Bread Loafers Delighted by Craft Classes

The Barn was still for an hour on Saturday while several classrooms were full of participants immersing themselves in the art of writing. Six more craft classes take place this afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

*The Art of the Paragraph,*
with Stephen Schottenfeld, Barn classroom A

*The Understory,*
with Luis Alberto Urrea, Barn classroom 1

*The Unanswered Question: Mystery in Fiction,*
with Laura van den Berg, Barn classroom 6

*The Art of the Aphorism,*
with James Geary, Barn classroom 3

*The Glimmer Moment,*
with Leigh Newman, Barn classroom 5

*Generic Lyric Poetry-Speak vs. The Voice That Sounds Like a Real Person Talking,*
with Patrick Donnelly, Barn classroom 4

*Ironey and Ecstasy: A Meditation on Juxtaposition in the Poems of Adam Zagajewski,*
with Jennifer Grotz, Barn classroom 2

Sign-up sheets for craft classes are posted by 8:00 a.m. two days in advance of the class. The conference recommends that you arrive early to sign up for that can’t-miss class.

Holman Helps Writers Publish

Literary consultant Amy Holman gives two special talks today, one for fiction writers, and the other for poets and nonfiction writers. Holman assists writers in publishing poems, stories, novels, essays, memoirs, and narrative nonfiction books. If you have a scheduled meeting with her, please be sure to attend the appropriate overview talk before your meeting. Those without an appointment with her can also attend to learn about how writers can connect with the right publishers. The fiction talk will take place at 10:10 a.m., and the poetry and nonfiction talk will be at 1:30 p.m., both in the Little Theatre.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAIT, WAIT, DO TELL ME
Faculty and fellows, sign up in the Back Office to wait tables at lunch on Wednesday, August 20.

BARN PUB
Beer and wine are available for purchase most evenings in the Barn. The Barn Pub is located in the back, by the vending machines. Complimentary beer, wine, and soda will be available on the nights when dances are held in the Barn.

EAT RIGHT: LUNCH
To avoid long lines at lunchtime, we urge you to follow the procedure 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 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Lunch service continues until 1:00 p.m. each day, and the Dining Hall is open until 1:30 p.m.

TOMORROW’S ADJUSTED SCHEDULE
After days of over-stimulation, participants get a more relaxing day. Tomorrow, workshops will not meet, and our schedule is adjusted to give you some leisure time. Highlights of the day will include the annual Writers’ Cramp Race, a picnic at the Frost Farm, a talk by John Elder, and an evening reading by Ismet Prcic, Tiphanie Yanique, and Scott Russell Sanders. Tomorrow’s issue of The Crumb will highlight all of these events.

Workshop It!
After days of intellectual overload, it's time to release some energy on the dance floor. Tonight at 9:30 p.m., the Barn will begin rockin with the sounds of the first dance of the conference. Social staff would like to remind you that Vermont state law requires that only one alcoholic drink may be served to an individual at a time. Additionally, participants who look young will be carded, so bring your valid ID if you think you look under thirty. A cordoned perimeter will let you know where it’s acceptable to drink. Participants may not bring their own alcohol to the event or take away drinks.

COFFEE TALK WITH STEVEN

Writers’ Cramp Race
The Writers’ Cramp Race, a friendly competition along a 2.75 mile course, begins tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. Runners of all skill levels should meet by the front porch of the Annex by 7:45 a.m. for instructions and an overview of the course, which winds through the campus and down to the Frost Farm. Volunteers are welcome to help with timing the race, providing water, and cheering.

The Crumb is also looking for a sports writer to cover the race. See next page.
Blue Parlor Is on Fire (Not Literally)

Congratulations to our amazing readers! The Blue Parlor reading series is off to a beautiful start: Packed room! Enthusiastic audience! Fancy-schmancy cookies! And, most importantly, impressive poetry and prose! This afternoon, at 5:30 p.m., in the Blue Parlor there will be an Open Reading. David Swerdlow, Brent McKay, Anna Isaacson, Mark Prins, Flower Conroy, Lauren Monahan, Katherine Guthrie, Jon Riccio, Jessica Mooney, and Kyril Calsoyas will step up and hit it out of the park. So if you’re in the mood for a comfortable setting where you can hear great prose and poetry and meet some of the loveliest people at the conference—come on down!

And don’t forget: you still have a chance to sign up for a reading. You want to read, right? Of course you do. Tomorrow morning—yes, at 8:00 a.m. sharp—another round of sign-up sheets will be available for Monday’s Transitions and Wednesday’s Tell Me a Secret themed readings. So don’t be shy, be bold! Be brave. Be audacious. Be that writer you’ve always wanted to be. I’ll see you there! —Michelle Peñaloza

Sign Up for Trail Walk with Elder

John Elder will lead two trail walks entitled “An Introduction to the Natural History of Bread Loaf for Writers” this week. The walks, which require advance sign-up, will explore the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail. “The walk is always a pleasant, relaxed event,” Elder said, “with lots of chances to connect names to the trees, flowers, and birds, and to relate Frost’s poetry, and poetry in general, to all our observations.”

The Robert Frost Interpretive Trail is a National Recreation Trail that commemorates Robert Frost’s poetry; several of his poems are mounted along the trail in the woods and fields. Blueberries and huckleberries grow in an old field at the far end of the trail. The Forest Service maintains all of the old fields along this trail with prescribed fire to preserve the scenic, open appearance of the area. The trail is an easy walk, and the first 0.3 miles across a beaver pond boardwalk out to the South Branch of the Middlebury River is accessible and suitable for wheelchairs.

The first walk will be 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, and the second walk will occur on Wednesday, August 20. Each walk is limited to 15 participants. Vans will transport participants from the Bread Loaf Inn to the trail, and a bag lunch will be provided. Participants will be asked to practice Leave No Trace ethics, carrying out what they carry in to keep the trail beautiful.

Sign-up sheets will be posted outside the Back Office at 8:00 a.m. today. Participants must be signed up in advance to ensure that a lunch is provided.
The Crumb's literary critics selected morsels of delicious prose and poetry from this year’s workshop manuscripts. Here is a small selection.

Bees

There's two of them! They're floating toward each other, my mother said, backing away from where the pool was brimming over the pavement, where she'd wanted to sit and wet her feet. I couldn't see them from where I stood, just my mother pacing slowly, which felt familiar. Watching her, I knew they weren't the bees from lunch, likely a single bee reappearing over the fruit, then circling our empty cans. To her, they were lovers. They were trying to reach each other. All my life, I've watched her make couples out of everything—even the napkin rings. She waited until the bees had met before she cupped them in her hands.

— Callie Siskel

Annals

An archive in the woods: we bloom.

Pressed, the petals leave marks behind, a sketch between pages in stamen juice. Pluck smoothed flat between vertical leaves, distal of spring. You ask after time, the hours;

this vault, undone.

Thick means more weight, so the pink will be felt less. Parched, the flower can be forgotten, left in darkly whorled calyx. Find there smudged a fixed abode, hot white in abyss of space.

I give you catalogue, page number.

An imprint, floral bones; hollow vertebrae cast in brown.

I plant my library with perennial beds and leave them, fallow-dry.

The plasma dried on margins, my inscape residual, honey suckled into dust.

An archive in the woods:

we bloom.

— Madison Mainwaring

“I need to retire, not take time off,” she said then excused herself to the powder room. She had hoped that one day I would move her to a place where a piano was played during mealtimes. What I did, when the time came, was run her death notice in two newspapers. I penned it myself while clearing out her apartment, at the very table where I’d learned to write my name. I chose words she wouldn’t have considered diminutive—maid, instead of housekeeper; departed versus deceased. I thought death notice rather than obituary. In life, she had preferred powder room to restroom, icebox to refrigerator, drugstore to pharmacy. Her vocabulary had been crafted for a different life. Her death notice didn’t say much and wasn’t nearly the elegant end she’d hoped for, but it was what I could do.

— from A Hard, Last-Call Truth by Tiffany Briere

I knew that kind of need inside and out. All of that sweetness, tenderness, begging, pleading could grow teeth and devour you. Just like that. But still, each day I slid my key into the lock and walked directly into his need.

— from The Dream-Singers by Jamey Hatley
YOGA CLASS

Join L.A.-based yoga instructor Ani Raya-Flores for another session of yoga in the library on Monday, August 18 at 7:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the bulletin board near the Dining Hall, so put your name down to ensure a spot. All levels and genres welcome, and $5 donations are accepted.

GUESTS

Join us in welcoming the following guests to the mountain.

Brettne Bloom
James Geary
Rachel Mannheimer
Janet Silver

The following guests are leaving today.

Miriam Altshuler, Brettne Bloom, Thom Didato, Vivee Francis, Gabriel Fried, Joy Harris, Jeffrey Shotts, Rick Simonson

Will you wave them goodbye?

OH!

“What would Fauxprah say about your neon sunglasses?”
“I used to take Ambien, but one night it made me do something bad.”
“Don’t take this the wrong way, but your characters are most alive when they’re dead.”
“Then you become the worst kind of imitator: imitator of yourself.”
“… goose-killing. This mustn’t end up in The Crumb.”

Dear Fauxprah,
I’m really excited and also pretty nervous about the upcoming dances. I only have one signature move, a bobble really, and there are so many songs. Help!

Scared stiff,
Larry Left Feet

Dear Double Lefty,
No matter what, just get up and get down on your good foot! Both of them.

Fiercely,
Fauxprah
p.s. Email me at blcrumb@gmail.com

TODAY’S TRIVIA QUESTION

Which Bread Loaf faculty member has been out on a date with rapper/beatboxer Doug E. Fresh? He took her to McDonald’s.

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

YESTERDAY’S TRIVIA ANSWER

Alan Shapiro advocated getting (and received) a shingles shot before the scheduled Mayan Armageddon in 2012.