93rd Conference Begins

The Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference kicked off yesterday, making 2018 the ninety-third year that writers have gathered together here on the mountain to talk about words, listen to readings, and dance in a barn. This year’s 280 participants hail from all over the country and all stages of their writing careers. Many are quite nice once the jet lag wears off!

Whether you’re returning to the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference or this is your first time here on the mountain, welcome! We hope you’re settling in nicely.

The sun is winking from the clouds and the Adirondack chairs are out. It is promising to be a terrific ten days here in Ripton, Vermont!

Workshop Locations

Please note that these locations are only for today, Thursday, August 16. Vans to Homer Noble Farm, Earthworm, and Dragon’s Den will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m.

- C. Dale Young - Barn 101
- Daisy Fried - Barn 102
- Tania James - Barn 203
- Ange Mlinko - Barn 204
- Patrick Phillips - Barn 205
- Josh Weil - Barn 206
- David Treuer - Barn Observatory
- Michael Byers - Inn West Seminar
- Stephanie Burt - Library Upstairs (Back end of building)
- Paisley Rekdal - Library Upstairs (Front end)
- A. Van Jordan - Barn Main
- Laura Van den Berg - Library Main Floor
- Akhil Sharma - Blue Parlor Living Room
- Alix Ohlin - Treman Living Room
- Monica Youn - Tamarack Living Room
- Christopher Castellani - Homer Noble Farm Living Room
- Tiphanie Yanique - Earthworm Living Room
- Mat Johnson - Barn A
- Samantha Hunt - Dragon’s Den Living Room
- Emily Raboteau - Fritz Living Room
Greetings from Your Head Waiters

Hello, and welcome to Bread Loaf! We have a great new group of waiters who will be working in the Dining Room and the Kitchen, in addition to participating in the workshops, readings, and other conference events. Most of the waiters are first time visitors to Bread Loaf, so please do introduce yourselves during mealtimes and help us welcome them to the mountain. We’ll keep you posted about the upcoming waiter readings as well as other conference news and details during dinnertime announcements! We look forward to sharing this time with you all.

–Anne Price & De'Shawn Winslow

About lunch

• Lunch will be served buffet style, so to avoid long lines, we urge you to follow the schedule noted here, based on your workshop schedule.

• On days when your workshop does not meet, please go to the Dining Room starting at noon.

• On days when your workshop does meet, please go to the Dining Room at 12:30 p.m.

• Today, when all workshops meet at 1:30 p.m., we ask poets and nonfiction writers to show up at 11:30 a.m., and fiction writers, please hold back until noon.

• Lunch service continues until 1:30 p.m. each day (with the exception of today, when it ends at 1:00 p.m.).

Reminders

• Meal times are prompt and leaving the Dining Room on time helps waiters get to lectures and readings on time. Just grab a to-go cup! Please keep all dishes and silver in the Dining Room.

• Coffee is available in the morning by 6:30 a.m. After breakfast ends, coffee and water are available in the barn throughout the day.

• If you have an allergy or food concern, please be proactive and discuss any questions or concerns with your waiter or the head waiters.

• Please do not bring alcohol into the Dining Room.
**Blue Parlor Informational Meeting**

Due to the popularity of the inimitable Blue Parlor reading series, the 2018 readings will, once again, not actually take place in the Blue Parlor. Bread Loaf’s own literary salon has moved to the first floor of the Library, where we will convene to share and celebrate our work, surprise and delight each other outside workshop, and enjoy preprandial snacks provided by Blue Parlor Coordinator, Elisa Gonzalez.

Tonight at 7:30 p.m., immediately following dinner, you’re invited to the Library to learn more about the Blue Parlor readings and ask questions: How and where do I sign up? For how long can I read? Do I have to wear a tie? Will there be wine? This meeting will finish in time to head over to the 8:15 p.m. remarks and reading.

Throughout the conference, information about the Blue Parlor series will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Back Office. On Friday, August 17, the first reading of the season kicks off at 5:30 p.m! Stay tuned to the *Crumb* for further announcements of sign-ups, readers, and other secrets.

For those of you who are unsure about reading, come anyway! You’ll discover a new world. We’ll laugh, we’ll cry, we’ll applaud. Join us! Let’s make some magic on the mountain.

**Questions or concerns?**

Contact Blue Parlor Coordinator

Elisa Gonzalez

---

**From the Front Desk**

Please keep these guidelines in mind for convenience and safety:

- There is no smoking allowed inside any building on campus or on any porch.
- We suggest you start a room list by each hall phone so building mates can find you if you get a call.
- Please park all cars in the Barn parking lot, not on 125. The exception to this rule covers those staying at Tamarack, Gilmore, Fritz, Frothingham, Earthworm, and Brandybrook, and also cars parked for less than 10 minutes for the purposes of loading and unloading. In addition, there are two Accessible Parking spots – one in front of the Inn and one in back.
- **If you have a serious medical emergency, call 911, then notify the front desk.** Notify the front desk for minor medical issues. If you have a medical emergency between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., call extension 2700. After 10:00 p.m., call both extensions 2713 and 2710.
Slideshow Highlights History

Middlebury College professor David Haward Bain will offer his annual slideshow and talk on the history of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. Bain, the author of *Whose Woods These Are: A History of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference*, traces the lively history of the conference from its founding to present. Bain’s talk will feature anecdotes about some of the notable names in American letters, and the slideshow features candid photos of writers at work and at play, including Robert Frost, Ralph Ellison, Truman Capote, Sinclair Lewis, Carson McCullers, Anne Sexton, John Gardner, Eudora Welty, John Irving, Toni Morrison, Wallace Stegner, Richard Wright, Archibald MacLeish, and Richard Wilbur, as well as some current faculty members. This beloved tradition provides participants with a context for the work ahead of them and a rich sense of the Bread Loaf heritage.

A Welcome Letter from the Bread Loaf Social Staff

Hello, Bread Loaf! We’re the Social Staff. We’d love to meet you, so please don’t be shy! We’re easy to spot because we’re usually the ones hauling around and pouring the beer. You’ll also see us manning the door during the Barn Social Hour and the Barn Pub each night where beer and wine are available ($4 and $5 respectively), as well as free soft drinks. We’ll also host three campus-wide receptions (with an open bar) and one of the two dances.

Like you, we’re all writers and will be participating in workshops. All of us have been here before, so if you’ve got questions about anything on this mountain, please let us know and we’ll do our best to lend a hand. We’re so glad you’re here, and we look forward to your company!

– Jamel Brinkley, Caroline Beimford, Sara Burnett, Madeline Carey, Jen Funk, Koyé Oyedeji, Kenyatta Rogers, Noah Stetzer, and Maud Streep
Seating Chart for Today’s Lunch

Please sit with your workshop group today at lunch! Poets and nonfiction writers should arrive at 11:30 a.m., and fiction writers should arrive at noon. Lunch service will continue until 1:00 p.m. This seating arrangement is subject to change, but it should give you a general idea. To make sure you’re in the right place, check the signs on the tables.
Extra, Extra! Write All About It!

The Crumb welcomes—dare we say, begs for—submissions of news, editorials, overheard comments, food reviews, limericks, interviews, trivia, comics, and letters to the editor from conference participants (aka you!).

If you’d like to submit a piece for consideration, please e-mail your copy to blcrumb@gmail.com.

Please note that while the editor delights in reading missed connections in her spare time, she takes a staunch Bartleby-the-Scrivener approach to the running of advertisements and personals.

Community items (the rallying of a volleyball smackdown, jaunt into town, barbershop quartet, etc.) are limited to a headline, plus thirty words. We will print items on a first-come, first-served basis, as space permits. You can send these along to blcrumb@gmail.com or drop them off on the Crumb editor’s desk.

The Crumb’s desk is located in the Back Office. Feel free to drop by and bring the editor some coffee (black, no sugar), hot gossip, or funny drawings of cats. She’s very friendly and loves meeting new folks, so you should definitely say hello.

If you find yourself feeling nostalgic, archived issues of the Crumb are available on the conference website, so you can browse to your heart’s content!

—Gabrielle (Gabby) Bates

OVERHEARD

“She let a hedgehog into the Library! At least... she thinks it was a hedgehog.”

“I’m gonna go watch some listicles on YouTube.”

Email us more at blcrumb@gmail.com!

WORD OF THE DAY

Paideia (noun, pl: paideias, pronounced \pi’dèə\):
The training of the physical and mental faculties in such a way as to produce a broad enlightened mature outlook harmoniously combined with maximum cultural development.

“That guy drumming ‘Sweet Home Alabama’ on the dinner table with his Crocs is clearly not the product of paideia.”

Chosen by Elisa Gonzalez, with the help of the Merriam-Webster & the Oxford English Dictionary