

THE CRUMB

YOUR DAILY DOSE
from THE BREAD LOAF
WRITERS' CONFERENCE

VOL. 83

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008

NO. 2

“Updating the schedule for 83 years.”

TODAY'S EVENTS

7:30 A.M.

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9 - 10 A.M.

Lecture: “A Traitor in the House:
Autobiography in Fiction,” by Lynn
Freed, Little Theatre

10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Reading period

10:30 A.M.

Computer Lab Orientation,
Apple Cellar in Library

11 A.M.

Tuition Scholar meeting, Blue Parlor

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

1:30 - 4 P.M.

All workshops meet (see workshop
packet or inset for locations)

4:30 P.M.

Reading: Edward P. Jones
& Susan Orlean

5:30 P.M.

Cocktail reception, Treman Lawn

6:30 P.M.

Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

7:30 P.M.

Blue Parlor Reading organization
meeting, Blue Parlor

8:15 P.M.

Reading: James Longenbach
& Luis Alberto Urrea

9:30 P.M.

History of Bread Loaf with David
Haward Bain, Little Theatre

10:15 P.M.

Scholar Reading, Little Theatre

WELCOME!

We hope that your journeys went smoothly and that you're settling in on the mountain. The Crumb will be available outside the dining hall every morning by breakfast time. It will keep you apprised of daily events, schedule changes, and conference news. If you'd like to submit an item, place your copy in the “Crumb” box outside the Back Office by dinnertime on the day before you'd like it to run. Please indicate what day you'd like your announcement printed. Meanwhile enjoy the first day of the conference, and we look forward to seeing you around campus!

WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Please note that these locations are for today, Thursday, August 14, only. Vans will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m., taking participants to workshops at Schoolhouse and Homer Noble Farm.

Linda Bierds, Barn East

Antonya Nelson, Homer Noble Farm

Ursula Hegi, Blue Parlor

Michael Collier, Frothingham

Lynn Freed, Barn Classroom 5

Margot Livesey, Treman Living Room

Dean Young, Barn Classroom 4

Patricia Hampl, Barn Classroom 2

Randall Kenan, Barn Classroom 6

Luis Alberto Urrea, Barn Classroom 1

Stacey D'Erasmus, Upstairs in the Library (front end)

Ted Conover, Barn Classroom A

Helena María Viramontes, Upstairs in the Libaray (back end)

Edward Hirsch, Barn Classroom 3

James Longenbach, Schoolhouse

Robert Boswell, Tamarack Living Room

Garrett Hongo, Fritz Living Room

Thomas Mallon, Barn Main Room

Heather McHugh, Library Main Floor

Carl Phillips, Inn West Seminar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Go to town

Most weekdays (with the exception of today, 8/14), van trips to Middlebury leave from the Inn at 1:45 p.m. and return to Bread Loaf at 4 p.m. (Please don't be late—the driver will not wait for stragglers.) Because Monday (8/18) is a conference-wide break/Frost Farm picnic day, there will be no trip into town that day. Trips will resume on Tuesday (8/19), and continue on a daily basis through Friday (8/22). Please sign up at the front desk if you'd like to ride into town—if no one signs up, the van doesn't go.

Cell phone reception

FYI—Cellular phone reception is generally unavailable on the Bread Loaf campus. All rumors otherwise have not been confirmed.

Mailboxes

Please check your mailboxes at the Inn often, as it's one of the main ways for us to communicate with you.

Individual conferences

Faculty will be scheduling 30–45 minute conferences with each Bread Loaf. Since schedules are crowded, you might want to think in advance about when you are available.

Workshop photos

Photographer Edward Brown will be dropping by workshops today to take group photos.

Sign up for craft classes, starting today

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.

Blue Parlor Organizational Meeting Tonight!



Feeling ready to share your work? Then there's no place better than the Blue Parlor. The Blue Parlor Reading series begins tomorrow and we'll meet tonight to plan the series. The Blue Parlor is Bread Loaf's own literary salon and is a space to share your work outside of workshop—fiction, poetry and nonfiction are all welcome.

We'll meet tonight in the Blue Parlor after dinner – at 7:30 p.m. We'll brainstorm ideas for reading themes and go over the reading logistics. There will also be a sign-up sheet for the first open-themed reading, which is Friday at 5:30 p.m. The readings are always different—from open mikes to the one-minute reading. The series is organized around our interests, so please come tonight with plenty of ideas for possible themes for readings. There will be snacks provided and this is a great chance to meet your fellow writers. See you there! Check out the bulletin board outside the office for more information.

Questions? Contact Blue Parlor Coordinator Nina McConigley.

Gone Are The Days of Trademark Bread Loaf “Whap!”

Returning Bread Loafers may sense something is missing. Because of a change in fire code, many of the screen doors around the campus have been removed, taking with them a sound long associated with the conference—what veteran staffer Ian Pounds fondly calls “the Bread Loaf ‘Whap!’” “An important aesthetic has been lost,” says Pounds. “When someone comes late during the most somber, teary moment of a reading, there's no longer that distinctive, disruptive ‘Whap!’”

This changes things perhaps most significantly at the Little Theatre. The new fire code prohibits blocking any doorway, so outdoor seating in chairs along the side patio is no longer permitted. Viewers are welcome, however, to sit on the ground if they want to watch or listen from outside. “We do gain a few things,” notes Pounds. “Namely a little extra sleep. That and a quick exit if a building's on fire.”

Announcements, cont'd from p. 2

Cocktail Reception

Meet your fellow Bread Loafers at a cocktail reception on the Treman Lawn at 5:30 p.m. Make sure to bring your ID if you're on the young side.

Morning Yoga

Information about the first yoga class will be posted outside the dining hall after dinner. Classes are suitable for all levels of experience. Suggested class fee is \$15.

Scholar Reading Tonight

Come check out the first of two scholar readings tonight at 10:15 in the Little Theatre. Readers will be announced at dinner.

From the Front Desk

Please keep these guidelines in mind for convenience and safety:

- There is no smoking allowed inside any building on campus or anywhere near the porch of the Inn.
 - We suggest you start a room list by each hall phone so buildingmates can find you if you get a call.
- Please park all cars in the Barn parking lot. The exception to this rule covers those staying at Tamarack, Gilmore, Fritz, Frothingham, Earthworm, and Brandy Brook, and also cars parked for less than 10 minutes for the purposes of loading and unloading.
 - The nurse is available for emergencies from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays.
 - We sell sundry items, such as postcards and stamps.
 - If you have a medical emergency between 2 and 10 p.m., call extension 2700. After 10 p.m. call extension 2713 or 2710.
- **Please do not bring your own alcohol into the Dining Hall, Barn, or to any public conference events.**

Welcome, Bread Loafers, from Your Social Staff

When you're not reading, writing, or hiking, you may want to gather with newfound friends for conversation and refreshments. That's where we, your local Social Staff, come in. Throughout the conference, we are helping to organize a number of events for you—including the cocktail reception this evening, Barn Socials & Pubs, two dances, the book signing, and the gala finale.

Beginning today, we and our colleagues on Administrative Staff will host a series of socials in the Barn most evenings before dinner, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (last call at 6:15!). We will serve beer and wine for two dollars per drink, as well as free soda, snacks, and conversation in a very casual setting. It's a good time to meet up with fellow writers to talk, take a break and wind down. Keep an eye on *The Crumb* for more Barn social dates.

We hope to make the conference a fun, productive experience, and we look forward to meeting each of you very soon. Check us out on the face board and come to us with any questions.

—Scott Challener, Eugene Cross, Ru Freeman, Kiki Petrosino, Henk Rossouw, Avery Slater, Brandy Wilson, Greg Wrenn, and Paul Yoon.

Staggered Lunch Schedule

Lunch will be served buffet style, and to avoid long lines, we urge you to follow the schedule noted here, based on your workshop schedule:

- * On days when your workshop does not meet, please go to the dining hall starting at noon.
- * On days when your workshop does meet, please go to the dining hall between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.

Lunch service continues until 1:45 p.m. Should a line form at the dining hall door, please note that you can scoot in through the dining hall door to start at the salad bar, if you like. Today, when all workshops meet at 1:30 p.m., we ask the poets to show up at 11:30 a.m., nonfiction writers to follow on their heels (okay, come at 11:30 a.m.), and fiction writers, please hold back until noon. On this day, service will continue until 1:00 p.m.

Directors' Office Hours

Michael Collier will be available:

- Poetry Workshop days: 12:30 – 1:00
- All other days: 11:30 – 12:30, and by appt.

Jennifer Grotz will be available:

- 10 – 11:00 a.m. daily, and by appt.

The Directors' Office is across from the Back Office, next to the Blue Parlor.

Computer Tech's Hours at the Apple Cellar

Mandy Poon will be available every day from 11 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

During off hours, you can contact her via email at: mpoon@middlebury.edu

Requests from the Little Theatre Staff

1. Bells will be rung at 15 and 5 minutes prior to each lecture and reading. Please arrive on time.
2. Trash cans are located near the exits of the theater. We love it when people use them.

Thank you.

Visitors

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:

- President Emeritus of Middlebury College,
- James Armstrong
- Carol Armstrong
- Julie Barer
- Judy Clain
- Patrick Donnelly
- Bobbi Earle
- Merrill Feitell
- Edward P. Jones
- Sally Keith
- Susan Orlean
- Patrick Phillips
- Kathy Pories
- Martha Rhodes
- Janet Silver



Olympics Corner



OK, sports fans, as you've probably gathered by now, despite our repeated pleas, the International Olympic Committee went ahead and decided to plan the 2008 Olympics during the *exact* dates of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. So The Crumb's Beijing coorespondent will do his best to keep you updated on the goings-on of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad right in this space. Check back for headlines and highlights as the conference (and games) progress. Or, of course, you could look at the internet.

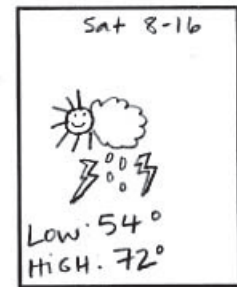
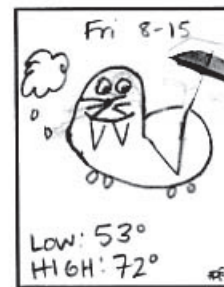
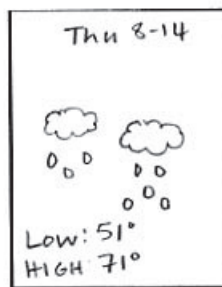
Wednesday, August 13th:

- Phelps Wins Fifth Gold in Five Events
- Nigeria Sends U.S. Men Packing in Soccer
- China Wins Women's Gymnastics Team Gold

Get to Know the Faculty, a Quiz

Which faculty member is obsessed with Haribo brand gummy bears?

(The answer will be published in tomorrow's Crumb)



Weather Watchers

tear here

The Collier Challenge

Which faculty recently published a book with the sentence, "I was the most incompetent waiter in Bread Loaf history"?

Your Name: _____

Answer: _____

(Place your answers in the Crumb box. The first one to answer correctly receives a free copy of the book in which the sentence appears, and will be printed in tomorrow's Crumb.)

Thoreau

Thoreau chopped down the trees with a borrowed axe, and
 built his house
 without needing the help. He planed his shingles from the
 first cut and partook
 of the hearty sort of brown bread, his fingers infused with
 sweet pitch.
 He spoke his peace and lived simply—knowing to the
 fraction of a cent, the cost.

Under the circumstances, he met with neighbors seldom in
 that partial wilderness,
 so spent afternoons with the pitiless muddied forms of
 wildlife by the pondside,
 each situated in its designated element. Thoreau even
 communed with
 the brute inhabitants—the indigenous (distinguished from
 the introduced) rats.

Judging by what he saw, there needed to be at least four
 hours of daylight pouring
 over the woodpile while Thoreau studied the ants, “red
 always pitted against black.”
 Despite the climate, I see him bearded and fully dressed.
 Surely, it would be incorrect
 to label him a sympathizer, though he must have felt the
 sides would reassemble.

According to, “instinct towards the spiritual-primitive life,”
 did Thoreau ask
 why God created color, sexual differences? Why are some
 given mandibles
 capable of such seizure while others are made with ordinary
 mouths?
 What do they stand to gain—those puny factions—

the world? How immense it must be to them, under the
 highly stylized cloudbed.
 It only makes sense there would exist a greater being, who
 (from necessity)
 built a larger cabin, eats a heavier loaf, stands above the
 woodpile watching Thoreau
 watching me, watching us alert in the awakening hour, and
 at night fast to sleep.

—Rodney Jack (1964–2008)
Bread Loaf Scholar, 2000

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Rodney Jack served as a yeoman in the United States Navy before earning an MFA from Warren Wilson College, where he was a Holden Minority Scholar. He held scholarships at Bread Loaf and the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and received a writer's grant from the PEN American Center. Over the past decade his work appeared in numerous magazines, including *Poetry*, which awarded him the Eunice Tietjens Memorial Prize. He passed away last week.