



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

August 2017

Connect with DC PBK Online!

"Like" the new DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association page and follow us on Twitter at @DCPhiBetaKappa!

Summer is a relatively quiet time for the Association (DCP BK), except for the ongoing meetings of the Book Club (see below). However, a lot of exciting possibilities are in the pipeline for the fall, including a nationwide PBK Society-sponsored event, and others briefly noted below.

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Upcoming Events

Key Connections Event

What: An outdoor Happy Hour sponsored by DCPBK

Who: Open to all members of the Association

When: Thursday, September 7, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Where: Local 16, 1602 U street, NW (famous for its rooftop garden)

Why:

The national **PBK Society** has long realized that recent inductees generally know little about the many benefits of PBK membership. They have therefore launched a nationwide program designed to welcome and encourage recent graduates to join as members, and have asked each local Association to reach out to these recent grads with an event during the first week of September.

The wheels for this vital outreach were set in motion this spring. During induction ceremonies across the country, new Phi Beta Kappa inductees were encouraged to look out for the **Key Connections** event in the city to which they would be moving, to get connected with this invaluable resource. There's a lot more to know, and, since this is a **PBK Society** undertaking, you can find all the details at *their* website, www.pbk.org.

Our local Happy Hour is part of this larger picture, and all local DC Area Phi Betes, especially those who have been involved in the Mentorship Program, are strongly encouraged to attend. Plus, DCPBK is preparing Mentorship Program flyers to hand out at the event (more local information next month).

Events for the Fall

During the fall months, which are usually pleasant, we have several enjoyable and interesting events planned, as follows. (Please note that these are intended for DC PBK members in good standing, so be sure that your membership and dues are up to date).

Salon at the McDonalds' Home, with Human Rights/Genocide Expert

Who: The McDonalds' apartment can only accommodate about 18 people, so be sure to sign up for this highly relevant talk when registration becomes available in early October.

What: Christel McDonald will again host a traditional "salon" at her charming apartment. We'll begin with snacks and socializing at 3:00 p.m., then at 3:30, we'll enjoy our speaker's remarks.

Richard O'Brien is a noted human rights activist and genocide prevention specialist with amazing stories from working in this field. He will also introduce us to his recent book about 107 women Prime Ministers and Presidents (1930s-2016), and discuss their challenges, supporters, or opponents. He'll then answer our questions, and we can enjoy more socializing until 5:15.

When: Saturday, November 4, 3:00-5:15 p.m.

Where: 3800 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA

This should be a fascinating afternoon; look for more details in the October newsletter.

Tour of the National Museum for African Art

Who: All who want to learn more about the amazing range and excellence of African art

What: A curator will lead a tour of a major new exhibition of some 300 objects from all parts of the African continent.

When: Saturday, November 18, 2:00 p.m.

Where: The African Art Museum is on the south side of the National Mall, near the Sackler Gallery.

How: Look for logistics and other details in September, but put it on your calendar now!

A Unique Foray into Ancient History

For next year, we're exploring a presentation that should be highly intriguing: a speech by GWU Professor Joel Blecher on **Ancient Muslim Manuscripts Recently Unearthed**. This will probably be scheduled for February, 2018, and we'll know more later, but this looks like a "don't miss" event.

Regular Events

Book Club Meetings and Choices for the Fall

July Book Selection, + Tie-In Event

Eleven members of the Book Club met on July 26th to discuss the innovative new novel *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders. The group debated strong reactions both positive and negative to portions of the text, covering its complex narrative structure, religious references, and themes of grief, regret, and redemption. Saunders' bardo at Oak Hill Cemetery is full of wonder and spectacle, and the story is a truly unique literary portrayal of Lincoln's relationship with his son Willie, the early Civil War, and humanity's conception of the afterlife.

Special Tie-in Event:

On Saturday, August 5, eight members of the Book Club gathered to tour Oak Hill Cemetery, the temporary resting place of President Lincoln's son Willie and the setting of our July 2017 Book Club selection, *Lincoln in the Bardo*, noted above. We were escorted through the grounds by Lou, a manager at the Cemetery, who supplemented our walk with enlightening commentary on the history of the DC institution, and Lincoln's solemn



visits. The group immensely enjoyed discovering this peaceful spot nestled in the Georgetown hills, and later gathered for light refreshment at the lovely home of one of our Book Club members who lives nearby.

On August 29 the group will meet at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss *Dune* by Frank Herbert, our first Classic of the Fall series, and a Science Fiction favorite. We anticipate high turnout, since Science Fiction has proven so popular with the group, so please be sure to RSVP via Evite or PBK Website if you would like to attend.

The remaining selections for the fall are as follows:

September--*Rising from the Rails: Pullman Porters and the Making of the Black Middle Class* by Larry Tye, Nonfiction, 352 pp.

October--*A Taste for Death* by P.D. James, Fiction, 480 pp.

November--*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance, Nonfiction/Memoir, 273 pp.

December--*Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Classic, 368 pp.

At all meetings, attendees are encouraged to bring any books they're looking to clean out, to see if we can find them new homes with our members.

Please contact Kate Hannon at bookclub@dcpbk.org if interested in this informal event.

Young Professionals

Plans are percolating for the Young Professionals for this fall. Check out the details in next month's newsletter, or on the DCPBK website.

Announcements

Mentorship Network Updates

A huge thank you to all those who attended the Mentor Mix event in July! The mentorship cycle is going strong and we look forward to hosting more events in the future! We are looking for a mentorship newsletter editor. Please contact Erica Hwang at mentorship@dcpbk.org if you are interested.

Open Volunteer Positions

Events & Communications Coordinator, DC PBK Mentorship Network

The Mentorship Network team is seeking an **Events & Communications Coordinator**. The Coordinator is responsible for designing a monthly newsletter for program participants and planning up to four networking events per year. This position is perfect for someone who wants to gain experience in external communications (and it's a lot of fun!). To learn more or apply, please send your resume and a statement of interest to Sarah Neely (saaneely@gmail.com) and Erica Hwang (kyuryung@gmail.com).

Manager of the High School Merit Awards Program

The DC PBK Association is currently seeking applicants for Manager of the High School Merit Awards Program. This Program, created in 1974, recognizes the academic and civic achievements of outstanding college-bound high school seniors in the greater Washington, DC area. It is the centerpiece of the Association's commitment to community service. In recent years DCPBK has offered up to three awards each year of \$1,000 each.

As Manager, the incumbent will lead the High School Awards Committee, whose work begins in September with preparation of annual objectives, strategy, and work plan. From January through, April committee members actively pursue contact with high school staff and system administrators of private, public, and public charter schools and announce a call for applicants. In April/May the Manager oversees the recipient selection process and also organizes the annual High School Merit Awards Ceremony. More information on the Program can be found at: <http://www.dcpbk.org/programs/high-school-awards> and more information about the position can be found at: <http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions>.

Membership & Outreach Coordinator

The Association is also seeking a Membership & Outreach Coordinator to manage communications to our member base, including the distribution of monthly newsletters and event reminders. In addition, the incumbent will collaborate with Board members and other volunteers in these efforts, and will proactively monitor event RSVPs, notify members whose membership is expiring, and coordinate with the Treasurer to communicate with new members who need to pay dues. This person will be a member of the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association in good standing, possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and have previous experience in using email-marketing platforms. To apply for this one-year volunteer position, please visit <http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions>.

Board Meetings

The quarterly meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The fall meeting is scheduled for **October 7**, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue. All PBK members are welcome to attend.

Find Us on Social Media!

Please be sure to “Like” the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association page on Facebook to follow our updates! You can also find us on LinkedIn, and follow us on our Twitter page at [@DCPhiBetaKappa!](#)

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2017-2018 Officers

PRESIDENT: Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Sallie Dreher (University of Florida, 2011)

SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg, (George Washington University, 2014)

TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

Executive Committee Members

Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor

David MacDonald (University of Chicago, 2009)—Past President

Elizabeth Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)—Immediate Past President

Kate Hannon (Boston University, 2010)—Book Club Coordinator

Erica Hwang (University of Hawaii, 2009)—Mentorship Program Manager

Chelsea Rubin (Arizona State University, 2011)—High School Awards Chair

Advisory Council

Deirdre LaPin (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President

Christel G. McDonald (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President

Andy Steigman (Princeton University, 1954)—Past President