Today’s Crumb is created by the Back Office. In Design? What’s that? Fancy computer formatting? No way!!! This is old school. Microsoft Word! Has anyone seen my flip phone? Never mind. It’s right next to my Commodore 64.

Today’s Events

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.
Breakfast
Bread Loaf Inn

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Lecture: “A Failure of Optimism: The Strange Case of Jack Webb, Squarest Man in America,” by Michael Byers
Little Theater

10:10 A.M. – 11:10 A.M.
Special Talk featuring editors of Poetry and Poetry Northwest
Little Theater

10:10 A.M. – 12:10 P.M.
Fiction Workshops

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

2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.
Craft Classes

4:15 P.M. – 5:15 P.M.
Reading: William Brewer, Kirstin Valdez Quade, Nicole Sealey, and Jennifer Tseng
Little Theater

5:15 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.
Gala Reception and Hayride
Treman Lawn (rain location: Barn)
7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
Dinner  
Bread Loaf Inn

8:15 P.M. – 9:15 P.M.  
Reading: Tania James and David Treuer

9:30 P.M. – 10:30 P.M.  
*From the Dark Tower* Reading  
Little Theater

9:30 P.M. – 12:00 A.M.  
Barn Pub  
Barn

**Gala Event Today**

Each year, the conference celebrates the hard work and dedication to craft of its attendees with a gala reception at 5:15 on the Treman lawn. This gala reception is one of the best-attended events of the conference. Participants gussy up to enjoy complimentary drinks and hors d’oeuvres and a hay ride around the field behind Treman. As many participants already know, the Simpsons episode about Bread Loaf was factually incorrect except for the hay ride. If the weather turns on us, the reception will take place in the Barn, but keeping with tradition, the ride will take place rain or shine.

**Craft Classes: The Final Chapter**

Today, alas, is the final day of craft classes. *Handouts for some classes are available on the table outside the Back Office.* Here are the locations of these fine classes:

“Masters of Vice,” with Renee Simms – Barn Classroom 203  
“Object Lessons: An Exploration,” with Laura van den Berg – Barn Classroom 204  
“Just Be Interesting,” with Akhil Sharma – Barn Classroom 206  
“Making Beautiful Sentences,” with Alix Ohlin – Barn Classroom 205  
“Visual Poetics,” with Adam Giannelli – Barn Classroom 101  
“Keeping Time: Tracking Temporality in Poems,” with A. Van Jordan – Barn Classroom 102  
“Hybridity of Experience,” with Jacob Shores-Argüello – Barn Observatory

**Yoga**

1:15 P.M. today  
In Barn A  
Yay Yay Yay
**Special Talk Today**

Today at 10:10 a.m., the editors of *Poetry* and *Poetry Northwest* will give a special talk about their publications in the Little Theater. Lindsay Garbutt, the associate editor of *Poetry* magazine, manages the digital editions of the magazine as well as editing the print publication. Kevin Craft, the editor of *Poetry Northwest*, directs both the Written Arts Program at Everett Community College and the University of Washington’s Creative Writing in Rome Program.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**You Can Go Home Again…Really, You Have To**
Saturday’s departure schedule will be posted by this evening. If you have not yet made your reservation with Middlebury Transit, be sure to call them by noon today at 1-800-388-1002. Ask for Bill or Sara.

**Share a Ride**
Bread Loafers willing to share a ride should leave their names on the carpooling sheet posted outside the Dining Hall. Those looking for a ride will contact you.

**Please Return Library Books**
If you borrowed library books, please be sure to return them before 4:00 p.m. Friday.

**Stop by the Bookstore**
More books have arrived at the Bookstore, including Jennifer Grotz’s *Window Left Open* and Jennifer Tseng’s *Mayumi & the Sea of Happiness*. The store will be open today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bookstore is not open Saturday. If you have books on consignment, please pick them up by noon tomorrow.

**Conference Evaluation Forms**
Please check your email tomorrow for a conference evaluation form. Take a few minutes before you leave the mountain to let us know about your experience at the conference. We go over evaluation forms carefully to see how things went and consider changes for the future.

**Get One Last Massage/Life Reading/Chakra Alignment Before You Head Home**
Sign up outside the Dining Room.

**New Yorkers: Assemble!**
If you live in NYC and want to meet, greet, and keep in touch with fellow Bread Loaf NYers, this is your chance! If you’re not a New Yorker, you’re still welcome, just don’t try to talk about pizza. Thursday night, 7:30 p.m., Barn Classroom 102.
A History of the From the Dark Tower Reading

The title of this reading comes from the poem by Countee Cullen, in which he addresses how discussions of race are often kept in the dark. Cullen rallies for elevating such communication to a tower, whereby all can hear and benefit. *From the Dark Tower* also references the reading series and salon hosted by A’Leila Walker, daughter of Madame C.J. Walker. In the 1920s, Walker converted the top floor of her home in Harlem into a dedicated salon hosting musicians, artists, actors, political figures, and of course, writers, and it was called The Dark Tower. The salon was formed in a place and time of tremendous literary energy, and its focus was to be a welcoming space where writers of color could spotlight and share their work, and also explore political implications of their craft.

Nearly twenty years ago, writers of color at Bread Loaf began to hold readings in their rooms. Over the years, this tradition grew and began to be hosted by the Blue Parlor series. Poet Amaud Jamaul Johnson named this reading *From the Dark Tower*. It’s in this spirit that the reading continues at Bread Loaf.

We proudly invite everyone on the mountain to attend at 9:30 p.m. tonight, in the Little Theater. Join us in carrying on this longstanding Bread Loaf tradition.

This year’s readers will be:

1. Angela Ajayi
2. Edil Hassan
3. JoAnn Balingit
4. Nandini Bhattacharya
5. Xochitl Gonzalez
7. Joanne Godley
8. Faiza Hasan
9. Lizz Huerta
10. George Gao
11. Viplav Saini
12. Tyler Lochan
13. Cleyvis Natera
14. Danton Remoto
15. Regina Wei
16. Vonetta Young
17. Annette Wong

From The Dark Tower

We shall not always plant while others reap  
The golden increment of bursting fruit,  
Not always countenance, abject and mute  
That lesser men should hold their brothers cheap;  
Not everlastingly while others sleep  
Shall we beguile their limbs with mellow flute,  
Not always bend to some more subtle brute;  
We were not made eternally to weep.

The night whose sable breast relieves the stark  
White stars is no less lovely being dark,  
And there are buds that cannot bloom at all  
In light, but crumple, piteous, and fall;  
So in the dark we hide the heart that bleeds,  
And wait, and tend our agonizing seeds.

- Countee Cullen