

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

Vol. 100

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

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: "An Incomplete Catalog of the Role of Time and Place," by Camille T. Dungy, 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, Barn Tent

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

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Reading: Rhoni Blankenhorn, Chris Knapp, Matthew Nienow, and Shubha Sunder, Little Theater

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

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

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Reading: Marie Mutsuki Mockett and Carter Sickels, Little Theater

9:00 p.m. Special Film Showing: Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am, Barn Classroom 101

> 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. Nightly 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.



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.

"About Time: A Few Thoughts on Time in Fiction," Claire Messud, Barn Classroom 101

"The Outside: Style in Fiction," Gabriela Garcia, Barn Classroom 206

"Fiction Responding to Fiction," Laura Spence-Ash, Barn Classroom 204

"Crafting with Care: The Ethics of Writing About Other People," Emily Raboteau, Barn Classroom 205

"Collaboration: The Alley Oop," with Tomás Q. Morín, Barn Classroom

WEATHER

Partly cloudy High 73 °, Low 57 °

GUESTS

Please welcome **Ibrahim Ahmad, Randy Winston, Jenni-Ferrari Adler** & **Holly Amos!** Safe Travels Jenna
Johnson & John Elder.



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And we finished!



Coach Poet brings team spirit

The Centennial Bread Loaf Writer's Cramp: A Race for the Ages

They came. They stretched (well, eventually). They conquered hills that seemed designed by a mischievous mountain goat. On Monday morning, ten brave runners gathered for the Centennial Bread Loaf Writer's Cramp, chasing not only the glory of a lanyard spun from toilet paper but also a gift card that would get them more than one-third of a book.

There was a murmur of concern that fell over the crowd of ten or so people when one of the runners asked the leader of the race, "Do you run?" To which he replied, no. Then came the big question everyone was afraid to say out loud, "How did you even get this job?"

With his credibility on the line, the fearless leader dug deep: "Do it for your genre! Do it for your family!" With those immortal words, the crew cozied up at the starting line. Knowing they just had each other out there in the hills, the comradery built with one runner stating, "I didn't come here to make friends." Another stating, "Don't let the poets win!" The connection between them was thicker than Vermont maple syrup.

Then came the charge. Up hills, around bends, and through the chill of the morning air, they ran like legends—albeit hungry legends, fueled mostly by sheer determination and perhaps a touch of regret about the amount of time spent on the dance floor the night before. At the finish line, the thin ribbon of toilet paper fluttered like Olympic silk, awaiting its champions. And champions emerged indeed: 1. Alex Hackett — 20:50, 2. Zoe Pappenheimer — 22:05, Tobi Kassim — 22:12. So here's to the Centennial Writer's Cramp: a celebration of grit, giggles, and glory. May the hills never flatten, the poets train harder, and the toilet paper lanyards always hold fast.

Reporting by "T" Love

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: Andy Butler, Megan Lui, Megan Arlett, Soo J. Hong, Silvia Spring, Rachel Mikita, Katherine Joshi, David DeGusta, Maureen McGranaghan, Zoe Pappenheimer, Red McClung, Hanna Bartels, Reni Roxas, Alexander Wolff, Heather Gluck, and Hank Grezlak.

And thanks to the writers who read yesterday: Heidi Lasher, Audrey Toth, Jocelyn Kaye, C. Francis Fisher, Victoria Heartwood, Michael O'Ryan, Meg Chorzempa, Augustine Blaisdell, Heather Gluck, Marie Goyette, Kathy McGoldrick, Kate Finlinson, Elise Rosenfeld, and Dillon Sefic.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Toni Morrison Documentary Screening

The film *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I* Am will be shown in Barn 101 tonight at 9:00 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."

Pizza in the Barn

The barn pub will have pizza beginning at 9:00pm. Feel free to grab a slice and bring it to the movie.



Last Chance to Arrange!

This is your last call to arrange transportation away from the mountain with Jessica's Vital Transit (unless you plan on living in the woods). You have till 5 p.m. today, so get a move on! Call (802) 349-8833.

Last Day to Send Packages

If you want to send a package from the Front Desk, remember Thursday is the last day.

FOB to Florida?

If you sent a FOB to Florida, please check in at the Front Desk.

Conselor on Campus

For mental health matters, please contact our counselor, Antonia Losano, at alosano@middlebury.edu to make an appointment. Antonia is available on the Bread Loaf campus daily between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (in person or via zoom).

COMMUNITY ITEMS

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

Wednesday, August 20

Come join the Bread Loaf Strength Club!

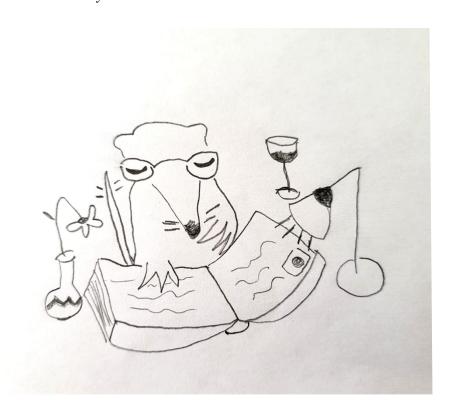
The Bread Loaf Strength Club will be meeting at 7:45 AM on Wednesday in the field behind the barn tent to swing some kettlebells in the beautiful Vermont air. Informal and open to anyone who'd like to join. If you brought any strength training equipment to the mountain feel free to bring it so we can pool our resources!

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 20 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 Ximena Keogh Serrano (xkserrano@pacificu.edu) or Matthew Lawrence Garcia (paradigmk3@gmx.de) with any questions!

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Meetup

Come join us for an AANHPI lunch meetup on Wednesday, August 20. Grab your lunch and join us at the Dining Room Tent at 12:15 p.m.! For any comments or questions please contact Nik Chang Hoon at nikolas.nadeau@gmail.com. Open to all Bread Loafers who identify in any way as members of an AANHPI community.



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OVERHEARD

"You're right, the cookies are way better if you toast them."

"Wow that's a bat, but it's the middle of the day."

"I can't believe I left my emotional support water bottle at the barn."

"They like the lake despite the leeches; haven't they ever seen *Stand by Me*?"

"It's only 10 a.m. but it's already starting to smell really good."

Gather ye overheards while ye may!



FACULTY FLASHBACK!



Scholar photo throwback, with Marie Mutsuki Mockett on the top, second from the end on the left, and Tomás Q. Morín, in the red t-shirt on the bottom row.

TEED'S CORNER

Teed's Mealtime Rekdal-Riddle, II

COOKIE — yes, that answered the riddle (Perhaps still gooey in the middle?)

Here's another, thy fair smiths of words — Perhaps my sound is one you've heard?

Like iron or bronze I've been around for some time (Ha! You thought I'd give it away with a rhyme?!)

No — I'll stay mute when I hold my tongue — For some it has tolled —now go! It's begun —

Tiny Horoscopes What color is your aura today? Parrot green Cotton candy pink Crème brulee Tarnished silver High-vis Fruit punch yellow red Moss Soft mauve Burnt umber Neon carrot Seafoam Black velvet PISCES VIRGO