**94th Conference Begins!**

The Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference kicked off yesterday, making 2019 the ninety-fourth year that writers have gathered together here on the mountain to read, listen, dance, and discuss. This year’s 280 participants hail from all over the world and all stages of their writing careers!

Whether you’re a returning participant leaping joyfully into your old friends’ arms, or a first-timer wandering campus in search of the restrooms, we’re so glad you’re here.

The Adirondack chairs are out, the fields are bright with goldenrod, and we’re all looking forward to a fantastic ten days of craft, creativity, and connection here in Ripton.

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**Workshop Locations**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Barn/Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Olzmann</td>
<td>Barn 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vievee Francis</td>
<td>Barn 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Chee</td>
<td>Barn 203</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.E. Stallings</td>
<td>Barn 204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Finney Boylan</td>
<td>Barn 205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana Menéndez</td>
<td>Barn 206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Castellani</td>
<td>Barn 008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Parker</td>
<td>Barn Observatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina García</td>
<td>Inn West Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Barot</td>
<td>Library Upstairs (back end of the building)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Lee</td>
<td>Library Upstairs (front end of the building)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maud Casey</td>
<td>Barn (Main)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Keith</td>
<td>Library Main Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravi Howard</td>
<td>Blue Parlor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Szybist</td>
<td>Treman Living Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jericho Brown</td>
<td>Tamarack Living Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liam Callanan</td>
<td>Homer Noble Farm Living Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reyna Grande</td>
<td>Earthworm Living Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey D’Erasmo</td>
<td>Dragon’s Den Living Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aminatta Forna</td>
<td>Fritz Living Room</td>
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**TODAY'S EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Lecture: “The Face of the Beloved,” by Rick Barot, Little Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Reading Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Richie Hofmann, Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, and Ana Menéndez</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Cocktail Reception, Treman Lawn (rain location: Barn)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Blue Parlor Informational Meeting, Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Alexander Chee and Mary Szybist Little Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Slideshow and Talk: “A History of Bread Loaf,” by David Haward Bain Little Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Barn Pub</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pizza: 10:00 p.m. (until it’s gone!)</td>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lunch With Your Workshop

Participants are reminded to sit with their workshop at lunch today. See the seating map on page 5.

Cocktail Reception at Treman

Meet your fellow Bread Loafers at a cocktail reception on the Treman Lawn at 5:15 p.m. Make sure to bring your ID.

Forget Amazon!

The conference has a bookstore stocked with publications from faculty, fellows, and contributors. The Bookstore is located at the back of the Annex building. In addition to books, the store carries clothing, toiletry items, and some snacks. Drop by and say hello to Emma Best, who runs the emporium. Be sure to check the Bookstore door for the most up-to-date hours.

Apple Cellar Tech

Having trouble accessing the wireless network? Nick Mosier, our kindly Apple Cellar Tech, will be on hand in the computer lab to help with any issues today, Thursday, August 15, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and Friday, August 16, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Greetings from Your Head Waiters

Hello, and welcome to Bread Loaf! We have an amazing new group of Work-study waiters this year. They’ll 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’re so excited to share this time with you all.

—Taneum Bambrick and De’Shawn Winslow

All About Lunch

Lunch will be served buffet style, so to avoid long lines, we urge you to follow the schedule noted here in The Crumb, 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 to 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. Just grab a to-go cup! Please keep all dishes and flatware 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.
Craft Classes

Signing Up
Sign-up sheets will be posted by 8:00 a.m., two days in advance of classes, on the bulletin board near the Blue Parlor.

Important Date Change!
Two of the craft classes are switching dates: David Daniels’s craft class will now be August 18 and Tyler Mills’s craft class will be August 17.

The Postman Doesn’t Ring
If you’re expecting mail, please check in at the Front Desk.

The Silence of the Phones
Cell phone reception is selectively available on the mountain. It is a good idea to let your loved ones know this so they don’t think you’ve been eaten by a bear (or a hungry writer). If you need to make a call, you can use calling cards in the phone booth by the Laundromat and in the Inn.

Should your phone be blessed with reception, please be mindful of where you choose to chat. Meetings will be taking place across campus, so we ask that while in the Dining Room, the Barn, the Little Theater, or on the Inn Porch, you keep to a quieter mode of communication, such as texting or astral projection. In general, please keep your phones on silent.

Smile!
Photographer Edward Brown will be visiting workshops to take group photos. An order form for some photos will be available later in the conference.

Pizza in the Barn
Come by the Barn this evening from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The conference will provide pizza—until we’re all out!

Blue Parlor Informational Meeting

Due to the popularity of the inimitable Blue Parlor reading series, the 2019 readings will, once again, not actually take place in the Blue Parlor. Bread Loaf’s own literary salon has moved to fresh digs on the first floor of the Library, where we will convene to share and celebrate our work, wow each other outside workshop, and enjoy pre-dinner snacks, provided by your hosts, Elisa Gonzalez and Sebastian Páramo.

Tonight at 7:30 p.m., immediately following dinner, you’re invited to the Library to learn more about the Blue Parlor reading series and ask questions. A few of the hot topics to be discussed: How and where do I sign up? For how long can I read? Do I have to wear a tie? Will there be wine? Will there be blood? This meeting will finish in time to head over to the 8:15 p.m. reading. Information about the Blue Parlor series will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Back Office. On Friday, August 16, the first reading of the season kicks off at 5:30 p.m. in the Library! Stay tuned to The Crumb for further announcements of sign-ups, themes, readers, and other secrets.

For those of you who are unsure about reading, come check us out! We’ll laugh, we’ll cry, we’ll make that appreciative crowd noise in our throats. Join us, Bread Loafers! Let’s make some magic on the mountain.

Questions, concerns, high fives?
Contact Blue Parlor Coordinators
Elisa Gonzalez & Sebastian Páramo
at blueparlorblwc@gmail.com

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 Route 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.
- Notify the Front Desk at extension 2700 for minor medical issues. If you have a serious medical emergency, call 911 and then notify the Front Desk. Before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., when the Front Desk is closed, call both extensions 2713 and 2710.
FROM THE LITTLE THEATER

1. Bells will ring at 15 and 5 minutes prior to each lecture and reading. Please arrive on-time.
2. Trash cans are located near the exits of the Little Theater. We love it when people use them (for trash).
3. Please leave the outside chairs where they are and avoid pulling them up close to the doors.

—Katie Condon and Zoë Ruiz

Explore Scenic Middlebury
Starting tomorrow, van trips to Middlebury leave the Inn around 1:30 p.m. and return from Middlebury at 3:40 p.m. to arrive at Bread Loaf at 4:00 p.m. There is no trip planned today. Sign up at the Front Desk if you’d like to ride into town, as trips do not take place if no one signs up. Note: The driver will not wait for lollygaggers! Be on time.

Massage Scheduling
Massage and other healing modalities will be available throughout the conference, in the dressing room of the Little Theater. Sign-up sheets for appointments with Jayne Webb are on the Dining Room bulletin board.

Share the experience on Twitter, #butnotduringthereading
The Crumb is now on Twitter! If you, too, are on Twitter, feel free to tag us (@TheCrumb_blwc) and use the hashtag #blwc19. Previous attendees sometimes enjoy following along from afar.

Yoga
Experienced instructor Chessy Kelley is leading a free yoga class every morning of the conference, 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. in Barn Classroom 008.

Slideshow Highlights History
Middlebury College professor David Haward Bain will offer a newly revamped 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.

Greetings from Social Staff
Hello, Bread Loaf! We’re the Social Staff. We’d love to meet you, so please don’t be shy! 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 the mountain, please let us know, and we’ll do our best to lend a hand. We’re glad you’re here, and we look forward to your company!

—Caroline Beimford, Jen Funk, and Noah Stetzer

Barn Pub
Every evening at 5:15 p.m., you’re invited to do some pre-dinner socializing in the Barn. Beer and wine will be available for purchase ($5 and $6 respectively) and soft drinks will be available free of charge. The bar in the Barn will open again at 9:30 p.m., after the evening readings.

AA Meetings
Barn 008 is reserved for meetings daily, 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

GUESTS
Join us in welcoming Miriam Altshuler, Malaga Baldi, Henry Dunow, PJ Mark, Michael Wiegers, Fiona McCrae, and Catherine Barnett to the mountain!
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. Check the signs on the tables to make sure you’re in the right place!
Extra, Extra! Write All About It!

*The Crumb* welcomes—dare we say it, begs for—submissions of news, editorials, overheard comments, food reviews, limericks, interviews, trivia, comics, and letters to the editor from conference participants (a.k.a. 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 editors delight in reading missed connections in their spare time, they take a staunch “Bartleby, the Scrivener” approach to the running of advertisements and personals.

Topics of community interest (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 them along to blcrumb@gmail.com or drop them off on *The Crumb* editors’ desk in the Back Office.

You’re also welcome to bring us gifts of coffee (black, no sugar), hot gossip, and funny drawings of cats. We are very friendly and love meeting new people!

Also, 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 and Noah Bogdonoff, Editors

## OVERHEARD

“I love the concept of birds!”

“She’s trying to sound different so she sounds like an earthquake.”

“I feel like if I was smarter and had a different childhood I’d be a poet.”

“Is Mount Rushmore a good thing or a bad thing in this scenario?”

“I have standards. Not ethical standards, but aesthetic standards.”

“Morning tots! Morning tots!”

**Overhear something amazing? Email it to us (without attribution, of course) at blcrumb@gmail.com.**

## WEATHER REPORT

Our meteorologists are predicting a whole lot of sunshine today. Yay, sun!

High: 75° Low: 60°

Toni Morrison was not only one of the greatest writers in modern history, but also a beloved part of Bread Loaf history. In 1976, as a faculty member, she gave her first-ever reading from Song of Solomon shortly after finishing the manuscript.

She passed away last week at the age of 88.