



# 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)

April 2019

### Connect with DC PBK Online!

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## Upcoming Events

### Annual Spring Fling

The Spring Fling is one of the highlights of the season for DCPBK, and this year we're excited to have a new venue. Don't miss this chance to meet with old and new friends, share the goodies that everyone will bring, and enjoy an invigorating talk by a leading local anthropologist. Here are the details.

**When:** Saturday, May 11, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital  
921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

**How:** The Hill Center is located two blocks southeast of the Eastern Market Metro station on Pennsylvania Ave between 9th and 10th Streets.

**Your Part:** Please bring a dish to share, either savory or sweet "finger food." Wine and beer will be provided; outside alcohol is not allowed. Also, when you [RSVP on our website](#), please contribute **\$5.00** to cover incidental expenses.

### Presentation:

#### **The Silver Griffin: A Target of Opportunity for an Anthropologist in the State Department**

### Our Speaker:

#### **Dr. Stephen M. Epstein**

Steve has worked at the State Department for 19 years, starting as an AAAS Fellow in the Democracy and Human Rights Bureau. Currently, he is a Senior Advisor in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, where he has served since 2004.

Before coming to Washington, Steve was the Associate Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. He has also taught archaeology and anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, and Rider University, and has excavated in Ireland, Belize, Peru, Texas, and New Mexico.

Concurrently, he spent 30 years in the U.S. Army Reserve as a civil affairs officer, retiring as a colonel with deployments in Bosnia, Haiti, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq.

He received a PhD in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, an MA from the School of Postgraduate Studies in Physics of Bradford University in West Yorkshire, and graduated from the U.S. Army War College.

### **2019 High School Awards Ceremony**

Please join us in celebrating our student awardees at this year's **High School Awards Ceremony**. DCPBK's premier outreach event, this is a very significant award for these remarkable young people, helping them launch their college careers. All are welcome to meet them and enjoy their exciting stories, as well as meeting their families, encouraging their efforts, and enjoying light refreshments.

**When:** Saturday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Phi Beta Kappa Headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Ave NW (just a few blocks east of the Dupont Circle North Metro exit).

### **Special Event with the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Association of American Colleges & Universities**

**What:** *Higher Education in the Headlines*

**A Conversation with Fred Lawrence and Lynn Pasquerella**

**When:** Tuesday, April 30, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**Where:** William & Mary Washington Center  
1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 705

DCPBK members are invited to join the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Alpha Chapter of Virginia to be part of a discussion on the topic of higher education. All local Phi Beta Kappa key holders are invited to meet for a lively exchange on the current and future outlooks for the liberal arts, an opportunity to share their own ideas after the discussion, and an array of provided refreshments.

During the evening, hear from two leaders in the field, **Fred Lawrence**, Secretary and CEO of The Phi Beta Kappa Society, and **Lynn Pasquerella**, President of the Association of American Colleges & Universities.

This event, hosted by The Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Alpha of Virginia Chapter, is free, and you do not need to register in advance.

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

**Film Screening at the Austrian Embassy: The Green Lie**

On Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, several YP members spent the evening at the Austrian Embassy for a screening of the film "The Green Lie." This film critically examines, among other things, whether certain "green products," such as electric cars and organic foods, actually promote environmental sustainability. In particular, it considers the role of big corporations and their overall impact on sustainability. The event was hosted as a collaboration between the Austrian Embassy and the Environmental Film



Festival in the Nation's Capitol. A panel with the director of the film and several environmental activists followed, and the YP members also enjoyed a wine reception after the conclusion of the panel.

### **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. Please feel free to reach out to [dmborg@gmail.com](mailto:dmborg@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions.

### **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](mailto:dmborg8@gmail.com) for more information or to schedule a coffee meeting.

## **Recent Events**

### **Celebrating the Apollo 11 Moon Landing Program**

On March 28, 13 members and their guests met up at the National Air and Space Museum to attend a "sold out" lecture by **Dr. Farouk El-Baz**, who was the lead geologist in the Apollo lunar landing site selection process, using his comprehensive knowledge of the lunar surface to decide where first astronauts landed on the moon. Not only did he speak at length about the complexities of planning for Apollo missions, but he also shared details about his life story as an Egyptian immigrant working in the United States in the 1960s and 70s.

Fun fact: Dr. El-Baz was portrayed by actor Isa Totah in the TV series "From the Earth to the Moon" (produced by Tom Hanks for HBO). For those of you who could not attend, but are interested in learning more about him, you might check out episode 10 ("Galileo Was Right") which features Dr. El-Baz's role in the training of the Apollo astronauts in a segment entitled "The Brain of Farouk El-Baz." Not many people can say they've been played on TV, and hearing from the man himself did not disappoint! As this July marks the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, be on the lookout for other tributes to be seen around Washington, DC.



### **Book Club Reviews and News**

#### **March 2019 Bonus Meeting: 9 attendees**

Often during our voting cycles a third-place winner will emerge in our three categories, Fiction, Nonfiction, and Classics, and as a group we've decided to make a concerted effort to get to more of these runners-up, such as the one noted here, in the course of our series.

On Tuesday March 19, nine members of the Book Club met for a bonus session to discuss Viktor E. Frankl's classic ***Man's Search for Meaning***. Frankl's study of daily life in a WWII concentration camp, and psychological theory of logotherapy, related to one's ability to find positive meaning in life. This work led to spirited debate about the application of Frankl's thesis in our lives, his case study analysis, and the various controversies surrounding his conclusions since the book's publication. Despite its fame, few of us had actually read *Man's Search*; we were moved by its enduring relevancy and candid, powerful story of survival.



### **March 2019 Meeting: 12 attendees**

On Wednesday, March 27, twelve members of the Book Club met at an alternate location, Cafe Deluxe in Foggy Bottom, to discuss the Mexican classic *Pedro Páramo* by Juan Rulfo. Our usual meeting spot, Nagomi Izakaya, was unexpectedly booked for the evening and the flexibility and patience of our members was greatly appreciated in our last-minute swap for Cafe Deluxe down the street. Our consistently large crowds may necessitate some variety of meeting locations in the upcoming months! While the pacing, setting, and timeline of Rulfo's novel challenged us, we delighted in discovering a classic revered by a neighboring culture. The novel's vivid connection to the beauty and riches of the earth were a highlight of Rulfo's prose. We discussed especially the novel's gender and inter-generational dynamics, and the characters' relationship to death and the afterlife.

### **Upcoming:**

Date TBD: Group Tie-in Visit to the DC Mexican Cultural Institute to supplement *Paramo*.

**April 30: *Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island*** by Earl Swift, Nonfiction, 448 pages. Nagomi, 6:30 p.m.

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](mailto:bookclub@dcpbk.org) with your comments or questions.

## **Announcements**

### **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>."

### **Mentorship Network**

Participants in this cycle are now about two months into the program. Mentors and mentees are meeting, sharing knowledge, and enjoying getting to know each other more. All program participants received the new mentorship newsletter "The Key to Mentorship" this past week, which featured a match spotlight, a



recap of the mentorship mixer event, and some tips for mentorship. A PDF version of the mentorship newsletter can be found on the DC PBK website at <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>. If you have any questions about the Network, please contact Rebecca at [rdesantis2@gmail.com](mailto:rdesantis2@gmail.com).

## **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](mailto:volunteer@dcpbk.org).

### **Second Vice President**

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 four largest events for general membership every year: Key Connections in the fall, 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.

### **Associate Program Coordinator**

The **Associate Program Coordinator** (APC) is a newly created position to assist the 2nd VP with coordinating the association's monthly programming for general membership in collaboration with event sponsors. The 2nd VP and APC are NOT responsible for programming related to the Young Professionals Network, the Book Club, or the Mentorship Program.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities include:**

- Coordinating monthly programs for general membership. Examples include tours of museums, historic homes, and government buildings, lectures, and parties. While the 2nd Vice President will ultimately be responsible for planning the four largest events for general membership every year (Key Connections in the fall, the Annual Holiday Party in December, the Spring Fling in April, and the Annual Meeting in June), the APC may serve in a supporting role. This may include assisting with selecting venues, reaching out to potential speakers, and purchasing supplies with DCPBK funds. The APC will have the opportunity to take responsibility to coordinate other monthly events on their own.
- 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.
- The APC will not be required to attend the quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board, but are certainly welcome to. These meetings take place on Saturdays from 2:00–5:00 p.m. (or 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) in the Phi Beta Kappa National Headquarters Building.

### **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 Spring meeting will be held on July 13, 2019 from 10:00 a.m-1:00 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)

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Lubliner** (University of Oregon, 2006)

**2<sup>ND</sup> 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