



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

March 2016

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Upcoming Events

Annual Spring Fling, with Lecture by Trinity University President Patricia McGuire

What: Annual Spring Fling, featuring a lecture by **Patricia McGuire**

Who: All Members in good standing and their friends are welcome.

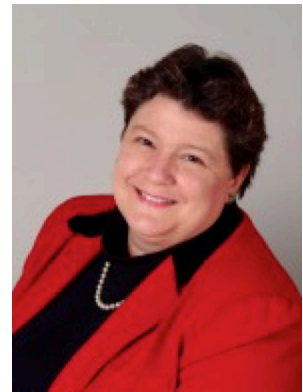
When: Sunday, April 3, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Where: The spectacular home of Eddie and Rachel Eitches (details below)

How: Please RSVP by March 27 to <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/299>

Cost: This is a potluck, as usual, plus a \$5.00

donation (cash) to cover beverages and incidental expenses.



With the advent of spring, we can always look forward to a delightful afternoon at the spectacular home of Eddie and Rachel Eitches. Eddie is a past President of DCPBK, and their museum-like home is filled with treasures collected from around the world. We'll enjoy a variety of food (which you will bring), lively conversation, and a stimulating presentation by our special guest.

As our speaker this year, we're delighted to welcome **Patricia McGuire**, who is President of Trinity University in Washington. You may have read about her in the *Washington Post* on March 15, after she was honored for her leadership by receiving the **Theodore M. Hesburgh Award** (named for the late President of Notre Dame University).

Ms. McGuire's illustrious career includes serving as Assistant Dean at Georgetown University Law Center, where she was also an adjunct professor of law; director of Georgetown's D.C. Street Law Project; legal affairs consultant for various educational children's TV programs; and legal advisor to several government agencies. She has received numerous awards and honors for leadership in her field, and is a favorite speaker/writer on such topics as higher education, women and Catholic education, and more. You can learn more about her at the Trinity University website.

Recent Events

Luncheon, with Lecture on Venice by Andy Steigman

On the afternoon of February 10, some two dozen Phi Betes and friends gathered at Maggiano's Little Italy in Chevy Chase, enjoying a sumptuous multi-course Italian meal, followed by a fascinating talk on the history of Venice by **Andy Steigman**, a past DCPBK President, and an Associate Dean in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Extensively illustrated by maps and pictures, Andy's lecture traced this fabled city's history from its origins as a small fishing village in the Roman era, through its rise and fall over the centuries, to its current tourist allure today. Its rise to prominence began in the ninth century after repelling an army sent across the Alps by Charlemagne; it conquered Dalmatia in 1000, and went on to form alliances with Constantinople and the Holy Roman Empire. The 15th Century included its "Golden Age," with its strategic location enabling it to build profitable banking relationships and expansive trade routes throughout the area, including a direct link from Venice to the Black Sea. It was also the age of great advances in painting, literature, and other fine arts. But there were also many conflicts on both sea and land, and including the depredations of the Ottoman Empire. The final decline came with the city's conquest by Napoleon in 1797, and the 19th Century saw it sink into a corrupt, licentious, and undisciplined backwater, finally reprieved by the efforts of Garibaldi, and its enthusiastic embracing of Italian unification in 1878. Since then, it has gradually regained stature, and economic strength, as a popular tourist destination, one of the world's most fascinating cities to visit.

Private Tour of Renwick Gallery

On Saturday, March 19, about 40 Phi Betes took part in a tour at the newly reopened Renwick Gallery in downtown DC. Docents led our tour groups through the gallery's current exhibit, "Wonder" and provided informative commentary as the group explored the artwork. The exhibit was truly immersive, with nine large-scale, unique, and thought-provoking installations. Spectators inevitably marvel - or wonder - at the fascinating art before them. Our group was no exception.



Shindig by Patrick Dougherty



Plexus A1 by Gabriel Dawe

Regular Events

Book Club Meetings

The February Book Club gathering was held on the 23rd, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., with 10 attendees discussing *The Beet Queen* by Louise Erdrich. The general consensus was that there were very few likable characters in the novel, but we had a wonderful time discussing their traits, habits, and motivations. Next month we'll look at *The Pearl that Broke its Shell* by Nadia Hashimi, meeting again at Nagomi Izakaya at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30.

Upcoming selections for the PBK Club's Spring 2016 series include:

April: *The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Debra Dean

May: *Night Film* by Marisha Pessl

June: *To Live* by Yu Hua

Kate Hannon is our Book Club Coordinator, and you can reach her at bookclub@dcpbk.org.

Announcements

The High School Awards Program

2016 DC PBK High School Awards Program Now Accepting Applications

Do you know high school student in the DC area with an outstanding academic record and strong community involvement? The **DC PBK High School Awards Program** began accepting applications in early January.

Interested applicants can apply [here](#) by filling out the application and submitting a personal statement in response to the prompt: *ΦBK is the Greek initials of the motto "Love of learning is the guide of life." Please describe the impact that learning—especially in the liberal arts and sciences—has had on your life thus far, and how you anticipate that a college education will further your goals.* The application period will close on April 1, 2016, and award winners will be notified by late April.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact the High School Awards Committee Chair, **Kathryn Sullivan**, at awards@dcpbk.org.

Open Volunteer Positions

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association currently has several volunteer positions that need to be filled as soon as possible. You'll find brief descriptions below, and complete details on our website. We need your help to keep the Association thriving, and serving well the needs of its members.

Website Consultant

DC PBK seeks a volunteer **Website Consultant** to update our Drupal-based website and overhaul the databases maintained on the website. The website is essential to publicizing our organization, its mission, programs, past and future events, photos, and newsletters as well as tracking our membership. A detailed description of the position can be found by visiting [http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions#Website Consultant](http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions#Website%20Consultant).

Membership and Outreach Coordinator

DC PBK seeks a **Membership and Outreach Coordinator** to make sure the Association maintains up-to-date and accurate information on our membership and to assist in drafting and sending out messages to members and prospective members. A detailed description of the position can be found by visiting www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions.

Evaluation Coordinator, DC PBK Mentorship Network

The DC PBK Mentorship Network team seeks an **Evaluation Coordinator** to lead the development of an evaluation plan for the program. A detailed description of the position can be found by visiting www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions. To apply, please send your resume and a statement of interest to mentorship@dcpbk.org.

Board Meetings

Meetings of the DCPBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2016, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue, NW (just two blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro's Q Street exit).

Find Us on Social Media!

Please be sure to "Like" the new [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 Board

2015-2016 Officers

PRESIDENT: Elizabeth Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Mary Fay
(American University, 2012)
SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg, George Washington University, 2014
TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

Executive Committee Members

Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor
Chazz Clevinger (UNC Chapel Hill, 2009)
David MacDonald (University of Chicago, 2009)—Immediate Past President
Kathryn A. Sullivan (University of South Carolina, 2012)—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