



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

June 2022 Newsletter

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Recent and Upcoming Events

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Annual Meeting

On Saturday, June 11, DCPBK hosted our **Annual Meeting** (virtually), to update the membership on our programs. The board presented on the financial health of the association, the events and program successes of the year, and what to look forward to in the next year. We also installed our new board members, and the membership voted on two amendments to our Constitution: first, the title of the 1st VP role (now the Vice President of Chapter Relations) and the 2nd VP role (now the Vice President of Member Experience); second, the ability for the membership to change the constitution throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Rebecca DeSantis-Randall

President, DC Area Phil Beta Kappa Association

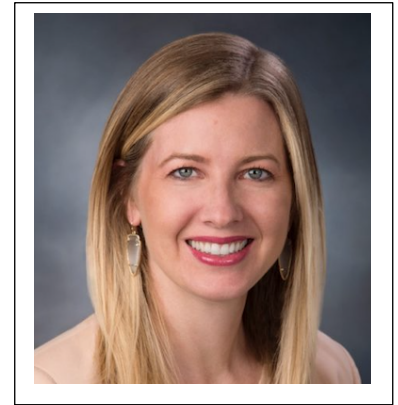
International Health and Development Salon: What is ESG?

On Sunday, May 15, the Salon met to unpack the recent trend in public and private development known as **ESG**, the **Environmental, Social, and Governance** dimensions of humanitarian projects and financial organizations. We reviewed the history of measuring sustainability "standards" in development organizations and private sector companies since 1987 and then considered the key aspects of each dimension and their importance. Some participants were already familiar with the ESG movement, as part of their academic program or as shareholders guided by financial advisors. In our discussion special attention was drawn to corporate financing and taxation practices, tackling methane and other emissions to reduce global warming, and problems of accurately measuring ESG performance -- especially when organizations tend to greenwash statistics or "unload" less sustainable parts of their business by selling them off to a less responsible buyer.

The Salon will be taking a break over the summer. Stay tuned to newsletters and emails for our next meeting. And enjoy the warm weather!

Coffee & Conversation Series with Emily Skor, CEO of Growth Energy

Please join us for our next installment of Coffee & Conversation on **Thursday, June 23rd at 6:00 PM** with **Emily Skor, CEO of Growth Energy**, the country's premier biofuel trade association, which represents over half of the nation's total ethanol production and tens of thousands of ethanol supporters around the country. Emily will be speaking to us about her work in leading this trade association, including advocating for better policy around biofuels, launching public affairs campaigns to educate the public about ethanol and its impact on the environment, and Growth Energy's goal of repositioning ethanol as a critical tool in decarbonizing the transportation sector and reaching net-zero climate goals by 2050. Additionally, Emily will be speaking to us about the considerations involved in leading a large trade association and also about her prior professional experiences in crisis communications and branding/marketing.



Under Emily's leadership, Growth Energy membership has grown to include 89 plant producers and 94 innovative businesses that support biofuel production, including the largest ethanol producers in the country—POET, ADM, Marquis Energy and The Anderson.

Prior to joining Growth Energy, Skor served as Vice President of Communications for the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA) and as the Executive Director of the CHPA Educational Foundation. Before joining CHPA, Skor served as senior vice president at a nationally recognized crisis management firm.

Emily was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at Wellesley College. Emily serves as a trustee of Aidan Montessori School and lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and two children.

Please RSVP here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/6/23/coffee-conversation-with-emily-skor>

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

Thanks!

Dan Rosenberg, J.D.
dberg8@gmail.com

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

June Spanish Language Group Meeting

Join us for our Spanish Language Group meeting on **June 27 at 6:30 PM at El Sol**. 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.

El Sol Restaurante & Tequileria is located at 1227 115h Street, NW.

Click below to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with additional details.

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/6/27/june-spanish-language-group>

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.

Book Club News and Reviews

May Meetings

On May 19, seven members of the Book Club gathered to discuss the classic selection *Fathers and Sons* by Russian author Ivan Turgenev. We benefited from a rich discussion of the text, which we concluded is at once dense and refreshingly simple. The young sons, eager to prove their academic worldliness, name drop intellectuals and events of the day in a manner that can distract the modern reader. Yet at its heart, these are two college-age friends visiting their rural hometowns, complete with familial tension, flirtatious new acquaintances, and introspection. Turgenev also gives us a snapshot of a country in flux, with traditional practices like serfdom uneasily confronting the vibrant socio-political intellectualism permeating from within and beyond Russia's borders in the mid-19th century.



On May 31, nine members joined to discuss *The Skin of the Sea* by Natasha Bowen. Noting that the book was heavily influenced by African lore and European fairy tales, the group enjoyed comparing Bowen's fantasy novel to other portrayals of gods' involvement in human affairs, like Homer's *Iliad*. We found the book a lively and empowering story, where collective memory, friendships, and familial bonds are wielded to ease the passage of souls lost at sea during the transatlantic slave trade, and to hold tribal communities together in the face of new global and economic pressures.



Our June meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday, June 27th, for Louise Erdrich's *The Sentence*.

We are currently conducting our spring voting cycle in preparation for our Fall 2022 Series. The winning selections should be posted in upcoming Book Club event notices by the end of June.

Die Plauder-Stunde at the German Conversation Table

Back in May 2022, the **German Forum** met for the first time in person and hosted "**Die Plauder-Stunde**" at a member's home. Attendees had a most enjoyable time conversing in German on a variety of current topics and relaxed with a light meal. The Plauder-Stunde is designed to give PBK members a chance to practice their German, and it is always wonderful to see how long-forgotten German words slowly reappear and the conversation becomes easier and easier. It also embraces the concept of "*Übung macht den Meister*," or practice makes perfect.

(The name of the "German Forum" actually has been changed to **Die Plauder-Stunde**, meaning a relaxed time beginning with a light meal and continuing conversation in German until sunset and beyond.)

Though the DCPBK German Forum will be going on a short hiatus for the summer, it will reconvene in the fall to host additional "Plauder-Stunde" events and explore German cultural offerings for members in the Washington, DC area.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Christel McDonald (ChrisJohnMcDon@aol.com).
Wir wünschen allen einen schönen Sommer!

Christel McDonald

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 summer and fall events, so keep checking the website for updates. Also, if you are someone who has lots of good ideas for the DCPBK YP Network? Or a cool event you think we would enjoy, please let us know!

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

We held our first **Mentorship Mixer** of 2022 on June 9. Participants had a great time getting to know one another in round-robin, breakout-style networking sprints. This was an exciting opportunity for new graduates and other mentees to get to know mentors in the DCPBK network.

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! We are 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 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 Mentorship Network, please visit <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

Elena Helmers-Wegman
DCPBK Mentorship Network Coordinator
elena.helmerts.wegman@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.

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 held on **Saturday, July 16, at 10:00 AM** on Zoom. Look for more details in the next newsletter, including registration information.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2022-2023 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randall (Washington College, 2016)

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER EXPERIENCE: Lindsay Osborne (University of Hawaii, 2021)

SECRETARY: Daisy Yu (University of Maryland, College Park, 2022)

TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)—Past President

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

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

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

Additional Volunteers

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COORDINATOR: OPEN

HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS COORDINATOR: Sameer Jaywant (New York University, 2014)

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



Love of Learning is the Guide of Life