

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.
"See, What Had Happened Was:
Life's Story," by Mat Johnson,
Little Theater

10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
Poetry and Nonfiction Workshops

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

1:15 p.m.
Blue Parlor Reading, Barn Tent

3:00 p.m.
Special Talk on Prose: "Getting
the Pitch Right," with Miriam
Altshuler, Little Theater

4:15 p.m.
Reading: Jessamine Chan,
Garrard Conley, and Crystal Hana
Kim, Little Theater

5:15 - 6:15 p.m.
Barn Social

6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:15 p.m.
Reading: Lauren Francis-Sharma
and Sally Keith, Little Theater

9:15 p.m.
Reading: Administrative Staff
Scholars, Night one of two, Little
Theater, followed by Barn Pub

Special Talk on Prose

**"Getting the Pitch Right," with
Miriam Altshuler**

The better you are at talking and writing about your book, the better chance you have to get the interest of an agent or editor. Miriam Altshuler will give a presentation at 3:00 p.m. in the Little Theater and lead a Q&A so you know how to make the best pitch possible and how to write a compelling and clear query letter. Miriam encourages you to come with questions.



Poetry and Nonfiction

Workshop Locations

Catherine Barnett - Little Theater Portico

Rick Barot - Barn Tent

Jenny Bouilly - Tamarack Porch

Carmen Giménez- Blue Parlor

Sally Keith - Library Upstairs (front end of building)

Paul Lisicky - Barn 203

Adrian Matejka - Barn 205

Mark Wunderlich - Barn 102

Directors' Office Hours

Jennifer Grotz:

1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. or by appointment

Lauren Francis-Sharma:

10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or by appointment

The Directors' Office is across from the Back Office,
by the Blue Parlor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Promptitude (It's a Real Word!)

Bread Loaf events start promptly. Please be on time for all lectures and readings.

Phones Off

Please (*please!*) remember to turn off your phone when you attend readings and lectures.

Hearing Assistance

For those who need a volume boost in the Little Theater, please talk to the Little Theater Coordinators, Neysa King, Yvonne Liu, Jon Sargent, or Marc Spero to get a hearing assist unit.

To Slam or Not to Slam (It's Not Really a Question)

Satisfying as it may be to give a door a good slam, sound carries and your neighbors may be napping. Please be mindful and ease doors shut.

Good God, Where Is the Coffee?

While breakfast doesn't start until 7:30 a.m., all you up-at-sunrise caffeine junkies can help yourselves to coffee in the Dining Room starting at 6:30 a.m. Coffee is also available in the Barn throughout the day.

Keep Hydrated

The pace of Bread Loaf is hectic. Please drink plenty of water so you don't get dehydrated. You can get water in the Inn (check out the water fountain in the lobby!) and all day in the Barn.

Please Recycle

There are recycling bins across campus. Toss old copies of *The Crumb* in them! Or keep them if you're feeling sentimental.



The Conference takes its name from the illustrious and appetizing Bread Loaf Mountain, which famously* ranks 87th among the 100 tallest peaks in New England.

*starting now

What's Next for the Blue Parlor Reading Series?

At yesterday's Blue Parlor Reading Series informational meeting, we went over sign-ups, schedules, community, our Bread Loaf intentions, and shared general banter like, *What happens if you read past three minutes?*

Find out soon...

Drum roll please...The first BP reading of 2024 happens today at 1:15 p.m. in the Barn Tent!

Be sure to check your email for the link and other regular updates from us.

How could you pass up an opportunity to hear great new writing from great new friends? Tell your friends. Be there or be square. And by "square," we mean "full of regret."

Nagging questions, burning suggestions, wild affirmations?

Contact Danielle Harms

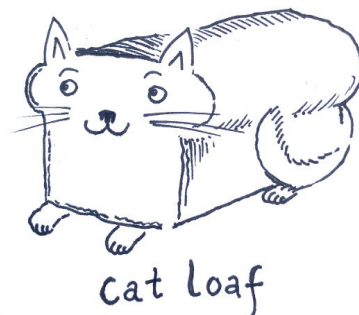
and Tobi Kassim:

daniellemharms@gmail.com

tobi.kassim@gmail.com

Book It to the Library

Now that you're settling in, did you know that the library can fetch books from the main campus and deliver them to Bread Loaf? Just email Kellam (kayres@middlebury.edu) with the titles you need! Also, are you the kind of person who enjoys free bookmarks, pencils, and small-batch, handcrafted buttons that highlight the history of the Davison Library? If so, I think you know where to go...



WEATHER

Partly Cloudy
High: 82° Low: 61°

GUESTS

Today we welcome
Ibrahim Ahmad
to the mountain!

ANNOUNCEMENTS!**The Tent Awaits!**

Our beloved Social Staff reminds you that during Barn Pub evenings, folks are welcome to carry their drinks to the Barn Tent if they wish! As we're encouraging Bread Loafers to spread out and utilize outside space this year, the Barn Tent is an additional option.

**Administrative Staff
Scholar Reading
Tonight**

This year's stunning batch of Bread Loaf Administrative Staff Scholars will read their work tonight at 9:15 p.m. in the Little Theater. This is the first of two Staff Scholar readings, so come out and cheer for the hard-working writers who help keep Bread Loaf cooking along! Reading tonight will be:

Yvonne Liu
Katerina Zadé
Angela Boyd
Dane Slutzky
Jon Sargent
Rowan Sharp
Annie Schumacher
Angela Siew
Caroline Beimford

**The Crumb Guide to
Agent & Editor Meetings**

Many Bread Loaf participants have found meeting with publishing professionals to be quite a positive and helpful experience during their time here on the mountain. The editors and agents also enjoy these conversations very much. The purpose of 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.

These meetings also give editors and agents the opportunity to meet you. The meetings are not "tests," just early introductions, and the primary goal is to gather information. The guests are only here for a couple of days or so, and we have not asked them to offer editorial feedback on written work, so they aren't expecting to read your work here at the conference. If they are interested, they will let you know that they would like you to submit a sample or a manuscript, but in general they are just looking to give you some concrete advice according to the stage you are at with your writing. 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 blwc@middlebury.edu to let staff know. Use "guest meeting" for the subject line. Or stop by and see Jason Lamb in the back office. We'll adjust the guest's schedule and let them know.

Craft Class Anticipation Builds!

Saturday and Sunday kick off our first round of craft classes by Fellows and Faculty! Gone are the days of frenzied hallway scuffling for paper sign-up sheets. On Thursday morning, the thrill-seekers among us still found a way to savor the moment, lighting up the morning with jubilant shouts as the sign-up email pinged into inboxes across campus.

Craft classes are capped at 25 participants, with no waiting list, and they fill up promptly. But if you missed the excitement yesterday, no worries! Craft classes will also be offered on Tuesday, August 20, Wednesday, August 21, and Thursday, August 22. Sign-up emails go out at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 19. *The Crumb* Editors recommend: be poised at your inbox, with your top choices already selected, at 8:28 a.m.!

A Note from the Bookstore

Nothing can come between you and the book haul of your dreams! In addition to cash, Visa, and MasterCard, the Bookstore also accepts AmEx and Apple Pay/mobile pay (so, almost everything). Stop by and say hello to Riley and Liz, your friendly local booksellers—you won't regret it!

Counselor on Campus

For mental health matters, please contact our counselor, Antonia Losano, at aalosano@middlebury.edu to make an appointment. Antonia will be available on the Bread Loaf campus daily between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and will be able to arrange a meeting place that will work best for you. Faculty and participants are also welcome to contact the director, assistant director, administrative director, or coordinator (Jennifer Grotz, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Noreen Cargill, or Jason Lamb) for a referral.

Lost and Found at the Little Theater

Items of low to moderate value unearthed in the Little Theater will be deposited atop the fireplace, out of combustion range. Feel free to reclaim your own items at your convenience. Items of high value, such as babies and gold bricks, will be kept at the Front Desk. Please speak to the Front Desk staff if you lose an item of high value.

—Neysa King,

Yvonne Liu,

Jon Sargent,

and Marc Spero

COMMUNITY ITEMS

AA Meetings

AA Meetings are scheduled to take place daily from 7 a.m. to 8 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.

Yoga

Yoga instructor Joanna Colwell offers Iyengar yoga classes daily 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 are available.

Tiny Horoscopes

Fashion Tips Edition



ARIES

Don't wear socks



LIBRA

Fake mustache



TAURUS

Cursed locket



SCORPIO

"Distressed" jeans



GEMINI

Clatterns (clashing patterns)



SAG.

Lint roller



CANCER

Lumpy sweater



CAP.

Business casual



LEO

Goth lipstick



AQU.

Glowsticks?



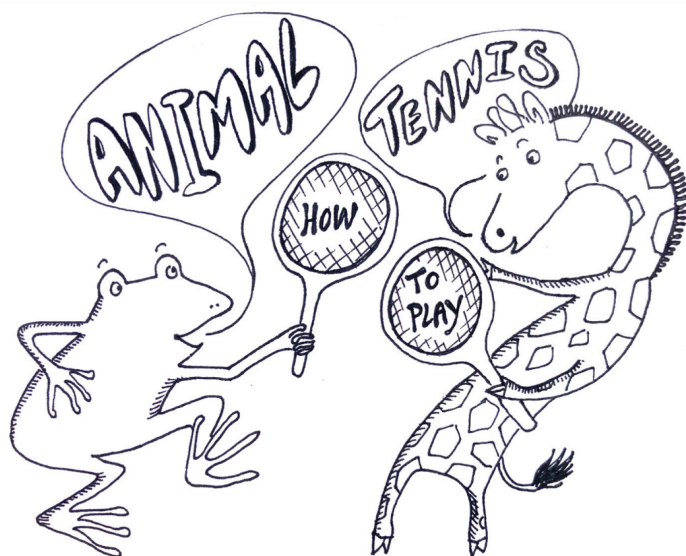
VIRGO

Garden fairy realness



PISCES

Velvet vest



Animal Tennis is a word game created at Bread Loaf in 2023 by Jacob Shores-Argüello, named by Patrick Phillips. Here are the rules!

For 2 players and up. Pick a player to “serve.” They will say a Compound Word or Short Known Phrase. Examples: “Houseboat,” “Never going to give you up,” or “Bread Loaf.”

The next player clockwise continues the chain by saying another Compound Word or Short Known Phrase that uses the “ending of prior word”. Example: Player 1 says “Underworld” and Player 2 responds with “World War One.” You keep going around the circle, chaining the words or phrases.

You score a point when someone references an animal. Example: Player 2 said “World War One.” Player 3 says “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” So player 3 scores because they referenced a cuckoo.

The player who wins the point then starts the serve with a *new* Compound Word or Short Known Phrase and the game keeps going. You play to 2 or 3 points.

Some Extra Guidelines:

A. The first two people to go in a particular round cannot score a point. This stops people from just starting with an animal and scoring.

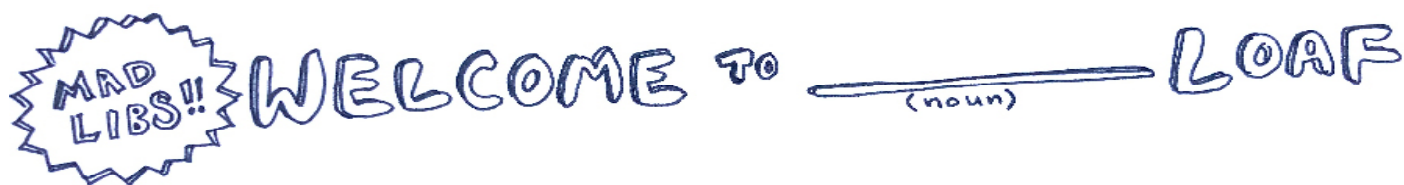
B. Homophones don’t count.

C. If a player can’t come up with a word, they pass. If they pass, the first person who can throw out a word that completes the chain gets a point via a steal. A steal doesn’t have to reference an animal. They then get the serve.

E. If a player tries to use a phrase or a compound word that is weak or doesn’t quite make sense, then everyone votes if it works. At least half of the players need to agree that it was a viable play. If it is not a viable play, the player gets to try again.

F. Play is fast. You can have a countdown forcing people to pass if they take too long.

G. Humans aren’t animals.



- A. Adjective
- B. Noun
- C. Adjective
- D. Verb (past tense)
- E. Pick one: touch, sight, sound, smell, taste
- F. Adjective
- G. Animal
- H. Piece of furniture
- I. Adjective
- J. Edible items (plural)
- K. Emotional state
- L. Body part
- M. Emotion

After a (A)_____ August day at the
(B)_____ Loaf Writers’ Conference, puzzling
over what to say to this (C)_____ literary
agent, I worried over my book title in the Barn until I
(D)_____. I was startled by the (E)_____
of a (F)_____ (G)_____ peeping out
from under the (H)_____. It offered me a
(I)_____ snack of (J)_____ and sud-
denly I felt (K)_____ ! I knew exactly what
to say! And I knew my book would be called The
(L)_____ of (M)_____ .

Faculty Flashback!



Rebecca Makkai getting serious



Radiant as ever:
Carmen Giménez and Mark Wunderlich

Overheard

“Someone had some handsomeness last night.”

“I’m goo-goo-ga-ga for women in overalls.”

“I have a bootleg Anne Carson T-shirt.”

“That combination of words has never been spoken before in the English language.”

“I’m here for the fashion, not the writing.”

“Imagine being horny in the afterlife!”

*Eavesdrop on your friends and send us more at
blcrumb@gmail.com! We love you!*

