

TODAY'S EVENTS
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Yoga, Barn 008
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Lecture: "The Train Stops Here: Revision" by Margot Livesey, Little Theater
10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Optional Orientation for Bread Loafers, Little Theater
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Blue Parlor Informational Meeting, Barn Tent
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. All Workshops Meet
4:15 p.m. Reading: Matthew Gellman, Diana Khoi Nguyen, and Joseph Earl Thomas, Little Theater
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Barn Social
5:30 p.m. Special Film Showing, <i>Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am</i> , Little Theater
6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dinner Bread Loaf Inn
8:15 p.m. Reading: Carmen Giménez and Dinaw Mengestu, Little Theater
9:15 p.m. - Midnight Barn Pub

99th Conference Begins!

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference kicked off yesterday, making 2024 the ninety-ninth year that writers have gathered together here on the mountain to read, listen, dance, and discuss. This year's 260 participants hail from all over the world and all stages of their writing careers!

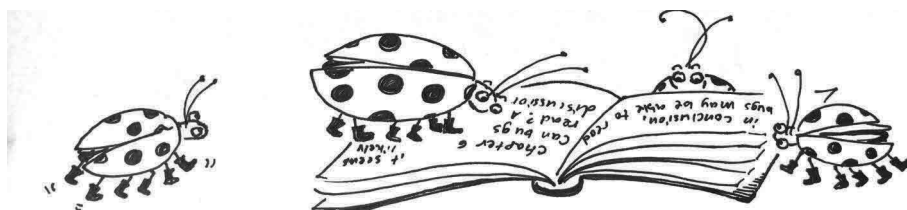
Whether you're a returning participant leaping joyfully into your old friends' arms or a first-timer wandering campus in search of the restrooms, we're so glad you're here.

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.

Workshop Locations

Please note that locations are only for today, Thursday, August 15. Vans to Earthworm will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m.

- Marie-Helene Bertino - Barn 101
- Ladee Hubbard - Barn 102
- Rebecca Makkai - Barn 203
- Garth Greenwell - Barn 204
- Adrian Matejka - Barn 205
- Jenny Bouilly - Barn 206
- Mark Wunderlich - Barn 008
- Jamel Brinkley - Barn Observatory
- Mat Johnson - Inn West Seminar
- Helen Schulman - Dining Tent
- Sally Keith - Library Upstairs (Front end of building)
- Rick Barot - Barn Tent
- Catherine Barnett - Little Theater Portico
- Margot Livesey - Library Main Floor
- Carmen Giménez - Blue Parlor
- Paul Lisicky - Treman Living Room
- Dinaw Mengestu - Tamarack Living Room
- Samantha Hunt - Earthworm Living Room



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forget Amazon!

Books by faculty, fellows, and participants are for sale in the Bookstore, as are Bread Loaf clothing and swag. The store is located in the basement of the Annex; the entrance is at the rear of the building. Cash, Visa, and MasterCard are accepted. Go say hello to **Riley Earle** and **Liz Carr**, the keepers of the books!

Be sure to check the Bookstore door for the most up-to-date hours.

Apple Cellar Tech

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

Conference Orientation Today!

Questions? Bewilderments? Mountain air got you dizzy? Fret no more and join us at 10:15 a.m. today for an optional conference orientation in the Little Theater. Please note this updated start time. See you there at 10:15 a.m.!

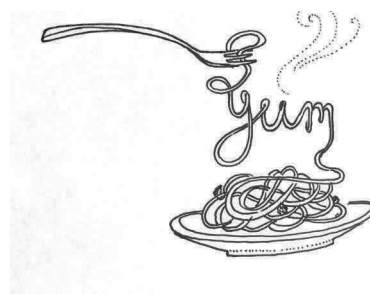
All About Lunch

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 11:30 a.m.
- On days when your workshop does meet, please go to the Dining Room at 12:15 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.
- For those who would like to enjoy their meals outdoors, a selection of picnic blankets will be available as well as picnic tables and Adirondack chairs on the Bread Loaf lawns. A tent for dining is also available between the Bread Loaf Inn and the Annex. Please be aware that on some days the tent may be used for events or meetings so it will be necessary to enter only after the event has finished.

Reminders

- Meal times are prompt. Running short on time? Just grab a to-go container!
- Enjoy the fresh Vermont air! We encourage diners to take their meals outside.
- Coffee is available in the morning by 6:30 a.m. After breakfast ends, coffee and water are available in the Dining Room and Barn throughout the day.
- If you have an allergy or food concern, please be proactive and discuss any questions or concerns with the Kitchen Staff.
- The doors to the Inn lock after 10:00 p.m. Use code **27000** to enter after hours.



Craft Classes

The classes take place at 2:30 p.m. on the days listed, and each is limited to 25 people unless otherwise noted. Sign-up sheets will be available in two batches via Google Forms and go out to Bread Loafers' personal emails. The Craft Class Sign-up Email for week one classes will go out at 8:30 a.m. today. The Craft Class Sign-up Email for week two classes will go out at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 19.

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).

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 today to take group photos. An order form for photos will be available later in the conference.

Pizza in the Barn

Come by the Barn Pub this evening for a slice. The conference will provide pizza—until we're all out!



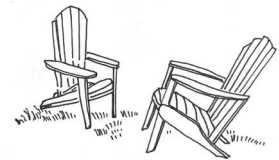
Blue Parlor Informational Meeting

Due to the popularity of the inimitable Blue Parlor reading series, the 2024 readings will, once again, not actually take place in the Blue Parlor. Bread Loaf's own literary salon has moved to fresh digs in the Barn Tent, where we will convene to share and celebrate our work, wow each other outside of the workshop, and enjoy post-lunch snacks, provided by your hosts, Danielle Harms and Tobi Kassim.

Today at 11:00 a.m., immediately following the orientation, you're invited to the Barn Tent to learn more about the BP reading series and ask questions. A few of the hot topics to be discussed: How and where do I sign up? How long can I read? Can I wear sweatpants? This meeting will finish in time to head over to lunch afterward. Information and sign-ups for the Blue Parlor series will be emailed to you from blwc.blueparlor@gmail.com. On Friday, August 16th, the first reading of the season kicks off at 1:15 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 Coordinators
Danielle Harms & Tobi Kassim*



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.
4. Masks are required in the Little Theater through the end of Sunday, August 18. Afterwards, masks are strongly encouraged.
5. Lost valuables will be brought to the Front Desk for safekeeping.

—*Neysa King, Yvonne Liu, Jon Sargent, and Marc Spero*

Explore Scenic Middlebury

Starting tomorrow, van trips to Middlebury leave the Inn around 1:30 p.m. and return from Middlebury at 3:30 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, limited to six people. Note: The driver will not wait for lollygaggers! Be on time.

Yoga

Yoga instructor Joanna Colwell will offer Iyengar yoga classes daily, beginning today, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in Barn 008. The classes are appropriate for all abilities and all are welcome. A handful of mats will be available. The final yoga class will be on Friday, August 23.

AA Meetings

Meetings are scheduled to take place daily from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the Upstairs Library (back end of building). To schedule additional meeting times while on the mountain, just let a Back Office Staff member know. Staff will reserve the room and include a note about the meetings in *The Crumb*. The meetings are self-run and are open to all.

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.

—*Caroline Beimford, Marley Badolati, Suhail Mandani, Annie Reid, Nick Robinson, Dane Slutzky, Reed Turchi, and Katerina Zadé.*

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, and soft drinks will be available free of charge. The bar in the Barn will open again at 9:15 p.m., after the evening readings.



Hi from the Davison Library at Bread Loaf!

We invite you to make the library your comfy, book-filled oasis for the next ten days. Please stop by to say hi, relax in the overstuffed chairs, and enjoy our book displays, free printing, and assistance with wifi. (We're the white building behind the Little Theater.) See you soon!

—*Kellam Ayres, Bread Loaf Librarian*
(kayres@middlebury.edu)

GUESTS

Happy trails to **Xochitl Gonzalez**, today is her last day on the mountain!

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.

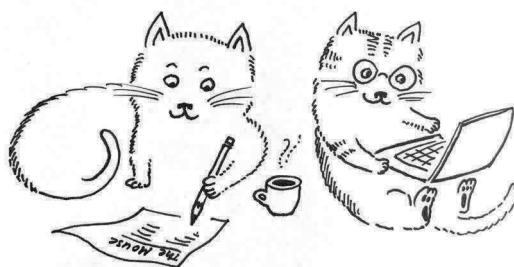
Please note that while the editors delight in reading missed connections in their spare time, they take a staunch “Bartleby, the Scrivener” approach to the running of advertisements and personals.

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.

You're also welcome to bring us gifts of

coffee (cream, no sugar), hot gossip, and funny drawings of cats (or toads). We are very friendly and love meeting new people!

— Annie Schumacher
and Rowan Sharp, Editors



OVERHEARD

“There was a time when I exclusively listened to Weird Al’s polka selection.”

“I get bored quick. Gemini moon.”

“I’m standing in the dark doing logistics.”

“It’s like labrodoodles...we shouldn’t have done that.”

“Ah yes, the two genders: Marin and Fresno.”

“My friend calls them sky bats.” “What, as opposed to land bats?!”

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

Tiny Horoscopes

First morning on the mountain!



ARIES

Four-leaf clovers



LIBRA

Bat your eyelashes



TAURUS

Creekside chat?



SCORPIO

Arnold Palmer



GEMINI

Turn off your phone



SAG.

Bug spray



CANCER

Nap hard



CAP.

Sharpen your pencils



LEO

Find your crush



AQU.

Lip gloss



VIRGO

Call your cat



PISCES

Bird watch

WEATHER REPORT

Have your raincoat handy — our meteorologists are predicting a chance of showers.

High: 77° Low: 58°