



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org
suggestions@dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

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Upcoming Events

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Lunch Just for Fun

For our members who enjoy getting together "just for lunch" - and "a parking space right in front of the restaurant" - please join our Past President Christel McDonald at DeCarlo's, an Italian restaurant (Diane Rehm's favorite!) for conversation and good food.

Location: DeCarlo's Restaurant ([website](#))
4822 Yuma Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

Dates: January 23, 2020 (weather permitting)

March 26, 2020

May 28, 2020

Please email Christel at chrisjohnmcdon@aol.com a week beforehand to let her know you are coming and she will reserve a table. Each guest will pay their own bill.

The parking is to the left of DeCarlo's in a garage or to the right of it in an alley.



Recent Events

Annual Holiday Potluck



On Sunday, December 8, more than 60 DC Phi Betes donned their festive sweaters and gathered for our annual holiday celebration at the PBK national office near Dupont Circle.

With a balance of returning and new DCPBK members, party-goers of all backgrounds shared their cooking and baking skills, drinks, and stories as new connections were made. Breann Watt, DCPBK President, kicked off a successful White Elephant book exchange--several titles were highly recommended among the group, including: *My Life in France* by Julia Child, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, and the classic *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy.

Special thanks to Hunter and volunteers Bailey DeSimone, Cyrus Buckman, Brynn Poppe, Allison O'Connor, and Tran Doan for their assistance in making this such a memorable occasion. We wish you a happy and safe holiday season, and hope to see you at our next DCPBK event!

Please direct any questions to Hunter at rsvp@dcpbk.org.

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Upcoming YP Network Events

Intramural Sports

This winter the YP Network will be fielding an intramural soccer team, which will begin on February 12th alternating Mondays and Wednesdays at the University of DC gymnasium. If you would like to join as a sub or are interested in coming to a game to cheer us on, please email Dan Rosenberg at dberg8@gmail.com.

Please continue to check the newsletter for information about upcoming events in 2020, which include Curling and Cocktails at the Wharf, more Happy Hours, an escape room challenge, and many other activities or festivals that are unique to DC. If you have any ideas or suggestions for events, please feel welcome to reach out to Dan Rosenberg at dmborg8@gmail.com.

Additionally, if you are interested in receiving emails from the YP Network distribution list, please click "young professionals" as an interest on your profile in the DC PBK website. Information about upcoming events is usually sent out via this listserv before it makes it into the monthly newsletter.

Recent Events

Jingle All the Way 5K

On a crisp and cold December morning, 2 Phi Betes participated in the annual **Jingle All the Way** 5k race around the National Mall. There was much jingling and much holiday spirit. The YP Network even ordered Phi Beta Kappa branded t-shirts, which were only display for others to see at the race!



Trivia Night!

The YP Network was back at the Hawk 'n' Dove for its now-monthly Trivia Night outing. Members arrived early to enjoy appetizers and drinks and meet each other beforehand, and brought a fierce and dedicated spirit to the competition. Ultimately our team (known as "The Keys") earned first place and a \$25 gift certificate to Hawk 'n' Dove!

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 for more information or to schedule a coffee meeting.

Are you a fresh grad? **Reminder:** With the DC PBK Association, Membership is free for 2018 graduates until January 1, 2020, and 2019 college graduates until January 1, 2021 under our "[Recent Graduate](#)" membership status.

We wish everybody a happy and healthy holiday season, and thank you for an amazing 2019!

Book Club Reviews and News

Recent Meetings

On Thursday, November 7, eight members of the Book Club met in Old Town Alexandria to attend a showing of *The Haunting of Hill House*, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. We had discussed the classic horror novel by Shirley Jackson at our October meeting, and it was a treat to see the story come to life, support a local DMV theater company, and catch up with one another beforehand over refreshments at Jackson 20. It was an appropriately rainy, spooky evening on the cobblestone streets of Old Town, and the play itself was very faithful to the text, and a wonderful complement to our reading of the classic novel.

The Book Club met at Nagomi Izakaya on Thursday, November 21, before the holiday season started in earnest, to discuss a delightful historical nonfiction selection, *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win WWII* by Sonia Purnell. This is one few had heard of before reading, but everyone loved it. The story reads like a classic thriller, and the unmatched composure and incredible daring of the titular spy is riveting. She was one of the Allies' only pairs of eyes on the ground in both occupied and Vichy France from the start of the war, and leveraged her intellect, charm, and wit to build networks of resistance all over the country, under the ever-present threat of detection and death. One impression left upon us was the book's ability to help us visualize the physical toll of the war on France, on its landscape, infrastructure, and of course its people, from all walks of life, in a way that is difficult for an American audience to comprehend.

Upcoming Meetings and Spring Selections

Our meeting for December 2019 will be held January 7, 2020, in deference to the holidays. We'll be discussing *The Dead* by James Joyce (short story within the collection *The Dubliners*, by Joyce, total collection 207 pages). Technically we will focus on just the one short story; however, feel free to peruse the entire collection if you have some spare time over the holidays; it's likely at least one other attendee will do the same. Then on January 29 it's back to regularly scheduled programming at our alternate meeting restaurant Cafe Deluxe in the West End, with our first selection of 2020, *The Witches: Salem, 1692* by Stacy Schiff (Nonfiction, 513 pages).

Book Club Selections for January-June 2020

Our November meeting also concluded our voting cycle for our next six selections, to comprise our Spring 2020 (January-June) book list for DC PBK. Between October and November, our coordinator solicited recommendations from those who attended meetings within the last six months, compiled summaries, and sent out the list for voting both by email and in person. She then compiled the votes and announced our winners, which appear in our newsletter for the first time here below. This round we are introducing a new International Author category, from which one monthly and one bonus book will be discussed this round. Happy reading!

- January: *The Witches: Salem, 1692* by Stacy Schiff (Nonfiction, 513 pages)
- February: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Fiction, 403 pages)

- February Bonus: *Farewell My Concubine* by Lillian Lee, author from Hong Kong (International, 272 pages, with optional movie viewing tie-in)
 - March: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Brown (Classic, 509 pages)
 - April: *Agent Running in the Field* by British author John LeCarré (International, 288 pages)
 - April Bonus: *Educated* by Tara Westover (Nonfiction, 334 pages)
 - May: *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital* by Chris Myers Asch & George Derek Musgrove, 624 page)
 - June: *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi (Fiction, 544 pages)
- First and last picture from the play, middle is the November book discussion.

Announcements

Mentorship Network

With an overwhelmingly positive response to this cycle of the Mentorship Program, we have officially sent out matches! We have approximately 15 matches and group matches, involving almost 40 individuals. We are thankful for everyone's patience while we recruited mentors and made matches.

Mentors and mentees have now begun meeting in advance of the annual **Mentorship Mixer**, which will be held on January 25 for all program participants. This cycle, we are also trying two new events. Based on the interest of our cycle participants, we will be holding **an international development and health "salon"** and **a law and justice careers panel**. We are looking forward to all the upcoming events for this cycle!

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee and would like to learn more about the program, we'd love to hear from you.

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

Open Volunteer Opportunity

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.

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

Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

The meeting will take place at a community room in Arlington, easily accessible from the Virginia Square Metro stop (Parking is somewhat limited in that area.) Members who are interested in attending should email Christel McDonald at chrisjohnmcdon@aol.com for the address and directions.

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)
INTERIM 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT: Hunter Hamrick (Florida State University, 2015)
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
Bailey DeSimone (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2017)—Member Engagement Coordinator

Advisory Council

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