



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org
suggestions@dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Connect with DC PBK Online!

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

Upcoming Events for the Fall Season!

While the weather is getting cooler, our upcoming events will continue to be hot! Visit our website in order to stay posted on our plans for Association events in the DC area!

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Recent Event

Young Professionals (YP) Network DC PBK Key Connections Event a Hit!

On September 9, more than 65 recent graduates and inductees of Phi Beta Kappa met at Penn Quarter over tacos and beers in a lively meet and greet. Topics of discussion ranged from their career ambitions in the DMV area to their favorite books and artists. Most of the attendees are new to the DC area and expressed a strong desire to stay involved

with the DC PBK chapter. Members of the Board were present to talk to these new members and tell them of all the ways they can remain involved in the organization. We thank the National PBK Society for sponsoring these newcomers' events and look forward to growing our organization!

Key Connections is a national initiative of the **Phi Beta Kappa Society**, and Phi Beta Kappa Associations across the country host their own Key Connection events in early September, to reach out to and welcome the recent college graduates to their new cities.



Upcoming Events

YP Network

Trivia Night

Calling all trivia enthusiasts! On Tuesday, September 24th, the YP Network will be returning to Hawk 'n' Dove in Capitol Hill for **Trivia Night**. Last time we went as a group in May, we earned FIRST place, and we thus have an unused \$25 gift certificate we can apply toward drinks/appetizers.

Trivia starts at 8:00 p.m., but we'd like everybody to arrive by 7:15 p.m. to meet each other beforehand and to ensure that we get a table! Guests are encouraged and welcome to attend.

To sign up, please click [here](#). We look forward to seeing you soon!

Professional Headshot Event and Reception

Have an outdated headshot? In need of a new one for LinkedIn or work? The DC PBK Association is pleased to announce that we will offer 50 members an opportunity to **get their professional headshots taken** on October 30th at 6:30 p.m.

We hired a professional photographer who will take three portraits of each member (from the right, left, and center). The \$11.50 registration cost will cover the three portraits as well as the additional fees associated with touching up the portraits. Our photographer has previously taken headshots and photos for students and faculty at many law schools, including Georgetown and Harvard, and a portrait for one of the former presidents of The George Washington University. The headshots will be available digitally a few days after the event. We'll have light refreshments available, and welcome members to stay around for a reception.

The **Phi Beta Kappa Society** (national organization for Phi Beta Kappa) has generously offered its headquarters for our event. The splendid Victorian house that serves as their HQ is located at 1606 New Hampshire Ave., NW, DC 20009, just two blocks from the Dupont Circle North Metro station.

To sign up, please click [here](#). If you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to contact Dan Rosenberg at dberg8@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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 dberg8@gmail.com for more information or to schedule a coffee meeting.

Book Club Reviews and News

The Book Club met twice in August, once on the 15th and again on the 21st. The 15th meeting was the first of our bonus meetings in the Fall 2019 series. Six members of the book club discussed *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"* by Zora Neale Hurston, author of the classic *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Compiled by Hurston following a series of

interviews, these firsthand reflections recount the experience of Cudjo Lewis, who was captured in Africa and forcibly transported to the U.S. South, five decades after the Atlantic slave trade was outlawed. We reflected on the reasons for, and impact of, the delayed publishing of this narrative, which appeared on shelves only in 2018, almost a century after Hurston's initial interviews with Lewis. For many of us, this book's most impactful contribution to our shared history was not his reflection on his time as a slave, which was relatively brief. Rather, his descriptions on the inter-tribal violence that led to his capture in Africa, and the consequences of the slavery-based economy and racism in the U.S. following the Civil War, were incredibly compelling and drove most of our discussion. We reflected that many of the post-Emancipation injustices he recounts echo in more contemporary narratives such as our June selection *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas, including race-based police violence, and unequal economic opportunity and judicial recognition.



We followed up our bonus book on the 21st with the nonfiction selection ***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism***, by Robin DiAngelo. At Cafe Deluxe twelve members of the book club met for a candid, introspective discussion of the recent work. Also published in 2018, *Fragility* implores white readers to consider the ways their everyday attitude, statements, and actions contribute to and perpetuate institutional, systematic racism. We concurred that DiAngelo is strongest when making visible the ways



that mainstream culture and power structures stereotype, mute, and otherwise qualify the voices and experiences of people of color. While we felt her arguments bordered on repetitive, she succeeded within our group to get us thinking differently about the definitions of culturally loaded terms such as prejudice, discrimination, and racism, and to advance our goals to more productively engage with others on the topic at hand.

On Tuesday, September 24th the group will meet downtown at our usual spot, Nagomi Izakaya, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the science fiction novel ***The Three-Body Problem*** by Liu Cixin, 400 pages.

Fall 2019 Book Club Selections

October 2019: *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson, 208 pages

Bonus Mid-October 2019: *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf, 194 pages

November 2019: *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II* by Sonia Purnell, 368 pages

December 2019: *The Dead* by James Joyce (short story within the collection *The Dubliners*, by Joyce, total collection 207 pages)

Note on Book Club Meeting-Attendee Cap

In order to ensure quality discussions, Book Club meetings are now limited to 18 attendees. Any more and meaningful group interaction becomes more difficult, even when split into smaller groups, and the restaurant that hosts us so graciously has asked us to cap it there. Please be sure to register early, and update your RSVP if you are later unable to attend, to make sure that everyone has a chance to participate.

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.

To learn more about our events, please visit: <http://www.dcpbk.org/Events>, and contact **Kate Hannon** at bookclub@dcpbk.org with your comments or questions.

Announcements

Mentorship Network

We're excited to launch the next cycle of our popular mentorship program, which seeks to provide Association members the opportunity to connect one-on-one, share professional and academic advice, and expand their connections within the DC PBK community. The **DC Mentorship Network** will offer a six-month structured mentoring program with opportunities for peer mentoring and young professional-to-experienced professional relationships. Participants receive resources such as a handbook, mentorship agreement template, regular newsletters, and the opportunity to meet others in the program at a special **MentorMix** event.

How to apply

The application for mentees has closed, but we are in search of mentors!

We have a number of eager mentees waiting to be matched, so please consider signing up to be a mentor! We're looking for mentors of all backgrounds and industries.

If you are interested in being a mentor, please email Rebecca DeSantis at mentorship@dcpbk.org, and please include your job title and a little about your background. We're eager to hear from you.

If you have any questions, please contact Program Coordinator **Rebecca DeSantis** at mentorship@dcpbk.org.

Open Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? Our board is currently putting together numerous committees to help organize events, raise funds, and engage with our membership, as well as getting more members involved who may be interested in growing into leadership roles. We especially would like to hear from interested candidates for the following roles:

- **Newsletter Co-Editor**
- **Membership and Outreach Lead Coordinator**

For more information, please email **Breann Watt** at president@dcpbk.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Executive Board Meetings

The quarterly meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The Fall meeting will be held on Saturday, October 19 from 10:30 a.m-1:30 p.m., (note revised place and time) at a Board Member's home in Arlington (Ballston area). If you wish to attend, please see details on our website. 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 @DCPhiBetaKappa.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2019-2020 Officers

PRESIDENT: Breann Watt (University of California Riverside, 2011)
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2015)
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Vacant
SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg, (George Washington University, 2014)
TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)—Immediate Past President
Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)—Past President
Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor
Elizabeth Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)—Past President
Kate Hannon (Boston University, 2010)—Book Club Coordinator

Advisory Council

Deirdre LaPin (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President
Christel G. McDonald (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President