



THE D.C. AREA

PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

May 2019

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Upcoming Events

Annual Luncheon and Meeting with Speaker Frank Nicolai

The close of the academic year is also the opening of the new Association year, marked by our **Annual Meeting**. We'll begin with a delightful luncheon featuring American food (craft beers for additional cost), proceed to a very short business meeting where we install officers and Executive Committee members of the Association, then welcome our special speaker.

Location: City Taphouse Penn Quarter

901 9th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Date: June 2, 2019

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35 per person. Menu options to be included on website.

Speaker: Frank Nicolai

Topic: The Importance of Liberal Arts Education on the Technology Industry and the Future Generation

Frank Nicolai (PBK Bowdoin College, 1962) of Fort Washington, MD, was a co-founder of a \$1 billion global consulting and information technology firm where he served as an executive officer and director from 1970-2002. Since 2002 he has served on the boards of nonprofit organizations in the Washington area: Melwood, which serves individuals with disabilities; the Washington Home and Community Hospice; the Alice Ferguson Foundation, which provides environmental education for youth; the American Society for Cell Biology; the Committee for Economic Development; and Sagepoint Senior Living Services. For over 15 years he has been a member of the Ethics Bowl Committee of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges. He earned a BA (mathematics) from Bowdoin College (1963) and a Master's in Public Administration from Cornell (1965). From 1965-1970 he was on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Systems Analysis). Frank has been actively involved in the DC PBK mentorship network, serving as a mentor since 2017. He will be speaking about how his experience as a PBK mentor has influenced his thoughts on liberal arts education, and how liberal arts shaped the future of the technology movement.

Donor Spotlight

Nancy Lindsay, PBK 1963, Hobart & William Smith Colleges

Why I Donated:

“ The way that higher education is financed today is a completely different world than the one I came of age in. Most young people (and their families) need all the help they can find to afford it. I am happy to contribute through the DCPBK High School Awards program to support this need. It is good to recognize the high academic achievement the DCPBK awardees have attained. I hope others will join me in underwriting this program.

Over the years, I have enjoyed the presentations organized by DCPBK in the company of like - minded people. I have been happy to see an influx of young people join in recent years, bringing new ideas and energies, which will assure the Association's continuance. ”



The picture is of Nancy (left) and her niece Abigail.

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>

Recent Events

Annual Spring Fling

On Saturday, May 11, 25 members and their guests gathered at the Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital for our Annual Spring Fling. We had a great time chatting and enjoying the delicious food brought by our members, before hearing remarks from Dr. Stephen M. Epstein.

Dr. Epstein shared a fascinating account of his work as an archaeologist at the State Department. He told a story about how the return of a silver griffin chalice helped to open a dialogue in US-Iran relations. His story served as an example of the importance of cultural understanding and diplomacy in foreign relations.



Board members present Dr. Epstein with a certificate of appreciation

2019 High School Awards Ceremony

On April 27th, members, awardees, and families joined us for the annual **High School Awards Ceremony**, recognizing three outstanding high school seniors from Virginia, Maryland, and the District, and awarding them a monetary scholarship to assist with their upcoming college tuition. Attendees heard from Professor Mark Vlastic, Professor of Law at Georgetown University, who spoke about his career in government and law and gave advice on learning from and persevering through failure.

This year, we also honored Amb. Andy Steigman, our late colleague, with a special Award in his name. Attendees heard recorded remarks from Andy's daughter Daria, who encouraged students to follow their bliss and continue to foster their love of learning.



Nina Tang (left) and Praneeth Penmetsa at the Awards Ceremony

Our three outstanding student awardees this year are:

Praneeth Penmetsa is from Ashburn, VA and attends Rock Ridge High School. Praneeth is the President of Future Business Leaders of America, the Key Club, and Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, as well as a Co-Founder of Peers and Students Taking Action, a nonprofit organization supporting children and families in Loudoun County. Praneeth works as a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT for the Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. He plans to attend the University of Virginia and study Global Development and Commerce with an Entrepreneurship Track.

Nina Tang is from Germantown, MD and attends Poolesville High School. She is the founder and captain of the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Team #13100 and founder of a STEM outreach program for young children at the Maggie Nightingale Library. Nina has worked as a Research Intern at the University of Maryland and the National Institute of Standards & Technology. She is an award-winning pianist and self-taught Korean speaker. Nina plans to attend Cornell University, where she will study Computer Science and minor in a foreign language.

Maya Woods-Arthur (not pictured) is from Washington, DC and attends Washington Latin Public Charter School. She spent a month studying political science at the St. Albans School of Public Service and was the first ever high school intern at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Maya earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and worked as a Girl Scout Congressional Aide to Congresswoman Norton of DC. She plans to attend Harvard University, where she will study politics and the Middle East. **Maya was the recipient of the Ambassador Andrew L. Steigman Merit Award.*

We are grateful to our members who generously contributed to the High School Awards program. If you would like to contribute to the 2020 High School Awards, go to: <https://dcpbk.org/donate>.



Young Professionals (YP) Network

Past Events:

Pilates with the YP Network! On April 14th, a small but mighty group of nine YPs got together for a Pilates class organized exclusively for the DC PBK

Association. Led by the DC PBK Association's very own Christin Arthur, the participants left feeling refreshed and energized for the rest of the day.

Trivia Night with the YP Network: The YP Network's trivial knowledge was on display at the Hawk 'n' Dove on Capitol Hill for trivia night on 5/14/19! Ultimately, the group prevailed and earned first place at trivia. A great time was had by all, and the participants arrived early to meet one another and enjoy happy hour drinks and specials before beginning trivia.



Upcoming Events

YP Network Survey: The DCPBK YP Network strives to be as member-centric as possible when organizing our events and programs. So, we'd love to have your input and to learn more about what you want and expect out of your involvement in the YP Network. Please consider filling out this <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSV26H9>

National Trails Day: There are still spots open to volunteer with the YP Network for National Trails day on Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 a.m.-noon at Theodore Roosevelt Island! If you'd like to sign up, please email Kenny Sobek at jksobek@gmail.com and Dan Rosenberg at dmborg8@gmail.com **no later than May 23.**

Summer Intramurals: Calling all athletes! The YP Network is looking to field more intramural sports teams this summer (leagues to begin in mid to late June). Based on the leagues available through ZogSports, our two options for summer leagues are **softball** or **volleyball (likely sand volleyball by the Lincoln Memorial)**. Please indicate your interest by sending an email to Kenny Sobek at jksobek@gmail.com and Dan Rosenberg at dmborg8@gmail.com **no later than Thursday, May 23rd at midnight**, and if you would be willing to play your non-preferred sport (softball requires larger teams, so we're trying to accurately gauge interest). Finally, because successfully fielding teams requires good attendance, please respond only if you'll make your best effort to attend the games (recognizing that missing one or two games is OK).

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.

Higher Education in the Headlines: Special Event with the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Association of American Colleges & Universities:

On Tuesday, April 30, DCPBK members accepted a special invitation to attend a lively discussion on the topic of free speech in higher education settings, hosted by the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Alpha Chapter of Virginia. Besides enjoying delicious food and drink, members heard 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. They each expounded on the importance of protecting the ideals of free speech on campus, especially in an increasingly polarized political climate. Dr. Lawrence drew parallels between our present moment and the initial founding of PBK back in 1776, a moment in history filled with uncertainty and turmoil. In the midst of revolution, a group of students staked out their commitment to the love of learning and their conviction that the pursuit of education was

anything but frivolous—even in such trying times. We appreciate the opportunity to share events with the Society, and look forward to other such events.

Book Club Reviews and News

On Tuesday, April 30, twelve members of the Book Club met at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss Early Swift's *Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island*. This selection was one of our highest rated recently; no fewer than four out of five stars from everyone around the table. One member compared the nonfiction selection, which ponders the fate of the geography and culture of Virginia's Tangier Island in the face of erosion and water level rise in the Chesapeake Bay, to an extended *New Yorker* article due to its detail, nuance, and humanity at the core of its narrative. We debated Swift's handling of climate change, his portrayal of daily life on the island, and his rare, notable deviation from objectivity in his recounting. We emerged with a heavy set of questions to ponder, including: what constitutes a climate change refugee, and what calculus must be at play as America is asked to confront the effects of climate change on its coasts? What makes a community valuable enough to save, history, culture, population density, natural resources? This one truly comes highly recommended by the DC PBK Book Club!



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We will hold our May meeting on Wednesday, May 29th at 6:30 PM at Nagomi to discuss the classic novel *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin. All members of the DC PBK Association and up to 1 guest are welcome. Please RSVP on our site [here: https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/2019/5/29/may-2019-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-go-tell-it-on-the-mountain-by-james-baldwin](https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/2019/5/29/may-2019-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-go-tell-it-on-the-mountain-by-james-baldwin)

Our coordinator, and members who have attended a meeting within the last six months, are also currently in our biannual recommendation and voting cycle to select the six books that will comprise our Fall 2019 (July-December) Book Club Series. Stay tuned for the full list, to be revealed the weekend of June 1. All known upcoming selections are posted in each Book Club meeting event posting on the DC PBK website for general awareness and planning.

Be sure to see our June issue for reviews of our just-finished May bonus meeting, featuring *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, and the May 29 discussion of James Baldwin's book.

Upcoming

May 29: *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin, Classic, 272 pages

Last week of June (date TBD): *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, Fiction, 464 pages, plus Movie Viewing Tie-In

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

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.

Announcements

PBK Society Job Opportunity

Associate, Member Engagement

The **Phi Beta Kappa Society** seeks an organized, creative, and collaborative individual to provide program and administrative support for member engagement, with a primary focus on the Society's national network of 290 chapters and 50 alumni associations. Under the supervision of the Director, Chapter and Association Relations, the Associate will work with volunteer leaders on campuses and in local communities to advance organizational goals that include building visibility on chapter campuses, increasing participation in alumni associations, and developing opportunities for the next generation of Phi Beta Kappa members and leaders. This is a paid position. If interested, please send a letter of interest and resume to Ann McCulloch, amcculloch@pbk.org. For more information about the position, please see here: <https://www.pbk.org/Associate-Member-Engagement>

Mentorship Network

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

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

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.
- 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 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 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.

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

**BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR 2019-2020**

Please return this ballot page, no later than May 31, 2019 to:

President, DC PBK
1147 N. Utah Street,
Arlington, VA 22201

Or, you may send your responses by email to: President@dcpbk.org

BALLOT

2019-2020 Executive Committee

Officers:

- ___ **PRESIDENT:** Breann Watt (University of California, Riverside, 2011)
- ___ **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:** Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2015)
- ___ **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:** VACANT
- ___ **TREASURER:** Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969), incumbent
- ___ **SECRETARY:** Dan Rosenberg (George Washington University, 2014), incumbent

At-large Executive Committee Members:

Vote for up to six.

- ___ Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012), past President
- ___ Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)
- ___ Liz Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)
- ___ Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)
- ___ Kate Hannon (Boston University, 2010)

I would like to vote for the following write-in candidate(s), for the office of:
