



# 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)

*March 2018*

### Connect with DC PBK Online!

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## Upcoming Events

### Spring Fling, with a presentation of the Apollo 11 Traveling Show

**What:** Annual welcome-spring event with special speaker

**When:** Saturday, April 7, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

**Who:** All local Phi Beta Kappa members and friends

**Where:** The spectacular home of Eddie and Rachel Eitches on Old Chesterbrook Road in McLean, VA; you will receive the specific address when you RSVP.

Always a highlight of the Association year, this year's Spring Fling will feature Kathrin Halpern of the **Smithsonian's Apollo 11 traveling show**; you can learn more about it by going to this article:

[https://www.airspacemag.com/daily-planet/apollo-11-artifacts-](https://www.airspacemag.com/daily-planet/apollo-11-artifacts-go-tour-180962247)

[go-tour-180962247](https://www.airspacemag.com/daily-planet/apollo-11-artifacts-go-tour-180962247)

**Directions:** Take the G.W. Parkway to the exit for Route 123, going toward McLean. Get to the left *immediately*, and take a quick left onto Kirby Road (the first intersection). Go a couple miles to the light where Kirby crosses Old Dominion Drive (the first light); just after the overpass, take the first right onto Old Chesterbrook Road. The **Eitches' home** is several blocks down on the right, just after you pass a house that looks as if it's falling over. Street parking is generally easy; optionally, there is a bus from Ballston Metro that will take you to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and it's a very short walk from there.

**How:** RSVP by April 1 to [www.dcpbk.org/Events/402](http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/402).

**Cost:** This year, the Eitches will provide Balducci's pizza, as well as beer, wine, and soft drinks, with a cost to you of \$10.00 each—and you won't need to bring anything. See you there!

## High School Awards Ceremony

**What:** High School Awards Ceremony with special speaker

**When:** Saturday, May 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Who:** All local Phi Beta Kappa members and friends

**Where:** Phi Beta Kappa Society Headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009

This year our High School Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2018, from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Phi Beta Kappa Society Headquarters. We'll enjoy meeting the students and their families and presenting their awards. At the ceremony, we also will host former U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Miriam K. Hughes, who will share with our award winners her candid and pragmatic leadership principles and highlights of her career achievements. Light refreshments will be served.

At this time, we also encourage members to make a contribution to the High School Awards Program, which is funded by the generous donations of our members. Donors who make a contribution of \$50 or more will be acknowledged in the High School Awards Ceremony program and on the website. For instructions on how to make a donation, click on the "Contribute" tab on the [High School Awards page](#). To find out more, please contact Kat Sullivan, High School Awards Program Manager, at [ksullivan1212@gmail.com](mailto:ksullivan1212@gmail.com).

**How:** RSVP at [www.dcpbk.org/Events/402](http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/402).

## **Upcoming Book Club Meetings**

### **March**

On Tuesday, March 27, the group will again meet at Nagomi Izakaya, to discuss ***American Nations: A Cultural History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*** by Colin Woodard (Nonfiction, 371 pages).

All DCPBK members are invited to attend, and to bring along any books you're looking to clean out, so that we can try to find new homes for them within the group.

The remainder of the spring schedule is below:

**April:** ***The Autobiography of Malcolm X*** by Malcom X as told by Alex Haley (Classic, 466 pages)

**May:** ***Never Let Me Go*** by Kazuo Ishiguro (Fiction, 288 pages)

**June:** ***The Satanic Verses*** by Salman Rushdie (Classic, 561 pages)

Please contact **Kate Hannon** at [bookclub@dcpbk.org](mailto:bookclub@dcpbk.org) with your comments or questions.

## **Young Professionals Network**

The Young Professionals network will be sponsoring its annual **Spring Happy Hour** at the Irish Restaurant & Pub in Chinatown on Thursday, March 29, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Enjoy an evening of drinks, good food, and great company. Guests are welcome! To RSVP, please visit [www.dcpbk.org/Events/401](http://www.dcpbk.org/Events/401).

Feedback is always welcome. If you have suggestions or ideas for future events, please email Dan Rosenberg, YP Network Coordinator, at [dmborg8@gmail.com](mailto:dmborg8@gmail.com).

## **Coffee with YP Network Leadership:**

New to DC? Interested in learning more about the city, the events we host, or just looking to meet new people? Members of the **YP Network** leadership are available to meet with Young Professionals who are new to the Washington, DC area for coffee. Please email Dan Rosenberg, YP Network Coordinator, at [dmborg8@gmail.com](mailto:dmborg8@gmail.com) for more information or to schedule a coffee meeting.

## **Recent Events**

### **Tour of U.S. Botanic Garden, featuring the annual Orchid Show.**

On Saturday, March 17, some 16 Phi Betes and friends enjoyed the warmth and beauty of the Botanic Garden, gorgeously decked out in thousands of orchids of every imaginable kind. We were treated to an excellent tour by our friendly and knowledgeable docent, Monica Amparo, whose interactive approach made the learning even more pleasant. She began by giving us a useful mnemonic for remembering the vital role plants play in nearly all parts of our lives:

- **P** is for photosynthesis
- **L** stands for the leaves, roots, and stems of most plants' architecture
- **A** is for animals, and their varied, important interactions with plants
- **N** reminds us that plants are necessary in many ways, and encourages us to learn and appreciate them more
- **T** spells trouble for plants, mainly from climate change, invasive species, and habitat degradation and destruction
- **S**, finally, is the sunlight and water without which no living things can survive.

Building on these parameters, Monica led us through the entire Conservatory, pointing out the diverse ways that plants adapt to various habitats, from the American desert to a tropical rain forest, with particular emphasis on orchids, and ended with an extensive Q & A time.

The Orchid Show runs through April 8, and we recommend it to everyone.



### **Guided Tour of the National Museum of Women in the Arts**

On Saturday, February 24, fifteen PBK members and their guests met for a guided tour of the **National Museum of Women in the Arts**. The ornate building, originally a Masonic temple, now houses an impressive and diverse collection of some 4,500 artworks by women, spanning the centuries from the late Elizabethan era to the present day. Our docent, Sarah, led us through the highlights of the portraits in the museum's collection. She encouraged us to think about what makes a portrait a portrait—is it a face? Is it the essence of a person? We learned about painters, photographers, and other creative women, including Alice Bailey, one of Switzerland's most radical modern painters of the early 20th century, admiring her



experimentation with Cubism in her self-portrait, where she used highly defined elements like her monocle to structure the more ambiguous spaces of the painting. Our final example was a marble sculpture of a dying sailor in his mother's arms, reminiscent of Michelangelo's Pieta.

For some of us, it was our first time seeing the NMWA. We had a great time exploring the museum, and look forward to future visits!

### **Book Club**

On Tuesday, February 27, five members of the Book Club gathered to discuss the international bestseller *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk. The novel depicts life in the Turkish border town of Kars, where personalities and ideologies converge in a burst of political violence during a blizzard that temporarily cuts the town off from the outside world. We discussed the novel's portrayal of the clash between secularism and political Islam, Turkey's unique geopolitical standing, gender, emigration, and the West. We noted the author's deft lack of judgment, his refusal to weigh in on topics with no easy answer, given the town's complex political and socio-economic undercurrents. We closed the discussion by reflecting on current events, and whether our reactions to the story would have differed had we first discussed it back in 2003 upon its original publication.



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

On March 8, a group of Young Professionals gathered at the Shakespeare Theatre Company to watch the popular play, *Noura*, which centers around an Iraqi-American family in New York that recently gained American citizenship. As they prepare to celebrate their first Christmas, they welcome a special guest, Maryam, a young Iraqi refugee, who forces them to confront where they are, where they've been, and who they have become. The play also examines our notions of motherhood, marriage, and the meaning of home. [from the Shakespeare Theatre Company website]

## **Announcements**

### **2018 DC PBK High School Awards Program Now Accepting Applications**

Do you know high school student in the DC area with an outstanding academic record and strong community involvement? The **DC PBK High School Awards Program** began accepting applications in February.

Interested applicants can apply [here](#) by filling out the application and submitting a personal statement in response to the prompt: *ΦBK is the Greek initials of the motto "Love of learning is the guide of life." Please describe the impact that learning—especially in the liberal arts and sciences—has had on your life thus far, and how you anticipate that a college education will further your goals.* The application period will close on April 30, 2018, and award winners will be notified by early May.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact the High School Awards Committee Chair, **Kathryn Sullivan**, at [awards@dcpbk.org](mailto:awards@dcpbk.org).



## **Open Volunteer Positions**

### **Fundraising Committee Members**

In order to implement a new fundraising strategy, the DCPBK Association is looking for the following four roles to be filled (one person may fill more than one role, as appropriate):

- Individual who reaches out to donating members and posts/sends out perks as part of “perk-based member showcase campaign”
- One who can identify which LinkedIn features to employ for building “member exchange and networking platform”
- One who can identify which is the best highly-visible platform for presenting “large” donors, be it on the LinkedIn group, a separate email outlet, or the website’s main page (or a combination)
- Web designer to implement web features needed for the above steps.

Applicants should be members of DCPBK in good standing, and should have experience in outreach to community members, community engagement, utilization of social media platforms for outreach, and web-designing skills. If you are interested in any of these positions, please visit our website at [www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions](http://www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions) or send an email to [volunteer@dcpbk.org](mailto:volunteer@dcpbk.org).

### **Events & Communications Coordinator, DC PBK Mentorship Network**

The Mentorship Network team is seeking an **Events & Communications Coordinator**. The Coordinator is responsible for designing a monthly newsletter for program participants and planning up to four networking events per year. This position is perfect for someone who wants to gain experience in external communications (and it’s a lot of fun!). To learn more or apply, please send your resume and a statement of interest to Erica Hwang ([kyuryung@gmail.com](mailto:kyuryung@gmail.com)).

### **Mentorship Network Updates**

We are also still looking for an Events & Communications Coordinator. Please contact Erica Hwang at [mentorship@dcpbk.org](mailto:mentorship@dcpbk.org) for questions regarding the position or the mentorship program.

### **Executive Board Meetings**

The quarterly meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The winter meeting was held on Saturday, April 15, 2018 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue. All PBK members are welcome to attend.

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

Please be sure to “Like” the 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 [@DCPhiBetaKapp](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKapp).

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

### **2017-2018 Officers**

**PRESIDENT: Nina Kuo** (Duke University, 2012)  
**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Lubliner** (University of Oregon, 2006)  
**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**  
**Sallie Dehler** (University of Florida, 2011)  
**SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg,** (George Washington University, 2014)  
**TREASURER: Pat Cascio** (Denison University, 1969)

### **Executive Committee Members**

**Carol Bontempo** (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor  
**David MacDonald** (University of Chicago, 2009)—Past President  
**Elizabeth Marshall** (Lawrence University, 2009)—Immediate Past President  
**Kate Hannon** (Boston University, 2010)—Book Club Coordinator  
**Erica Hwang** (University of Hawaii, 2009)—Mentorship Program Manager

### **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