



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

June 2021

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Upcoming Event

Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Jeffrey Richter

Please join us on **June 17th at 6:30 PM** for the next installment of **Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Jeffrey Richter**. Dr. Richter specializes in the history of Germany, the Holocaust, and Genocide, and is a professorial lecturer in the Department of History at the George Washington



University.

From 1998 to 2010 he served as a historian in the United States Department of Justice's Nazi-hunting unit, the Office of Special Investigations. Dr. Richter will be speaking to us about several cases involving the prosecution of Nazis and human rights violators, and the evolution of international criminal law.

Dr. Richter earned a Bachelors' degree from Princeton University and his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Thursday, June 17, 6:30-7:30 PM

To RSVP, please visit: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2021/6/17/coffee-conversation-with-dr-jeffrey-richter>

Please note that, unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held via Zoom; we hope to have some in-person meetings soon.

Recent Events

DCPBK Annual Meeting

The **Annual Meeting** on June 12 was a lively and energetic gathering, even though we had to hold it via Zoom. The **DCPBK Board** was present in full force, along with a number of other members. Led by new President **Rebecca DeSantis**, the meeting gave us a chance to hear about the exciting year DCPBK has had, even with all the pandemic restrictions. Program leaders regaled us with stories about the successes of their programs (51 altogether this year!), and plans for the year to come!

After the presentations, we installed Officers and Executive Committee members of the Association. The Officers include President **Rebecca DeSantis**, Secretary **Hadley Ashford** (a new DCBPK member), and Treasurer **Pat Cascio**. The President also noted that we need a 1st and 2nd Vice-President, and encouraged all suggestions from the membership.

The Executive Committee is comprised of Past Presidents **Breann Watt**, **Nina Kuo**, and **Liz Marshall**, along with Member Engagement Coordinator **Dan Rosenberg**, Newsletter Editor **Carol Bontempo**, and Book Club Coordinator **Kate Smith**.

Rebecca also acknowledged the contributions of the **Advisory Council** and other **Volunteers**, all of whom you can meet on page 6.

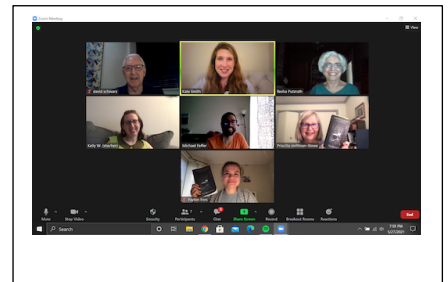
International Health and Development Salon Meeting May 23, 2021

A vibrant Zoom discussion with a number of new participants focused on the latest issues and information on COVID-19, and updates on changes in the US International Development scene. Sources from think tanks and the press were circulated in advance. Many questions were posed and answered within the group. Look for an announcement inviting all interested members from DCPBK to the next quarterly Salon in early September. Meanwhile, feel free to email Dr. Deirdre LaPin at dlapin21@yahoo.com for more information, questions, or suggested topics for our next agenda.

Book Club News and Reviews

May Book Club Meeting:

On Thursday, May 27, the Book Club met to discuss an International selection from Argentina, *The Library at Night* by Alberto Manguel. Though short, this proved to be one of the rare selections that only two members finished before meeting. The author's somewhat pedantic prose and rapid topic shifts made it hard to keep momentum while reading, though members easily expressed favorite or inspiring sections. Manguel sets out (and largely achieves) to express his "astonishment" with libraries of all forms, from the ancient Library of Alexandria to his own personal book collection at home. He approaches the topic from many angles, from the literal shape and form of libraries as both public and private spaces, to their role as national and cultural repositories of memory. Especially haunting was his assertion that "every library is exclusionary [and]...conjures up its own dark ghosts," texts that do not appear due to ideological purges or book burnings, or our own benign attempts to downsize and clean out. Especially fitting in a year when we all strove with purpose to include diverse voices in our daily consumption, Manguel reminds us "our books will bear witness for or against us." The book was an excellent reminder that what we read is usually highly correlated with our larger worldview, and made us appreciate that DCPBK constantly strives to choose works we may not normally gravitate to.



Upcoming June Meeting:

On Monday June 28, the Book Club will meet to discuss *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson, a Nonfiction selection about Winston Churchill that received much buzz upon publication last year. You can RSVP to this discussion via the DC PBK website here:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/2021/6/28/june-2021-dc-pbk-book-club-the-splendid-and-the-vile-by-erik-larson>

Fall 2021 Series Selections:

Between our April and May meetings, recently active Book Club members completed our biannual selection process. Members recommend and then vote in, six selections to comprise our upcoming Series. Note our two bonus selections as well!

- **July:** *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende, International (Chilean American novelist), 448 pages
- **August:** *The Birds* by Aristophanes, Classic, 104 pages
 - **Mid-August Bonus:** *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman, International (Sweden), 341 pages
- **September:** *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson, Nonfiction, 536 pages
- **October:** *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, International (Mexico), 301 pages
- **November:** *The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has an Expiration Date* by Samuel Arbesman, Nonfiction, 256 pages
 - **Mid-November Bonus:** *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf, Classic, 209 pages
- **December:** *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, Fiction, 531 pages

June Spanish Language Group Meeting

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK) will host its next Spanish Language Group meeting on **June 21st at 6:00 PM** and it continues to be open to all skill levels. The meetings will be conducted in Spanish, so a basic conversational level is recommended in order to be able to participate in the discussion. At this meeting, we'll focus the conversation on music! Come prepared to discuss the group's favorite songs, styles, experiences, and more.

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity.

Click below to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with details on how to join the event. Note that registration is limited to 20, so claim your spot quickly! We look forward to speaking with you on **June 21**.

Please contact Hadley Ashford (hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu) with any questions about the group.

Monday, June 21, 6:00-7:00 PM

Register at: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/register/2021/6/21/june-spanish-language-group-meeting>

Young Professionals (YP) Network

The **YP network** is dedicated to providing community, networking opportunities, and an enriching post-graduate experience for the thousands of Young Professional Phi Betes in the greater Washington, DC area.

Benefits of membership with the DCPBK Association, and the YP Network in particular, include meeting many other local Phi Betes who are Young Professionals, networking with people from multiple work and career fields in the greater DC area, opportunities to join others for frequent events such as happy hours, dinners, tours of DC sites, and brilliant speakers from all over the DC metro area. You'll also have access to the Association's signature programs: the Book Club and the Mentorship Network.

Stay tuned to learn about events we're planning for July, and, to find out more or suggest a future activity, please email Hunter Hamrick, YP Network Coordinator, at hunterhamrick@gmail.com

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Mentorship Workshop on June 2nd! We had a nice conversation with members about the tips and tricks of a great mentorship relationship and offered best practices on mentoring. We answered questions about our new mentor directory and we look forward to seeing some new mentors and mentees take advantage of our program offerings!

Interested in being a mentor? We are always looking for more mentors of all career stages; young professionals who can support recent graduates, mid-career professionals who can help members become a supervisor for the first time, and retired members who can support members in seeing the big picture in their careers. Everyone has the ability to become a mentor! In addition, by signing up with the DCPBK Mentorship Network as a mentor, you will get access to resources and workshops that will help you develop your coaching skills and boost your mentor confidence!

To join the mentor directory, simply log into your account on dcpbk.org, click on "Profile," and select "Check below if you would like to be a mentor." Answer a few questions, click "save," and you're all set! To learn more about the new Mentorship Network, go to <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

DCPBK Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Summer meeting will be held on **July 17 from 11:00-1:00 PM**.

To register to attend via Zoom, click [here](#). Link will be provided upon registration.

Open Volunteer Positions

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 currently seeking applications for the following officer positions: **1st Vice President**, **2nd Vice President**. We are also seeking applications for the following Executive Committee volunteer position: **Mentorship Network Manager**.

1st Vice President

The **1st Vice President** is a member of the Executive Committee and is expected to participate in the quarterly board meetings and help guide the strategic direction and operations of the Association. The 1st Vice President may also occasionally assist the 2nd Vice President, who is responsible for coordinating the Association's programming. Other duties and responsibilities include:

- Leading or supporting at least one committee, or being a supporting member of 2+ committees (e.g., HS Awards, Fundraising, etc.).

- Supporting Association communications, including email communications and newsletter contributions.
- Attending quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board.
- Stepping in for the President if a need arises.
- Other duties which may be assigned from time to time by the President.

2nd Vice President

The **2nd Vice President** is an officer of the DCPBK board and is responsible for coordinating the Association's monthly programming for general membership, in collaboration with event sponsors. The 2nd Vice President is NOT responsible for overseeing the programming related to the Young Professionals Network, the Book Club, or the Mentorship Program. Other duties and responsibilities include:

- Coordinating monthly programs for general membership. Examples include tours of museums, lectures, and parties. In particular, the 2nd Vice President is responsible for helping to plan the two largest annual events for general membership: the Annual Holiday Party in December, and the Spring Fling.
- Marketing and promoting the monthly programs, which includes collaborating with the newsletter coordinator to populate the monthly newsletter with content, with the social media coordinator to publicize events on social media channels and setting up RSVP portals for events through the website.
- Developing budgets and managing costs for programs when necessary, and helping to arrange transportation/directions when necessary.
- Attending quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board
- Other duties which may be assigned from time to time by the President.

Mentorship Network Manager

The **Mentorship Network Manager** oversees all programmatic aspects of the DCPBK Mentorship Network, which focuses on connecting DCPBK Association members with one another to not only share professional advice, but also to foster the intellectual curiosity that brings the Phi Beta Kappa community together at its core. Duties and responsibilities include:

- Recruiting mentors for the Mentorship Directory
- Organizing networking events, such as Mentorship Mixers and Mentorship Workshops
- Creating and distributing communications to encourage participation in the program
- Updating the DCPBK website and submitting social media copy
- Attending quarterly DC PBK board meetings and updating the board members on the status of the program.

Applicants for all positions should be members of DCPBK in good standing, and should have experience in outreach to community members and community engagement. Utilization of social media platforms for outreach and web-designing skills is a plus! Application materials should include a cover letter and a resume. Please send materials or any questions about these positions to president@dcpbk.org.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2021-2022 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2016)

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN

SECRETARY: Hadley Ashford (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2018)

TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Breann Watt (University of California, Riverside, 2011)—Past President

Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)—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

Dan Rosenberg (George Washington University, 2014)—Member Engagement Coordinator

Advisory Council

Deirdre LaPin (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President

Christel G. McDonald (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President

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

Additional Volunteers

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COORDINATOR: Hunter Hamrick (Florida State University, 2015)

HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS COORDINATOR: Mackenzie Fusco (George Washington University, 2017)

INTERIM MENTORSHIP NETWORK MANAGER:

(Megan Dixon, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2017)



Love of Learning is the Guide of Life