Craft Class Anticipation Builds

By 8:00 a.m., the queue stretched for miles. Pens were snatched. Scuffles brewed. On the board outside the Blue Parlor, Saturday’s craft class registration sheets filled with names.

“I got my first choice!” said one participant, breaking into a celebratory dance. “I’ve never felt so alive!”

Please remember: Craft classes are limited to 25 people to ensure that they can be hands-on and interactive. There is no wait list. Bugging the Back Office staff or surreptitiously scratching out other peoples’ names is not in your best interest.

Miss the frenzy yesterday? No worries. You have another chance today. Sign-up sheets are posted by 8:00 a.m., two days before classes, on the wall near the Back Office.

Poetry and Nonfiction Workshop Locations

C. Dale Young - Barn 101
Daisy Fried - Barn 102
Emily Raboteau - Barn 203
Ange Mlinko - Barn 204
Patrick Phillips - Barn 205
Monica Youn - Barn 206
David Treuer - Barn Observatory
A. Van Jordan - Inn West Seminar
Stephanie Burt - Blue Parlor *Note location change
Paisley Rekdal - Library Upstairs (Front end of building)

DIRECTORS’ OFFICE HOURS

Jennifer Grotz: 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. or by appointment.
Lauren Francis-Sharma: 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. or by appointment.
The Directors’ Office is across from the Back Office, by the Blue Parlor.
Special Talks on Publishing

Two events today will offer introductions to publishing poetry and prose. A panel on publishing prose, presented at the Little Theater at 2:30 p.m., will feature Miriam Altshuler, Agent at DeFiore and Co.; Jenna Johnson, Executive Editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux; PJ Mark, Agent at Janklow & Nesbit Associates; and Steve Woodward, Editor at Graywolf Press. Jeff Shotts, Executive Editor at Graywolf Press, 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.

What’s Next for the Blue Parlor Reading Series?

At the Blue Parlor Reading Series’ informational meeting, we went over sign-ups, schedules, community, and what happens if you read past three minutes (it’s unpleasant). The first Blue Parlor reading of 2018 happens tonight! 5:30 p.m. in the Library. The lineup for tonight’s event is posted on the Blue Parlor Bulletin Board by the Back Office. The form to sign up for the Blue Parlor readings on Saturday and Sunday will be emailed at 8:30 a.m., then posted on the bulletin board.

Tonight and Saturday are unthemed, open readings, which means we welcome all genres and styles — as long as it’s under three minutes!

New writing, new friends—don’t miss out. The Blue Parlor at the Library: Be there.

Questions, suggestions, affirmations?
Contact Elisa Gonzalez.

OVERHEARD

“Get back in the ground, Robert Frost!”

“Come to Seattle—I’ll bake you a cake.”

“This IS fancy cheese!”

“I just keep waiting to see the 30-year-old version of myself.”

Heard anything interesting? Email us! blcrumb@gmail.com

WEATHER

Thunderstorms
High: 73° Low: 60°

GUESTS

Today we welcome Patrick Donnelly to the mountain and bid a warm adieu to David Haward Bain.
Announcements, cont’d from p. 2

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 Theater will be reserved for waiter scholars in the evening. This is because waiters, who often get to the reading late because of their duties, deserve to hear things (and because the rest of us deserve to not have people fumbling around our faces and causing a ruckus during readings). Added plus: having a conveniently accessible row of reserved seats allows us to comply with crowd control regulations. Huzzah!

The Crumb Guide to Agent and Editor Meetings

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 blwc@middlebury.edu 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.
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 5:30 p.m. in the Little Theater tomorrow, Saturday, August 18. The talk, which is designed for both prose and poetry 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 their work. If time allows, two participants will be chosen to receive coaching, master-class style, while the audience learns from watching.

“We’ll also make some silly noises,” Donnelly promised, “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 Theater. 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 Mariya Taher, Elizabeth Brina, Alison Rollins, Joy Baglio, Simon Han, Aggie Zivaljevic, Liz Arnold, Clarence Orsi, Niki Herd, Taylor Johnson, Steven Kleinman, Yuki Tanaka, and Devon Walker-Figueroa. Come one, come all!

COMMUNITY ITEMS

AA Meetings at Bread Loaf
Alcoholics Anonymous has two upcoming meetings in Barn Classroom 102. The first is today, Friday, August 17 right after dinner at 7:30 p.m. The second will be tomorrow, Saturday, August 18 at 1:30 p.m. Meetings will not be overlong, so participants will have plenty of time to make it to the evening readings and craft classes. These are open meetings. All are welcome to attend!

REGARDING MASSAGE & HEALING MODALITIES

Sign-up sheets for massage, life readings, and chakra alignment are on the Dining Room bulletin board. Sign up; then, at your scheduled time, come to the Little Theater Dressing Room (marked “Massage” on screen door).

—Jayne Webb

Treasures from the Little Theater

Items of low to moderate value unearthed in the Little Theater 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.

— David Hutcheson & Eric McMillan