TODAY’S EVENTS

7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.
Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9:00 A.M.
Lecture: “Auden’s 1940 Volume, Some Poems, and Its Pronouns,” by Eavan Boland, Little Theatre

10:00 A.M.
• From the Dark Tower Reading, Blue Parlor
• Talk: “The Independent Writing Center,” by Chris Castellani, Barn Classroom A

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
All Workshops Meet

4:15 P.M.
Reading: Shannon Cain, Matt Hart, & Teddy Wayne, Little Theatre

5:30 P.M.
One Minute in Heaven Reading, Little Theatre

6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:15 P.M.
Reading: Lan Samantha Chang & Michael Collier, Little Theatre

9:30 P.M. - 12:30 A.M.
• Bread Loaf 2012: A Slide Show Retrospect, Barn
• Dance, Barn

12:30 A.M. - ???
All Forms of Tomfoolery, Who Knows Where?
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PICK UP BOOKS ON CONSIGNMENT
If you have books on consignment, please pick them up by Saturday at 12:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK FORMS
Please check your mailbox for a conference feedback form. Take a few minutes before you leave the mountain to let us know about your experience at the conference. We go over feedback forms carefully to see how things went and consider changes for the future. An envelope is posted outside the Back Office for completed forms. The conference will also e-mail a link to an online feedback form, in case you prefer to complete it electronically.

BOOKSTORE OPEN SATURDAY
The bookstore will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Saturday. All books and Bread Loaf items will be 20% off today (excluding consignment items).

EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE
If you would like to tip the waitstaff or housekeeping (which we strongly encourage), you may do so by leaving money in an envelope at the Front Desk. For housekeeping staff tips, please make sure the building name and room number are on the envelope. Please hand in all tips to the Front Desk by 8:30 p.m. on Friday.

PLEASE RETURN LIBRARY BOOKS
If you borrowed library books, please be sure to return them before 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Castellani Discusses Independent Writing Centers
Christopher Castellani, artistic director of Grub Street, will offer a talk entitled “The Independent Writing Center” today at 10:10 a.m. in Barn Classroom A. Castellani has served in almost every capacity from instructor to board member at Grub Street, one of the nation’s largest independent writing centers. “As the publishing industry evolves, all the major players in the game—authors, agents, editors, publicists—are turning to independent writing centers for education, networking and support,” Castellani said. “Students come to us to learn craft; agents and editors come to find new clients; publicists and marketers want their authors to interact with a vibrant and engaged community of readers.” The talk will connect participants to independent writing centers across the country and discuss how writers can engage meaningfully with centers.

Everything’s Peachy (or Plummy) for Cain
Fellow Shannon Cain undertook a photo project here at Bread Loaf, asking participants from across the conference to pose with a peach or plum. She has posted her photos to Flickr, where all conference participants can see them. Take a look!

http://www.flickr.com/photos/85516767@N04/

Bread Loaf, Bread Loaf: The Waiter Song

Start spreading the news, I’m reading today
I want to be a part of it, Bread Loaf, Bread Loaf
These brown Oxford shoes, are longing to stray
Right from the very start of it, Bread Loaf, Bread Loaf
I want to wake up on a mountain that doesn’t sleep
First book award, Pulitzer Prize, MacArthur big ass Genius Grant!

These breakfast shift blues, are melting away
I’ll make a brand new draft of it, Bread Loaf, Bread Loaf
If I can make it here... I can publish... anywhere
It’s up to you... Bread... Loaf... Bread... Loaf.
Waiters Go on Strike, Briefly

Chaos ruled the Dining Hall on Thursday after waiters went on strike following Linda Gregerson’s lecture. Service shut down briefly, resuming only after conference staffers threatened to return all faculty and fellows to the Dining Hall, which would have signaled the end of workshops.

Gregerson’s lecture was cited as a chief cause for the waiter unrest, specifically when she quoted Milton’s “Sonnet XIX.” “The waiters mistook the sonnet’s final line, ‘They also serve who only stand and wait,’ to be permission to cease work immediately,” said conference director Michael Collier. “Milton’s poem, however, makes no mention of work-study scholarships.”

Faculty head waiter Carl Phillips immediately volunteered to return his crew to active duty, but the waiters rebuffed his offer when the consequences became clear. “There’s no way we could have had workshop on Friday, since we would have been busy scraping the last remnants of peanut butter into the slop bucket,” said Phillips. The waiters rewrote the final line of the sonnet in appreciation, which now reads, “They also serve who hustle when they wait.”

Local Reading Series Recruits Vermont Writers

The NER Vermont Reading Series is recruiting Vermont writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for its quarterly events in Middlebury. Each reading features four Vermont writers reading for fifteen minutes apiece. They’ve presented not only authors who’ve published in the New England Review and elsewhere—David Huddle, Vermont poet laureate Sydney Lea, and Bread Loaf luminaries Kellam Ayres, Jennifer Bates, Megan Mayhew Bergman, and Janice Obuchowski—but also those just starting out, who were unpublished and reading their work for the first time. If you’d like to participate and are a resident of Vermont, please email Christopher Ross for details (as yet unpublished writers may include a ten-page writing sample attached as a PDF): ner.vermont@gmail.com.

Twitter Directory

Saturday’s issue of The Crumb will include a Twitter directory. If you would like to have your Twitter username included so people can follow you, please drop a note in our orange box outside the Back Office with your real name and username.

FLASH MOB READING IN LAUNDROMAT: TODAY AT 8:00 A.M.

Didn’t get a chance to read in the Blue Parlor? Come to the Laundromat and get your five minutes on! No sign-up, just show up at 8:00 a.m. Friday. Readers will be first-come, first-served.

—Gerard Cabrera

MODALITIES APLENTY

Last half day for massages, life readings, and energy balancings. Relax!

BLUE PARLOR PHOTOS

Grant Bergland has uploaded (and will continue to upload) his photos from every Blue Parlor Reading to Facebook. facebook.com/grant.bergland

If you don’t have Facebook email him at gb2365@columbia.edu and he can:

1) Send you a link to an album where you can download pictures yourself, and/or
2) Send you the pictures as attachments
Letters to the Editor (Among Others)

Hey, The Crumb editor—

Just yesterday, at the salad bar, I saw Ann Hood expertly wield a spoonful of shredded carrots (or cucumber slices) from the opposite side of the queue. Something in the arc of her arm, how she shielded her cheek from grazing the sneeze guard, and still managed to scoop said carrots (or cukes) without spilling any suggested a rather expert—shall we say, Olympian?—effort.

Salad Bar Stretch—Ann Hood—Worthy of the gold? I think, yes! But perhaps there are others... I will leave the winners to your continued observational skills, and your inherent wisdom in All Things both Athletic and Noteworthy.

Please continue to tell it like it is.

With regards,
Erica Plouffe Lazure

TO THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY WHO TRIED TO LAND IN MY LAP

I understand that by sitting in the field outside Tamarack, communing with nature, I might have given you the wrong idea. For that, I apologize.

It wasn’t until I overturned my Adirondack chair trying to escape you that I realized: butterflies are just pretty bugs.

Catherine Wargo Roberts, city slicker

AN OPEN (BREAK-UP) LETTER TO THE WAITERS AND WAITRESSSES WHO HAVE OFFERED ME TO GO CUPS

Dearest Waiter/Waitress of The Closing Shift,

As a young, enthusiastic Bread Loaf participant, I have admired over these past few overly-scheduled days your fezes and boas, the grace with which you maneuver trays through salad bar crowds, the adorable way you always spill my coffee into the saucer. I have lingered through last calls for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and from the shadowed corners of the dining room, sent looks of great admiration in your general direction, hinting at a romantic interest that until recently I was sure (certain!) you shared.

Imagine, then, my disappointment to find that in asking me for a “to-go” cup, you actually expected me to leave the vicinity and, adding insult to injury, never planned to accompany me out into the unexpected chill. Imagine me now, scrawling this note on a double-folded napkin, looking in longingly through the screened windows of BL Inn as you steal away the PB&J.

Where did we go wrong? Is it my fiction? Is it my status as a general contributor? Or is this an age / “maturity” thing, the fact that I eat the Lucky Charms at breakfast or may have attempted to trick-or-treat my way through the wait staff readings? This wouldn’t be so hard if your prose and poems didn’t speak to me so...But no matter. It is done. I am a modern woman, and know when I’m not wanted.

Except, if you do change your mind, circle YES or NO if you’d like to go.

You know where to find me.

Yours, once.

Jessi

YESTERDAY’S TRIVIA ANSWER

Lan Samantha Chang’s daughter Tai was kissed by Barack Obama in 2008.
Bread Loaf, 42 Years Later

by Tim Potter, Bread Loaf waiter (1970) and contributor (2012)

Our Bread Loaf waiters of this century have it made. Never, ever in 1970 did you see us on our butts, waited on by the nobility of this wonderful institution.

John Ciardi, Maxine Kumin, Galway Kinnell, Dan Wakefield, Shane Stevens, Harry Crews, James Lee Burke: are you kidding? Hand us a bottle of bourbon? Now that’s another story.

Forty-two years later, yes, much has changed. I feel part of a more open, friendly, and accessible community. Children share our dinner tables and tennis court, a healthy reminder to remain humble and, for the most part, responsible adults. Faculty, fellows, and our scholars are eager to share their experience and expertise, as well as cheer on the readings for each other and our contributors.

Somewhere Middlebury College has had the resources to maintain this beautiful settlement on the flanks of the Green Mountains. It’s a privilege and joy to have participated in this program once again and I hope to in the future. The literary energy and excitement is as strong now as in 1970. Perhaps being older, the gloss of arrogance worn away, no longer dancing up and down the Barn stairs but gladly steering my new knee up the longer path of the ramp, I feel I absorbed more and will leave even more enthused than in 1970. Also, waiting on tables, in those days, was a job.

Editor’s note: Trust us, Tim, it’s still a job!

Although We’ve Come to the End of the Road... Still I Can’t Let Go

by Harriet Clark, on the bluest day of the conference

My fellow Loafers, how can we come this far only to walk away? All those readings, all those meal announcements, all those “You are really done” signs. We’ve built a family here in the Blue Parlor—a family I am going to miss more than I miss my own family. (Kidding.) (Kinda.) But it has been, truly, an honor and a pleasure to hear so many of you share your work and to spend each afternoon in your company. Thank you for making the Blue Parlor the place to be over these past ten days and for giving me an excuse to wear far too much blue clothing.

But, before we close the Parlor door, we still have two final amazing readings. At 10:10 a.m. in the Blue Parlor we’ll gather together for our From the Dark Tower reading with Shradha Shah, Kafah Bachari Manna, Katherine Lim, Judy Juanita, Anoushka Sinha, Kimberly Wang, Sara Burnett, JoAnn Balingit, DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld, Nicole Terez Dutton, Matthew Salesses, Gary Jackson, and Jennifer Chang.

Then, at 5:30 p.m., come to the Little Theater for the Parlor’s grand finale, One Minute in Heaven. The readers are: everyone you know here, yourself included. And if you are indeed participating in this event, please try to arrive at the Little Theatre by 5:15 p.m. so that we can organize ourselves before the cheering masses arrive.

Folks, you can’t miss these events. I won’t let you. I’m clingy like that.
The following visitors leave the mountain today:

- Millicent Bennett
- Diane Boller
- Carey Salerno
- Jesseca Salky
- Don Share

**VISITORS**

**THURSDAY’S OLYMPIC RESULTS**

**DOWNHILL HOOTENANNY**

**Gold:** Patrick “Surf Guitar” Moser (HAM)

**Silver:** James “Montana” Duncan (SEN)

**Bronze:** Hafeez “Fo Sheez” Lakhani (HOO)

**HAYRIDE**

**Gold:** Flower Conroy (GRE)

**Silver:** Matt Hart (TRE)

**Bronze:** Nancy Strickland Hawkins (VIR)

**WEATHER DOG**

Today: high 79°, low 53°

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**Olympics Close; Phillips Celebrates Spirit of All Bread Loafers**

The closing ceremony of the 2012 Bread Loaf Olympics was solemn Thursday, as new Bread Loaf Olympic Committee chairman Carl Phillips brought the games to a conclusion at the gala reception. After the final event, the Hayride, Phillips raised a glass to all the competitors, celebrating the spirit “of all the writers here, whether they knew they were competing or not.”

Though rocked by the Moustakis substance scandal, the international community has already begun hailing these games as some of the most electrifying in history. The ghost of Robert Frost visited Garrett Hongo in the early hours Thursday to offer his congratulations on having set the total medal record, and several writers have seen their notoriety in literary circles skyrocket as a result of medal-winning performances. “I was a relative unknown when I won my gold medal in the Fire Tower,” said waiter Michael Copperman, “and now I am receiving three to four e-mails a day from interested agents and editors.” Several medalists have begun memoirs about their experiences in the games.

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**Collier to Helm The Crumb After Dismissing Editor**

Furious over The Crumb’s role in exposing the faculty-wide Prose-Enhancing Device (PED) scandal, conference director Michael Collier fired the entire editorial staff of The Crumb on Friday evening. Collier held a visible grudge against The Crumb this year, preferring to speak only to other local newspapers like The Addison County Occasional Hornblower and Ripton Alive!: The Weekly List of the One Thing Happening in Ripton. He entered The Crumb offices late Friday night and dismissed the staff, citing “a complete lack of journalistic ethics” and a “stunning propensity to make up quotes which could be harmful, harmful, harmful.” Staff of The Crumb were asked to complete the issue they were working on, then pack their belongings and leave the mountain by mid-day Saturday.

When asked how Saturday’s issue of The Crumb would be published, Collier said, “I’ll publish it myself. How hard can it be to edit a daily newspaper?” Collier seemed unaware that the only licensed copy of InDesign on the mountain was on a personal computer owned by the editor he had just dismissed. Collier was seen in the editorial offices late in the evening, assembling scissors, white-out, and magic markers.