Craft Classes Begin

After two days of mobbed sign-up sheets and intense anticipation, the first craft classes kick off today at 2:30 p.m. These hour-long sessions provide faculty, fellows, and guests the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in an intimate setting. To ensure hands-on experience, classes are limited to 25 participants.

Sign-up sheets for craft classes are posted by 8:00 a.m. two days before the class. Spaces have been filling quickly, so please make sure you sign up in advance! For those of you who signed up for a class, here is a reminder of the locations:

“**Invention and Revision,**” with Jennifer Finney Boylan - Barn Classroom 101

“**Collaborating with the Unseen: Process and Product in Creative Writing,**” with Amy Bonnaffons - Barn Classroom 204

“**Hiding the Ball: Creating Suspense and Mystery in Fiction,**” with Matthew Lansburgh - Barn Classroom 206

“**More or Less: Maximalist and Minimalist Approaches to Fiction and Poetry,**” with Christopher Castellani - Barn Classroom 102

“**Improv for Poets,**” with Catherine Barnett - Barn Observatory

“**Mining the Poetic Unconscious,**” with Kaveh Akbar - Barn Classroom 008

“**Truth Window: Opening up a Poem from the Inside,**” with Tyler Mills - Barn Classroom 205*

*Please note that this date and time is different than originally listed. David J. Daniels’s craft class will now be taking place on Sunday, August 18

Fiction Workshop Locations

- Ravi Howard - Barn 101
- Liam Callanan - Barn 102
- Alexander Chee - Barn 203
- Maud Casey - Barn 204
- Stacey D’Erasmo - Barn 205
- Ana Menéndez - Barn 206
- Michael Parker - Barn Observatory
- Cristina García - Inn West Seminar
- Christopher Castellani - Library Upstairs (Back end of building)
- Don Lee - Library Upstairs (Front end of building)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Ahead

Carpooling

A carpool list will be posted near the Dining Room door on Sunday, August 18. If you are willing to take passengers along when you leave the mountain next week, please note your information on the list (name, e-mail, destination, number of spots available in your car). If you are looking for a ride, please get in touch with the driver directly by leaving a note for the person at the Front Desk or by sending an e-mail.

Middlebury Transit

A schedule of Middlebury Transit departure taxis will be posted near the Front Desk of the Bread Loaf Inn toward the end of the conference. If you have any questions in the meantime or still need to make your departure taxi arrangements, please contact Middlebury Transit directly (1-800-388-1002) by Sunday, August 18.

Departure times will be early and somewhat inflexible because of the large number of people who need to leave. Due to the number of travelers, we cannot post individual travel requests in The Crumb.

Start Your Warmups!

The Writers’ Cramp Race, a friendly 2.75 mile competition, takes off on Monday at 8:00 a.m. Keep an eye out for more details in tomorrow’s Crumb!

Reminder: Be Tender, Don’t Misgender

Bread Loaf is a conference for people of all genders and gender experiences. We encourage all Bread Loafers to write their pronouns on their name-tags and to refrain from assuming which pronouns other Bread Loafers use.

If you have questions about this or have experienced any form of discrimination or marginalization here on the mountain, remember that Lauren Francis-Sharma is available to hear you and advocate for you. You can contact her at lfrancissharma@middlebury.edu.

Work-Study Scholars Reading Tonight

Tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theater, the first of two waiter readings will give conference participants a chance to hear fiction, poetry, and nonfiction from some of the world’s best emerging writers. Each reader gets three minutes to wow you, and wow you they will.

The following writers are on deck to read tonight: Ricardo Herrera Bandrich, Angela Boyd, Adrienne Chung, Michael Dhyne, Omer Friedlander, Emily Luan, Caleb Nolen, Dan Ryan, Annie Schumacher, Annesha Sengupta, Dujie Tahat, Belinda Huijuan Tang, and De’Shawn Charles Winslow.

Trust us: You’re not going to want to miss this reading (or part two, on Monday, August 19!). The waiters rule.
What’s Next for the Blue Parlor Reading Series?

At the Blue Parlor informational meeting, we went over sign-ups, schedules, community, and what happens if you read past three minutes (dire, dire consequences). The FAQ is posted on the Blue Parlor bulletin board by the back office, if you missed the meeting.

We also discussed how excited we were for the momentous first Blue Parlor reading of 2019—which lived up to our high expectations. Sisel Gelman, Jane Dickerson, Austin Ross, Donna Sprujit-Metz, Flower Conroy, Ellen Devlin, Tim Potter, Nicole Shawan Junior, Autumn Watts, Angelique Stevens, Craig Brandis, Caitlin Thomson, Richard Gess, Colnese Hendon, and Lucy Griffith showed us what fiction, nonfiction, and poetry can do in just three minutes. (Amazing things!).

The next Blue Parlor reading is today at 5:30 p.m. in the Library! Come hear Barb Jennes, Frank O. Smith, Michael Bogan, Martha Majsak, Pari Berk, Judith Gille, Kim Smuga-Otto, Annalisa Garofalo, Diana Cejas, Beth Flanders, Adrian Schnall, Natasha Rao, Gordon Clark, Andrew Stancek, and Amanda McTigue.

Great new writing, great new friends—don’t miss out (or you will regret it).

Questions or affirmations?
Contact Elisa Gonzalez or Sebastian Páramo
at blueparlorblwc@gmail.com

LOST BOOK! REWARD!

Lost: Beloved copy of Rilke’s Letters to a Young Poet. Uninspired cover in black yellow & rhubarb red. Pencil-marked & post-it noted.

If found, please contact Jesse Donaldson at jessewillcoxdonaldson@gmail.com or find him and tell him in person.

As a reward, he will buy you any book your heart desires from the Bread Loaf Bookstore.

Want to Be a Better Public Reader?

Don’t forget: Patrick Donnelly, author of Little-Known Operas and Nocturnes of the Brothel of Ruin, is offering a special talk titled “How to Be a Good Public Reader of Your Own Writing” at 5:30 p.m. today in the Little Theater. The talk will provide strategies for dealing with nerves and tips for pleasing reading organizers and audiences.

Participants should come prepared to read a short poem or passage of prose. If time allows, two participants will be chosen to receive coaching, master-class style, while the audience learns from watching.

Guests

Please extend a warm welcome to Ilya Kaminsky, Kaveh Akbar, and Jane Delury.

Safe travels to Mitchell Waters, Emily Nemens, Porscha Burke, Jenna Johnson, and David Bain.

Weather

Scattered Thunderstorms
High: 77° Low: 64°
A New Fellowship to Honor the Memory of Paul Otremba

Paul Otremba was a beloved poet and dear member of the Bread Loaf community. He died earlier this year at the age of 40. In the spirit of his generosity and literary citizenship, Paul’s family and friends have established the Paul Otremba Endowed Fellowship for Poetry at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conferences, which will support an annual Bread Loaf Fellowship.

This Fellowship is partly funded by donations. Please consider making a gift at: https://engage.middlebury.edu/pages/otremba-fellowship.

Ilya Kaminsky Reading

Tomorrow at 1:15 p.m., poet Ilya Kaminsky will be giving a reading in the Little Theater!

Ilya Kaminsky’s long-awaited collection *Deaf Republic* came out earlier this year from Graywolf Press to rave reviews from the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *Publisher’s Weekly*, and *Poets & Writers*, among many others. This contemporary epic, fifteen years in the making, combines political allegory with a bold, sensual romance to dramatize collective and personal effects of war, and hearing Kaminsky read from it is an experience unlike any other. You won’t want to miss it.

Readings and Lecture Audio Online

It’s nearly impossible to go to everything at Bread Loaf—trust us, we know!

Thankfully, you can enjoy any readings or lectures you missed—or re-live memories of ones you attended—by listening to the audio recordings. These are published daily at sites.middlebury.edu/blwc. Check your email for a direct link.

OVERHEARD

“Who would leave a man who can make carrot bread?”

“If everybody would shut up then I could write all day...”

“In the machine of the poem, things only have value because of what’s next to them.”

“I live in a river in the valley of life.”

“Am I late to that lecture? Let me look at The Crumb.”

“Wait, don’t you write The Crumb?”

Overheard anything interesting? Email us at blcrumb@gmail.com