



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

October 2022

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Upcoming and Recent Events

Special Event! The Importance of Ancestry, hosted by George Mason's Omicron Chapter

This semester, George Mason University's PBK Chapter is hosting a PBK Visiting Scholar, Harvard's **Dr. Maya Jasanoff**. She will be giving a public lecture on **Friday, October 21, from 1:30-3:00 PM** (in person and virtual) about **Ancestors: Where Do We Come From and Why Do We Care?** They have graciously invited us to join them; the actual meeting will take place at George Mason's Merton Hall 1201, followed by a reception.



Registration is required for all participants, at:

<https://chr.gmu.edu/events/13870>

Professor Jasanoff is a historian of British imperial and global history. Her books *Edge of Empire* (2005), *Liberty's Exiles* (2011), and *The Dawn Watch* (2017) have won numerous awards, including the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Cundill Prize in History, the George Washington Book Prize, and the Windham-Campbell Prize for Non-Fiction. She is currently writing a history of the human preoccupation with ancestry and genealogy, the topic of a popular undergraduate course she teaches in Harvard's General Education curriculum. She is also completing a short book on the craft of historical narrative, looking at ways to bring out the "story" in history. She also writes widely about history, literature, and world affairs for publications including *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*. In 2021 she was chair of judges for the Booker Prize.

Key Connections Recap

This year's **Key Connections** event was a massive success! Current DCPBK President, Rebecca DeSantis-Randall, led a panel of senior professionals in a discussion regarding their most meaningful career experiences and the value of a college education when entering the work force. Panelists Shana Cosgrove, Paul Lubliner, and Advaith Thampi shared valuable insights about applying for jobs, earning the respect of senior staff members, and transitioning from one career to the next. The panelists also provided expert

advice for recent graduates concerning the barriers one might face when starting a career in DC and revealed how they could prevail despite those challenges.

After the panelists engaged in Q&A with the audience, Young Professionals Network Coordinator Reyna Yang spoke about the opportunities offered by the DCPBK Young Professionals program, an enriching post-graduate experience for the thousands of Phi Betes who are local to the greater Washington, DC area (<https://dcpbk.org/programs/young-professionals/>).

Then, attendees were invited to enjoy sushi and refreshments while networking among their peers and with members of the DCPBK Mentorship Program, which connects experienced professionals with recent graduates to share professional advice and foster intellectual curiosity (<https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship/>).



Holiday Party! It's hard to believe that the festive holiday season is just a little way down the road; look for plans for our annual gala Holiday Party on the website, and in the next issue of the newsletter.

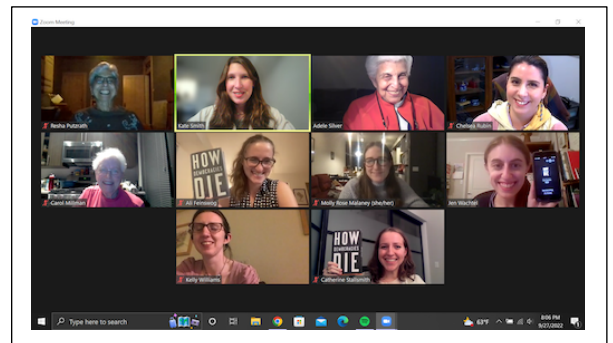
Coffee & Conversation Series

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 dberg8@gmail.com.

Book Club News and Reviews

September Meeting Recap

On September 27, ten members of the book club met to discuss *How Democracies Die* by Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky. I typically like to assign our more scholarly tomes in September as a bit of a "back to school" nod, and this certainly provided plenty of topics for consideration by the group. The authors trace the trends in modern American politics, in contrast to the emergence of historical and international authoritarian and other anti-democratic regimes. Their evidence heavily implicates the Republican Party in moving the U.S away from the forbearance and norms of civility which thus far have undergirded the functioning of our institutions, and expanding "the bounds of acceptable political behavior" to the detriment of democracy. Our group wondered about the authors' intended audience and whether their warnings would be compelling to those who most need to hear them. The book certainly forced us to reflect our internalization of current events, and when we personally registered alarming discourse and behavior in each of the three branches of our government.



Upcoming Meetings

October 27, 2022, 6:30 PM on Zoom

***The Hacienda* by Isabel Cañas**

Please join us for our October meeting to discuss *The Hacienda* by Isabel Cañas, (Fiction, 352 pages). All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend.

And see below for our selections through the rest of the Fall Series:

- **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! To Register:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2022/10/27/october-2022-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-the-hacienda-160-by-isabel-ca-241-as>

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

October Spanish Language Group

Join us for a Spanish Language Group meeting on **October 26 at 6:30 PM** at El Sol (1227 11th Street NW) for our regular monthly meeting. 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 **October 26 at 6:30.**

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. **To Register:**

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2022/10/26/october-spanish-language-group>

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Upcoming Event

**Escape the Room DC with the YP Network
(Midtown/Golden Triangle) 1720 I Street, NW
Friday, November 4, 5:00-6:30 PM**

Mystery, hidden clues, and puzzles...get ready for **Escape the Room DC!** Join your fellow YPs on **November 4 at 5:00 PM** for an engaging and fun-filled interactive experience. With only 60 minutes to search for clues and solve the puzzles, we'll be leaning on our teammates to earn our freedom and escape the room. Space is limited, so please RSVP early to reserve your spot! **To Register:**

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2022/11/4/escape-the-room-dc-with-the-yp-network>

There is no cost associated with this event, but we ask all attendees to confirm your RSVP. The closest Metro stop is Farragut West on the Blue/Orange/Silver Lines.

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 or registration.

Recent Event

On October 6, **Ambassador Chase Untermeyer** treated a group of YPs and friends to a thorough, practical discussion of the benefits of working for the federal government. Clearly focused on the needs of young professionals, he noted the relative ease of finding a government position (particularly in the Executive Branch) if you're already here, and mentioned the many opportunities for upward mobility, making important connections, learning the complexities of the system (much more challenging than a business job), and always remembering why you are there, regardless of your current job description. He encouraged participants to frequently appreciate these opportunities and make the most of them. To that end, he recommended extensive reading, especially relevant biographies. (For serious job-seekers, a most valuable resource is the *US Government Manual*.) After his prepared remarks, the ambassador fielded a number of relevant questions, capping off a useful and entertaining event.

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

Fall Mentorship Mixer

Join us for our **Fall Mentorship Mixer** on **Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 PM via Zoom**.

For many members, the **Mentorship Mixers** are the highlight of their participation in DCPBK programming! We invite all DCPBK members and mentors to this mixer, where participants can connect in round-robin-style activities and ice-breakers. This is a great opportunity to meet our mentors and other members, and make connections, as well as learning more about the benefits of the **DCPBK Mentorship Network**.

To Register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/10/18/fall-mentorship-mixer>

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.

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 Winter Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Winter board meeting will be held in **January** via Zoom; look for details and registration information next month.

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