



# THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

*Founded on December 6, 1913*

[www.dcpbk.org](http://www.dcpbk.org)

## NEWSLETTER

[suggestions@dcpbk.org](mailto:suggestions@dcpbk.org)

*August/September 2020*

### 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)!

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## Events and Updates

### Young Professionals (YP) Network

#### Join DCPBK at our Annual Key Connections Event!

Are you a Phi Bete who just moved to the DC area, or a Washingtonian who wants to make the most of their Phi Beta Kappa membership? Then come join DCPBK on September 21 at 7:00 p.m. for our annual DCPBK Key Connections event! This event brings DC area members

together for a night filled with friends, drinks, and celebration! This year's Key Connections event will be held virtually over Zoom and is completely free. Friends and family are welcome to come!

Contact Hunter Hamrick ([hunterhamrick@gmail.com](mailto:hunterhamrick@gmail.com)) if you have questions. We hope to see you there!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pbk-washington-dc-key-connections-virtual-get-together-tickets-115907906669>

## DCPBK Launches Membership Survey

### 2020 Membership Survey

The DC Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK) is conducting a survey of our membership, and we want to hear from you!

Our goal is to learn more about what our members want and expect out of their involvement in the Association, and to align our events and programs with member expectations as much as possible. Your feedback and ideas are invaluable to us, and we would greatly appreciate you filling out the survey.

**We have (3) \$25 Amazon gift cards to hand out, and when you complete the survey, you are automatically entered for a chance to win one of them.** The survey should take no more than a few minutes to complete, and we are aiming for 100% participation.

To take the survey, please click: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd4VACY2rf2iGlpyFWY-eNW7hs4ITg8-TJ3NeoDowLQLhXtQ/viewform>. Thank you in advance!

At all our DCPBK events, guests are welcome and highly encouraged!

Please email Hunter Hamrick ([hunterhamrick@gmail.com](mailto:hunterhamrick@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

## Book Club News and Reviews

### June 2020 DC PBK Book Club Meeting:

On June 29, twelve members of the Book Club met on Zoom to discuss the incredibly timely selection *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*, by Chris Myers Asch and Derek Musgrove. Though our selections for the Spring and Fall Series are finalized months in advance, this book could not have come into our lives at a more fitting time. We opened the discussion reflecting on which chapters best contextualized the current national conversation on equality and institutional racism. Starting in the colonial era, Asch and Musgrove paint a compelling portrait of a city at once founded in inequality, and vaunted as a leader in progressive policy reforms. Readers from DC glean so much context for the streets they walk every day, tracing the impact of real estate markets, urban planning, education policy, political competition, and the overarching struggle for true Congressional representation as it evolves over time within each neighborhood. While this is a story of the DMV, and its spotlight as the nation's capital, it is simultaneously the story of so many U.S. cities where racial and socioeconomic disparities are starkly visible and fiercely contested. The book is a tour de force; its use of primary and secondary sources seamlessly elevates the narrative in a way few of our nonfiction selections have matched. Highly, highly recommended by the group to all DC PBK Association members!



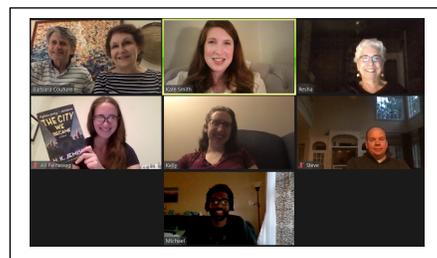
### July 2020 DC PBK Book Club Meeting:

The group met the following month on July 29 on Zoom to discuss the fiction selection *Children of Blood and Bone*, by Nigerian-American author Tomi Adeyemi. The group has read quite a few Young Adult selections over the years, and we enjoy discussing the level at which themes are communicated, and whether we think they're appropriate or communicated well to the audience. This particular book is entertaining- it is sweeping in its use of magic, camaraderie and travels, and it successfully conveys the author's intentional parallels to modern racism and systemic oppression. Members felt, knowing this was the author's first novel, that the dialogue and writing leave room for maturation in the subsequent books expected in the series, and that perhaps too many locations and characters were leveraged to effectively pace the narrative.



### Mid-August 2020 Bonus DC PBK Book Club Meeting:

On August 13, the Book Club met for a bonus Zoom discussion of *The City We Became* by N. K. Jemisin. About four times a year, the group meets twice in a month, discussing selections that were popular choices during our voting cycle but didn't quite make the cut for our regular, end of month discussions. N. K. Jemisin is a celebrated science fiction author, and much beloved by many in DC PBK Book Club, so we were happy to dive into her latest novel. In this story, each borough of NYC has a human avatar, who embodies the spirit and character of the place, and they must band together to fend off inter-dimensional villains. It is an incredibly novel concept, and it speaks to the global fascination with NYC that even those who don't live there can still easily visualize Jemisin's depiction of the city's people, values, and geography. Jemisin does clearly have political arguments embedded- close-minded, fearful, xenophobic Staten Island in particular is not portrayed favorably, juxtaposed to her vibrant, welcoming, talented fellow boroughs, and members may take issue with various characterizations. Science fiction is always welcome in our group- we have one more selection coming up this Fall by another celebrated female science fiction author, Ursula K LeGuin.



Here are our selections for the rest of the year:

- Monday August 31: *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by Malcolm Gladwell (Nonfiction, 301 pages)
- Tuesday September 29: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston (Classic, 219 pages)
- October (Date TBD): *A Fisherman of the Inland Sea* by Ursula K LeGuin (Fiction, 207 pages)
  - Mid-October Bonus (Date TBD): *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present* by David Treur (Nonfiction, 526 pages)
- November (Date TBD): *Fictions* by Jorge Luis Borges (International, 179 pages (Argentina))
- December (Date TBD): *To Marry an English Lord* by Gail MacColl and Carol McD. Wallace (Nonfiction, 403 pages)

When members RSVP to our Book Club meetings online, the automated registration confirmation will contain the information needed to join the Zoom meeting online on the day. We look forward to the day where we can resume our in-person chats, but have had great success with breakout smaller groups in Zoom, and in some ways it's easier to hear, internalize, and socialize in this new format, so we welcome the interim change.

All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend.

## Mentorship Network News

We're still seeking mentors for our next cycle of our popular **Mentorship Program!** The program seeks to provide Association members with the opportunity to connect one-on-one, share professional and academic advice, and expand their connections within the DCPBK 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.

Ideal mentor applicants are professionals with three to seven or more years of post-graduate experience who are interested in sharing their experience and knowledge with young professionals in their career field.

You can learn more at <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship/>

We expect this cycle to run from August to December 2020.

Mentees and Mentors who have already applied will be contacted shortly about the status of their application. Questions may be sent to Program Manager Rebecca DeSantis at [mentorship@dcpbk.org](mailto:mentorship@dcpbk.org).

## 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](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKappa).

## DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board 2020-2021 Officers

**PRESIDENT: Breann Watt** (University of California Riverside, 2011)

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis** (Washington College, 2015)

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Hunter Hamrick** (Florida State University, 2015)

**SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg**, (George Washington University, 2014)

**TREASURER: Pat Cascio** (Denison University, 1969)

**MEMBER ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Bailey DeSimone** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2017)

### At-Large Executive Committee Members

**Nina Kuo** (Duke University, 2012)—Past President

**Paul Lubliner** (University of Oregon, 2006)—Past President

**Carol Bontempo** (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor

**Liz Marshall** (Lawrence University, 2009)—Past President

**Kate H. 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