86th Conference Begins

The 2011 Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference began yesterday, with participants arriving in the afternoon. The conference, which has been held each of the last 86 years, now includes over 250 attendees in every phase of their writing careers. Participants traveled by car, by van, and in one case, by motorcycle up the mountain, checking into rooms across campus and meeting their roommates. *The Crumb*, which is available outside the dining hall by breakfast time each day, will serve as participants’ best source of news until the end of the conference on August 20. Keep your eyes on *The Crumb* for a list of daily events, schedule changes, visitors, weather, and conference news.

Workshop Locations

Please note that these locations are for today, Thursday, August 11. Vans will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m., taking participants to workshops at Earthworm and Homer Noble Farm.

- Richard Bausch – Barn, main room
  - Charles Baxter – Blue Parlor
  - Marianne Boruch – Barn A
  - Jane Brox – Barn Classroom 3
  - Maud Casey – Tamarack Living Room
  - Ted Conover – Barn East Classroom
- Stacey D’Erasmo – Library, upstairs (back end of building)
  - Peter Ho Davies – Frothingham Cottage
  - Louise Glück – Barn Classroom 1
  - A. Van Jordan – Treman Living Room
  - Randall Kenan – Barn Classroom 4
  - Chang-rae Lee – Earthworm Living Room
  - James Longenbach – Barn Classroom 6
  - Sigrid Nunez – Barn Classroom 5
  - Joanna Scott – Fritz Living Room
  - David Shields – Library, main floor
  - Tom Sleigh – Barn Classroom 2
  - Arthur Sze – Homer Noble Farm
  - Luis Alberto Urrea – Library, upstairs (front end of building)
  - Ellen Bryant Voigt – Inn West Seminar
Greetings from Your Head Waiters

Howdy, everyone, and welcome to Bread Loaf! We have a tremendous new crop of waiters, each of whom is totally ready to serve you. You’ll see us at mealtimes, making announcements and just generally looking sharp, dynamic and awesome. We love to hear from you, but remember: we handle your food!

–Mike Scalise & Cara Blue Adams

ABOUT LUNCH

• Lunch will be served buffet style, so 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 1:00 p.m. 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.

• Lunch service continues until 1:30 p.m. each day (with the exception of today, when it ends at 1:00 p.m.). If a line forms at the dining hall door—which has been known to happen—please note that you can scoot in through the dining hall door to start at the salad bar, if you like.

REMINDERS

• Please remember that your devoted waitstaff are also writers, whom 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! Keep all dishes and silver in the dining room.

• 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.

• Please do not bring alcohol into the dining hall.
Announcements, cont’d from p. 2

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT TREMAN**
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’ve retained those youthful good looks; Vermont state law requires that social staff card participants.

**DIRECTORS’ OFFICE HOURS**
Michael Collier will be available 12:00–12:30 p.m. daily, and by appointment.
Jennifer Grotz will be available 10:00–10:30 a.m. daily, and by appointment.
The Directors’ Office is across from the Back Office, next to the Blue Parlor.

**SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR CRAFT CLASSES**
Sign-up sheets will be posted by 8:00 a.m., two days in advance of classes. Look for sheets on the bulletin board near the Blue Parlor.

**YOU HAVE NO BARS**
Let your loved ones know that cellular phone reception is generally unavailable on the Bread Loaf campus; different carriers may have different availability, depending on elevation, atmospheric conditions, and perhaps karmic conditions. Pay phones are available in the phone booth by the Laundromat and in the Inn.

**WORKSHOP PHOTOS**
Photographer Edward Brown will be visiting workshops today to take group photos. Throughout the conference, Edward will be taking photographs of Bread Loafers. An order form for some photos will be available later in the conference.

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**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 on any porch.
- 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.
- **If you have a serious medical emergency, call 911, then notify the front desk.** Notify the front desk for minor medical issues. If you have a medical emergency between 2:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., call extension 2700. After 10:00 p.m., call extension 2713 or 2710.
- A nurse will be on-site between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Cornwall Clinic.

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**Blue Parlor Organizational Meeting Tonight!**

Bread Loafers, do not let the above headline mislead you—“organizational meeting” sounds so drab. But there is nothing drab about the Blue Parlor. It’s Bread Loaf’s own literary salon, a space where we gather to read our work, root each other on, consume cheese and crackers and very fancy lemonade. Whatever you write—fiction, poetry, nonfiction, blog posts, emails, text messages—this reading series is for you. Yeah, you.

Tonight at 7:30 p.m., right after dinner, we’ll gather together in the Blue Parlor (to the left of the back office, in the back of the Inn) to brainstorm possible themes for readings and to go over the logistics of the Blue Parlor Reading Series. Logistics like, when and where do I sign-up to read? How long can I read? How do I clap briefly but with all my heart after someone else has read? The meeting will be done in time for you to head over to the 8:15 p.m. reading but in that short time we will accomplish so very much.

And be sure to come to the first reading this Friday at 5:30 p.m. The sign-up sheet for that reading will be available at Thursday’s meeting. Sign-up sheets for subsequent readings will be available Friday the 12th, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., on the Blue Parlor bulletin board (right beside the back office). And for those of you who are unsure about reading, read! We’ll have a second round of sign-up sheets available on Tuesday the 16th. So join us, wow us, help us make the magic happen at the 2011 Blue Parlor Reading Series.

*Questions, suggestions, affirmations? Contact Blue Parlor Coordinator Harriet Clark.*
**VISITORS**

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:
- David Haward Bain
- Julie Barer
- James Geary
- Alexander Jacobs
- Martha Rhodes
- Anjali Singh

**FROM THE LITTLE THEATRE**

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.

–Michael Peterson & Joshua Rivkin

**WEATHER WALRUS**

At press time, Weather Walrus was on Randall Kenan’s flight and was unavailable for comment. Please enjoy this picture from his Facebook profile page. Weather.com indicates that Thursday will be partly cloudy, with a high of 69° and a low of 50°.

**Bain Slideshow Highlights History of Bread Loaf**

Middlebury College professor David Haward Bain will offer his annual slideshow and talk on the history of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. Bain, the author of *Whose Woods These Are: A History of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference*, traces the lively history of the conference from its founding to present.

Bain’s talk will feature anecdotes about some of the notable names in American letters, and the slideshow features candid photos of writers at work and at play, including some current faculty. This talk on the history of the conference, which has hosted such writers as Robert Frost, Ralph Ellison, Truman Capote, Sinclair Lewis, Carson McCullers, Anne Sexton, John Gardner, Eudora Welty, John Irving, Toni Morrison, Wallace Stegner, Richard Wright, Archibald Macleish, and Richard Wilbur, provides participants with a context for the work ahead of them and a rich sense of the Bread Loaf tradition.

**Hello from Social Staff**

Some parts of Bread Loaf are unpredictable whether it’s your first or tenth time on the mountain. For example, will you be gripping that first steaming cup of coffee with both hands to warm them from the chill (as in 2010), or will that sweater you packed be better served as a seat cushion on steamy evenings on the porch of the Inn (as in 2009)?

It’s nearly guaranteed, however, that you’ll find yourselves among a community of writers with whom you’ll be equally eager to discuss line breaks and story arcs as the weather—in other words, friends, the forever kind that don’t come and go like warm fronts. And while it’s our mutual love for the written word which will likely serve as the foundations for those friendships, it’s our job as social staff to help provide the forums, atmosphere, and of course the dances to nurture those relationships outside of the classrooms. If there’s anything we can do to make your stay here more enjoyable and—we dare say it—life-changing, please let a representative of our staff know and we’ll do our best to keep your stay here balanced and weatherproof.

–Xhenet Aliu, Matthew Olzmann, Katherine DeBlasio, Sonya Larson, Jamaal May, Alicia Jo Rabins, Christopher Ross, Giuseppe Taurino, and Zachary Watterson
Seating Chart for Today’s Lunch

Please sit with your workshop group today at lunch. Poets and nonfiction writers should arrive at 11:30 a.m., and fiction writers should arrive at noon. Lunch service will continue until 1:00 p.m. today.
Announcements, cont’d from p. 3

IN RECOVERY?
Members of Alcoholics Anonymous and other recovery fellowships are invited to attend daily meetings. The meetings will be held in Barn Classroom 5 at 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. each day of the conference. Any and all questions may be answered by placing a note in mailbox #2323.

PIZZA IN THE BARN
Come by the Barn this evening from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The conference will provide pizza—but when it’s gone, it’s gone. The Barn Pub will be open during that time.

FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE ON TWITTER... PREFERABLY, AFTER THE CONFERENCE
The conference encourages you to unplug while you’re here, but the final edition of The Crumb will include a guide to social media. Twitter users who would like to be listed in that guide should drop their usernames in the “Crumb” box outside the Back Office. For those who can’t live without Twitter, we encourage you to use the hashtag #blwc11; conference attendees from previous years sometimes follow along from afar.

CAMPUS WIRELESS
You’ll find wireless internet access at many locations on campus. The name of the network is midd-standard, and the case-sensitive password is Middlebury-wireless.

APPLE CELLAR TECH
Technician’s hours for the Apple Cellar computer lab will be noted on the Apple Cellar door.

Levine to Become U.S. Poet Laureate

The Library of Congress has selected Philip Levine to succeed W. S. Merwin as the United States Poet Laureate. James Billington, the librarian of Congress, announced the selection Wednesday.

Levine, who grew up in Detroit, is the author of twenty books of poems and the 1995 winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Billington hailed Levine as the voice of the American industrial heartland, and the New York Times called him “the voice of the workingman.” Levine’s other honors include a National Book Award, two National Book Critics Circle Awards, two Guggenheim Fellowships, and the Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize from Poetry.

Levine will read one week from today in the Little Theatre.

Extra, Extra, Write All About It

The Crumb encourages submissions of news, editorials, and reviews of the waiters from all conference participants. Remarking on the open submissions policy, conference director Michael Collier said, “In 2010, The Crumb missed at least six newsworthy happenings. I hope this year our newspaper will cover all the news, not just a part of it.”

If you’d like to submit a news or editorial item, place your copy in the “Crumb” box outside the Back Office or e-mail blcrumb@gmail.com. Please indicate which day you’d like your announcement printed. Announcements must be received by dinnertime to be printed in the following day’s edition. Editorial cartoons are particularly welcome.

Community items (not including personal ads) are limited to a headline, plus thirty words. Do not include e-mail addresses in community items. We will print items on a first-come, first-served basis as our limited space permits. Submit by e-mail only. Community items include things like foosball tournaments or informal meetings. The Crumb’s office is located in the Back Office. Feel free to drop by and say hello. Back issues are available on the conference web site.

TODAY’S TRIVIA QUESTION

Which faculty member was a junior high and high school wrestler whose favorite moves were the whizzer and the crossface?

(The answer will be published in tomorrow’s edition)