

THE CRUMB

The Bread Loaf
Writers' Conference

VOL. 81

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006

NO. 9

“Bright with a newlywed glow.”

C•R•A•F•T

Today's Events

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9 - 10 a.m.

Lecture: “A Literary Collage on Literary Collage,” with David Shields, Little Theatre

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

Fiction workshops

10:10 a.m.

Special talk: David Barber on *Atlantic Monthly*, Little Theatre

12 noon - 1:45 p.m.

Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

1:30 p.m.

Special talk: Patrick Donnelly on how to give a good reading, Barn A

2:30 p.m.

Craft classes

4:15 p.m.

Reading: Special guests Paul Lisicky and Linda Pastan, Little Theatre

5:30 p.m.

• Special talk: Ted Genoways on *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and Carolyn Kuebler and C. Dale Young on *New England Review*, Little Theatre

• Blue Parlor reading, Blue Parlor

6:30 p.m.

Picnic dinner, outside the Little Theatre

8:15 p.m.

Special event: An evening of music with François Clemmons and pianist George Matthew, the Barn

10:30 p.m.

Blue Parlor Erotica Reading, the Barn

Locations for today's classes (2:30 to 3:30 p.m.) follow. Please note classes offered by conference guests, including Christopher Castellani, Merrill Feitell, Ted Genoways, C. Dale Young, and Joshua Shenk. Check for available slots on the sign-up sheets near the Back Office. Friday's craft classes will be listed in Friday's Crumb.

Fiction

- “In Conclusion,” with Christopher Castellani, Barn 1
- “On the Possibility of Metafiction and Other Bullshit,” with Percival Everett, Barn 2
- “The Ruthless Conquerer Wrests Glory from the Lowly First Draft: Fearless Rewriting in Short Fiction or Let's Rewrite James Joyce, Why Don't We?” with Merrill Feitell, Barn 3
- “History in Fiction—Not Historical Fiction,” with Peter Orner, Barn 4

Poetry

- “Image Rhyme and Rhyme Extensions,” with Oni Buchanan, Barn 6
- “Walt Whitman, the Experimentalist,” with Ted Genoways, Barn A
- “Rebuilding Myth: Using Lyric to Explode Narrative,” with C. Dale Young, Barn East

Nonfiction

- “Making the Personal Matter,” with Rachel DeWoskin, Barn 5
- “Writing the Past You Never Saw,” with Joshua Shenk, Upstairs in the Library (back end)

Help Solve the Smurf Mystery

Plastic Smurf figurines have begun appearing on dining hall plates. Do you know anything about these appearances? Have you seen any suspicious Smurf activity? If so, please drop notes with any leads in the Crumb box near the Back Office.

Picnic Dinner Tonight

Tonight's dinner will be a picnic just outside of the Little Theatre. If the weather isn't quite right for an outdoor picnic, we will picnic in the dining hall.

Departure Taxis

Please check the poster boards near the front desk for your taxi departure time. Reservations are not changeable. Bread Loafers may pay for taxi fares (\$25) at the front desk.

Announcements

A Thank You

Fellow Writers, I am greatly moved by your generous expressions of concern and encouragement. Thank you so much for the splendiferous get well card! I am so fortunate to be among you. Norton

Lost

Greenish, turquoise ring (long pointed stone, set in silver). Last seen in upstairs bathroom in Larch on Monday morning. If found please leave at front desk for Brand Wilson. It is a very special ring to me as it was my late grandmother's. Any help in finding it would be greatly appreciated.

Visitors

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:

Elizabeth Sheinkman, Meg Lemke, and Alane Mason. Conference guest Mark DeVoto will be leaving the mountain today.

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Ordering Bread Loaf 2006 Audio

The conference makes lectures and readings available for purchase on CD. Each CD will cost \$6 (includes shipping and handling). You'll find an order form in your box after dinner on Thursday, and the forms, with payment, will be due by 10 p.m. on Saturday. The college can only accept cash and checks for the audio orders.

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Overheard

"People just want to dance."
"You haven't really read Shakespeare until you've read him in the original Klingon."
"When I finally have time to think about God again."

Patrick Donnelly to Present

"How to Be a Good Public Reader of Your Own Writing"

Today at 1:30 P.M., Barn A

Have you ever been to a reading where the reader mumbled, repeatedly checked his or her watch, lost the audience's attention shuffling through a huge, dog-eared sheaf of pages, or read long past the allotted time limit? In a public reading, there is an etiquette to be observed by both reader and listener, and writers who ignore these do's and don'ts risk alienating their audience. In this class we'll discuss this etiquette, and suggest strategies for dealing with nerves. You'll go home with tips for pleasing reading organizers, audiences, and—perhaps most importantly—yourself

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Don't Miss Today's Special Guest Reading—4:15 P.M.

Linda Pastan has published eleven volumes of poetry, including *PM/AM* and *Carnival Evening: New and Selected Poems*, both finalists for the National Book Award. Her most recent book, *The Last Uncle and Queen of a Rainy Country*, is forthcoming in the fall of 2006. Poet

Laureate of Maryland from 1991 to 1995, Pastan won the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize in 2003. Linda Pastan was a member of the Bread Loaf faculty for 20 years.

Paul Lisicky is the author of *Lawnboy* and *Famous Builder*. His work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Short Takes*, *Open House*, *Boulevard*, *Flash Fiction*, and in many other anthologies and magazines. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he's the recipient of awards from the NEA, the James Michener/Copernicus Society, the Henfield Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, where he was twice a fellow. He lives in New York City, and teaches in the graduate and undergraduate writing programs at Sarah Lawrence College. He recently completed a new novel, *Lumina Avenue*.

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Music Event Tonight

Dr. François Clemmons, Middlebury College's Alexander Twilight Artist-in-Residence, will perform with pianist George Matthew, Jr., in the Barn this evening at 8:15 p.m. Founder and director of the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble, Maestro Clemmons performs regularly all over America, Europe, and Asia, carrying on his vision for preserving and sustaining traditional arrangements of American Negro Spirituals, as well as commissioning new arrangements, for future generations. George Matthew, Jr., has been carillonneur of Middlebury College and Norwich University in Vermont since 1986. A church organist since the age of 13, he was most recently director of music at Middlebury Congregational Church. The program this evening will include the spirituals Prepare Me One Body, Ride On! King Jesus, On Ma Journey Now, Steal Away, and more.

News Flash: Liquids and Gels Allowed in Barn

Last night in the barn, 44 brave Bread Loafers shared their writing. For those of you who missed it, the beams of the barn reverberated with the remarkable work that each writer that comes to the mountain brings. The fun continues tonight with not one, but TWO readings. At 5:30 p.m., stop by the Blue Parlor for our “Religion and Politics” reading. After that, at 10:30 p.m. **IN THE BARN** (note the change of venue) will be the annual Erotica reading. Prepare for a side of poetry and prose you may not have seen before! Unlike the friendly skies, liquids and gels are allowed (on paper anyway). There are still spaces available for both of these readings – so sign up today.

Coming up in the Blue Parlor are many more delights. On Friday is the Pink Parlor (a Gay, Lesbian, and Friends themed reading). A sign-up went up today for Saturday’s “Family, Roots, and Ancestors.” And as an added bonus, on Saturday morning there will be “From a Dark Tower” (a writers of color reading). As per usual, write your name legibly and please note the time limits on sign-up sheets for both readings.

Please talk to Blue Parlor Proprietor Nina McConigley for any questions about themes, readings, or policies.



Proof Your Name in the Directory

Today we’ll have a master copy of the directory in the Blue Parlor, so Bread Loafers can stop by throughout the day to check their listing, and make any changes needed. We will then revise the listing and put directories in mailboxes on Saturday. The directory will include contact info for all participants, including faculty, guests, and staff.



New Work

(Excerpts from the workshops)

Near the end of the summer, the year Paul died, a tornado cut a path near their home. She’d been in the kitchen writing checks for bills and looked out the window to see the sky an unnatural purple-green. The temperature rose about ten degrees. Paul lay in his hospital bed in the living room, asleep. She pictured herself trying to lift him off the bed and drag his diminished body down the cellar stairs. For a moment she allowed herself this fantasy of heroism before descending the stairs alone, heart pounding (she never knew her heart could beat so fast), with only a candle and a book of matches. She covered in the black corner of the cellar—she hadn’t lit the candle—and wondered if the tornado would sweep right over her house and take Paul with it like so much dust. When she heard Mona’s voice hollering on the answering machine upstairs, she knew any danger that might have been had failed her and she found Paul upstairs, untouched and still asleep when she checked on him.

- from “Unlock Me,” by Katrina Denza