

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.
"Skip the Boring Parts: Poetry as
Collaboration,"
by Patrick Phillips, 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: Armen Davoudian,
Dionne Irving, and Maria
Hummel, 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: Toni Jensen and
Tiphonie Yanique, 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

Jericho Brown - Barn 101

Rick Barot - Barn 102

Paul Lisicky - Barn 203

Catherine Barnett - Barn 204

Patrick Phillips - Barn 205

Toni Jensen - Barn 206

Camille T. Dungy - Library Upstairs (Front end of building)

Gabrielle Calvocoressi - Blue Parlor

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, Katie Coleman, Jesse Gonzalez, or Kaylee Young-Eun Jeong 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 2026 happens today at 1:15 p.m. in the Barn Tent!

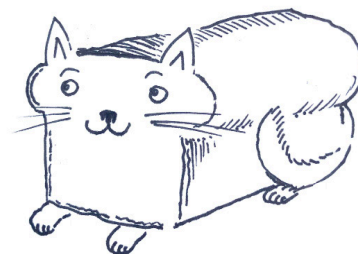
How could you pass up an opportunity to hear great new writing from great new friends? Tell your roommates and workshop members. Be there or be square. And by "square," we mean "full of regret."

Nagging questions, burning suggestions, wild affirmations?

Contact Soo Hong
and Tobi Kassim:
soo@soojhong.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

Sunshine!
High: 68° Low: 54°

GUESTS

Today we welcome **Maggie Cooper, Don Fehr, and Owen Park** to the mountain!

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!

Parking

Please park only by the barn. The space behind the Inn is reserved for delivery trucks.

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:

Aaron Banks

Nathan Blum

Matthew Lawrence Garcia

Soo J. Hong

Kaylee Young Eun Jeong

Tobi Kassim

Felix Lecocq

Gracie Newman

Annie Schumacher

t love



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 18, Wednesday, August 19, and Thursday, August 20. Sign-up emails go out at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 17. *The Crumb* Editors recommend: be poised at your inbox, with your top choices already selected, at 8:28 a.m.!

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.

Today's Menu

Lunch: Hot & Sour Soup, Egg Drop Soup, Char Siu (Chinese BBQ Pork), General Tso's Chicken, Vegetable Stir-fry with Tofu, Eggrolls, Basmati Rice, Broccoli

Dinner: Marry Me Chicken, Meatballs with Marinara, Spicy Chickpea Stew, Roasted Zucchini, Penne Rigate Pasta & GF Pasta

Counselor on Campus

For mental health matters, please contact Antonia Losano at aosano@middlebury.edu to make an appointment. Antonia will be available on the Bread Loaf campus August 12th until August 18th in person or remotely. From the 19th until the 22nd, she is only available remotely. There is no cost.

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, Katie Coleman, Jesse Gonzalez,
and Kaylee Young-Eun Jeong

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

Poetic buzzwords



ARIES

Lichen



LIBRA

Gossamer



TAURUS

Tendrill



SCORPIO

Lunate



GEMINI

Deer



SAG.

Fermament



CANCER

Languid



CAP.

Azure



LEO

Anthropocene



AQU.

Gloaming



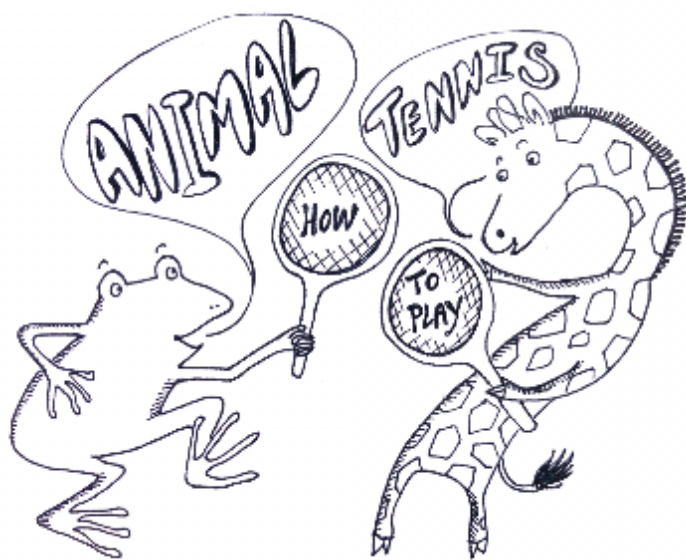
VIRGO

Stone fruit



PISCES

Alas



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.

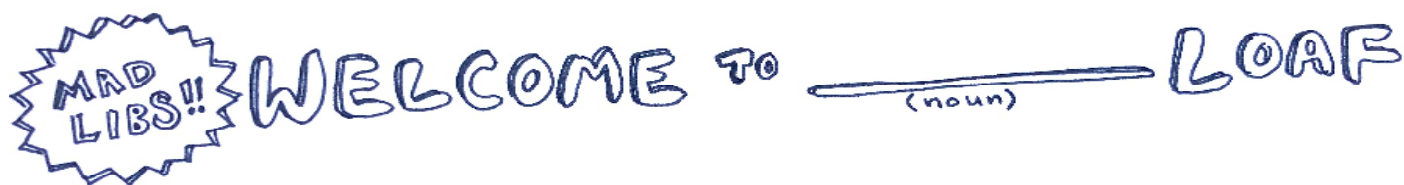
B. Homophones don’t count.

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)_____ .

Faculty Flashback!



Gems from the past! Amaud Johnson, Nefertiti Austin, Heidi Durrow, Doug Kearney, Camille T. Dungy (her first Bread Loaf!), Tracy K. Smith, and Alita Anderson on the mountain in 2004, alongside a tinier, sleepier Camille T. Dungy.



Overheard

“I like Taylor Swift but not on f*ing vinyl.”

“Is that the vengeful ghost of Willa Cather?”

“Do you mind sitting on the floor with me and bonding?”

“Anything for cheddar corns.”

“So there I was, carrying my suitcase up the stairs like Lady Gaga.”

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

