



# 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)

June 2018

### Connect with DC PBK Online!

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## Upcoming Events

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The good ol' summertime is filled with people's plans for vacations, family get-togethers, and plenty of work for some of our grad students. So we don't plan any big events for July and August, but look for exciting plans for September and beyond in the next newsletter.

### June Book Club Meeting and New Selections

**June:** On Tuesday, June 26, we will meet at Nagomi Izakaya, as usual, to discuss *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie.

Between our April and May meetings, the Book Club completed our bi-annual voting process to choose the six selections that will comprise our Fall 2018 (July-December) series.

Recommendations are solicited from those who have attended in the last six months, then the same group votes for their favorites in the compiled list in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Classics. This gives us an opportunity to ensure that a diversity of experiences and

interests are represented with every six-month meeting series. The winners are listed below.

**July:** *What the Qu'ran Meant: And Why it Matters* by Gary Wills, 240 pages

**August:** *The Power* by Naomi Alderman, 400 pages

**September:** *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border* by Francisco Cantu, 256 pages

**October:** *The Dispossessed* by Ursula K. Le Guin, 400 pages

**November:** *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah, 304 pages

**December:** *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau, 352 pages

All DCPBK members are invited to attend, and to bring along any books you're looking to clean out, so that we can try to find new homes for them within the group.

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

## Young Professionals (YP) Network Plans

### Recreational Sports League with the YP Network

Looking for a way to get “actively” involved with the YP Network? We are currently exploring options for a Recreational Sports Team through Zog Sports DC! Zog is a nonprofit social sports community where all league proceeds go to charity. The YP Network is considering a weekday, co-ed league in Downtown DC in a sport such as Volleyball, Basketball, Kickball, etc. There would be a small fee (\$50-75) per team member. **We would love your feedback on this idea, so if you are interested in participating, please contact Allen Xu to indicate (1) your interest, and (2) which sport(s) you would prefer, to [allen@harrisx.com](mailto:allen@harrisx.com), and copy Dan Rosenberg, to [dberg8@gmail.com](mailto:dberg8@gmail.com).**

### Coffee with YP Network Leadership

New to DC? Interested in learning more about the city, the events we host, or just looking to meet new people? Members of the **YP Network** leadership are available to meet with Young Professionals who are new to the Washington, DC area for coffee. Please email Dan Rosenberg, YP Network Coordinator, at [dberg8@gmail.com](mailto:dberg8@gmail.com) for more information or to schedule a coffee meeting.

## Recent Events

### DCPBK Annual Meeting, with Ambassador John Campbell on US Relations with Africa

DCPBK’s Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, June 10, at the Pennsylvania 6 restaurant near McPherson Square. Twenty-plus Phi Betes and friends enjoyed the elegant atmosphere, lively conversation, and excellent food, followed by a brief business meeting where president Nina Kuo introduced the newly elected officers for next year (2018-2019).

Our featured speaker was **Ambassador John Campbell**, the Ralph Bunche senior fellow for Africa policy studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, whose widespread knowledge and experience of Africa is informed particularly by his having served twice in Nigeria, as political counselor from 1988-1990, and as ambassador from 2004-2007. His fact-packed presentation gave us a lot to think about regarding this vitally important part of the world.

Sharing his unique insights on “**The Importance of Africa to US Foreign Relations**,” Amb. Campbell reminded us that Africa is becoming increasingly important globally, partly because, by 2050, one-fourth of all the people in the world will be African. For example, Nigeria is expected to reach about 440 million people by mid-century, compared with some 400 million for the United States.

In a fast-paced narrative, Amb. Campbell then touched on the wide variety of social, economic, political, and cultural differences among the countries of this vast continent, and described many of its challenges, including, among others, climate change, population pressure, need for universal education and improved health care, and the myriad problems associated with the rise of violent extremism and religious fundamentalism. Additionally, many other countries are vying for commercial ties with Africa, so that America’s connections with this area are often complex and somewhat unclear.

Ambassador Campbell is the author of several books, including “*Nigeria: What Everyone Needs to Know*,” which will be published this July. He also manages a daily blog, Africa in Transition, with up-to-date commentary on African issues on the CFR website: <https://www.cfr.org/blog/africa-transition>.

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

Recent weeks have seen a lot of activity for this lively group, as noted below.

### **Jazz in the Garden on Friday, May 25**

The YP Network enjoyed a beautiful evening on Friday, May 25 listening to jazz music in the sculpture garden for the first Jazz in the Garden concert of the summer. The concert was entitled “Tony Craddock Jr. & Cold Front.” A great time was had by all, and several participants were attending their first YP Network event.

### **Volunteering with Hands On DC on Saturday, June 2**

Early in the morning on Saturday, June 2, several members of the YP network volunteered with Hands on DC, a local educational non-profit, at Eliot-Hine Middle School. Members cleaned out storage closets in preparation for upcoming renovations, landscaped several areas on the front lawn, and picked up trash around the premises.

## **Book Club Meeting News**

### **April Book Club Meeting Tie-In**

As a tie-in event for our April selection, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, by Malcom X as told by Alex Haley, two members of the Book Club met at the Newseum on May 19 to view the limited-run exhibit, “1968: Civil Rights at 50.” Experiencing the interactive audio, video, and narrative elements helpfully supplemented our discussion of the events of Malcolm X’s life, his message, and his legacy.

### **May Book Club Meeting**

On Thursday, May 31, twelve members of the Book Club met to discuss *Never Let Me Go*, by Kazuo Ishiguro. The novel paints a haunting picture of a world where human clones are raised solely for the purpose of organ donation, enabling readers to access what social interaction, intimacy, learning, and fate might feel like for the main characters, whose lives rarely exceed 30 years. We discussed the context Ishiguro deliberately omits, like any sense of international current events outside the main English setting, or references to any religious or spiritual morality the reader might use to ground their assumptions about the fictional culture depicted. The book proved quite polarizing; while some members felt the events of the story too narrowly wrought, others appreciated the interpersonal dynamics heightened by the characters’ isolated existence.

As a tie-in event for *Never Let Me Go*, members of the Book Club will meet on Saturday, June 30 to view the 2010 film adaptation.

# Announcements

## Open Volunteer Positions

We are currently seeking applications for the following officer position: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Application materials should include a cover letter and a resume. Please send materials to [volunteer@dcpbk.org](mailto:volunteer@dcpbk.org).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** is an officer of the DCPBK board, and is responsible for coordinating the Association's monthly programming for general membership, in collaboration with event sponsors. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is NOT responsible for overseeing the programming related to the Young Professionals Network, the Book Club, or the Mentorship Program. He or she is expected to attend the quarterly meetings of the board for the DC PBK Association. Other duties and responsibilities include;

- Coordinating monthly programs for general membership. Examples include tours of museums, lectures, and parties. In particular, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is responsible for helping to plan the two largest annual events for general membership: the Annual Holiday Party in December, and the Spring Fling.
- Marketing and promoting the monthly programs, which includes collaborating with the newsletter coordinator to populate the monthly newsletter with content, with the social media coordinator to publicize events on social media channels, and setting up RSVP portals for events through the website.
- Developing budgets and managing costs for program when necessary, and helping to arrange transportation/directions when necessary.
- Other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

### Membership and Outreach Coordinator

The **Membership and Outreach Coordinator** is responsible for keeping in touch with current members and reaching out to potential new one. Responsibilities of the position include:

- Drafting email communications for distributing the monthly newsletter, and informing members of upcoming events using Vertical Response.
- Collaborating with board members and other volunteers to strategically develop communications about Association events and programs.
- Assisting the Association in maintaining a strong member base by: (1) sending out monthly notifications to those with expiring memberships; (2) monitoring event RSVPs and communicating with event attendees; and (3) coordinating with the Treasurer to communicate with new members who need to pay dues.

### Mentorship Network Events & Communications Coordinator

The Mentorship Network team is also 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 for either of these positions, please send your resume and a statement of interest to Erica Hwang ([kyuryung@gmail.com](mailto:kyuryung@gmail.com)).

### Fundraising Committee Members

In order to implement a new fundraising strategy, the DCPBK Association is looking for the following four roles to be filled (one person may fill more than one role, as appropriate):

- Individual who reaches out to donating members and posts/sends out perks as part of “perk-based member showcase campaign”
- One who can identify which LinkedIn features to employ for building “member exchange and networking platform”
- One who can identify which is the best highly-visible platform for presenting “large” donors, be it on the LinkedIn group, a separate email outlet, or the website’s main page (or a combination)
- Web designer to implement web features needed for the above steps.

Applicants should be members of DCPBK in good standing, and should have experience in outreach to community members, community engagement, utilization of social media platforms for outreach, and web-designing skills. If you are interested in any of these positions, please visit our website at [www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions](http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions) or send an email to [volunteer@dcpbk.org](mailto:volunteer@dcpbk.org).

### **Executive Board Meetings**

The quarterly meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The winter meeting was held on Sunday, July 15, 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 @DCPhiBetaKapp.

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

### **2018-2019 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:**

VACANT

**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

### **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