



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

July/August 2018

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Upcoming Events

Key Connections

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Please join the DC Phi Beta Kappa Association in September for our annual **Key Connections Happy Hour**, designed to welcome recent graduates and Young Professionals who are new to Washington, DC and to the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DC PBK). The happy hour will take place at Atlas Brew Works, a popular brewery, and will feature a speed networking activity to help facilitate conversation and networking amongst the attendees. Food will be covered, but everyone will be responsible for purchasing their drinks. We'll also provide a brief overview of involvement opportunities with DC PBK, and give you a better sense of how you can make the most of your membership.

Though this event is intended for recent graduates, all members of the DC Phi Beta Kappa Association are welcome to attend. To learn more and to RSVP, please click [here](#). And find out more about the Young Professionals (YP) Network below.

Young Professionals (YP) Network

YP Recreational Sports League with Zog Sports

The Young Professionals Network has organized a recreational Volleyball sports team with Zog Sports, a nonprofit social sports community where all league proceeds go to charity. The YP network team started off the season strong, earning an early victory in the first game. Games are played weekly until mid-August at Mitchell Park beginning at 7:15 PM. Please feel welcome to come out and watch! More information will be shared about a Fall recreational sports league in the coming weeks. If you are interested in participating, please contact Allen Xu to indicate (1) your interest, and (2) which sport(s) you would prefer—allen@harrisx.com, and copy Dan Rosenberg—dmberg8@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 dmborg8@gmail.com for more information or to schedule a coffee meeting.

Book Club

The book club will meet at Nagomi Izakaya on Tuesday, August 28 at 6:30pm to discuss *The Power*, a novel by Naomi Alderman. This selection was lauded by both *The Washington Post* and NPR as one of the top books of 2017.

You can RSVP here: <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/421>.

Please contact **Kate Hannon** at bookclub@dcpbk.org with your comments or questions.

Selections for July-December 2018:

Between our April and May meetings the Book Club completed our semi-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 a diversity of experiences and interests are represented with every six-month meeting Series. The winners are listed below:

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

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

September Bonus meeting (mid-September): *House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton

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.

Recent Events

Book Club Meeting Recaps

July Meeting:

On Tuesday, July 31, fourteen members of the book club met to discuss *What the Qur'an Meant: And Why it Matters* by Garry Wills. This text seeks to clarify the Qur'an's message on several topics, such as sharia and jihad, commonly distorted by modern audiences for political purposes. He casts religious ignorance about Islam (these days conflated with patriotism in many parts of the U.S.) in a dangerous light, linked to the



consequences of the Iraq War and other American efforts in the Middle East. We agreed that his strongest lines of argumentation centered around the parallelism and continuity between the Covenants and prophets/ main figures of the three monotheistic faiths, as depicted in the Qur'an. Weaker were sections on women in the Qur'an, though enlightening in the relative freedom afforded women in terms of holding property and initiating divorce, rights not enjoyed by contemporary Christian counterparts at the outset of Islam. We discussed the value of the text to arm us with proper definitions and translations in wider conversation with peers, even if ultimately Wills' writing style bordered at times on unnecessarily colloquial, glib, and abrupt.

June Meeting:

On June 26, six members of the Book Club met to discuss the controversial classic ***The Satanic Verses*** by Salman Rushdie. Originally intrigued due to the intense history of the book's publication and immediate condemnation by the Ayatollah of Iran, the group swiftly agreed that Rushdie tackles too many large themes to render a common narrative or accessible message. Addressing immigration, the origins of Islam, police brutality, colonialism, and intimacy, the text meanders through several striking scenes rife with meaning that is largely elusive to the audience. Never a group to shy away from a dense work, the PBK group was left wondering who Rushdie's intended audience is for the novel, and what cultural and historical understanding could enable us to better grasp the text's many political, historical, and religious messages.

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.

May Tie-In Event:

On Saturday, June 30th, seven members of the Book Club met at the home of a Book Club regular to view the 2010 film adaptation of our May 2018 selection, ***Never Let Me Go*** by Kazuo Ishiguro. The group agreed that the novel and film complement one another in subtle ways, but that we would not have gotten as much out of the movie without having read the book first. The visual media helps to underscore the physical deterioration and suffering of the main characters, while the text gives more insight into their salient inner thoughts.

Announcements

Welcoming our New Volunteer Leaders

We are delighted to have several new volunteers to fill some important Association positions, as briefly noted below.

High School Awards Committee Chairman—Mackenzie Fusco was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at Georgetown University in 2017; she studied anthropology and cross-cultural communication, and spent time teaching abroad in Taiwan. Mackenzie is currently an M.Ed. candidate at GW.

Mentorship Program Manager—Rebecca DeSantis was inducted into PBK in 2015 at Washington College, where she received a B.A. in International Studies, and minored in French and Black Studies. She also earned an M.A. in Public Administration from American University in 2018, and is currently working at AU as the Program Assistant in the Academic Support and Access Center.

Membership & Outreach Coordinator—Casey Mank received her B.A. in English from Muhlenberg College, and her M.A. in English from Georgetown University. She works as an executive coach and workshop facilitator, helping professionals to develop their writing and communication skills.

2nd Vice President / Program Coordinator—Breann Watt was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2011 from the University of California, Riverside, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She went on to complete two post-graduate fellowships in judicial administration and public policy. After a period of extensive traveling, Breann is back in Washington, DC. She is a legal assistant at Paulson and Nace, PLLC.

Open Volunteer Positions

We are currently seeking applications for the following officer positions. Application materials should include a cover letter and a resume. Please send materials to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

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 Rebecca DeSantis (rdesantis2@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 or send an email to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

How You Can Give Back to DC PBK

Our members have found various ways to support the DC Phi Beta Kappa Association (DC PBK) through donations, thus allowing us to foster friendship, scholarship, and intellectual exchange among our

members. Past donors have recognized that the Association's causes are almost exclusively funded by member donations. Most commonly, **Regular Donations** are a great option for members who want to support the Association's work more broadly. These funds are put toward the Association's **High School Awards Program**, as well as expenses related to our Happy Hour and cultural events, which you can browse: <http://www.dcpbk.org/programs/high-school-awards>

For those keen on supporting a specific cause, donations to the **High School Awards Program** are exclusively awarded to outstanding area high school seniors as a monetary scholarship to assist with their college tuitions. Fun fact: Donors who make a contribution of \$50 or more to the Program will be acknowledged in the High Schools Awards Ceremony program and on the website. Profiles of past awardees can be found at: <http://www.dcpbk.org/programs/high-school-awards>. Finally, **Legacy Donations** are an option for those who are interested in making a lasting impact on the Association beyond their lifetime - donors can provide a planned future gift in wills or living trusts, and with specific instructions, if desired.

For the first time, we are also excited to give back to our supporters. Henceforth, donors of amounts of \$50 or above can look forward to being featured in every other issue of our newsletter. This campaign will be launched with the next newsletter (Sept.), and allows us to highlight your reasons for giving, and your amazing achievements since induction.

<http://www.dcpbk.org/contribute>

Executive Board Meetings

The quarterly meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The fall meeting will be held on Saturday, September 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 @DCPhiBetaKappa.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2018-2019 Officers

PRESIDENT: Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)

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

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Breann Watt
(University of California, Riverside, 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

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