



# 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)

February 2017

### Connect with DC PBK Online!

"Like" the new DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association [page](#) and follow us on Twitter at [@DCPhiBetaKappa](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKappa)!

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## Upcoming Events

### Visit to the new National Museum of African American History and Culture

**What:** Self-guided tour of **The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)**

**When:** Saturday, February 25, 9:45 a.m. sharp

This event was greeted so enthusiastically that many people had to be put on a waiting list. However, for the lucky few who have tickets, here's some important information:

Because of the museum's popularity, it's crucial be on time! We will meet at the security checkpoint at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the museum, after which you can get your

ticket from Deirdre Lapin, who graciously made this visit possible. After the tour, you may want to try out their excellent café for lunch.

### Orchids at the Hirshhorn!

**What:** An extraordinary exhibit coordinated by the U.S. Botanic Garden, Smithsonian Gardens, and the Hirshhorn Museum

**When:** Saturday, March 18, 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** The Hirshhorn Museum on the National Mall

**Who:** Anyone who loves modern art, architecture, and *orchids*!

**How:** As at all the Smithsonian museums, admission is free, but we'd like to get an idea of who's coming.

We probably won't all stay together as we enjoy the exhibit, but let's meet as a group behind the security desk at 2:00pm. To register, please visit <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/348>.



**“Orchids: A MOMENT”** is a unique collaboration between the U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) and the Hirshhorn Museum. This 2017 Orchid Exhibition showcases more than 100 orchids in a limited-time display amidst the Hirshhorn’s unique architecture. Selected from the collections of both Smithsonian Gardens and the USBG, these stunning blooms are presented as colorful installations, constantly changing during the exhibition’s four-month run. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the exotic assemblage as a whole, as well as savoring each orchid as it stands in that moment. And you can always come back on your own to see more. Further details will be included in the March newsletter.

## **St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour with the Young Professionals Network**

**When:** Tuesday, March 14th, 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Where:** Fado Irish Pub, 808 7th St, Washington, DC 20001

**Who:** Young Professionals Network

**What:** Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the arrival of Spring with the DC Phi Beta Kappa Young Professionals Network at Fado Irish Pub! You're welcome to stop by for any length of time. Fado is located less than one block from the Gallery Place/Chinatown metro stop on the corner of 7th and H streets.

To learn more about Fado, please click here: <http://www.fadoirishpub.com/washington/happy-hour>.

To RSVP for the event, please click here: <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/349>

We look forward to seeing you soon!

## **Spring Fling—Mark Your Calendar!**

**What:** Annual welcome-spring event at the lovely home of Eddie and Rachel Eitches in McLean, Va.

**When:** Saturday, April 1, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

This always-popular event features good food and drink, lively conversation, and an outstanding local speaker, in a delightful setting. Look for full details in the March newsletter, but save the date now!

## **Recent Events**

### **Tour of the East Wing of the National Gallery**

On Saturday, February 4, nearly 30 Phi Betes and friends gathered at the newly renovated East Wing of the National Gallery for an engaging and informative tour about both the building and its revised collections. We were divided into two groups, the first one being led by the highly knowledgeable and enthusiastic **Diedre Tillery**. She described the difficulties faced by **I.M. Pei** in designing a building to fit an odd-shaped lot left over from another project, and the challenges of hanging the iconic **Calder** mobile, which weighs more than 1,000 pounds even though its final construction is of aluminum, where the artist had originally planned to make it in steel!



One of our tour groups up on the rooftop

Diedre then led us into the galleries, presenting a fascinating journey through modern art from the colorful, quasi-realistic paintings of **Matisse** to the muted-palette cubism of **Picasso** and **Braque**, and on to the development of abstract expressionism as seen in the works of **Jackson Pollack**, and more. In addition to technical details, she focused on each artist's

attempt to capture his emotions as he was painting (or sculpting) a particular person or object, or as he was simply expressing his emotions at that time, without reference to an object, like the abstract expressionists. We finished up with a brief excursion into pop art, and then went up to the new rooftop deck, which affords a great view of that side of the city, and irresistibly draws one to the whimsical 15-foot-high blue rooster, seen in the photo above. As we were leaving the roof, we met the second group, led by **Susan Van Nice**, who also thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

You can of course visit the museum at any time, but the tour added a new dimension of appreciation for those of us for whom modern art is somewhat strange and confusing.

## **Regular Events**

### **Book Club Meetings**

#### **January Book Club Meeting Recap**

The book club met on Tuesday, January 31st at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss ***Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad*** by Eric Foner, with 10 members in attendance. While some took issue with the narrative structure and writing style, all agreed it was a fresh look at New York City's participation in the Railroad during the decades leading up to the Civil War. The book challenges notions of a cohesive institution with clearly established routes of assistance, and highlights the dangers faced by both fugitive slaves and active abolitionists in a city with deep, pervasive economic ties to Southern states.

In February we will meet on Tuesday the 28th at Nagomi to discuss ***The Violent Bear it Away*** by Flannery O'Connor, one of our two Classics selections for the Spring/Summer book club series.

### **Selections for Spring 2017**

Here are the rest of our selections for the spring months; I've tried to assign books to months based on alternating page lengths, per feedback from the group:

March: ***A Gentleman in Moscow*** by Amor Towles, 480 pp., Fiction

April: ***The Martian Chronicles*** by Ray Bradbury, 256 ppp., Classic

May: ***The White Road: Journey Into an Obsession*** by Edmund de Waal, 401 pp., Nonfiction

June: ***Commonwealth*** by Ann Patchett, 336 pp., Fiction

**Kate Hannon** is our Book Club Coordinator; you can reach her at [bookclub@dcpbk.org](mailto:bookclub@dcpbk.org).

## **Announcements**

### **Open Volunteer Position**

#### **Fundraising Coordinator**

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association seeks a Fundraising Coordinator to help focus and renew our fundraising goals, to organize a potential fundraising campaign, and to manage any fundraising campaigns with which we decide to move forward. A detailed description of the position can be found

by visiting [www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions](http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions). To apply, please send your resume and a statement of interest to [volunteer@dcpbk.org](mailto:volunteer@dcpbk.org).

## **Board Meetings**

Meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, April TBD from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue, NW (just two blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro's Q Street exit).



From our January Board Meeting

## **Find Us on Social Media!**

Please be sure to “Like” the new [DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association page](#) on Facebook to follow our updates! You can also find us on LinkedIn, and follow us on our Twitter page at [@DCPhiBetaKappa!](#)

## **DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Board**

### **2016-2017 Officers**

**PRESIDENT: Elizabeth Marshall** (Lawrence University, 2009)

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Lubliner** (University of Oregon, 2006)

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**

**Carol Bontempo** (University of Connecticut, 1962)

**SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg**, (George Washington University, 2014)

**TREASURER: Pat Cascio** (Denison University, 1969)

### **Executive Committee Members**

**Mary Fay** (American University, 2012) – Past Second Vice President

**Chelsea Rubin** (Arizona State University, 2011)

**Eleanor Hudson** (Auburn University, 2015)

**David MacDonald** (University of Chicago, 2009)—Immediate Past President

**Sarah A. Neely** (Indiana University, 2009) – Mentorship Program Manager

**Kathryn A. Sullivan** (University of South Carolina, 2012)—High School Awards Chair

### **Advisory Council**

**Deirdre LaPin** (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President

**Christel G. McDonald** (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President

**Andy Steigman** (Princeton University, 1954)—Past President