

A little bit of news from the **Bread Loaf Writers' Conference** 

Vol. 99

Monday, August 19, 2024

No. 6

## **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. Writers' Cramp Race, meeting at the Annex Front Porch

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Lecture: "Revision as an Act of Autonomy," by Marie-Helene Bertino, Little Theater

11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Documentary, Little Theater

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

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Writers of Color Panel with Jessamine Chan, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Ladee Hubbard, Mat Johnson, Adrian Matejka, and Clevvis Natera, Little Theater

> 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Blue Parlor Reading Series, Barn Tent

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

8:15 p.m. - 9:15 pm. Reading: Rick Barot and Rebecca Makkai, Little Theater

> 9:15 p.m. – Midnight Barn Pub



# Writers' Cramp Race This Morning

Don't let the name scare you off - the Writers' Cramp Race is a friendly competition along a 2.75 mile course. It begins this morning at 9:00 a.m. Runners of all skill levels should meet by the Front Porch of the Annex by 8:45 a.m. for instructions and an overview of the course, which winds through the campus and down to the Frost Farm. Volunteers are welcome to help with providing water and cheering. Runners can get a late breakfast in the Dining Room. For everyone not participating in the race, breakfast will end as usual at 8:30 a.m.

We'd love to see your epic photos from the race! Share on your own socials with #BreadLoaf2024, or send them to us at blcrumb@gmail.com.

# **Frost Farm Picnic Canceled**

Unfortunately, due to mud and soggy ground, the Frost Picnic is canceled today. Lunch will be served in the Dining Room, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., as usual.

The Frost Cabin will be open for viewing, however, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Vans will leave the Inn every 15 minutes. Gather on the Front Porch of the Inn if you would like a ride. At the site, the van will need to drop people off about 200 feet from the cabin, and from there the walk to the cabin is on an uneven dirt path through the woods.

To walk to the Cabin site from the Bread Loaf Inn: the Cabin can be reached via Route 125, but Front Desk Manager Edward Brown recommends taking the marked path through the woods, if you're able to.

Walking directions continued on page 2

The Crumb

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

#### No Cause for Alarm

Please do not open any emergency exits (unless it's an emergency, of course). Opening emergency exits causes alarms to go off and can disrupt a good night's sleep. Thank you.

### Writers of Color Panel "Writing for the Culture"

Join us today at 3:00 p.m. in the Little Theater for a craft-focused panel discussion featuring Jessamine Chan, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Ladee Hubbard, Mat Johnson, Adrian Matejka, and Cleyvis Natera. All participants are welcome to attend.

#### **Craft Class Sign-ups**

Craft classes will be offered on Tuesday, August 20, Wednesday, August 22, and Thursday, August 23. Sign-up emails go out at 8:30 a.m. this morning. The Crumb Editors recommend: be poised at your inbox, with your top choices already selected at 8:28 a.m.!

### Walking Directions to Frost Cabin

#### (continued from page 1)

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The path through the woods is not only more scenic, but also safer, as traffic tends to speed on Route 125. To walk through the woods, go to the Barn parking lot, then follow the road back behind the Barn, and then continue across the dirt road to the trail. The trail on the left (marked by a pink ribbon) will lead to the Frost Cabin.

If you choose to walk to the Frost Cabin along Route 125, please walk single file and be careful. To reach the Cabin via the road, turn right at the Inn porch and walk .7 miles down 125. Turn right onto Frost Road, just before the Robert Frost Wayside; the Frost Cabin is roughly .8 miles up the road.

## Blue Parlor Set to Outshine the Sun

Keep your splendid, silent sun; Keep your woods, O Nature, and the quiet places by the woods—give me the Blue Parlor yawp! Whitman wrote that, or something like it, and we know just what he means. BP-ers will continue to burn bright with their magnitude, humor and literary verve promptly at 4:15 p.m.! Today's lineup includes:

Meg Besser, Nick Bogdanich, Rebecca Bryant, Andrew De Silva, Celine Ipek, Blair Jockers, Ina Lipkowitz, Lael Mohib, Armon Mahdavi, Kathy McGoldrick, Kristie Redfield, Bonnie Rhee, Sofia Sears, Paul Waldhart, and Lynnette Widder.

The sign-up sheet for week two's Blue Parlor reading, happening Wednesday, August 21 will go out by email today at 7:30 p.m. We will also share the sign up sheets for the One Minute in Heaven Reading on Friday, August 23.

It's bound to be a good one, so rest up those reading voices and clapping hands!

Questions? Suggestions? Blue Parlor Coordinators Danielle Harms or Tobi Kassim now accepting mixtapes, tips, and hot gossip.

GUESTS	WEATHER
Today we welcome <b>Kevin Craft</b> , <b>Lindsay Garbutt</b> , <b>Jenny Xu</b> , and <b>Martha Rhodes</b> to the Mountain!	Cloudy with scattered showers and possible storms.
afe travels to Miriam Altshuler and Ibrahim Ahmad.	High: 76° Low: 52°

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## From the Workshops...

Here's a another taste (a delicious crumb, if you will) of the feast of literature being discussed in workshop:

I have an easier time envisioning the relational machinations of the word antagonist when I call up its definition in connection with muscles, with muscular functioning. According to Merriam Webster, in physiology an antagonist is defined as "a muscle that contracts with and limits the action of an agonist with which it is paired." The agonist exerts control, influence, against the antagonist. The agonist muscle acts, the antagonist muscle opposes the movement, usually by operating in an opposite way. When you flex your knee, the hamstrings are the agonist, the quadriceps the antagonist. When you flex your elbow, the biceps contract, the triceps relax. The antagonist acts in opposition to the agonist. There's a strain, a struggle; an action and a reaction.

-Tahneer Oksman (from Paul Lisicky's workshop)

### **COMMUNITY ITEMS**

#### Birthday Bash Reading & Shenanigans

Join a celebratory birthday reading at 9:15 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20 in the Barn Tent (rain location: Barn). Sign up to read with KT Herr: kt.herr@gmail.com. Spectation is participation!

### Praise for Apple Crisp

I would like to express my effusive praises for the apple crisp—praise which was shared by many of my table mates—and make a humble request for more apple crisp posthaste. *-Nina Lea Oishi* 

### **Boston Area Bread Loafers**

Are you a Boston area Bread Loafer? Let's continue the magic from the mountain at home. If you're interested, let's meet in person at the Barn Social Monday at 5:15 p.m. Please also send an email to Katie Coleman (katiehurlbut@gmail.com) with your contact details (area of the city, phone number), and I will work on setting up a group email/chat so we can plan to connect. -*Katie Coleman* 

## New (Totally Legitimate) Bread Loaf Conferences!

Have you loved the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference so much that you're looking for another writing conference to attend? We're pleased to announce these additions to the Bread Loaf family!

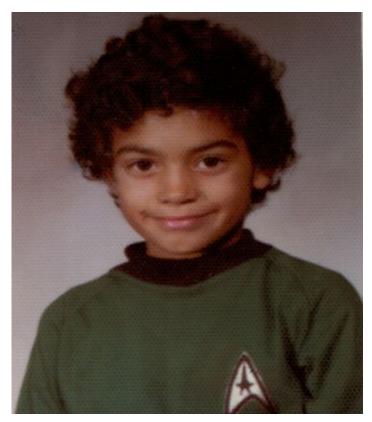
**Breath Loaf** - For lovers of the crisp air here on the mountain, this conference will focus entirely on breathing, breath, and caesura. Our esteemed faculty will hold classes—often silent!—on how to move air from your nose to your lungs, and workshops will consist of participants breathing in and out for six hours.

**Bed Loaf** - Unlike most other writing conferences, this two-week conference includes almost no instruction and simply lets you catch up on your sleep. Sessions alternate between meal times and nap times, the evening reading is just a white noise machine in the Little Theater, and your conference welcome packet includes Ambien and NyQuil. Perfect for new parents, teen writers, and anyone who works a full-time job while writing.

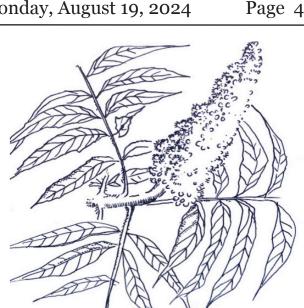
**Bet Loaf** - If you're thinking, "I love Bread Loaf, but I sure miss gambling," this is the conference for you. Between writing workshops and craft classes, participants will wager on almost every aspect of the conference: lengths of readings, what kind of meat will be served at dinner, how long it will take before Jason Lamb looks you in the eye and says, "This party is OVER!" The culminating event of the conference is a cagematch between the Fellows.

Brett Loaf - Brett Easton Ellis is the only faculty member. You will be terrified the entire time.

## **Faculty Flashback!**



Captain Adrian Matejka of the U.S.S. Crumbleprise



**Tree of the Day** Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)

This graceful tree with distinctive cones of fuzzy red fruit is native to New England.

Find it: Behind the Library.

**Did you know?** Those fuzzy little berries are edible and can be used to brew a delicious, tart "pink lemonade!"

#### **OVERHEARD**

"The first thing out of his bag was pop tarts and a feelings wheel."

"I'm a writer, I'm not supposed to have friends."

"Sweating is my beauty secret."

"Well, the roommate would have to be subject to my crotchal sightings."

"You got bridesmaid energy."

"My dog went to Dartmouth, played lacrosse, and committed a hit and run and got away with it."

Please send us more at blcrumb@gmail.com!

