Hello, Hello!

*The Crumb* is delighted to welcome you to the 92nd Annual Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. Today’s edition of *The Crumb* will fill you in on such basics as bookstore hours and where to find your mailbox. Hereafter, it will contain daily schedules, program changes, and announcements of special events. You will find copies each morning by the dining room door.

Please leave letters to the editor, announcements, and story pitches in the envelope marked *The Crumb* outside the back office or email them to blcrumb@gmail.com. Let us know if you are interested in writing for the finest newspaper in the greater Ripton metropolitan area.

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**Hours of Operation**

**Back Office:** Daily, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Front Desk:** Daily, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Switchboard:** Same as Front Desk

**Library:** Open at 7:00 a.m., locked at 1:00 a.m. Librarian on site weekdays, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Apple Cellar:** Same hours as the Library

**Bookstore:** Weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Weekends, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, August 22, 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Changes or additional operating times will be noted in *The Crumb*.

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**Guests**

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:

- Marianne Boruch
- Sarah Bowlin
- Cassie Jones
- Calvert Morgan
- Martha Rhodes
- Mitchell Waters
- Jenny Xu

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**Director:** Michael Collier

**Assistant Director:** Jennifer Grotz

**Administrative Director:** Noreen Cargill

**Coordinator:** Jason Lamb

**Conference Assistants:** Alyssa Crogan and Marcy Parlow

**Diversity Liaison:** Carl Phillips
Bread Loaf Campus Facilities & Services

Back Office

The back office is in the west wing of the Inn, next to the Blue Parlor. The staff is happy to help with any photocopying or faxing needs as well as any questions you may have.

If you would like to arrange a special discussion or activity, please feel free to announce it by emailing blcrumb@gmail.com. In the past, Bread Loafers have organized AA meetings, groups to talk about writing and parenting, touch football games, and tennis matches. The back office staff would be happy to help you plan an activity, from finding a good place to post the announcement to arranging an appropriate meeting place.

Barn Social and Barn Pub

The Barn, located in a central spot on the Bread Loaf campus, is a place for participants to gather and socialize. On most days, from 5:15 p.m. until just before dinner, a Barn Social will take place, with soda and munchies available free of charge, and beer and wine on sale. And on most evenings, a Barn Pub is set up from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. Beer costs $4. Wine, $5. Randy Stockwell, bartender for Middlebury College and the Conference, will make you feel welcome. Stop by to say hello.

Bread Loaf follows the rules governed by Vermont Department of Liquor Control. We ask that you keep your drinks inside the Barn (or the roped area at Treman for the cocktail reception, book signing, and gala) at all times and that only alcohol you purchase from the Bread Loaf bartenders be consumed in these areas.

Bells

We’ll start your day with a wake-up bell at 7:30 a.m.; thereafter you’ll hear a bell to announce the start of each meal, as well as fifteen minutes and again five minutes before the start of each lecture and reading.

Blue Parlor Readings

During the Conference, all are invited to take part in the Blue Parlor readings. These informal readings, hosted by coordinator Katie Moulton, will take place in the Library. These readings provide an opportunity to share your writing and to meet Bread Loafers from other workshops. Those interested in reading will be asked to sign up in advance. Details about the Blue Parlor organizational meeting will be noted in a forthcoming issue of The Crumb.
**Bookstore**

Books by faculty, fellows, and contributors are for sale in the Bookstore, as are miscellaneous supplies such as soap, stationery, phone cards, and t-shirts. The store is located in the basement of the Annex; the entrance is at the rear of the building. Cash, Visa, and MasterCard are accepted. A special note: on Tuesday, August 22, the store will be open until 6:30 p.m. Let’s hear it for Emma Best, the keeper of the books!

**Health Care**

**For Physical Health Care:**

For non-emergency health matters, a self-care cart is available near the lobby of the Bread Loaf Inn. Should you find that the cart does not address your particular concerns, the Bread Loaf Inn front desk staff will help you with a referral. Porter Hospital is located in Middlebury.

**For Physical Health Emergencies:**

In serious medical emergencies such as difficulty breathing, significant loss of blood, unconsciousness, or back and neck injuries, call 911. **Persons with neck or spine injuries should never be moved—always call 911.**

1. Call 911 from any on-campus phone. A sign near each phone lists important details including the exact address and phone number for that location.
2. Contact the front desk staff at x2700 to let them know.

**For Mental Health Care:**

For mental health matters, contact the director, assistant director, administrative director, or coordinator (Michael, Jennifer, Noreen, or Jason) for a referral.

**For Mental Health Emergencies:**

The emergency team at the Counseling Service of Addison County is available around the clock. Dial 9 and then 388-7641 from any campus phone.

**Diversity Liaison**

Carl Phillips, poetry faculty, is serving as Diversity Liaison for this year’s conference. If there are any issues you would like to discuss, you are welcome to schedule a private meeting by emailing him directly at cphillips@wustl.edu.

**Computer Lab in the Apple Cellar and Wireless Access**

A computer room is located in the basement of the Library on the Bread Loaf campus. The log-in information to use the computers will be posted in the Apple Cellar itself. Should you need a hand with digital matters, a computer technician will be on hand some days—please see the schedule below—and the Middlebury College help desk will be available by phone (dial 2200 from any campus phone) or email (helpdesk@middlebury.edu) on weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you have trouble accessing the wireless network, Ian, from the Middlebury College IT Helpdesk will be available in the Apple Cellar the following times:

- Wednesday, August 16: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 17: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 19: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Faxing**

A state-of-the-art fax machine awaits someone—anyone—to use it in the back office. We will send faxes for you after you’ve completed a cover sheet. If you receive a fax, we’ll put it in your mailbox (another reason to check your mailbox frequently). The fax number is 802-443-2087. We no longer provide singing telegrams.

**Front Desk**

See the Front Desk for check cashing, issues regarding your room or any aspect of the physical plant, lost and found items, local lore, postage, transportation tips, and general information. There is a limit of $50 per person, per day, in cashing personal and/or traveler’s checks. Two-party checks are not accepted.
Library

The Library is the white building behind the Little Theatre. In addition to its permanent collection, there are books by faculty and fellows, magazines, and the daily issue of The New York Times. You will also find a complete set of the 2017 workshop packets on the reserve shelf. Kellam Ayers is your friendly librarian.

Laundry

Washers and dryers are in the Laundry House in front of the Barn. The Front Desk can give you change, and laundry soap is sold in the bookstore.

Linens

Sheets, blankets, and towels are provided. The towels will be replaced once during the Conference, and in an effort to conserve energy, bed linens will not be replaced during the session. Nevertheless, a fresh set of bed linens can be requested if you find it necessary to replace them. Please contact the Front Desk staff about making these arrangements.

Lunch (staggered lunch schedule)

Lunch will be served buffet style, and to avoid long lines, 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 1:30 p.m.

The first Thursday and final Friday

On the first Thursday and final Friday, when all workshops meet at 1:30 p.m., we ask the poets and nonfiction writers to show up at 11:30 a.m., and fiction writers to please wait until noon to enter the Dining Hall. On this day, service will continue until 1:00 p.m.

We've arranged for you to join your faculty workshop leader and fellow(s) for lunch this Thursday. We'll include more details about this in the Thursday, August 17, issue of The Crumb, so you'll know where to look for them in the dining hall. It will be a nice way to meet some in your group before the first workshop gets started that afternoon.

Mail

The Post Office (with limited services) is located in the Front Office. Outgoing mail leaves at 1:30 p.m. Incoming mail is ready for distribution by late afternoon. UPS mailing is available at reduced rates.

Check your mailbox at least daily. Messages from us, from your colleagues at Bread Loaf, and from people at home will all be placed in your mailbox. If you have trouble opening your mailbox, the front desk staff will be glad to help you. Most Bread Loafers will share a mailbox with one other person; when picking up your mail, please be sure it is addressed to you.

Address for mail:

Guest Name
Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference
PO Box 216
Ripton, VT 05766

Address for FedEx or UPS:

Guest Name
Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference
4229 Route 125
Ripton, VT 05766

Mail can only be received Monday, August 14 through Thursday, August 24. We cannot be responsible for mail arriving after August 24.

Massage, Readings, Alignment

Massage appointments are available for a fee payable to the visiting masseuse, Jayne Webb (Bread Loaf School of English grad, 1968). Other modalities of healing are also available. Jayne will post sign-up sheets on the bulletin board near the dining hall.
Newspapers

Copies of *The New York Times* will be in the Library every day. If you have subscribed in advance, you may pick up your copy at the Front Desk around 11:00 a.m., beginning Thursday, August 17. There may be a few extra copies at the Front Desk, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parking

Please park your vehicle in the large parking lot in front of the Barn. It is illegal to park on the highway, and you may get a ticket.

The space in front of the Inn is reserved for the Bread Loaf van. The space behind the Inn is reserved for delivery trucks; the lawn adjacent to the north side of the Little Theatre is not a parking area.

Phones

In most cottages, there is a phone on each floor. Use a calling card to make outbound calls. Otherwise, there is a phone booth located next to the Laundry House.

Incoming calls may be taken through the Bread Loaf switchboard (and direct calls to dorms and houses will be transferred over to the switchboard after four rings). The Front Desk number is 802-443-2700 (hours 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.). Please be mindful of time differences. If your hall phone rings, answer and take messages for your hall mates. Please remember to check your mailbox frequently for phone messages.

Cell phone service is now available in the Inn and the Barn on the Bread Loaf campus, but access is intermittent depending upon your provider. Verizon and AT&T should work fine. Other providers may not. Cell phones will most likely not work in the outer buildings.

Photocopying and Printing

Members of the office staff will copy limited quantities of material for you at the rate of 10 cents per page. It helps if you give them lead time. At the copy center, you will find order sheets.

If you need to print, you’ll find printers in the Apple Cellar. If printing something off your computer, you will need to either save it to a USB drive or email it to yourself, then use the Apple Cellar computers to print the document(s).

A Brief History of Loaf Kitty

The more perceptive among you may have noticed, on your complimentary Bread Loaf tote bag, the drawing of a talking cat. The more inquisitive among the more perceptive of you may be wondering, “Who is this feline?” Well, this is none other than Loaf Kitty, the protagonist of Daniel Wallace’s beloved *Crumb* comic, “Loaf Kitty.” Wallace—the author of *Big Fish* and other novels—first penned “Loaf Kitty” in 1999 while attending the conference as a fellow, reviving the comic again in 2004 when he returned as faculty. Loaf Kitty’s madcap adventures include workshopping his manuscript *Catatonic*, hitchhiking, and romantic liaisons soured by his inability to stop thinking about his upcoming Blue Parlor reading. Now, Loaf Kitty comes to the Mountain once more to make a very special farewell. The *Crumb* editor looks forward to sharing a few original “Loaf Kitty” comics in the coming days.
Off-Campus Opportunities

Downtown Middlebury
Trips to Middlebury depart daily (except for the first Thursday). The van will depart from the front of the Inn at 1:30-ish p.m. and will return to Bread Loaf at about 4:00 p.m. The driver will leave Middlebury at about 3:40 p.m. for the return trip. He will not be able to wait for stragglers. There is no charge for a trip to town on a scheduled run. The Front Desk has information on hand regarding churches, shopping, restaurants, etc. The sign-up sheet is posted daily at the Front Desk for that day’s trip. On Monday, August 21, the van will leave Bread Loaf at 9:00 a.m. and return by 12 p.m.

Middlebury College Main Campus
The Library located on the main campus in Middlebury has an extensive collection, and it is available to you. You can also leave a note on the desk in the Bread Loaf Library if you would like the librarian to bring up a book for you.

The Middlebury College fitness center and pool are available to Bread Loaf participants. You’ll find the hours listed on the Athletics Facility web page: www.middlebury.edu/athletics/facilities/hours. The athletics facility staff will have a list of Conference participants on hand, so you will just need to give your name to a staff member upon entering the building. The Bread Loaf Inn front desk staff would be happy to give you directions to the athletics complex.

Meal Tickets for those staying off campus
It is possible to buy tickets for individual meals. Tickets can be purchased at the Front Desk.

Bikes at Bread Loaf!

New this year, Bread Loaf will have a limited number of bikes to borrow to explore the beautiful back roads behind the Bread Loaf Barn (we encourage riders to stay off Route 125, as it can be dangerous for bicyclists). Bikes are available first come, first serve. **Riders must provide their own helmets.** All riders must complete the online Loaner Bike Form before riding and should stop by the Front Desk to pick up keys to unlock the bikes. The form can be found at the front desk.