



# THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

*Founded on December 6, 1913*

[www.dcpbk.org](http://www.dcpbk.org)

## NEWSLETTER

[suggestions@dcpbk.org](mailto:suggestions@dcpbk.org)

*November 2017*

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## Upcoming Events

### National Museum of African Art: Curator's Tour of "Visionary: Viewpoints on Africa's Arts" Saturday, November 18, 2017 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The **National Museum of African Art** is delighted to offer DC Phi Beta Kappa Association members a curator-led tour of "**Visionary: Viewpoints on Africa's Arts**," a **major new exhibition** that opened at the museum on Nov. 4. The exhibition is the largest long-term presentation of the Museum's permanent collection in over a decade, and the first to offer broad thematic connections between works across the full spectrum of times, places, and media.

"Visionary" aims to get visitors to see artworks—and each other—with new eyes.

Organized around seven viewpoints, the 300 works of art in "Visionary" serve to frame the experience of African art. The installation presents the Museum's collection from the perspective of collectors, scholars, artists, patrons, visitors, performers, and others. Interactive experiences within the gallery will connect visitors to the role such perspectives play in understanding an object.

The Museum's permanent collection contains a large number of exceptional works celebrated worldwide. Recently, it was the beneficiary of the famed Tishman-Disney collection through Michael and Jane Eisner. This acquisition has enhanced the many other excellent holdings.

We will meet at 1:45pm at the entrance of the museum at 950 Independence Ave., SW. The Museum is located behind the Castle by the Enid Haupt Garden and opposite the Sackler Gallery. The nearest metro stop is Smithsonian. A maximum of 40 members of DCPBK in good standing will be included. **Registration is now closed. You may inquire at [RSVP@dcpbk](mailto:RSVP@dcpbk) to see if any slots may have opened last minute due to RSVP cancellations.**

You can learn more from a recent *Washington Post* article at [www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/how-to-look-at-african-art-slowly-and-impressionistically/2017/1/10](http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/how-to-look-at-african-art-slowly-and-impressionistically/2017/1/10).

## **Annual Holiday Party**

**When:** Saturday, December 2, 2017, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

**Where:** PBK Headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue, NW

**How:** Public transportation is recommended, as the building is only 3 blocks from the Dupont Circle North Metro Station, and parking in this area is quite difficult.

**Register:** Sign up on the website, [www.dcpbk.org/Events/381](http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/381), on or before November 27.

Join DCPBK for a festive afternoon of socializing with fellow Phi Betes and friends. This always-popular event is a grand opportunity to hang out with friends old and new, and guests are welcome. We ask each of you to bring a dish to share, as well as any needed serving utensils. Also please bring \$5.00 cash to cover expenses. Happy holidays!

## **Tour of Sylvia Plath Exhibit**

**What:** Tour of the new Sylvia Plath exhibit, led by curator Dorothy Moss, followed by a Plath-inspired dance performance

**When:** Saturday, December 10, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** The National Portrait Gallery

**How:** Gallery Place Metro station on the Red Line is recommended

**Register:** This event is limited to 20 participants. Please sign up on the website, [www.dcpbk.org/Events/383](http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/383) and an events coordinator will contact you to confirm your spot.

Join DCPBK on a privately led tour of the Sylvia Plath exhibit entitled "One Life," which brings Plath's writing to life with her drawings and self-portraits, as well as letters and journals. The tour will be followed, at 2:00 p.m., by a Plath-inspired dance performance, "I am Vertical," choreographed by Dana Tai Soon Burgess, one of Washington's most distinguished choreographers. One of the performers is our own **Christin Arthur**, Membership and Outreach Coordinator. (You can find out more about this event in the Entertainments section of the *Washington Post* website.)

## **A Unique Foray into Ancient History (a winter 2018 special!)**

For the coming 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.

## **Recent Event**

### **Salon at the home of John and Christel McDonald, with Human Rights/Genocide Expert Richard O'Brien**

On Saturday, November 4, some 18 Phi Betes and friends met at the McDonalds' charming home in Arlington for an afternoon of socializing, reminiscing, and learning more about the impressive work of both **John W. McDonald, Ambassador (ret.)**, and **Richard O'Brien**, a long-time friend and colleague.

Among the guests were Professor **Thomas Murphy** (ret.) from the University of Maryland, who is also Past President of the Gamma PBK chapter, and three recent graduates (see photo below), all of them



Professor Thomas Murphy with (l. to r.)  
Niky Neshati, Isabel McGrory-Klyza,  
Jessica Wurzer

potential DCPBK members.

After a sociable half-hour including a number of first-time event attendees, Christel pointed out that her husband, **Ambassador McDonald**, a 40-year career diplomat, had just stepped down, at the age of 95 (!) as Chairman and CEO of the **Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy (IMTD)**, which he co-founded 25 years ago with Dr. Louise Diamond.

The concept of multi-track diplomacy is based on Track II diplomacy, a term coined by a Foreign Service colleague in the early 1980s, and then expanded to nine tracks to allow **the people** in an international conflict to participate in the search for a resolution instead of leaving matters only in the hands of Track I, the government. A look at the website, [www.imtd.org](http://www.imtd.org), will explain in greater detail this influential system's approach to peace-building.

Human Rights are deeply woven into the multi-track diplomacy concept, and the spreading of genocide over the past few decades has led to the growth of the study of conflict resolution in academia, and the practice of it in hundreds of NGOs worldwide.

It was at one such conference of peace-building experts that Ambassador McDonald met **Mr. Richard O'Brien**, who had dedicated his life to sharing his belief that genocide is preventable. The problem he now sees is that, currently, most wars are no longer between states but *intra-state*, which means that the concept of sovereignty does not allow other governments to enter a country to stop the genocide.

After this fascinating insight into the history of these two remarkable individuals, Richard O'Brien gave a multi-faceted talk on his most vital interests, genocide and women's rights/leadership, and the many connections between them. He discussed such tragedies as the Turkish massacre of the Armenians (a wound still unhealed), the vicious "ethnic cleansing" in Rwanda, and the many current examples such as the Rohingya in Myanmar, as well as places where intervention has been successful.

The crux of his talk, however, was the significance of women leaders, and their vital influence in creating a better world. Touching on the 107 women profiled in his latest book, ***Women Presidents and Prime Ministers (1930s-2010)***, he examined both their struggles and their triumphs, past and present, while pointing out that none of these leaders has been found in the United States. But globally their numbers have been increasing in recent decades, including some world-changing achievements based on their commitment to protection of women and children, care for the environment, and health improvements, as well as peace-making. This important book, loaded with photos, maps, charts, and background information on these extraordinary women, can be found at [www.womenleaders2017.com](http://www.womenleaders2017.com).

### **Young Professionals (YP) Network**

The YP network held its **October Happy Hour** at the Big Hunt, a popular bar in the DuPont Circle area, on Thursday, October 19. A great time was had by all, and several new members were welcomed. The YPs will not sponsor any other events before the New Year, but be on the lookout for the many exciting programs that we're planning for the winter months.

In addition, don't forget that the DCPBK Association will be holding its **Annual Holiday Party** on Saturday, December 2, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society Headquarters (see above, page 2). This popular traditional event is always fun, and will give you the opportunity to meet Association members of all ages. We'd love to have you join us.

Finally, if you have any suggestions for future programs, or the YP network in general, please do not hesitate to reach out to **Dan Rosenberg**, YP Network Coordinator, at [dmborg8@gmail.com](mailto:dmborg8@gmail.com)

## Regular Events

### Book Club Meetings

On Wednesday, October 25, ten members of the Book Club met to discuss the mystery novel *A Taste for Death* by P.D. James, an acclaimed author of the genre. Many of us were rather unfamiliar with mysteries, and enjoyed tracing clues and unraveling motives. Attendees agreed that James is particularly adept at compelling character development, and highlighted the nuanced interrelationships of the novel as an element elevating the text above a traditional thriller; it's not only a compelling mystery, but also a multi-layered series of personal tragedies. The novel moves at quite a cautious and deliberate pace, detailing police procedure and comprised largely of dialogue and witness interviews, hinting at and building up to the consequential reveal.



On Tuesday, November 28, the group will meet again at Nagomi Isakawa, to discuss *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance. We attended his interview-style presentation back in September at the National Book Festival, and look forward to comparing the text to his more *ad hoc* reflective comments.

Our final selection for the fall is:

**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.

For the winter/spring semester, we'll vote on the possible selections at our November meeting, and announce them in December.

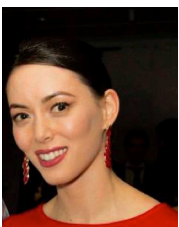
Please contact **Kate Hannon** at [bookclub@dcpbk.org](mailto:bookclub@dcpbk.org) with your comments or questions.

## Announcements

### Mentorship Network Updates

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](mailto:mentorship@dcpbk.org) if you are interested.

### Welcome New Volunteers



**Christin Arthur, Membership and Outreach Coordinator**, graduated *summa cum laude* from George Mason University in 2016 with a double major in Global Affairs (with a concentration in media, communications, and culture) and Chinese Language.



She has spent the past 15 years working as a professional ballet and contemporary dancer, currently dancing for the National Portrait Gallery's resident dance company, Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company. She is also a certified Gyrotonic and Pilates instructor. We eagerly anticipate her efforts to continue growing our membership.



**Samantha Witte, Fundraising Coordinator**, from Munich, Germany, is a consultant with the World Bank's Energy & Extractives Global Practice while pursuing her PhD in Economics at the University of Warwick. Having graduated from the School of Oriental and African Studies with First Class Honors, she completed her Master's degree in International Relations and Economics at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University in 2015, during which she joined the Bank to work on energy economics, before moving into her current role in power sector reform in developing countries. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2015, and has previously served in leadership and fundraising positions for development projects including Global Brigades SOAS and the Greenheart Project. We look forward to her guidance in our revived fundraising initiatives.

### **Alumni News**

We recently received this exciting note from **Valerie Neal**, Past DCPBK President who works at the Smithsonian: "My book, *Spaceflight in the Shuttle Era and Beyond*, is included in the current roundup of Phi Beta Kappa authors" in the *Key Reporter*. You can find it at [www.keyreporter/AlumniNews](http://www.keyreporter/AlumniNews).

## **Open Volunteer Positions**

### **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, and we would like to give even more.

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/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 Erica Hwang ([kyuryung@gmail.com](mailto:kyuryung@gmail.com)).

### **Fundraising Committee Members**

The DC PBK Association seeks 1-2 **Fundraising Committee Members** to help the Fundraising Coordinator's efforts to organize a potential fundraising campaign. We are looking to raise money to help grow our revenue to further the goals of the Association, including fostering friendship, scholarship,

cultural interests, and intellectual exchange among Phi Betes in the DC area, and increasing our scholarships to students who have demonstrated excellence in high school—the major focus of our current funding. The incumbent(s) will: support the Fundraising Coordinator by helping implement the fundraising campaign; regularly communicate with the coordinator; attend quarterly Board meetings if the Coordinator is unable to do so.

Applicants should be members of DC PBK in good standing, possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and be detail-oriented. If you are interested in one of these positions, please visit our website at <http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions> or send an email to [volunteer@dcpbk.org](mailto:volunteer@dcpbk.org).

## **Board Meetings**

The quarterly meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The winter meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 6, 2018 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](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKappa)!

## **DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board**

### **2017-2018 Officers**

**PRESIDENT: Nina Kuo** (Duke University, 2012)

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Lubliner** (University of Oregon, 2006)

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**

**Sallie Dehler** (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

### **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