

Saint Paul

ALMANAC

Editor Kimberly Nightingale answers questions about the Saint Paul Almanac

What gave you the idea for the Almanac?

All my experiences have taught me that place matters deeply. Stories matter. Stories may be as important as food for survival. And it coalesced into a vision I had for the *Almanac* of creating a book about living in Saint 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. I hope the *Almanac* begins a conversation between people about what the place they live in means to them.

Is the Almanac for the tourist or the Saint Paul resident, or both? If so, how does this work?

It's for both. Anyone who loves Saint Paul and tourists who visit Saint Paul will want a copy of the Saint Paul *Almanac*. The tourist can get a good feel for our beautiful city by reading the *Almanac* stories, and also participating in events listed in the *Almanac*. They can use the restaurant, museum, and theater guides. The Saint Paul resident can use the *Almanac* as their yearly datebook, and plan what Saint Paul happenings and events they want to attend. There's plenty of room to pen their appointments around their favorite Saint Paul activities—like the Winter Carnival, the Saint Paul Classic Bike Tour, or the Festival of Nations.

How do you find your contributing writers? What are the criteria?

We have community editors finding writers everywhere—talking to people at restaurants, the farmers' market, festivals, writers' groups, coffee shops. Pretty much everywhere the editors go, they ask people to send something in to the *Almanac*. We're looking for compelling stories, poems, or articles about Saint Paul—stories from everyday people and established writers. As far as writing quality, the only criterion is that it be interesting. Some of the best pieces we get are from folks who struggled in high school.

Do you plan to duplicate subject matter in future Almanacs? For instance, will there be a Winter Carnival story or history sketch in every Almanac?

Each year the *Almanac* will have the same format of calendar and events with stories, poems, and articles about Saint Paul and Saint Paul writers' contributions interspersed. We'll have health and fitness events and the listings of restaurants, et cetera in the back every year. We'll have history facts each year. Beyond that, it really depends upon the kind of stories, poems, and articles that the *Almanac* receives any given year.

What is the single thing that makes you love Saint Paul?

The medallion hunt, of course. It brings out the kid in me. I hunt for the medallion every year. I used to play hooky from work to sneak out and dig. Any city that supports digging for treasure just has to be a darn good place to live.



Find your place on the planet.

Dig in, and take responsibility from there.

—Gary Snyder

Left: 2009 Saint Paul Almanac Kimberly Nightingale, editor

Kimberly conceived and published the *Saint Paul Almanac*. She holds a Masters of Public Affairs (MPA) degree, specializing in urban design, at the Hubert Humphrey Institute of the University of Minnesota. Kimberly has over ten years experience as an editor. Prior to that she taught high school English, worked on a salmon processor in the Bering Sea, and hosted several radio shows.

Her growing years were spent in Tokyo, Taipei, and Los Angeles. She's a true believer in people from all cultures understanding and caring for each other through friendship—sharing food, arts, culture, and education. She advocates multiple supports to strengthen local businesses worldwide. When she's not seeing good musicians perform, she spends her time traveling, getting involved in her community, and riding her recumbent bicycle. She lives with her family in a 1928 bungalow in the heart of Saint Paul. spends her time traveling, getting involved in her community, and riding her recumbent bicycle.