



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

July 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.

Table of Contents

Upcoming Events, pp. 1-2

- Key Connections Happy Hour
- Salon and Speaker, November
- National Museum of African Art, late November

Regular Events, pp.2-3

- Book Club Meeting; choices for rest of calendar year
- Plans for Young Professionals

Announcements, pp. 3-4

- Mentorship Program Update
- Open Volunteer Positions
- Board Meetings

DCPBK Board, p.4

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).

Programs 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 it becomes available in early October.

What: Christel McDonald will again host a traditional "salon" at her lovely apartment. After snacks and socializing at 3:00 p.m., we'll enjoy our speaker, **Richard O'Brien**. He 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.

National Museum of African Art

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

What: A special invitation to visit the Museum's newly installed permanent exhibit of 300 objects from all parts of the African continent.

When: Mid-November. Date and time will be announced soon...

Where: The African Art Museum is on the south side of the National Mall, near the Sackler Gallery. Look for logistics and other details in future newsletters, but put it on your calendar now!

A Unique Foray into Ancient History

Christel is also looking into a presentation that should be highly intriguing: a speech by GWU Professor Joel Blecher on **Ancient Muslim Manuscripts Recently Unearthed**. This is 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

June Meeting Recap:

On Wednesday, June 30th, ten members of the PBK Book Club gathered at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss the much-anticipated 2016 novel ***Commonwealth*** by celebrated American author Ann Patchett. This fiction selection generated a vigorous discussion among attendees, who debated the characters' motivations and decisions, as well as the importance of the historical context of gendered roles. The novel depicts the ties that bind family members, the impulse to protect, and sibling dynamics. Of particular note in our discussion was the theme of happiness—how it manifests itself in daily life, and whether or not we should perceive these characters as unhappy.

July Book Selection, + Tie-In Event

On July 26, the Book Club will meet at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss George Saunders' ***Lincoln in the Bardo***, a compelling re-imagining of President Lincoln's response to the death of his young son, with a unique and challenging writing style.

Special Tie-in Event:

On Saturday, August 5 at 11:00 am, we will also gather again for a walk around the Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown, the setting for the book, where Lincoln's son was buried for a time before being re-interred

with his father in Illinois. After our visit, one of our Book Club regulars who lives nearby in Georgetown has graciously offered to host the group and provide refreshments.

Please contact our Book Club Coordinator, Kate Hannon, at bookclub@dcpbk.org if interested in this informal event.

The remaining selections for the fall are as follows:

August--*Dune* by Frank Herbert, Classic/Science Fiction, 412 pp.

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

The new mentorship cycle has officially begun! Thank you so much to all participants and applicants! We had a record number of interested mentors and we're truly grateful for your support!! The mentorship cycle will run until December 2017. The new applications for next year's mentorship cycle will open around November. Please contact Erica Hwang at mentorship@dcpbk.org for any questions.

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 summer meeting took place on July 15, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue. The fall meeting is scheduled for **October 7** from 2:00-5:00 p.m. 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!](#)

Phi Beta Kappa 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

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