“Forget fair and balanced—we’re the only news source up here.”

**TODAY’S EVENTS**

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

9:00 - 10:00 A.M.
Lecture: “(This Year’s) Politics and the Novel”
Thomas Mallon, Little Theatre

10:10 A.M. - 12:10 P.M.
Poetry and Nonfiction Workshops

10:10 A.M.
Special Talk: “How to be a Good Public Reader of Your Own Writing,”
Patrick Donnelly, Little Theatre

12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

2:30 P.M.
• Special Talk: Publishing Prose
Little Theatre
• Special Talk: Publishing Poetry
Barn Main Room

4:15 P.M.
Reading: Michael Ruhlman, Wendy S. Walters, and Sasha West
Little Theatre

5:30 P.M.
• Blue Parlor Reading Series, Library
• Special Talk: Editors, *New England Review*, Little Theatre

6:30 P.M.
Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:15 P.M.
Reading: A. Van Jordan and David Shields
Little Theatre

9:30 P.M.
Scholar Reading, Little Theatre

9:30 P.M.
Barn Pub

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**Craft Class Anticipation Builds**

Well before 8 a.m., participants gathered near the Blue Parlor to await Saturday’s craft class registration sheets. These classes are going like hotcakes!

Craft classes are limited to 25 people to ensure that they can be hands-on and interactive. There is no wait list. Sign-up sheets are posted by 8:00 a.m., two days before classes, on the wall near the back office. Bugging Noreen will not help you get on the list.

**Poetry and Nonfiction Workshop Locations**

Jane Brox — Library Upstairs (front end of building)
*Kate Daniels — Library Upstairs (back end of building)*
Patricia Hampl — Inn West Seminar
Jane Hirshfield — Barn Classroom 1
A. Van Jordan — Barn Classroom 4
*James Longenbach — Barn Classroom A*
Carl Phillips — Barn Classroom 5
Alan Shapiro — Barn Classroom 3
David Shields — Barn Classroom 2
Natasha Trethewey — Barn Classroom 6

*Please note that the location of the Daniels and Longenbach workshops have changed.*

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**DIRECTORS’ OFFICE HOURS**

Michael Collier: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or by appointment.
Jennifer Grotz: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. or by appointment.

The Directors’ Office is across from the Back Office, by the Blue Parlor.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROMPTNESS IS A VIRTUE
Bread Loaf events start promptly. Please be on time for all lectures and readings.

BLUE PARLOR SIGN-UP
Sign-up sheets for the Blue Parlor open 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 goes very quickly.

PHONES OFF!
Most of us don’t want to hear your sweet ringtone. Please remember to turn off your phone when you attend readings and lectures.

VOLUME BOOST?
For those who need them, hearing assist units are available from the Little Theatre Technicians, Rosalie Moffett and Justin Boening. Please let them know if you would like to use one.

IF YOU ARE 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 Conor Burke, 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. Stop by the Back Office or email him at conorwburke@gmail.com to schedule a time.

NO SLAM!
Satisfying as it may be to give a door a good slam, sounds carries and your neighbors may be napping. Please be mindful and ease doors shut.

Unfortunately, owing to unforeseen circumstances, T. Geronimo Johnson is unable to join us this session.

Special Talks on Publishing

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, Editor-In-Chief of Graywolf Press; and Anna Pitoniak, Editor at Random House.

Martha Rhodes, Director of Four Way Books, will offer a talk on publishing poetry, also at 2:30 p.m., in the Barn.

Blue Parlor: Friday’s Line-Up Announced; Weekend Sign-ups Posted

At the Blue Parlor Reading Series’ informational meeting, we went over sign-ups, schedules, community, the spirit of Prince, and what happens if you read past three minutes.

At 5:30 p.m. in the Library, Jack Troy, Tim Potter, Brett Burns, Bob Johnson, Philip Dean Walker, Ananda Lima, Peter Andrews, Lisa Melilli, Barrett, Derry Smith, Mark Payson, Gro Flatebo, and Sarah McKinstry-Brown 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, look for the sign-up sheets that were posted on the Blue Parlor bulletin board outside the back office at 8 a.m. this morning.

Be sure to check out the action! Tonight and Saturday are open readings, which means we welcome all genres and styles -- as long as it’s under three minutes!

Sunday will be a themed reading, so please submit your ideas for themes on index cards in the envelope on the bulletin board by 11 a.m. today. Stay tuned to The Crumb to find out what it is.

You can also now sign up for next Thursday’s “One Minute in Heaven” reading extravaganza -- on the Blue Parlor Bulletin Board (the most happening patch of wall on campus)!

The Blue (Parlor) Library: Be there or be square. And by “square,” I mean “full of regret.”

Questions, suggestions, affirmations, snack recommendations? Contact Katie Moulton.
GOOD GOD, WHERE IS THE COFFEE?
While breakfast doesn’t start until 7:30 a.m., all you caffeine-deprived early birds can help yourselves to coffee in the Dining Hall as of 6:30 a.m. For all you not-so-early birds, coffee is available in the Barn throughout the day.

KEEP HYDRATED
The pace of Bread Loaf is hectic, and 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. Use any bathroom sink to refill your water bottle. The water is good!

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.

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!

HAVE A SEAT (JUST 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 as quietly and non-disruptively as cats in ballet slippers.

Many Bread Loaf participants have found meeting with publishing professionals to be quite a positive and helpful experience during their time here on the mountain. 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 the primary goal is to gather information. The guests are only here for a couple of days or so, and we have not asked them to offer editorial feedback on written work, so they aren’t 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.

What should I do if my meeting time has started and the guest is still chatting with another participant?
If the meeting scheduled before your meeting is running over, please do approach the guest and just give a quick wave to let the guest know that you are there. This is appreciated and will help to keep the meetings on schedule.

If during the conference you find that you are not able to make a meeting, please send a quick email to blwc1926@gmail.com to let staff know. Use “guest meeting” for the subject line. Or stop by and see Jason Lamb in the back office. We’ll adjust the guest’s schedule and let them know.

Join us in welcoming Tomás Q. Morín and Patrick Phillips to the mountain.
Donnelly Offers Writers Tips for Public Reading

Patrick Donnelly, Director of the Poetry 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.”

Scholar Reading Tonight

This year’s stunning batch of tuition scholars will read their work tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. This is the first of the conference’s late night readings and as ever, it promises to draw a large crowd to cheer on up-and-coming writers from across the nation. Reading tonight will be Graham Barnhart, Gabrielle Lucille Fuentes, Matt Morton, Jennifer Lunden, Erin Adair-Hodges, Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich, Hai-Dang Pham, Leticia Del Toro, Airea D. Matthews, Sarah Dohrmann, Chris Drangle, and Cam Terwilliger. Come one, come all!

COMMUNITY ITEMS

Jennifer Lunden and Karin Aurina are looking for someone with a car who wants to go swimming at Lake Pleiad. They’re also happy to have other passengers, if they can gather enough cars. It’s a 2.5 mile drive there and then a mile walk to the lake. Should a driver materialize, they’re hoping to meet at the Inn lobby today, Friday (Aug. 12) to leave at 2:30PM, and would plan to be back around 4:30PM, if not sooner. They’re also open to discussing other days and time.

You can email Lunden (yes, she goes by Lunden) at jleelunden@gmail.com, or find her or Karin out and about. They are open to all swimming adventures.

Got something to say? Email us at blcrumb@gmail.com

TREASURES FROM THE LITTLE THEATRE

Items of low to moderate value unearthed in the Little Theatre will be deposited atop the fireplace, out of combustion range. Feel free to reclaim your own items at your convenience. Items of high value, such as babies and gold bricks, will be kept at the Front Desk. Please speak to the Front Desk staff if you lose an item of high value.

— Rosalie Moffett & Justin Boening
Interview with a Fan

I met Fan in a cool, dark Barn: atmospheric, with mid-century rattan couches scattered beneath Fan's majestic spread. She ordered a burger and a milkshake and pushed her long slim blades through the air. We got down to it.

Crumb: So, Fan, how are you settling in to your new home here on the mountain?

Fan: Have you seen this place? How could I possibly complain.

I must say, I've heard a lot about you already.

I've been known to have that effect on people.

Where do you hail from originally?

Oh, you know, here and there. I moved around a bit in my youth.

Rumor has it your kind can be found at Home Depot. Can you confirm or deny?

My dear, don't be ludicrous. I am the size of Home Depot.

On that note, are you in fact larger than Beyoncé's tour fans?

Please. Have you seen that wall of puny air movers?

I'm sorry if I've said something to offend you.

Not at all.

Are there any events here in the Barn you are particularly looking forward to?

I've heard good things about the Dance of Desperation.

Any last words?

Stay cool.