

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

Vol. 100

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

No. 8

TODAY'S EVENTS

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Yoga, Barn

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Lecture: "Extravagence, Opulence, Glamour: An Anti-Austerity Poetics," by V. Penelope Pelizzon, 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. - 2:15 p.m. Blue Parlor Reading, Barn Tent

> 2:30 p.m. Craft Classes

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Reading: Danielle Evans and Jennifer Grotz, Little Theater

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

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

Free evening! 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Nightly Barn Pub



Craft Class Corner

Please note that any required handouts are available on the table in the Inn.

"The Problem of Evil," with John Cotter Barn Classroom 101

"The Art and Craft of Place in Fiction," with Carter Sickels Barn Classroom 203

"Novel Openings: On Clarity and Curiosity," with DK Nnuro Barn Classroom 204

"Retold in Present Tense: Manipulating Time in Memoir," with Irvin Weathersby, Barn Classroom 206

"Past Continuous, Future Imperfect: Time and Narrative in Poetry," with Margaret Ross, Barn Classroom 102

> "The 'I' in Ekphrasis," with Callie Siskel Barn Classroom 205



The Blue Parlor Strikes Back!

Even though it feels like we are just getting started, the Blue Parlor's final open reading will feature fifteen new readers at 1:15 p.m. in the Barn Tent. Put that post-lunch sugar rush to good use and join us for an hour of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, humor and more—delivered to you in three-minute increments. Today's lineup features:

Skyler Melnick, Talin Tahajian, Yevheniia Dubrova, David Ma, Zachary Forrest y Salazar, Spencer Rieza-Morrison, Sarah Olson, Alyssa Swanson, Kathryn Campo Bowen, Rupsa Dey, Jana-Lee Germaine, Esja Matich, and Genevieve Beltran.

Big shout-out to all the folks who have been coming out to the Blue Parlor reading—you have continued to pack the house and make it such a vibrant and meaningful space. If you're wondering what all the fuss is about, then join us, tell your friends to come! Mark your calendar for the rest of our exciting Blue Parlor events: the "From the Dark Tower" reading happening on Thursday, August 21st at 9:00 p.m. in the Barn Tent and the rapidfire "One Minute in Heaven" reading, happening on Friday, August 22 at 10:15 a.m. in the Little Theater. We look forward to seeing you there!

Affirmations and questions welcome. Contact Tobi Kassim or Danielle Harms. No. 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workshop Photos

While you are here at the conference, you have the chance to order 5x7 or 8x10 color group photos of your workshop. Photos of each group cost \$12 or \$15 per picture (according to size) if ordered at the Front Desk by noon on Thursday, August 21. Pictures will be available for pickup around lunchtime Friday.

Any orders placed after 12:00 p.m. on August 21 (that can't be filled before you leave) will be \$18/\$21 (mailing has gotten expensive) and will be mailed to your home address. If you have questions, please see Edward or Victoria Brown at the Front Desk. Completed order forms and full payment should be made at the Front Desk.

Shipping & Mailing

If you plan to ship boxes home, they need to be sent from the Front Desk by Friday at 12:00 p.m. (This includes boxes shipped UPS or U.S. Postal Service). This will come in handy for all those books you've just bought. There are a few shipping boxes available by the Front Desk near the mailboxes. The Front Desk will help you price-compare various shipping options.

Transportation

Please also stop by the Front Desk if you plan to leave Middlebury by bus or train Saturday morning, so that a van to town can be arranged. There will be a sign-up sheet for space in the van. Jessica's Vital Transit will only be providing rides to the Burlington Airport and will not stop in Middlebury.

WEATHER DOG by Carl Phillips





Faculty Flashback!

Little Lauren Francis-Sharma (left) and Claire Messud (right) to brighten our rainy day.



GUESTS

Today we welcome
Ibrahim Ahmad and
Owen Park to the
mountain, and bid a fond
farewell to... no one!



Scattered Showers High: 64° Low: 49°

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ride-Share Bulletin Board

If you are willing to offer a ride on departure day, note your name on the carpooling sheet posted near the Dining Hall. Those looking for a ride can then contact you to make a plan.

Counselor on Campus

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

Philogyny Party!

Tonight! Wednesday 8:30 pm in the Barn. Come sit by the fire and and talk about the possibilities of philogyny—the antonym to misogyny—the love and admiration for women! Join us in love and community to celebrate philandry, philogynoir and transphilogyny too! All are welcome! Questions, comments? Email Augustine Blaisdell at augustineblaze@gmail.com.

Black Writers' Meetup

Calling all Participants, Staff, Fellows, Faculty, and Guests who identify as Black, African American, African, Afro-European, or Afro-Caribbean. We're having a meet-up today at 5:15 p.m. in the Barn! Please spread the word! Feel free to contact Tobi Kassim (tobi.kassim@gmail.com) or Kenneth Capers (kenneth.d.capers@gmail.com) with any questions.

Los Angelenos Lunch

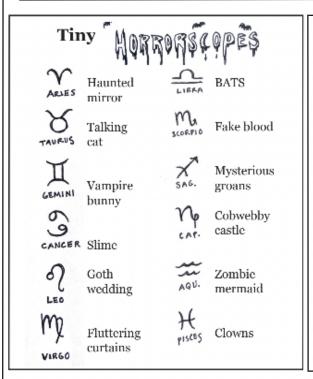
Do you live in the sunny city of Angels? Come meet your fellow freeway lovers at lunch in the dining room on Thursday, August 21! Contact Kenneth Capers (kenneth.d.capers@gmail.com) with any questions.

From the Workshops...

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

"For a moment, we are quiet again, trying not to think of all the past ways we've ruined something good, and then you are reaching for me, your lips on my neck, fumbling for your belt. Me, bent over a fallen pine, your fingers in my hair; both of us flesh-drunk and finally warm. Our eyes have adjusted to the night and now we notice everything: a shallow creek bed, a veil of mountain hemlock. I see a patch of yellow star thistle near the wheel of your Jeep. I want to tell you it is deep-rooted and stubborn, its seeds resistant even to fire."

-Hanna Bartels, YOU EXPLAIN ATTACHMENT THEORY from Laura van den Berg's workshop



Planning a Get-Together

If you would like to plan a get-together with other Bread Loafers while on campus, just let a Back Office staff member know so we can reserve a Barn Classroom for you. From there you're invited to put up a flyer on the bulletin board just outside of the Dining Room to share the details with fellow Bread Loafers. To include a blurb about it in *The Crumb*, the editors must receive the details at blcrumb@gmail.com by noon two days before the planned meeting.

OVERHEARD

"New York doesn't need more people to love it."

"Okay, I need to go switch my laundry; I don't want anyone to see my underwear."

"Sorry, I just opened my folder on your lunch meat."

"Yo mama like criss cross?"

"It's suddenly wool o'clock."

"I don't think Natalia Ginzburg has a Substack."

Keep sending these in! We love them! We love you! blcrumb@gmail.com