



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

December 2018

Connect with DC PBK Online!

"Like" the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association page and follow us on Twitter at [@DCPhiBetaKappa](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKappa)!

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Upcoming Events

Sneak Peek for January

Stay tuned! The D.C. PBK Association is coordinating with our contacts at the National PBK Society to co-host an event in January. While details are not finalized, the event will include a talk by **PBK President Dr. Fred Lawrence**. An accomplished scholar, teacher and attorney, Dr. Lawrence is one of the nation's leading experts on civil rights, free expression, and bias crimes. He has published widely and lectured internationally. He is the author of ***Punishing Hate: Bias Crimes Under American Law*** (Harvard University Press 1999), examining bias-motivated violence and the laws governing how such violence is punished in the United States. His expertise on this timely subject matter should prove to spark a fascinating discussion about current events here at home and around the globe. Look for complete details in our January issue.

Recent Events

Annual Holiday Party

In celebration of the holiday season, about forty members gathered on a Sunday afternoon at the Phi Beta Kappa Headquarters for a delicious potluck. It turns out that, in addition to being wonderful conversationalists, Phi Betes are also great home cooks! Members and their guests brought an assortment of home-baked desserts and savory dishes to share, with everything from gingerbread cookies to green bean casseroles.

Members and guests donated \$5 when RSVP'ing, to cover party costs including Belgian beers and other refreshments. The PBK Headquarters building was the perfect festive atmosphere for members to relax, meet new friends, and catch up with old ones. As evidenced by a subsequent spike in RSVPs to upcoming Book Club meetings, the holiday party certainly inspired people



to continue exploring all that our association has to offer. We look forward to seeing members at upcoming events, especially our cooperative effort with National, as noted above.

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Wreaths Across America

Though it rained all morning, on Saturday, December 15th the Young Professionals Network volunteered to lay wreaths for [Wreaths Across America](#). Wreaths Across America is the annual wreath laying ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery. It was an honor for the group to participate and to help remember those who served our country



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

Recommendations and Voting Cycle for the Spring 2019 Series

After the October 2018 meeting, our coordinator, Kate Hannon, solicited book recommendations from members who had attended a meeting in the last six months. These were compiled and redistributed for review and voting, which took place November 24-30, 2018. We are proud to announce the final list for January-June 2019:

January 2019: *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States* by Sarah Vowell, Nonfiction, 288 pages

February: *There There* by Tommy Orange, Fiction, 448 pages

March: *Pedro Páramo* by Juan Rulfo, Classic, 124 pages, plus Tie-In Tour of the Mexican Cultural Institute

Bonus March: *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E Frankl, Classic, 165 pages

April: *Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island* by Earl Swift, Nonfiction, 448 pages

May: *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin, Classic, 272 pages

Bonus May: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, Nonfiction, 426 pages

June: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, Fiction, 464 pages, plus Movie Viewing Tie-In

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.

To learn more about our events, please visit: <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events>

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

November Book Club Meetings

Bonus Meeting: November 13, 2018

On November 13, four members of the book club met for a discussion of *Salt: A World History* by Mark Kurlansky (nonfiction). We decided to dedicate a bonus meeting this Series to *Salt*, as it continued to reappear on recommendation lists but hadn't been voted in as part of a series yet. This book dives into the

origin of the salt trade, its chronological historical value, and the role salt played in key moments of world history, such as the formation of the Hanseatic League and the Union's victory in the American Civil War. Though we took issue with its structure and disjointed narrative, we recommend this selection for anyone interested in history and the culinary arts--Kurlansky sprinkles recipes from many ages and cultures throughout.

November Meeting: November 27, 2018

Sixteen members of the book club gathered on Tuesday, November 27 to reflect on Trevor Noah's ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood***. The book's star power brought out a big crowd, and we discussed a whole host of topics spanning the details of Noah's experience with the legacy of apartheid, his mother's impact on his worldview, and his reflections on the socio-economic factors that informed his early years. Nearly universally beloved by the group despite hang ups with the narrative structure, the recounting is honest, insightful, and wrapped in comedic wit.



Announcements

Donor Showcase

Christel G. McDonald, George Washington University, 1986

Why I Donated:

"You ask me why I donated—because:

"I fell in love with the Phi Beta Kappa maxim: *The Love of Learning is the Guide of Life*. What better reward for us, the members of our Association, than seeing the smiling faces of high school seniors who have been selected by our High School Awards Committee to receive our Phi Beta Kappa Certificate of Recognition - and a check! -- for their outstanding academic and extracurricular activities.

The pleasure of the Award Recipients is reflected in the pride of their families who attend our Ceremony. The symbol of our Phi Beta Kappa Key on their Certificate of Recognition will be for them a guide throughout their college years.

The reward for our donors to our High School Program may appear four years later when one of our 'students' made it into Phi Beta Kappa! That is what excites me, inspires me, and the more awards we can give the happier we ourselves can be."



SHOWCASING YOU

Donate \$50 or more, and be featured alongside our other supporters.

Contribute to the Ambassador Andrew L. Steigman Merit Award

The Board of the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association has chosen to honor our late colleague and Past President of our Association, Ambassador Andrew L. Steigman, by dedicating a special 2019 High School Award in his name. **The Ambassador Andrew L. Steigman Merit Award** will be presented at our next award ceremony in May 2019. Donors to the award of \$50 or more will be listed in our ceremony program. We invite you to join us in honoring Ambassador Steigman's memory by donating here: <https://dcpbk.org/donate/#!form/Donate>."

Mentorship Network

Apply now for the Mentorship Network program: Applications open until Monday, December 31st!

The Mentorship Network program is pleased to announce that the application for the next cycle of the program is open now and will remain open until Monday, December 31st. We are looking for members, recent graduates, young professionals, experienced professionals-to get involved! The 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 and access the application by visiting <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship/>. If you have any questions, please contact Mentorship Program Coordinator Rebecca DeSantis at mentorship@dcpbk.org

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.

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.

Executive Board Meetings

The quarterly meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The winter meeting will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019 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

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