



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

March 2020

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Important Message from the Executive Board

Dear DCPBK Members,

In light of the recent spread of COVID-19, and out of concern for our members and their families, we have made the difficult decision to cancel all of our DCPBK events scheduled for the month of March and are not planning any additional events until at least mid-April. This includes all YP Network events and Book Club meetings. Individual

event organizers may be reaching out to discuss programmatic changes or schedule adjustments.

The DCPBK Board apologizes for any inconvenience these cancellations may cause. We appreciate your understanding as we work to keep our community safe. The Board will be meeting via videoconference on **March 28th at 10:00 A.M.** As always, all members are welcome to participate in Board meetings, and a link to join virtually can be sent to you if you email president@dcpbk.org. At this meeting, the Board will determine the plan for the coming months and the possible need for continued cancellations.

Future Events

SAVE THE DATE

DCPBK Annual Luncheon--"The Mysteries of the Smithsonian"

Saturday, June 6, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

Brasserie Beck

1101 K Street NW (Metro Center or McPherson Square Station)

Washington, DC 20005

The **DCPBK Annual Meeting** for 2020 will be a special event, featuring a delicious lunch and a world-respected speaker.

We will have the pleasure of hearing from **Nancy Gwinn**--Former Director of Smithsonian Libraries, the world's largest library system. From that vantage point, she is well placed to elucidate her favorite topic: "The Mysteries of the Smithsonian." A key figure in the global library community, she contributed to the

development of technological and preservation initiatives during her tenure with the Library, as well as serving on the executive committee of the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

We look forward to seeing you at Brasserie Beck and learning about "The Mysteries of the Smithsonian" over delicious Belgian cuisine.

Look for more information in our April-June newsletters, and don't miss this exciting annual event!

High School Awards Program

An important DCPBK outreach effort, the **High School Awards Program** is now receiving applications, and will soon set the date for the awards ceremony, but you can get involved *now*, as see below.

Help Expand the High School Awards Program!

The DC Phi Beta Kappa Association's **High School Awards Program** has been providing merit-based scholarships to outstanding high school students in our area since 1974. With the generous support of our members and donors, we have given three awards annually to deserving students. Last year, the High School Awards Committee received 140 applications from talented students across the DMV. As our application pool soars, we hope to grow the number of awards with it!

Will you help us raise \$1,000 to fund a new award?

There are two ways to donate:

1. Online at www.dcpbk.org/donate/
2. By check (note: H.S. Awards in the memo):

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association
8601 Burdette Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Recent Events

Mentorship Network News

Salon on International Health and Development

What's up in International Health and Development? On Sunday, February 9, six recent Phi Beta Kappa graduates convened at the home of mentor **Dr. Deirdre LaPin** for a lively group discussion on a range of topics including:

- Opportunities for satisfying careers in government, NGOs, multilateral institutions or the private sector
- New trends in international development and public health work— epidemics, refugee health, humanitarian aid, non-communicable diseases, blended finance
- Contribution of technical skills in health and development toward "big picture" strategies dealing with climate change, peacebuilding, participatory governance, economic inclusion
- Choosing generalist or specialist career tracks, such as management and administration, monitoring and evaluation, or technical disciplines
- Finding the best pathways to the next step, whether through additional education, becoming an international volunteer, seeking supporting roles with a mentor, or finding a more satisfying job
- Building networks around common interests that include both experienced practitioners and like-minded young professionals

- How challenges in these careers may be different for women and men: in the workplace, in salary negotiation, and in ensuring personal security in the field.

All agreed that the range of options was too rich to cover in a single meeting. Over tea and cucumber sandwiches, and more drinks and snacks from around the world, it was agreed to continue the discussion, perhaps every quarter, to touch base with new discoveries, opportunities, and ideas...and hopefully a few more like-minded Phi Betes who would like to join in.

DC PBK Tours “Hope for America” Exhibit

On February 7, several DC Phi Betes toured the Library of Congress’s brand-new “*Hope for America*” exhibit in order to learn more about the life of political satirist Bob Hope, his long-lasting impact on political satire, and how his message carries on today in these chaotic political times.

DC PBK Digs Up Fun at Smithsonian Fossil Exhibit

On February 29, DC Phi Betes traveled to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in order to tour the museum’s brand new “*Sea Monsters Unearthed: Life in Angola’s Ancient Seas*” exhibit. At the event, attendees had the chance to learn about the leviathans that ruled the Angola waves and learned how these mighty beasts created the ocean we know and love today.

Have a cool event you think DC PBK should attend? Email Hunter Hamrick (hunterhamrick@gmail.com) with your ideas!

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Volunteer with DCPBK YP Network!

It’s official! Winter is gone and Spring has arrived! What better way to kick the winter blues than with some Spring and Summer service opportunities with the YP Network. The YP Network is hosting two service opportunities on April 18 (Potomac Watershed Clean-up) and June 6 (Theodore Roosevelt Island Cleanup) in order to make our DMV area cleaner and healthier for all our residents! If you’re interested in signing up for either or both, please email Kenny Sobek (jksobek@gmail.com) and copy Dan Rosenberg (dmborg8@gmail.com) no later than March 22. We hope to see you there!

Recent YP Network Events

Broomball and Brews:

On Tuesday, February 18, several YP members went to the Wharf DC to participate in its weekly free event, Broomball and Brews. Broomball is a Canadian, ice hockey-like game played with brooms rather than hockey sticks (and in teams of 4-8). Unfortunately, due to the unseasonably high temperatures, the Wharf’s ice-skating rink partially melted on February 18, and Broomball was cancelled. In lieu of Broomball, the YP group enjoyed some drinks and food at The Brighton.

Trivia Night!

The YP Network held its monthly trivia outing at the Rhodeside Grill in Arlington, VA on February 25 to be more convenient for members who live and/or work in Northern Virginia. The Rhodeside Grill is an LSU bar and was celebrating Mardi Gras on February 25 when the YP Network group attended the trivia night. The YP Network group had a fantastic time competing in trivia and faced off against some fierce competition. They also enjoyed each other’s company and taking advantage of the special Mardi Gras deals at the Rhodeside Grill!

Intramural Soccer

This Winter, the YP Network has fielded an intramural soccer team through ZogSports, one of DC's intramural sports leagues. 11 people have signed-up to participate, many of whom played soccer in high school. The team even has its own DC PBK branded t-shirts! Special thanks to Hannah Taub who is the leader of the team.



Book Club News and Reviews

February Book Club Events



Our February 2020 Book Club event lineup was packed! First, twelve members met on Tuesday, February 18 at Nagomi Izakaya for a bonus International selection to discuss *Farewell My Concubine* by Hong Kong author Lillian Lee. This was a larger turnout than we typically see for a bonus meeting; many reflected that they'd heard the title but knew nothing about the story. It quickly became a favorite for many attendees, due to the sweeping, lyrical narrative that deftly navigates about six decades of Chinese history in the 20th century, and weaves together vibrant character arcs to give readers a glimpse into daily life before, during, and after the Cultural Revolution.

Then on Wednesday, February 26, we attended a talk at the Anacostia Public Library as a supplement in advance of our May discussion of *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*. We heard (and took copious notes during!) a lecture by Derek Musgrove, co-author of our May selection. The title of the talk was: "Urban Renewal, Gentrification, and the Origins of "East of the River". Musgrove walked through the roles of real estate agents, government officials, and DC history in the shifting demographics in DC's neighborhoods. Many of us picked up signed copies of *Chocolate City*, so we can get a jump-start on our May reading. As an Association, we're so lucky to have these types of events at our doorstep throughout DC, and the Book Club is always on the lookout for accessible tie-ins to help us better understand the pages we read.

On Thursday, February 27, fourteen members met at Cafe Deluxe for our regular monthly meeting, where we discussed the 2019 release *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Attendees were divided on Coates' use of "Conduction," a magical narrative device wherein Harriet Tubman and others are portrayed as literally being able to shepherd slaves seeking freedom by waterways overnight to the North. Some felt this oversimplified the real danger and struggle faced by those seeking to escape, while others saw it as a clever reflection of how the legendary Underground Railroad could have been portrayed in awed and hopeful whispers and rumors in the mid-19th century. We enjoyed the themes of collective memory, oral history, and Coates' inventive use of language to challenge our modern understanding of the terms and limits of the socio-economic and cultural frameworks of pre-Civil War America.

Book Club Selections for Spring 2020

The book club has suspended meetings per CDC guidance regarding social distancing. We hope to shift all selections to the right one calendar month with minimal interruption as of now (please see notional updated schedule below). Kate Smith, our coordinator, will update our Event pages and communicate directly to those on the Book Club e-mail distribution list as we move forward.

- April: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Brown (Classic, 509 pages)
- May: *Agent Running in the Field* by British author John LeCarré (International, 288 pages)
- May Bonus: *Educated* by Tara Westover (Nonfiction, 334 pages)
- June: *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital* by Chris Myers Asch & George Derek Musgrove, 624 page)
- July: *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi (Fiction, 544 pages)

Announcements

Mentorship Network

Note for the Mentorship Network: Mentors and Mentees in the current cycle of the Mentorship Network may continue to meet one-on-one, but we encourage matches to use virtual alternatives to meeting for the remainder of the month.

We wish you and your families health and safety in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing everyone at a DCPBK event in the future.

Mentorship Network News

The current cycle of the Mentorship Network is about halfway through, and matches have been meeting and learning from each other. Last month, the matches received this cycle's first **Mentorship Newsletter**, highlighting some aspects of the program, and tips for mentorship. Also featured in this newsletter was an event write-up from **Deirdre LaPin**, current mentor of the program, who sponsored mentees for a salon. Read her write-up on page 2 above.

On January 25, the **Mentorship Mixer** brought together current mentors and mentees of this cycle for an afternoon of lively conversations. Participants enjoyed some bites to eat while playing a round-robin style 'speed mixer' to get everyone talking. Matches also had the opportunity to meet to discuss their next steps together. All participants in this cycle have now received their first mentorship e-newsletter, as noted above. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee in a future cycle 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 Opportunities

Our organization is growing and we are looking for more volunteers to help support our robust programming. If you are interested in getting more involved with DCPBK in either a leadership or committee member role, we have openings for the following:

- Membership Engagement and Communications Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Event Planning Committee

To learn more about how to get involved, please email **Breann Watt** at president@dcpbk.org. We'd love to hear from you!

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

Advisory Council

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