the Crumb
The 'B' is not silent!

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

Vol. 97 Wednesday, August 24, 2022 No. 8

TODAY'S EVENTS

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9:00 a.m.
Lecture: "A Writer's Roots," by Dolen Perkins-Valdez, Little Theater

10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
Poetry and Nonfiction Workshops

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

2:30 p.m.
Craft Classes

4:15 p.m.
Reading: William Brewer, Omer Friedlander, Julia Phillips, and Chet'la Sebree, Little Theater

5:15 p.m.
Yoga, between the Barn parking lot and the row of cottages (rain location: Barn 008)

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

5:30 p.m.
LGBTQ+ Reading, Barn Tent

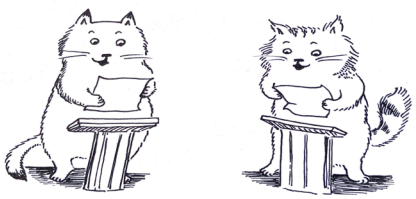
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:30 - 10:30 p.m.
Music at the Barn Pub, with Caleb Elder and Jake Schepps, Barn Tent



LGBTQ+ Reading in the Little Theater!

Tonight at 5:30 p.m., the Blue Parlor presents a reading by LGBTQ+ writers—continuing a recent Bread Loaf tradition! Come experience a brilliant range of voices: Sebastian Merrill, Flower Conroy, Elise Jeanmaire, Peter Kazon, Diana Cao, Em North, Kalani Padilla, Lily Greenberg, Ayden LeRoux, Vanessa Lyon, Rowan Sharp, Karen Zheng, Mark Spero, Christian Gullette, and Timothy Bradley.



There are still a small number of slots available for the "One Minute in Heaven" reading tomorrow! Click the link in the sign-up email that was sent on Monday to secure your spot in heaven.

And, as always, we're dying to see your photos and videos from the Blue Parlor readings. Send them to blueparlorblwc@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact Blue Parlor Coordinators Megan Pinto and Sebastián Páramo. They also accept sweets, high-fives, and hot gossip.

Craft Class Corner

Please note that any required handouts are available on the table in the Inn.

"Scene Reconstruction: Using Evidence to Recapture Real Moments," with Robert W. Fieseler - Barn Classroom 204

"Starting Fiction Stories," with Maurice Carolos Ruffin - Barn Classroom 101

"Writing Genre-Bending Fiction," with Lara Ehrlich - Barn Classroom 205

"Dialogue as Action," with Cara Blue Adams - Barn Classroom 206

"Narrative Patterns Inspired by the Natural World," with Kathryn Savage - Barn Classroom 203

"The Poetry of Place," with Natasha Rao - Barn Classroom 102

"Pattern as Practice: Expanding our Craft Two Poems at a Time," with Chelsea B. DesAutels - Library Upstairs (back end of building)

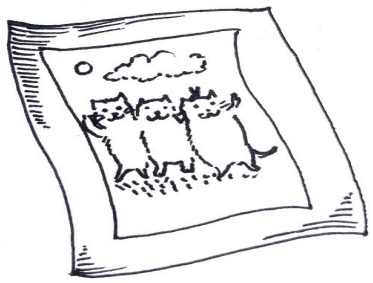
ANNOUNCEMENTS!

From the Front Desk

While you are here at the conference, you have the chance to order 5x7 or 8x10 color group photos of your workshop. There will also be group photos of Scholars, Administrative Staff, Fellows, and Faculty. Photos of each group cost $12 or $15 per picture (according to size). Shipping costs $6, and order forms are available at the Front Desk. If ordered by 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 25, pictures will be available for pickup by Friday lunch.

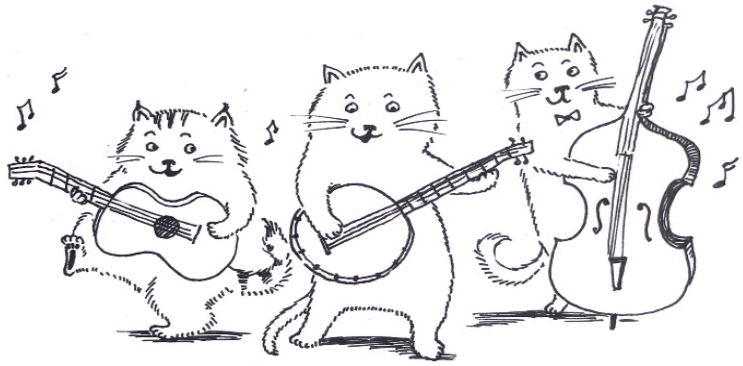
If you plan to ship boxes home, they need to be sent from the Front Desk by Friday at 12:00 p.m. (This includes boxes shipped UPS or U.S. Postal Service). This will come in handy for all those books you've just bought. There are a few shipping boxes available by the Front Desk near the mailboxes. The Front Desk will help you price-compare various shipping options.

Please also stop by the Front Desk if you plan to leave Middlebury by bus or train Saturday morning, so that a van to town can be arranged. There will be a sign-up sheet for space in the van.



Bluegrass in the Barn Tent

Tonight from 8:30 - 10:30 p.m., local bluegrass musicians Caleb Elder and Jake Schepps will perform live music in the Barn Tent. Come for a footstomping good time!



Breaking News: Mountain Lions???

You may have heard that several Bread Loafers spotted a mother mountain lion and cub near campus, on the trail to the Frost Picnic! A few photos were taken but none are distinct, so your paper of record has leapt at this opportunity to do some hard-nosed investigative reporting.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the breeding population of mountain lions east of the Mississippi has been extinct since 2011, and Vermont's last known wild mountain lion (also known regionally as a catamount) was killed in 1881. But according to longtime local resident Edward Brown at the Front Desk, there *are* mountain lions in this area, though they are rare. The *Burlington Free Press* reports that there have been a small number of biologist-confirmed sightings in the Northeast in recent years — all young males, who are capable of roaming over a thousand miles in search of new terretory. But without females in the area, these wandering guys can't breed.

Edward Brown suspects the sighting was of eastern bobcats, fairly common in these parts. But Julie Carrick Dalton, who saw the animals on Monday, isn't so sure. She's done her own careful research and is now following up with several wildlife biologists to pose the question: could Vermont's breeding population of mountain lions have returned?

Stay tuned for updates. And if you see any mysterious creatures in the woods, please give them plenty of space!



Scattered Showers
High: 79°
Low: 58°

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ride-Share Bulletin Board

If you are willing to offer a ride on departure day, note your name on the carpooling sheet posted near the Dining Hall. Those looking for a ride can then contact you to make a plan.

Special Talk Tomorrow

Tomorrow at 10:10 a.m. in the Little Theater, there will be a special talk featuring editors from *Poetry* and *Poetry Northwest*.

One More Chance to Hike!

To hike the Long Trail today, sign up at the Front Desk as soon as possible (transportation to the trailhead leaves at 10 a.m., immediately after the morning lecture). Hikers will be back on campus by lunchtime. If you have questions, see Edward or Matt at the Front Desk.

OVERHEARD

"Wait... you ordered an erotic pizza?!"

"They had liquor and cake and cake-flavored liquor."

"He needs to be trellised, as a person."

"It wasn't Chekov's fault!"

"I think I've met more lawyers here than anywhere else. Including law school."

"I am a walking overheard section."

Keep sending these in! We love them! We love you!
blcrumb@gmail.com

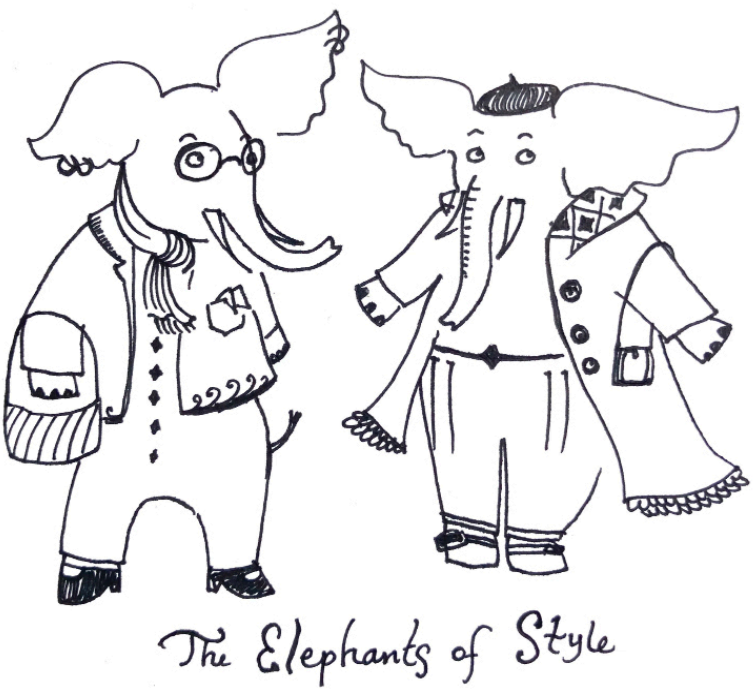
Friendly Reminder

Masking is required in the Little Theater and strongly encouraged in all indoor spaces. Please continue to eat outside as much as possible. Be safe out there!

Tiny Horoscopes

Fruit Bowl Edition!

ARIES	Champagne grapes	LIBRA	Freeze-dried strawberry
TAURUS	Heirloom tomato	SCORPIO	Maraschino cherry
GEMINI	Dragonfruit	SAG.	Pink Lady apple
CANCER	Mangosteen	CAP.	Horned melon
LEO	Froot Loops	AQU.	Persimmon
VIRGO	Golden Raisin	PISCES	Frozen banana





Throwbacks and Memories

Alexander Chee shared this 1990 photo of himself and the late Amanda Davis, for whom Bread Loaf's Amanda Davis Returning Fellowship is named.

Alex writes, "I was back at Wesleyan for a friend's graduation—I graduated the year before— and my friend Todd McNiff, behind me on the left, recently noticed that she was the person on my right—they were friends. She was 18 or 19, a first-year student. I did not know her then."

Amanda Davis (1971 - 2003) was the author of the story collection *Circling the Drain* and the novel *Wonder When You'll Miss Me*. She taught fiction writing at Mills College. She is missed by friends at Bread Loaf, and *McSweeney's* also created an award in her memory.

COMMUNITY ITEMS

Daily Meditation Sessions

Twice daily meditation will be offered from 7:40-8 a.m. and 7:40 - 8 p.m. in the Barn Tent, with Barn 101 as a backup in case of thunder and lightning. All experience levels welcome! Email Rachael at RPetersen@hds.harvard.edu with questions.

Mark of the Yeast

At night, the temperature is dropping, and owls sing their hunting songs. If crisp air stirs your creepy soul, join us tonight at 11:00 p.m. for a night of scary stories in the Barn Tent. Do you dare to read? Bring a poem or a short piece of fiction or nonfiction— something that evokes fear, the unsettling, the disturbing, or just plain spookiness. Contact adamkarlin@gmail.com for more information. See you on the Other Side...