

# 2009 SAINT PAUL ALMANAC AVAILABLE AUGUST 20TH!

## Unique guidebook to Minnesota's capital city publishes third edition in time for Republican National Convention

**"Just about the most comprehensive book about Saint Paul you'll ever need."**  
—*Pioneer Press*

**August 14, 2008** – Now in its third year, the *Saint Paul Almanac* is the only guidebook dedicated solely to Minnesota's capital city. Including a calendar, date book, restaurant reviews, essays and poems about Saint Paul, the *Almanac* is a rich resource for anyone wishing to explore the cultural and social depths of Saint Paul throughout the year.

Contributors include notable Saint Paulites such as Garrison Keillor, Gordon Parks, Patricia Hampl, Carol Connolly, Jim Moore, Deborah Keenan, Mahmoud El-Kati, Phebe Hanson, and 75 other writers.

The 368-page *2009 Saint Paul Almanac* is on sale now for \$11.95 online at [saintpaulalmanac.com](http://saintpaulalmanac.com), and will be available in mainstream bookstores, including Barnes & Noble, Borders, and Amazon.com on September 1st, in time for the Republican National Convention, during which 50,000 new visitors are expected to descend upon the city.

Apart from its obvious function as a travel guidebook, the *Almanac* aims to preserve individual and community stories, welcome newcomers into Saint Paul's yeasty mixture of communities through writing, and produce what will amount to a collective, communal memory for Saint Paul.

They say community is dead, the book is dead, and story lies dying. Editor Kimberly Nightingale, schooled most recently at the Hubert Humphrey Institute of the University of Minnesota says, "Not in Saint Paul. All my experiences have taught me that place matters deeply. Stories matter. Stories may be as important as food for survival."

This realization coalesced into the vision Nightingale had for creating a book about living in St. Paul as defined by time (the calendar) and combining that with articles, stories, and poems that reflect on the city in a more timeless way.

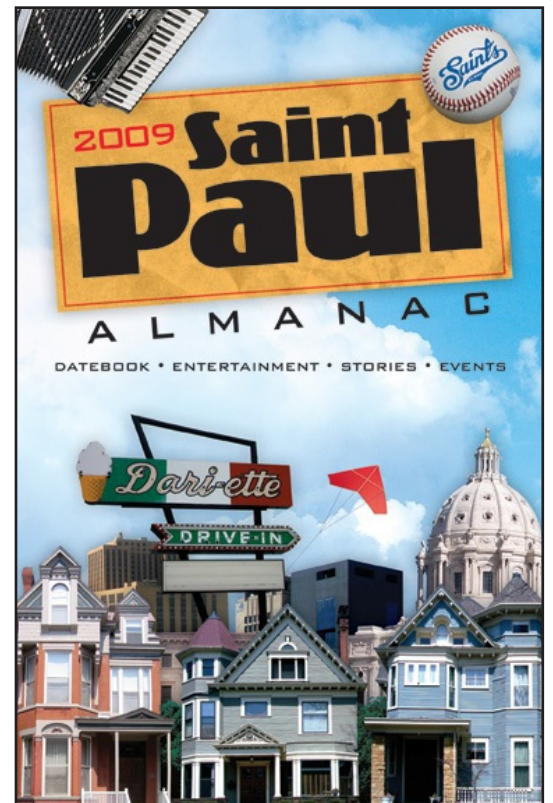
"My hope is that the *Almanac* begins a conversation between people about what the place they live in means to them."

The *Saint Paul Almanac* solicits and revels in the work of authors and poets, including Saint Paul's most prominent writers. There are contributions from baseball fanatics; hot rodders; quirky Rangers (the Minnesota term for sturdy northerners from the cold Mesabi Iron Range); and newcomers from as far afield as Cambodia, Somalia, Mexico, Ethiopia, and the Twin Cities' equally exotic distant suburbs.

The *Almanac* offers something for everything--a range of short stories, essays, mild political screeds, immigration tales, memoirs, and calendars of events that has not seen its parallel since the subscription omnigatherums of the late nineteenth century. Its variety makes the *Almanac* great reading for the bedside table, the deck, or the outdoor coffee house.

Writers' contributions charm and win the trust of readers through attentiveness to the tales they tell. Most of the *Almanac's* editorial selections are excursions into neighborhood, family, or personal history, whose enjoyment lies in their modesty and detail. You can almost hear a child nudging each writer forward: "And *then* what happened?!"

The result, as Minnesotans might put it, is "not so bad"—a plucky annual celebrating difference, similarity, wholeness, and weirdness.



**"A practical, informative, and at times personal reference of all things St. Paul."**

—*City Pages*

**"A compendium of local event calendars, resources and tips, combined with personal stories, history and secrets. All that, and plenty of room to scribble your own plans, insights and lists."**

—*Star Tribune*

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