Craft Classes Get Intimate

Tuesday’s craft classes provided Bread Loafers with opportunities to work on specialized topics in intimate settings. Several participants made last-minute decisions to attend classes that still had space, resulting in healthy attendance for all classes.

Mixed Signals: Modulating the Third Person with Chris Castellani – Barn Classroom 4

Revising for Power: Five Targets for Writing Great Stories with Alan Heathcock – Barn Classroom 6

Writing Characters of Darkness and Light with Shann Ray – Barn Classroom 5

You Can Get There From Here: Transitions in Creative Nonfiction with Jane Brox – Barn Classroom A

On Gabrielle Calvocoressi’s “The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart” with Dilruba Ahmed – Barn Classroom 3

Rhyme as a Challenge, Rhyme as a Resource with Stephen Burt – Barn Classroom 1

Pacing the Scene with A. Van Jordan – Barn Classroom 2

Tomorrow’s craft classes are the final classes of the conference. There’s still time to sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board across from the Back Office.

Elder Leads Fiction Writers on Nature Walk

Though it appeared rain would relegate John Elder’s Renga Outing to the Blue Parlor, a group of Bread Loafers ventured outside under Elder’s leadership when the skies cleared on Tuesday. Today, Elder will lead “An Introduction to the Local Ecosystem” for fiction writers. The trail walk will begin at 11:00 a.m. on the Inn front porch, with participants returning at 12:45 p.m., in time for lunch. At press time, few spaces remained in the program, which is limited to 20 participants. Elder’s most recent books, Reading the Mountains of Home, The Frog Run, and Pilgrimage to Vallombrosa, explore the meaning of Vermont’s landscape and environmental history for him as a teacher, writer, and householder. He is co-editor of the Norton Anthology of Nature Writing.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE FRONT DESK
If you plan to ship boxes home, they need to be sent from the Front Desk by Friday at 12:00 p.m. (This includes boxes shipped UPS or U.S. Postal Service.) This will come in handy for all those books you’ve just bought.

STAMP SHORTAGE
The Front Desk has only a limited number of stamps remaining.

PROOF YOUR NAME
Please stop by the Blue Parlor today to check your listing in the Bread Loaf directory and make any changes needed. The directory will be available for proofing through 10:00 p.m. today. We will then revise the listing and send it to you by e-mail by the end of the Conference.

RIDE-SHARE BULLETIN BOARD
If you are willing to offer a ride on departure day, note your name on the carpooling sheet posted near the dining hall. Those looking for a ride can then contact you to make a plan.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
*The Crumb* is looking for news, reviews, meditations, letters to the editor, or salacious gossip about this year’s fellows. Drop a note in our orange box outside the Back Office. Please include your name so we can contact you for further details. Alternately, e-mail us at blcrumb@gmail.com.

Musical Program to Feature Fiddles, Foot-Stomping

Tonight at 8:15 p.m. in the Barn, father-son duo Gary and Roland Clark will perform with Alicia Jo Rabins & the Free Verse Ramblers. The event will feature “foot-stomping Appalachian fiddle tunes, some originals and folk ballads that will make you cry in your beer or tea, and some unexpected delights,” according to Alicia Jo Rabins. Gary Clark is the director of the Vermont Studio Center, and has been a long-time Bread Loaf visitor. In recent years, his son Roland has been joining him, and they have been entertaining audiences in the Barn.

Rabins, a fiddler and vocalist for the band Girls in Trouble, will be joined by Abe Streep (fiddle and vocals), Matthew Nienow (guitar, mandolin, and vocals), and Jeremy Bass (guitar and vocals). “The power of twin fiddles is not to be trifled with. I think the violin is a very vocal instrument, so it’s like hearing two voices sing harmony,” said Rabins, who has played for years with Streep in New York City.

Community Items

HEALING MODALITIES
Jayne Webb’s last full day of giving massages, life readings, and chakra balancing is Wednesday. Sign up outside the Dining Hall. Relax, renew, and gain clarity and insight.

LOST AND FOUND
Blue “Klean Kanteen” finally found. Pick up at the Front Desk.

BREAD LOAF POKER CHAMPION
Miriam “Ace-High Full House” Altshuler is the Bread Loaf Poker champion after winning three consecutive hands Monday night. Fellow Reginald Dwayne Betts contested the championship, accusing Altshuler of conspiring with Richard Bausch, who generously filled the whiskey glasses of other players.

SCRABBLE ANYONE?
Please let me know. –Jimmie Smith, Jr.

SHOUT-OUT TO THE LADIES
This is a special shout-out to all the wonderful women in the Cherry House who have exposed their gorgeous best during the two (was it three?) fire alarms that rocked Bread Loaf awake during the wee hours of August 11 and August 16. The patience of these women, not to mention the breathtaking beauty of their bathrobes and tousled hair, has been remarkable. They are gaining a reputation good-natured élan throughout the Green Mountain state. –Danielle Shapazian (Cherry House)
P.S. Additional thank yous must go to the maintenance staff who have repeatedly squashed the sound of that annoying fire alarm.
New Work: Excerpts from the Workshops

I cut school, went to the park, and sat two benches down from Mr. Ryder, the man who put his wife’s head in the oven two summers ago. The day he was arrested, a white ambulance waited outside his apartment building, lights flashing red and silent. The air smelled sweet like pipe tobacco. I held my mother’s hand, my sister Jane held the other, as the ambulance drivers came out of the building, the body draped in a light blue sheet.

— Kerri Quinn, from “True”

NER, Ploughshares, and VQR Talk

Ted Genoways, editor of Virginia Quarterly Review, Carolyn Kuebler, managing editor of New England Review, and Ladette Randolph, editor-in-chief of Ploughshares, will give a talk today at 5:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. They will give information on their literary magazines, as well as answer questions from audience members.

Over the past thirty years, New England Review has established itself as one of the nation’s most distinguished literary journals, a publication that encourages lively artistic exchange and innovation. Presenting work in a wide variety of genres by writers both new and established, each two hundred-page issue ranges over the literary spectrum: traditional narratives, challenging experiments in style and form, works of drama, translations of works from many languages and time periods, far-reaching essays on art and literature, and rediscoveries from our cultural past.

For almost forty years, Ploughshares magazine has been committed to creating a platform for diverse literary tastes. An award-winning journal, widely acknowledged to be among the top ten literary journals in the country, Ploughshares is distinguished for its guest editor program, inviting a different established writer to edit each issue.

For three quarters of a century, Virginia Quarterly Review’s primary mission has been to sustain and strengthen Jefferson’s bulwark, long describing itself as “A National Journal of Literature and Discussion.” The Virginia Quarterly Review has published the best essayists, fiction writers, and poets, seeking contributors from every section of the United States and abroad.

ARRIVE EARLY FOR LEVINE

Bread Loaf readings and lectures are open to the public. We recommend that you arrive early for Philip Levine’s reading on Thursday, as we may have a number of visitors, and we want all Bread Loafers to get a seat.
Is the Blue Parlor Double-Timing You? Yes We Are!

A message from Blue Parlor Coordinator Harriet Clark, who should have brought blue rain boots:

Today, my fellow Bread Loafers, the Parlor runneth over. This afternoon, we gather as we used to long ago (a.k.a., the day before yesterday), at 5:30 p.m. in the Blue Parlor to hear a reading on Place, with Angie Chatman, John Green, Lynda Montgomery, Pat Madden, Emily Pulfer-Terino, Shawnessey Custer, Meeghan Truelove, Katie James, Marie Hulme, and Tamara Mikell-Choudhury. There is no other place you should be when dusk descends.

Then, as the skies darken, the Blue Parlor continues to entertain. At 10:00 p.m. in the Little Theater, we have the literary free-for-all known as One Minute in Heaven.

For those of you participating in the One Minute in Heaven event, please try to arrive no later than 9:45 p.m. so that we can organize ourselves before the cheering masses arrive. And don't forget to pressure your friends, fellows, and faculty to come see you read! Here in the Blue Parlor, that is just the sort of emotional manipulation/community building we support.

Middlebury Scholars Stage Reading

The 2011 Middlebury Scholars, with several undergraduate guests, will read on the side porch of the Bread Loaf Inn (next to the Blue Parlor) at 12:15 p.m. today. Marty Cain, Salena Casha, Patrick D’Arcy, Laura Heaberlin, Matt Hedgpeth, Stephanie May Joyce, James Moore, Lois Parshley, Rebecca Anne Renner, Emily Scarisbrick, and Lucy VanAtta will read their poetry and prose.

**TODAY’S TRIVIA QUESTION**

Which faculty member was once a stand-up comedian, and also went to radio school?

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

**YESTERDAY’S TRIVIA ANSWER**

The minivan featured in yesterday’s issue of *The Crumb* belongs to fellow Ru Freeman. Thanks to Ted Conover for submitting yesterday’s question.