

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

Vol. 100

Monday, August 18, 2025

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

11:00 a.m. Blue Parlor Reading Series, Barn Tent

12:30 p.m. Picnic at Frost Farm and a talk on Robert Frost by John Elder

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Writers of Color Panel with Camille T. Dungy, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Mat Johnson, Tomás Q. Morín, Paisley Rekdal, and Paul Yoon, Little Theater

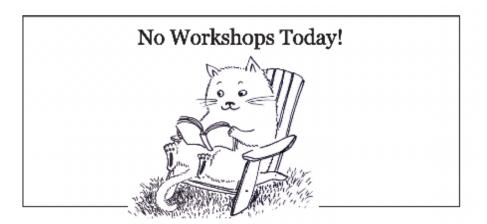
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Reading: Adrienne Chung, Emet North, and Irvin Weathersby, Little Theater

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

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

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm. Reading: Elisa Gabbert and Ishion Hutchinson, Little Theater

9:00 p.m. –9:20 p.m. World Premiere of New Bread Loaf Documentary, Little Theater



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 #BreadLoaf2025, or send them to us at blcrumb@gmail.com.

## **Frost Farm Frolic!**

Today, lunch will be served as a picnic at Frost Farm rather than in the Dining Room, a beloved tradition at the Conference. (Please note: the Dining Room will be closed during the picnic!). Frost Farm is about 1.5 miles from the Bread Loaf Inn, and the picnic is followed by a tour of Robert Frost's summer cabin nearby. Usually unavailable to the public, the cabin is unlocked and made available for this special event. John Elder will say a few words about the cabin and share a Robert Frost poem. The picnic will begin at 12:30 p.m. While many may want to make the walk down to the Frost Farm, transportation will also be available. Those who would like a ride should gather in front of the Bread Loaf Inn at 12:15 p.m. For those walking: 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. This route is not only more scenic, but also safer, as traffic tends to speed on Route 125.

## **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 panel discussion featuring Camille T. Dungy, Mat Johnson, Tomás Q. Morín, Paisley Rekdal, and Paul Yoon, and moderated by Lauren Francis-Sharma. All participants are welcome to attend.

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

Craft classes will be offered on Tuesday, August 19, Wednesday, August 20, and Thursday, August 21. 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**

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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.

Those walking by either route should plan to leave at noon.

Please note: If the weather prevents us from holding this event, we'll post new information on the front door of the Dining Room by 11:00 a.m. today.

## 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 11:00 a.m.! Today's lineup will be listed on the screens in the Dining Room.

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**

Today we welcome **Janet Silver**, **Hannah Matheson**, and **John Elder** to the Mountain!

Safe travels to Ian Bonaparte and Gerald Maa.

#### **WEATHER**

Slightly cloudy and cooling down.

High: 68° Low: 49°

## **Editor Switch**

Unfortunately, Martha Rhodes from Four Way Books was unable to join this session. However, a last minute switch was made and Hannah Matheson, senior editor and associate director at Four Way Books graciously stepped in for Martha and will be joining us today on the mountain. Hannah came on board after the guest bios were printed, so here's a little bit about her. Please welcome her to Bread Loaf.

Hannah Matheson received her MFA in poetry at New York University, where she served as poetry editor of *Washington Square Review*. Previously awarded scholarships by The Frost Place, Hannah has published poems in *Four Way Review*, *Adroit*, *Small Orange*, *Pigeon Pages*, *Solar*, *Image*, *Honey Lit*, *Best New Poets*, *HAD*, and elsewhere. Hannah currently works as senior editor and associate director at Four Way Books and has been the editor for Megan Pinto's *Saints of Little Faith*, Spencer Williams' *TRANZ*, Carlie Hoffman's *One More World Like This World*, Rajiv Mohabir's *Cutlish*, and James Fujinami Moore's *indecent hours*, among many other titles.



## 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.

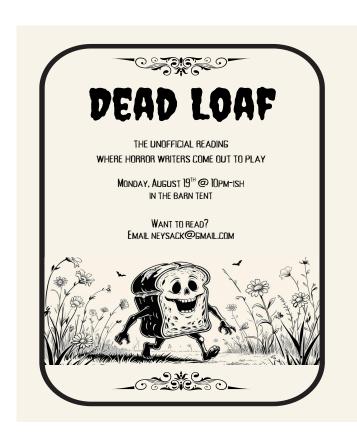
**Brett Loaf** - Brett Easton Ellis is the only faculty member. You will be terrified the entire time.

# **Faculty Flashback!**

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Danielle Evans, proud member of camp dance!





## 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**

"Think of this as a naportunity."

"Could you also use some tiger balm?"

"They are such dog supremacists."

"That piece is actually pretty good despite the fact that I wrote it."

"Sour 'f-ing' straws."

Please send us more at blcrumb@gmail.com!