Craft Class Anticipation Builds

Well before 8 a.m. participants gathered near the Blue Parlor to wait for the craft class registration sheets to go up. At one point the queue extended from the bulletin board all the way through the lobby. Most classes were full within an hour.

Michelle Whittaker was among the participants lining up to sign up for a craft class. “I have a workshop with Linda, and I’m signing up for her craft class,” said Whittaker. “I can’t get enough of her.”

Craft classes are limited to 25 people to ensure that they can be hands-on and interactive. Sign-up sheets are posted by 8:00 a.m., two days before classes, on the wall near the back office. Bugging Noreen will not help you get on the list.

Poetry and Nonfiction Workshop Locations

Jane Alison — Barn Classroom 2
Ted Conover — Inn West Seminar
Linda Gregerson — Barn Observatory
Terrance Hayes — Barn Classroom 3
Edward Hirsch — Barn Classroom 5
Ann Hood — Library, upstairs (front end of building)
Sally Keith — Library, upstairs (back end of building)
Tom Sleigh — Barn 4
Ellen Bryant Voigt — Barn Classroom 6
Afaa Michael Weaver — Barn Classroom 1

“With more flair than he intended.”

Director’s Office Hours

Michael Collier will be available 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or by appointment.
Jennifer Grotz will be available 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. daily.
The Directors’ Office is across from the Back Office, next to the Blue Parlor.

Bird Walks Tomorrow and Sunday

Chip Blake, Editor-in-Chief of Orion magazine and co-director of the Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers’ Conference, will be on campus this weekend. Please join Chip for early morning bird walks Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16 (6:30 a.m. – 7:15 a.m., weather permitting). Meet in front of the Inn.
Special Talks on Publishing

Bread Loaf participants have found meeting with publishing professionals to be a very positive and helpful experience during their time at Bread Loaf. Our purpose in providing these meetings is to give you a chance to understand the publishing process a little more clearly by hearing from people directly involved in the industry.

Two events today will offer introductions to publishing poetry and prose. A panel on publishing prose, presented at the Little Theatre at 2:30 p.m., will feature Miriam Altshuler, President of Miriam Altshuler Literary Agency; PJ Mark, Agent at Janklow & Nesbit Associates; Fiona McCrae, Publisher of Graywolf Press; and Anna Pitoniak, Editor at Random House.

Ryan Murphy, Associate Director of Four Way Books, will offer a talk on publishing poetry, also at 2:30 p.m., in the Barn.

*Keith, while an expert at sleeping, is not a medical professional. His advice is entirely unscientific.

**KEITH WILSON’S GUIDE TO SLEEPING**

“Never be too shy to pamper yourself with a lavender-scented eye mask. But the elastics of old underwear will do in a pinch.”

Bookstores and Readings

Rick Simonson Offers Advice

Rick Simonson, senior buyer and founder of the thirty-year-old reading series at Seattle’s Elliott Bay Book Company, invites you to join him in a conversation about the essential role bookstores can play in getting a book out into the world. Writers, readers, agents, and editors are encouraged to come both to learn and share their experiences, tips, and questions at 5:30 p.m. in Barn Classroom 1.

In addition, he will be available in the barn on Friday and Saturday between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for those who would like to chat with him.
DOWN WITH THE SICKNESS

The first (and hopefully only) injury of the conference—a poetry scholar’s paper cut—was quickly cured by a trip to the self-care medicine cart, near the Bread Loaf Inn lobby bathrooms. The cart is stocked with items such as Band-Aids, Advil, and Tylenol. If you have an emergency, call 911 first, then inform the Front Desk by dialing 2700 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., and 2710 and 2713 between 10:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. Paper cuts are not considered an emergency.

WANT TO GET PAID?

If you have books on consignment, please stop by the bookstore at your earliest convenience to fill out a required W-9 and provide your mailing address. Without this information, Middlebury College cannot pay you!

HAVE A SEAT (BUT NOT THERE)

The front row of the back section of the Little Theatre will be reserved for waiter scholars in the evening. This is because waiters, who often get to the reading very late because of their duties, had to stand outside the doors in the past—which is no longer permitted according to the College’s crowd control rules. Having a conveniently accessible row of reserved seats will allow them to slip in like ninjas without disturbing the audience.

GUESTS

Join us in welcoming Ginger Murchison and Chip Blake to the mountain.

WHERE AT BREAD LOAF IS Michelle Peñaloza?

Today’s Where at Bread Loaf Is Michelle Peñaloza takes us on a floral journey. Guess where!

Yesterday’s edition featured Michelle posing behind a loom in her domain, the Blue Parlor. The newly renovated room is where participants will read their latest masterpieces to an enthusiastic audience each night. This leads us to....

Blue Parlor: Themes Decided, Friday’s Line-Up Announced

At the first Blue Parlor, we filled the salon to capacity! We talked, we weighed in on themes, and we learned what happens if you read past three minutes. First and foremost, we got the ball rolling on the 2015 Blue Parlor Reading Series. And today, we kick it off right with the first Blue Parlor reading of the year!

At 5:30 p.m. in the Blue Parlor, Deirdre Kelly, Caroline Barnes, April Matos, Rachel Beauland, Brian Davis, Tom Carrigan, Jonathan Woods, Jean Ende, Bob Johnson, Tim Potter, Jude Deason, Ellen Devlin, Shelley Blanton-Stroud, Susanne Craig, and Melissa Ferrone will share their work while the rest of us cheer them on. Great new writing, great new friends—why would you pass this up? (No, seriously: if I see you around, I will ask you.)

If you’d like to read this Saturday or Sunday look for the sign-up sheets that were posted on the Blue Parlor bulletin board at 8am this morning. Be sure to check them out. Friday and Saturday are open readings; Sunday’s theme is Ghosts. (Spooky!)

You can also now sign up for next Thursday’s One Minute in Heaven reading extravaganza and see the subjects of the other two themed readings—go check out the BP Bulletin Board!

The Blue Parlor: be there or be square. And by “square,” I mean “full of regret.”

Questions, suggestions, affirmations? Contact Michelle Peñaloza

COMMUNITY ITEMS

As Editor of Southern Humanities Review, Keetje Kuipers is seeking submissions of poetry and prose. SHR reads blind with the mission of diversity, both cultural and aesthetic. Purchase recent issues in the bookstore, and see Keetje to learn more about the magazine’s new social justice initiatives.

cont’d on page 5
The Crumb Guide to Agent and Editor Meetings

Many Bread Loaf participants have found meeting with publishing professionals to be a very positive and helpful experience during their time at Bread Loaf. The editors and agents also enjoy these conversations very much. Our purpose in providing these meetings is to give you a chance to understand the publishing process a little more clearly by hearing from people directly involved in the industry. Many participants have told us that these personalized meetings have allowed them to deal with matters of publication in a matter-of-fact way, with more understanding and less apprehension. You can also learn about publishing by attending our introductory panels, where editors and agents will give overviews of their work and take questions from the audience, and by attending other talks throughout the conference.

These meetings also give editors and agents the opportunity to meet you. The meetings are not “tests,” just early introductions, and gathering information is the primary goal. The guests are here for a couple of days or so only, and we have not asked them to offer editorial feedback on written work, so they are not expecting to read your work here at the conference. These meetings are not “tests,” just early introductions, and gathering information is the primary goal. The guests are here for a couple of days or so only, and we have not asked them to offer editorial feedback on written work, so they are not expecting to read your work here at the conference. Therefore, there should not be any sense of disappointment on either side if the meeting does not lead to an invitation to submit work.

How can I best make use of my time with an agent or editor?

You can ask questions about publishing and get feedback about where you are in your writing process. For instance, a guest might be able to comment about whether or not you are ready to send out a manuscript; about which presses might be suited to your project; about how to approach a particular agent; about your conception for a book; about the submission process at their particular agency or publishing house. If you have a particular question or issue in mind, you should feel free to bring it to the meeting. But if not, it’s fine just to say hello, to talk about your work in general terms, and make a personal contact.

What should I do if my meeting time has started and the guest is still chatting with another participant?

If the meeting scheduled before your meeting is running over, please do approach the guest and just give a quick wave to let the guest know that you are there. This is appreciated and will help to keep the meetings on schedule. If during the conference you find that you are not able to make a meeting, please send a quick email to mparlow@middlebury.edu to let staff know. Use “guest meeting” for the subject line. We’ll adjust the guest’s schedule and let them know.

TODAY’S TRIVIA QUESTION

Which two faculty members are related?

(The answer will be published tomorrow)

YESTERDAY’S TRIVIA ANSWER

Ann Hood met Bill Clinton, who held her child while, according to her mother, eyeing her. She will not be discussing this matter when she reads at 8:15 in Little Theatre tonight.
Donnelly Offers Writers Tips for Public Reading

Patrick Donnelly, Director of the Advanced Seminar at The Frost Place, will offer a special talk entitled “How to Be a Good Public Reader of Your Own Writing” at 10:10 a.m. in the Little Theatre. The talk, which is designed for fiction writers, will provide strategies for dealing with nerves and tips for pleasing reading organizers and audiences.

Donnelly asks that participants come prepared to read a short passage of prose. If time allows, two participants will be chosen to receive coaching, master-class style, while the audience learns from watching.

Donnelly will offer a version of this talk aimed at poets and nonfiction writers on Saturday at 10:10 a.m., also in the Little Theatre. The Saturday presentation will be similar to today’s. “Despite the differences in genres, both presentations will address best practices for readings of creative writing, and how to avoid some common mistakes,” Donnelly said. “We’ll also make some silly noises to figure out how the voice works.”

Scholar Reading Tonight

This year’s amazing batch of tuition scholars will read their work tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. This reading, the first of the late night readings that occur throughout the conference, draws a large crowd to cheer on up-and-coming writers from across the nation. Tonight’s readers will be Brett Beach, Emily Yong, Rebecca Sacks, Margaree Little, Chanel Benz, Julie Chinitz, Lillian Huang Cummins, Ross White, Jennifer De Leon, Garrad Conley, Ricardo Nuila, Javier Zamora, Edward Porter, Namwali Serpell, and Cate Lycurgus.

OVERHEARD AT BREAD LOAF

“We get to enact anti-social behavior—on pages.”

“I’m not doing yoga for weight loss. I would disappear.”

“Yeah, it’s like having the face of a 16-year-old and the hair of Al Sharpton”

“Drag queens love boyfriends.”

“I felt at some points like I was learning a new language; at other points like I was doing calculus.”

“Oh my. Oh my, oh my, oh my.”

Overheard anything interesting? Email us at blcrumb@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ITEMS cont’d from page 3

Gail Kenna (mailbox 2365), a teaching pro, is looking for a fellow tennis enthusiast. Donna Gordon (mailbox 2374) wants to practice for a tournament. They both have extra rackets.

Friends of Bill W. and anyone else trying to stay sober: Let’s have a meeting daily at 5:30 p.m. on the porch of the Inn.

Are you looking to teach yoga? Form a rugby league? Email us at blcrumb@gmail.com and let us help spread the word.

Relax, gain insight, and get balanced with a massage, life reading, or chakra balancing with Jayne Webb. Information on the bulletin board.