

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

Vol. 98

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

No. 1

TODAY'S EVENTS

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Yoga, Barn 008

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration, Bread Loaf Inn

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

2:00 p.m. Campus Tour, Bread Loaf Inn Front Porch

3:00 p.m. Campus Tour, Bread Loaf Inn Front Porch

4:00 p.m. Campus Tour, Bread Loaf Inn Front Porch

> 5:00 p.m. **Registration Ends**

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

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

8:15 p.m. Welcome by Jennifer Grotz and Reading by Ellen Bryant Voigt, Little Theater

9:30 p.m. Coffee Reception & Pub, Barn

GUESTS

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:

> Ian Bonaparte Amy Hundley Anjali Singh

Hello, Hello!

The Crumb is delighted to wel-crumb you to the 98th Annual Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Today's edition of The Crumb will fill you in on such basics as Bookstore hours and where to find laundry machines. Hereafter, it will contain daily schedules, program changes, and announcements of special events. You will find copies each morning by the Dining Room door.

Hours of Operation

Back Office:	Daily, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Front Desk:	Daily, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Directors' Office Hours:	Jennifer Grotz: 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 or by appointment Lauren Francis-Sharma: 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or by appointment The Directors' Office is across from the Back Office, by the Blue Parlor.
Switchboard:	Same as Front Desk
Library:	Daily, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Librarian on site weekdays, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Apple Cellar:	Same hours as Library
Bookstore:	Daily: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (except as noted below) Monday, 8/21: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, 8/22: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, 8/25: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 12:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Director: Jennifer Grotz Assistant Director: Lauren Francis-Sharma Administrative Director: Noreen Cargill Coordinator: Jason Lamb **Diversity Liaison**: Lauren Francis-Sharma

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CONFERENCE STAFF

Back Office Staff

Anja Kuipers Angela Siew Scott Stubbs

Blue Parlor Coordinators Sebastián Páramo Megan Pinto

> **The Crumb Editors** Annie Schumacher Rowan Sharp

Little Theater Coordinators

Neysa King Phil SaintDenisSanchez Jon Sargent Marc Spero

Social Staff

Jen Funk Noah Stetzer Ekaterina Agniatsvet Diana Cao Lei Hu Suhail Mandani Sebastian Merrill Annie Reid

Administrative and social staff are attending the Conference on work scholarships.

MANAGEMENT

Front Desk Managers Edward Brown Victoria Brown

Bread Loaf Photographers Edward Brown Todd Balfour

Front Desk Assistants Kalli Federhofer Matt Fiorentino Peter Newton

Bread Loaf Campus Facilities and Services

Back Office

The Back Office is in the west wing of the Inn, next to the Blue Parlor. The staff is happy to help with any conference and programming questions.

If you would like to arrange a special discussion or activity, please feel free to announce it by emailing blcrumb@gmail.com. The Back Office staff would be happy to help you plan an activity, from finding a good place to post the announcement to arranging an appropriate meeting place.

Barn Social and Barn Pub

The Barn, located in a central spot on the Bread Loaf campus, is a place for participants to gather and socialize. On most days, from 5:15 p.m. until dinner, a Barn Social will take place, with soda and munchies available free of charge, and beer and wine on sale. And on most evenings, a Barn Pub is set up from 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

Bread Loaf follows the rules governed by Vermont Department of Liquor Control. Only alcohol you purchase from the Bread Loaf bartenders may be consumed at Bread Loaf Socials and Pubs.

Bells

We'll start your day with a wake-up bell at 7:30 a.m.; thereafter you'll hear a bell to announce the start of each meal, as well as fifteen minutes and again five minutes before the start of each lecture and reading.

Blue Parlor Readings

During the Conference, all are invited to take part in the Blue Parlor readings. These informal readings, hosted by coordinators Megan Pinto and Sebastián Páramo, will take place in the Barn Tent. These readings provide an opportunity to share your writing and to meet Bread Loafers from other workshops. Those interested in reading will be asked to sign up in advance. Details about the Blue Parlor organizational meeting will be noted in a forthcoming issue of *The Crumb*.

Bread Loaf has joined the 21st Century!

Haven't got enough of us yet? Follow us on Instagram @ breadloafwriter

Computer Lab in the Apple Cellar and Wireless Access

A computer room is located in the basement of the Library on the Bread Loaf campus. The login information to use the computers will be posted in the Apple Cellar itself. Should you need a hand with digital matters, a computer technician will be on hand some days (please see the schedule below) and the Middlebury College Help Desk will be available by phone (dial 2200 from any campus phone or 802-443-2200 from your cell phone) or email (helpdesk@middlebury.edu) on weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you have trouble accessing the wireless network, an IT tech will be available in the Apple Cellar the following times:

Wednesday, August 16: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 17: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday, August 18: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wi-Fi

Participants:

To assist ITS with security matters, for the first time this year students received a Middlebury email via an ITS Welcome note in the time leading up to the conference. Students access Wi-Fi by choosing MiddleburyCollege from the WiFi options that come up on their personal device and entering their Middlebury email and password. (Note: the guest access described below can be a workaround this year for students who have difficulty using their Middlebury email.)

Faculty and Guests:

Next year faculty will receive a Middlebury email, too, but during this transition year to the new process, faculty and guests continue to use the MiddleburyGuest Wi-Fi access option. Select the MiddleburyGuest wireless network then follow the prompts to accept the certificate and connect (for this option, be sure to select MiddleburyGuest and not MiddleburyCollege).

If you need help connecting to Wi-Fi, please go to the Apple Cellar during the times listed above.

Linens

Sheets, blankets, and towels are provided. If you find that you need an additional towel or other item, the Front Desk staff will be pleased to assist you.

Laundry

Washers and dryers are in the Laundry House in front of the Barn. The Front Desk can give you change if needed.

Health Matters

For Physical Health Care:

For non-emergency health matters, a self-care cart is available near the Lobby of the Bread Loaf Inn. Should you find that the cart does not address your particular concerns, the Bread Loaf Inn Front Desk staff will help you with a referral. Porter Hospital is located in Middlebury.

For Physical Health Emergencies:

In serious medical emergencies such as difficulty breathing, significant loss of blood, unconsciousness, or back and neck injuries, call 911. Remember: persons with neck or spine injuries should never be moved—always call 911.

Step 1: Call 911 from any on-campus phone. A sign near each phone lists important details including the exact address and phone number for that location.

Step 2: Contact the Front Desk Staff at x2700 from a campus phone or 802-443-2700 from your cell phone to let them know.

For Mental Health Care:

For mental health matters, contact the director, assistant director, administrative director, or coordinator (Jennifer Grotz, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Noreen Cargill, or Jason Lamb) for a referral.

For Mental Health Emergencies:

The 24-hour Crisis Line at the Counseling Service of Addison County is available at 802-388-7641 from your cell phone.

A WORD ABOUT THE WEATHER

The climate on the mountain can be volatile: sunny one moment, stormy the next. While the *Crumb* does its best to provide you with accurate weather information, the skies will do their best to outfox us.

The editors' tip: courage, perseverence, and layers!

COVID-19

Below please see details from the Protocols document shared before arrival.

All of Middlebury's campuses, including Bread Loaf Campus, are mask friendly and mask optional. We ask that community members exercise kindness, compassion, and patience for others in support of their personal choices and health needs.

Attendees experiencing COVID-19 symptoms during the conference self-administer an antigen test. Attendees use the antigen test they brought from home or, wearing a mask, acquire an antigen test from the Bread Loaf Inn Front Desk.

If the test result is negative and symptoms persist, attendees 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 is negative for COVID-19.

If the antigen test result is positive, attendees:

1. Immediately begin to wear a mask and to self-isolate in their rooms.

2. Right away 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.





Diversity Liaison

Lauren Francis-Sharma is serving as Diversity Liaison for this year's conference. If there are any issues you would like to discuss, you are welcome to schedule a private meeting by emailing her directly at lfrancissharma@middlebury.edu.

Campus Emergencies

In case of emergencies or fire on the BL campus, always call 911 from any campus phone or from your cell phone. A sign near each campus phone lists important details including the exact address and phone number for that location.

In case of non-life-threatening but urgent matters such as building or campus issues, contact the BL Inn Front Desk at x2700 from any campus phone or 802-443-2700 from your cell phone (Front Desk Hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.). Outside of office hours, call x2911 from any campus phone or 802-443-2911 from your cell phone to reach facilities staff who will help you with the situation.

For emergencies that affect the Bread Loaf campus, the Middlebury Department of Public Safety uses the RAVE alert system to notify attendees via their personal email and also by text for those who have cell service on campus.

Bookstore

Books by faculty, fellows, and contributors are for sale in the Bookstore, as are Bread Loaf clothing and swag. The store is located in the basement of the Annex; the entrance is at the rear of the building. Cash, Visa, and MasterCard are accepted. Go say hello to Riley Earle and Ruth Fuller, the keepers of the books!

Davison Library and Computer Room & Printing

The Davison Library is the white building behind the Little Theater. In addition to the permanent collection, there are books by faculty and guests. It's also the place to go for printing on campus.

The Apple Cellar computer room is located on the bottom floor of the Library. There are PCs and Macs available to use in the Apple Cellar and also on the first and second floors of the Library. Printers are located in the Apple Cellar and on the first floor of the Library.

Front Desk

Visit the Front Desk in the Bread Loaf Inn for matters regarding your room and lodging, moose facts, lost and found items, local lore, information about local walking/running trails, buying postage, mailing packages, transportation tips, and other general information. A Lost and Found is located at the Front Desk. The Front Desk has COVID-19 antigen tests and masks available.

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.

For those who would like to enjoy their meals outdoors, a selection of picnic blankets will be available as well as picnic tables and Adirondack chairs on the Bread Loaf lawns. A tent for dining is also available between the Bread Loaf Inn and the Little Theater. Please be aware that on some days the tent will be used for workshops so it will be necessary to enter only after the group has finished.

The First Thursday and Final Friday

On the first Thursday and final Friday, when all workshops meet at 1:30 p.m., we ask the poets and nonfiction writers to show up for lunch at 11:30 a.m., and fiction writers to please wait until noon to enter the Dining Hall.

Mail

The Post Office (with limited services) is located at the Front Desk. Outgoing mail leaves at 1:30 p.m. Incoming mail is ready for distribution by late afternoon. UPS mailing is available. Mail can only be received through Thursday, August 24. We cannot be responsible for mail arriving after August 24.

Address for mail:

Guest Name Bread Loaf Writers' Conference PO Box 216 Ripton, VT 05766

Address for FedEx or UPS:

Guest Name Bread Loaf Writers' Conference 4229 Route 125 Ripton, VT 05766

Parking

Please park your vehicle in the large parking lot in front of the Barn. It is illegal to park on the highway, and you may get a ticket.

The space in front of the Inn is reserved for the Bread Loaf van. The space behind the Inn is reserved for delivery trucks; the lawn adjacent to the north side of the Little Theater is not a parking



Phones

Cell phone service is available in the Bread Loaf Inn and the Barn on the Bread Loaf campus but access is intermittent depending upon your provider. Verizon and AT&T should work fine. Other providers may not work. While on campus participants have successfully stayed in touch with home using their smartphones to access Wi-Fi calling, Facetime, or Zoom. There are landlines available on the campus usually one phone per floor in each of the buildings. After you arrive, you could share that floor phone number with family at home. The phone for the main switchboard on campus is 802-443-2700 (hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.). The Front Desk staff member will transfer the call to your floor or take a message for you, if needed.

You can also give people the Bread Loaf Office info, and we will get any messages to you (e-mail: blwc@ middlebury.edu; phone: 802-443-5286).

You are enthusiastically encouraged to keep your phone in silent mode so as not to interrupt readings, lectures, workshops, and classes.

Printing on Campus

To print on campus, faculty and students log into a Middlebury computer and print the document from there.

Details: Use your personal device to email a copy of the document to yourself and then pull up your email on a Middlebury computer to print it from there. Or, if you have a thumb drive, use that to transfer the document from your personal device to a Middlebury computer.

To log into one of the Middlebury computers, students use their Middlebury email and password (details shared before arrival via the Middlebury ITS Welcome note). Faculty use the "writers" login information shared by Bread Loaf staff via email.

Should you have any issues with computer access or printing, the Middlebury College helpdesk will be available on weekdays by phone (802-443-2200) or email (helpdesk@middlebury.edu).

Conferences Online Library Guide

Visit the Bread Loaf Writers' Conferences Online Library Guide at http://go.middlebury.edu/ blwcguide/. The Guide includes access to the Library Catalog plus online journals, magazines, dictionaries, and more.

Directory

We'll use the contact details that you submitted via an online form for the directory back when you were first notified of acceptance. If you've had a recent address change, please stop by the Back Office by the end of the day on Sunday, August 20, to let a staff member know. We'll make any needed changes and send a final copy to participants via email near the end of the session. The final copy will include contact information for all attendees, including Participants, Faculty, Guests, and Staff.

Self-care During the Conference

The conference schedule is quite busy, and we want to take this time to note how important it will be to pace yourself and to take care of yourself during the session. To this end, yoga classes and AA Meetings are scheduled to take place daily.

AA Meetings

AA Meetings are scheduled to take place daily from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the Upstairs Library (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.

Yoga

Yoga instructor 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.



SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

If you have driven your car to Bread Loaf, you will have noticed that Route 125 (which is the road going over the mountain) is a narrow, winding road. It can be very dangerous, so please stay within the speed limit.

In Vermont, we recycle cans, bottles, and all kinds of paper. Before using a trash barrel, please look for a recycle bin and recycle whatever you can.

Vermont state law prohibits smoking in any building on campus. Smoking is not permitted in front of the Inn, nor should you smoke on any of the porches or within 25 feet of the buildings (smoke will go in through open windows). Also, the smoke alarms in the buildings are extremely sensitive and are apt to be triggered.

Please don't turn off hallway lights. Fire laws dictate that hallway lights be on at all times.

Please be considerate of your roommate and neighbors. Some Bread Loafers go to sleep early, and some like to sleep in. If you are looking for a spot for latenight socializing, the Barn is available.

Please do not eat or drink in the Little Theater, the Library, or the Apple Cellar.

Off-Campus Opportunities

Downtown Middlebury

Trips to Middlebury depart daily (except for the first Thursday). The van will depart from the front of the Inn at 1:30-ish p.m. and will return to Bread Loaf at about 4:00 p.m. The driver will leave Middlebury at about 3:40 p.m. for the return trip. He will not be able to wait for stragglers. There is no charge for a trip to town on a scheduled run. The Front Desk has information on hand regarding churches, shopping, restaurants, etc. The sign-up sheet is posted daily at the Front Desk for that day's trip. On Monday, August 21, the van will leave Bread Loaf at 9:00 a.m. and return by 12 p.m.

Middlebury College Main Campus

The Library located on the main campus in Middlebury has an extensive collection, and it is available to you. You can also leave a note on the desk in the Bread Loaf Library if you would like the librarian to bring up a book for you.

The Middlebury College fitness center and pool are available to Bread Loaf participants. You'll find the hours listed on the Athletics Facility web page: www.middlebury.edu/athletics/ facilities/hours. The Athletics Facility staff will have a list of Conference participants on hand, so you will just need to give your name to a staff member upon entering the building. The Front Desk staff would be happy to give you directions to the Athletics Complex.

Meal Tickets

It is possible for those staying off campus to pay for meals individually. Send a note to staff at blwc@middlebury.edu for details.





"If you find a book you really want to read but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

-Toni Morrison