



# 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)

November 2023

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## Editor's Note:

Welcome to our streamlined "new look," and a change in our newsletter schedule. Beginning in January, 2024, the newsletter for a given month will be available on the first of that month, except that we're skipping December in order to get everything lined up properly. Thanks and have a glorious holiday season.

## Recent and Upcoming Events

### Book Club News and Reviews

#### Mid-October Meeting:

On October 19, eight book club members met to discuss *The Wager* by David Grann. We've selected quite a few buzzy, recently published books for this Fall, and Grann is certainly in the zeitgeist with the recent film adaptation of his work *Killers of the Flower Moon*. A harrowing, tightly woven account of the voyage, wreck, and subsequent struggle for survival of the crew of the RMS Wager, this one certainly gave us much to discuss. From the socio-political climate of the 18th century, the legacy of the British Navy, and the dismal conditions aboard transatlantic vessels, the details of the book are remarkable. It seems truly unbelievable anyone from the wreck made their way back to England, and Grann's use of primary source materials certainly transports the reader to these unlikely events in a compelling way.

#### October Meeting:

The following week, on October 24th, four of us gathered for an International selection, *Stolen* by Ann-Helén Laestadius. The group has read much fiction pertaining to Native Americans, and we drew many parallels between this account of the native Sámi reindeer herders and the cultural pride and hardships of modern indigenous people living in the U.S. Part thriller, part commentary on the institutionalized racism and climate change threatening native ways of life, the novel is a visceral and sweeping multi-generational perspective on a culture few of us were familiar with. Though we agreed the pacing could have used some work, we always welcome the perspective of our international authors. Four members of the book club also met in person at the same time as our Zoom meeting, at Boqueria in Dupont Circle, and we will



continue trialing this dual format in upcoming months. Thanks to Molly for facilitating!

### **November 2023 Meeting:**

Please join us on November 30 to discuss our November selection, ***Trust by Hernan Diaz (Fiction, 416 pages)***. All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend, on Zoom.

**November meeting** (Zoom only): <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2023/11/30/november-2023-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-trust-by-hernan-diaz>

**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!

The final selection for our Fall Series is below:

- **December: *The Old Man and the Sea*** by Ernest Hemingway (Classic) 96 pages

We are also currently in our voting cycle for the Spring 2024 Series. Members have sent in their recommendations, which I will compile for voting. In December, we will know our list that will take us from January-June.

Sincerely, Kate Smith  
Book Club Coordinator, DC PBK Association  
[bookclub@dcpbk.org](mailto:bookclub@dcpbk.org)

### **November Spanish Language Group**

Join us for our Spanish Language Group meeting on **November 14th at 6:30pm EST** at **District Taco Metro Center** (1309 F St NW, Washington, DC 20004). 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 **November 14th at 6:30pm EST**.

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity.

Please contact Molly Rose ([mollyrose048@gmail.com](mailto:mollyrose048@gmail.com) or 954-304-2907) if you have any questions about the group or have trouble registering.

**To Register:** <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2023/11/14/november-spanish-language-group>

### **Coffee & Conversation Series with Dr. Leslie Sinn**

DCPBK held its third **Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Leslie Sinn**, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and veterinary behaviorist based in Loudon County, VA. Dr. Sinn ran the Northern Virginia Community College veterinary technician program for 15 years--one of just 3 veterinary medicine programs in a state with some of the most rigorous standards nationally. She now owns and runs Behavior Solutions, an animal behavior firm for both domestic and exotic animals.

Dr. Sinn delivered a fascinating presentation about common dog behavior myths. She answered questions from our members about dog temperaments, dominance training, working with exotic animals (like elephants, llamas, or zebras) and much more. Stay tuned for details about the next C&C.

Niku Neshati  
Outreach & Membership Coordinator  
Contact: [membership@dcpbk.org](mailto:membership@dcpbk.org)

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

### **Recent and Upcoming Events**

After a fairly quiet October, the YP Network has a bevy of events coming up. We'll be doing a brunch at Founding Farmers in the city, and a board game afternoon this month, plus a hike in early December. Plans are also in the works to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in the early new year! Find out more in our YP newsletter.

Contact Campbell Nilsen [campbell.nilsen@gmail.com](mailto: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**

### **Opportunity to Serve as DCPBK Association President**

The DC Area PBK is looking for candidates for President, to begin in January 2024. Candidates must have prior experience serving on the board of a Phi Beta Kappa Association. The President is a member of the Executive Committee and leads quarterly Board meetings. Running the Board meeting consists of preparing an agenda and leading the discussion. Additionally, the President is responsible for answering inquiries directed to the Association and for sourcing volunteer positions, as well as hosting several key events throughout the year.

The President cannot serve more than two consecutive one year terms.

Detailed Duties and Responsibilities Include:

- Determine the main objectives and direction of the Association each year
- Select the date of and lead the quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board, which typically occur on weekends via Zoom, and send meeting invites to the board
- Set agenda topics and distribute drafts to board members and lead volunteers for input and revisions and circulate the finalized agenda a few days prior to the meeting
- Coordinate with the PBK National Society to provide us access to the PBK Headquarters building. Remind Bill one to two weeks prior to the meeting date
- Hold general knowledge of the various Association programs and processes
- Answer inquiries from members and/or volunteers, or refer questions to appropriate contact
- Source for open volunteer positions, including interviewing (along with another officer and the person who currently holds the role) and updating the website with the position details
- Work with two other board members (the nominating committee) to nominate members for the annual election

- Align with the National PBK Society on how to encourage new inductees to join their local association
- Safeguard the DC PBK President's silver ceremonial bowl
- The President may occasionally need to make key decisions and/or set new policies
- The President should also attend all annual events, if possible.

This is a busy but highly rewarding position, and we're eager to find the right candidate soon.

### **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**

### **2023-2024 Officers**

**PRESIDENT: (OPEN as of January 1, 2024) Lindsay Osborne** (University of Hawaii, 2021)

**VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAPTER RELATIONS: Catherine Stallsmith** (Elon University, 2022)

**VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER EXPERIENCE: Kyle Coen** (Colorado State University, 2001)

**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*