



# THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

[www.dcpbk.org](http://www.dcpbk.org)

NEWSLETTER

[suggestions@dcpbk.org](mailto:suggestions@dcpbk.org)

June 2023

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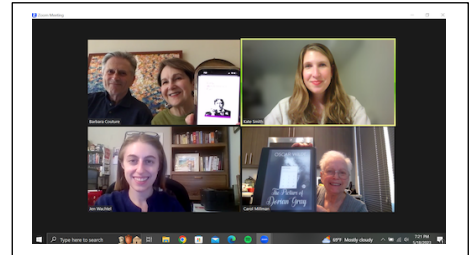
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## Upcoming and Recent Events

### Book Club News and Reviews

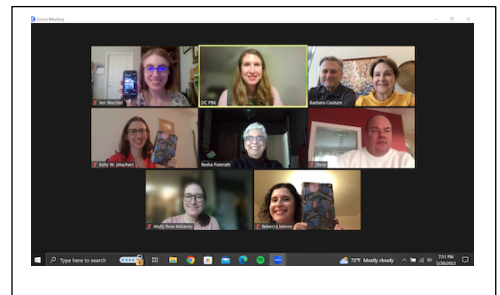
#### Mid-May Bonus Meeting:

On May 18, five members of the book club joined for a discussion of the Classic novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. The group was divided on enjoyment of this one, and we had a fascinating conversation on how characters' likeability can influence the reading experience. Wilde touches on many topics through the book's opinionated dialogue; men vs women, city vs country, artist, and muse, and we dove into how Wilde's own life and social circle may have influenced the book's focus and trajectory. We agreed the novel was also spookier than expected, with its nod to gothic horror.



#### May Meeting:

For our regular monthly pick, we met to discuss *The Cartographers* by Peng Shepherd. Most of the group felt that the first half of the book showed much promise, but ultimately did not resolve to a satisfying conclusion. It also raised discussion of how to manage expectations and reactions when you wish the author took a concept in a different direction, and to accept the story as presented. Shepherd does make cartography accessible and exciting, and juggles a large cast of characters adeptly and compellingly.



#### June Meeting:

**Tuesday, June 27, 6:30 PM, in person and online**

We are trying a bit of an experiment for this month- dual meetings, one in person and one online in Zoom. They will not overlap--different venues and discussion groups, but held at the same day and time for the same book. The different types are reflected in the "ticket" titles here on the event page, and the in-person meeting will be capped at 8 for this trial. This is to gauge interest in in person events, while leaving the online option for those who continue to prefer it. I (Kate) will facilitate the Zoom version, and have enlisted

the help of a book club regular to facilitate our in-person session at Sette Osteria in Dupont. Our in-person session is full at this time, but Zoom is open to anyone!

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2023/6/27/june-2023-dc-pbk-book-club-the-library-book-by-susan-orlean-nonfiction-317-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.

### **Fall Series Picks are Just Around the Corner**

The book club is in the middle of its semi-annual voting cycle, whereby members active with the group within the last six months recommend, and then vote in, our selections for the July-December Series. You will see an event announcement for July's meeting once the list is finalized.

I hope to see many of you there!

Happy reading,  
Kate Smith  
Book Club Coordinator

### **Coffee & Conversation Series**

**Tuesday, August 1, 6:30 PM, via Zoom**



Don't miss the next installment of Coffee & Conversation, for a discussion on modern Iran by **Amin Neshati**.

**Amin Neshati** was born in Tehran, Iran, in pre-revolutionary days. At the age of 10, he was sent to a boarding school in India, where several years later he applied for refugee status after the revolution of 1979 in his home country. In 1987 he moved to the U.S. to marry his American sweetheart, with whom he has two grown children. He worked for several years as an assistant and associate editor of the *Journal of Iranian Studies*. He also translated articles from Persian (Farsi) into English for inclusion in the *Encyclopædia Iranica*, the premier reference work on the Persianate world. He also worked for ten years at the FBI, serving as both translator and interpreter. Amin currently works as an analyst at PersuMedia, Inc., in Virginia,

where he monitors digital and social media relating to Iran, and provides written reports for the company's government and business clients. As a break from his demanding professional work, his hobbies include playing and refereeing soccer, playing table tennis, and noodling on guitar and bass.

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

Register Here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2023/8/1/coffee-conversation-with-amin-neshati>.

Zoom link forthcoming. Please direct your questions/comments to Niku Neshati, Outreach & Membership Coordinator: [membership@dcpbk.org](mailto:membership@dcpbk.org)

### **June Spanish Language Group**

Join us for our last Spanish Language Group meeting on **June 26 at 7:00 PM** at **Chaia Tacos** in Chinatown (615 I St NW, Washington, DC 20001). The meeting is open to all skill levels, but note that it 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 **June 26th at 7:00PM.**

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity. If you have any questions about the group or have trouble registering, please contact our new group leader, **Molly Rose Malaney** ([mollyrose048@gmail.com](mailto:mollyrose048@gmail.com)).

To RSVP: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2023/6/21/june-spanish-language-group>

### **High School Awards Celebration**

On May 21, our High School Awards recipients and their families gathered at the 2023 High School Awards reception to receive their awards and gift books, to meet each other and the Awards committee, and to enjoy an address by Prof. Jill Kasle from George Washington University. Dr. Kasle is a professor of constitutional law at the George Washington University and a long-time friend/member of Phi Beta Kappa; all the attendees enjoyed her poignant and practical remarks. The event was hosted by former President Christel MacDonald, who also provided useful remarks of advice to the awardees. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success, including former High School Awards Committee Chair Mackenzie Fusco.



**Dr. Kasle addressing guests**

In a special moment, one of the awardees reached out after the ceremony to thank us for "a wonderful awards ceremony that I will not soon forget. Your thoughtful remarks and personal book choice made me feel more seen and honored than I ever have."

### **Young Professionals (YP) Network**

#### **Contra Dancing with the YP Network**

The YP Network recently gathered at the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park for a **Contra and Square Dance Night**. We had a great time learning a new activity and, for some, practicing an old favorite. Plus, the **Spanish Ballroom**, with its glamorous 1933 Art Deco style, is an historic building with lots of character and charm.

Stay tuned for more opportunities with music, dance, and fun!

If you have any questions, please contact Reyna Yang at [reyna\\_yang@gwu.edu](mailto:reyna_yang@gwu.edu).



### **Announcements**

#### **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](https://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*