

THE CRUMB

The Bread Loaf
Writers' Conference

VOL. 80

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2005

NO. 7

"All Loaf, all of the time."

Today's Events

7:30am

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9-10am

Lecture: "Some Measure of Insanity: Poetic Language, Versions of the Self, and the Struggle Against Fascism," Tom Sleigh, Little Theatre

10:10am to 12:10pm

Fiction workshops

10:10am

Special talk: "On Getting Published: What Publishers Wish Every Poet Knew," with April Ossman, Little Theatre

12noon to 1:45pm

Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

1:30 to 2pm

Reading: Bread Loaf faculty and Richard Harteis join William Meredith in a reading of his poems, Little Theatre

2:30 to 3:30pm

Craft classes (see inset for locations)

4:15pm

Reading: Merrill Feitell and Thomas Mallon, Little Theatre

5pm

Special talk: Richard Harteis will talk about the William Meredith Writer's Conference, Barn 1

5:30pm

Book signing reception, Treman Lawn

6:30pm

Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:15pm

Reading: H.G. Carrillo and Susan Orlean

9:30pm

Staff reading, Little Theatre

11pm

Blue Parlor Erotica Reading, Barn A

C•R•A•F•T

The Third Wave

Locations for today's craft classes (2:30 to 3:30pm) follow.

Fiction

- "Scheherezade," with Samantha Hunt, Upstairs in Library (back end of building)
- "The Elephant in the Room," with Martha Southgate, Barn 6
 - "How to Write Sex Scenes (Without Dying of Shame)," with Steve Almond, Barn A
- "Setting, or Is There a There There?" with Doreen Baingana, Barn 4

Poetry

- "Spring and All: A Master Weapon," with Michael Collier, Barn 1
- "Rosebud" and "Celestial Music," with Brigit Pegeen Kelly, Barn 3
 - "The Metaphor as Alchemy," with G.C. Waldrep, Barn 2

Nonfiction

- "The Search for Subject," with Tara Bray Smith, Barn 5

Congratulations to all participants of yesterday's Writers' Cramp Race! Certificates were awarded to the following runners:

Men's Division

1. Steve Nelson 2. BG Cross 3. Chip Kaufmann

Women's Division

1. Meg Moore 2. Nora Maynard 3. Victoria Chang

Walker's Division

Tie between Julia Henshaw and Annita Sawyer

(On a related note, after his strong yet less-than-stellar fifth-place finish Andy Hallman has temporarily been relieved of his Back Office duties.)

Book-signing Reception Today

Join us on the Treman lawn at 5:30 this afternoon for the Book-signing reception. The bookstore will be open today from 10am to 12noon and 2 to 6:30pm.

Staff Reading Part II Tonight

Come see your dedicated staff read their work at 9:30pm, in the Little Theatre. Please. Pretty please.

Featuring: Albert E. Martinez, Abigail Judge, k. Bradford, Amaud Johnson, Jericho Brown, Paul Yoon, Darcie Dennigan, Sasha West, Matt Hart, and Devon Jersild.

Announcements

Lost: purple fleece pullover. Left at the dance Sunday night. If found, please leave for Franny Key at the front desk.

Need a ride: Seeking a ride to the Burlington Airport on Thursday, hoping to leave Bread Loaf around 7am. Please email Beth at: bethneely@yahoo.com.

Visitors: Esmond Harmsworth, Christina (Kit) Ward, Hannah Tinti, Fiona McCrae, T.R. Hummer, and Patrick Kavanagh.

Learn about the William Meredith Writer's Conference (June 9 to July 2 in Bulgaria) at 5pm today in Barn 1.

Overheard

- "A woman who hasn't seen a grown man naked shouldn't be writing."
- "I finished mid-way in the list of writer's cramp racers; a mid-lister once again."
- "Your wife's from Slovakia, right?"
"Almost. She's from Tennessee."

Job Posting

The University of California at Riverside will soon be advertising for a new associate professor (with tenure) position for a nonfiction writer, with a possible secondary interest in poetry, fiction, and/or screenwriting. This job ad will soon be posted on our Web site: www.creativewriting.ucr.edu. For information, please contact Maurya Simon
Department of Creative Writing
Univ. of Calif., Riverside
900 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92521-0318

Ordering Photos

Today you'll find a photo-order form in your mailbox. If you'd like to order a photo, you'll need to return the form by 9am on Wednesday, August 24, at the front desk. Pictures will be available for pick up at the end of the conference.

Wanted: Faculty and fellows ready to serve up Wednesday lunch in the dining hall. Please sign up in the back office. (A thank you goes out to Samantha Chang for signing up. Let's see if we can round up some help for you!)

Horndog Alert!

Time to get a little more ... intimate. Please drag your sexy self to Barn A at 11pm tonight for the Blue Parlor Erotica Reading, to be hosted by Steve Almond (a man who never says no to a firm spanking). Selections will be short, hot, and bothered. Crowd participation is encouraged. Chocolate may be served. Bring your freak. (Sign-ups for reading slots are outside the back office.)

New Set-up at Lunch (and This Time We Mean It)

At the back of the lunchroom you will find a soup, salad, and sandwich bar, including meats. At the buffet table you will find premade sandwiches or other lunch options. No need to wait in line—come in and find a place.

Reading: Emigrés, Ex-pats, and 1st Generation Children
Please come and share readings inspired by your experiences in two (or more) cultures. Blue Parlor, Thursday, August 25 at 9:30pm.
Questions? Find me—Jack Mayer—Box 2369, Bloomfield 56.

Need a Ride Home after the Conference?
We'll post a ride board near the dining hall. Look for it on Wednesday morning.

In Memory of E.D. Lavis

A note from Annita Sawyer

I bring sad news: E.D. Lavis, a poet who attended Bread Loaf last summer, died on January 2, 2005, from a cancer diagnosed in October. Yet, if I deliver this news as I imagine E.D. would have wished me to, I must speak of light and transformation as well as loss.

E.D. and I followed the Bread Loaf path of friendships made and carried home to flourish – for us through e-mail. Last September, E.D. was rejoicing in her writing and organizing her days around that writing. She was determined to read her poems aloud. Fueled with fresh energy from Bread Loaf, she was seeking residencies and a fellowship at a fancy university. The affirmation she found here “miraculously redeemed” the self-doubt she had long suffered from her lack of formal education. E.D. looked forward to her return.

During the brief months of her illness, E.D. described herself as walking in grace in a season of light, surrounded by family and friends around the world who cherished her. Her husband asked me to tell the Bread Loaf community of her passing, so that you might know, as Michael Collier promises in his online introduction, she was “inspired, encouraged, and changed by Bread Loaf.”

Michaelmas

I saw you at dusk in the lower orchard
among the fallen apples and plums.
You were passing over these unmown slopes
at the end of the golden summer. Already
longer shadows slide across the fields.
They stretch like beasts, aroused,
their limbs extended, offering their darkness.

As a child in other orchards
I watched this sun fall and burn,
leaving nothing. Night meant
the worst descent.

I wanted a sign, I longed for more
than a sliver of moon always moon.

Tonight the western sky turquoused.
The apple trees shone with a yellow glow
on their knotted trunks: a beam
where there is no road.

Your eyes were too much for me—
kind, but with the future in them.
Is it your gaze that holds the worlds?
Your voice that seals the evening?

Around us the possible autumn
breathes its withering breath.

When I enter your glare and hear
your gilded whisper, the sounds of sundown
will fall where I listen, like Joan,
at soft attention among the trees.

— E.D. Lavis