



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

September 2023

Connect with DCPBK Online!

"Like" the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association page and follow us on Twitter at @DCPhiBetaKappa!

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Upcoming and Recent Events

Special Event!

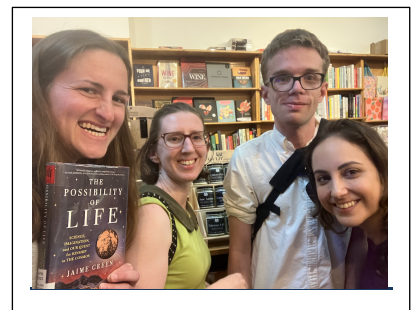
DCPBK 110th Anniversary

Calling all DCPBK Phi Betes! Did you know that DCPBK is celebrating its **110th anniversary** this year? The centennial celebration (held in 2013) honored our 100th anniversary; it featured a ceremonial banquet and exciting programming for our members to connect and learn about the rich history of the DC Phi Beta Kappa Association. If you would like to attend, and/or help to plan this event, please

complete [this Google form](#) by **Monday, September 25**. Event details are still being determined, and your input will help us put on a memorable event for you! Any questions, please reach out to vpmemberexperience@dcpbk.org.

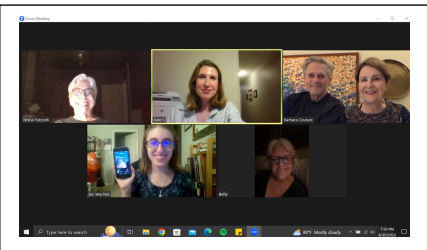
Book Club News and Reviews

For the next few months, the Book Club will be experimenting in a dual format every so often. We will always have a session on Zoom, and then on the same day at the same time, a separate in person discussion for a small group of 8 at Kramer's bookstore and cafe downtown. This location is very special to DC natives, and we've tried it out for the first time August 30. In person sessions are dependent on our volunteers' availability and will not happen every single meeting. Check each event listing for details.



August Meeting Recap

On August 30, the Book Club met in two different formats, on Zoom and in person at Kramers in Dupont Circle, to discuss the nonfiction selection ***The Possibility of Life: Science, Imagination, and our Quest for Kinship in the Cosmos*** by Jaime Green. Both groups found much to reflect on, and our discussions were enriched by the varied perspectives of our academic and professional backgrounds. We spoke at length of the timeline of scientific discovery vs. how we learn about accepted fact in



public education. The book is also a good reminder that even our imaginative theories of sentient life, as with everything, are constrained by what we experience here on Earth. Green drops references to popular science fiction media alongside a serious academic discussion, which despite some issues with pacing, made this book an enjoyable read.

September Meeting

Please join us on Thursday, September 28, at 6:30 PM to discuss our September selection, ***The Secret Gate: A True Story of Courage and Sacrifice During the Collapse of Afghanistan***, by Mitchell Zuckoff (Nonfiction) 336 pages. All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend. You can learn more about this compelling book at our website, **dcpbk.org**.

Please see the rest of our Fall Series list below!

- **Mid-October Bonus:** *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann (Nonfiction) 352 pages
- **October:** *Stolen* by Ann-Helén Laestadius (International, Sweden), 400 pages
- **November:** *Trust* by Hernan Diaz (Fiction) 416 pages
- **December:** *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway (Classic) 96 pages

Members who RSVP Yes on the website will receive the meeting link and login information in their registration confirmation email. Feel free to grab food and drink for the meeting, as we normally would.

I hope to see many of you there (on Zoom)!

Sincerely,
Kate Smith
Book Club Coordinator, DC PBK Association
bookclub@dcpbk.org

To Register:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2023/9/28/dc-pbk-september-book-club-meeting-the-secret-gate-a-true-story-of-courage-and-sacrifice-during-the-collapse-of-afghanistan-by-mitchell-zuckoff>

New! Coffee & Conversation Series with Dr. Leslie Sinn

DCPBK is excited to announce our third Coffee & Conversation Event for 2023!

Thursday, October 5, 6:30-7:30 PM via Zoom

Dr. Leslie Sinn, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist and doctor of veterinary medicine, heads the Veterinary Technician training program at Northern Virginia Community College, and has her own animal behavior firm in Loudon County, VA. Come hear her talk about her experiences working with animals and common behavior misconceptions! Bring questions about your own feline and canine companions!

Niku Neshati
Outreach & Membership Coordinator
Contact: membership@dcpbk.org

Young Professionals (YP) Network

The **YP Network** is becoming livelier all the time! We're jumping into fall with an exciting variety of fun programs, as noted below. You can also learn more about these opportunities on our website, dcpbk.org.

Upcoming Event

Museum Day!

Exploring the National Gallery of Art, Saturday, September 23, 10:00 AM

We will meet in front of the National Gallery West Wing (the original building), and enter when it opens at 10:00 AM (admission is free). Since this is one of the world's great museums, you could spend all day at the West Wing, *or* at the modern-art-themed East Wing. Whichever you choose, you can explore the various galleries by yourself, or join a small group. Then, around noon, we'll gather again to find a place for lunch. The National Gallery's restaurant is a possibility, but it is expensive and often crowded. However, there are many good restaurants in the blocks north of the National Mall, as well as several Metro stations.

To Register:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2023/9/23/wander-the-national-gallery>

Recent Events

(Mini-Golf and) General Amusements at The Perch

On Saturday, September 9, we gathered at The Perch in McLean, VA, where we enjoyed board and card games, and good companionship, even though thunderstorms prevented our planned round of mini-golf.

Hiking in Rock Creek Park, and Lunch Nearby

The following Saturday, August 26, we had a great time **hiking in Rock Creek Park**, The weather was excellent if a bit muggy, and it was fun to go from there to lunch at Paragon Thai in Cleveland Park..

Trivia Night at the Lost Generation Brewing Company

On Sunday, September 17, we enjoyed a variety of trivia games at the Lost Generation Brewing Company, where you can sample various versions of the current craze for all things interesting and unimportant. Could you be a contestant on *Jeopardy!* This was a fun activity for a group, but you can go there anytime and play.

Registration is free, but we will of course patronize the establishment.

Contact Campbell Nilsen campbell.nilsen@gmail.com) if you want to know more, be added to the semi-official DCPBK Whatsapp group (not only for young professionals), or suggest a potential event.

Announcements

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

2023-2024 Officers

PRESIDENT: Lindsay Osborne (University of Hawaii, 2021)
VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAPTER RELATIONS: Catherine Stallsmith (Elon University, 2022)
VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER EXPERIENCE: **OPEN**
SECRETARY: Clem Damon Moore (University of Mississippi, 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 Anderson (Lawrence University, 2009)—Past President
Kate H. Smith (Boston University, 2010)—Book Club Coordinator
Niku Neshati (George Mason University, 2018)—Membership and Outreach Coordinator
Rebecca DeSantis Randell (Washington College, 2016)—Past President

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: Campbell Nilsen (University of Oklahoma, 2017)
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