The Crumby

Vol. 92, No. 10 The Lamby Edition Thursday, August 24, 2017

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

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

**9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.**
Lecture: “The Authentic Voice,” by Rick Barot
Little Theatre

**10:10 A.M. – 11:10 A.M.**
Special Talk featuring editors of Poetry and Poetry Northwest
Little Theatre

**10:10 A.M. - 12:10 P.M.**
Fiction Workshops

**12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.**
Lunch
Bread Loaf Inn

**1:15 P.M – 2:15 P.M.**
“One Minute in Heaven” Reading
Little Theatre

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

**4:15 P.M – 5:15 P.M.**
Reading: francine j. harris, Vanessa Hua, and Maud Casey
Little Theatre
5:15 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.
Gala Reception
Treman Lawn (rain location: Tent)

7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Dinner
Bread Loaf Inn

8:15 P.M. – 9:15 P.M.
Reading: Robert Cohen and Jennifer Grotz

9:30 P.M. – 10:15 P.M.
Staff Reading
Little Theatre

9:30 P.M. – 12:00 A.M.
Barn Pub
Barn

Final Staff Reading Tonight

We check your IDs, make your copies, run the Blue Parlor Readings, control the microphone, and carry the beacon of truthful journalism known as The Crumb. But the social and administrative staff are also dang amazing writers. Don’t just take my word for it: come to the Little Theatre at 9:30 p.m. tonight to hear for yourself the poems and prose of Jennifer S. Cheng, Alice Sola Kim, Jason Lamb, Eric McMillan, Kenyatta Rogers, Margaret Ross, Maud Streep, and LaToya Watkins.

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 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 hay ride around the field behind Treman. As many participants already know, the Simpsons episode about Bread Loaf was factually incorrect except for the hay ride. If the weather turns on us, the reception will take place in the newly erected tent by the Barn, but keeping with traditions, the ride will take place rain or shine.

Today: Blue Parlor Series Takes Over Little Theatre

Today at 1:15 p.m., the Blue Parlor series will host the special rapid-fire reading, “One Minute in Heaven,” in the Little Theatre. This event features 50 readers reading their best and briefest high-impact work – in one minute or less. Readers please arrive by 1:10 p.m. so coordinator Katie Moulton can put you in formation.
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:

“I’ll Build Me a World,” with Rion Scott – Barn Classroom 204
“Making a Person: the Girl in Literature,” with Tiphanie Yanique – Barn Classroom 205
“Opening a Poem,” with Sally Keith – Barn Classroom A
“Read Like You Mean It: Unlocking Your Potential as a Live Reader,” with Elena Passarello - Barn Classroom 206
“The Just Use of Figures,” with Eavan Boland - Barn Classroom 203
“Wickedness,” with Lauren Groff – Barn Classroom 101

Special Talk Today

Today at 10:10 a.m., the editors of Poetry and Poetry Northwest will give a special talk about the publications in the Little Theatre. Lindsay Garbutt, the assistant editor of Poetry magazine, manages the digital editions of the magazine as well as editing 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.

Guests

Please welcome Beth McCabe and Hope Maxwell Snyder to the mountain. We bid adieu to PJ Mark, Jenna Johnson, Anna Pitoniak, and Sebastian Matthews.

BLELP: Honest reviews by people with wild imagination

Yesterday, the faculty and fellows took over the dining room. This is what the public had to say.

Xhenet Aliu: 5 Stars
It was like being served by domesticated wild things.

Rick Barot: 5 Stars
There came a point when “Bohemian Rhapsody” was just too much and we really just wanted to order.

Jericho Brown: 5 Stars
He gave me what I didn’t even know I needed most: his smile.
Maud Casey: 5 Stars
Despite vicious, brutal, unceasing haranguing from fellow waiter, Bobby Cohen at the neighboring table...the gifted and gracious Maud exceeded any and every expectation.

Lan Samantha Chang: 5 Stars
I feel like I woke up in a Kafkaesque story without the bugs.

Michael Collier: 5 Stars
I suspected he was secretly a poet when he re-named the dessert “moon pie”.

Kia Corthron: Kia transcends mere quantification.
Small moments of conceptual unclarity were more than overcome by her winning charm and her attentiveness to her colleagues.

Jennifer Grotz – 5 Stars
If you like your whoopee pies with a side of attitude, this waiter is for you.

Ed Hirsch: 1 Star
You’re one of my top four Bread Loaf poets for a reason – stick to that.

Ann Hood: 4 Stars
A bit too expository. Characters at the table felt derivative and stereotypical.

Jenny Johnson: 5 Stars
As sweet as the moon pie, strong as the coffee.

Sally Keith: 5 Stars
The fact of the matter is that the service was impeccable; though it lacked rhyme, it was reasonable.

Maeve Kinkead - 5 Stars
The service was excellent, but some feelings were hurt when only one diner was referred to as “sweetie”.

Randall Kenan: 5 Stars
Our service was lyrical, well paced and with a clear and consistent POV. The tension built and the stakes were high with an ultimately satisfying conclusion. It was the great American lunch.

Carl Phillips: 5 Stars
“Sexy” food followed promptly be whoopee – how could you complain about that?

David Shields: 5 Stars
He had me at, “What do you want, the burrito or the chicken?”
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enjoy a Lovely Evening Outside
You may have noticed a tent between the Inn and the Little Theatre. We are expecting a lot of people for dinner tomorrow night, so a few of you may sit under the stars (under the tent), if you would like. Not only will you get fresh air, romantic lighting, and the joy of actually being able to hear the people at your table, but the dining staff will bring you a delicious dinner along with a glass of wine. We’ll even have sound out there so you won’t miss any announcements. First come, first serve. You know you want it.

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 Hall. 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.

Pick up books on consignment
The bookstore is not open Saturday. If you have books on consignment, please pick them up by 4:00 p.m. Friday.

Conference Evaluation Forms
Please check your email for a conference evaluation. 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.

Express Your Gratitude
If you would like to tip the waitstaff or housekeeping, you may do so by leaving money in an envelope at the Front Desk. For housekeeping staff tips, please make sure the building name and room number are on the envelope. Please hand in all tips to the Front Desk by 8:30 p.m. on Friday.

Get One Last Massage/Life Reading/Chakra Alignment Before You Head Home
Sign up outside the dining room.
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.

The *From the Dark Tower* Reading is one of the most popular and anticipated events at the conference. Any writer of color, including faculty and fellows, is invited to read, though we ask that you sign up in advance because time is limited. We proudly invite everyone on the mountain to attend at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, August 25, in the Little Theater. Join us in carrying on this longstanding Bread Loaf tradition.

This year’s readers will be:

- Alfredo Aguilar
- Dolapo Demuren
- Elijah Bean
- Phillip B. Williams
- Tiana Clark
- Jenny Xie
- Jaquira Díaz
- Aurvi Sharma
- Jennifer Hope Choi
- Jennifer S. Cheng
- Avia Tadmor
- Stephanie Jimenez
- Leena Soman
- Zahir Janmohamed
- Dolores Johnson
- Lauren Francis-Sharma
- Frederick Mkindra
- thandiwe Dee Watts-Jones
- Jericho Brown
- Jamie Figueroa

If you have any suggestions for how to run this reading so that it best serves its purpose and the conference, please get in touch with Blue Parlor Coordinator Katie Moulton.

*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