

THE CRUMB

YOUR DAILY DOSE
from THE BREAD LOAF
WRITERS' CONFERENCE

VOL. 84

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2009

NO. 2

"Mostly accurate for 84 years."

TODAY'S EVENTS

7:30 A.M.

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9 - 10 A.M.

Lecture: "Double-talk and Double Vision," by Ellen Bryant Voigt
Little Theatre

10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Reading period

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: Lorrie Moore
& C. K. Williams

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: Lynn Freed
& Alan Shapiro

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 13, only. Vans will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m., taking participants to workshops at Schoolhouse and Earthworm.

Arthur Sze, Barn East

Luis Alberto Urrea, Earthworm Living Room

Robert Cohen, Blue Parlor

Alan Shapiro, Dragon's Den Living Room

Lynn Freed, Barn Classroom 1

David Shields, Treman Living Room

Ellen Bryant Voigt, Barn Classroom 4

Patricia Hampl, Barn Classroom 2

Sigrid Nunez, Barn Classroom 6

Tom Sleight, Barn Classroom 5

Vikram Chandra, Upstairs in the Library (front end)

Ted Conover, Barn Classroom A

Randall Kenan, Upstairs in the Libaray (back end)

Edward Hirsch, Barn Classroom 3

Ann Hood, Schoolhouse

Thomas Mallon, Tamarack Living Room

Maud Casey, Fritz Living Room

Charles Baxter, Barn Main Room

Brigit Pegeen Kelly, Library Main Floor

Natasha Trethewey, Inn West Seminar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Go to town

Most weekdays (with the exception of today, 8/13), 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 (8/17) is a conference-wide break/Frost Farm picnic day, there will be no trip into town that day. Trips will resume on Tuesday (8/18), and continue on a daily basis through Friday (8/21). 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 are unconfirmed.

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.

Some Reminders About Your Bread Loaf Dining Experience

- Please remember that your devoted waitstaff are also writers, who you'll see in workshop, at lectures, and giving readings later in the conference.
- Meal times are prompt and leaving the dining hall on time helps waiters get to lectures and readings on time. Just ask for a to-go cup!
- Coffee is available in the morning by 6:30 a.m. After breakfast ends, coffee and water are available in the barn throughout the day.
- If you have an allergy or food concern, please be proactive and discuss any questions or concerns with your waiter or the head waiters.
- Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style, dinner is table service.
- Please do not bring alcohol into the dining hall.

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.

Yoga Classes

Yoga will be offered tomorrow (8/14) from 5:15–6:15 p.m. upstairs in the Library. Suggested fee is \$15, or whatever you're able to pay. A few mats will be available.

Scholar Reading Tonight

Come check out the first of two scholar readings tonight at 10:15 p.m. 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 for two dollars and wine for three dollars, 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.

—*Eugene Cross, Ru Freeman, Xhenet Aliu, Christian Gerard, Avery Slater, Cutter Wood, Greg Wrenn, and Zach Watterson.*

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 poets and nonfiction writers to show up 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 12–12:30 p.m. daily, and by appointment.

Jennifer Grotz will be available 10–10:30 a.m. daily, and by appointment.

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

Requests from the Little Theatre Staff

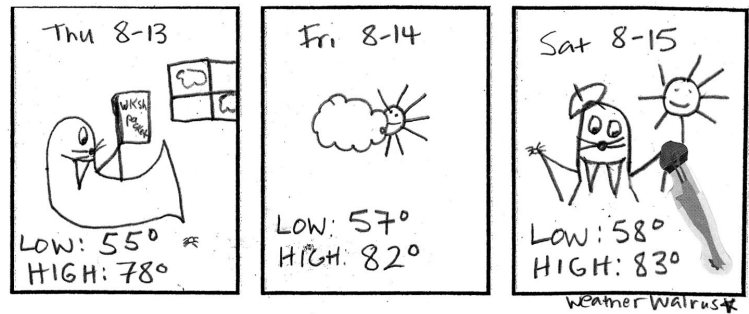
1. Bells will be rung at 15 and 5 minutes prior to each lecture and reading. Please arrive on time.
2. Trash cans are located near the exits of the theatre. We love it when people use them.

Thank you.

Visitors

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:

Mary Akers
 Miriam Altshuler
 Carol Armstrong
 David Haward Bain
 Julie Barer
 Judy Clain
 Fiona McCrae
 Lorrie Moore
 Martha Rhodes
 Michael Wieggers
 C. K. Williams



For more than two decades, Carol Houck Smith, editor-at-large at W. W. Norton, visited the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and met with participants to talk about their projects and to offer advice and encouragement. She passed away in November, but fortunately through the Carol Houck Smith fiction and poetry scholarships and a new scholarship for returning contributors, we are able to celebrate her legacy as one of the great champions of American literature and as an unflagging supporter of Bread Loaf. We are proud to dedicate the 84th Conference to her memory.