



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

April 2022

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Local Chapter Spring Inductions

Many local colleges and universities took a hiatus on in-person inductions for new Phi Beta Kappas, but most are back, which means DCPBK is back to welcoming new inductees at induction ceremonies! Board members are attending inductions around the DC area to congratulate new inductees and talk about the importance of joining PBK Associations. We also share a letter with all inductees with information about our programming and how to join DCPBK if they are staying in the DC area after graduation. We look forward to welcoming new Phi Betes to the Association over the next year!

Recent and Upcoming Events

May Spanish Language Group Meeting

The Spanish Language Group met on April 11th at La Cosecha and enjoyed some lively conversation. Join us for our next Spanish Language Group meeting on **May 16 at 6:30 PM at El Tamarindo**. These meetings are open to all skill levels, but note that they will be conducted in Spanish, so a basic conversational level is recommended to be able to participate in the discussion.

Register here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/5/16/may-spanish-language-group>. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with details on the location. We look forward to seeing you then.

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

Please contact Hadley Ashford (hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu) if you have any questions about the group or have trouble registering.

A German Happy Hour—Die Plauder-Stunde

As members of PBK, many of us have had the opportunity to learn different languages and immerse ourselves in other cultures. The “*Plauder-Stunde*” was designed to give PBK members who have learned German a chance to practice their language skills and discuss a wide range of topics. Due to the pandemic, we relied on Zoom for our meetings and held our most recent Happy Hour on Thursday, March 31. We now hope we will soon be able to see each other in person and are planning ways to host the German Happy Hour at different locations and to promote German culture opportunities in the Washington, DC area.

We plan an in-person get-together on **Wednesday, May 25 at 6:00 PM** at a member’s home in Arlington, VA. Weather permitting, the Happy Hour will take place at the poolside a few short blocks away from the Virginia Square Metro stop (Orange Line). This will again be an opportunity to practice our German language skills in an informal setting. If you wish to propose a topic for this evening, please let us know. *Es gibt viel Neues, ueber das wir "plaudern" koennen und dabei ein leichtes Abendbrot verzehren.*

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kenny Sobek (jksobek@gmail.com) and Christel McDonald (ChrisJohnMcDon@aol.com) so that we can send you details and confirmation a week before our May 25 gathering.

Young Professionals (YP) Network

It’s really exciting that so many people are transitioning to in-person meetings, and YP wants to try that, too. We’re working on plans for spring and summer events, so keep checking the website for updates. Also, if you are someone who has lots of good ideas for the DC YP Network? Or a cool event you think we would enjoy, please let us know!

If you are interested in getting involved with the DC YP Network, or if you have any other questions or ideas for the future, please Hunter Hamrick at hunterhamrick@gmail.com.

International Health and Development Salon: What is ESG?

Our next quarterly Salon will be held via **Zoom on Sunday, May 15, from 12:00-1:00 PM**. We will unpack the recent and highly consequential trend in public and private development known as **ESG**. Since 2019 this movement has stressed the **Environmental, Social, and Governance** dimensions of humanitarian projects and financial organizations. **ESG** redefines the purpose of public and private investments beyond mere profit-making or pursuit of national interests by stressing benefit for all stakeholders through such policies as mitigating global warming, supporting communities and labor, and assuring responsible and value-driven management.

We will discuss how **ESG** is driving the design of international development projects and investor preferences in the financial sector. A growing industry has emerged for monitoring and reporting on **ESG** impacts. What standards do we think are needed to ensure that we live in a world that is sustainable and just? What impact is **ESG** likely to have on improving human well-being worldwide? Please sign up at our website dcpbk.org for joining instructions. Also, note that you may invite a non-DCPBK guest to this Salon on the registration page. Meanwhile, feel free to email **Dr. Deirdre LaPin** at dlapin21@yahoo.com for topic suggestions, information or questions.

Book Club News and Reviews

Meetings Recap:

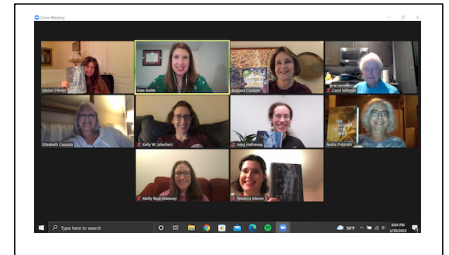
Mid-March Bonus Meeting:

On March 15, nine members of the Book Club met online to discuss the classic dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Unintentionally we placed a trio of stories of female survival in and around Women's History Month. We were glad to revisit the timeless themes that keep *Handmaid* perpetually in the cultural zeitgeist. An interesting divide emerged between those excited to dive into the story for the first time, and those reluctant to revisit a novel that hits uncomfortably close to many American socio-political topics. Discussion revolved around the novel's religious messages, how Gilead selectively condones violence, and the female relationships portrayed.



Regular March Meeting:

Ten members of the Book Club gathered via Zoom on March 30 to discuss *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker. This visceral novel attempts to put Briseis at the center of her own story, following her capture by the Greeks during the Trojan War, when she was given as a prize to Achilles. The group appreciated the unusual perspective, but felt the author did not quite achieve her aim; the story is still Achilles'. He is the linchpin of the Greek offensive, and Barker takes a fresh look at his relationship with Patroclus. Ultimately she even introduces entire sections written from his perspective, silencing the female stories even further. We found this quite understandable, given the lack of primary or secondary sources to draw insight into women's daily experience in this historical era. Discussion centered on the role of the gods here vs other Trojan retellings, anachronistic feminist themes, and Barker's spin on classic *Iliad* moments.



We've posted the next three meetings for April and May. Meetings are always scheduled for **6:30 PM** and will continue on Zoom for now, with consideration for in-person events starting in late spring and summer.

- **April 25: *Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe*** by Brian Greene (Nonfiction, 384 pages)
- **May19 Bonus: *Fathers & Sons*** by Ivan Turgenev (Classic, 244 pages)
- **May 31: *The Skin of the Sea*** by Natasha Bowen (International, Nigeria/West Africa, 336 pages)
- **June: *The Sentence*** by Louise Erdrich (Fiction, 387 pages).

I hope to see many of you there!

Sincerely, Kate Smith
Book Club Coordinator

Coffee & Conversation Series

We've enjoyed several excellent speakers in the fall and winter months, as well as lively discussions after their talks, and we're looking for more contributors to this popular series.

If you have any suggestions for possible speakers, please don't hesitate to reach out to Dan Rosenberg at dberg8@gmail.com.

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

We have new mentors joining our **Mentorship Directory**! If you are looking for career support, check out our lists of mentors by logging into the DCPBK website and reviewing our Mentorship Directory!

We are continuing to seek mentors! Currently, we have a need for mentors in political advocacy or non-profits, natural sciences (biology, chemistry, etc.), public policy, education, finance, and law. We are also looking for more mentors of all career stages and industries; 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!

Becoming a mentor for our Mentor Directory is a very low-time commitment! Mentors and mentees, once connected, can meet together on their own terms—virtually, in-person, once a week, once every two months, whatever they decide! 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, please visit <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

Rebecca DeSantis-Randall
DCPBK President
rdesantis2@gmail.com

Open Volunteer Positions

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? Our Board is currently putting together numerous committees to help organize events 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 positions.

1st Vice President

The 1st Vice President is an officer of the Executive Board and is expected to participate in the quarterly board meetings and to 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:

- Lead or support at least one committee or be a supporting member of 2+ committees (e.g. HS Awards, Fundraising, etc.).
- Support Association communications, including email communications and newsletter contributions.
- Attending quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board.
- Step in for the president if a need arises.
- Other duties 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 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 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 editor 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.

Young Professionals Network Coordinator

The YP Network Coordinator is charged with making the member experience meaningful for young professionals. Specific duties and responsibilities include:

- Setting up and implementing the YP engagement strategy for the DC PBK Association, with an eye to converting as many recent graduates to contributing members as possible, and training new leadership for the Association.
- Managing the YP Network leadership team.
- Attending the DC PBK Association's board meetings to keep board members informed of the YP Network's activities and initiatives.
- Making clear through all branding, communications, and events that the YP Network is a program of the DC PBK Association.
- Maintaining the YP Network's master attendance tracker for events.

Applicants for these positions should be members of DCPBK in good standing. If you are interested in any of these positions, please visit our website at www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions or send an email to president@dcpbk.org.

DCPBK Summer Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Summer board meeting will be in July, and you can find more details in the next two newsletters, including registration information.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2021-2022 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randell (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,

MENTORSHIP NETWORK COORDINATOR: Elena Helmers-Wegman (Wofford College, 2019)



Love of Learning is the Guide of Life