92nd Conference Begins

The Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference kicked off yesterday, making 2017 the ninety-second year that writers have gathered together here on the mountain to talk about words and dance in a barn. This year’s 280 participants hail from all over the country and all stages of their writing careers. Many are quite nice once the jet lag wears off. Upon arrival, returning participants were seen nodding approvingly at the Inn’s recent renovations, while all across campus, first timers could be seen smiling nervously, maps in hand.

The sun and the Adirondack chairs are out, and it is promising to be a terrific ten days here in Ripton.

Workshop Locations

Please note that these locations are only for today, Thursday, August 17. 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>4:15 p.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marianne Boruch, Jericho Brown, and Elena Passarello</td>
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<td>Little Theatre</td>
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<th>5:15 p.m.</th>
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<td>Cocktail Reception, Treman Lawn (rain location: Barn)</td>
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<tr>
<th>6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.</th>
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<td>Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn</td>
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<tr>
<th>7:30 p.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Parlor Informational Meeting Library</td>
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<tr>
<th>8:15 p.m.</th>
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<td>Charles Baxter and Ellen Bryant Voigt</td>
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<td>Little Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<th>9:30 p.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Slideshow and Talk: “A History of Bread Loaf” by David Haward Bain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Theatre</td>
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<th>9:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Barn Pub, Pizza: 10 p.m. until it’s gone</td>
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Greetings from Your Head Waiters

Hello, and welcome to Bread Loaf! We have a great new group of waiters who will be working in the dining hall 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 look forward to sharing this time with you all.

–Koye Oyedeji & Anne Price

About lunch

• Lunch will be served buffet style, so to avoid long lines, we urge you to follow the schedule noted here, 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.

• 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, please 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 hall on time helps waiters get to lectures and readings on time. Just grab a to-go cup! Please keep all dishes and silver 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 hall.
Announcements, cont’d from p. 2

THE POSTMAN DOESN’T RING
Please check your mailbox at the Inn often, as it’s one of the main ways for us to communicate with you. If you lose your mailbox information, check with the Front Desk.

THE SILENCE OF THE PHONES
Cellular phone reception is selectively available on the mountain. It is a good idea to let your loved ones know this, so they do not think you have been eaten by a bear, or worse, mosquitoes.

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 with faculty, agents, and editors will be taking place across campus, so we ask that while in the Dining Room, the Barn, the Little Theatre, or on the Inn Porch, you keep to a quieter medium, such as texting. In general, just keep your phones on silent.

WORKSHOP PHOTOS
Photographer Edward Brown will be visiting workshops to take group photos. Edward will take photographs throughout the conference, and an order form for some photos will be available later in the conference.

Blue Parlor Informational Meeting

Turn around, bright eyes: It’s a total eclipse of the Parlor. Due to the popularity of the inimitable Blue Parlor reading series, the 2017 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 host, Katie Moulton.

Tonight at 7:30 p.m., immediately following dinner, you’re invited to the Library to learn more about the BP reading series, brainstorm theme nights, 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 for us to head over to the 8:15 p.m. reading. The sign-up sheet for the first BP reading will be available at the informational meeting, then posted on the bulletin board outside the Back Office. Tomorrow, Friday, August 18, the first reading of the season kicks off at 5:30 p.m.! 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 Coordinator Katie Moulton.

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 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.

• If you have a serious medical emergency, call 911, then notify the front desk. Notify the front desk for minor medical issues. If you have a medical emergency between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., call extension 2700. After 10:00 p.m., call both extensions 2713 and 2710.
Slideshow Highlights History

Middlebury College professor David Haward Bain will offer his annual slideshow and talk on the history of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. 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.

A Welcome Letter from the Bread Loaf Social Staff

Hello, Bread Loaf! We’re the Social Staff. We’d love to meet you, so please don’t be shy! We’re easy to spot because we’re usually the ones hauling around and pouring the beer! You’ll also see us manning the door during the Barn Social Hour and the Barn Pub each night where beer and wine are available ($4 and $5 respectively), as well as free soft drinks (not to mention the wonderful conversation with bartender Randy Stockwell). We’ll also host three campus-wide receptions (with an open bar) and one of the two dances.

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 this mountain, please let us know and we’ll do our best to lend a hand. We’re so glad you’re here, and we look forward to your company!

— Jamel Brinkley, Matthew Kelsey, Alice Kim, Kenyatta Rogers, Margaret Ross, Sam Ross, Noah Stetzer, Maud Streep & LaToya Watkins
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. To make sure you’re in the right place, check the signs on the tables.
Extra, Extra! Write All About It

The Crumb welcomes—nay, begs for—submissions of news, editorials, overheard comments, food review limericks, interviews, trivia, comics, and letters to the editor. “Let’s face it. The Crumb is in a sad state,” says conference director Michael Collier. “Get yourself some help, Bates.”

If you’d like to submit a news or editorial item for consideration, e-mail your copy to bcrumb@gmail.com.

The editor delights in reading missed connections in her spare time, but she takes a staunch Bartleby-the-Scrivener approach to the running of advertisements and personals in the newspaper.

Community items (attempted rallying of a Game of Thrones support group, 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.

The Crumb’s office is located in the Back Office. Feel free to drop by and bring the editor some coffee (black, no sugar) or funny drawings of dogs.

Archived issues are available on the conference website, so you can browse to your heart’s content.

OVERHEARD

“Who here has split an apple with their bare hands?”

“I used to date someone with perma-ptosis.”

“No, really, my cats are incredibly charismatic.”

“Is this forty-three ones? I thought you were going to Venmo me.”

Email us more at bcrumb@gmail.com!

WEATHER DOG BEN

Partly cloudy
High: 72° Low: 54°

Artwork by Carl Phillips
“Arriving at the Inn” by Gary Hawkins