the Crumb
The 'B' is silent!

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

Vol. 97 Thursday, August 18, 2022 No. 2

TODAY'S EVENTS
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Lecture: "It Gets Wilder: On the Writing Life," by Carl Phillips Little Theater
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Reading Period
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. All Workshops Meet
4:15 p.m. Shara Lessley, Sequoia Nagamatsu, and Natasha Rao Little Theater
5:15 p.m. Cocktail Reception, Treman Lawn (rain location: Barn Tent)
5:15 p.m. Yoga, between the Barn parking lot and the row of cottages
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dinner Bread Loaf Inn
7:30 p.m. Blue Parlor Informational Meeting Barn Tent
8:15 p.m. Elizabeth Nunez and Mark Wunderlich Little Theater
9:30 p.m. Barn Pub (with pizza at 10!)

97th Conference Begins!

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference kicked off yesterday, making 2022 the ninety-seventh year that writers have gathered together here on the mountain to read, listen, dance, and discuss. This year's 280 participants hail from all over the world and all stages of their writing careers!

Whether you're a returning participant leaping joyfully into your old friends' arms, or a first-timer wandering campus in search of the restrooms, we're so glad you're here.

The Adirondack chairs are out, the fields are bright with goldenrod, and we're all looking forward to a fantastic ten days of craft, creativity, and connection here in Ripton.

Workshop Locations

Please note that locations are only for today, Thursday, August 18. Vans to Homer Noble Farm, Earthworm, Schoolhouse, and Dragon's Den will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m.

Alexander Chee - Barn 008
Charles Baxter - Library Upstairs (back end of the building)
Peter Turchi - Tamarack Living Room
Dolen Perkins-Valdez - Homer Noble Living Room
Elizabeth Nunez - Barn 205
Laila Lalami - Library Main Floor
Marisa Silver - Treman Living Room
Maurice Carlos Ruffin - Inn West Seminar
Rebecca Makkai - Dragon's Den Living Room
Stacey D'Erasmo - Barn 206
Melissa Febos - Barn 101
Mitchell S. Jackson - Barn 203
Paul Lisicky - Barn Observatory
Brenda Shaughnessy - Barn 102
Carl Phillips - Barn 204
Craig Morgan Teicher - Earthworm Living Room
francine j. harris - Schoolhouse Living Room
Gabrielle Calvocoressi - Library Upstairs (front end of the building)
Ilya Kaminsky - Barn Tent
Mark Wunderlich - Blue Parlor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cocktail Reception at Treman

Meet your fellow Bread Loafers at a cocktail reception on the Treman Lawn at 5:15 p.m. Make sure to bring your ID.

Forget Amazon!

The conference has a bookstore stocked with publications from faculty, fellows, and contributors. The Bookstore is located at the back of the Annex building. In addition to books, the store carries clothing. Drop by and say hello to Kim MacQueen and Riley Earle, who run the emporium.

Be sure to check the Bookstore door for the most up-to-date hours.

Apple Cellar Tech

Having trouble accesing the wireless network? Adam Wisco and Alivia Kliesen, our kindly Apple Cellar Techs, will be on hand in the computer lab to help with any issues today, Thursday, August 18, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and Friday, August 19, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

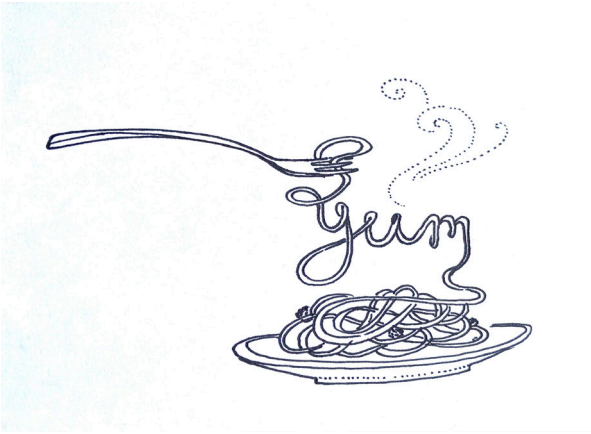
All About Lunch

Lunch will be served buffet style, so to avoid long lines, we urge you to follow the schedule noted here in *The Crumb*, 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 **12:30 p.m.**
- Today, when all workshops meet at 1:30 p.m., we ask poets and nonfiction writers to show up at 11:30 a.m., and fiction writers to hold back until noon.
- Lunch service continues until 1:30 p.m. each day, with the exception of today, when it ends at 1:00 p.m.

Reminders

- Meal times are prompt. Running short on time? Just grab a to-go cup!
- Enjoy the fresh Vermont air! We encourage diners to take their meals outside. There are picnic blankets and outdoor seating options.
- Coffee is available in the morning by 6:30 a.m. After breakfast ends, coffee and water are available in the Barn throughout the day.
- If you have an allergy or food concern, please be proactive and discuss any questions or concerns with the Front Desk.
- The doors to the Inn lock after 10:00 p.m. Use code **27000** to enter after hours.



Craft Classes

Signing Up
Sheets will be emailed to all participants by 8:00 a.m. two days in advance of the official class date. Classes will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

The Postman Doesn't Ring

If you're expecting mail, please check in at the Front Desk.

The Silence of the Phones

Cell phone reception is selectively available on the mountain. It is a good idea to let your loved ones know this so they don't think you've been eaten by a bear (or a hungry writer). If you need to make a call, you can use calling cards in the phone booth by the Laundromat and in the Inn.

Should your phone be blessed with reception, please be mindful of where you choose to chat. Meetings will be taking place across campus, so we ask that while in the Dining Room, the Barn, the Little Theater, or on the Inn Porch, you keep to a quieter mode of communication, such as texting or astral projection. In general, please keep your phones on silent.

Smile!

Photographer Edward Brown will be visiting workshops to take group photos today. An order form for some photos will be available later in the conference.

Pizza in the Barn

Come by the Barn this evening from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The conference will provide pizza—until w



Blue Parlor Informational Meeting

Due to the popularity of the inimitable Blue Parlor reading series, the 2022 readings will, once again, not actually take place in the Blue Parlor. Bread Loaf's own literary salon has moved to fresh digs in the Barn Tent, where we will convene to share and celebrate our work, wow each other outside of the workshop, and enjoy pre-dinner snacks, provided by your hosts, Sebastián Páramo and Megan Pinto.

Tonight at 7:30 p.m., immediately following dinner, you're invited to the Barn Tent to learn more about the BP reading series and ask questions. A few of the hot topics to be discussed: How and where do I sign up? How long can I read? Can I wear sweatpants? This meeting will finish in time to head over to the 8:15 p.m. reading. Information about the Blue Parlor series will be emailed to you from blwc.blueparlor@gmail.com. On Friday, August 19th, the first reading of the season kicks off at 5:30 p.m.! Stay tuned to *The Crumb* for further announcements of sign-ups, themes, readers and other secrets.

For those of you who are unsure about reading, come check us out! We'll laugh, we'll cry, we'll make that appreciative crowd noise in our throats. Join us, Bread Loafers! Let's make some magic on the mountain.

Questions, concerns, high fives?
Contact Blue Parlor Coordinators
Sebastián Páramo & Megan Pinto

From the Front Desk

Please keep these guidelines in mind for convenience and safety:

- There is no smoking allowed inside any building on campus or on any porch.
- We suggest you start a room list by each hall phone so building mates can find you if you get a call.
- Please park all cars in the Barn parking lot, not on Route 125. The exception to this rule covers those staying at Tamarack, Gilmore, Fritz, Frothingham, Earthworm, and Brandybrook, and also cars parked for less than 10 minutes for the purposes of loading and unloading. In addition, there are two accessible parking spots – one in front of the Inn and one in back.
- Notify the Front Desk at extension 2700 for minor medical issues. If you have a serious medical emergency, call 911 and then notify the Front Desk. Before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., when the Front Desk is closed, call both extensions 2713 and 2710.

FROM THE LITTLE THEATER

1. Bells will ring at 15 and 5 minutes prior to each lecture and reading. Please arrive ontime.

2. Trash cans are located near the exits of the Little Theater. We love it when people use them (for trash).

3. Please leave the outside chairs where they are and avoid pulling them up close to the doors.

4. Masks are required in the Little Theater. The only person unmasked will be the reader.

—Samuel Cheney, Zoë Ruiz, and Jon Sargent

Explore Scenic Middlebury

Starting tomorrow, van trips to Middlebury leave the Inn around 1:30 p.m. and return from Middlebury at 3:30 p.m. to arrive at Bread Loaf at 4:00 p.m. There is no trip planned today. Sign up at the Front Desk if you'd like to ride into town, limited to six people. Note: The driver will not wait for lollygaggers! Be on time. There are no van trips on Monday, August 22.

Yoga

Instructor Chessy Kelley will offer Vinyasa yoga classes daily from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. every day except for Monday, August 22, when the class will meet from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Classes will take place outdoors when possible, in the center green between the Barn parking lot and the row of Cottages. In case of bad weather, classes will take place in Barn Classroom 008.

The classes are appropriate for all abilities and all are welcome. A handful of mats will be available.

Greetings from Social Staff

Hello, Bread Loaf! We're the Social Staff. We'd love to meet you, so please don't be shy! Like you, we're all writers and will be participating in workshops. All of us have been here before, so if you've got questions about anything on the mountain, please let us know, and we'll do our best to lend a hand. We're glad you're here, and we look forward to your company!

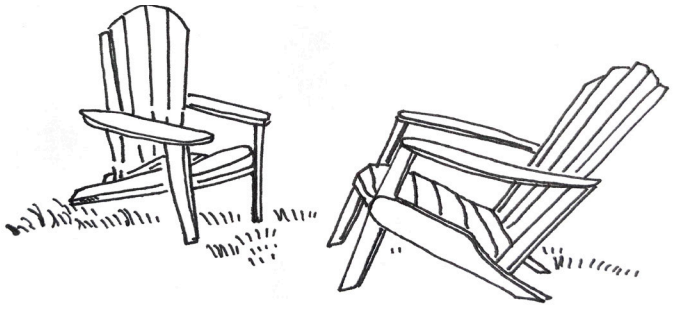
—Caroline Beimford and Jen Funk

Barn Pub

Every evening at 5:15 p.m., you're invited to do some pre-dinner socializing in the Barn. Beer and wine will be available for purchase, and soft drinks will be available free of charge. The bar in the Barn will open again at 9:30 p.m., after the evening readings.

AA Meetings

5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the Barn Observatory, an upstairs classroom with an entrance on the right side of the Barn. To schedule additional meeting times while on the mountain, just let a Back Office Staff member know. The meetings are self-run and are open to all.



GUESTS

Join us in welcoming **Alicia Brooks, Jenna Johnson, Lisa Lucas,** and **Anjali Singh** to the mountain!

Extra, Extra! Write All About It!

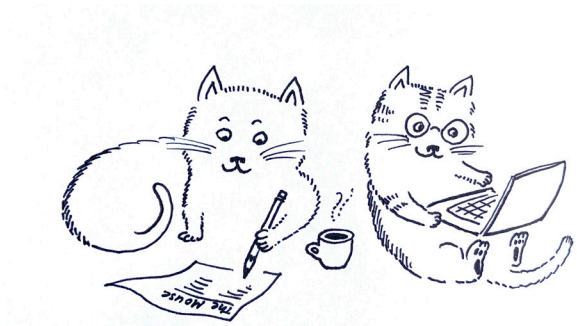
The Crumb welcomes—dare we say it, begs for—submissions of news, editorials, overheard comments, food reviews, limericks, interviews, trivia, comics, and letters to the editor from conference participants (a.k.a. you!). If you'd like to submit a piece for consideration, please e-mail your copy to **blcrumb@gmail.com**.

Please note that while the editors delight in reading missed connections in their spare time, they take a staunch "Bartleby, the Scrivener" approach to the running of advertisements and personals.

Topics of community interest (volleyball smackdown, jaunt into town, barbershop quartet, etc.) are limited to a headline, plus thirty words. We will print items on a first-come, first-served basis as space permits. You can send them along to blcrumb@gmail.com or drop them off on *The Crumb* editors' desk in the Back Office.

You're also welcome to bring us gifts of coffee (cream, no sugar), hot gossip, and funny drawings of cats. We are very friendly and love meeting new people!

— Annie Schumacher
and Rowan Sharp, Editors



WEATHER REPORT

Have your raincoat handy — our meteorologists are predicting intermittent sunshine with a chance of showers.

High: 69° Low: 58°



OVERHEARD

"I'm the Paris Hilton of Bread Loaf."

"I don't believe in good words or good writing. It's all about context."

"Ah popping my neck, the pastime of kings…"

"He definitely has Big Book Energy."

"I only write poems about lakes and ghosts."

Overhear something amazing? Email it to us (without attribution, of course) at blcrumb@gmail.com.