Craft Class Anticipation Builds

Well before 8 a.m. participants gathered near the Blue Parlor to wait for the craft class registration sheets to go up.

Alexander Morgan was the first contributor of the 89th conference to put his name down for a craft class. “Well, you see the line,” he said, explaining why he got up extra early to register. At one point the queue extended from the bulletin board all the way to the dining room.

Craft classes are limited to 25 people to ensure that they can be hands-on and interactive. Sign-up sheets are posted at 8:00 a.m., two days before classes, on the wall across the hall from the back office. Bugging Noreen will not help you get on the list.

Poetry and Nonfiction Workshop Locations

Jane Alison — Library, upstairs (back end of building)
Eavan Boland — Library, upstairs (front end of building)
Marianne Boruch — Barn Classroom 5*
Michael Collier — Frothingham Cottage*
A. Van Jordan — Barn Observatory
David Rivard — Barn Classroom 3
Scott Russell Sanders — Barn Classroom 2
Alan Shapiro — Inn West Seminar
David Shields — Barn Classroom 6
Natasha Trethewey — Barn Classroom 1

*Please note that the locations have changed from the original plan.

ADDENDA & CORRECTIONS

The agent/editor appointment note cards included in your packet may have contained erroneous information. Please double-check the information sheets posted on the bulletin board by the Back Office to confirm the time and location of your appointments.

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Scholar Reading Tonight

This year’s amazing batch of tuition scholars will read their work tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. This reading, the first of the late night readings that occur throughout the conference, draws a large crowd to cheer on up-and-coming writers from across the nation. Tonight’s readers will be Cara Blue Adams, Clare Beams, Tommye Blount, MRB Chelko, Adam Giannelli, Titi Nguyen, Erika L. Sánchez, Mike Scalise, and Inara Verzemnieks.

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 Jenna Johnson, a Senior Editor at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

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.
Blue Parlor: Themes Decided, Line-Up Announced

The first Blue Parlor gathering was a resounding success, the salon filled to capacity. We talked, we laughed, we learned what happens if you read past five minutes. First and foremost, we got the ball rolling on the 2014 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, Dolores Hayden, Tim Potter, Priyanka Kumar, Alexander Morgan, Adrian Schnall, Linda Baker, Merry Benezra, Kelsy Yates, Melissa Chadburn, and Elaine Crauder will share their work while the rest of us cheer them on. Great new writing, great new friends—why would you pass this up? (No, seriously. If I see you around, I will ask you.)

If you’d like to read this Saturday or Sunday sign-up sheets are already posted on the Blue Parlor bulletin board so be sure to check them out. Friday and Sunday are open readings; Saturday’s theme is “Family.”

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 Michelle Peñaloza

ADDENDA & CORRECTIONS  
cont’d from page 1

Have a Seat (But Not There)
The front row of the back section of the Little Theatre will be reserved for waiter scholars in the evening. This is because waiters, who often get to the reading very late because of their duties, had to stand outside the doors in the past—which is no longer permitted according to the College’s crowd control rules. Having a conveniently accessible row of reserved seats will allow them to slip in like ninjas without disturbing the audience.

Warren Wilson Faculty, Grads Offer Information Session on MFA Program
Faculty and graduates of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College invite any Bread Loafers interested in pursuing the MFA degree to attend an information session today at 1:30 p.m. in Barn Classroom 1. Prospective students will learn more about the nation’s first low-residency program, and will have the opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of the program during the hour-long session. Topics discussed will include the format of the residency, exchanges with faculty during the semester, pedagogical approach, differences between residential and low-residency MFA programs, and admissions information.

Bookstores and Readings: A Conversation with Rick Simonson
Rick Simonson, senior buyer and founder of the 30-year-old reading series at Seattle’s Elliott Bay Book Company, invites you to join him in a conversation about the essential role bookstores can play in getting a book out into the world. Writers, readers, agents, and editors are encouraged to come both to learn and share their experiences, tips, and questions at 1:30 p.m. in Barn Classroom 4.
The Crumb Guide to Agent and Editor Meetings

Many Bread Loaf participants have found meeting with publishing professionals to be a very positive and helpful experience during their time at Bread Loaf. The editors and agents also enjoy these conversations very much. 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. Many participants have told us that these personalized meetings have allowed them to deal with matters of publication in a matter-of-fact way, with more understanding and less apprehension. You can also learn about publishing by attending our introductory panels, where editors and agents will give overviews of their work and take questions from the audience, and by attending other talks throughout the Conference.

These meetings also give editors and agents the opportunity to meet you. The meetings are not “tests,” just early introductions, and gathering information is the primary goal, rather than a successful “pitch” of your work. The guests are here for a couple of days or so only, and we have not asked them to offer editorial feedback on written work, so they are not expecting to read your work here at the conference. If they are interested, they will let you know that they would like you to submit a sample or a manuscript, but in general they are just looking to give you some 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.

How can I best make use of my time with an agent or editor?

You can ask questions about publishing and get feedback about where you are in your writing process. For instance, a guest might be able to comment about whether or not you are ready to send out a manuscript; about which presses might be suited to your project; about how to approach a particular agent; about your conception for a book; about the submission process at their particular agency or publishing house. If you have a particular question or issue in mind, you should feel free to bring it to the meeting. But if not, it’s fine just to say hello, to talk about your work in general terms, and make a personal contact. There is no particular need to be goal-oriented in these meetings.

What should I do if my meeting time has started and the guest is still chatting with another participant?

Please do let the guest know that you are there by giving some kind of sign but without interrupting or disrupting, if you can.
Donnelly Offers Writers Tips for Public Readings

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 asks that participants 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 Saturday presentation will be similar to today’s. “Despite the differences in genres, both presentations will address best practices for readings of creative writing, and how to avoid some common mistakes,” Donnelly said. “We’ll also make some silly noises to figure out how the voice works.”

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TODAY’S TRIVIA QUESTION
Which fellow was born with teeth? S/he went on to make it to the National Spelling Bee semi-finals in 1993—without the baby teeth.
(The answer will be published in tomorrow’s edition)

YESTERDAY’S TRIVIA ANSWER
David Shields will star in the film version of I Think You’re Totally Wrong: A Quarrel, based on his forthcoming book of the same title.
THE CRUMB MAILBOX CRIES FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Do you draw? Did you awaken this morning shiny with epiphany and print-worthy joy? Do you have suggestions? Overheard comments? Questions? Complaints? Send them over so they can be shared with the entire community as space permits. You can email blcrumb@gmail.com or use this page to scribble a note and leave it in the Crumb mailbox near the back office.