

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.
"Riddles in Meadhall: What Old
English Riddles Can Teach Us
About Wonder and Metaphor," by
Paisley Rekdal, 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: DK Nnuro and Laura
van den Berg, Little Theater

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

6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:00 p.m.
Reading: Victor LaValle and
Valzhyna Mort, Little Theater

9:00 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

Paisley Rekdal - Barn 101

Camille T. Dungy - Barn 203

Elisa Gabbert - Barn 204

Ishion Hutchinson - Barn 205

Tomás Q. Morín - Barn 206

Marie Mutsuki Mockett - Inn West Seminar

Carl Phillips - Barn Tent

Valzhyna Mort - Barn 102

V. Penelope Pelizzon - Library Upstairs (Back end of building)

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, Nathan Blum, Ximena Keogh Serrano, Neysa King, and Jon Sargent 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, and general banter like, What happens if you read past three minutes? Find out soon...

Drum roll please...The first BP reading of 2025 happens today at 1:15 p.m. in the Barn Tent!

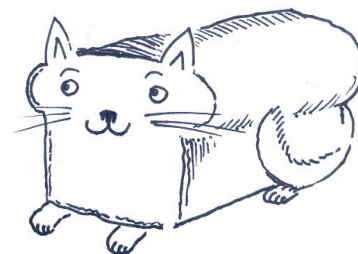
How could you pass up an opportunity to hear great new writing from great new friends? Tell your roommates and workshop members. Be there or be square. And by "square," we mean "full of regret."

Nagging questions, burning suggestions, wild affirmations?

Contact Danielle Harms
and Tobi Kassim:
daniellemharm@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...



cat loaf

WEATHER

Partly Cloudy
High: 81° Low: 58°

GUESTS

Today we welcome **Jenna Johnson, Katie Farris, and Ilya Kaminsky.**

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 9:00 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:

Nik Chang Hoon
Katie Coleman
Matthew Lawrence Garcia
Tobi Kassim
Ximena Keogh Serrano
Neysa King
Tamara Love
Suhail Mandani
Annie Schumacher
Reed Turchi



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 19, Wednesday, August 20, and Thursday, August 21. Sign-up emails go out at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 18. *The Crumb* Editors recommend: be poised at your inbox, with your top choices already selected, at 8:28 a.m.!

Counselor on Campus

For mental health matters, please contact Antonia Losano at aosano@middlebury.edu to make an appointment. Antonia can schedule appointments between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily (in person or via Zoom) and will be able to arrange a meeting place that will work best for you.

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.

—Nathan Blum, Ximena Keogh Serrano,
Neysa King, and Jon Sargent

COMMUNITY ITEMS

AA Meetings

AA 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.

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.

Lost Item!













A small tan pouch with a design on the outside was lost yesterday, possibly during registration. Inside was a smaller blue pouch containing jewelry. It may have been dropped anywhere between the Inn, Larch, and the parking lot. If found, please bring it to the Front Desk or contact Jenna Klorfein (jennaklorfein@gmail.com).

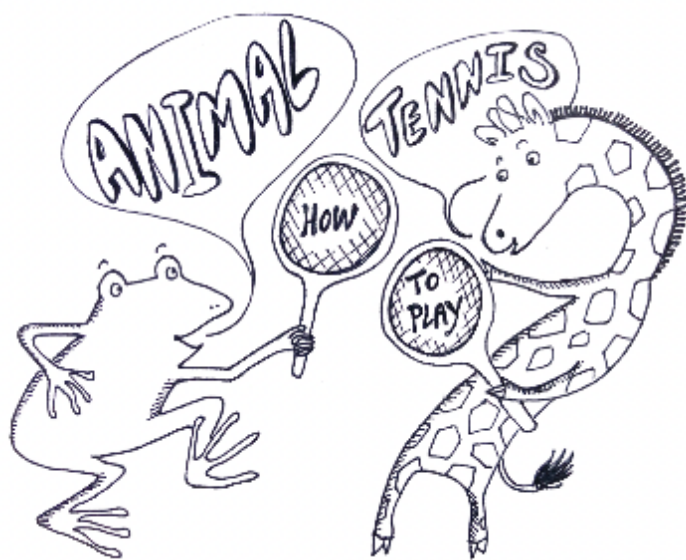
A note from Dining Services:

Please try not to enter the lunch line with backpacks and large side bags. It makes it very difficult for our servers to fit down the line and provide you with the best service. Thank you!

Tiny Horoscopes

Fashion Tips Edition

 ARIES	Tennis headband	 LIBRA	Heart-shaped sunglasses
 TAURUS	Cursed locket	 SCORPIO	"Distressed" jeans
 GEMINI	Clatterns (clashing patterns)	 SAG.	White leather
 CANCER	Bowling shoes	 CAP.	Cowboy boots
 LEO	Goth lipstick	 AQU.	Glowsticks?
 VIRGO	Garden gnome 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.

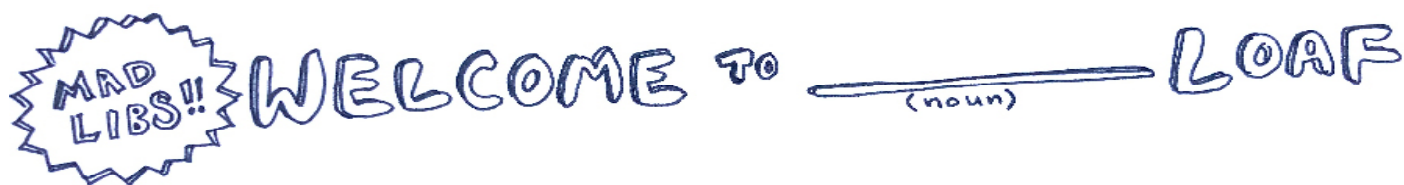
B. Homophones don’t count.

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)_____ .

COMMUNITY ITEM:



DEAD LOAF

THE UNOFFICIAL READING
WHERE HORROR WRITERS COME OUT TO PLAY

MONDAY, AUGUST 19TH @ 10PM-ISH
IN THE BARN TENT

WANT TO READ?
EMAIL NEYSACK@GMAIL.COM



Overheard

“Your braid is massive. Like a baby.”

“It’s the size of *War and Peace*. It’s too big.”

“This conference would be perfect
if it came with a warm cookie.”

“It’s like going to a panel where Brad Pitt gives advice
about dating, but everyone in the audience
just wants to date Brad Pitt.”

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



Faculty Flashback!



Back to school with a tiny Elisa Gabbert



WEATHER DOG by Carl Phillips