the Crumb
The 'B' is not silent!

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

Vol. 97 Friday, August 19, 2022 No. 3

TODAY'S EVENTS

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. "The Long Run: Some Notes on Duration," by Stacey D'Erasmo, 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
1:45 p.m. Lecture: "The Hot Breath of Graduate School," by Kamran Javadizadeh, Little Theater
3:00 p.m. Special Talk: Publishing Prose, Little Theater Special Talk: Publishing Poetry, Barn Tent
4:15 p.m. Reading: Melissa Febos and Dolen Perkins-Valdez, Little Theater
5:15 p.m. Yoga, between the Barn parking lot and the row of cottages (rain location: Barn 008)
5:30 p.m. Blue Parlor Reading, Barn Tent
6 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn
8:15 p.m. Reading: Jennifer Grotz and Laila Lalami, Little Theater
9:30 p.m. Reading: Bread Loaf Scholars, Little Theater

Guest Lecture Today!

Join us in the Little Theater at 1:45 p.m. for a guest lecture, "The Hot Breath of the Graduate School," by Kamran Javadizadeh.

When did it first begin to seem to some poets that poetry was being written primarily for students rather than for readers, and how did this awareness change the nature of the poems they went on to write? This talk, drawn from Javadizadeh's forthcoming book, examines the relationship between New Critical reading practices and the emergence of the so-called confessional movement in poetry in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Kamran Javadizadeh is an Associate Professor of English at Villanova University. His first book, *Institutionalized Lyric,* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

Poetry and Nonfiction Workshop Locations

Gabrielle Calvocoressi -Library Upstairs (front end of building)

Melissa Febos - Barn 101

francine j. harris - Barn 206

Mitchell S. Jackson - Barn 203

Ilya Kaminsky - Barn Tent

Paul Lisicky - Barn Observatory

Carl Phillips - Barn 204

Brenda Shaughnessy - Barn 102

Craig Morgan Teicher - Barn 205

Mark Wunderlich - Blue Parlor

Directors' Office Hours

Jennifer Grotz: 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. or by appointment

Lauren Francis-Sharma: 10:30 a.m. – 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, Samuel Cheney, Zoë Ruiz, or Jon Sargent 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 new water fountain in the lobby!) and all day in the Barn. You can also use any bathroom sink.

Please Recycle
There are recycling bins across campus. Toss old copies of *The Crumb* in them! Or keep them if you're feeling sentimental.

Special Talks on Publishing

Two events today will offer introductions to publishing poetry and prose. A panel on publishing prose, presented at the Little Theater at 3:00 p.m., will feature Ian Bonaparte, Agent at Janklow & Nesbit, Lisa Lucas, SVP and Publisher of Pantheon & Schocken at Penguin, Jenna Johnson, Executive Editor at Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and Anjali Singh, Agent at Ayesha Pande Literary.

Chantz Erolin, Editor of Graywolf, and Ryan Murphy, Director of Four Way Books, will offer a talk on publishing poetry, also at 3:00 p.m., in the Barn Tent.

First Blue Parlor of the 2022 Season!

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. So we invite you to the Barn Tent, where we will convene to share and celebrate our work, surprise and delight each other outside of workshop, and enjoy preprandial snacks, provided by Blue Parlor Coordinators Sebastián Páramo and Megan Pinto.

Today at 5:30 p.m. come discover (or rediscover) the Blue Parlor experience. Check the sign-up sheet in your inbox for our first brave and brilliant 15 readers. Throughout the conference, information about the Blue Parlor series will be shared via email. Stay tuned to *The Crumb* for further announcements of sign-ups, readers, and other secrets.

For those of you who are unsure about reading, come anyway! The snacks will be good, we promise. Plus we'll laugh, we'll cry, we'll applaud. Join us! Let's create together.

Questions and concerns?
Contact the Blue
Parlor Coordinators at
blueparlorblwc@gmail.com

WEATHER

Partly Cloudy
High: 81° Low: 57°



GUESTS

Today we welcome
Ladette Randolph
to the mountain!

Correction to Wednesday's *Crumb:* we also extend our belated but very warm welcome to **Katherine Fausset!**

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! As we're encouraging Bread Loafers to spread out and utilize outside space this year, the Barn Tent is an additional option.

Scholar Reading Tonight

This year's stunning batch of Bread Loaf Scholars will read their work tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. This is the first of the conference's late-night readings and, as ever, it promises a large crowd to cheer on up-and-coming writers from across the nation. Reading tonight will be:

Karleigh Brogan
Kirtan Nautiyal
Christian Gullette
Mary Terrier
Tochukwu Okafor
Kit Haggard
Samyak Shertok
Emily Lee Luan
Katerina Ivanov Prado
Helene Achanzar
Jim Whiteside
Noah Baldino

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. Our purpose in providing 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. You can also learn about publishing by attending our introductory panels, where editors and agents will give overviews of their work and take questions from the audience, and by attending other talks throughout the conference.

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.

QUOTE FROM THE OPENING REMARKS

Because the most difficult part about making something, also the best,
Is existing in the middle,
Sustaining an act of radical imagination,
I simmered a broth: onion, lemon, a big handful of mint.

James Longenbach, from "Thursday"

COMMUNITY ITEMS

AA Meetings

...take place daily from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the Barn Observatory. All are welcome.

Yoga Before Dinner

Vinyasa yoga classes led by instructor Chessy Kelley will take place today from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. on the center green between the Barn parking lot and the row of cottages. (Rain location: Barn 008.) All levels and abilities are welcome. A handful of mats will be available.

Tiny Horoscopes

♈ ARIES	Keep it simple	♎ LIBRA	Look up, sunshine!
♉ TAURUS	Don't stop believin'	♏ SCORPIO	A breakthrough is near
♊ GEMINI	Guard your secrets...	♐ SAG.	Act swiftly, like an antelope
♋ CANCER	Set your expectations	♑ CAP.	Ponder your destination
♌ LEO	Your instincts are crystal clear	♒ AQU.	Lower your standards
♍ VIRGO	Don't be shy	♓ PISCES	Kiss and make up (or just kiss)

Craft Class Anticipation Builds!

Saturday kicks 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 a rainy breakfast 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 Sunday, August 21, Tuesday, August 23, Wednesday, August 24, and Thursday, August 25. Sign-up emails go out at 8:00 a.m. two days in advance. *The Crumb* Editors recommend: be poised at your inbox, with your top choices already selected, at 7:58 a.m.!

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.

–Samuel Cheney, Jon Sargent, and Zoë Ruiz





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

OVERHEARD

"My first novel was about cats doing people things."

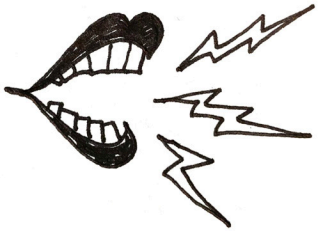
"This is serious. But also, we're writers."

"I've never taken anyone's advice."

"19 was one of the best years of my life. I shook percussion eggs for hours at a time."

"You have a cat named Mouse? I have a cat named Pig!"

Send us more at blcrumb@gmail.com!



Tips for a Great Bread Loaf...the Other Kind

"But what does it have to do with *bread?!*" Your friends, boss, spouse, or kids back home may ask. Now you can return triumphant from the Mountain with your head full of close readings and revision strategies, your heart full of late-night conversations in the Barn, and your pocket full of handy-dandy bread-baking tips (just cut along the dotted line)!

Call for Submissions:

Send us your brilliant bread-baking tips at **blcrumb@gmail.com!** (limit: 150 words)

For a Perfect Crust

by PJ Hamel (adapted by The Crumb)

For extra-crusty crust and a great rise, add steam to your oven as follows: While oven is preheating, place an empty cast-iron frying pan on the lowest rack. Bring 1 cup of water to a boil in the microwave or on the stovetop.

When your bread has risen, use a sieve to dust the loaves with a thin coat of flour. Then make three half-inch deep diagonal slashes in each loaf; these will help the bread rise evenly. Place bread in the oven and pour the boiling water into the frying pan below. Quickly shut the oven door. Wear good oven mitts to shield your hands and arms from the steam.

When the bread is baked, turn the oven off, crack the door open, and allow the bread to remain inside for five additional minutes; this helps keep the crust crisp.