



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

August 2019

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

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DCPBK is Gearing Up for Fall

All of a sudden, it seems, the summer is almost over, you've hopefully had a refreshing vacation, and you're getting ready for school (at all levels) and/or a busier professional life. Many of you will be enjoying Key Connections with the national PBK Society, and all of you can look forward to the fall programs that are in the DC PBK pipeline. Check the DCPBK website and our September newsletter to find out more.

Upcoming/Recent Events

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Recent Event

Nationals Baseball Game: In spite of the heat, eight members of the **YP Network** enjoyed watching a game of baseball on Sunday, July 28th at Nationals Park as the Washington Nationals took on the Los Angeles Dodgers. Ultimately, the Nationals prevailed, sweeping the Dodgers 11-4. The group had a great time watching the game and talking with each other.

YP Network Survey: The DC PBK YP Network strives to be as member-centric as possible when organizing our events and programs. So, we'd love to have your input to learn more about what you want and expect out of your involvement in the YP Network. Please consider filling out this very brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSV26H9>. All prior and future participants will be entered for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card by the end of August.

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.

Book Club Reviews and News

On July 31st, fifteen members of the Book Club met to discuss *Circe* by Madeline Miller. This 2018 novel, a re-imagining of Greek mythology with a focus on the goddess Circe from her childhood until the years after her fateful encounter with Odysseus, has been high on most of our to-read lists. Miller's first novel, *The Song of Achilles*, was a retelling of a more well-known mythological figure, so we first discussed the reasons Circe was next on her list to explore. The group was quite divided in terms of overall receptivity to the story line and Circe's portrayal, but all ultimately welcomed this fresh take from a new perspective. Odysseus, for example, whose cunning is lauded as unassailable in most lore, does not fare as well in this account. We focused on the sensory imagery and atmospheric prose of the novel, its character rendering, and the ways it challenged our ingrained classical mythological understanding. In a first for the Book Club, author Madeline Miller wrote to the group on Twitter (below), wishing us well in response to a National PBK post about upcoming Book Club selections.



Circe on Twitter!

Message from us: Congratulations to PBK Member **Madeline Miller**. *Circe* made our Summer List in 2018, and DC Phi Beta Kappa is discussing it at their July Book Club meeting [on July 31.]

Reply from her: Thank you so much I hope the group enjoys the book!



The Book Club will meet twice in August, on the 15th and the 21st. The 15th meeting will be the first of our bonus meetings in the Fall 2019 series, and we will discuss *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"* by Zora Neale Hurston, author of the classic *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. We will follow up on the 21st with the nonfiction selection *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo. On the 15th we will meet at Nagomi Izakaya, and on the 21st we will take advantage of Cafe Deluxe's Wednesday burger special. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Fall 2019 Book Club Selections

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

In Memoriam Dr. Marion F. Deshmukh

Dr. Marion F. Deshmukh, Professor Emerita of History and Art History, and former Chair of the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University, died on April 13, 2019. She taught at GMU for 45 years, retiring in 2014, and worked tirelessly for 20 of those years to bring a Phi Beta Kappa chapter (Omicron) to GMU, ratified at the 2012 Triennial Council in Florida.

This was the beginning of a great friendship with our Association. She welcomed us every year to address the inductees of the PBK Omicron Chapter of GMU. She joined us at two of our Spring Fling meetings, and attended one of our Salons at my home, sharing her knowledge, the nuggets of her research, her publications, and the pleasures of teaching art and art history. Her work was focused on Modern Germany from 1648 to the present, with a special interest in the impressionist painter **Max Liebermann** and his efforts to build bridges between his colleagues in Munich, Vienna, and Berlin. Her fascinating lectures also illuminated one of the last art movements of 19th century German art, i.e. **the Berlin Secession**, which laid the foundation to new forms of modern art in place of the "old ways of painting." Dr. Deshmukh's profound research resulted in the much-acclaimed book, *Max Liebermann and International Modernism: An Artist's Career from Empire to Third Reich*.

Dr. Deshmukh's dedication to her academic, teaching and research career, her administrative tasks, her leadership in the German Historical Association and in the Goethe Institute in the US and Europe, is unparalleled. Her warmth and friendship will be greatly missed.

Christel McDonald GWU '86
Past President DCPBK

Mentorship Network

Applications will open soon for the Fall 2019 Mentorship Network Cycle!

The **Mentorship Network** program is pleased to announce that the applications for the next cycle of the program will open on August 26th and will run until mid-September. 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.

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.

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 Fall meeting will be held in October from 10:00 a.m-1:00 p.m., venue to be determined. 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

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