The 2012 Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference welcomed participants yesterday, making 2012 the eighty-seventh consecutive year that the conference has been in operation. All across campus, participants were seen unloading their suitcases, tentatively testing out the Adirondack chairs that have become synonymous with the conference, and making introductions.

The conference now includes 250 writers in every phase of their careers. Several participants remarked that being at Bread Loaf makes them feel connected to a rich literary tradition, while others were in awe of the beautiful landscape surrounding the conference facilities.

Workshop Locations

Please note that these locations are for today, Thursday, August 16. Vans will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m., taking participants to workshops at Dragon’s Den, Earthworm and Homer Noble Farm.

David Baker – Barn East Classroom
Eavan Boland – Barn Classroom 3
Lan Samantha Chang – Dragon’s Den
Peter Ho Davies – Barn Classroom 5
Percival Everett – Blue Parlor
Lynn Freed – Barn Classroom 4
Linda Gregerson – Library, main floor
Patricia Hampl – Barn Classroom 2
Jane Hirshfield – Barn Classroom 6
Garrett Hongo – Earthworm Living Room
Ann Hood – Treman Living Room
Thomas Mallon – Library, upstairs (back end of building)
Jay Parini – Library, upstairs (front end of building)
Carl Phillips – Barn, main room
Scott Russell Sanders – Barn Classroom A
Helen Schulman – Tamarack Living Room
Danzy Senna – Homer Noble Farm
Natasha Trethewey – Barn Classroom 1
Helena María Viramontes – Frothingham Cottage
Brad Watson – 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!

—Cara Blue Adams & Nicholas Boggs

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

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

THE POSTMAN DOESN’T RING
Please check your mailbox at the Inn often, as it’s one of the main ways for us to communicate with you. If you lose your mailbox information, check with the Front Desk.

SLEEPER CELLS
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.

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

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.

Blue Parlor Organizational Meeting Tonight

by Harriet Clark
Bread Loafers, don’t 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 us 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 tonight’s meeting. Sign-up sheets for subsequent readings will be available Friday the 17th, at 8:00 a.m. sharp, 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 21st. So join us, wow us, help us make the magic happen at the 2012 Blue Parlor Reading Series.

Questions, suggestions, affirmations? Contact Blue Parlor Coordinator Harriet Clark.
Bain Slideshow Highlights
Bread Loaf History

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.

A Welcome Letter from the Bread Loaf Social Staff

Hi. We’re the Bread Loaf Social Staff. We’re easily recognizable because we’re usually the ones with the beer. We’d love to meet you, and we host a “Barn Social” happy hour each day (except today) in the Barn from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Please stop by. Cheap beer and wine are available, as well as free soft drinks, and wonderful conversation from our team of friendly bartenders. We’ll also host three campus wide receptions (with an open bar) and two dances.

Like you, we’re all writers and participating in workshops. Most of us have been here before, so if you’ve got any questions about anything on this mountain—“Where is the Dragon’s Den?” or “Can I check out a book from the library?”—please let us know. We’re so glad you’re here, and we look forward to your company.

–Matthew Olzmann, Sonya Larson, Nate Brown, Brittany Cavallaro, Jamie Hatley, Jamaal May, Christopher Ross, Corey van Landingham, & Phillip Williams

WEATHER DOG

partly cloudy, high 77°, low 55°

COMMUNITY ITEM

Anyone interested in playing tennis—doubles, singles, or mixed—please meet tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Bread Loaf Inn.
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

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 list the Twitter usernames of conference participants so you can follow them when you get home. Twitter users who would like to be included in that list should drop their usernames in the “Crumb” box outside the Back Office. Please include your full name. For those who can’t live without Twitter, we encourage you to use the hashtag #blwc12; 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.

EXPLORE SCENIC MIDDLEBURY
Most weekdays (with the exception of today, 8/16), van trips to Middlebury leave from the Inn at 1:30 p.m. and return to Bread Loaf at 4:00 p.m. (Please don’t be late—the driver will not wait for stragglers or lollygaggers.) There is no van trip Monday (8/20). Trips will resume on Tuesday (8/21), and continue on a daily basis through Friday (8/24). 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.

Remembering Dee Corkins
Longtime Bread Loafers will be sad to hear of the passing of Dee Corkins, who managed the Bread Loaf Bookstore in the Annex Cellar during the last several conferences. Dee died at home on November 4, 2012, in the presence of family. Dee loved to read and enjoyed traveling, often traveling with her family on themed trips. Dee and her husband, Doug, visited over 40 countries on their many adventures, including hiking to Mt. Everest base camp, Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya and Machu Picchu in Peru, and visiting the pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India and the Great Wall of China. Dee is survived by her parents, her husband, three daughters, and one granddaughter.

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, “My long-standing feud with the editor of The Crumb has been well-documented, so I encourage interested Bread Loafers to take on the role of ‘citizen journalist’ and contribute worthwhile content to the conference newspaper.”

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 before dinner time 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 bocce ball 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’s first theatrical performance had her starring as the Virgin Mary?

(The answer will be published in tomorrow’s edition)
Bread Loaf 2012 Olympic Games Coverage

While the 2012 Olympic Games in London drew to a close earlier this week, competition began Wednesday in the 2012 Bread Loaf Olympics. These games, which showcase the unique, non-literary talents of writers, occur every four years. Past participants have been wholly unaware of their participation at times, as many events are not publicized in advance.

The Crumb will provide complete Bread Loaf Olympics coverage each day. Events as diverse as synchronized story-writing, dodecathlon (which consists of swimming, shooting, biking, running, tree-climbing, workshopping, arm-wrestling, and writing a limerick), and line dancing return this year, while new events such as the Adirondack dash and the meal gauntlet have been added.

Bread Loaf Olympic Committee (BLOC) chairman Michael Collier promised that the 2012 games would not be tarnished by doping scandals similar to those that haunted the games in 2000 and 2008.