Craft Classes

Saturday’s craft classes were a resounding success. At 2:30 p.m. this afternoon, here come six more:

“Elements of Pacing,” with Lan Samantha Chang - Barn classroom 101

“The Sentence,” with Robert Cohen - Barn classroom 206

“Effective Dialogue,” with Kia Corthron - Barn classroom 204

“Everything I Know About Form I Learned at a Comedy Club in West Covina,” with David Shields - Barn classroom 203

“Lavish Syntax,” with Rick Barot - Barn classroom 102

“The Speaker of the Poem as a Lawyer for the Defense or Prosecution: The Syntax of Rhetoric,” with Patrick Donnelly - Barn classroom 205

Sign-up sheets for craft classes are posted by 8:00 a.m. two days in advance of the class. The conference recommends that you arrive early to sign up for that can’t-miss class. Remember, there’s no wait list. Jason and Noreen are honorable souls, unsusceptible to bribery of any and every kind.

If you sign up for Michael Collier’s craft class this morning—see class sign-ups by the back office—be sure to pick up the assignment on the handout table. Assignments will be due by 5 p.m. on Monday. See the sign-up sheet for more details.

Frost Farm Picnic Just Around the Corner

On Monday, August 21, lunch will be served as a picnic at Frost Farm rather than in the dining room. A beloved tradition at the conferences, the picnic takes place at Frost Farm, about 1.5 miles from the Bread Loaf Inn, and is followed by a tour of Frost's summer cabin nearby. Usually unavailable to the public, the cabin is unlocked and made available for this special event. The picnic will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Monday. While many may want to make the walk down to the Frost Farm, transportation will also be available. Those who would like a ride should gather in front of the Bread Loaf Inn at 12:15 p.m.

Please note: If the weather prevents us from holding this event, we’ll post new information on the front door of the Dining Hall by 11:00 a.m. on Monday.

To reach the Frost Farm, turn right from the Inn porch and walk .7 miles down Route 125. Turn right onto Frost Road/USFS Road 396, just before the Robert Frost Wayside. The farm is roughly .8 miles up the road. Those walking should plan to leave at noon.

Continued on page 2
FACULTY & FELLOWS
Faculty and fellows, sign up in the
Back Office to wait tables at lunch
on Wednesday, August 23.

“Getting The Pitch Right,”
with Miriam Altshuler
The better you are at talking and
writing about your book, the better
chance you have to get the interest
of an agent or editor. Miriam
Altshuler will give a presentation
at 5:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre
and lead a Q&A so you know how
to make the best pitch possible
and to write a compelling and clear
query letter. Miriam encourages
you to come with questions.

TOMORROW’S ADJUSTED
SCHEDULE
After days of overstimulation,
participants get a more relaxing
day. Tomorrow, workshops will
not meet, and our schedule is
adjusted to give you some leisure
time. Highlights of the day will
include the annual Writers’ Cramp
Race, the picnic at the Frost Farm
and talk by John Elder, a film
screening of Sunlight Man, and
evening readings by Lan Samantha
Chang and Carl Phillips, all capped
off by the second of our fabulous
waiter readings.

CANCELLED CRAFT CLASS
Matthew Olzmann’s craft class
“Laughter and Anxiety: Elements
of Satire,” originally slated for
Wednesday, August 23, has been
cancelled.

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Frost Farm Picnic Just Around the Corner
Continued from page 1

If you are unable to attend the picnic, please let us know right away by
sending an email to blwc@middlebury.edu by 5 p.m. today, so we can note
your name. We’ll give your name to the kitchen staff and arrange for you to
have something to eat on campus.

Sign Up for Trail Walk

Two walks will take place this week on the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail.
The first will be self-guided and take place from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on
Tuesday, August 22. John Elder will lead the second walk, “An Introduction
to the Natural History of Bread Loaf for Writers,” at the same time on
Wednesday, August 23.

“The walk is always a pleasant, relaxed event,” Elder said, “with lots of
chances to connect names to the trees, flowers, and birds and to relate Frost’s
poetry, and poetry in general, to all our observations.”

The Robert Frost Interpretive Trail is a National Recreation Trail that
commemorates Robert Frost’s poetry; several of his poems are mounted
along the trail in the woods and fields. Blueberries and huckleberries grow in
an old field at the far end. The Forest Service maintains all of the old fields
along this trail with prescribed fire to preserve the scenic, open appearance
of the area. The trail is an easy walk, and the first 0.3 miles across a beaver pond
boardwalk out to the South Branch of the Middlebury River is accessible and
suitable for wheelchairs.

Each walk is limited to 30 participants. Vans will transport participants from
the Bread Loaf Inn to the trail. To get a ride, Bread Loafers should start to
gather on the front porch of the Bread Loaf Inn at 10:30 a.m. Bread Loafers
who prefer to walk to the trail head from the Inn should leave at 10:40 a.m.
Participants will return in time to have lunch in the dining room.

Advance sign-up is required. The sign-up sheet will be with the craft class
sign ups by the back office.

John Elder will also offer a talk on Robert Frost just after the Frost Picnic on
Monday, August 21, no sign-up required.

Holman Helps Writers Publish

Literary consultant Amy Holman gives two special talks today, one for fiction
writers, and the other for poets and nonfiction writers. Holman assists
writers in publishing poems, stories, novels, essays, memoirs, and narrative
nonfiction books. If you have a scheduled meeting with her, please be sure to
attend the appropriate overview talk before your meeting. Those without an
appointment with her can also attend to learn about how writers can connect
with the right publishers. The fiction talk will take place at 10:10 a.m., and
the poetry and nonfiction talk will be at 1:30 p.m., both in the Little Theatre.
**Workshop It!**

Tonight at 9:30 p.m., you’re greatly encouraged to come to the Barn and show off your sweet, sweet dance moves. We’ll provide the DJ (Andy McMichael from Peak Entertainment) and the free drinks.

Speaking of drinks, social staff would like to remind you of a few alcohol protocols:

Only one alcoholic drink may be served to an individual at a time. Participants who look young will be carded, so bring your valid ID. A cordoned perimeter will let you know where it’s acceptable to sip your booze. Participants may not bring their own alcohol to the event, so leave that bottle of Pappy Van Winkle in your room.

*Jazz hands*

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**EAT RIGHT: LUNCH**

To avoid long lines at lunchtime, we urge you to eat 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 at 12:30 p.m.
- Lunch service continues until 1:30 p.m. each day.

**THE LITTLE THEATRE IS NOT YOUR TRASH CAN**

Somebody—many somebodies—have been leaving trash in the Little Theatre. Please do not be one of these somebodies. Take your coffee cups, candy wrappers, Kleenexes, etc. with you when you leave, and throw them away in the appropriate receptacle. Please.

**BARN SOCIAL & PUB**

Beer and wine are available for purchase most evenings in the Barn at 5:30 p.m. and again at 9:30 p.m. Complimentary beer, wine, and soda will be available on the nights (like tonight!) when dances are held in the Barn.

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**OVERHEARD**

“What kind of exercises would be at a publishing boot camp? Submit, submit, submit, and submit. Squat and wait, and wait, and wait for eight months.”

“Well, I guess I’m dead inside.”

Send overheards to blcrumb@gmail.com!
## GUESTS

Join us in welcoming Anjali Singh, Daniel Wallace, Janet Silver, and Douglas Stewart to the mountain and in saying goodbye to the following guests: Jenny Xu, Nan Cohen, and Patrick Donnelly.

## COMMUNITY ITEMS

### LGBTQ+ Confab

Queer writers of all stripes are invited to gather on the second floor of the library on Monday at 5:30 p.m. for an informal social. Come with nothing but an introduction and an appreciation of apéritifs.

### Research Conversations Needed

This Loafer would love to talk with adjunct faculty, visiting scholars, writers-in-residence, grad student teaching/research assistants... anyone impermanently employed in higher ed, for my coming book Contingent (U. Chicago, Fall 2018). Find me around, or e-mail me at herb.childress@gmail.com. Confidentiality, and chocolate, assured.

### Outdoor Zumba

Tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. Quinn Roberts will lead an outdoor Zumba class! If anyone has portable speakers and/or an aux cord they’d be willing to lend for this purpose, email qaroberts9678@yahoo.com. The exact Zumba location will be disclosed in tomorrow’s *Crumb*.

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## WEATHER DOG BEN

**Considerable cloudiness**  
**High:** 73°  **Low:** 57°

Artwork by Carl Phillips

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## A QUOTE FROM YESTERDAY’S LECTURE

“...my agenda, to the extent that it can even be called that, has always been to speak as honestly as possible to my own experience of negotiating and navigating a life as myself, as a self — multifarious, restless, necessarily ever-changing as the many factors of merely being also change — in a world of selves.”  
— Carl Phillips
Blue Parlor Is On Fire!

Lo, though we do not actually light the Prince devotional candle, its purple-blue flame flickers mightily within our hearts. So far, our esteemed writers have performed for packed houses and introduced us to Whiskey Pete and performance artists on Wall Street and “spiraling linearity” (whatever that means) and much more.

The Blue Library was LIT in more ways than one: An anonymous donor has contributed bottles of wine for sharing!

This evening at 5:30 p.m., the Library will host the next open Blue Parlor reading. The line-up features Robert Kerbeck, Eric Giroux, Trish Woolwine, Charles Kaufmann, Lisa Flynn, Angela Cardinale, Mary Burge, Mike Sinert, Ana Owusu, Cecily A. Duffie, Annie Reid, Ray Daniels, Elijah Bean, and Alfredo Aguilar.

The sign-up sheet for Wednesday will be available at 5:20 p.m. at the Library with Katie. Please be respectful of each other and the space during the sign-up process! Remember: The sign-up sheets for the rapid-fire One Minute in Heaven reading and the From the Dark Tower reading are already posted on the bulletin board by the Back Office.

See you tonight! Anything could happen.

Contact Katie Moulton with questions, feedback, jokes and tips for styling jumpsuits.

“A Dead Frog Triggers Gratitude” by Ann Mallen

The first morning, the sun shone on the proprietary yellow of the Bread Loaf Inn, and my stomach lurched as I side-stepped that frog. You know the one. You saw it too. Splayed out just before the steps, head chewed off by some critter. The second day, the thing’s red esophagus extended beyond its flattened corpse. I should get rid of that, I thought. Yet, I didn’t. I was loathe to walk around with frog guts on my shoe.

Within a few hours, it was gone. I mentally thanked the dear soul who scooped it up and disposed of the body. I also thought of the others who are completing so many unseen tasks, the very things that make it possible for us to indulge in these ten glorious days among the literary cognoscenti.

I offer my deepest gratitude for the ones who:
Made our beds and will change them soon.
Arranged our towels with the two cute White Marble bars of deodorant soap.
Boxed, carried, unpacked, labeled, and sell/sold books in the bookstore.
Cook, stir, bake, arrange, lift, WAIT on us (!), and wash our dishes.
Picked up the icky black bug and the dead moth in the Annex bathroom, wiped the bits of toothpaste off our mirror (and yours), cleaned our toilets, all of the toilets, took the hair out of the showers and cleaned that too, picked up the bits of paper towels we lazily left on the floor.
Planted hydrangeas and zinnias to delight our eyes.
Mowed acres of grass and a wide path through the goldenrod. Lovingly restored old wood, put up new dry wall, and painted.
Created that long intersectional video.
Worked/work in the office efficiently coordinating a myriad of mind-numbing details.
Ensure the microphones are just right.
And at home...told us they’d care for the baby, the kids, the elderly mothers and fathers.
Promised not to let the eggplant, tomatoes, and peppers rot in the garden while we’re gone. Said “we’ll find a way to pay for it. Go!”

Surely, I missed a bunch. Surely, you can add to my list. Writers are nothing without the ones who lift us, hold us, support us, and create this very special conference experience. It feels good to remember that, and I thank them.