

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

Vol. 99

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

No. 7

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: "Between the Lines: On the Function Word," by Carmen Giménez, Little Theater

> 10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. **Fiction Workshops**

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

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Blue Parlor Reading

2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Craft Classes

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Reading: James Allen Hall, Robert Wood Lynn, Mai Nardone, and Cleyvis Natera, Little Theater

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Book Signing and Reception, West Lawn (Rain location: Barn Tent)

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

8:15 p.m.-9:15 p.m. Reading: Marie-Helene Bertino and Mark Wunderlich, Little Theater

> 9:15 p.m. - Midnight Barn Pub

Book Signing and Reception

The book signing and reception will take place today on the West Lawn at 5:15 p.m. Authors will be available to sign copies of their books while everyone enjoys refreshments. The Bookstore will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. today to ensure that last-minute shoppers can get books just before the signing. There are so many gorgeous books by Bread Loaf Faculty, Fellows, Guests, and Participants available. So, go make some of those hard-earned writer dollars rain! In the event of actual rain, the book signing and reception will be held in the Barn Tent.



Craft Class Corner

Five more craft classes are here to save your lives! Please note that any required handouts are available on the table in the Inn.

> "Dynamic Dialogue: Crafting Voice in Fiction" with Ladee Hubbard, Barn Classroom 101

"The Art of Scene-Making in Prose," with Garrard Conley, Barn Classroom 206

"Astrology, Enneagrams, and Personality Tests: Getting to Know Our Characters," with Crystal Hana Kim, Barn Classroom 205

> "Fractals: Identifying Patterns in Our Writing," with Paul Lisicky, Barn Classroom 102

"Excavating Our Lives: Writing from Personal Archives," with Erin Marie Lynch, Barn Classroom 204

WEATHER

Partly cloudy High 61°, Low 49°

GUESTS

Extend a warm welcome to **Emily Burns.**



Off to the races!



The winners bask in glory.

The Writers' Cramp Race Results Are in!

Following a night of rambunctious dancing and magnificent merriment in the Barn Tent, twelve tired, determined athletes gathered outside the Annex building just before 9:00 a.m. for the annual Writers' Cramp Race. They stretched, ran sprints, satisfied sporty pre-race superstitions. 9:00 came. The verbal starting gun sounded. They rounded the corner and headed past the Barn, while this writer and Noreen Cargill settled onto the Annex porch to discuss New Hampshire cabins, lakes, aquifers, and races past as the fog rolled up the mountaintops. Cars passed; the wind blew. Others walked by, asking themselves if they could even complete this 2.75 mile loop on gravel roads and a relatively busy highway all the way to the Homer Noble Farmhouse and back.

Passersby to the Annex extended morning greetings and were roped into helping hold the finish line—a roll of recycled pulp toilet paper—across the road between the Annex and Cherry. The runners were out there, running, and here we were, not running. Waiting, watching the horizon. And then it happened: two runners rounded the bend of 125, seemingly side-by-side. One pulled ahead, breaking away just slightly. The toilet paper tore. There were cheers. And then more runners came, and more, and they were all triumphant, breaking through the toilet-paper finish, radiant with achievement, good cheer, and a bit of dehydration.

Congratulations to all participants in the day's race! And a very special nod to our winners: Joshua Wales, clocking in at 20:22; Braeden Houtman (20:25); and Teddy Helfers (20:39).

—Zack Abrams

The Wild Blue (Parlor) Yonder

The Blue Parlor continues its run of absolute dominance with off-the-wall readings, light refreshments, and incisive communal questioning, today at 1:15 p.m. Please come and find out each reader's answer to the question: *What animal would you be for a day?*

Today's lineup features: Dana Alsamsam, Kate Baldwin, Nat Bottigheimer, Hillary Brehman, Rae Canaan, Alison Grannuci, Philomena Feighan, Korey Lewis, Ellie Rodgers, Susan Sattell, Dimple Shah, Sofi Stambo, Dennis Steinman, and Swati Sudarsan.

We hope to share the Blue Parlor's convivial atmosphere of raucous joy with you! It's good for your circulation. See you this afternoon!

Contact Danielle Harms and Tobi Kassim with all relevant questions, pictures, and trivialities. daniellemharms@gmail.com and tobi.kassim@gmail.com



The Crumb

Page 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Toni Morrison Documentary Screening

The film *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am* will be shown in the Little Theater on Wednesday, August 21 at 5:30 p.m. "From her childhood in the steel town of Lorain, Ohio, to '70s-era book tours with Muhammad Ali, from the front lines with Angela Davis to her own riverfront writing room—Toni Morrison leads an assembly of her peers, critics, and colleagues on an exploration of race, America, history, and the human condition as seen through the prism of her own literature."

Please Pick Up Your Trash!

Yes, we may be staggering about in a daze of craft lessons and thrilling conversations...but please (please!) take care to pick up and throw away your trash as you leave the Little Theater, Barn, and picnic tables. The Administrative Staff and Facilities Staff will appreciate your consideration.

Conselor on Campus

For mental health matters, please contact our counselor, Antonia Losano, at alosano@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.



COMMUNITY ITEMS

Cheers to all the wonderful Bread Loafers hosting events and building community on the Mountain on beyond! There's a lot going on, so read up and mark your calendars!

Tuesday, August 20

Birthday Bash Reading & Shenanigans

...for KT Herr at 9:15 p.m. on Tuesday in the Barn Tent (rain location: Barn). Sign up to read by emailing kt.herr@gmail.com.

Wednesday, August 21

Black Writers' Meetup

This is for all participants, staff, fellows, faculty, and guests who identify as Black, African American, African, Afro-European, or Afro-Caribbean. We're having a meet-and-greet on Wednesday, August 21 at 8 p.m. at the Barn Tent. Please spread the word. Please feel free to contact Olga Jobe at olga. jobe@gmail.com with questions.

Latinx Writers' Meet-and-Greet

All participants, staff, fellows, faculty, and guests who identify as Latinx are invited to an informal meet-and-greet on Wednesday, August 21 at 5:15 p.m. at the Barn Tent. It'll be a chance to meet other Latinx-identified authors, trade contact information and most importantly, to build comunidad! Please contact C. Adán Cabrera (@cadancabrera) or Matthew Lawrence García with any questions!

AAPI Lunch and **Schedule Change** for AAPI Group Photo

In order to make space for the Words for Palestine reading on Thursday, the AAPI group lunch and photo will now both take place on Wednesday, August 21. Grab your lunch and join us at the Dining Room Tent at 12:15 p.m.! We'll take a group photo at 1 p.m. Contact crystalhanalkim@gmail.com or yvonneliuwriter@gmail.com with questions.

Speculative Writers' Meetup

Informal dinnertime meet-up of speculative writers on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at a table near the salad bar. Look for Meg Besser and Tanisha Tekriwal.

Thursday, August 22

Words for Palestine Reading

Please join us for a reading to hold space and grief for Palestine here at Bread Loaf. The reading will be at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, August 22 in the Barn Tent and will feature Jenny Johnson, Umair Kazi, Marie Helene-Bertino, Dana Alsamsam, Jamel Brinkley, Tobi Kassim, Joseph Earl Thomas, Swati Sudarsan, Adrian Matejka, Kenny Carroll, Jameelah Lang, and Abdelrahman ElGendy. Together, we hope to create a collective space that forefronts our shared humanity through language, solidarity, and radical love.

And in general...

Artist Needed!

ISO a graphic artist to design a "bread head" T-shirt that Bread Loaf did not (yet) request but is in high demand. Email cindytranpoet@gmail.com!

OVERHEARD

"The five-paragraph essay was the downfall of American poetry."

"You can't say you're Santa Claus."

"I knew it was love when I found out she had a pickle subscription."

"On this day last year I fell in love with a muffin."

"I know it sounds really high-maintenance, but I need NO BATS."

Gather ye overheards while ye may! (And send them our way!) blcrumb@gmail.com



FROM THE WORKSHOPS...

Excerpt from "Fawns"

My mouth began to bleed. Good, he said, and it sounded like something I'd always wanted but never tasted. He was pulling out clumps of my hair, strange damp dark roots ripped from a tree's base. *Now the words are loosening*. *They will be all gone soon*. *This is just the thing to help girls like you*.

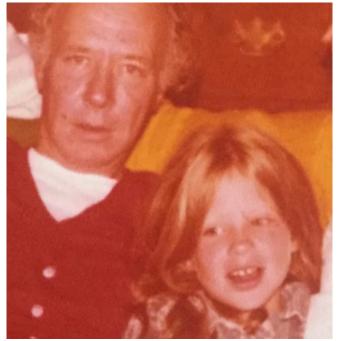
-By Sof Sears (Samantha Hunt's workshop)

Excerpt from "Mae"

The women busied their hands, stitching the Taylor boy's quilt. That's what quilts were for. Every birth or marriage or new family that moved into town warranted a quilt... Each person in the community slept under the warmth of those women's hands.

-by Rose Saint-Clair (Helen Schulman's workshop)

FACULTY FLASHBACK!



Speaking of layers...Samantha Hunt with her father, Walter, whose novel is included in Hunt's *The Unwritten Book*.

