



PWC 2016: NOTES ON SPECIAL EVENTS

DANCE PARTY: After our first full day of sitting, talking and listening, here's our chance to cut loose and MOVE. Yes, it's early in the week, but why wait—especially when Patricia Smith is in the house and ready to break out her playlist?

OUTDOOR DINNERS: These are prepared for us by local (and localvore!) caterers, and are *in place of* regular service in Dewey Café. **The Mad Taco** proudly offers some of Vermont's finest, most authentic Mexican fare, working closely with area farmers and producers and featuring their own in-house smoked meats. They'll bring the goods up to campus on Tuesday for a build-your-own taco bar. **Woodbelly Pizza** is a collective of artisan farm-to-table pizza chefs from nearby Cabot, VT, whose mobile wood-fired hearth oven draws long lines at Montpelier's Farmer's Market each Saturday. They'll turn out a seemingly endless parade of creative seasonal pies with gorgeous salad to go with them Thursday evening. On Saturday we'll enjoy a spread of Greek and Mid-Eastern favorites from **Mediterranean Mix**, another Farmer's Market sensation making their debut at VCFA. Weather permitting, we'll eat outside on the Green by College Hall. In case of rain, service and seating in the College Hall Gallery, with access through the fountain-side doorway.

VCFA ALUMNI RECEPTION: Come mix and mingle with fellow VCFA grads, faculty and staff. Help us mark the MFA in Writing's 35th anniversary, and Louise Crowley's upcoming retirement as Program Director. Find out what's new at the College and for our growing and ever-active alumni community. Refreshments; plenty of time to make dinner in Dewey. (Sorry, this is for VCFA Writing and WCYA Program graduates only.)

DOWNTOWN PARTY @ La Puerta Negra, 44 Main Street: Now that we've had a night and two days on campus, it's time for a change of scene, and a taste of Montpelier nightlife. Just before last year's Conference, our previous go-to venue for this event, The Black Door, reopened as La Puerta Negra. Fresh guacamole, salsa, chips and yucca fries w/garlic aioli on us. Full cash bar for beverages, featuring craft cocktails ("*Margaritas y Mas*") and an extensive menu of beer, tequila and mescal. Walk upstairs from street level (the door *is* black.) The top (3rd) floor room will be open just for us, and there's a fabulous outdoor deck if weather cooperates.

TRAIL WALK IN HUBBARD PARK: Perched on the hill above the Capitol, Montpelier boasts an extensive, beautiful woodland retreat just minutes from campus. We'll carpool/caravan to a convenient parking area then embark on a guided group walk, comfortably returning in time for the dinner hour. This is a fairly tame outing, but we will be on forest trails, going moderately up and downhill. If you don't have decent footing and a modest level of fitness, you should probably pass on this. But if you're up to discovering Montpelier's small piece of "wilderness," it's a great way to unwind. We can even talk about writing—or about other things (imagine!) Appropriate footwear strongly encouraged.

POJAZZ is a perennial Conference favorite—a northern-VT-based ensemble specializing in improvisatory performance in collaboration with readers of poetry and prose. Bring a short piece to share at the open mic. Everyone will have a chance to participate. Don't hang back because this kind of accompanied reading is new to you. PoJazz band leader, VCFA alum Tony Whedon, coaches us through the experience. And in between the readings, it's just great jazz!

FRIDAY HOUSE PARTY @ ELLEN'S **2970 Towne Hill Road, East Montpelier**

This annual gathering, just a few miles from campus into the VT countryside, is a longstanding Conference tradition. Ellen's place has nice mountain views and gardens, and we'll make a campfire (weather permitting). DO plan to come around 7 or not too long after, so you can enjoy the landscape in daylight.

Refreshments are a group effort, i.e. **BYO**. Please plan to **bring a beverage**, alcoholic or non, and/or **party snacks**—enough to partake yourself and to share. We'll have fridge space, ice, cups, etc.. Provisions available at Shaw's, Hunger Mountain Coop and Yankee Wines & Spirits (see "Insider's Guide to Montpelier.")

At past Conferences, literally *everyone* has made it out to the house with no trouble. **Not having a car is no obstacle!** People with cars should check with others ahead of time, including by workshop group, and arrange to fill up your seats. Coordination with cars is also helpful for making a store run; you may want to do this together with your carpool group before heading out to the party. We'll have some designated drivers ready to make trips as well. Show up in **front of Alumni Hall, next to the parking lot, right around 7 pm** if you're looking to catch a ride, OR if you're driving and have empty places.

If you have any problems or questions that evening, or have not landed a ride, ring Jericho on her cell at (917) 613-0962. She'll be doing "shuttle" runs as needed and in contact with our other drivers. Don't worry: we WILL get you out there & safely back again!

DIRECTIONS: We STRONGLY RECOMMEND using *these* instead of map apps or GPS. Really.

Drive away from campus on College Street, with Green on your left and VCFA parking lot on your right.

At stop sign (facing "NOT A THROUGH STREET" sign) turn left on Woodrow, then immediately right on Emmons. (This is just a quick jog since last block of College St. is one-way.)

Go short block to stop sign, at intersection with Main St. Turn right onto Main, heading uphill. Follow Main St. up and as it makes sharp bend to left.

Just after 90-degree bend in Main, make **right turn onto Towne Hill Road**. This is the first turn and comes up right away so drive slowly here and watch for it. **If you find yourself continuing any distance along extension of Main St., you've missed it!**

At turn, check odometer, then go **3 miles to Ellen's driveway on right**. You can see blue-gray house up rise at top. (In last stretch before driveway, Towne Hill Rd. makes wide curve to right. Follow that. Pass the turn-off for Cherry Tree Hill Rd. to your left. Driveway comes up right after that, as road straightens and heads downhill. Mailbox at bottom reads "2970." "40 mph Speed Limit" sign just past driveway.)

Drive up to house and park. (DO NOT park on road! There's room for a few cars at bottom of driveway, in pull-off area to the right; only use those spaces if you plan to leave extra early, and tuck in to allow easy traffic flow.) Walk up and around to left of house (either on lawn or stone garden path) to reach front entrance.