



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

June 2019

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A Summer Break

June is a lively month for most of us, what with school years' endings, graduations, weddings, and visions of vacation possibilities—or just kicking back. That's why there aren't any at-large Association events scheduled for this month. But good things are coming soon, so stay tuned!

Upcoming/Recent Events

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Upcoming Events

Paddleboarding/Kayaking at DC Boating Club Join the YP Network for an afternoon of paddleboarding or kayaking on the Potomac River. Thanks to a very generous member of our Association, we have secured a discounted rate to rent paddleboards and kayaks through the [DC Boating Club](#) at \$10 per person. We'll be paddleboarding and kayaking at the Georgetown location (right by the Key bridge).

Date/Time: Sunday June 20, 2:00-4:00pm.

We have room for 20 people, and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend.

To learn more and to register, please click on the following link:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2019/6/30/paddleboarding-kayaking-at-the-dc-boating-club>

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Recent Events

Trivia Night. On Tuesday, May 14, a group of 12 Phi Betes gathered for an evening of trivia, great company, and refreshments at the Hawk 'n' Dove on Capitol Hill. The Phi Betes' trivial knowledge was on display that evening, as our group earned first place! The Hawk 'n' Dove presented our group with a first-place certificate and gift card, so we hope to return for another round sometime soon.



National Trails Day. A small but mighty group of Phi Betes volunteered early in the morning on Saturday, June 1 to help clean up Theodore Roosevelt Island as part of National Trails Day. This special effort, a program of the American Hiking Society, gathers volunteers across the country to clean the thousands of miles of trails across the United States. Afterward the group enjoyed some refreshments and won some free giveaways at the Georgetown Waterfront, which was hosted by Sierra Nevada.



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 form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSV26H9>

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.

Book Club Reviews and News

On Wednesday May 15th, eleven members of the Book Club met at one of our alternate locations, Cafe Deluxe in West End, for a discussion of *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. (We've taken to Cafe Deluxe as an alternative to Nagomi; while our love remains strong for Nagomi's variety of delicious dishes, reasonable prices, and happy hour specials, Cafe Deluxe offers a burger deal on Wednesdays that can't be beat. We see it as a treat to top off our special bonus book series.)

Becoming was one book selection that many members mentioned early on as a contender for a bonus meeting back in October 2018, understandable considering the buzz generated by its release. We noted Obama's consistency in tone and theme, spanning the two naturally divided sections of the text: pre- and post- 2008. We remarked at her candid description of marriage and her characterization of Barack Obama and her own efforts as First Lady. More broadly, we discussed the role of the First Lady throughout history, and speculated on Obama's intended audience and rationale for writing a book at this time.

Our regular monthly meeting for May was held on Monday, May 29th at Nagomi Izakaya downtown. Thirteen members gathered to reflect on the literary classic *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin. For most it was our first reading of a Baldwin text, and all were deeply moved by his frank narrative. We discussed 'religion as armor,' inter-generational conflict, the role of the reverend in Evangelicalism, and the motivations of various characters. All were left with a desire to research more deeply Baldwin's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, especially since so many videos and clips exist of Baldwin's reflections on the racial context of America in the mid-20th century.

In addition to our two meetings in May, we concluded our biannual voting cycle, formally selecting the six books that will comprise our Fall 2019 (July-December) DCPBK Book Club series. The voting cycle begins when members who've attended in the last six months are asked to submit recommendations across our three categories of Fiction, Nonfiction, and Classics. Our coordinator then compiles all suggestions and sends out for review to the same audience. Voting takes place by email and at the May meeting. We are thrilled to announce our upcoming roster below. Tie-in events are in the works, and events will be added accordingly to the DC PBK website when planned, so stay tuned!

Fall 2019 Book Club Selections

July 2019: *Circe* by Madeline Miller, 393 pages

August 2019: *White Fragility: Why it's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo, 169 pages

Bonus Mid-August 2019: *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"* by Zora Neale Hurston, 193 pages

September 2019: *The Three-Body Problem* by Liu Cixin, 400 pages

October 2019: *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson, 208 pages

Bonus Mid-October 2019: *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf, 194 pages

November 2019: *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II* by Sonia Purnell, 368 pages

December 2019: *The Dead* by James Joyce (short story within the collection *The Dubliners*, by Joyce, total collection 207 pages)

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

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 Summer 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—New

2019-2020 Officers

PRESIDENT: Breann Watt (University of California Riverside, 2011)
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2015)
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Vacant
SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg, (George Washington University, 2014)
TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)—Immediate Past President
Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)—Past President
Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor
Elizabeth Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)—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