



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

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High School Awards Program Winners

Since 1974, DCPBK has sponsored a **High School Awards Program** to encourage excellence, creativity, industry, and community service among the diverse student population attending the public and charter schools in our area. This Program has become the centerpiece of the Association's commitment to our community, and we are now offering four awards to college-bound seniors of \$1,000 each.

This year the High School Awards Committee received almost 160 applications, one of the highest amounts in recent years. These included many outstanding candidates, and choosing the recipients was a very difficult task, but the Committee is excited to have selected four extraordinary students to receive this year's awards: Alexander Liesegang (DC), Marley Pinsky (MD), Lynn Tao (VA), and Faith Zhang (MD). Here's some background on each of them.

Alex

Alex is a senior at the School Without Walls in DC, with dual enrollment at George Washington University. He is graduating with a high school diploma as well as an Associate of Arts degree. He enjoys playing viola in his high school's award-winning orchestra and running cross country on the National Mall. As an Eagle Scout he has volunteered more than 300 hours of his time throughout high school. He enjoys making music and doing covers with his rock band SchmOOzi on the weekends. He will be attending the University of California, Davis.



Marley

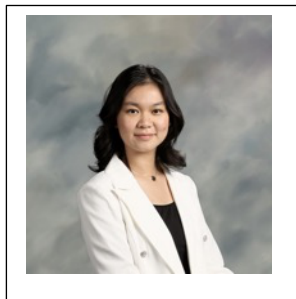
Marley Pinsky attends Clarksburg High School in Maryland. She is the founder of the Montgomery County Virtual Tutoring Project, co-founder of the MCPS Health Curriculum Youth Advisory Board, and founder and President of Coyotes Minds Matter. Through YMCA Youth and Government, Marley has attended national legislative conferences, advocated for civics education on Capitol Hill, and served as the 77th Youth Governor of Maryland. Marley performs violin with Potomac Valley Youth Orchestras, leads the Clarksburg Symphonic Orchestra as Concertmaster, and sings with the Clarksburg Chamber Choir. She will be attending the University of



Pittsburgh's Frederick Honors College, where she plans to double major in Urban Studies and Politics and Philosophy.

Lynn

Lynn is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Northern Virginia. She is passionate about creating medical advancements and promoting educational equity. As an RSI Scholar, a Regeneron Scholar, and an awarded inventor, Lynn has developed a breast cancer risk detection framework to improve early detection, and optimized a protein prediction model for drug discovery using machine learning. She founded a non-profit organization, TeensHelpKids, and leads her school's STEMBassadors organization to help underserved communities by providing educational opportunities and resources. Lynn has been honored with the Congressional Award Gold Medal and the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. As an avid STEM lover, she is also a USA Computing Olympiad Gold Division Competitor, a two-time USA Biology Olympiad National Finalist, and a leader of several extracurricular clubs. In her free time, she enjoys playing the violin and crocheting amigurumi. In the fall, Lynn will attend Harvard University, with plans to pursue a career in biomedical research employing artificial intelligence.



Faith

Faith Zhang attends Winston Churchill High School in Maryland. She debated extensively on the national circuit throughout high school, qualifying twice to the Tournament of Champions, while running a small YouTube channel along the way. She is also an avid musician, having served as concertmaster of her school orchestras, youth orchestra, and pit orchestra. Faith also plays violin in a string quartet, which has garnered success in various national competitions. In addition to her own work being published in literary magazines, Faith serves as an editor on three different student-run publications. She will be attending Rice University in the fall.



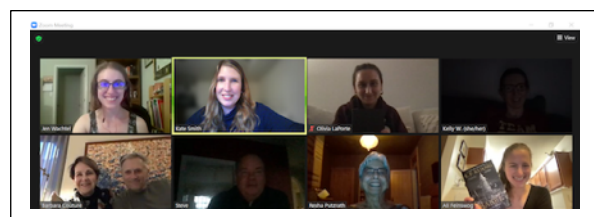
DCPBK extends congratulations and best wishes for an even brighter future to all these outstanding students.

Contributions to the High School Awards Program from our members and supporters are gratefully received. You may pay online at dcbpk.org, or contact our Treasurer, Reyna Yang at treasurer@dcbpk.org. Legacy donations and endowments are also welcome.

Recent and Upcoming Events

Coffee & Conversation Series

We look forward to the next conversation in this excellent series, sometime later in the spring. If you have any questions, please contact nikuneshati@gmail.com



Book Club News and Reviews

April Meeting Recap:

On April 26, twelve members of the Book Club met to discuss the incredibly erudite *Babel, Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution* by R.F. Kuang. I often half-joke that some selections we vote in are predictably PBK, and this fiction exploration of colonialism and the power of language, set in 19th century Oxford, is no exception. The group enjoyed discussing the fantasy world

building, the characters' motivations, racial dynamics in the British Empire, and the history of violent vs. non-violent protest and resistance.

Please see the links below to RSVP if you wish to attend either of our May discussions:

Mid-May Bonus Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 6:30-8:00 PM. Zoom

The Picture of Dorian Gray, by Oscar Wilde, Classic, 545 pages

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2023/5/18/mid-may-2023-bonus-dc-pbk-book-club-the-picture-of-dorian-gray-by-oscar-wilde>

May Book Club Meeting

Tuesday, May 30, 6:30-8:00 PM. Zoom

The Cartographers by Peng Shepherd, Fiction, 392 pages

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2023/5/30/may-2023-bonus-dc-pbk-book-club-the-cartographers-by-peng-shepherd>

Our final selection for the Spring 2023 Series is listed below:

June: *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, Nonfiction, 371 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.

Our Next Series

Between May and June the Book Club will complete our biannual voting process, to select our books for July-December 2023. Members who have participated in our group within the last six months will recommend, and then vote in, the six selections and two bonus books which will comprise our Fall Series. Stay tuned for the final list! It's one of our favorite times of year, to see the new releases and topics on our members' minds.

I hope to see many of you there!

Happy reading,

Kate Smith

Book Club Coordinator

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Contra Dancing with the YP Network

Friday, June 2, 7:30-11:00 PM, the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park

Want to join some awesome folks doing the most fun thing you've never heard of? Come **contra dancing** with YP! Check it out here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2023/6/2/friday-night-contra-dance-with-the-yp-network>.

There is no need to register here, as we will be registering the group!

Not only is this a lively, friendly kind of dancing, but the **Spanish Ballroom**, with its glamorous 1933 Art Deco style, is an historic building with lots of character and charm. You'll delight in just being there.

The event costs \$5. Registration is coming soon; please register with DCPBK by Wed., May 31. KN95 or equivalent masks required; may be purchased for \$1 (cash only) at the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Williams at kelly.williams321@gmail.com.

Announcements

Annual Meeting

The **DCPBK Annual Meeting** will be held at the end of June. Tickets and additional details will be available on our website by June 1.

Local PBK Society Inductions

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to all the latest PBK Society inductees at our local university chapters. The DCPBK (our local Association) will attend as many of the ceremonies as possible, to congratulate the newest Society members in person, and introduce them to the benefits of DCPBK membership.

Mentorship Network News

Please consider becoming a mentor through the **DCPBK Mentor Directory**, which 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!

If you’re searching for a mentor, please visit the Mentor Directory and reach out to any mentor that looks like a match for your needs. If you need assistance in drafting outreach, don’t hesitate to drop me a note.

To learn more about the Mentorship Network, please visit <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

Elena Helmers-Wegman
DCPBK Mentorship Network Coordinator

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2022-2023 Officers

PRESIDENT: Lindsay Osborne (University of Hawaii, 2021)
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: Reyna Yang (George Washington University, 2022)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

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
Niku Neshati (George Mason University, 2018)— Membership and Outreach 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