

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

Vol. 98

Monday, August 21, 2023

No. 6

TODAY'S EVENTS

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Yoga, Barn oo8

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

8:00 a.m. Writers' Cramp Race, meeting at the Annex front porch

11:00 a.m.

Lecture: "The Structure of a Story Compared to a Bubble," by Jess Row, Little Theater

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn (Picnic at Frost Farm is canceled)

4:15 p.m. Reading: Rachel Beanland, Janine Joseph, and Tomás Q. Morín, Little Theater

5:30 p.m. Blue Parlor Reading Series, Barn Tent

6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:15 p.m. Reading: Vievee Francis and Laura van den Berg, Little Theater

9:30 p.m. Administrative Staff Scholars reading (night one of two), Little Theater

> 9:30 p.m. - Midnight Barn Pub



Writers' Cramp Race This Morning

Don't let the name scare you off — the Writers' Cramp Race is a friendly competition along a 2.75 mile course. It begins this morning at 8:00 a.m. Runners of all skill levels should meet by the front porch of the Annex by 7:45 a.m. for instructions and an overview of the course, which winds through the campus and down to the Frost Farm. Volunteers are welcome to help with providing water and cheering. Runners can get a late breakfast in the Dining Room. For everyone not participating in the race, breakfast will end as usual at 8:30 a.m.

We'd love to see your epic photos from the race! Share on your own socials with #BreadLoaf2023, or send them to us at blcrumb@gmail.com.

Frost Farm Picnic Canceled

Unfortunately, due to mud and soggy ground, the Frost Picnic is cancelled today. Lunch will be served in the Dining Room, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., as usual.

The Frost Cabin will be open for viewing, however, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Vans will leave the Inn every 15 minutes. Gather on the Front Porch of the Inn if you would like a ride. At the site, the van will need to drop people off about 200 feet from the cabin, and from there the walk to the cabin is on an uneven dirt path through the woods. An all-terrain gator will make trips to transport people from the van drop-off point to the cabin, for those who wish.

To walk to the Cabin site from the Bread Loaf Inn: the Cabin can be reached via Route 125, but Front Desk Manager Edward Brown recommends taking the marked path through the woods, if you're able to.

Walking directions continued on page 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Lost and Found at the Little Theater:

One pair of black and turqoise glasses! Pick them up on the mantle at the Little Theater.

No Cause for Alarm

Please do not open any emergency exits (unless it's an emergency, of course). Opening emergency exits causes alarms to go off and can disrupt a good night's sleep. Thank you.

Craft Class Sign-Ups for Tuesday Classes

...Will be available today at 9:00 a.m. Check your inboxes!

Want to Learn More About the Warren Wilson MFA Program?

Faculty and alumni of the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers will present an information session on the nation's first low-residency MFA program tomorrow at 1:15 p.m. in Barn Classroom 101. Bread Loafers interested in completing a low-residency MFA degree in fiction or poetry will have the opportunity to ask questions. They will discuss some of the differences between residential and low-residency programs.

The Crumb's First Annual Limerick Contest is still open!!!

Send us your best (or worst) by midnight tonight.

blcrumb@gmail.com

Walking Directions to Frost Cabin

(continued from page 1)

The path through the woods is not only more scenic, but also safer, as traffic tends to speed on Route 125. To walk through the woods, go to the Barn parking lot, then follow the road back behind the Barn, and then continue across the dirt road to the trail. The trail on the left (marked by a pink ribbon) will lead to the Frost Cabin.

If you choose to walk to the Frost Cabin along Route 125, please walk single file and be careful. To reach the Cabin via the road, turn right at the Inn porch and walk .7 miles down 125. Turn right onto Frost Road/USFS Road 396 (unmarked), just before the Robert Frost Wayside; the Frost Cabin is roughly .8 miles up the road.

Administative Staff Scholar Reading Tonight!

Join us in the Little Theater at 9:30 tonight for the first of two Administrative Staff Scholar readings. Come cheer for the folks who help keep Bread Loaf humming along! Tonight's readers are:

Phil SaintDenisSanchez

Anja Mei-Ping Kuipers

Diana Cao

Jon Sargent

Sebastián Páramo

Jason Lamb

Angela Siew

Lei Hu

Noah Stetzer

GUESTS

Today we welcome **Kevin Craft, Lindsay Garbutt, Gerald Maa, Leslie Sainz,** and **Carmen Giménez**

to the Mountain!

Safe travels to Miriam Altshuler, Henry Dunow, Martha Rhodes, Ibrahim Ahmad, and Kamran Jayadizadeh.

WEATHER

Scattered showers

High: 68° Low: 48°

Blue Parlor Set to Outshine the Sun

Keep your splendid, silent sun; Keep your woods, O Nature, and the quiet places by the woods—give me the Blue Parlor yawp! Whitman wrote that, or something like it, and we know just what he means. BP-ers will continue to burn bright with their magnitude, humor, and literary verve promptly at 5:30 p.m.!

Tonight's lineup includes: PJ Henry, Heidi Seaborn, Katherine Joshi, Braedan Houtman, Rob Walters, Fleming Meeks, Kandala Singh, Reed Turchi, Christopher Louvet, Margaret Byrd, Elizabeth Lee, Sanjay Joshi, LiAnne Yu, Aimee Clemens, and Adrian Schnall.

The sign-up sheet for Week Two's Blue Parlor readings, happening Wednesday, August 23rd and Friday, August 25th, at 5:30 p.m., will go out on Tuesday, August 22nd at 8:30 a.m. We will also share the sign-up sheets for the From the Dark Tower Reading Series and the One Minute in Heaven Series on Tuesday, August 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

There is no reading tomorrow (Tuesday), so rest up those reading voices and clapping hands!

Questions? Suggestions? Blue Parlor Coordinators Megan Pinto or Sebastián Páramo now accepting mixtapes, tips, and hot gossip.

AAPI READING!

Calling all Asian American Pacific Islander readers! We will have an AAPI reading on Wednesday, August 23rd at 1:15 p.m. in the Barn Tent. Signups for readers who identify as AAPI will happen at the Barn Tent on a signup sheet, first come, first serve: please keep your readings to 3 minutes each so everyone who wants to read can read! Everyone is welcome, of course, as audience. See you then!

—Annie Tan, (646) 525-8587

If you have an idea for a gathering or reading and would like to reach out to Bread Loafers, send a note to blcrumb@gmail.com by noon the day before the event, and we'll include a note about it in the next day's issue.

COVID-19

Please review the protocols below. Masks are available at the Front Desk in the Bread Loaf Inn. Masks are also available at the entrance to the Little Theater.

As we become aware of any positive cases, we will send an update note to the community via email, and anyone who has tested positive will be asked to notify close contacts.

Attendees experiencing COVID-19 symptoms during the conference should self-administer an antigen test.

Attendees can use the antigen test they brought from home or, wearing a mask, can acquire an antigen test from the Bread Loaf Inn Front Desk. If the test result is negative and symptoms persist, attendees should continue to wear a mask at all times and test again 24 hours later to confirm the initial antigen test result. If the second antigen test is negative, then the attendee can conclude they are negative for COVID-19.

If the antigen test result is positive, attendees should **immediately**:

- 1. Begin to wear masks and to self-isolate in their rooms.
- 2. Contact the Bread Loaf Inn Front Desk staff (802-443-2700; blfd@middlebury.edu) or the Back Office staff (802-443-5286; blwc@middlebury.edu) to inform staff of the positive test result and discuss next steps.

Faculty Flashback!



Dean Bakopoulos after making it through "a complete panic attack toddler meltdown" at the JC Penny. We've all been there, Dean.

Yoo-hoo! Are you listening? I'll say it again: Send us your limericks by midnight (or else)! A baked goods theme is encouraged! (But not required. You do you. Sheesh.)



Coming Up: Nature Walks with Marc Lapin

Meet in front of the Barn before heading off into the woods to practice some deep observation. Happening **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** from **11:00 to noon**. Marc Lapin is the College Lands Ecologist and Assistant Laboratory Professor of Environmental Studies at Middle-bury College.



Tree of the Day Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)

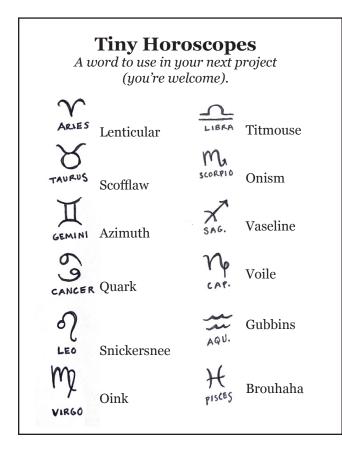
This graceful tree with distinctive cones of fuzzy red fruit is native to New England.

Find it: Behind the Library.

Did you know? Those fuzzy little berries are edible and can be used to brew a delicious, tart "pink lemonade!"



Need even more walks??? (I do. I always do.) Try the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail! Head west on Route 125, 1.3 miles from the Bread Loaf Inn (please walk carefully on the highway) and look for the sign on your left. And did you know that the path through the center of the meadow across the street from the Inn leads to a forest trail along a hidden creek?! I love this walk, too! (I love all walks. Walks are the best.) Low points in the meadow may be marshy from rainy weather, so wear waterproof shoes or proceed with caution—but it's worth the journey!



OVERHEARD

"I'd give you my tooth if you wanted it."

"It's Soleil David's birthday today!"

"As someone who doesn't know astrology very much, I don't know if I'm rising or sinking."

"It's very hard to get out of an Ikea."
"Much like grief, actually."

"I'm running for Rat Czar."

Please send us more at blcrumb@gmail.com!

Second Annual!

COMMUNITY ITEM: **DÆTHLÖF**

Tomorrow night (Tuesday, August 22nd) 10:30 in the Barn Tent. Share scary/spooky stories (they can be your work or just get up & tell story). 3-5 minutes. Capped at 10 readers. Email me at:

philsaintdenissanchez@gmail.com.

New (Totally Legitimate) Bread Loaf Conferences!

Have you loved the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference so much that you're looking for another writing conference to attend? We're pleased to announce these additions to the Bread Loaf family!

Breath Loaf - For lovers of the crisp air here on the mountain, this conference will focus entirely on breathing, breath, and caesura. Our esteemed faculty will hold classes—often silent!—on how to move air from your nose to your lungs, and workshops will consist of participants breathing in and out for six hours.

Bed Loaf - Unlike most other writing conferences, this two-week conference includes almost no instruction and simply lets you catch up on your sleep. Sessions alternate between meal times and nap times, the evening reading is just a white noise machine in the Little Theater, and your conference welcome packet includes Ambien and NyQuil. Perfect for new parents, teen writers, and anyone who works a full-time job while writing.

Bet Loaf - If you're thinking, "I love Bread Loaf, but I sure miss gambling," this is the conference for you. Between writing workshops and craft classes, participants will wager on almost every aspect of the conference: lengths of readings, what kind of meat will be served at dinner, how long it will take before Jason Lamb looks you in the eye and says, "This party is OVER!" The culminating event of the conference is a cagematch between the Fellows.

Brett Loaf - Brett Easton Ellis is the only faculty member. You will be terrified the entire time.