



THE D.C. AREA

PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

September 2022

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Recent and Upcoming Events

Save the Date: Key Connections!

Are you a Phi Beta who just moved to the DC area, or a Washingtonian who wants to make the most of your Phi Beta Kappa membership? Then come join DCPBK on **October 12 at 6:30 PM.** for a Networking Event! This annual get-together, which welcomes recent inductees and members who might have relocated to the DC area, is loaded with opportunities to get more involved with DCPBK, and meet new people. It will feature speakers, food and beverages, and more information on the getting involved with DCPBK. It also offers a unique chance to network and connect in the spirit of Phi Beta Kappa's founding, with an emphasis on friendship and fellowship. This DC area-based happy hour is hosted in conjunction with The Phi Beta Kappa Society's annual Key Connections programming.

Key Connections will be held at the George Washington University in the Lehman Auditorium, which is located on the B-level (1 floor below street level) of the Science and Engineering Hall (SEH), corner of G and 22nd Streets, NW (one block from Foggy Bottom Metro stop).

Contact Rebecca DeSantis-Randall, president@dcpbk.org, if you have any questions in the interim. We hope to see you there! Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pbk-dc-key-connections-career-panel-and-networking-event-tickets-391971145247>

Coffee & Conversation with Jenny Abramson and Other PBK Associations

The heady world of venture capital is filled with dazzling opportunities and daunting obstacles; what it is *not* filled with is women leaders, as we learned from **Jenny Abramson** on August 25. Jenny is the founder and CEO of **Rethink Impact**, the largest US venture capital firm that invests in female leaders, using technology to solve the world's biggest problems, with a focus on healthcare, environmental sustainability, education, and economic mobility, all contributing to the empowerment of these women. Both brilliant and charming, Jenny spoke of the diverse roles she has held throughout her varied career, such as working with a tech security company devoted to preventing school shootings and sexual assaults, *The Washington Post*, DC Public Schools, and Teach for America. She detailed the many challenges that women face in male-

dominated businesses, noted the tension between work and home priorities (including her own), and emphasized that a background in the liberal arts and sciences has advanced her career and contributed to her professional successes.

A lively discussion followed, capping off an engaging and exciting evening.

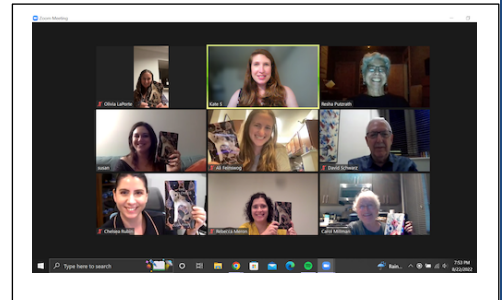
Thank you to those who attended the Phi Beta Kappa Speaker Series (Coffee & Conversation) with Jenny Abramson last month, co-sponsored by the Baltimore and Richmond Phi Beta Kappa Associations. We are currently in the process of selecting our next speaker for Coffee & Conversation and will be in touch soon with those details. If you have any suggestions for future speakers, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Rosenberg at dmborg8@gmail.com.

Book Club News and Reviews

2 August Meeting Recaps

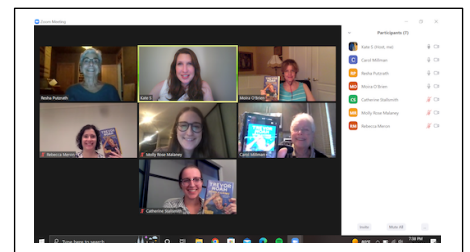
***The Employees: A Workplace Novel of the 22nd Century*, by Olga Ravn**

On August 22, nine members of the book club met to discuss this unique, international sci-fi selection out of Denmark. While we had planned to try meeting in person for the first time in a while, the selected restaurant closed last minute for a technical issue and we reverted to Zoom. *The Employees* defies easy description, but presents a series of interviews with the human and humanoid workforce on a space mission to gather specimens on a faraway planet. Their distant memories of Earth and reflections on their productivity and relationships on board rapidly devolve into recounted events leading to the mission's literal termination. We discussed the book's themes of humanity, AI, modern work culture isolation and connection. Ravn's structure purposefully deindividualizes the voices we hear from; the author herself states she wanted to write a book with no main character, or where the main character was the group itself, which makes the reader's job more abstract. One haunting reflection from a humanoid employee: "maybe the humans are the very element of chaos that keeps the world alive. Or maybe we really can do without them" (p, 96).



***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*, by Trevor Noah**

The following week, seven members gathered on Zoom to discuss this much celebrated autobiography from Trevor Noah. The book club actually already read this selection a few years ago, closer to its publication, but given membership turnover it was voted in and newly enjoyed by a new discussion group. Focused primarily on his upbringing during South African Apartheid, he crafts a series of interrelated vignettes each highlighting a different aspect of South African society and his family's place within it. We discussed why he chose to bookend the work with stories of his mother, socio-cultural differences in religious practice, and his historical reflections on British vs. Afrikaner racism, and why the "worst person in history" is entirely subjective.



Upcoming Meetings

September 27 at 6:30 PM on Zoom: *How Democracies Die* by Steven Levitsky, Daniel Ziblatt, Nonfiction, 320 pages

Register here:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/9/27/september-2022-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-how-democracies-die-160-by-steven-levitsky-daniel-ziblatt>

Here are the selections for the remainder of the calendar year.

- **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

Members who RSVP Yes on the website will receive the meeting link and login information in their registration confirmation email. We all start together, and break into smaller group chats, as needed, after introductions. Feel free to grab food and drink for the meeting, as we normally would! I hope to see many of you there!

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.

Happy reading,
Kate Smith,
DCPBK Book Club Coordinator

September Spanish Language Group

Join us for a special Spanish Language Group meeting on **September 21 at 7:00 PM** at Public Bar Live (1214 18th St NW) for a free salsa dancing class, followed by an opportunity to chat informally afterwards. 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.

Click below to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with additional details. We look forward to seeing you on **September 21st at 7:00.**

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.

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2022/9/21/september-spanish-language-group>

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Are you interested in public service? Or looking for ways to serve your community and country? We are very excited to share that **Ambassador Chase Untermeyer** will speak to the YP Network on **October 6 at 6:00 PM** via Zoom, to discuss this important subject. Ambassador Untermeyer has a distinguished career encompassing business, public service, journalism, and education. He has written many books on the subject of service, and has devoted decades to the cause, most notably as U.S. Ambassador to Qatar and Director of Voice of America. Please join us October 6 for this special event!

The RSVP and Zoom info will be heading your way shortly. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please contact Reyna Yang, YP Network Coordinator (reyna_yang@gwu.edu) if you have any questions about the event and registration.

Announcements

Welcome our New VP of Chapter Relations, Catherine Stallsmith

We are delighted to introduce Catherine Stallsmith, our new **Vice President of Chapter Relations** (formerly called 1st VP).

Catherine is a recent graduate of Elon University, with a B.A. in Political Science and International & Global Studies. She was inducted into PBK last April, then moved to DC for her new job with the Chamber of Commerce Foundation. She sees her VP role as an ideal opportunity to meet members of DCPBK and learn about their careers and interests—this means *you*! She also looks forward to engaging with local chapters, and continuing to expand her overall network. In her free time, she likes to run, read, walk dogs, and explore the city. You can reach out to her at catherine.stallsmith@gmail.com.



Mentorship Network News

Please join us for a virtual mentorship mixer on **Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 PM**. We look forward to gathering interested mentors and mentees alike for an evening of conversation and connection around mentorship and professional development. This is a great way to make connections within the PBK community, as well as learn more about the benefits of the DCPBK Mentorship Network.

[Click here to register!](#)

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 Position

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? We are currently seeking applications for the following position (see next page).

Open Position: Treasurer

The DCPBK Treasurer manages the funds of the association and ensures the financial health of the organization.

Responsibilities:

- Manage DCPBK funds, including receiving and reconciling bank and endowment fund statements, depositing checks, and writing checks/making payments.
- Make financial records easily available to other board members and presents a financial update at board meetings.
- Update Membership Works member records with payment information as necessary. Assure that all contributors receive an acknowledgement message, via email or paper, of their contribution.
- Prepare an annual budget to be approved by the board at its first meeting of the calendar year.
- Maintain records of all ongoing subscriptions and contract services used by DCPBK. List all businesses, including financial institutions, and their contact information. Maintain current password and other access information to permit access by another board member in case of need.
- Work with the board to establish best practices and customized financial policies.

Interested candidates should email president@dcpbk.org to express interest.

Thanks!

Rebecca DeSantis-Randall, MPA, CAPM

President, DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK)

rdesantis2@gmail.com

DCPBK Fall Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Autumn board meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 8, at 10:00 AM** on Zoom.

How to register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/10/8/fall-board-meeting>

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2022-2023 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randall (Washington College, 2016)
VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAPTER RELATIONS: Catherine Stallsmith (Elon University, 2022)
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) OPEN

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: Reyna Yang (George Washington U., 2022)
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