



# 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)

February 2021

### 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)

### Contents

#### Upcoming Events

--New Year, New You Series,  
p. 1

--YP Virtual Happy Hour  
--Language Forum/Group

#### **Recent Events pp. 2-3**

----Richard Kane, Food  
Expert

--Coffee & Conversation  
Series No. 3, Dr. D. Lucey

--German Language Forum

--Spanish Language Group

#### **Book Club News and Reviews, pp. 3-4**

#### **Announcements, p. 4- 5**

--HS Awards Committee

---Mentorship Network  
News

--DCPBK Board Meetings

**DCPBK Board, p. 6**

## Upcoming Events

### New Year, New You Series:

#### Eiffel Tower Paint & Sip Class

**Thursday, February 18, 6:30-8:30 PM**

A night of art and libations! Join us for an evening painting class, and paint along while you enjoy a glass or two of your favorite drink. In honor of the month of romance, we'll be working on a painting based in the City of Romance, Paris. What's more iconic than the Eiffel Tower?

**All skill levels are welcome!** Our artist leader will be teaching step-by-step how to create your masterpiece. People who have never touched a brush before and expert painters will both learn something. Everyone should end the night with a lovely piece of their own artwork as well hopefully a fun filled evening and some tips for painting at home.

This class is free, but participants will be responsible for purchasing their own supplies, costing approximately \$15. The registration confirmation email has the exact list of supplies, and links on how to buy them.

**Note:** Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held via Zoom.

### Young Professionals (YP) Network Virtual Happy Hour

**Wednesday, February 24, 6:00-8:00 PM**

Are you looking to kick off the new year by meeting some of your fellow DC Phi Betes? If so, then join DCPBK for our first 2021 **Virtual Happy Hour!** What better way to spend the cold night than by kicking it back for a fun night filled with socializing and drinks all from the comfort of your warm home! Best part? The event is totally free! So pop that bottle, cook up some nice snacks, and come meet some new people! Family and friends are absolutely welcome!

Please contact Hunter Hamrick ([hunterhamrick@gmail.com](mailto:hunterhamrick@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

[Register Here](#)

## Recent Events

### NEW!

#### “New Year, New You” with Richard Kane, food expert

Saturday, January 16, 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

We were delighted to have **Richard Kane** speak with us about healthy eating and the future of the food industry. With his nutrition method, he lost over 40 lbs. and his niece lost over 80 lbs. The future of food is hydroponic and aquaponic farming. Land and natural resources are dwindling, so these methods are being taught in the Falls Church Public School system. The food the students grow is cooked and consumed in the school’s kitchens. The knowledge will help those who attended to make healthier food choices.

#### Coffee & Conversation with Infectious Disease Expert Dr. Daniel Lucey

Saturday, January 23, 12:00-1:00 PM

**Dr. Daniel Lucey** is a good friend of the Association—he led members on a tour of the exhibit that he co-organized and proposed for the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History called “Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World” in 2018. DC PBK’s very own **Deirdre LaPin**, a longtime member and advisor of the Association, interviewed Dr. Lucey about a range of topics, including the current understanding of the virus’ origins, how this pandemic compares and contrasts with others, Dr. Lucey’s advocacy efforts in behalf of frontline health care workers, and the recent strains of COVID that are emerging in the United Kingdom and South Africa. The Association was pleased to welcome 50 individuals to the talk, many of whom were Phi Beta Kappas in the DC area who are not members of the Association.

Please stay tuned for more information about the next Coffee & Conversation series, which will feature Resha Putzrath, a member of the DC Phi Beta Kappa Association and a retired toxicologist and quantitative risk assessor from the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, who will be speaking about risk assessment and analysis.

**Dan Rosenberg, J.D.**

[dmborg8@gmail.com](mailto:dmborg8@gmail.com)

#### German Language Forum

In December 2020, the DC Phi Beta Kappa Association launched **the German Language Forum** to offer its members the opportunity to talk—in German—about their interests related to Germany. Five members, proficient in German, met for a first meeting on January 14, 2021, and had a lively conversation sharing impressions, memories, and surprising experiences while being immersed in an unfamiliar culture.

Our very own **Christel McDonald** has agreed to serve as the Forum’s moderator, though other members will also be invited to serve in this role. We welcome other German-speaking members! Nobody is expected to speak perfect German (nobody does). Please stay tuned for more information in the next Newsletter, and register for future German conversations.

### NEW!

#### Spanish Language Group

Wednesday, February 24, 6:00 PM

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK) is excited to announce the formation of a **Spanish Language Group**! Our first meeting, on February 24, is open to all skill levels. The meetings will be

conducted in Spanish, so a basic conversational level is recommended, in order to be able to participate in the discussion.

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity. We'll use our first meeting to discuss your hopes and expectations for the group, to best structure our meetings going forward.

To register, please contact Hadley directly. You will receive a confirmation message with details on how to join the event. We look forward to speaking with you on February 24th at 6:00pm!

Please contact Hadley Ashford ([hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu](mailto:hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu)) with any questions about the group.

## **Book Club News and Reviews**

### **January 2021 Book Club Meetings:**

#### **Mid-January 2021 Bonus Meeting:**

On Tuesday, January 19, twelve members of the book club met for a special, timely discussion of *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine. Many of us, even our political science majors, had not yet read Paine's famous American Revolution treatise. It was especially enlightening to compare his tone and tenor to current events, with the January 20 inauguration of President Biden as our backdrop. We concluded that Paine, a non-gentry, recently-arrived colonial subject, provided an effective public



relations voice for the Founding Fathers in this work, appealing to the common man's rationality, and offering many angles—economic, national security, geopolitical, religious—from which to view the Revolution as urgent and just. Reading in 2021, we were most struck by the exclusivity of Paine's arguments for America's unique opportunity—wealth and property were not available to women or people of color, a legacy visible to this day. His claim of "now or never," that the fledgling colonies' temporary unity of purpose was imperiled by competing interests and factionalism, was especially concordant to the group, having just witnessed the horrifying events of January 6th at our nation's Capitol.

#### **January 2021 Monthly Meeting**

On Thursday, January 28, eleven of us met to discuss the Nonfiction selection *Other Minds: The Octopus, The Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness* by Peter Godfrey-Smith. Many of our attendees were natural science or philosophy majors, both of which Godfrey-Smith attempts to address in his arguments relating to the sentience of cephalopods. His main thesis, that the octopus and cuttlefish have developed exceedingly complex neural structures, and perhaps even consciousness, on an almost



entirely independent evolutionary path from humans, is highly compelling in its ramifications. Combining scientific and anecdotal observations with references to philosophy's many definitions of consciousness, the author suggests evolution "created complex minds twice," and that octopuses may be the closest parallel we have to sentient aliens. Especially haunting was the question of why, since complex neural pathways are very expensive for nature to create, do these animals only live two to three years? We reflected together on how little is known about ocean life relative to the environment's size, and how the

author's observations are based only on the observable world, which could be upended as technology advances our understanding of deep space and the deep sea.

## **February Book Club Meeting**

**Monday, February 22, 6:30-8:00 PM**

Please join us to discuss *Kindred* by Octavia Butler (Fiction, 287 pages). All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend.

## **Upcoming Book Club Discussions:**

Our upcoming selections, and links to events currently accessible on the DCPBK website, are below:

- March: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro (Fiction, 304 pages)
  - Mid-Month Bonus: *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata (International, Japan, 163 pages)
- April: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain (Classic, 480 pages)
- May: *The Library at Night* by Alberto Manguel (International, Argentina, 373 pages)
- June: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson (Nonfiction, 464 pages)

A quick note about our late March pick, *Klara and the Sun*—this latest by Kazuo Ishiguro will be released on March 2, so I do recommend pre-ordering, or pre-reserving at your library if available.

Event links: February: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2021/2/22/february-2021-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-kindred-160-by-octavia-butler>

Mid-March: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2021/3/15/mid-march-2021-bonus-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-convenience-store-woman-160-by-sayaka-murata>

March: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2021/3/31/march-2021-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-klara-and-the-sun-160-by-kazuo-ishiguro>

**Also, please note meeting logistics for the foreseeable future:** In light of global efforts to slow the spread of Covid-19, the DCPBK book club will proceed meeting via Zoom, an online audio/video conferencing application, until we can meet again in our favorite spots. **Members who RSVP Yes on the website will receive the meeting link and login information in their registration confirmation email.** We will start all together, and break into smaller group chats, as needed, after introductions. Feel free to grab food and drink for the meeting, as we normally would!

I hope to see many of you there!

Sincerely, Kate Smith

Book Club Coordinator, DC PBK Association, [bookclub@dcpbk.org](mailto:bookclub@dcpbk.org)

## **Announcements**

### **High School Awards Committee**

The High School Awards Program seeks 1-2 Committee Members to assist with outreach and selection of awardees for the 2020-2021 academic year. The committee selects high school seniors in the DMV based on their academic achievements and community service. In recent years DCPBK has offered up to four awards to college-bound seniors of \$1,000 each.

Volunteers must be members of DCPBK in good standing.

#### Position Description

Conduct outreach to DMV-area high schools to inform school counselors about scholarship opportunity

- Evaluate applications and participate in selection process of 2021 awardees
- Assist in planning the annual Awards ceremony

#### To Apply

Please email High School Awards Committee Chair Mackenzie Fusco at [awards@dcpbk.org](mailto:awards@dcpbk.org) with a resume and a brief statement of your interest in joining the Committee.

### **Mentorship Network News**

We are doing an exciting revamp to our popular Mentorship Network program! The month of February is being used to plan and execute the new aspects of the program. You can expect an exciting rollout, including a more inclusive format with more opportunities to engage, while having more input into your mentorship experience. We look forward to telling you more in March!

As a reminder, the DCPBK Mentorship Network offers 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. You can learn more at <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship/>.

Questions may be sent to Program Manager Rebecca DeSantis at [mentorship@dcpbk.org](mailto:mentorship@dcpbk.org).

### **DCPBK Board Meeting**

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. To register to attend via Zoom, click [here](#). The Spring meeting will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2021, at 1:00 PM.

Anyone interested in attending can RSVP on our website: [DCPBK.org/events](https://dcpbk.org/events). Link will be provided upon registration.

## DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

### 2020-2021 Officers

**PRESIDENT: Breann Watt** (University of California Riverside, 2011)  
**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis** (Washington College, 2015)  
**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Lynley Peoples** (George Mason University, 2013)  
**SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg,** (George Washington University, 2014)  
**TREASURER: Pat Cascio** (Denison University, 1969)

### At-Large Executive Committee Members

**Nina Kuo** (Duke University, 2012)—Past President  
**Paul Lubliner** (University of Oregon, 2006)—Past President  
**Carol Bontempo** (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor  
**Liz Marshall** (Lawrence University, 2009)—Past President  
**Kate H. Smith** (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

### Additional Volunteers

**MEMBER ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Bailey DeSimone** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2017)  
**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COORDINATOR: Hunter Hamrick** (Florida State University, 2015)



*Love of Learning is the Guide of Life*