

Written by
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The *Saint Paul Almanac* continues its year-round literary celebration of the capital city with inspiring spoken word performances, followed by a thought-provoking discussion about “

Poetry and Activism

.” The April Lowertown Reading Jam, April 5, 2010, curated by internationally acclaimed artist, Desdamona, will also feature performances by Reggie Harris, Tish Jones and Ibé. The poets will perform their poetry and talk about the work they do in schools, prisons and other communities, and invite the audience to share a dialog with them on their work. The Reading Jam runs from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Black Dog Café, 308 Prince Street in Saint Paul.

The Lowertown Reading Jams continue at the Black Dog the first Monday of each month through July 2010. Each Jam is produced and hosted by a well-known writer or spoken word artist. Saint Paul “performance drawing” artist Lara Hanson interprets the readings using Japanese ink brushes. Free hors d’oeuvres are served, and the Black Dog Café offers its “Monday Madness” special featuring a large pizza and bottle of wine or a large pizza and four Summit beer taps for just \$20. All Reading Jams are American Sign Language (ASL) interpreted.

Writers Wanted!

Not all of the performers at the Lowertown Reading Jams were contributors to the 2010 *Saint Paul Almanac*, but they and everyone who lives in or loves the capital city is invited to submit reviews, essays and poems about Saint Paul for the 2011 *Almanac*

. Most selections are 650 words or fewer, with a small number being as long as 1,500 words. Small stipends are paid for works accepted for publication. Writers interested in having their work considered for the 2011

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have until March 31 to submit. Multiple submissions are acceptable. The complete guidelines for submitting a piece and ideas for topics are available at

www.saintpaulalmanac.com
on the submissions page.