



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

April 2017

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Upcoming Events

High School Awards Ceremony, May 21

Each year since 1974, the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association has recognized outstanding area high school seniors and awarded them a monetary scholarship to assist with their college tuition expenses. The recipients are chosen for their sustained interest in the liberal arts and sciences, demonstrated love of learning, and civic responsibility.

Until April 24, we are **accepting** applications for the 2017 DC PBK High School Awards. Further information about the awards can be found at the High School Awards page of the DCPBK website. We encourage you to share this information with accomplished and

deserving high school seniors that you know.

All members are invited to attend our **High School Awards Ceremony** on Sunday May 21, 2017, from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Phi Beta Kappa Society Headquarters. We'll enjoy meeting the students and their families, and presenting their awards, followed by remarks from local educators. Our panelists for the event will include the Coordinator, Financial Aid & Scholarship Programs, Office of College & Career, from the District of Columbia Public Schools. Light refreshments will be served.

You can RSVP at: <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/356>. We hope you'll be there.

At this time, we also encourage members to **make a contribution** to the High School Awards Program, which is funded by the generous donations of our members. Donors who make a contribution of \$50 or more will be acknowledged in the High School Awards Ceremony program and on the website. For instructions on how to make a donation, click on the "Contribute" tab on the High School Awards page. To find out more, please contact **Chelsea Rubin**, High School Awards Program Manager, at rubin.chelsea@gmail.com.

DCPBK Annual Meeting, featuring the PBK Society's new Secretary, Fred Lawrence, June 3

What: Luncheon plus Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers, with an outstanding speaker

When: Saturday, June 3, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Who: New officers and Board members; all interested DCPBK members

Where: Old Ebbitt Grill—Cabinet Room (downstairs), 675 15th Street, NW

How: RSVP by May 25 to <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/357>. The cost is \$30 per person. Please make checks out to "D.C. Area Phi Beta Kappa Association", payable before the event. Further details on where to submit can be found on the website.

The close of the academic year is also the opening of the new Association year, and we mark the change with our **Annual Meeting**. We'll begin with a delectable luncheon for which you have two entrée choices, then proceed to a very short business meeting where we install officers and Executive Committee members of the Association, finishing with brief remarks by the President.

Then comes the best part, when **Fred Lawrence**, the new Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, will share his views on the current state of the Society, and his vision for the future. He is passionate about balancing the love of learning with the realities of today's world. As he said in his first message in *The Key Reporter*, citing the law that created the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1965, "An advanced civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone but must give full value and support to the other branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future."

We look forward to meeting Mr. Lawrence, and sharing his insights. You'll find practical details in the May newsletter, but please mark your calendar now.

Recent Events

Spring MentorMix Event

On Saturday, March 11, participants in the second cycle (October-March) of the **Mentorship Network Program** gathered at the Mt. Pleasant Public Library for the culminating event of the program cycle. During the meeting, guests got to know each other through "speed networking" activities. After the event, the group headed over to Purple Patch, a Filipino restaurant featured in DC's first Michelin guide, for appetizers and cocktails. The application for the next cycle of the mentorship program opens soon—we especially need more mentors, and hope you'll join us in the next cycle of the program!

Spring Fling with lecture by Past DCPBK President Andy Steigman

On the spring-like afternoon of Saturday, April 1, more than 30 Phi Betes and friends gathered at the art-filled home of Eddie and Rachel Eitches in McLean to enjoy tasty foods and lively conversation, followed by a fascinating illustrated talk by **Andy Steigman**, a DCPBK Past President, and an Associate Dean in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.



An enthusiastic world traveler, Andy gave us a whirlwind tour of "**The Baltic States: A Rich History Indeed.**" which was quite timely in light of Mr. Putin's recent aggressiveness in that area of the world.

These small, ancient kingdoms—**Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania**—are rich in history and culture, with advanced architecture and art dating back to medieval times. However, because of their strategic location along the Baltic Sea, they were often regarded as “low-hanging fruit” by more powerful nations. For centuries, they have been ruled by a variety of aggressors, most recently enduring 70 years of oppression as part of the Soviet Union. Now independent, their religious, cultural, and linguistic diversity presents serious challenges to their cooperating as a cohesive, effective influence in the region. On the other hand, their scenic beauty, good beaches, and wonderfully preserved old towns like Tallinn have made them increasingly attractive to tourists. In fact, Andy’s remarks made many of us eager to pack our bags.

YP St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour (Rescheduled)

The **Young Professionals Network** held its Spring Happy Hour on Wednesday, March 29th at Fado Irish pub in downtown DC. Even though this gathering was supposed to occur on Tuesday, March 14, in honor of St. Patrick’s Day (but had to be rescheduled because of the snow), 17 members of the YP network came out to celebrate the arrival of Spring and socialize together. Fado Irish pub, which is located one block from the Chinatown/Gallery Place metro stop, generously agreed to extend Happy Hour deals for the group until 8:00pm. A great time was had by all!

The YP Network is also planning a panel discussion in May, which will be the last event of the academic year. This will meet the members’ desire for a more substantial program. Look for more details in the May newsletter, and on the DCPBK website.

Regular Event

Book Club Meetings

On Tuesday, March 28th, ten members of the Book Club met at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss ***A Gentleman in Moscow*** by Amor Towles. The group praised the novel's sweeping plot and delightful prose, while debating the author's choices in depicting life in the Soviet Union. We discussed character virtues, Russian literature, and the protagonist's laudable endeavor to be the master of his circumstances.

On April 25, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., the Book Club will meet at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss the classic science fiction work, ***The Martian Chronicles***, by Ray Bradbury.

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.

Selections for Spring 2017

Here are the rest of our selections for the spring months; I’ve tried to assign books to months based on alternating page lengths, per feedback from the group:

May: ***The White Road: Journey Into an Obsession*** by Edmund de Waal, 401 pp., Nonfiction

June: ***Commonwealth*** by Ann Patchett, 336 pp., Fiction

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

Announcements

Mentorship Network Program Updates

New Mentorship Network Program Manager, Erica Hwang

At the January Board Meeting, President Liz Marshall introduced **Erica Hwang**, who will assume the position of Mentorship Program Manager over the summer, when Sarah Neely departs for business school. Erica has an extensive background in education, and has been offered the position now so that she can work with and learn from Sarah during the current Mentorship Program cycle and the beginning of the next one. We look forward to her contributions to this important program.

Applications opening soon for the next cycle of the Mentorship Network program!

The Mentorship Network team is pleased to announce that the applications for the next cycle of the program will open on Monday, May 8 and remain open until Friday, May 19. **The DCPBK Mentorship Network program** provides members of the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association with the opportunity to connect with each other through facilitated mentorship, networking, and informational interview matches. Participants who are matched within the program are provided with resources to help them develop their Network relationships. You can learn more about the program by visiting <http://www.dcpbk.org/dc-pbk-mentorship-network>. The application for the program will also be posted on this site on May 8. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Neely (saaneely@gmail.com) and Erica Hwang (kyuryung@gmail.com).

Open Volunteer Positions

Fundraising Coordinator

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association seeks a **Fundraising Coordinator** to help focus and renew our fundraising goals, to organize a potential fundraising campaign, and to manage any fundraising campaigns with which we decide to move forward. 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 volunteer@dcpbk.org.

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).

Board Meetings

Meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The spring meeting took place on Saturday, April 15 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue. The summer meeting is scheduled for **July 15**, and all PBK members are welcome to attend.

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!](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKappa)

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Board

2016-2017 Officers

PRESIDENT: Elizabeth Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)

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

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)

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)—Immediate Past President

Sarah A. Neely (Indiana University, 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