

## The 2012 ANNUAL SAINT PAUL SIDEWALK POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

It is wonderfully gratifying to see so many residents play their civic role of submitting a poem to our city's sidewalk poetry contest. We received more than 650 poems from 410 entrants! Congratulations to these five winners and five honorable mentions:

### WINNERS

Donna D'Amalfi  
Emily Gurnon  
James Lachowsky  
Alma Palahniuk (youth category)  
Karen Trudeau

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

Isaiah Bawek (youth category)  
Amy Riley  
Deb Runyon  
Paul Ofstedal  
Marilynne Thomas Walton

The poems are posted online – read on to enjoy the winning works.

If your poem wasn't selected this year, we encourage you to submit again next year. We now have 41 poems in our collection and the collection continues to expand. Honorable mentions are eligible to submit again. The selections are made through an anonymous review process.

We are in our fifth year of this unique Saint Paul tradition. *Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk* is a program of Public Art Saint Paul and the City's Public Works Department. As Public Works goes about its business fixing sidewalks, we efficiently install beautiful poems into this everyday element of our lives. This award-winning program invites our own residents to write in our city-sized "book" of poetry.

Thank you, all, for your submissions, and thank you for helping Saint Paul pave its streets with poetry!

Sincerely,  
Marcus Young

### *2012 Selection Panel Members:*

Carol Connolly, Saint Paul Poet Laureate  
Khary Jackson  
John Minczeski  
Kevin Walker  
Marcus Young, City Artist in Residence

## Winners – Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk 2012

Don't buy me dinner on my birthday  
and then tell me  
you're too tired  
to dance.

by **Emily Gurnon**

Emily Gurnon shares her Highland Park house with two kids and a very energetic beagle. She attended Hamline University and is proud to work as a reporter for our hometown paper, the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*.



The Sweater

My mom knitted it out of water  
We washed it in fire for me  
Whenever I wear it I boil.

by **Alma Palahniuk**  
(youth category)

Alma Palahniuk is 8 years old. She likes PBJ sandwiches and the color blue, and she loves her family and reading.



Remember how you ignored me  
after I spent a recess stamping  
your name in the snow?  
Yet, after 30 years of marriage,  
I notice how you smile  
every time it snows —  
every time.

by **Karen Trudeau**

Karen Trudeau hails from North Dakota but has long appreciated her North End Saint Paul neighborhood. Here she raised her son, who inspired her by surviving childhood brain cancer despite improbable odds. She enjoys taking walks and reading poetry, sometimes simultaneously, thanks to the convenience of sidewalk poetry!



The cat danced across the noonday sun  
to a stutter rhythm  
of front porch boogie  
hot feet playing the floor.

by **Donna D'Amalfi**

Donna D'Amalfi, 54, lives in a double bungalow with three cats in the Midway area of Saint Paul. Her Sidewalk Poem is her first published work. In addition to creative writing she enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, TV and movies, taking walks, and music. Donna is a receptionist/resource specialist at the Better Business Bureau.



Can a lady in the library  
with butter on her tongue  
appreciate the farmer  
spending hours spreading dung?

by **James Lachowsky**

James Lachowsky has been a Minnesotan since 1984. Married and the father of four, he recently spent six years in England managing a foster care program before returning to St. Paul. His wife urged him to enter the Sidewalk Poetry contest and this poem is his first published work.



## Honorable Mentions – Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk 2012

The sunrise hits the roof,  
and turns it into peaches.

by **Isaiah Bawek**  
(youth category)

Isaiah Bawek is 17 years old and homeschooled. He lives in Maplewood where he loves to play basketball. He also loves to be outdoors and hunt, work with animals, and play paintball.



9/11/11

Called you early  
That morning  
A decade ago  
By the sound of  
Your voice  
I knew  
You didn't know

by **Deb Runyon**

Deb Runyon  
Closet poet  
Since third grade  
Owner/operator  
Juanita's Fajitas  
At the MN State Fair  
Listens to the wolves howl  
At midnight  
In her Como Park home with  
Her husband  
Two sons  
Two dogs  
First time submission  
Ten minutes  
Before  
Deadline



There once was a strange man named Hicks  
Who yearned to create limericks  
But he failed at the sport  
For he wrote them too short

by **Paul Ofstedal**



happy house  
love monster  
true heart  
giant crash together  
bright home flower  
easy garden  
silly laugh and talk in bed

by **Amy E. Riley**

Amy E. Riley is a dabbler in this and that; a photographer, knitter, and blogger who has a freakish gift for rhyming poetry. She is flat out in love with Saint Pau and especially proud of her block on Laurel Avenue. Marrying her husband was the best decision she ever made.



“Circle”

Untrimmed maples brush  
our head in benediction;  
Dense scent of lilacs purpling the night,  
spreading like a fresh bruise.  
There is no other  
way to walk,  
but full circle;  
our house lit as if  
one star were  
caught up inside.

by **Marilynne Thomas Walton**

Marilynne Thomas Walton attended St. Catherine University and was a librarian in St. Paul and New York City. In 2011 she was proud to receive St. Kate’s Research and Creative Work Award from the Abigail Quigley McCarthy Center for Women for her poetry manuscript-in-progress. She loves “circling” her Como neighborhood!