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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 Opokuua, Jennifer Ouellette-Schramm, Uri-Biia Si-Asar, Jeanne Pinette Soul dern, Deborah Torraune, 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 surreal ist 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 Tobechi 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 Zumaich, 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?

Any 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.
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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