



# 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)

August 2021

#### Connect with DC PBK Online!

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### Upcoming Events

#### Save the Date for Key Connections Fall 2021:

**Thursday, September 30, 6:30 PM**

This annual event, which welcomes recent inductees and members who might have relocated to the DC area, is loaded with opportunities to get more involved with DCPBK, and meet new people. It will feature a career panel, happy hour, and more information on the local Association. It also offers a unique chance to network and connect in the spirit of Phi Beta Kappa's founding, with an emphasis on friendship and fellowship.

**Key Connections** will be held in the Lehman Auditorium at George Washington University in Science and Engineering Hall (SEH). It is currently planned for in-person participation, but it will be moved to virtual in the event of changing CDC guidance.

Registration will open soon! Check the DCPBK website for further information.

*Please note that most meetings are still held via Zoom, but we're trying out some in-person possibilities, as above. Stay tuned as official guidelines continue to change.*

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

**Thursday, August 19, 5:00 PM**

Looking to beat the heat, all from the comfort of your home? Then cool off with DCPBK and join us on **August 19 at 5:00PM** for our **Virtual Happy Hour!**

Come join us for an evening filled with fun, new friends, and overall good times. Best part? The event is absolutely FREE! We welcome (and actively encourage!) members to bring their friends and family!

At the Happy Hour we'll also be discussing all the fun events we have planned for the year, including this year's Key Connections event: <https://www.pbk.org/Key-Connections> (see page 1), Professional Panels, and many more!

Please email DCPBK YP Coordinator Hunter Hamrick ([hunterhamrick@gmail.com](mailto:hunterhamrick@gmail.com)) if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!

To Register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2021/8/19/dc-pbk-happy-hour>

### **August Spanish Language Group Meeting**

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK) will host its next **Spanish Language Group** meeting on **August 16th at 6:00 PM**, and it continues to be 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 month, we'll get in the competitive spirit with a virtual game of Pictionary and/or trivia, depending on the time.

Click below to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with details on how to join the event. Note that registration is limited to 20, so claim your spot quickly! We look forward to speaking with you on **August 16th at 6:00 PM**.

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity.

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

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2021/8/16/august-spanish-language-group-meeting>

## **Recent Events**

### **DCPBK Participates in the PBK Society Triennial**

Members of DCPBK Leadership participated in the virtual **Phi Beta Kappa 46th Triennial Council** from August 3-6. The Triennial Council is the legislative body of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation's oldest academic honor society, and convenes every three years to carry out the business of the Society.

Participating leadership members included **Rebecca DeSantis-Randall**, DCPBK President; **Elizabeth Marshall Anderson**, Past President and current Executive Committee Member; and **Christel McDonald**, longtime DCPBK leader, Past President, and current Advisory Board member. Elizabeth was elected as the chair of the Conference of Association Delegates (COAD). Rebecca participated as the voting delegate during the Triennial, and participated in the meetings related to association leadership. She also spoke on the Friday panel, "**Community, Diversity, Connection: Keys to Greater Engagement**" with representatives from the Baltimore and New York Associations.

This year, the Phi Beta Kappa Society voted to establish three new chapters at Providence College, Providence, R.I.; Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., and University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, N.C.

It was an exciting Triennial and we look forward to the next one in three years, hopefully back to in-person!

### **Coffee and Conversation with Edo Banach**

On August 4, with Dan Rosenberg hosting, we were treated to an engaging and highly informative talk by **Edo Banach, President & CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization ("NHPCO")**, the nation's largest membership organization for providers and professionals who care for people affected by

serious and life-limiting illness. He outlined the expanding need for such care, particularly in light of our aging population and his organization's efforts to provide it. Especially helpful was his clarification of the meaning of "hospice," which is not necessarily a place, but a multi-faceted program designed to meet the emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of those who are nearing the end of life. That is, to expand access to a proven person-centered model for healthcare, providing patients and their loved ones with comfort, peace, and dignity during life's most intimate and vulnerable experiences.

Mr. Banach also touched on his role as CEO within the context of a larger, membership-based non-profit, and its connection with various government agencies, and closed by graciously answering several questions from the audience.

### **Coffee & Conversation with Christine Kelleher**

On August 12, we had the unique opportunity to look "behind the scenes" of a popular local institution with **Christine Kelleher, CFO** of the **National Gallery of Art**. As Chief of Investments at the Gallery, she manages its \$1.3 billion endowment, working with dozens of well-vetted investment firms to ensure that the museum's income and expenses remain stable from year to year. She discussed such wide-ranging topics as the differences in strategy between for-profit and non-profit organizations, the need for socially responsible investments, and the role of women in a highly male-dominated profession, with particular emphasis on the significance of a broad liberal education in pursuing a career such as hers.

Ms. Kelleher's background clearly reflects such meaningful diversity. Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at Bucknell University, her academic and professional career was not built specifically on the world of finance, but included a wide range of undergrad and graduate studies, as well as involvement with such varied entities as the Central European University in Budapest, Georgetown University, the Montgomery County Employee Retirement Plan, and the YWCA National Capital Area, among others. Also a community activist, she mentors tomorrow's Black and Latino chief investment officers, and advises the Kayo Conference Series supporting women investors.

Both charming and brilliant, **Christine Kelleher** was an excellent addition to the **Coffee & Conversation** series, thanks to the leadership of **Dan Rosenberg**, who is actively working with an engaging speaker for September; check the website soon to find out more, and look for details in the September newsletter.

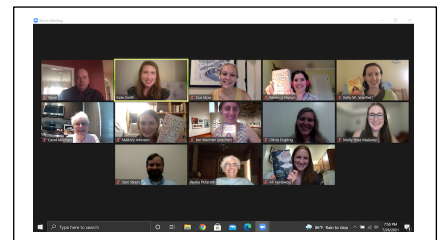
### **International Health and Development Salon**

After a lively meeting in May, we eagerly anticipate our autumn gathering. Look for an announcement inviting all interested members from DCPBK to the next quarterly Salon in mid-to-late September. Meanwhile, feel free to email Dr. Deirdre LaPin at [dlapin21@yahoo.com](mailto:dlapin21@yahoo.com) for more information, questions, or suggested topics for our next agenda.

### **Book Club News and Reviews**

#### **July 2021 DC PBK Meeting Recap**

On Monday, July 26, the Book Club met to discuss *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende. Our group is no stranger to the magical realism genre, having read *Love in the Time of Cholera* not too long ago. We reflected on Allende's deft weaving of timelines, both internal to the main family whose trials and tribulations are documented in this multi-generational tale, and as a reflection of the historical evolution of Chile through the 20th century. Women are posited as the soul of Chile and of the titular home, and their roles and autonomy shift with the world, opening to foreign influence and technology, and trending toward instability.



For a book whose first half is set almost entirely in the interior of the home, our main character Clara prophetically states "it's not me who's changed, it's the world," ushering in a second half that reads less as magical realism and more as political thriller. We also discussed city vs country life as portrayed, character motivations, and various historical events referenced. We also had a few new members to the Book Club, which is always welcome! We are thrilled to see that our widely varied selections continue to inspire new interest in our group.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Selections:**

All Book Club meetings can be found on the DCPBK Events page here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event-list>. Members may sign in and RSVP to events on that site. For now, the Book Club continues to meet online, but is paying close attention alongside the Association to local guidelines and member feedback regarding resumption of in-person gatherings.

- **Mid-Month Bonus, August 17, 6:30 PM: *Anxious People*** by Fredrik Backman, International (Sweden), 341 pages
- **August 26, 6:30 PM: *The Birds*** by Aristophanes, Classic, 104 pages
- **September, Date TBD: *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*** by Walter Isaacson, Nonfiction, 536 pages
- **October, Date TBD: *Mexican Gothic*** by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, International (Mexico), 301 pages
- **November, Date TBD: *The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has an Expiration Date*** by Samuel Arbesman, Nonfiction, 256 pages
- **Mid-November Bonus, Date TBD: *To the Lighthouse*** by Virginia Woolf, Classic, 209 pages
- **December, Date TBD: *The Poppy War*** by R.F. Kuang, Fiction, 531 pages

I hope to see many of you there!

Sincerely, Kate Smith  
Book Club Coordinator, [DCPBKAssociationbookclub@dcpbk.org](mailto:DCPBKAssociationbookclub@dcpbk.org)

## **Announcements**

### **Mentorship Network News**

The **DCPBK Mentorship Network** is seeking mentors! Currently, we have a need for mentors in political advocacy or non-profits, natural sciences (biology, chemistry, etc.), public policy, education, finance, and law. We are also looking for more mentors of all career stages and industries; young professionals who can support recent graduates, mid-career professionals who can help members become a supervisor for the first time, and retired members who can support members in seeing the big picture in their careers. Everyone has the ability to become a mentor! In addition, by signing up with the DCPBK Mentorship Network as a mentor, you will get access to resources and workshops that will help you develop your coaching skills and boost your mentor confidence!

**Becoming a mentor for our Mentor Directory is a very low-time commitment! Mentors and mentees, once connected, can meet together on their own terms—virtually, in-person, once a week, once every two months, whatever they decide!**

To join the Mentor Directory, simply log into your account on [dcpbk.org](https://dcpbk.org), click on "Profile," and select "Check below if you would like to be a mentor." Answer a few questions, click "save," and you're all set! To learn more about the new Mentorship Network, please visit <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

## **DCPBK Fall Board Meeting**

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Fall meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9 from 10:00-12:00 PM. Anyone interested in attending can RSVP on our website. Link will be provided upon registration.

Register here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event-list>

## **Open Volunteer Positions**

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 are currently seeking applications for the following officer positions: **1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President**. We are also seeking applications for the following Executive Committee volunteer position: **Mentorship Network Manager**.

### **1st Vice President**

The **1st Vice President** is a member of the Executive Committee and is expected to participate in the quarterly board meetings and help guide the strategic direction and operations of the Association. The 1st Vice President may also occasionally assist the 2nd Vice President, who is responsible for coordinating the Association's programming. Other duties and responsibilities include:

- Leading or supporting at least one committee, or being a supporting member of 2+ committees (e.g., HS Awards, Fundraising, etc.).
- Supporting Association communications, including email communications and newsletter contributions.
- Attending quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board.
- Stepping in for the President if a need arises.
- Other duties which may be assigned from time to time by the President.

### **2nd Vice President**

The **2nd Vice President** is an officer of the DCPBK board and is responsible for coordinating the Association's monthly programming for general membership, in collaboration with event sponsors. The 2nd Vice President is NOT responsible for overseeing the programming related to the Young Professionals Network, the Book Club, or the Mentorship Program. Other duties and responsibilities include:

- Coordinating monthly programs for general membership. Examples include tours of museums, lectures, and parties. In particular, the 2nd Vice President is responsible for helping to plan the two largest annual events for general membership: the Annual Holiday Party in December, and the Spring Fling.
- Marketing and promoting the monthly programs, which includes collaborating with the newsletter coordinator to populate the monthly newsletter with content, with the social media coordinator to publicize events on social media channels and setting up RSVP portals for events through the website.
- Developing budgets and managing costs for programs when necessary, and helping to arrange transportation/directions when necessary.
- Attending quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board
- Other duties which may be assigned from time to time by the President.

### **Mentorship Network Manager**

The **Mentorship Network Manager** oversees all programmatic aspects of the DCPBK Mentorship Network, which focuses on connecting DCPBK Association members with one another to not only share professional advice, but also to foster the intellectual curiosity that brings the Phi Beta Kappa community together at its core. Duties and responsibilities include:

- Recruiting mentors for the Mentorship Directory
- Organizing networking events, such as Mentorship Mixers and Mentorship Workshops
- Creating and distributing communications to encourage participation in the program
- Updating the DCPBK website and submitting social media copy
- Attending quarterly DC PBK board meetings and updating the board members on the status of the program.

Applicants for all positions should be members of DCPBK in good standing, and should have experience in outreach to community members and community engagement. Utilization of social media platforms for outreach and web-designing skills is a plus! Application materials should include a cover letter and a resume. Please send materials or any questions about these positions to [president@dcpbk.org](mailto:president@dcpbk.org).



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

### **2021-2022 Officers**

**PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis** (Washington College, 2016)

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN**

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN**

**SECRETARY: Hadley Ashford** (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2018)

**TREASURER: Pat Cascio** (Denison University, 1969)

### **At-Large Executive Committee Members**

**Breann Watt** (University of California, Riverside, 2011)—Past President

**Nina Kuo** (Duke University, 2012)—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

**Dan Rosenberg** (George Washington University, 2014)—Member Engagement Coordinator

### **Advisory Council**

**Deirdre LaPin** (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President

**Christel G. McDonald** (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President

**Paul Lubliner** (University of Oregon, 2006)—Past President

### **Additional Volunteers**

**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COORDINATOR: Hunter Hamrick** (Florida State University, 2015)

**HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS COORDINATOR: Mackenzie Fusco** (George Washington University, 2017)

**INTERIM MENTORSHIP NETWORK MANAGER:**

**Megan Dixon** (University of California, Santa Barbara, 2017)



*Love of Learning is the Guide of Life*