Craft Class Anticipation Builds

Craft classes begin tomorrow, and already the sign-up lists are looking quite full, with several classes already boasting sizeable waitlists. Craft classes are limited to 25 people to ensure that they can be hands-on and interactive. Please keep the limit to 25 by attending only the classes for which you’ve signed up. 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.

Poetry and Nonfiction Workshop Locations

David Baker – Barn Classroom 5
Eavan Boland – Barn Classroom 3
Linda Gregerson – Library, upstairs (front end of building)
Patricia Hampl – Barn Classroom 2
Jane Hirshfield – Barn Classroom 6
Garrett Hongo – Inn West Seminar
Ann Hood – Library, upstairs (back end of building)
Carl Phillips – Barn Classroom 4
Scott Russell Sanders – Barn Classroom A
Natasha Trethewey – Barn Classroom 1

Special Talks on Publishing Poetry and Prose

Bread Loaf participants have found meeting with publishing professionals to be a very positive and helpful experience during their time at Bread Loaf. Our purpose in providing these meetings is to give you a chance to understand the publishing process a little more clearly by hearing from people directly involved in the industry.

Two events today will offer introductions to publishing poetry and prose. A panel on publishing prose, presented at the Little Theatre at 2:30 p.m., will feature Miriam Altshuler, President of Miriam Altshuler Literary Agency; PJ Mark, Agent at Janklow & Nesbit Associates; Fiona McCrae, Publisher of Graywolf Press; and Kathy Pories, Senior Editor at Algonquin Books. Martha Rhodes, Executive Director of Four Way Books; Gabriel Fried, Poetry Editor at Persea Books; and Ross White, Executive Director of Bull City Press, will offer a talk on publishing poetry, also at 2:30 p.m., in the Barn.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLUE PARLOR SIGN-UP #1
The first round of sign-up sheets for the Blue Parlor opens at 8:00 a.m. These sign-up sheets will cover readings on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, as well as the annual “One Minute in Heaven” reading. Space in these readings traditionally goes very quickly.

PLEASE RECYCLE
You will find numerous recycling bins across campus. Please be good to the environment and use them. To get you started, we’ve printed The Crumb on paper that you can recycle when you’re done reading. You’re welcome.

KEEP HYDRATED
The pace of Bread Loaf is hectic, and the weather sometimes gets quite warm, so it’s easy to get dehydrated. Please take good care of yourself and drink plenty of water. You can get water in the dining hall throughout the morning, and all day in the Barn.

IF YOU’RE TEACHING A CRAFT CLASS
Faculty, fellows, and guests who are teaching a craft class and will need any level of technical support are reminded to contact Matthew Nienow, the Back Office staffer in charge of supporting craft classes. He would prefer to meet with you a day in advance to ensure that the technology for your class works when the class begins. E-mail him at mattnienow@gmail.com to schedule a time.

Donnelly Offers Fiction Writers Tips for Public Readings in Special Talk

Patrick Donnelly, Director of the Advanced Seminar at The Frost Place, will offer a special talk entitled “How to Be a Good Public Reader of Your Own Writing” at 10:10 a.m. in the Little Theatre. The talk, which is designed for fiction writers, will provide strategies for dealing with nerves and tips for pleasing reading organizers and audiences.

Donnelly noted that participants should come prepared to read a short passage of prose. If time allows, two participants will be chosen to receive coaching, master-class style, while the audience learns from watching.

Donnelly will offer a version of this talk aimed at poets and nonfiction writers on Saturday at 10:10 a.m., also in the Little Theatre. “The ‘How to Be a Good Public Reader of Your Own Writing’ presentations won’t differ much between the one for prosers and the one for poets,” Donnelly noted. “Despite the differences in genres, both presentations will address best practices for readings of creative writing, and how to avoid some common mistakes. We’ll also make some silly noises to figure out how the voice works.”

Scholar Reading Tonight

Tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre, this year’s amazing batch of tuition scholars will read their work. This reading, the first of the 9:30 p.m. readings that will occur throughout the conference, draws a large crowd to cheer on up-and-coming writers from across the nation. Tonight’s readers will be Natalie Diaz, Julie Funderburk, Bridget Lowe, Jacob Newberry, Jen Percy, David James Poissant, Justin Quarry, Anitta Sawyer, Adam Stumacher, Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, and Greg Wrenn.

WEATHER DOG

today: high 78°, low 52°
tomorrow: high 72°, low 48°
Announcements, cont’d from p. 2

DOWN WITH THE SICKNESS
A nurse is available every weekday from 8:00 a.m – 2:00 p.m. The Cornwall Clinic is a small cottage located across the street from the Bread Loaf Inn. Before entering the clinic, please knock, and wait for a reply. The nurse will provide aspirin, icepacks, and advice; she will contact a physician for you if necessary. If you have an emergency, call 911 first, then inform the Front Desk. From 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., reach them by dialing 2700. From 10:00 p.m. – 8:30 a.m., dial 2710.

WANT TO GET PAID?
If you have books on consignment, please stop by the bookstore at your earliest convenience to fill out a required W-9 and provide your mailing address. Without this information, Middlebury College cannot pay you!

FILM SCREENINGS BEGIN TONIGHT
Bread Loafers planning to attend Monday’s film panel are invited to screenings of The Passenger (5:30 p.m., Barn Classroom 1) and The Station Agent (9:30 p.m., Barn Classroom 1). Those attending the 5:30 p.m. screening should sign up for a bag meal in advance. The sign-up sheet is posted on outside the conference office door. Meals can be picked up in the kitchen just before the 5:30 p.m. screening, and may be eaten during the film.

PARKING
Please park in the parking lot, not on Route 125.

Blue Parlor: Themes Decided, Line-Up Announced

by Harriet Clark

As anyone who was at the meeting last night knows, the first Blue Parlor gathering was a grand success. We talked, we laughed, we fought over the last cookie. First and foremost, we got the ball rolling on the 2012 Blue Parlor Reading Series. And today we kick it off right with the first Blue Parlor reading of the year.

At 5:30 p.m. in the Blue Parlor, Jim Tilley, Laura Maylene Walter, Rachel Morgenstern-Clarren, Vanessa Blakeslee, Katherine Lim, Kafah Bachari Manna, Tray Butler, Andy Taylor, Clela Reed, and Judy Deason will share their work while the rest of us cheer them on. Great new writing, great new friends—why would you pass this up?

If you’d like to read this Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, sign-up sheets are already posted on the Blue Parlor bulletin board so be sure to check them out. Saturday’s reading is an open one, Sunday’s theme is Parenthood and Childhood, and Monday’s is Strange and Strangers.

You can also sign up for next Friday’s One Minute in Heaven reading extravaganza. The Blue Parlor: be there or be square.

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

photo by Weather Dog / Cargill Image Serrvice
Boland Wins PEN Center USA Award

Faculty member Eavan Boland has been awarded a 2012 PEN Center USA Literary Award for her work of creative nonfiction entitled *A Journey with Two Maps: Becoming a Woman Poet*. The awards, announced Thursday morning, honor winners in eleven categories.

Fellow Justin Torres was a finalist in the fiction category for *We the Animals: A Novel*, and faculty member Jane Hirshfield was a finalist in the poetry category for *Come Thief: Poems*.

PEN Center USA’s annual awards program, established in 1982, is a regional competition that recognizes literary excellence. Each year, PEN Center USA calls for submissions of work produced or published during one calendar year by writers living west of the Mississippi River.

Craft Class Readings

For her class on line editing, Shannon Cain asks participants planning to attend to send her a single page of prose from their workshop submissions. “In this clinic on grace and transcendence, we shall project your words onscreen and together edit them into a thing of miraculous beauty,” Cain says. To have your work considered for this adventure, please send your page today before dinner time to shannoncain@cox.net.

Bread Loafers who plan to attend Michael Collier’s Wednesday, August 22, craft class, “Icon, Painting, Picture, Portrait, Headshot, Cameo: the Vicissitudes of Translation,” should pick up an instruction sheet for the translation exercise. These sheets are located on the table outside the Back Office.

Handouts for Scott Russell Sanders and Linda Gregerson’s craft classes are located on the table outside the Back Office.

Bread Loaf Olympics Draw Criticism From Proser

While official events began on Wednesday, Thursday marked the opening ceremony of the 2012 Bread Loaf Olympics. In a stark departure from the London games’ opening ceremony, during which participants from all nations paraded together in a show of global unity, Bread Loaf Olympic teams representing each of the workshops paraded into classrooms and began workshops.

BLOC chairman Michael Collier came under fire from fiction writers when three poetry workshops medaled in the Workshop Lunch Dash category. “Collier, a poet himself, rigged the schedule so that fiction workshops were asked not to come to the dining hall until 12:00 p.m., while the poets were allowed to begin at 11:30 a.m.,” said fiction fellow Melinda Moustakis. “Fiction workshops did not have a fair chance to medal.” Other fiction writers noted that a number of the medal categories, such as Double Dactyl and Spondee Slalom are heavily weighted in favor of the poets.

Collier issued a written statement, but refused to talk to reporters from *The Crumb*. “The Bread Loaf Olympic Committee stands by the scheduling of Thursday’s lunch,” he said in the statement. “There is no impropriety on this mountain.”

Olympic events continue tomorrow, but as always, participants may not even be aware they are engaged in a competitive event.
Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:
Miriam Altshuler
Fiona McCrae
Jeffrey Shotts

The following visitors have left the mountain:
Jennifer Egan

The Crumb Guide to Agent and Editor Meetings

Meetings with agents and editors are one of the significant opportunities Bread Loafers have during the conference. Participants often have questions about how to approach these meetings, so The Crumb offers you the following handy advice:

• Meetings are not “tests,” just early introductions, and gathering information is the primary goal, rather than a successful “pitch” of your work.

• Guests aren’t here for the whole conference—they often stay only a few days, which are filled with meetings. The conference staff have not asked them to offer editorial feedback on written work, so they are not expecting to read your work here at the conference.

• Though an agent or editor may let you know that they would like you to submit a sample or a manuscript, most are here to offer concrete advice according to the stage you are at with your writing. Therefore there should not be any sense of disappointment on either side if the meeting does not lead to an invitation to submit work.

If you have a meeting with an agent or editor who is offering a talk, such as today’s panels on publishing poetry or fiction, you should attend the talk so you are familiar with the information they share. If you need to reschedule or miss your meeting, please inform the Back Office so we may inform our guests.

Correction

The Middlebury College pool schedule given in Wednesday’s edition of The Crumb was incorrect. The pool will be open 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. between August 20 and August 24. On Tuesday and Thursday, it is also open 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

TODAY’S TRIVIA QUESTION
Which fellow had a song on the soundtrack to the 1995 Kevin Smith film Mallrats?

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

YESTERDAY’S TRIVIA ANSWER
Linda Gregerson made her theatrical debut at age 5, playing the Virgin Mary in a church play. She noted that she took the direction to “ponder in her heart” to mean “keep completely still,” and developed a crick in her neck from playing the role.