

# THE CRUMB

The Bread Loaf  
Writers' Conference

VOL. 81

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2006

NO. 7

“Because Carl Phillips says so.”

## Today's Events

**7:30 a.m.**

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

**9 - 10 a.m.**

Lecture: “Life Among Others: The Social Life of Poems,” with Linda Gregerson, Little Theatre

**10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.**

Fiction workshops

**12 noon - 1:45 p.m.**

Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

**12:30 p.m.**

Robert Frost Trail Walk with John Elder, meet on the front porch of the Inn

**1:30 p.m.**

Special talk: Gonzalo Barr on the essentials of the literary contract, Barn A

**2:30 p.m.**

Craft classes

**4:15 p.m.**

Reading: Jennifer Grotz, Emily Raboteau, and William Kittredge, Little Theatre

**5:30 p.m.**

Book-signing and reception, Larch Well, near the bookstore

**6:30 p.m.**

Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

**8:15 p.m.**

Reading: Ted Conover and Helena María Viramontes, Little Theatre

**9:30 p.m.**

Staff reading, Little Theatre

## What We Talk about When We Talk about

### C•R•A•F•T

Locations for today's classes (2:30 to 3:30 p.m.) follow. Wednesday's craft classes will be listed in Wednesday's Crumb.

#### Fiction

- “The Character's Language,” with Laila Lalami, Barn 6
- “Carhartt or Chanel? Musings on Prose Style,” with Paul Lisicky, Barn 5
- “From Gossip to Osmosis,” with Tom Paine, Barn 1
- “Word Choice in Fiction,” with Josip Novakovich, Barn 3

#### Poetry

- “*Smithereened Apart*: Two Hurricanes,” with Michael Collier, Barn A
- “A Risk in Every Room,” with Thomas Sayers Ellis, Barn 4
- “Sentence and Line,” with Sally Keith, Upstairs in the Library (front end)

#### Nonfiction

- “The Significant Object,” with Tim Bascom, Upstairs in the Library (back end)
- “Throwing in the Elephant,” with Annick Smith, Barn 2

## Book-signing Reception Today

Join us at the Larch Well, near the bookstore, at 5:30 this afternoon for the book-signing reception. The bookstore will be open today from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 6 p.m. FYI—Gonzalo Barr's Ba-keless Prize-winning book entitled *The Last Flight of Jose Luis Balboa* is now available at the bookstore.

## Staff Reading Part II Tonight

Come watch us read our work at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. Please. Pretty please. Tonight's readers are Mary Akers, Abraham Brennan, Ru Freeman, Andy Hallman, Abigail Judge, Albert Martinez, Sasha West, and Paul Yoon.

## Important Departure Details

Go to the front desk today after lunch to confirm your flight, bus or car-rental departure time. Please do this today as it will simplify departure planning.

• **Wanted:** Faculty and fellows ready to serve up Wednesday lunch in the dining hall. Please sign up in the Back Office.

Expert Independent Judges Declare Staff Winners of Bread Loaf Dance-off

Announcements

Massage

Take advantage of the last two days of Bread Loaf massage and other healing modalities with Jayne Webb. Today and Wednesday in Barn East.

Boswell's lecture

Copies of Robert Boswell's lecture will be available after lunch today on a table near the Back Office.

Yoga

Bread Loafer Heather Fenby will offer a gentle Iyengar-based yoga class in the Barn tomorrow at 8 a.m. "Breathe and return to your center." Some mats will be available. She also suggests that you take blankets and pillows from your bed. This hour-long class is free.

Visitors

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain: Stuart Bernstein, Mark DeVoto, Dorian Karchmar, and Tom Paine. The following conference guests will be leaving the mountain today: Julie Barer, Jill Bialosky, Fiona McCrae, Colleen Mohyde, and Catherine Barnett.

Robert Frost Trail Walk

The twenty people who signed up for the Robert Frost Trail walk with John Elder should meet on the front porch of the Bread Loaf Inn at 12:15 p.m. today. The walk will take place rain or shine; please dress appropriately. Bag lunches will be provided. The group will return in time for classes at 2:30 p.m. (If you are not able to go after all, please let the Back Office staff know, so we can invite people from the waitlist.)

Overheard

"You fiction writers are screwing up the world."
"If Bread Loaf is Bread Loaf, why is Bread Loaf Bread Loaf?"
"Because he's married, that grade B plus inflation isn't just anyone's."
"If you haven't seen his worm, you haven't seen anything."
"You're a devil!" "No, an angel." "Well, a slut angel." "Indeed."

Write It Out: The Overheard Challenge

Take any line from Overheard and incorporate it in a short poem or the first paragraph of a story. Drop a copy of it (with your name written legibly) into the Crumb box near the Back Office. Each day's winner will receive a complimentary soda or water from the front desk.

Planning Ahead: You Won't Want to Miss the Special Talk on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Bernard Devoto at Bread Loaf: Mark DeVoto reads from his father's letters. David Bain, Bread Loaf historian, writes: "Bernard DeVoto (1897-1955)—novelist, Pulitzer-Prize winning historian, essayist, and editor at Harper's and the Saturday Review magazines, was one of the most important literary forces in America for three decades. As the main fiction teacher at Bread Loaf in the '30s and '40s, his approach left a strong stamp at the conference and influenced teachers all over the nation. He was a proud mentor of many emerging writers, most prominently Wallace Stegner. For many years, his literary correspondence with the seriously-ill, bedridden Kate Sterne gave an extraordinary personal view into the center of the American literary landscape. These files were sealed until very recently; their opening and publication is a great event. We're very fortunate to have Bernard DeVoto's son Mark here at Bread Loaf to share portions of this literary treasure-trove."

BOA on Campus

BOA Editions, Ltd. is a Pulitzer Prize-winning, not-for-profit publishing house. Founded in 1976 by the late poet, editor and translator A. Poulin, Jr., BOA has published more than 180 books of American poetry and poetry in translation. Beginning in 2007, the press will begin publishing fiction through its American Reader Series. We are pleased to have Thom Ward, poetry editor, and Peter Conners, fiction editor, visiting the Conference for a few days. If you would like more information about BOA, stop by the information table near the mailboxes in the Bread Loaf Inn. You'll find some BOA flyers, and a selection of books to browse.

## Blue Is the New Black

Sadly, the Blue Parlor will be on break today so ya'll can get your books signed at the Book Signing and Reception.

But Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Barn (yep, a change of venue for all you careful *Crumb* readers) is the "One Minute in Heaven" reading. For this reading, each reader will only be able to read for **1 MINUTE!** The fastest fiction, petitest poems, and nano nonfiction will be read. Snacks and hullabaloo are free. There are still spaces available for this reading, so please sign up today!

Sign-ups for the "Religion and Politics" and "Erotica" reading went up this morning. As always, please write your name legibly and come prepared to read for no more than five minutes.

Questions? Answers? Contact Blue Parlor Administrator Nina McConigley.



### Writer's Cramp Race Results

Thanks to the 16 hearty runners and walkers who participated in the 2006 Writer's Cramp Run, despite the steady drizzle, chilly temperature and possibly a hangover or two.

**Women's runners:** 1. Jenny Land, 21:21 (third place overall). 2. Meghan Clay, 22:53. 3. Nora Maynard, 23:01.

**Men's runners:** 1. John Raimo, 20:44. 2. Adam Kerpelman, 21:12. 3. Nick Montemarano, 22:22.

**Best costume:** Co-champions, Laura Golberg and Jason Schneiderman.

Winners, check your mailboxes for gift certificates to the book store before the book signing event.



## Gonzalo Barr on the Essentials of the Literary Contract

Today at 1:30 p.m., in Barn A

A brief overview of the most important clauses in the standard publication contract, such as the grant of rights, foreign and subsidiary rights, reservation of rights to author, delivery of satisfactory manuscript, representations and warranties, advance, royalties, subsidiary rights, "next book" clauses, and others. A handout will include a standard publication contract, bibliography, and a list of other resources that are available to writers contemplating entering into their first publication contract. In-class exercises will consist of discussing common scenarios, as time permits.



### Get to Know the Faculty, a Quiz

Name the faculty member who was fired by a boss named Howie at a restaurant called the Floradora. (The answer will be published in tomorrow's *Crumb*.)

*Yesterday's challenge:* Name the faculty member who dived two miles to the bottom of the ocean in a three-man submarine to observe underwater volcanoes. *Answer:* **Michael Collier.**



## New Work

(Excerpts from the workshops)

Mrs. Agnew had her pocketbook in her lap. She tried to stand but her knees hit the table. She pushed her chair back a little. It wasn't enough. She pushed it some more, rose clear of the table, groaned, and sat back down. He was about to extend his hand when she rose unsteadily to her feet. With her pocketbook cradled against her stomach like a runner protecting a football from his opponents, she shuffled into the dining room.

- from "Taken by Surprise," by James Darr

By Wes's hemlock there is a creek with water striders, wiry insects that live on the surface of the calm pockets. If the sun is up when I pass it, I can see their shadows in the rocks at the bottom, crucifixes made of the lines from their bodies and the blotches from where their feet dent the surface in tiny circles. These circles let you see the skin of the water—it dips slightly and then rises to its perfect flat again without breaking. The striders are light enough to accomplish this—that's the science of them. Of course I know the science, but it's not with me yet. They're still miraculous creatures who go where nothing else can.

- from "Human Ecology," by Taylor Johnston