

TODAY'S EVENTS

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Registration,
Bread Loaf Inn

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

3:00 p.m.
Campus Tour,
Bread Loaf Inn Front Porch

4:00 p.m.
Campus Tour,
Bread Loaf Inn Front Porch

5:00 p.m.
Registration Ends

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Nightly Barn Social, Barn

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

8:00 p.m.
Welcome by Jennifer Grotz;
Reading by Special Guest Julia
Alvarez,
Little Theater

9:00 p.m.
Bread Loaf Birthday Cake
Barn

GUESTS

Join us in welcoming
the following visitors
to the mountain:

Julia Alvarez, Barbara Jones,
Calvert Morgan, Gayatri Patnaik,
and David Roderick

Hello, Hello!

The Crumb is delighted to wel-crumb you to the 101st Annual Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Today's edition of *The Crumb* will fill you in on such basics as Bookstore hours and where to find laundry machines. Hereafter, it will contain daily schedules, program changes, and announcements of special events. You will find copies each morning by the Dining Room door.

Hours of Operation

Back Office: Daily, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Front Desk: Daily, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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.

Switchboard: Same as Front Desk

Library: Daily, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Librarian on site weekdays, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Apple Cellar: Same hours as Library

Bookstore: Daily: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
With the following exceptions:
Thursday, August 13: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. only
Monday, August 17: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 18: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friday, August 21: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Director: Jennifer Grotz

Assistant Director: Lauren Francis-Sharma

Administrative Director: Noreen Cargill

Coordinator: Jason Lamb

Diversity Liaison: Lauren Francis-Sharma

CONFERENCE STAFF**Back Office Staff**

Aaron Banks
Felix Lecocq
T Love

Blue Parlor Coordinators

Soo J. Hong
Tobi Kassim

***The Crumb* Editors**

Gracie Newman
Annie Schumacher

Little Theater Coordinators

Nathan Blum
Katie Coleman
Jesse Gonzalez
Kaylee Young-Eun Jeong

Social Staff

Tiegst Ameha
Nikolas Chang Hoon
Craig Chen
Matthew Lawrence Garcia
Meriel O'Connell
Annie Reid
Moa Short
Mimi Wong

**Summer Administrative
Staff Scholarships**

The August summer administrative staff are writers attending on work scholarships. Each year the conference sends an invitation to apply to all attendees who took part in the August conference the previous year. The invitation to apply for any 2027 administrative staff spots available will go out to August attendees just before January 1, 2027.

**Bread Loaf Campus
Facilities and Services****Back Office**

The Back Office is in the west wing of the Inn, next to the Blue Parlor. The staff is happy to help with any conference and programming questions.

Barn Social and Barn Pub

The Barn, located in a central spot on the Bread Loaf campus, is a place for participants to gather and socialize. On most days, from 5:15 p.m. until dinner, a Barn Social will take place, with soda and munchies available free of charge, and beer and wine for sale. And on most evenings, a Barn Pub is set up from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.

Bread Loaf follows the rules governed by Vermont Department of Liquor Control. Only alcohol you purchase from the Bread Loaf bartenders may be consumed at Bread Loaf Socials and Pubs.

Bells

We'll start your day with a wake-up bell at 7:30 a.m.; thereafter you'll hear a bell to announce the start of each meal, as well as fifteen minutes and again five minutes before the start of each lecture and reading.

Blue Parlor Readings

During the Conference, all are invited to take part in the Blue Parlor readings. These informal readings, hosted by coordinators Soo Hong and Tobi Kassim, will take place in the Barn Tent. These readings provide an opportunity to share your writing and to meet Bread Loafers from other workshops. Those interested in reading will be asked to sign up in advance. There will be a Blue Parlor organizational meeting, tomorrow, Thursday August 13th, at 11:15 a.m. in the Barn Tent.

MANAGEMENT**Front Desk Managers**

Edward Brown and Victoria Brown

Bread Loaf Photographers

Edward Brown and Brett Simison

Front Desk Assistants

Kalli Federhofer
Matt Fiorentino
Peter Newton

Davison Library, Computer Room, and Printing

The Davison Library is the white building behind the Little Theater. In addition to the permanent collection, there are books by faculty and guests. It's also the place to go for printing on campus.

The Apple Cellar computer room is located on the bottom floor of the Library. There are PCs and Macs available to use in the Apple Cellar and also on the first and second floor of the Library. Printers are located in the Apple Cellar and on the first floor of the Library.

To print on campus, participants and faculty log into a Middlebury computer and print the document from there.

Details: Use your personal device to email a copy of the document to yourself and then pull up your email on a Middlebury computer to print it from there, or, if you have a thumb drive, use that to transfer the document from your personal device to a Middlebury computer.

To log into one of the Middlebury computers, use your Middlebury email and password (details shared before arrival via the Middlebury ITS Welcome note).

Should you need a hand with digital matters, a computer technician will be on hand some days (please see the schedule in the Wi-Fi section) and the Middlebury College Help Desk will be available by phone (dial 2200 from any campus phone or 802-443-2200 from your cell phone) or email (helpdesk@middlebury.edu) on weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Conferences Online Library Guide

Visit the Bread Loaf Writers' Conferences Online Library Guide at <http://go.middlebury.edu/blwcguide/>. The Guide includes access to the Library Catalog plus online journals, magazines, dictionaries, and more.

Wi-Fi

Participants and faculty received a Middlebury email via an ITS Welcome note in the time leading up to the conference. To access Wi-Fi, choose **MiddleburyCollege** from the WiFi options that come up on your personal device and enter your Middlebury email and password. (Note: the guest access described below can be a workaround for those who have difficulty using their Middlebury email.)

Wi-Fi Alternate:

Select the MiddleburyGuest wireless network then follow the prompts to accept the certificate and connect. Please note that some applications may not be available if using the MiddleburyGuest Wi-Fi.

If you have trouble accessing the wireless network, an IT tech will be available in the Apple Cellar the following times:

Wednesday, August 12: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 13: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Linens

Sheets, blankets, and towels are provided. If you find that you need an additional towel or other item, the Front Desk staff will be pleased to assist you.

Laundry

Washers and dryers are in the Laundry House in front of the Barn. The Front Desk can give you change if needed.

Health Matters

For guidance regarding Covid-19 and other respiratory illnesses, please see the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Vermont Department of Health (VDH) websites.

For Physical Health Care on Campus:

For non-emergency health matters, a self-care cart is available near the Lobby of the Bread Loaf Inn. Should you find that the cart does not address your particular concerns, the Bread Loaf Inn Front Desk staff will help you with a referral. Porter Hospital is located in Middlebury.

For Physical Health Emergencies:

In serious medical emergencies such as difficulty breathing, significant loss of blood, unconsciousness, or back and neck injuries, call 911. Remember: persons with neck or spine injuries should never be moved—always call 911.

Step 1: Call 911 from any on-campus phone. A sign near each phone lists important details including the exact address and phone number for that location.

Step 2: Contact the Front Desk Staff at x2700 from a campus phone or 802-443-2700 from your cell phone to let them know.

For Mental Health Care:

For mental health matters, please contact our counselor, Antonia Losano, at alosano@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. Faculty and participants are also welcome to contact director, assistant director, administrative director, or coordinator (Jennifer Grotz, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Noreen Cargill, or Jason Lamb) for a referral.

For Mental Health Emergencies:

The 24-hour Crisis Line at the Counseling Service of Addison County is available at 802-388-7641 from your cell phone.

Diversity Liaison

Lauren Francis-Sharma is serving as Diversity Liaison for this year's conference. If there are any issues you would like to discuss, you are welcome to schedule a private meeting by emailing her directly at lfrancissharma@middlebury.edu.

Campus Emergencies

In case of serious medical emergency or fire on the Bread Loaf Campus, always call 911 from any campus phone or from your cell phone. Though it's possible to use your cell phone, it's best to use an on-campus phone, if possible. The on-campus phone will alert 911 to your location automatically. Otherwise, a sign near each campus phone lists important details including the exact address and phone number for that location.

In case of non-life threatening but urgent matters, contact the Bread Loaf Inn Front Desk at x2700 from any campus phone or 802-443-2700 from your cell phone (Front Desk Hours: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.). Outside of office hours, call x2911 from any campus phone or 802-443-2911 from your cell phone to reach facilities staff who will help you with the situation.

We recommend making note of the numbers listed above so you can have them handy during the conference.

For emergencies that affect the Bread Loaf campus, the Middlebury Department of Public Safety uses the RAVE alert system to notify attendees via email and also by text for those who have cell service on campus.



Bookstore

Books by faculty, fellows, and participants are for sale in the Bookstore, as are Bread Loaf clothing and swag. The store is located in the basement of the Annex; the entrance is at the rear of the building. Cash, Visa, and MasterCard are accepted. Go say hi to Marisa Rorabaugh, Kristin Richland, and Will Stephens, the keepers of the books!

Consignment Books at the Bookstore

If you are consigning books this session, please stop by the Bookstore as soon as possible to give them the copies of your book(s). Please note that there will be a 24-hour turn-around before your books can be sold at Bread Loaf.

You must pick up any unsold copies on Friday, August 21 at 4 p.m. Any books not picked up will not be returned and will become property of Phoenix Books.

Front Desk

Visit the Front Desk in the Bread Loaf Inn for matters regarding your room and lodging, moose facts, lost and found items, local lore, information about local walking/running trails, buying postage, mailing packages, transportation tips, and other general information. A Lost and Found is located at the Front Desk. The Front Desk has Covid-19 antigen tests and masks available.

Staggered Lunch Schedule

Lunch will be served buffet style, and to avoid long lines, we urge you to follow the procedure noted here, based on your workshop schedule:

On days when your workshop does not meet, please go to the Dining Room starting at 11:30 a.m.

On days when your workshop does meet, please go to the Dining Room at 12:15 p.m. Lunch service continues until 1:30 p.m.

For those who would like to enjoy their meals outdoors, a selection of picnic blankets will be available as well as picnic tables and Adirondack chairs on the Bread Loaf lawns. A dining tent is also available between the Inn and the Annex. Please do not bring bags through the kitchen line.

The First Thursday and Final Friday

On the first Thursday and final Friday, when all workshops meet at 1:30 p.m., we ask the poets and nonfiction writers to show up for lunch at 11:30 a.m., and fiction writers to please wait until noon to enter the Dining Hall.

Mail

The Post Office (with limited services) is located at the Front Desk. Outgoing mail leaves at 1:30 p.m. Incoming mail is ready for distribution by late afternoon. UPS mailing is available. Mail can only be received through Thursday, August 20. We cannot be responsible for mail arriving after August 20.

Address for mail:

Guest Name
Bread Loaf Writers' Conference
PO Box 216
Ripton, VT 05766

Address for FedEx or UPS:

Guest Name
Bread Loaf Writers' Conference
4229 Route 125
Ripton, VT 05766

**The Silence
of the Phones**

Please remember to keep
your phone on silent
in the Little Theater!

Phones

Cell phone service is available in the Bread Loaf Inn and the Barn on the Bread Loaf campus but access is intermittent depending upon your provider. Verizon and AT&T should work fine. Other providers may not work. While on campus participants have successfully stayed in touch with home using their smartphones to access Wi-Fi calling, Facetime, or Zoom. There are landlines available on the campus—usually one phone per floor in each of the buildings. After you arrive, you could share that floor phone number with family at home. The phone for the main switchboard on campus is 802-443-2700 (hours are 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.). The Front Desk staff member will transfer the call to your floor or take a message for you, if needed.

You can also give people the Bread Loaf Office info, and we will get any messages to you (e-mail: blwc@middlebury.edu; phone: 802-443-5286).

You are enthusiastically encouraged to keep your phone in silent mode so as not to interrupt readings, lectures, workshops, and classes.

Directory

We'll use the contact details that you submitted via an online form for the directory back when you were first notified of acceptance. If you've had a recent address change, please stop by the Back Office by the end of the day on end of day on Saturday, August 15, to let a staff member know. We'll make any needed changes and send a final copy to participants via email near the end of the session. The final copy will include contact information for all attendees, including Participants, Faculty, Guests, and Staff.

A Word About the Weather

The climate on the mountain can be volatile: sunny one moment, stormy the next. While the *Crumb* does its best to provide you with accurate weather information, the skies will do their best to outfox us.

The editors' tip: courage, perseverance, and layers!

Self-Care During the Conference

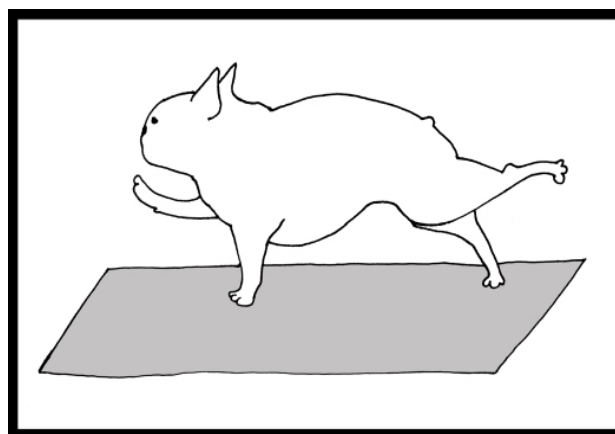
The conference schedule is quite busy, and we want to take this time to note how important it will be to pace yourself and to take care of yourself during the session. To this end, yoga classes and AA Meetings are scheduled to take place daily.

AA Meetings

AA Meetings are scheduled to take place daily from 7 a.m. to 8 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 will offer Iyengar yoga classes daily, beginning on Thursday, August 13, 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 will be available. The final yoga class will be on Friday, August 21.



Bread Loaf has joined the 21st Century!
Haven't got enough of us yet? Follow us
on Instagram @breadloafwriter
Don't forget to tag us and use
#BreadLoaf2026 !

From the Little Theater

1. Bells will ring at 15 and 5 minutes prior to each lecture and reading. Please arrive on time.
2. Trash cans are located near the exits of the Little Theater. We love it when people use them (for trash).
3. For safety, please leave the outside chairs where they are and avoid pulling them up close to the doors.
4. Lost valuables will be brought to the Front Desk for safekeeping.

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 iphones and diamond earrings will be kept at the Front Desk. Please speak to the Front Desk staff if you lose an item of high value.

Want to work out?

There is a mini-gym with some exercise equipment in the basement of the Barn (Barn East).



Parking

Please park your vehicle in the large parking lot in front of the Barn. It is illegal to park on the highway, and you may get a ticket.

The space in front of the Inn is reserved for the Bread Loaf van. The space behind the Inn is reserved for delivery trucks; the lawn adjacent to the north side of the Little Theater is not a parking area.

First Workshops and Photos

During the first workshop, Photographer Edward Brown will be popping in briefly to take a photo of your workshop group. Photos will then be available for purchase later in the conference for those who wish to buy one.

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.**

Conference Orientation Tomorrow!

Questions? Bewilderments?
Mountain air got you dizzy?

Fret no more and join us at 10:30
a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, August
13 for an optional conference
orientation in the Little Theater!

SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

If you have driven your car to Bread Loaf, you will have noticed that Route 125 (which is the road going over the mountain) is a narrow, winding road. It can be very dangerous, so please stay within the speed limit.

In Vermont, we recycle cans, bottles, and all kinds of paper. Before using a trash barrel, please look for a recycle bin and recycle whatever you can.

Vermont state law prohibits smoking in any building on campus. Smoking is not permitted in front of the Inn, nor should you smoke on any of the porches or within 25 feet of the buildings (smoke will go in through open windows). Also, the smoke alarms in the buildings are extremely sensitive and are apt to be triggered.

Please don't turn off hallway lights. Fire laws dictate that hallway lights be on at all times.

Please be considerate of your roommate and neighbors. Some Bread Loafers go to sleep early, and some like to sleep in. If you are looking for a spot for late-night socializing, the Barn is available.

Please do not eat or drink in the Little Theater, the Library, or the Apple Cellar.

Off-Campus Opportunities

Downtown Middlebury

Trips to Middlebury depart daily (except for the first Thursday). The van will depart from the front of the Inn at 1:30-ish p.m. and will return to Bread Loaf at about 4:00 p.m. The driver will leave Middlebury at about 3:40 p.m. for the return trip. He will not be able to wait for stragglers. There is no charge for a trip to town on a scheduled run. The Front Desk has information on hand regarding churches, shopping, restaurants, etc. The sign-up sheet is posted daily at the Front Desk for that day's trip. On Monday, August 17, the van will leave Bread Loaf at 9:00 a.m. and return by 12:00 p.m.

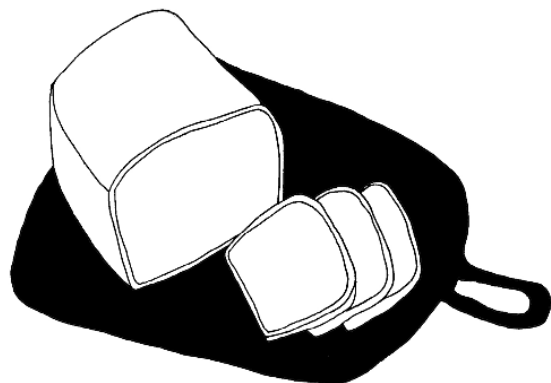
Middlebury College Main Campus

The Library located on the main campus in Middlebury has an extensive collection, and it is available to you. You can also leave a note on the desk in the Bread Loaf Library if you would like the librarian to bring up a book for you.

The Middlebury College Athletic Facilities are available to Bread Loaf attendees. You'll find the hours listed on the Athletics Facility web page (just search for: "Middlebury College athletic facility hours"). A Middlebury College ID card is needed to access the Athletic Facilities; stop by the Bread Loaf Inn Front Desk to check out a conference-use ID card. Front Desk staff are also happy to offer directions to the Athletic Facilities and any other details that might be helpful.

Meal Tickets

It is possible for those staying off campus to pay for meals individually. Please see the Front Desk Staff for details.



"If you find a book you really want to read but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

—Toni Morrison