the Crumb
The 'B' is not silent!

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

Vol. 97 Saturday, August 20, 2022 No. 4

TODAY'S EVENTS
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. "What is Prose? What is Poetry?" by Craig Morgan Teicher Little Theater
10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. Fiction Workshops
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Nature Walk with Marc Lapin Barn Porch
11:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn
2:30 p.m. Craft Classes
4:15 p.m. "Another Republic: Learning from Different Traditions" Ilya Kaminsky, Little Theater
5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Barn Social
5:15 p.m. Yoga, between the Barn parking lot and the row of cottages
5:30 p.m. Blue Parlor Reading Series, Barn Tent Special Talk: "Getting the Pitch Right," with Miriam Altshuler Little Theater
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn
8:15 p.m. Reading: Gabrielle Calvocoressi and Maurice Carlos Ruffin Little Theater
9:30 p.m. Reading: Bread Loaf Scholars (night 2/2), Little Theater

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 for craft classes are sent via email by 8:00 a.m. two days before the class. Spaces have been filling quickly, so please make sure you sign up in advance! For those of you who signed up for a class, here is a reminder of the locations:

"Bodies at Rest and in Motion: Staging the Scene,"
with Marisa Silver - Barn Classroom 101
"What's Your Story About?" with Julia Philips - Barn Classroom 205
"Weaving Textual Artifacts to Build World and Character," with Sequoia Nagamatsu - Barn Classroom 206
"Writers Versus Robots," with Xhenet Aliu - Barn Classroom 203
"The Long and Short of It: Syntax as Strategy," with Shara Lessley - Barn Classroom 204
"Boundaries in Love Poems," with Donika Kelly -
Barn Classroom 102

Fiction Workshop Locations

Alexander Chee - Barn Classroom 008
Charles Baxter - Library Upstairs (back end of building)
Peter Turchi - Barn Classroom 101
Dolen Perkins-Valdez - Barn Classroom 204
Elizabeth Nunez - Barn Classroom 205
Laila Lalami - Library Main Floor
Marisa Silver - Barn Classroom 102
Maurice Carlos Ruffin - Inn West Seminar
Rebecca Makkai - Barn Classroom 203
Stacey D'Erasmo - Barn Classroom 206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Ahead

Carpooling

A carpool list will be posted near the Dining Room door on Sunday, August 21. 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.

Vermont Tour and Charter

A schedule of Vermont Tour and Charter departure taxis will be posted near the Front Desk of the Bread Loaf Inn toward the end of the conference. If you have any questions in the meantime or still need to make your departure taxi arrangements, please contact Vermont Tour and Charter directly at (802) 734-1293 by Sunday, August 21.

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*.

Start Your Warmups!

The Writers' Cramp Race, a friendly 2.75 mile competition, takes off on Monday at 8:00 a.m. Keep an eye out for more details in tomorrow's *Crumb*.

Start your day off on the right foot with a Lecture! Don't miss out!

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 is available to hear you and advocate for you. You can contact her at lfrancissharma@middlebury.edu.

Scholar Reading Part II: Tonight!

They stunned us last night, and this evening they're at it again. The second batch of Bread Loaf Scholars will read their work tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. Come cheer on up-and-coming writers from across the nation. Tonight's readers include Pritha Bhattacharyya, Kim Coleman Foote, Fay Dillof, JP Grasser, Jung Hae Chae, Alissa Morgan, Matthew Morris, Thomas Renjilian, Felicity Sheehy, Asha Thanki, Dāshaun Washington, and Jemimah Wei.

Tiny Horoscopes



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 9:30 p.m. Free soda, coffee, and water are also available. Complimentary beer and wine will be available during Barn dances.

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.

"Getting the Pitch Right," with Miriam Altshuler

The better you are at talking and writing about your book, the better chance you have to get the interest of an agent or editor. Miriam Altshuler will give a presentation at 5:30 p.m. in the Little Theater and lead a Q&A so you know how to make the best pitch possible and how to write a compelling and clear query letter. Miriam encourages you to come with questions.

What's Next for the Blue Parlor Reading Series?

At the Blue Parlor informational meeting we went over sign-ups, schedules, community, and what happens if you read past three minutes (dire, dire consequences). The FAQ is posted on the Blue Parlor bulletin board by the back office, if you missed the meeting.

We also discussed how excited we were for the momentous first Blue Parlor reading of 2022—which lived up to our high expectations. Leah De Forest, Kalani Padilla, Meg Kelleher, Ekaterina Agniatsvet, Lily Greenberg, Grace Jahng Lee, Lauren Delapenha, Laura Rock Gaughan, Kathleen Boland, Marcela Fuentes, Sarah Edwards, Becca Rose Hall, Karthik Raman, and Cat Traywick showed us what fiction, nonfiction, and poetry can do in just three minutes. (Amazing things!)

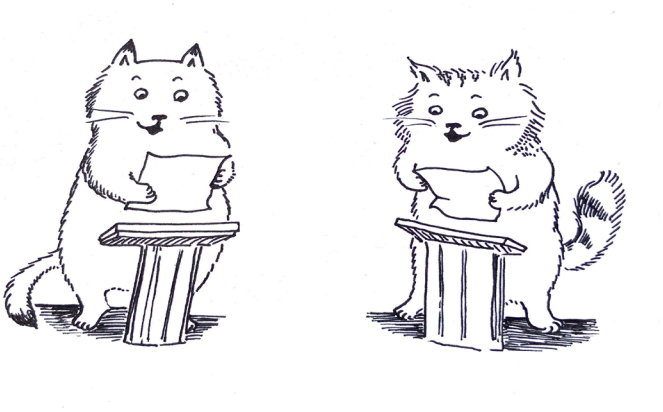
The next Blue Parlor reading is today at 5:30 p.m. in the Barn Tent! Come hear Brian Railsback, Flower Conroy, Donna Spruijt-Metz, Ellen Devlin, Isaac Zisman, Doria Wohler, Seema Jilani, Amy Bagwell, Carly DeMento, Jeremy Proehl, Lyn Li Che, Adrian Schnall, Gary Sokolow, and Adam Karlin.

Great new writing, great new friends—don't miss out (or you *will* regret it).

Questions or affirmations?

Contact Sebastián Páramo or Megan Pinto

at blueparlorblwc@gmail.com



GUESTS

Please extend a warm welcome to **Calvert Morgan** and **Nicole Terez Dutton**.

Safe travels to Allison Devereux and Ryan Murphy.

WEATHER

Have your sunblock handy!
High: 84° Low: 58°



Fellowship to Honor the Memory of Paul Otremba

Paul Otremba was a beloved poet and dear member of the Bread Loaf community. He died in 2019 at the age of 40. In the spirit of his generosity and literary citizenship, Paul's family and friends have established the Paul Otremba Endowed Fellowship for Poetry at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, which will support an annual Bread Loaf Fellowship. **Shara Lessley** is the first ever **Paul Otremba Returning Fellow in Poetry**.

This Fellowship is partly funded by donations. Please consider making a gift at: https://engage.middlebury.edu/pages/otremba-fellowship.

Nature Walk with Mark Lapin

Meet on the front porch of the Barn before heading off into the woods to practice some deep observation. Happening both **Saturday and Sunday** from **10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m**. Mark Lapin is the College Lands Ecologist and Assistant Laboratory Professor of Environmental Studies at Middlebury College.



Lost and Found:
Lost pair of black cat-eye prescription glasses. They were last seen in a hot pink pouch near the Booktore. If found, please drop them off at the Front Desk or contact Marcella Fuentes.

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 sites.middlebury.edu/blwc. Check your email for a direct link.

OVERHEARD

"Do you mind sitting on the floor with me and bonding?"

"Sometimes you need something for your waxy Swiss."

"Corn is a fulltime job."

"Everything magical happens in the second stall."

"I'm not your whistlepig, baby!"

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

Friendly Reminder: Since the sun is out and the birds are chirping, we encourage you to take your meals outdoors. There are several picnic tables near the Little Theater.