Today’s *Crumb* is created by the Back Office. InDesign? 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**

**6:30 A.M. – 7:30 A.M.**
Yoga
Barn Classroom 008

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

**9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**
Lecture: “The Spell of Echo,” by Mary Szybist
Little Theater

**10:10 A.M. – 12:10 P.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

**1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**
Warren Wilson MFA Program Information Session
Barn Classroom 101

**2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**
Craft Classes

**4:15 P.M – 5:15 P.M.**
Reading: Amy Bonnaffons, Liz Harmer, and Michael Shewmaker
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: Reyna Grande and Sally Keith

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 p.m. 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 hayride around the field behind Treman. As many participants already know, The Simpsons episode about Bread Loaf was factually incorrect except for the hayride. 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:

“Open with Care: Starting Strong with Character, Action, and Rhythm in the Contemporary Short Story,” with Liam Callanan – Barn Classroom 101


“Countermelody Lessons from Danzy Senna’s Triptych and Other Readings,” with Ravi Howard – Barn Classroom 204

“Empathy and the Lyric Narrative,” with Dustin Pearson – Barn Classroom 206

“Where the Personal and the Political Intersect in Poetry,” with Cathy Linh Che – Barn Classroom 205

“The Ars Poetica and the Development of a Personal Vision,” with Vievee Francis – Barn Classroom 102
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 edits 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 Room. 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
There are only two more days to get all your books before you leave the mountain. The store will be open today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 6 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.

Want to Learn More About the Warren Wilson MFA Program?
Faculty and alumni of the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers will present an information session on the nation’s first low-residency MFA program today at 1:30 p.m. in Barn Classroom 101. Bread Loafers interested in completing a low-residency MFA degree in fiction or poetry will have the opportunity to ask questions. Presenters will discuss some of the differences between residential and low-residency programs. Scholarship and application information will be available as well.
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’Lelia 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. Colnese Hendon  
2. Annelies Zijderveld  
3. Junious Ward  
4. Angela Siew  
5. Yu-Mei Balasingamchow  
6. Antonio Lopez
7. Lue Boileau  
8. Cleyvis Natera  
9. S. Erin Batiste  
10. Diana Cejas  
11. Nicole Shawan  
12. Natasha Rao
13. Grace Jahng Lee  
14. Ayeh Bandeh-Ahmadi  
15. María Guzmán  
16. Omar Refaat  
17. Omotara James

*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