

# THE CRUMB

The Bread Loaf  
Writers' Conference

VOL. 80

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2005

NO. 2

"Eighty years of Bread Loaf goodness."

## Today's Events

**7:30am**

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

**9-10am**

Lecture: "The Enigma of the Creative Process," with Edward Hirsch,

Little Theatre

**10am-12noon**

Reading period

**10:30am**

Computer Lab Orientation,

Apple Cellar in Library

**12noon-1:45pm**

Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

**2-4pm**

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

**4:15pm**

Reading: Louise Glück and

Francine Prose

**5:30pm**

Cocktail reception,

Treman Lawn

**6:30pm**

Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

**7:30pm**

Blue Parlor Reading organization meeting, Blue Parlor

**8:15pm**

Reading: Catherine Barnett and

Lynn Freed

**9:30pm**

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 every day. It will keep you apprised of daily events, schedule changes, and other conference news. If you'd like to submit an item for the "Announcements" column, place your copy in the pink "Crumb" box outside the Back Office by dinnertime on the day before you'd like the announcement 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 at the flurry of events around campus!

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## Workshop Locations

Please note that these locations are for today, Thursday, August 18, only. Permanent workshop locations will be printed in tomorrow's Crumb and are also listed in the workshop packets. Vans will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:45pm, taking participants to workshops at Earthworm and Dragon's Den.

### **Andrea Barrett, Tamarack**

Charles Baxter, Upstairs in the Library (back end of the building)

### **Vikram Chandra, Barn Classroom 5**

Lan Samantha Chang, Main Floor of the Library

### **Michael Collier, Frothingham**

Percival Everett, Barn Classroom 2

### **Lynn Freed, Barn Classroom 1**

Patricia Hampl, Barn Main Classroom

### **Amy Hempel, Upstairs in the Library (front end of the building)**

Edward Hirsch, Barn A

### **Brigit Pegeen Kelly, Barn East**

Yusef Komunyakaa, Treman Living Room

### **Thomas Mallon, Blue Parlor**

Claire Messud, Inn West Seminar

### **Susan Orlean, Earthworm Living Room**

Jay Parini, Fritz Living Room

### **Tom Sleight, Barn Classroom 4**

Arthur Sze, Barn Classroom 3

### **Ellen Bryant Voigt, Barn Classroom 6**

## Announcements

### Staggered lunch schedule

Lunch will be served buffet style, and to avoid long lines, we urge you to show up at noon on the days when you do not have a workshop meeting, and between 12:30 and 1pm on the days your workshop meets. Service continues until 1:45pm. Today, though, when all workshops meet at 2pm, we ask the poets to show up at noon, nonfiction writers to follow on their heels (okay, come at noon), and fiction writers, please hold back until 12:45pm. We ask for your patience as we continue to refine a system put into place last summer.

### Go to town

Most days (with the exception of today, 8/18), van trips to Middlebury leave from the Inn at 1:30pm and return to Bread Loaf at 3:40pm. (Please don't be late--the driver will not wait for stragglers.) Because Monday (8/21) is a conference-wide break/Frost Farm picnic day, there will be no trip into town that day. Trips will resume on Tuesday (8/22), and continue on a daily basis through Saturday (8/27). 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.

### Go wireless!

The Bread Loaf campus now offers wireless Internet access in the Inn, the Library, and the Barn, and inconsistently at other locations and outdoor areas. See the front desk for tips on how to connect.

## Welcome, Bread Loafers, from Your Social Staff

When you're not reading, writing, or hiking, you may want to gather with new-found 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 Pubs, two dances, and the gala finale.

Beginning Friday, August 19, we will also host a series of socials in the Barn on several evenings before dinner, from 5:30 to 6:30pm (last call at 6:15!). We will serve beer and wine for two dollars per drink, as well as free soda and snacks, in a very casual setting. It's a good time to meet up with fellow writers to talk, or take a break for yourself to wind down. Drink tickets may be purchased during business hours at the front desk of the Inn or on site during each social. Keep an eye on *The Crumb* for more Barn social dates.

We hope to make the conference a fun, as well as a productive, experience, and we look forward to meeting each of you very soon.

K. Bradford, Amaud Jamaul Johnson, Jericho Brown, Jeff Chang, Darcie Dennigan, Sara Michas-Martin, Justin Quarry, Sasha West, Paul Yoon, and Mary Akers.

## From the Front Desk

Please keep these important guidelines in mind for convenience and safety:

- There is no smoking allowed inside any building on campus or on 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.
- Check your mailbox in the Inn frequently. Intercampus mail is an important means of communication in the Bread Loaf community.
  - Please park all cars in the Barn parking lot. The exception to this rule covers those staying at Tamarack, Gilmore, Fritz, Frothingham and Myrhe's Cabin, and also cars parked for less than 10 minutes for the purposes of loading and unloading.
- The nurse will be available for medical emergencies from 9am to 2pm weekdays.
  - We sell sundry items, such as postcards, stamps, Coke products, and small portions of undiluted laundry detergent.
    - \* If you have a medical emergency between 2 and 10pm, call Ext. 2713 or 2710.

Announcements, cont'd from p. 2

### Go jump in a lake

Feeling the heat of summer? Inquire at the front desk about local swimming holes.

### Cell phone reception

FYI—Cell phone access is generally unavailable on the Bread Loaf campus.

### 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 thirty-minute conferences with each Bread Loafer. 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 8am, two days in advance of classes. Look for sheets on the bulletin board near the Blue Parlor.

### Visitors

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain: Richard Abate, James Hoch, Michael Lowenthal, and Denise Roy.

## Blue Parlor

### Organizational Meeting: Have Your Voice Heard at Bread Loaf's Very Own Salon

What is this so-called "salon"?

Perhaps a definition would help.

**sa·lon** (să-l'ŏn, sǎ-lôn')

*n.*

1. A large room, such as a drawing room, used for receiving and entertaining guests.
2. A periodic gathering of people of social or intellectual distinction.
3. A hall or gallery for the exhibition of works of art.
4. A commercial establishment offering a product or service related to fashion: *a beauty salon.*

The Blue Parlor is indeed a "salon." It is a "large room" where all of us "people of social or intellectual distinction (even if our mothers and parole officers disagree) can gather to share our "works of art" (poems, stories, and aesthetically impeccable visages) in a reading series organized around our own interests. Let's meet tonight (Thursday, August 18 at 7:30pm) in the Blue Parlor itself to brainstorm ideas. There will be a sign-up sheet for the first reading, this Friday at 5:30pm. Snacks will be provided. And if you ask very nicely, you'll get a haircut and a complimentary shampoo. (It is a salon, right?)

Questions? Contact Blue Parlor Coordinator Dora Malech.

## 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, at the front desk. Please include your name and your workshop leader's name.

## 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.

## Overheard

“We have an Erotica reading, and I know that some of you are very erotic...”

### Computer Tech’s Hours at the Apple Cellar

Evan Dumouchel will be available:

Every day 9am to 12:30pm

Sun, Wed, Friday 2 to 5:30pm

Mon, Tues, Thurs 7:30 to 9pm

During off hours, you can contact him via email, if you’d like, at: [edumouch@middlebury.edu](mailto:edumouch@middlebury.edu)

### Get Your Yoga On

Come join us for Vinyasa yoga classes! In this active style of yoga, poses are linked together in flowing sequences. All levels are welcome. Our first classes will be held Friday the 19th at 7am and 5:30pm upstairs in the library. Full schedule to be announced later. The cost is \$10 per class. Individual instruction is also available for a fee of \$85. Please leave a note for the instructor, Melanie Abrams, at the front desk of the Bread Loaf Inn.

### Ten Two Commandments Requests from the Little Theatre Staff

1. Bells will be rung at 10 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.

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I was shocked and dismayed to hear of the recent hostile takeover of The Crumb by none other than Gannett News Corporation! Is there no place for the independent press in this world?

Please cancel my subscription and remit all monies via Post—marked, Personal and Confidential—to the address on the accompanying envelope.

Very sincerely yours,

L. Shannon Blithewait, Esq.

Editor’s note:

*Though The Crumb received a generous buyout offer from a large media company recently, our publication remains independent and will stay that way for the foreseeable future. Speaking of the future, please refer all future correspondence addressed to The Crumb to Gannett News Corporation, MacLean, VA.*