

# THE CRUMB

YOUR DAILY DOSE  
from THE BREAD LOAF  
WRITERS' CONFERENCE

VOL. 84

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009

NO. 3

"Hard-hitting, informative,  
occasionally spell-checked."

## TODAY'S EVENTS

7:30 A.M.

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9 – 10 A.M.

Lecture: "Epistler in Chief: Six Presidents in Their Letters," by Thomas Mallon, Little Theatre

10:10 A.M. – 12:10 P.M.

Poetry and Nonfiction Workshops

12:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

1:30 – 2:30 P.M.

"Modern Love" column *with* Daniel Jones, Little Theatre

2:30 – 4 P.M.

Panel on Publishing Prose *with* Julie Barer, Judy Clain, Fiona McCrae & Miriam Altshuler, Little Theatre  
*or* Talk on Publishing Poetry with Martha Rhodes, Barn Main Room

4:15 P.M.

Reading: Charles Bardes, Stephanie Brown & Alex Espinoza

5:30 P.M.

- Film: *Wages of Fear*, Barn 1
- Blue Parlor Reading, Blue Parlor

6:30 P.M.

Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:15 P.M.

Reading: Maud Casey & Ted Conover

9:30 P.M.

- Film: *Five Easy Pieces*, Barn 1
- Scholar Reading, Little Theatre

## AGENT AND EDITOR MEETINGS

Our guests handle their meetings in different ways, but generally speaking meetings are an opportunity to make contact and get your questions answered.

• Today we're also presenting two events that will offer an introduction to publishing for both prose and poetry. It'll be a great opportunity for writers to get their general questions answered. Featured speakers include Julie Barer, President, Barer Literary Agency; Judy Clain, executive editor, Little, Brown; Fiona McCrae, Publisher, Graywolf; and Miriam Altshuler, President, Miriam Altshuler Literary Agency. Martha Rhodes, director, Four Way Books will give a separate talk on publishing poetry.

• Those waiting for a rescheduled agent/editor meeting will find a note with new meeting details in their mailbox by Saturday morning.

## MORE SCHOLARS READ TONIGHT!

The first wave of scholars read Thursday night, including: James Arthur, Rebecca Cook, Eduardo Corral, Heidi Durrow, Celeste Ng, Elena Passarello, Jim Ruland, and Sasha West. Tonight the second wave takes over the Little Theatre at 9:30, with: Kara Candito, Alan Heathcock, Dave Lucas, Marie Mutsuki Mockett, Tomás Q. Morin, Dolen Perkins-Valdez, and Hasanthika Sirisena.

## POETRY & NONFICTION WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Tom Sleigh, Barn A

Patricia Hampl, Inn West Seminar

Edward Hirsch, Barn Classroom 3

Ellen Bryant Voigt, Barn Classroom 1

David Shields, Upstairs Library (Back)

Ted Conover, Barn Classroom 4

Alan Shapiro, Barn Classroom 5

Natasha Trethewey, Barn Classroom 2

Brigit Pegeen Kelly, Upstairs Library (Front)

Arthur Sze, Barn Classroom 6

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Yoga Classes**

Yoga class will be offered everyday between now and August 21. Today, August 14, class will meet at 5:15 p.m. Tomorrow, August 15, it will meet at 7 a.m. Suggested fee is \$15, or whatever you can pay.

**Going to a Movie? Sign up for a Meal!**

Those attending the 5:30 p.m. film screening can sign up for a bag meal in advance. The sign-up sheets are posted by the Back Office. Meals can be picked up in front of the dining hall door, just before the screenings. Both movies will be shown in Barn Classroom 1. *Wages of Fear* is showing today (8/14), and *Five Easy Pieces* is showing Saturday (8/15).

**Get A Massage**

Relax, gain insights into your talents and life with a massage, a reading, or a balancing. Sign up outside the dining hall for healing modalities or massage, which take place in the Barn East Observation Deck.

**Bookstore Hours**

- Thursday–Friday 8:30–6:00
- Saturday and Sunday 10:00–6:00
- Monday–Friday 8:30–6:00
- Saturday 10:00–5:00

**Whose Tweets These Are...**

Twitter people can use #loaf09 or #BLWC09 for their tweets during the conference.

**Remember to Hydrate**

Coffee and water will be available in the dining hall throughout the day. Look for the cambros set up just inside the door.



## Blue Parlor Opening Ceremonies a Success!



The Blue Parlor kicks off tonight and will feature the works of Talia Carner, Nora Costello, Jim Tilley, Elena Shapiro, Autumn Watts, Octavia Randolph, Annita Sawyer, Vishwas Gaitonde, Rob Talbert, and Kristin FitzPatrick.

Sign-up sheets for future Blue Parlor readings are already posted outside the back office near the Blue Parlor. Saturday's reading is an open reading, while Sunday's theme is to be announced.

Please make sure write your name legibly and come prepared to read for no more than five minutes.

*Questions? Jokes? Contact Blue Parlor Superintendent Nina McConigley.*

## Be a Good Housemate

Please refrain from removing items from other guestrooms, including pillows, towels, chairs, and tables. Housekeeping works diligently to ensure all guests have everything they need when other guests show up. Let's help them out.

## Craft Class Updates

**SIZE LIMITS**

We have limited the craft classes to 25 people so they can be more hands-on and interactive. Please keep the limit to 25 by attending only the classes for which you've signed up.

**SIGN-UPS**

A reminder that sign-up sheets will be posted by 8 a.m., two days in advance of classes. Look for sheets on the bulletin board near the Blue Parlor. This morning you'll find the sign-up sheets for Sunday's classes.

## Writing from the Workshops

Throughout the conference we'll be publishing excerpts of particularly striking and stellar prose and poetry from the workshop packets. It's our way of highlighting strong work. If you would prefer not to have your work included in *The Crumb*, please leave a note stating this, addressed to *The Crumb* editor, in *The Crumb* box by the Back Office. Please include your name and your workshop leader's name.

## Visitors

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:

Chris Castellani

Katherine Fausset

Amy Holman

Danile Jones

Mitchell Waters

The following visitors have now departed from the mountain:

Carol Armstrong

David Haward Bain

Lorrie Moore

C. K. Williams

## Computer Tech's Hours at the Apple Cellar

The help desk on the main Middlebury College campus is available to help with computer questions. Help desk hours: weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call x2200 from any campus phone, or send an email to [helpdesk@middlebury.edu](mailto:helpdesk@middlebury.edu). In the subject line note: Writers' Conference student question.

## The Bread Dough Challenge

What former Bread Loaf back office staffer, who rode up to the mountain with Richard Yates during Yates' fellowship year, is now the subject of a major motion picture?

(Submit your answer to The Crumb box. The first to answer correctly will be recognized in tomorrow's Crumb.)

## New Work: Excerpts from the Workshops

I pushed up my sleeves (having mistakingly worn long sleeves and long pants), scrubbed my arms clean, and then plunged them into the warm liquid whey. The sweet, tangy aroma enveloped me as the curds slipped around my skin like tiny minnows. We gently stirred, using the age-old method, as opposed to paddles or automated blades employed by many cheese makers.

—From *Lessons in Cheesemaking* by Sheila McGrory-Klyza

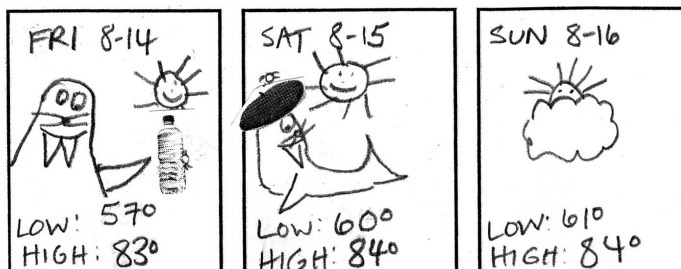
## Greeter of Souls

Ponds are spring-fed, lakes run off rivers.  
Here souls pass, not one deified,  
and sometimes this is terrible to know  
three floors below the street, where light drinks the world,  
siphoned like music through portals.  
How fed, that dark, the octaves framed faceless.  
A memory of water.  
The trees more beautiful not themselves.  
Souls who have passed here, tired, brightening.  
Dumpsters of linen, empty  
gurneys along corridors to parking garages.  
Who wonders, is it morning?  
Who washes these blankets?  
Can I not be the greeter of souls?  
What's to be done with the envelopes of hair?  
If the inlets are frozen, can I walk across?  
When I look down into myself to see a scattering of birds,  
do I put on the new garments?  
On which side of the river should I wait?

—Deborah Digges (1950–2009)  
Bread Loaf Fellow, 1986  
Bread Loaf Faculty, 2000

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## Three-Day Forecast



Weather wakers \*