting at our *2009 Saint Paul Almanac* party, Beth and Bob Burns for showing us how to apply for a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and Quinn Keller for managing our data entry.

Big thanks to Sue Zumberge, manager of Common Good Books, for her kind support, and to Ann Polacheck of Polly’s Coffee Cove, and to Ron Zaine, who delivered books in his trusty truck for just a few cold ones.
The fine minds of the Saint Paul Almanac’s board of directors keep us dreaming big. Thank you to board members Abdimalik Askar, Ilka Bird, Carol Connolly, Denise Fosse, Sooriya Foster, Dyane Garvey, Metric Giles, Cathie Hartnett, Ann McKinnon, Tim Nolan, Chamath Perera, Sara Remke, and Dan Tilsen.

Thank you to the City of Saint Paul Cultural STAR Program, Minnesota Regional Art Council, Lowertown Future Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation, Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, KFAI Radio, the Black Dog Cafe, the online Twin Cities Daily Planet, and our individual donors for your kind support and generous contributions.

Last, I especially want to thank my mother, Jeannea Jordan, and my father, Denny Nightingale, for encouraging me to do whatever I set my mind to do.

—Kimberly Nightingale
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Introduction

Saint Paul Almanac is at once a historical archive and a resource of stories, recipes, poetry, and photographs. Each page reflects the muse inside each writer, telling a story about a deed well done, an adventurer gone renegade, or an opportunity stumbled upon.

When I first held a Saint Paul Almanac, I thought to myself, “Here’s a handy little tome penned by wannabe writers.” But oh! was I delighted to find that inside each book was a treasure chest of memories, ideas, laughter, sorrow, history, pictures, and a year-long calendar! (I love calendars. I keep one on Yahoo.)

I love short stories, and I enjoy history. So it was easy to accept the invitation to join seven other Saint Paul residents (and fellow writers) as a community editor. Together, we read hundreds of submissions. We clocked hours that turned into days in an effort to bring you the best Saint Paul Almanac to date. You will read stores about old Saint Paul; you will bear witness to the current cultural changes in our community and our landscape. There will be times when you may actually feel snow fall upon your brow or may want to shout for your home team! By the end of this book, I hope you feel as I do—that the world is a better place because of Saint Paul. Enjoy, Encourage—Engagee!

—Deborah A. Torraine, Saint Paul Almanac community editor

For information on events listed in the calendar section, see pages 292–311
Calendar

Plus Saint Paul
Stories,
Facts,
a Quiz,
and Poems