



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org
suggestions@dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Connect with DC PBK Online!

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

Upcoming Events

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Gala Annual Holiday Potluck

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 8, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., as you ring in the holiday season with fellow Phi Betes and friends at the **DCPBK Holiday Potluck**. Festive sweaters encouraged but not required. The Association will provide drinks, and asks each person to bring a dish to share, preferably "finger foods," sweet or savory. Please also bring a serving utensil if needed for your dish.

This year, we are starting a new tradition with a "**White Elephant**" gift exchange. To participate, bring a book (used or new--we love them all!)

wrapped in paper. Include a note inside about your choice for the person who selects it to enjoy--maybe you'll find a new book buddy!

We are asking \$5 per person to cover expenses, which you can pay online when you [RSVP here](#).

This sparkling seasonal event takes place at PBK Headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue, NW. Public transportation is strongly recommended, as the building is an easy walk (only 3 blocks) from the Dupont Circle North Metro Station, while parking in this area is quite difficult.

Please direct any questions to Hunter at rsvp@dcpbk.org.

Young Professionals (YP) Network

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.

Recent Events

Trivia Night with the YP Network

On Tuesday, October 22, several members of the YP Network returned to the Hawk 'n' Dove for another night of trivia. A great time was had by all, and the group looks forward to participating again in future months!

DC PBK Digs Up Fun and Knowledge at Fossil Hall!

On Saturday, October 26, a group of DC Phi Betes toured the **Smithsonian Natural History Museum's new Fossil Hall**, where they dug up some interesting facts about Earth's past, and learned how it could help shape our future! Touring with insightful Smithsonian staff, attendees visited the 31,000 square foot state-of-the-art exhibit, learning what Earth's climate was like 4.6 billion years ago, and what human activity could make it look like in the future!

We want to thank the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History for hosting us!

DC PBK Hosts Successful Headshot Event

On October 30, more than 50 snappily-dressed DC area Phi Beta Kappas travelled to the national PBK Headquarters to get their professional headshots taken. After brief stints as "professional" models, attendees talked over food and drinks about the upcoming Game 7 of the World Series (Go Nats!) and other DMV happenings.

DC PBK members can see some of these brand-new headshots and engage with other DC Phi Betes through our [membership directory](#)! Our membership directory is an excellent way to meet fellow Phi Betes in the area with similar interests!

Are you a fresh grad? **Reminder:** With the DC PBK Association, Membership is free for 2018 graduates until January 1, 2020, and 2019 college graduates until January 1, 2021 under our "[Recent Graduate](#)" membership status.

Book Club Reviews and News

October Book Club Meetings

On Wednesday, October 23, thirteen members of the Book Club gathered at Cafe Deluxe in the West End for their burger special and a discussion of *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf. This classic novel attracted higher than average participation for a mid-month bonus meeting; it seemed for all of us to be one of those we keep hearing about, but hadn't gotten to. A deep reflection of the post-WWI British psyche, the novel traces one day in the life of several characters, and is written in a stream of consciousness style. The depth of character development achieved in a story set in a single day, and the breadth of socioeconomic experience portrayed, is truly outstanding. And though motivations and reactions are sometimes hard to follow, Woolf's portrayal of mental illness and interpersonal relationships in a world that is constantly moving, noisy, and incessant, feels incredibly timely.



The following week, on Tuesday, October 29, twelve members of the Book Club, including two 2019 PBK inductees, met at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss the classic horror novel *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson. A group gathers at a remote house known for paranormal activity, hoping to study the phenomena systematically. However, they are soon overtaken by the events of Hill House, including unaccountable noises, sights, and written messages. The group discussed each of the four main characters in turn; their motivations for joining the group, their reaction to the house itself. Unlike the recent Netflix version of Hill House, no ghosts are ever described as visible in the novel, leaving the characters' experiences much more open to interpretation to the reader. Are they imagined, part of a mass groupthink hysteria? Or is the House itself a character, daring all who enter to underestimate its enveloping power?

Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21st at Nagomi Izakaya at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win WWII* by Sonia Purnell.

Announcements

Mentorship Network

We're excited to launch the next cycle of our popular mentorship program, which seeks to provide Association members the opportunity to connect one-on-one, share professional and academic advice, and expand their connections within the DC PBK community. The **DC Mentorship Network** will offer a six-month structured mentoring program with opportunities for peer mentoring and young professional-to-experienced professional relationships. Participants receive resources such as a handbook, mentorship agreement template, regular newsletters, and the opportunity to meet others in the program at a special **MentorMix** event.

We are earnestly in search of mentors! We have a number of eager mentees waiting to be matched, so please consider signing up to be a mentor!

We are looking for mentors of all backgrounds and industries. If you are interesting in being a mentor, please email Rebecca DeSantis at mentorship@dcpbk.org and please include your job title and a little about your background.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee and would like to learn more about the program, we'd love to hear from you.

If you have any questions, please contact Program Coordinator **Rebecca DeSantis** at mentorship@dcpbk.org.

Open Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? Our board is currently putting together numerous committees to help organize events, raise funds, and engage with our membership, as well as getting more members involved who may be interested in growing into leadership roles. We are especially looking for:

- **Fundraising Coordinator**

For more information, please email **Breann Watt** at president@dcpbk.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The meeting will take place at a community room in Arlington, easily accessible from the Virginia Square Metro stop (Parking is somewhat limited in that area.) Members who are interested in attending should email Christel McDonald at chrisjohnmcdon@aol.com for the address and directions.

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)
INTERIM 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT: Hunter Hamrick (Florida State University, 2015)
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
Bailey DeSimone (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2017)—Membership
Engagement Coordinator

Advisory Council

Deirdre LaPin (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President
Christel G. McDonald (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President