



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

April 2016

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Upcoming Events

Annual High School Awards Ceremony

When: Sunday, May 22, 2016—2:00pm to 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. You can learn more about the High School Awards [here](#) and about past recipients [here](#). (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 Board. 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 when they return home 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. Please join us to recognize our 2016 High School Awards winners. To RSVP, email awards@dcpbk.org.

Recent/Regular Events

Annual Spring Fling, with Lecture by Trinity University President Patricia McGuire

On April 3, our annual Spring Fling was graced by the presence of **Dr. Patricia McGuire**, President of Trinity University, in the Brookland area of Washington, along with several faculty members and alumnae. We warmly welcome academic colleagues to our events, and these women were an integral part of the afternoon's discussion, as follows.

In order to address the problems and challenges in higher education today, Dr. McGuire gave us an illustrative and highly engaging account of her own university's history and mission.

Toward the end of the 19th Century, some scrappy nuns, of the Sisters of Notre Dame, decided that there should be a women's college in the District. Predictably, they met with heavy opposition from their all-male superiors, but they persisted, and they prevailed, establishing Trinity College in 1897. Ever since then, the school has been giving young women a solid grounding in the liberal arts, to prepare them for professional careers. But its special focus rests on those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In fact, its Women's College division, whose 1,000 students comprise more than half of the student body, is made up almost entirely of international and inner-city students. Trinity faculty and staff are dedicated to affirming the value and potential of these women, many of whom have never before heard that they could "amount to something."



With a liberal-arts-based curriculum, along with several professional career paths, Trinity can claim an impressive roster of outstanding graduates, such as Nancy Pelosi and Kathleen Sebelius. In addition, two members of our Association are Trinity grads, and several others have attended women's colleges.



Many thanks once again to our hosts, **Eddie and Rachel Eitches**, whose splendid art-filled home is such a delightful setting for this always-popular annual event.

Book Club Meetings

The March 2016 PBK Book Club was held on Wednesday, March 30th, with 6 members in attendance. The month's selection was ***The Pearl That Broke its Shell*** by Nadia Hashimi, a novel depicting everyday life for women in Afghanistan both at the start of the 20th century and, in a parallel story line, modern day. Our PBK group was disheartened to see how little has changed for women in terms of their choices and challenges. The discussion touched upon Afghan culture, U.S. military involvement and nation building, and challenges for women personally and professionally throughout the world.

Our April 2016 book club pick is ***The Madonnas of Leningrad***, by Debra Dean, a compelling story of resourcefulness and redemption, centered around the workers at the Hermitage museum, during World War II.

We will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, April 26th, at our usual spot, Nagomi Izakaya, 1990 M Street NW, in the District.

Upcoming selections for the PBK Club's Spring 2016 series include:

May: *Night Film* by Marisha Pessl
June: *To Live* by Yu Hua

Kate Hannon is our Book Club Coordinator, and you can reach her at bookclub@dcpbk.org.

Association News

DC PBK Member Joins National PBK Staff—Congratulations, Amanda!



Amanda DiMartini, Social Media Manager for DC PBK, was recently hired by The Phi Beta Kappa Society national office as their new Social Media Specialist. Amanda has been volunteering in the position with the DC Area Association since the fall of 2014, and is thrilled to transition her part-time passion into a new full-time career.

Amanda graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Denison University with communication and theatre majors in 2013, and moved to DC afterward for a year-long internship in Outreach and Marketing with

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. Her passion for social media grew in that position, and she became involved with the DC Area Association as a way to take advantage of her recent membership, gain experience, and liaise with fellow Phi Betes in a new city.

“I think that one of the reasons I stood out as a candidate for this new position was my involvement with the DC Association. I had the unique perspective of working on the Association side that I could then bring to the national office, as well as an already vested interest in Phi Beta Kappa and the kinds of content Phi Betes would be interested in.” As the Society’s new Social Media Specialist, she is now helping to grow the Society’s presence across social media platforms, create unique digital content, build member engagement, and assist in editing the Society’s monthly e-newsletters and web content.

The Key Reporter covers our Renwick Gallery Tour!

We were pleasantly surprised to find a glowing article of our Renwick Gallery tour in the most recent issue of the national Society’s *Key Reporter*. It began by profiling the current exhibit, *Wonder*, in which nine featured artists created beautiful, site-specific works that are spread throughout the two-story gallery.

About 40 DC PBK members attended the tour. Their various backgrounds, interests, and occupations led to a number of different impressions of the exhibit. The article highlighted the impressions of four of our members:

Pat Cascio, the DC PBK Treasurer, and **Deirdre LaPin**, a member of the Advisory Council, both enjoyed the construction *Shindig*, but in different ways. Pat thought the intertwined willow pods were like “dancers caught in mid-whirl,” and found it exhilarating to be surrounded by the art. Deirdre, on the other hand, said that the “flowing hut-like structures” appealed to her because they reminded her of the many African villages she has lived in or visited, especially in their vital connectedness. However, all

agreed that the exhibition is aptly named, because there is an underlying, shared sense of wonder to it all.

Pat Cascio described wonder as something that “implies an openness to perception that permits new concepts to form, while **Daniel Rosenberg**, our interim Board Secretary, defined wonder as “something that inspires a sense of inspiration.” Dan also commented on the communal aspect of the experience, as well as the benefits he enjoys as a member of the Association. He appreciates the opportunity to meet “incredible people,” and the group’s spirit of lifetime learning.

Finally, **Paul Lubliner**, a past Association President, and current DC PBK Young Professionals coordinator, summed it up like this:

“All of the exhibits displayed, when broken down into their most basic components, seem like mundane everyday objects or specimens, whether man-made or natural. Whether it is a piece of string, a piece of rubber, or a bug—we tend to take these things for granted. It takes vision and curiosity to take the ordinary and give it meaning and make it inspiring. The creators of these exhibits did this with such aesthetic talent that it provokes a sense of wonder. Their work captures our attention and functions as a gateway to contemplate either consciously or unconsciously what makes us human and what is important to us. The Wonder Exhibition is paradoxical then—it both elevates and grounds us, and makes us grateful for what we are given in life. It is in small essence a catalyst for learning to help us achieve our great potential.”

We truly appreciate being included in the *Key Reporter*, and encourage all our members to see this “wonder-full” special exhibit before it closes on May 8. The full article can be found at:

<http://www.keyreporter.org/PbkNews/PbkNews/Details/1896.html>

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.

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. To apply, please send your resume and a statement of interest to 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 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue, NW (just two blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro's Q Street exit).

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)
2ND 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