



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

April/May 2020

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Contents

- High School Awards, pp.1-2
- Rescheduled Annual Luncheon, p.2
- More Updates, pp. 3-4
 - Book Club, pp. 3-4
 - Mentorship News, p. 4
- Announcements, p. 4
- DCPBK Board, p. 5
- 2020-21 Election Ballot, p. 6

High School Awards Update

The DC Phi Beta Kappa Association's **High School Awards Program** is excited to share this year's award winners. Due to the generous contributions of our members and corporate donors, this year we were able to fund four awards for the first time!

A huge thank you to our generous donors:

IntegrityOne Partners
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Nancy Lindsay
Deirdre LaPin
Christel McDonald
Harriet Epstein

Thank you as well to the members of the High School Awards Committee for their hard work. It was quite a challenge to find four winners among the more than 200 well-qualified students from the greater metropolitan area.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to hold a High School Awards ceremony this year due to the ongoing public health crisis. We hope everyone stays safe and well during this time.

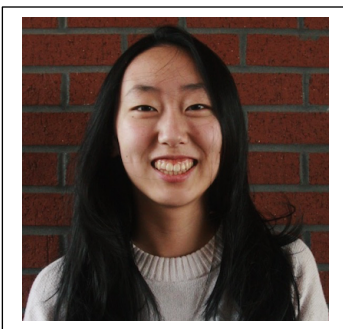
2020 Award Winners

Anikait Dhond attends Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke, VA. An avid environmentalist, Anikait uses his YouTube channel, Danikat Fishing, to explore local waterways and highlight fishing methods that minimize ecological damage. Anikait led an effort to Adopt-a-Highway in his local community and was the recipient of the VA Governor's Stewardship Award for Land and Water Conservation. He is Captain of the Club Soccer Braddock Road Youth Club and Lake Braddock Varsity Tennis Team, as well as a volunteer



soccer coach for DC Scores and a talented French horn player. He plans to attend Virginia Tech to study biological systems engineering.

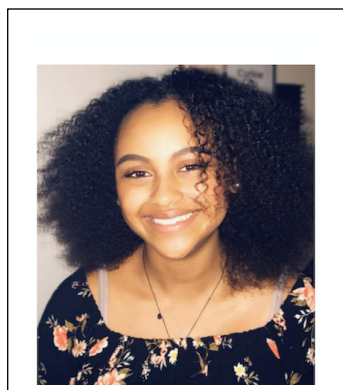
Emmy Song attends Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD. Emmy uses creative writing to speak out about social issues and has had her writing published in 24 print/online magazines, such as Writing for Peace, Pulitzer Center, and National Poets Quarterly. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper and an online literary magazine. In addition to her passion for writing, Emmy has founded interGIRLS, a national organization that supports women in math, and brainpowHER, a weekly programming class for middle school girls. Emmy is also a violist in the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra. She plans to attend Princeton University to study mathematics and economics.



Riya Maheshwari attends Rock Ridge High School in Ashburn, VA. Riya has spent over 300 hours as an Emergency Room and Labor/Delivery Volunteer at StoneSprings Hospital Center and participated in George Washington University's Medical Laboratory Sciences Program. As a Bank of America Student Leader, she helped develop a program at the YMCA to expose youth to medical careers. Riya participated in her school's first foreign exchange to Durban, South Africa and she currently serves as a Global Ambassador at her school, welcoming foreign exchange students to the DMV. Riya plans to attend Georgetown University to study human science on the pre-med track.



Sosina Gebremichael attends Benjamin Banneker High School in Washington, DC. She has founded a Financial Literacy Club and a Coding Club at her school and helped develop a Community Organizing for Racial Equity program at the Latin American Youth Center to engage youth in racial justice advocacy. Sosina was appointed to lobby alongside the president of College Board to increase funding and access to the AP curriculum for low income and rural areas. Additionally, Sosina has completed coursework at Columbia University and Northwestern University in Psychology and Microeconomics. She plans to attend American University to study Mathematics-Economics and Computer Science.



Rescheduled Event

POSTPONED UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER

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

Tentative new date: Saturday, September 19, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

Brasserie Beck

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

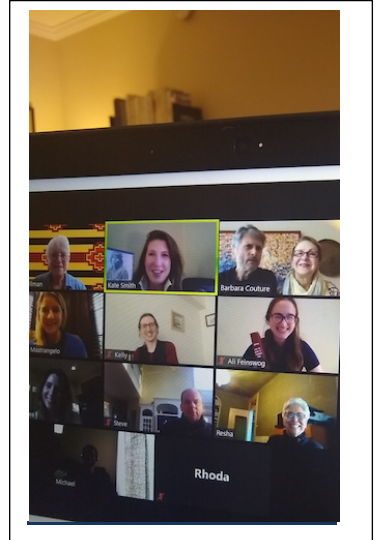
Washington, DC 20005

We tentatively plan to hold our 2020 Annual Luncheon in mid-September. As previously announced, it will feature a delicious Belgian lunch and a world-respected speaker. **Nancy Gwinn**, former Director of Smithsonian Libraries, the world's largest library system. Please stay tuned for more details in the summer based on official guidance about gatherings in our region. We very much hope we will be able to see our members at this exciting event.

More Updates

Book Club News and Reviews

On Monday, April 27, eleven members of the Book Club convened on a Zoom call for our first-ever virtual discussion. The DCPBK group prizes, and often chooses, selections that offer an alternative historical narrative, and ***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*** by Dee Brown was no exception. The book is by design a sweeping, difficult read. Brown walks the reader chronologically through Native American interactions with white settlers, soldiers, traders, and government officials keen to encourage industry, mining, and hunting among burgeoning towns on the frontier. Brown presents the experiences of multiple tribes and chiefs to demonstrate the systematic disenfranchisement and violence wrought upon the native population in the name of economy, progress, and civilization. It more than lives up to its literary reputation as a clarion call to educators and the general populace to reconsider long-held positive views of Manifest Destiny and American Exceptionalism. Brown's narrative, which reads like an intimate oral history of the 1860s-1890s American West, encourages readers to consider the role of diplomacy, journalism, transportation, and economy in the perception and protection of minorities throughout America's trajectory. One soldier tries to explain that "only one law lives at a time," a justification that raised all kinds of thought questions for our group about the inequities of the U.S. legal system both past and present. Members reflected together on their own education on these topics, and compared between regions and states in the U.S. Once social distancing restrictions are lifted, the group plans to visit the **Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian** together to supplement our reading.



The Book Club will meet again via Zoom for a bonus meeting on May 14 to discuss memoir selection ***Educated*** by Tara Westover, and on May 25 for ***Agent Running in the Field***, our Spring International author selection by John Le Carre. Events will be posted as usual on the DCPBK website, and members should RSVP there by logging in and registering for the event as you have in the past. This time, in your registration confirmation email, you should receive the Zoom information and link, for the upcoming meeting. In case anyone misses it there, the coordinator will re-send the virtual meeting information to anyone who has RSVP'd Yes to the event, about 24 hours prior, so it's fresh in everyone's inbox.

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 H. Smith, our coordinator, will update our Event pages and communicate directly to those on the Book Club distro as we move forward.

- 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)

Mentorship Network News

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.

Announcements

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 Smith (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, 2020 to:

President, DC PBK
121 Kentucky Ave SE
Washington D.C 20003

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), incumbent
- ☐ **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:** Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2015), incumbent
- ☐ **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:** Hunter Hamrick (Florida State University, 2015), incumbent
- ☐ **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:
