

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.
"On Failure" by Elizabeth
McCracken, 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: Olufunke Grace
Bankole, A. D. Lauren-
Abunassar, and Rion Amilcar
Scott, 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: Marie-Helene Bertino
and Chigozie Obioma, Little
Theater

9:00 p.m.
Reading: Administrative Staff
Scholars, night two of two, Little
Theater, followed by Barn Pub

Craft Classes Commence

After two days of intense anticipation, the first craft classes kick off today at **2:30 p.m.** These sessions provide Faculty, Fellows, and Guests the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in an intimate setting. To ensure hands-on experience, classes are limited to 25 participants, except as noted.

Sign-up sheets will be available via Google Forms and go out to Bread Loafers' personal emails. The Craft Class Sign-up email for week two classes will go out at **8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 17.** For those of you who signed up for a class today, here is a reminder of the locations:

"What It Was Like," with Alexander Chee - Barn 101

"Defamiliarizing Disability/Caregiving in Fiction," with Brian Trapp - Barn 206

"Tiny Airplanes and Magnified Flowers: A Study in Scale," with Omer Friedlander - Barn 205

"Crafting Unforgettable Characters," with Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry - Barn 008

"The Art of the Notebook," with Catherine Barnett - Barn 102

"Hearing the Cuckoo," with Esther Lin - Barn 203

"The Lyric and the Familiar," with Mary Helen Callier - Barn 204

Fiction Workshop Locations

Luis Alberto Urrea - Barn 101

Chigozie Obioma - Barn 102

Chinelo Okparanta - Barn 203

Elizabeth McCracken - Barn 204

Marie-Helene Bertino - Barn 205

Brock Clarke - Barn 206

Alexander Chee - Inn West Seminar

Tiphonie Yanique - Library Upstairs (Front end of building)

Maria Hummel - Library Upstairs (Back end of building)

Rion Amilcar Scott - Blue Parlor



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Ahead - Carpooling

A carpool list will be posted near the Dining Room door on Sunday, August 16. If you are willing to take passengers along when you leave the mountain next week, please note your information on the list (name, email, destination, and number of spots available in your car). If you are looking for a ride, please get in touch by sending an email.

Jessica's Vital Transit

A schedule of Jessica's Vital Transit departure taxis will be posted on the bulletin board near the Dining Room after dinner on Wednesday.

If you have any questions in the meantime or still need to make your departure taxi arrangements, please contact Jessica's Vital Transit at (802) 349-8833 by Tuesday, August 18.

Departure times will be early and somewhat inflexible because of the large number of people who need to leave. Due to the number of travelers, we cannot post individual travel requests in *The Crumb*.

If taking the train/bus from Middlebury, arrange a ride with the Front Desk. Jessica's Vital Transit does not provide transportation to/from Middlebury.

Friendly Reminder: A dining tent is available for those who want to eat outside.

Reminder: Be Tender, Don't Misgender

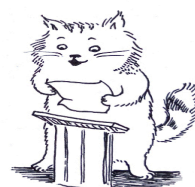
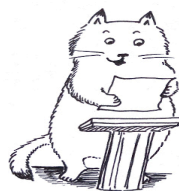
Bread Loaf is a conference for people of all genders and gender experiences. We encourage all Bread Loafers to wear their nametags and to refrain from assuming which pronouns other Bread Loafers use.

If you have questions about this or have experienced any form of discrimination or marginalization here on the mountain, remember that Lauren Francis-Sharma, our diversity liaison, is available to hear you and advocate for you. You can contact her at lfrancissharma@middlebury.edu.

Staff Scholar Reading Part II: Tonight!

They stunned us last night, and this evening they're at it again. The second batch of Bread Loaf Staff Scholars will read their work tonight at 9:00 p.m. in the Little Theater. Come out and cheer for the hard-working writers who help keep Bread Loaf humming along! Tonight's readers will include:

Tiegst Ameha
Meriel O'Connell
Katie Coleman
Jason Lamb
Jesse Gonzalez
Mimi Wong
Nik Chang Hoon
Craig Chen
Moa Short
Annie Reid



Today's Menu

Lunch: Hungarian Mushroom Soup, Soup du Jour, Dry-rub Ribs, Turkey Burgers, Macaroni and Cheese, Rice, Artichoke Melts, Sweet Potatoes and Kale, Coated French Fries, Mixed Greens

Dinner: Firecracker Salmon, Chicken Gyros, Maghmour (Eggplant Stew), Batata Harra (Middle Eastern Potatoes), Tzatziki and Tahini

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barn Social and Barn Pub

Beer and wine are available most evenings in the Barn. The Barn Social runs from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., while the Barn Pub gets hopping at 9:00 p.m. Free soda, coffee, and water are also available. Complimentary beer and wine will be available during the dance on Sunday.

Missing a Guest Meeting?

If you find yourself unable to make a meeting, please send a quick email to blwc@middlebury.edu with "guest meeting" as the subject line, or come see Jason Lamb in the Back Office.

Nervous Ticks

Ticks and mosquitoes love Vermont as much as we do. Please remember to check yourself for ticks if you've been going on walks through the woods or fields!

Phones Off

Please (*please!*) remember to turn off your phone when you attend readings and lectures.

Start Your Warmups!

The Writers' Cramp Race, a friendly 2.75 mile competition, takes off on Monday at 9:00 a.m. Keep an eye out for more details in tomorrow's *Crumb*.

I Just Can't Help My Shelf

Did you know the Davison Library has issues of *Ploughshares*, *New England Review*, *The Paris Review*, and *Poetry* along with many other periodicals for browsing? Pull up a comfy chair and enjoy. (There are even some complimentary issues that you can take home with you!)

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.

Blue Parlor's Debut a Wild Success

The 2026 Blue Parlor Readings in the Barn Tent launched on Friday afternoon with a lineup of courageous, talented writers unafraid to take the plunge. Depths were plumbed, spirits were raised—and these writers accomplished it all in under three minutes apiece!

We know you're curious about what goes down at the Blue Parlor readings. What makes it blue, after all? Join us today at 1:15 p.m. in the Barn Tent to find out! Today's roster: Anna Eastman, Ricardo Zegri, Stella Krall, Sarina Romero, Raymond W. Gastil, Maggie Love, Sabrina Siew, Carole J. Symer, Lauren Myers-Hinkle, Dara Mathis, Victoria L. Norlund, Tess Canfield, Tanya Krohn, Renni Watson, and Elisabetta La Cava.

Join us in giving a hearty round of applause to those who kicked off Blue Parlor yesterday: Yetta Stein, Rachel Marie Walker, Julian Dooley, Emily Stowe, Alfredo Lujan, Lisa Bubert, Kathy Nelson, Al-Lateef Farmer, Lily Felsenthal, Beth Uzinis Johnson, Isabella Grullon de Sarmiento, Jen Galvao, and Quinn Mason.

Check back tomorrow for Sunday's lineup for the LGBTQ+ reading.

But enough about BP. Let's talk about you. You weren't sure if you wanted to read, but now you've seen the flushed, giddy faces of the Bluebarians, and you know: You must read (You must!). Good news: more chances await. The next email to sign up will go out on Sunday, August 16 at 7:30 p.m.

The early bird gets the mic! See you soon (maybe today? maybe tomorrow?) in the Blue Parlor Barn Tent.

Hopes, dreams, apprehensions? Contact Soo Hong or Tobi Kassim: soo@soojhong.com, tobi.kassim@gmail.com

Readings and Lecture Audio Online

Enjoy any readings or lectures you missed—or relive memories of ones you attended—by listening to the audio recordings. These are published daily at middlebury.edu/blwc. Check your email for a direct link.



WEATHER

Mostly Sunny

LOW: 51 ° HIGH: 67 °

Faculty Flashback!



Elizabeth McCracken, style icon from a young age

COMMUNITY ITEMS

CORRECTION: Julia Alvarez is not the oldest living BLWC attendee, although she has the oldest tenure of living BLWC attendees, having been on the mountain since 1969.



Tiny Horoscopes

Invasive Species in Vermont

ARIES	Dame's Rocket	LIBRA	Giant Hogweed
TAURUS	Rusty Crayfish	SCORPIO	Jumping Worm
GEMINI	Emerald Ash Borer	SAG.	Spiny Water Flea
CANCER	Wall Lettuce	CAP.	Black Swallowtail
LEO	Zebra Mussels	AQU.	Spotted Lanternfly
VIRGO	Princess Tree	PISCES	Giant Hogweed

OVERHEARD

"She was the tech. I was the muscle."

"When they say 'bonfire,' they mean a fireplace."

"Any marriage can be a lavender marriage."

"I can always edit Bigfoot out later."

Overheard anything interesting? Email us at blcrumb@gmail.com