

# The Crumby

The “C” is capitalized. The “u” is in the middle. “The” is a definite article.

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Vol. 101, No. 9                      **The Lamby Edition**                      Thursday, August 20, 2026  
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Our *Crumby* editors are taking a well-earned day off, so today’s *Crumby* is created the old-fashioned way. With crayon, glitter, and a generous amount of support cookies.

## 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: “Two Cinderellas,” by Maria Hummel  
Little Theater

### **10:10 A.M. – 12:10 P.M.**

Fiction Workshops

### **10:15 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.**

Panel on Publishing Poetry  
Little Theater

### **11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.**

Lunch  
Bread Loaf Inn

### **1:15 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.**

Panel on Publishing Prose  
Little Theater

### **2:30 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.**

Craft Classes

### **4:15 P.M. – 5:15 P.M.**

Reading: Charles Baxter, Michael Collier, and Edward Hirsch  
Little Theater

### **5:15 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.**

Gala Reception  
West Lawn (Rain Location: Barn)

**7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

Dinner  
Bread Loaf Inn

**8:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.**

Reading: Jericho Brown and Lauren Francis-Sharma

**9:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.**

Blue Parlor presents: *From the Dark Tower* Reading  
Barn Tent

**9:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M.**

Barn Pub  
Barn

## **Craft Classes: The Final Chapter**

Today, alas, is the final day of craft classes. *Handouts for some classes are available on the table in the Lobby.*

**Please note the location of your craft class.**

“Beast, Bark, Beach”, with Tiphonie Yanique, – The Barn

“The Art of the Novel Set Piece”, with Lillian Li – Barn Classroom 101

“And Time Stopped: Changing Perspectives in Memoir,” with Hyeseung Song – Barn Classroom 203

“The Art of the Prose Poem”, with Rick Barot – Barn Classroom 102

“Wrangling with Abstraction: Approaching Feelings, Beliefs, and Ideas,” with Keith S. Wilson – Barn Classroom 206

“‘It goes on and I go with it’: the Syntax of Larry Levis,” with James Ciano – Barn Classroom 204

## **Publishing Panels**

Today, there are not one, but two, count ‘em, two talks on publishing.

At 10:15 a.m. in the Little Theater, Lindsay Garbutt from *Poetry* and Hannah Matheson from Four Way Books will be giving a talk on publishing poetry.

Then, at 1:15 p.m. in the Little Theater, there will be a talk on publishing prose with agents Jin Auh from The Wylie Agency, Ian Bonaparte from Janklow & Nesbit, Ayesha Pande from Ayesha Pande Literary, and editors Jenna Johnson from Farrar, Straus & Giroux and Anni Liu from Graywolf. The panel will be moderated by Lauren Francis-Sharma.

## **Gala Event Today**

Each year, the conference celebrates the hard work and dedication to craft of its attendees with a gala reception at 5:15 p.m. on the West Lawn. This gala reception is one of the best-attended events of the conference. Participants gussy up to enjoy complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres and a hayride through the fields surrounding campus. As some may know, *The Simpsons* episode about Bread Loaf was factually incorrect except for the hayride. If the weather turns on us, the reception will take place in the Barn, but keeping with tradition, the ride will take place rain or shine.

## **Guests**

We bid farewell to Carolyn Kuebler and Steven Kleinman.

## **COMMUNITY ITEMS**

### **Friday, August 22**

#### **Southern Writers' Meetup**

Howdy, y'all! Calling all Southern writers: Whether you're from the deep South or Appalachia, Texas or (controversially) Florida, let's gather for lunch on Friday @ 11:30 under the outdoor Dining Tent to chat about the role of the South in our writing and our lives. Text Lane: 615-504-3213 with Qs!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **And the Book Signing Continues...**

Several of the Faculty and Fellows still have yet to read, so after you listen to their amazing words, please head to the Bookstore and pick up their books. They will happily sign them for you.

### **Workshop Photos**

If you would like a photo of your workshop, please head to the Front Desk by noon today. Photos are available in both 5x7 and 8x10 sizes and cost either \$12 or \$15, depending on the size, and can be picked up around lunchtime tomorrow.

Any orders placed after 12 p.m. today (that can't be filled before you leave) will cost either \$18 or \$23 (mailing has gotten expensive) and will be sent to your home address. Please contact Edward or Victoria Brown at the Front Desk if you have questions.

### **Counselor on Campus**

For mental health matters, please contact our counselor, Antonia Losano, at [alosano@middlebury.edu](mailto:alosano@middlebury.edu) to make a virtual appointment. Meetings are confidential and free for faculty, fellows, participants, and staff. Antonia's available daily. Faculty and participants are also welcome to contact the director, assistant director, administrative director, or coordinator (Jennifer Grotz, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Noreen Cargill, or Jason Lamb) for a referral.

### **Please Remember to Close Doors Quietly**

This is a reminder to please be mindful when entering and exiting your room and the buildings as some of the doors can be very loud and may disrupt those who are trying to get a good night's sleep.

## **Shared Departure Taxis with Jessica's Vital Transit**

Saturday's departure schedule is posted on the bulletin board near the Dining Room. If you have not yet made your reservation with Jessica's Vital Transit, be sure to call or text them by noon today at 1-802-349-8833. If taking a train or bus to Middlebury, please arrange transportation with the Front Desk. On Saturday, please be sure to show up at the Bread Loaf Inn 15 minutes before your departure time.

## **Share a Ride**

Bread Loafers willing to share a ride should leave their names on the carpooling sheet posted outside the Dining Room. Those looking for a ride will contact you.

## **Please Return Library Books**

If you borrowed library books, please be sure to return them before 4:00 p.m. Friday.

## **Stop by the Bookstore**

There are only two more days to get all your books before you leave the mountain. The store will be open today until 4 p.m. and tomorrow until 5:30 p.m.

The Bookstore is not open Saturday. *If you have books on consignment, please pick them up by 4 p.m. tomorrow. Books left in the store will not be returned.*

## **Conference Evaluation Forms**

Please check your email soon for a conference evaluation form. Take a few minutes before you leave the mountain to let us know about your experience at the conference. We go over evaluation forms carefully to see how things went and consider changes for the future.

## **Today's Menu:**

**Lunch:** Black Bean Soup; Sausage and Bolognese Sauces; Spaghetti with Marinara, Pesto and Alfredo Sauces; Orecchiette with Broccoli, Chickpeas, Onions and Tomatoes; Cauliflower Mac and Cheese; Garlic Bread Sticks or Italian Loaf; Sauteed/Roasted Broccolini

**Dinner:** Veggie-Sauteed Greens; White Rice; Pasta with Alfredo; Tempeh Stir Fry with Veggies; Grilled Marinated Chicken with Sweet Red Sauce; Beef And Broccoli; Garlic bread

## **Blue Parlor Presents:**

There are only two more Blue Parlor Readings left! Tomorrow is the One Minute in Heaven Reading at 10:15 a.m. 40 readers will gather to give us their very best minute in Heaven (the Little Theater, of course!). The full list of readers will be published in tomorrow's *Crumb*.

and...

## **Tonight - *From the Dark Tower* Reading in the Barn Tent at 9:00 p.m.**

We proudly invite everyone on the mountain to join us in carrying on this longstanding Bread Loaf tradition.

### **A History of the *From the Dark Tower* Reading**

The title of this reading comes from the poem by Countee Cullen, in which he addresses how discussions of race are often kept in the dark. Cullen rallies for elevating such communication to a tower, whereby all can hear and benefit. *From the Dark Tower* also references the reading series and salon hosted by A'Lelia Walker, daughter of Madame C.J. Walker. In the 1920s, Walker converted the top floor of her home in Harlem into a dedicated salon hosting musicians, artists, actors, political figures, and of course, writers, and it was called The Dark Tower. The salon was formed in a place and time of tremendous literary energy, and its focus was to be a welcoming space where writers of color could spotlight and share their work, and also explore political implications of their craft. Nearly twenty years ago, writers of color at Bread Loaf began to hold readings in their rooms. Over the years, this tradition grew and began to be hosted by the Blue Parlor series. Poet Amaud Jamaul Johnson named this reading *From the Dark Tower*. It's in this spirit that the reading continues at Bread Loaf.

*Affirmations and questions welcome. Contact Soo J. Hong or Tobi Kassim.*

### **Tonight's readers will be:**

1. Yi Jiang
2. Irene Jiang
3. Pio Arango
4. Megan Lui
5. Anya Lewis-Meeks
6. Clarissa Bannor
7. Jasmine Vallejo-Love
8. Dana Weekes
9. Sheetal Singh
10. Qing Qing Chen
11. Prachi Kamble
12. Kelly Suth
13. Stephyne Weathersby
14. Emmeline Chang
15. Veena Sud
16. Dujie Tahat



### **From the Dark Tower**

We shall not always plant while others reap  
The golden increment of bursting fruit,  
Not always countenance, abject and mute  
That lesser men should hold their brothers cheap;  
Not everlastingly while others sleep  
Shall we beguile their limbs with mellow flute,  
Not always bend to some more subtle brute;  
We were not made eternally to weep.

The night whose sable breast relieves the stark  
White stars is no less lovely being dark,  
And there are buds that cannot bloom at all  
In light, but crumple, piteous, and fall;  
So in the dark we hide the heart that bleeds,  
And wait, and tend our agonizing seeds.

- *Countee Cullen*