88th Conference Begins

The 2013 Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference welcomed participants yesterday, making 2013 the eighty-eighth 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 15. Vans will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m., taking participants to workshops at Earthworm and Homer Noble Farm.

Charles Baxter – Barn Classroom 5
Linda Bierds – Barn Classroom 6
Robert Boswell – Earthworm
Michael Byers – Little Theatre
Christopher Castellani – Upstairs in Library (back end of building)
Vikram Chandra – Upstairs in Library (front end of building)
Michael Collier – Frothingham Cottage
Ted Conover – Barn Classroom 2
Stacey D’Erasmo – Blue Parlor
Terrance Hayes – Barn Classroom 4
Sally Keith – Barn East Classroom
Randall Kenan – Tamarack Living Room
James Longenbach – Fritz Cottage
Antonya Nelson – Treman Living Room
Lia Purpura – Barn Classroom A
Joanna Scott – Homer Noble Farm
Alan Shapiro – Inn West Seminar
Tom Sleigh – Barn, main room
Cheryl Strayed – Library, main floor
Helena María Viramontes – Barn Classroom 3
Ellen Bryant Voigt – Barn Classroom 1
Greetings from our 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!

—Nicholas Boggs & Solmaz Sharif

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 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. on poetry workshop days; and 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. otherwise.
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.

---

Blue Parlor Meeting Tonight

by Mario Zambrano

“Organizational” seems so drab, I know. But I promise, there is nothing drab about the Blue Parlor and what it stands for. The quaint little room where you registered yesterday is the venue for Bread Loaf’s very own literary salon, a space where we gather to read our work, support each other, and nibble on a few snacks that will be provided by yours truly. Whether you write fiction, poetry, nonfiction, blog posts, tweets, emails or text messages, this reading series is for you. Yep, you. All for you.

Tonight at 7:30 p.m., immediately after dinner, we’ll gather 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 “organizational” logistics of the BP Reading Series. Things like, when and where do I sign-up? Can I have background music playing as I read my poem? Do I have to wear a tie? The meeting will be done in time for us to head over to the 8:15 p.m. reading. No worries, we’ll cover all that needs to be covered and I’ll answer any questions you might have.

Tomorrow, please be sure to come to the first Blue Parlor reading at 5:30 p.m. The sign-up sheet for that reading will go up after tonight’s meeting. Sign-up sheets for subsequent readings will be available Friday the 16th, Sunday the 18th, and Monday the 19th at 8:00 a.m. sharp, on the Blue Parlor bulletin board (right beside the back office). For those of you who are unsure about reading, do it! I promise, you’ll be glad you did. We’ll root each other on, embrace each other, love each other. So join us, help us make the magic happen at the 2013 Blue Parlor Reading Series, because, really, we can’t do it without you.

Questions, concerns, high fives, bones to pick? Contact Mario Zambrano.
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 the 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

Oh, hi! We’re the Bread Loaf Social Staff, and we are here to pump up the jams, pour a beer or two, and to help ensure that your time on the mountain is as entertaining as it is enriching. To that end, we’ll host three conference-wide receptions and two dances. In addition, we’ll 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 and say hello to one of our friendly bartenders! Inexpensive beer and wine are available, and we’ve got complimentary soft drinks and snacks galore.

Like you, we’re all writers and participants in workshops. Most of us have been here before, so if you’ve got questions — “Where is the Dragon’s Den?” or “Can I check out a book from the library?”—please let us know. As “Social Staff” implies, we’re pretty darned friendly, and we look forward to spending some time together over the course of the conference!

– Sonya Larson, Nate Brown, Brittany Cavallaro, Jamie Hatley, Steven Kleinman, Corey van Landingham, Jacques Rancourt, Cam Terwilliger & Phillip Williams

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.

– Diana Khoi Nguyen & Ari Banias

WEATHER DOG

mostly sunny, high 75°, low 53°
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.
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* lists 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 #blwc13; 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, 8/15), 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 (8/19). Trips will resume on Tuesday (8/20), and continue on a daily basis through Friday (8/23). 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.

ARE YOU PRACTICING SOBRIETY?

You're invited to come to Barn Classroom 1 today during the cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. to meet and discuss ways to support one another during the conference.

---

### Bidart to Read in Little Theatre

Frank Bidart will read today at 4:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. Frank Bidart's books of poetry include *Metaphysical Dog; In the Western Night: Collected Poems 1965-90; Desire*, a finalist for the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Pulitzer Prize; *Stardust;* and *Watching the Spring Festival*. His awards include the Wallace Stevens Award, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation Writer's Award, the Shelley Memorial Award, and the Bollingen Award. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts and teaches at Wellesley College.

### 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 and photographs 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 website.

---

### 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.