



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

July 2022

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Recent and Upcoming Events

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In the good ol' summertime, some of our groups are taking a break. But the Book Club is going strong for the next six months.

Book Club News and Reviews

We recently completed our voting cycle in preparation for the **Fall 2022 DCPBK Book Club Series**, and I'm happy to announce our final list below. Members who have engaged with the book club over the last six months both recommended, and voted in, the below choices.

- **July 26, 6:30 PM: *People We Meet on Vacation*** by Emily Henry, Fiction, 364 pages
- **Mid-August Bonus: *The Employees: A Workplace Novel of the 22nd Century*** by Olga Ravn, International, Denmark, 136 pages
- **August: *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*** by Trevor Noah, Nonfiction, 289 pages
- **September: *How Democracies Die*** by Steven Levitsky, Daniel Ziblatt, Nonfiction, 320 pages
- **October: *The Hacienda*** by Isabel Cañas, Fiction, 352 pages
- **Mid-November Bonus: *Lysistrata*** by Aristophanes, Classic, 132 pages
- **November: *Winter in Sokcho*** by Elisa Shua Dusapin, International, Franco-Korean author, 154 pages
- **December: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*** by Thornton Wilder, Classic, 160 pages

June Meeting

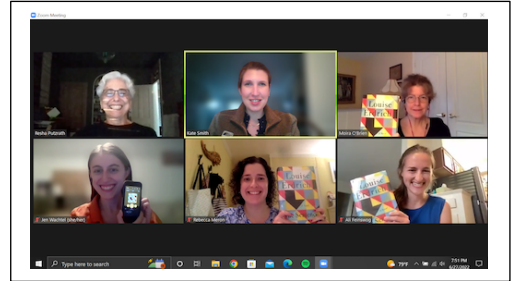
On **Monday, June 27**, members met to discuss Louise Erdrich's ***The Sentence***. This timely selection joins several others we've read over the last few years depicting modern Indigenous American communities. Most rated the novel highly; the ghostly mystery at its heart is a compelling thread throughout. Framing her story over a one-year span, Erdrich's characters confront both the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 civil unrest following George Floyd's death. Their navigation of these events with the fictional storyline wasn't completely smooth, and some members felt jarred by the transitions. Yet few rival Erdrich's character development, emotional perspicuity, and socio-cultural observations, and the novel easily inspired lively discussion.

As always, event dates are posted 1-2 months out. If there is a selection here you are particularly invested in, please reach out to bookclub@dcpbk.org and I am happy to accommodate schedule preferences as much as I am able.

We will continue to meet on Zoom regularly, but will go ahead and plan to attempt an in-person patio meeting somewhere in the West End/Foggy Bottom area for the Mid-August selection. In the case of bad weather or increased Covid numbers, we will simply meet online instead.

Please register here:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/7/26/july-2022-dc-pbk-book-club-people-we-meet-on-vacation-160-by-emily-henry>



If you have thoughts for downtown restaurants with patio seating for our mid-August meeting, please send them my way!

Happy reading,
Kate Smith,
DCPBK Book Club Coordinator

July Spanish Language Group

Join us for our Spanish Language Group meeting on **July 18 at 6:30 PM**. 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.

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.

Venue: El Sol Restaurante y Tequileria, 1227 11th Street, NW, DC

To Register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2022/7/18/july-spanish-language-group>

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with additional details. We look forward to speaking with you on **July 18 at 6:30 PM**.

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

On **Thursday, June 23**, **Emily Skor, CEO of Growth Energy**, fascinated us with her thoughtful insights about **ethanol**, the valuable biofuel that most of us know only as a gasoline additive. Extracted from corn, ethanol has multiple uses, and the leftover parts of the corn can be made into such varied products as corn oil and animal feed. She covered several aspects of her work as leader of this biofuel trade association, such as: efforts to use ethanol more widely; the need to continually visit producers and farmers, mostly in the Midwest, as these people will of course behave differently on their home turf than in the marble halls of power; the massive planning and intimidating atmosphere of testifying before Congress; launching public affairs campaigns to educate people about ethanol and its impact on the environment; competing against powerful carbon polluters such as the American Petroleum Institute, and the challenges of balancing work and home life with her husband and two children.



Growth Energy is the nation's premier biofuel trade association, representing more than half of the nation's total ethanol production and tens of thousands of ethanol supporters around the country, including 89 plant producers and 94 innovative businesses that support biofuel production. Emily's work includes advocating for better policy around biofuels, 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. She also mentioned her prior professional experiences in crisis communications and branding/ marketing in the health care area.

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

Die Plauder-Stunde at the German Conversation Table

The **DCPBK German Forum** will be going on a short hiatus for the summer, but 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 late 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 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.helm.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.

How to register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/2022/7/16/dcpbk-july-board-meeting>

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