



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

March 2019

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Upcoming Events

Explore the Apollo Legacy with Dr. Farouk El-Baz

As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, we have a remarkable opportunity to learn more about the entire Apollo project from one of its major participants. Join us at the National Air and Space Museum for the first lecture in the **Exploring Space** series.

Lecture with Farouk El-Baz, plus stargazing

When: Thursday, March 28, 6:45-10:00 p.m.

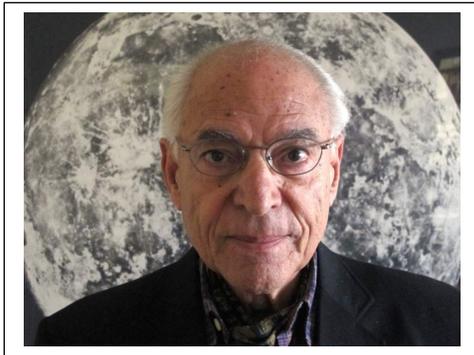
Where: National Air and Space Museum's Center for Earth and Planetary Studies – Independence Avenue at 6th Street, SW

Contact: Breann Watt – breannwatt@gmail.com

Our Speaker:

Farouk El-Baz was a guiding force in the Apollo lunar landing

site selection process. With his comprehensive knowledge of the lunar surface, he advised on site selection and trained astronauts for orbital science observations. After Apollo, El-Baz joined the Smithsonian as the founding director of the National Air and Space Museum's Center for Earth and Planetary Studies. He also served as principal investigator for earth observations and photography for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. He recently retired as director of Boston University's Center for Remote Sensing. He is delighted to describe his experience as an eyewitness to the management, planning, and implementation of the Apollo program.



Schedule:

7:30 p.m. Meet the lecturer, **Farouk El-Baz**

8:00 p.m. Lecture begins inside Lockheed Martin Imax Theatre

9:00 p.m. Stargazing in the Phoebe Waterman Haas Public Observatory, weather permitting

Logistics: This lecture is free, but tickets are required, and I have blocked 20 of them, under my name, so we will all have to check in together. Therefore, be sure to find me standing on the Mall-side entrance with a PBK sign between 6:45 and 7:00, and be on time; if you're not with our group, you probably can't get in, as this event is already overbooked. Sitting together is not guaranteed, but we will be finding seats as available.

Please reserve for yourself and up to one guest via our website, rsvp@dcpbk.org. Please also cancel your RSVP if you can no longer attend, so that tickets may be released to others. Once the spots are taken, a waitlist will be available via our website.

Save the Date: 2019 High School Awards Ceremony

Please join us in celebrating our student awardees at this year's **High School Awards Ceremony** on Saturday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m. at Phi Beta Kappa Headquarters (1606 New Hampshire Ave NW). This is a very important event for these remarkable young people; you can find full details in the April newsletter, but mark your calendar now.

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Plans for Spring

Planning is underway for several events this Spring, so please continue to look for announcements sent from the YP Network distribution list, and included in the newsletter, for more information. Questions and suggestions may be addressed to dumberg@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 dumberg8@gmail.com for more information or to schedule a coffee meeting.

Recent Events

Film Screening, Discussion, Sake Sampling

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019, a handful of our members met at the Freer Gallery to enjoy a screening of the award-winning documentary *Kampai! For the Love of Sake*. The film provided a fascinating look at how ancient traditions of sake brewing are adapting to the demands of a growing global market, through the perspectives of three sake enthusiasts. This unique film took us from rice paddies in Japan to breweries around the globe as it chronicled three passionate exponents of the increasingly popular beverage: a British ex-pat who has become Japan's first foreign master brewer, an American journalist known as the "Sake Evangelist," and a fifth-generation Japanese brewer (see below) who's determined to shake up the industry.

One of the stars of the film, **Kosuke Kuji**, is a fifth-generation Japanese brewer. He was present to answer questions and provide further commentary about the film. Afterward, we put our new knowledge to the test and enjoyed tastings of premium sake brands. The event was so well-attended by the public that nearly every seat in the 300-person auditorium was filled. Our special thanks to the Freer Gallery and the Embassy of Japan for such a delightful event, and for making us all wish we could teleport to the Land of the Rising Sun.

Book Club Reviews and News

February Book Club Meeting and Tie-in Outing



On Thursday, February 28, twenty members of the Book Club met at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss *There There* by Tommy Orange. This novel, which speaks to the experience of the urban Native American community in Oakland, California, appeared on many must-read lists throughout 2018. Most agreed that Orange tackles too many characters, and too many disparate narratives, which at times clouds the primary threads and arguments of the book. The novel nonetheless is a stirring, emotional testament to the past and present life of the Native American population in our country, a complex look at inter-generational conflict, and a reflection on the right of minority voices to shape their own narrative, both historical and modern.

On Saturday, February 23, four members of the Book Club met and toured the historic site of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate in Alexandria, VA. We visited as a supplement to our reading in January of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States* by Sarah Vowell, in which she spoke about the sense of security and peace that Washington's estate gave him, and how he kept up with the running of the household from afar during the Revolutionary War, to glean a sense of order and control amidst the chaos of battle. We were surprised to see how much of the original structure is original, right down to the wood frame Washington's father laid down, and learned much about how the recent interior renovations of the first floor reflect the very latest historical research.



March Book Club: Two Meetings, and Remaining Spring Selections

By popular demand, we will meet twice in March.

On Tuesday, March 19 we will discuss Viktor E. Frankl's classic, *Man's Search for Meaning*.

On Wednesday the 27th we will discuss *Pedro Páramo* by Juan Rulfo, a Mexican classic.

Both events will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Nagomi Izakaya.

The remaining selections for the spring semester include:

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

Note on Book Club Meeting-Attendee Cap

In order to ensure quality discussions, Book Club meetings are now limited to 18 attendees. Any more and meaningful group interaction becomes more difficult, even when split into smaller groups, and the restaurant that hosts us so graciously has asked us to cap it there. Please be sure to register early, and update your RSVP if you are later unable to attend, to make sure that everyone has a chance to participate.

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>, and contact **Kate Hannon** at bookclub@dcpbk.org with your comments or questions.

Mentorship Network

Mentorship Mixer

On March 3rd, participants of the current Mentorship Network cycle met at the PBK Headquarters for the Mentorship Mixer. We had a great afternoon of mingling, sharing experiences, and getting to know our new matches! We started off the event with a round-robin style game to help participants get to know each other better. Then, mentors and mentees had a chance to meet to discuss their goals and expectations for the cycle. Many participants enjoyed seeing the PBK headquarters for the first time! Mentors and Mentees are now on their own to continue meeting and sharing knowledge. All can look forward to receiving their first Mentorship Newsletter in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about the Network, please contact Rebecca at rdesantis2@gmail.com.

Announcements

Annual Spring Fling: We need your help!

The **Annual Spring Fling** is one of our most popular and widely anticipated events, offering both an opportunity to mingle and munch with old and new friends around a festive board (mainly provided by you), and an engaging presentation by a local expert. However, we need a venue! And you can help.

DCPBK is grateful to Eddie Eitches for hosting this event at his amazing home in past years, but it is not available for this event. We are eagerly seeking member suggestions from members who may have access to a home, apartment, clubhouse, or other meeting space that can accommodate a group of 39-49 people, is accessible to guests with limited mobility, and might be available free or at low cost.

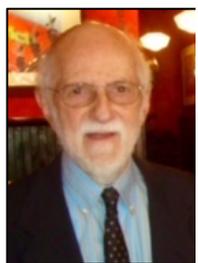
The event will be scheduled for a weekend afternoon in April or May. Some event details like date and maximum attendance can be adjusted based on the venue.

If you have an idea, please email Breann at rsvp@dcpbk.org with the subject line “Spring Fling Venue,” including any information you may have about accessibility, maximum occupancy, and availability. Thank you! We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Fling.

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 for more information or to schedule a coffee meeting.

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 on April 27, 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>.”

Donor Spotlight

Barbara Couture, University of Michigan, 1970

Why I Donated:

Great PBK friends, inspiring activities, and thought-provoking book discussions are just three reasons I love the DC Phi Beta Kappa Association.

The Book Club especially lets our members' liberal arts degrees shine as they chime in with views on classics, contemporary thought pieces, and new fiction—all while dining and having a great time. And guests are welcome, too!

For all this and more, I'm happy to support this alumni chapter.



The picture is a selfie of Barbara (right) and Book Club organizer Kate Hannon at the DCPBK outing to the National Book Fair.

About Donor Spotlight

The Association's causes are almost exclusively funded by member donations. Donor Spotlight is a way to recognize those who support us financially.

*Are you interested in being featured in the donor spotlight? **If you donate \$50 or more**, you will have the opportunity to be featured in an upcoming issue of our newsletter.*

To donate, please visit: <http://www.dcpbk.org/contribute>

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.

Second Vice President/Program Coordinator

The **2nd Vice President** is an officer on the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board, and is responsible for coordinating the association's monthly programming for general membership in collaboration with event sponsors. The 2nd Vice President is NOT responsible for overseeing the programming related to the Young Professionals network, the Book Club, or the Mentorship Program.

Duties and Responsibilities Include:

Attending quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board, which typically occur on Saturdays from 2:00-5:00 p.m. in the Phi Beta Kappa National Headquarters Building.

- Coordinating monthly programs for general membership. Examples include tours of museums, historic houses, government buildings, and the like; lectures, and parties. In particular, the 2nd Vice President is responsible for helping to plan the three largest events for general membership every year: the Annual Holiday Party in December, the Spring Fling in April, and the Annual Meeting in June.

- Marketing and promoting 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, setting up RSVP portals and event descriptions through the website, and drafting post-event summaries for the newsletter.
- Developing budgets, managing costs, and tracking payments for programs when necessary, and helping to arrange transportation/directions when necessary.
- Other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

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 Spring meeting will be held on April 6, 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