98th Conference Begins!
The Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference kicked off yesterday, making 2023 the ninety-eighth 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 17.

A van to the Dragon’s Den will leave from the front of the Inn at 1:15 p.m.

Dean Bakopoulos - Treman Living Room
Erin Belieu - Dining Tent
Tomas Q. Morin - Inn West Seminar
Matthew Olzmann - Dragon’s Den Living Room
Carl Phillips - Barn Tent
Patrick Phillips - Barn 204
Emily Raboteau - Fritz Living Room
Jess Row - Barn 205
David Treuer - Barn Observatory
Luis Alberto Urrea - Barn Main Room
Laura van den Berg - Barn 008
Tiphanie Yanique - Barn 101
Paul Yoon - Library Upstairs (front end of building)
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. (Rain location: Barn Tent.)

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 Riley Earle and Ruth Fuller, who run the emporium.
Be sure to check the Bookstore door for the most up-to-date hours.

Apple Cellar Tech
Having trouble accessing the wireless network? Our kindly Apple Cellar Techs, will be on hand in the computer lab to help with any issues today, Thursday, August 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Friday, August 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

TODAY: First Craft Class Sign-Ups!
Craft Class sign-ups for Saturday, August 19 and Sunday, August 20 will be emailed today at 10:30 a.m. Classes are capped at 25 participants and fill up fast. The Crumb recommends: prepare your choices in advance (check the Craft Class descriptions in your folder), and check your email right on time!

All About Lunch

Staggered Lunch Schedule
Lunch will be served buffet style, and to avoid long lines, we urge you to follow the procedure noted here, based on your workshop schedule:
On days when your workshop does not meet, please go to the Dining Room starting at 12:00 p.m.
On days when your workshop does meet, please go to the Dining Room at 12:30 p.m. Lunch service continues until 1:30 p.m.
We encourage you to eat outside as much as possible.

Reminders

- Meal times are prompt. Running short on time? Just grab a to-go cup!
- Enjoy the fresh Vermont air! Though it’s been raining, we encourage diners to take their meals outside in the tent between the Inn and the Little Theater. For dryer days, there are also picnic blankets and other 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 Kitchen Staff.
- The doors to the Inn lock after 10:00 p.m. Use code 27000 to enter after hours.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

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 today take group photos. An order form for photos will be available later in the conference.

Pizza in the Barn
Come by the Barn this evening from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. The Conference will provide pizza—until we’re all out!

Blue Parlor Informational Meeting

Due to the popularity of the inimitable Blue Parlor reading series, the 2023 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. Here, 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 & Megan Pinto.

Immediately following dinner this evening at 7:30 p.m., you’re invited to the Barn Tent to learn more about the BP reading series and ask questions. Hot topics discussed include: How and where do I sign up? For how long can I read? Can I wear sweatpants? Can I bring wine? 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 mpinto@middlebury.edu and sparamo@middlebury.edu. Friday, August 18th, the first reading of the season will kick off at 5:30 p.m.! Stay tuned to The Crumb for further announcements regarding 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

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, unless you’re parked for less than 10 minutes for the purposes of loading and unloading. Those staying at Tamarack, Gilmore, Fritz, Frothingham, Earthworm, and Brandybrook should also park at the Barn when on campus. There are two accessible parking spots, one in front of the Inn and one in back.

- Notify the Front Desk at (802) 443-2700 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 (802) 443-2911.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Each ride is limited to six people. Note: the driver will not wait for lollygaggers! There are no van trips on Monday, August 21.

Yoga
Joanna Colwell will offer Iyengar yoga classes daily from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in Barn 008. The classes are appropriate for all abilities and all are welcome. A handful of mats will be available.

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
AA Meetings are scheduled to take place daily from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the Library Upstairs (back end of building). To schedule additional meeting times while on the mountain, just let a Back Office Staff member know. Staff will reserve the room and include a note about the meetings in The Crumb. The meetings are self-run and are open to all.

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!

— Jen Funk, Noah Stetzer, Katia Agniatsvet, Diana Cao, Lei Hu, Suhail Mandani, Sebastian Merrill, and Annie Reid

WEATHER
Scattered showers
High: 77° Low: 62°

Don’t forget your Crumbrella!

GUESTS
Join us in welcoming Miriam Altshuler, Henry Dunow, and Martha Rhodes to the mountain!
Extra, Extra! Write All About It!

Your paper of record welcomes submissions of news, editorials, recipes, overheard comments, food reviews, limericks, interviews, trivia, comics, doodles, jokes, fashion tips, local lore, moose sightings, ghost stories, missed connections, and requests for advice from conference participants (a.k.a. you!). To submit a piece for consideration, please email your copy to blcrumb@gmail.com.

We are also happy to print topics of community interest (volleyball smackdown, jaunt into town, barbershop quartet, etc.). These are limited to a headline, plus thirty words. We will print community items on a first-come, first-served basis as space permits.

FROM THE LITTLE THEATER

1. Bells will ring at 15 and 5 minutes prior to each lecture and reading. Please arrive on time.
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 optional in the Little Theater. Masks are available upon request.
5. Lost valuables will be brought to the Front Desk for safekeeping.

— Neysa King,
Phil SaintDenisSanchez,
Jon Sargent,
and Mark Spero

FROM THE LIBRARY

Hi from the Davison Library at Bread Loaf! We invite you to make the library your comfy, book-filled oasis for the next ten days. Please stop by to say hello, relax in the overstuffed chairs, and enjoy our book displays, free printing, and assistance with Wi-Fi. (We’re the white building behind the Little Theater.) See you soon!

— Kellam Ayres, Bread Loaf Librarian
(kayres@middlebury.edu)
“New potatoes... it’s like eating children... they’re the veal of the potato world.”

“Playwriting is the veal of the conference world.”

“I AM your Pulitzer!!”

“It’s not plural, it’s just charming.”

“Bread Loaf is the only edible mountain in the United States.”

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

**Tiny Horoscopes**

*First Morning on the Mountain!*

- **ARIES** - Four-leaf clovers
- **TAURUS** - Creekside chat?
- **GEMINI** - Turn off your phone
- **CANCER** - Nap hard
- **LEO** - NO FILTER
- **VIRGO** - Sharpen your pencils

- **LIBRA** - Bat your eyelashes
- **SCORPIO** - Arnold Palmer
- **SAGITTARIUS** - Bug spray
- **CAPRICORN** - Call your cat
- **AQUARIUS** - Find your crush
- **PISCES** - Bird watch