



# 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)

May 2016

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## Upcoming Events

### Annual High School Awards Ceremony

**When:** Sunday, May 22, 2016—2:00-4:00pm

**Where:** Phi Beta Kappa Society Headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

**Guests Allowed:** Yes

**What:** Each year since 1974, the D.C. Area Phi Beta Kappa Association has recognized outstanding area high school seniors and awarded them a monetary scholarship to assist with their upcoming college tuition. The honorees are chosen for their sustained interest in the liberal arts and sciences, demonstrated love of learning, and civic responsibility. (Light refreshments will be provided.)

This year's High School Awards Ceremony speaker will be **Christel McDonald**, a past president of the Association, and current member of the Advisory Council. She will discuss the joys, surprises, and helpful nuggets that students can find by using the Library of Congress, and

how they can make it a wonderfully inviting place to visit during holidays and vacation times whenever they return to Washington, D.C.

It's truly exciting to meet these highly accomplished young people, hear their stories, and encourage them in their future plans. Following is a brief introduction to each of this year's outstanding awardees.

### Biographies of Award Recipients

**Joyce Zhou** lives in Boyds, Maryland, where she is a senior at Northwest High School in Germantown. Joyce is very active in extracurricular activities—she is a member of the debate team, participates in monthly forensics competitions, and is the captain of the Mock Trial club. Joyce is also very active in the sciences—she participates annually in the Chemathon chemistry competition and the Physics Olympics. Additionally, she leads an afterschool enrichment program called Kids Are Scientists Too at a local elementary school, where she organizes groups of high school students who teach younger students about science. Joyce is a member of the Rho Kappa Honor Society (Social Studies Honor Society), Spanish Honor Society, Forensics Honor Society, and the National Honor Society, for which she serves as Vice

President of Service, and oversees community service projects for the group. Joyce will attend the University of Maryland's Honors College in the fall, and plans to pursue a career in international relations.

**Brian Contreras** lives in Washington, D.C., and attends the School Without Walls, a humanities-centered public magnet high school. Brian is active in the Model UN, where he participates in both high school and collegiate conferences; WorldQuest, a national trivia competition on foreign and domestic policy; and the DC World Affairs Council, which works to promote intercultural understanding between youth from different nations. Additionally, he is Editor for Politics for his school newspaper and has founded an international relations-focused paper, for which he served as Editor-in-Chief. Brian also serves as Class President, is a student representative to the D.C. State Board of Education, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts, and is a lab assistant at the Carnegie Institute of Sciences. Brian will attend Stanford University in the fall to study political science, public policy, and journalism.

**Nadja Zakula-Kostadinova** attends T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia. She is a member of the National English Honors Society, for which she tutors other students in the school Writing Center, and participates in the Lawyer's Club, which led to an internship at the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse. Nadja serves her community through participation in the Best Buddies program, and as a volunteer at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, where she assists hospital staff and observes medical procedures. She has won first place at T.C. Williams' Science Fair—and third place in a regional competition—on a botany experiment that examined the role of synthetic and organic fertilizers on the growth and health of plants. Nadja currently interns for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and is a newsletter editor at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Nadja plans to become a doctor, focusing on global public health. She will attend New York University in the fall.

Please join us to recognize our 2016 High School Awards winners. To RSVP, email [awards@dcpbk.org](mailto:awards@dcpbk.org).

## **DCPBK Annual Meeting**

We're now putting the final touches on our plans for the Association's Annual Meeting in June. This will include lunch at a local restaurant, a well-known speaker, and the installation of the DCPBK Officers and Executive Committee for the coming year. You'll find specifics about the event in our next issue, but **please vote now**, using the ballot on the last page of this newsletter.

## **Recent/Regular Events**

### **Local PBK Induction Ceremonies**

As in past years, DCPBK will make its presence felt at the Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremonies conducted by eight area colleges and universities. At each of the ceremonies, a member of our Association—most often, a member of the DCPBK Board—is given the opportunity to speak to new inductees, and to urge them to seek out and join their local association wherever they live or work, as a way of making PBK membership something beyond a line on a resume, a wedding announcement, or an obituary. Each of the colleges and universities also kindly distributes a letter from the DCPBK President to each inductee—a letter that delivers the same message.

As this issue of the Newsletter goes to press, DCPBK has been represented by **Patricia Bell** at Trinity University (her alma mater); by **Liz Marshall** at Howard University; by **Andy Steigman** at American University; and by **Carol Bontempo** at Catholic University. Look for a further report in the next issue.

## **Book Club Meetings**

Our April book selection was *The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Debra Dean, and all eleven members in attendance agreed that it was our best pick so far in the Spring series. Equal parts art appreciation and emotional portrayals of the Siege of Leningrad in World War II—one of the most difficult times in recent Russian history—it's a must-read for lovers of historical fiction.

Our book choice for May is *Night Film* by Marisha Pessl. We will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 24, at our usual spot, Nagomi Izakaya, 1990 M Street NW, in the District. At this meeting, we will vote on book selections for the Summer/Fall 2016 Book Club series.

Our final choice for the Club's Spring 2016 series is:

June: *To Live* by Yu Hua

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

## **YP Happy Hour at La Tasca**

Where: La Tasca: 722 7th St, NW, Washington, DC 20001

When: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 from 6-8pm.

To RSVP: <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/306>

Please join the DC PBK for our next Happy Hour at la Tasca where you can enjoy happy hour specials until 7pm. We will be meeting in our own reserved space next to the downstairs bar.

## **Announcements**

### **Open Volunteer Positions**

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association currently has several volunteer positions that need to be filled as soon as possible. You'll find brief descriptions below, and complete details on our website. We need your help to keep the Association thriving, and serving well the needs of its members.

#### **Website Consultant**

DC PBK seeks a volunteer **Website Consultant** to update our Drupal-based website and overhaul the databases maintained on the website. The website is essential to publicizing our organization, its mission, programs, past and future events, photos, and newsletters as well as tracking our membership. A detailed description of the position can be found by visiting [http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions#Website Consultant](http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions#Website%20Consultant).

#### **Membership and Outreach Coordinator**

DC PBK seeks a **Membership and Outreach Coordinator** to make sure the Association maintains up-to-date and accurate information on our membership and to assist in drafting and sending out messages

to members and prospective members. A detailed description of the position can be found by visiting [www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions](http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions).

### **Evaluation Coordinator, DC PBK Mentorship Network**

The DC PBK Mentorship Network team seeks an **Evaluation Coordinator** to lead the development of an evaluation plan for the program. 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 [mentorship@dcpbk.org](mailto:mentorship@dcpbk.org).

### **Board Meetings**

Meetings of the DCPBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The next meeting will take place on July 9, from 2:00-5:00pm at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue, NW (just two blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro's Q Street exit).

### **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!](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKappa)

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

### **2015-2016 Officers**

**PRESIDENT: Elizabeth Marshall** (Lawrence University, 2009)  
**1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Lubliner** (University of Oregon, 2006)  
**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Mary Fay**  
(American University, 2012)  
**SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg** (George Washington University), 2014  
**TREASURER: Pat Cascio** (Denison University, 1969)

### **Executive Committee Members**

**Carol Bontempo** (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor  
**Chazz Clevinger** (UNC Chapel Hill, 2009)  
**David MacDonald** (University of Chicago, 2009)—Immediate Past President  
**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

## **BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Please return this ballot page, no later than June 6, 2016, to:

Treasurer, DC PBK  
8601 Burdette Road  
Bethesda MD 20817

Or, you may send your responses by email to: [Treasurer@dcpbk.org](mailto:Treasurer@dcpbk.org)

### **BALLOT**

#### **2016-2017 Executive Committee**

##### **Officers:**

- PRESIDENT:** Elizabeth Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009), incumbent
- FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:** Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)
- SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:** Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)
- TREASURER:** Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969), incumbent
- SECRETARY:** Dan Rosenberg (George Washington University, 2014)

##### **At-large Executive Committee Members:**

Vote for up to six.

- Mary Fay (American University, 2012)
- David MacDonald (University of Chicago, 2009), past President
- Sarah Neely (Indiana University 2009)
- Kathryn Sullivan (University of South Carolina, 2012), High School Awards Chair
- Eleanor Hudson (Auburn University, 2015)
- Cecily Garber (Dartmouth College, 2003)

I would like to vote for the following write-in candidate(s), for the office of:

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