



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

November 2020

Connect with DC PBK Online!

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Upcoming Event

Annual Holiday Party—Don't Miss It!

Saturday, December 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Show off your ugly holiday sweater. Grab some milk and cookies. And get ready for a night of merriment to warm even Scrooge's heart.

Join our annual holiday tradition: a white elephant book exchange. No need to spend money. We love old and previously read books as much as new ones! When you register for the holiday party, instructions will be

sent on how to get the books to the President/Vice Presidents for the virtual draft. Optional: include a note in your book for the recipient about why you picked this book and/or your name/email address. You might gain a new pen pal!

For those who may not know, the white elephant game begins with all participants being randomly assigned an order. One by one players will choose to either reveal a hidden book title or steal a book a previous player opened. If your book is stolen, you get to pick again. All participants will end up with a book. Because the party is virtual, the President/Vice President will be revealing books Vanna White-style. Please include your mailing address in your response so that the President/Vice President can mail your new book to your home.

Join us to celebrate this holiday season. It's a new twist on an old tradition, and always lots of fun!

[Register Now!](#)

Upcoming Event

Coffee and Conversation: The DCPBK Speaker Series with Rebecca Cataldi

Grab some coffee (or dinner) and join us for the next installation of Coffee and Conversation with Rebecca Cataldi on Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 P.M. Coffee and Conversation is DCPBK's newly launched **Speaker Series**, which will offer a lecture from a different expert each month, and a stimulating discussion for audience members.



Rebecca will be speaking to us about her role as a facilitator for Braver Angels, which was formed after the 2016 presidential election to reduce political polarization in the United States and to facilitate

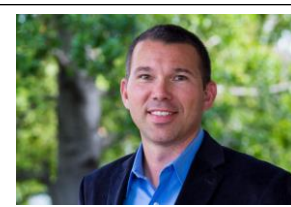
grassroots dialogue among conservative and liberal citizens across the country. Braver Angels' first workshop gathered 10 Trump supporters and 11 Clinton supporters in South Lebanon, Ohio immediately after the 2016 election to see if Americans could still disagree respectfully--and find common ground—and it was an overwhelming success.

She will also be talking to us about her work as a Senior Program Officer for the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD), which seeks to turn religion from a source of divisiveness and conflict abroad to a force for peace building, community strengthening, and mitigating violent extremism. With ICRD, she directs ICRD's Yemen programs on conflict resolution and preventing/combating violent extremism (P/CVE); engages madrasa heads and other religious leaders in Pakistan; supports reconciliation efforts among Syrians; and conducts/oversees P/CVE training programs in Morocco, the Philippines, and Kenya.

[Register Now!](#)

Recent Events

NEW!



Coffee and Conversation: The DC PBK Speaker Series with Shawn Dunning

On Saturday, November 7, members joined together for the inaugural session of the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association's new **Speaker Series** with guest speaker Shawn Dunning. The Speaker Series, called "**Coffee and Conversation**, will offer insights from an expert, as noted below. There will be plenty of time for Q&A, so please bring your questions). Please click [here](#) to learn more or to register.

Shawn Dunning is an expert in conflict resolution, team development, and leadership development. He fielded questions from the audience on a wide range of topics, including his work preparing the team of scientists who spend the winter in Antarctica as part of the United States Antarctic program, and his rafting trips on the Rio Grande with a group of Israelis and Palestinians.

Shawn and the participants had a great discussion. We hope that you'll tune in next month for the second installment of Coffee and Conversation with Rebecca Cataldi, who will be speaking about her work as a facilitator with Braver Angels, and her expertise in conflict resolution abroad and preventing/countering violent extremism. Please click [here](#) to learn more or to sign-up!

A Recent DCPBK-Wide Event

"Live" Cook-at-Home Class with DC Chef

On Tuesday, October 20, we were honored to have Chef Rebecca Hassell teach us how to make the most delicious potato leek soup. Not only did she go through each step, but she also taught us about the proper way to wash vegetables, how professionals quickly chop and how to perfectly blend the flavors. A major bonus of attending a cooking class was that we got to enjoy the fruits of our labor immediately. I'm happy to report that the leftovers I heated up for lunch the next day were equally as good. The potato leek soup is 100% a recipe I will be making again.

Book Club News and Reviews

September 2020 DCPBK Book Club Meeting:

On Tuesday, September 29, nine members gathered on Zoom to discuss the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston. We were happy to take up this classic of American literature, one we admitted had often been overlooked in our formal education in favor of the novels of Toni Morrison and others. This reading also complements our previous discussion of Hurston's posthumously published biography *Barracoon: The Story of the Last Black Cargo*. This book truly reads like an odyssey, a journey of personal discovery and growth in early 20th-century Florida in a newly-founded, burgeoning black community. The lush everglades, and the region's unpredictable and devastating storms, provide a stunning backdrop to the passionate, heartbreaking, and enduring story of Janie Crawford.



In October the group met twice, first for a bonus meeting mid-month to discuss *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present* by David Treur (Nonfiction, 526 pages), a followup to our Spring 2020 reading of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. This book is a tour de force, offering a stunning indictment of predecessor narrative *Bury My Heart's* narrow characterization of Native Americans' fate. Treur, of Native American descent himself, was motivated by his deep dissatisfaction with portrayals that declare stagnation or defeat of tribal nations. He strives to trace the strength and adaptability of tribes from their origins through to present day, weaving historical details with modern voices, some from his own family. As in *Chocolate City*, read by the group this spring, this book is highly nuanced, detailing the ever-evolving relationship of its subjects to the institutions, activism, and policies that at various points constrain or uplift them.



The last week of the month, we discussed *A Fisherman of the Inland Sea* by Ursula K LeGuin (Fiction, 207 pages). Science Fiction is heavily favored as a category, though this selection, in short story format, proved more divisive than most. Our chat covered a range of topics presented in the book, including alternative social relationship norms, motivations to leave or return to a homeland, climate change, and technological advancement. One of the more compelling stories portrays a space ship's crew whose successful trip relies on their ability to agree on one version of the events they are experiencing as they unfold, a truly unnerving concept here in the 2020 election season, where radically different worldviews contend for dominance. An excerpt from LeGuin, to leave with us all: "...fact is one of our finest fictions."



Stay tuned on the DC Association website, and be sure to opt-in to the book club distro, to stay apprised of event additions. We continue to meet successfully on Zoom, and those who RSVP will receive the meeting details in their auto-registration response email.

Our remaining selections for 2020:

- **November 23:** *Fictions* by Jorge Luis Borges (International, 179 pages (Argentina))
- **December 29:** *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.

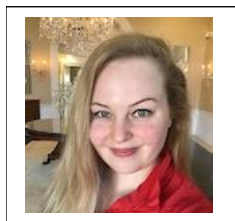
All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend.

Mentorship Network News

The participants of the fall cycle of the Mentorship Program are continuing to meet and learn from each other. This cycle, which runs from September to January, 2021, has 25 participants from various backgrounds, fields, and interests. Last month, participants received their first mentorship newsletter with information and advice on being a good mentee/mentor, mentorship in a COVID world, and asking good questions. We look forward to continuing to support the participants with helpful tips each month.

As a reminder, the DCPBK Mentorship Network offers 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. You can learn more at <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship/>. Questions may be sent to Program Manager Rebecca DeSantis at mentorship@dcpbk.org.

Introducing Lynley Peoples, our new Second Vice-President!



Lynley Peoples, our new Second Vice-President, joined the DCPBK team in mid-October, and has been hard at work creating fun events for all of us, as event planning is the main focus of this member of the Board.

Lynley was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2013 at George Mason University, where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater. She is a DC area native who returned to her hometown this past winter. Her creativity is evident in her extensive background in event and project management. Her professional work includes planning and executing more than fifty theatrical productions and arts festivals, and 30 corporate, fundraising, and high-profile celebrity events.

In her free time, she crosses things off her travel and adventure bucket lists, participates in 5K fun runs, and sees as much theater as humanly possible. Her favorite play is *Noises Off*. Her favorite musical is a tie between *Les Mis* and *Dear Evan Hansen*. She is excited to bring her enthusiasm and creativity to DCPBK. And we are delighted to welcome her to our team.

DCPBK Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. To register to attend via Zoom, click [here](#).

[Saturday, January 9, 2021 from 10:00 A.M.-12:00 noon](#)

Venue: **Zoom** (link to be provided upon registration)

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2020-2021 Officers

PRESIDENT: Breann Watt (University of California Riverside, 2011)
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2015)
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT: Lynley Peoples (George Mason University, 2013)
SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg, (George Washington University, 2014)
TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

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