Bread Loafers Delighted by Craft Classes

Saturday's craft classes were a resounding, clamorous, jam-packed success. And thank the heavens above, at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon, here come six more to educate and entrance. Here’s where to find them:

- “Handling The Core/The Approach/The Narrative,” with David Haward Bain - Barn Classroom 3
- “What Sex Can Do,” with Garth Greenwell - Barn classroom A
- “Literary Swagger: On Cultivating Narrative Voice for Novelists,” with Naomi Jackson - Barn classroom 4
- “The Point of Departure,” with Danzy Senna - Barn Classroom 2
- “Narrative and Rhetoric,” with Jane Hirshfield - Barn Classroom 1
- “Queering Poetics, Queering Form,” with Rickey Laurentiis - Barn Classroom 5

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. Remember, there’s no wait list, and Jason and Noreen are honorable souls unsusceptible to bribery.

Frost Farm Picnic Just Around the Corner

On Monday, August 15, lunch will be served as a picnic at Frost Farm rather than in the dining room. A beloved tradition at the conferences, the picnic takes place at Frost Farm, about 1.5 miles from the Bread Loaf Inn, and is followed by a tour of Frost’s summer cabin nearby. Usually unavailable to the public, the cabin is unlocked and made available for this special event. The picnic will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Monday. While many may want to make the walk down to the Frost Farm, transportation will also be available. Those who would like a ride should gather in front of the Bread Loaf Inn at 12:15 p.m.

Please note: If the weather prevents us from holding this event, we’ll post new information on the front door of the Dining Hall by 11:00 a.m. on Monday.

To reach the Frost Farm, turn right from the Inn porch and walk .7 miles down Route 125. Turn right onto Frost Road/USFS Road 396, just before the Robert Frost Wayside; the farm is roughly .8 miles up the road. Those walking should plan to leave at noon.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAIT, WAIT, DO TELL ME
Faculty and fellows, sign up in the Back Office to wait tables at lunch on Wednesday, August 17.

“GETTING THE PITCH RIGHT,” WITH MIRIAM ALTSHULER
The better you are at talking and writing about your book, the better chance you have to get the interest of an agent or editor. Miriam Altshuler will give a presentation at 5:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre and lead a Q&A so you know how to make the best pitch possible and to write a compelling and clear query letter. Miriam encourages you to come with your questions and concerns. She is happy to answer them.

TOMORROW’S ADJUSTED SCHEDULE
After days of overstimulation, 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, the picnic at the Frost Farm and talk by John Elder, a lecture by Jane Hirshfield, and an evening reading by Jennifer Grotz and Patricia Hampl, all capped off by the second of our fabulous waiter readings.

Frost Farm Picnic Just Around the Corner

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If you are unable to attend the picnic, please let us know right away by sending an email to blwc@middlebury.edu by 5 p.m. today, so we can note your name. We’ll give your name to the kitchen staff and arrange for you to have something to eat on campus.

Sign Up for Trail Walk with Elder

John Elder will lead two trail walks titled “An Introduction to the Natural History of Bread Loaf for Writers” this week. The walks 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.” Be advised: the walks require advance sign-up.

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 take place from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16, the second at the same time on Wednesday, August 17. Each walk is limited to 30 participants. Vans will transport participants from the Bread Loaf Inn to the trail. To get a ride, Bread Loafers should start to gather on the front porch of the Bread Loaf Inn at 10:30 a.m. Bread Loafers who prefer to walk to the trail head from the Inn should leave at 10:40 a.m. Participants will return in time to have lunch in the dining room.

Participants must sign up in advance. The sign-up sheet will be with the craft class sign ups by the back office.

In addition, John Elder will offer a talk on Robert Frost just after the Frost Picnic on Monday, August 15, no sign-up required.
**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 rocking with the sounds of the first dance of the conference. Social staff would like to remind you that only one alcoholic drink may be served to an individual at a time. Participants who look young will be carded, so bring your valid ID if you've got a Dorian Grey situation going on. A cordoned perimeter will let you know where it's acceptable to drink. Participants may not bring their own alcohol to the event. Taking away drinks is not only verboten, but plain tacky.

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**Eat Right: Lunch**

To avoid long lines at lunchtime, we urge you to eat 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 1:30 p.m. each day.

**Pamper Yourself**

Breakfast and lunch are available as buffets inside the kitchen, as you know, but dinner is full-service, thanks to your skillful waiter scholars. Please refrain from entering the kitchen during dinner, as things get quite hectic in the evening. Your waiter will be happy to take care of all your culinary needs. Well, almost all.

**Barn Social & Pub**

Beer and wine are available for purchase most evenings in the Barn at 5:30 p.m. and again at 9:30 p.m. 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.

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**TODAY'S TRIVIA QUESTION**

Which faculty member wanted to grow up to be Artemis?

*(The answer will be published tomorrow)*

**YESTERDAY'S TRIVIA ANSWER**

Carl Phillips

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**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.

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**Overheard**

“Are you Michael Collier? David told me when I saw you I should kiss you on the lips.”

“Maybe book tours *should* be more like Fleetwood Mac.”

“I took a picture of me reading that book. I put it on my online dating profile.”

*Sing me your songs, little birds. Send your overheards to bcrumb@gmail.com*
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 providing water and cheering. Runners can get a late breakfast in the dining hall. For everyone not participating in the race breakfast will end as usual at 8:30.

The Crumb is also looking for a sports writer to cover the race. We will accept articles and photographs from the race. Submit your short essay in The Crumb box outside the Back Office or via e-mail to blcrumb@gmail.com. The deadline is 5:30 p.m. Monday.

Keep in mind that The Crumb nominates the Writers’ Cramp Race coverage to The Best American Sports Writing Anthology every year, albeit unsuccessfully.

Blue Parlor Is On Fire!

Lo, though we do not actually light the Prince devotional candle, its blue flame flickers mightily within our hearts. Last night, our esteemed performers took us to Coney Island with Whitney Houston, Paris with Camille Claudel, the back seat of a van for a teenager’s lackluster first time... and back again!

This evening at 5:30 p.m., the Library will host the first themed reading, with the evocative title, “Fear and Love.” Fear of love? Fear and loving in Las Vegas? Who knows how our talented readers might interpret the theme. The line-up features Seth Fischer, Shayne Terry, Rebeca, Brian Carso, Patricia Lespinas, Jaclyn Gilbert, Ellen Devlin, Michael Romary, Deborah Burch-Lavis, Annita Sawyer, Blair Hurley, Emily Kiernan, Perry Epes, and Gabrielle McNamara.

The next sign-up for reading slots (on Wednesday, August 17) will be posted on Monday, August 15. Remember: You can bring your own snacks and beverages into the Library -- we just need to keep the space as fresh and clean as it is now. There will be no reading on Tuesday, August 16, but join us tonight and tomorrow for...who knows what?! Anything could happen at the verviest reading series in town.

What is the greatest song of all time? Let’s argue about it. Contact Katie Moulton.
The Crumb’s Ultimate Guide to the Barn Dance

Waiters Anne Price, Ben Aleshire, and Carina del Valle Schorske demonstrate the ABC’s of some of their tried and true dance moves.
Monday, August 15, Barn Classroom 1, 4:00 p.m.


The film “stars” Franco and the book’s co-authors—Shields and Caleb Powell—who try admirably to play themselves.

About halfway through the film, one of them goes on a serious crying jag.

Superb novelist and beloved Bread Loafer Victor LaValle has said that this is the only time he has ever seen genuine embarrassment on film.

Discussion to follow, during which the relationship between life and art will be explained, once and for all.

Film opens February 1, 2017