



# 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)

January 2021

### Connect with DC PBK Online!

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## Welcome 2022!

### Happy New Year, DCPBK Members!

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and start to the new year. I imagine many of you are feeling like I am; concerned about the current Covid variant and tired of the continued uncertainty. Although we had hoped that around this time, we would be thinking about what in-person events and programming we could begin offering in the new year, we are now in a situation where we are continuing to put our members' safety first and planning for virtual events for the immediate future.

The DCPBK Executive Board is, however, hopeful about the coming year and excited about the programming we plan to offer. Our staple programs that continue to bring members together, like our Book Club, our Young Professionals Program, and our Mentorship Network, will continue to offer virtual events. Our lively Spanish Language Group and German Language

Group will continue on their success with meetings that allow members to practice their language skills. We also look forward to bringing new speakers to you through our Coffee and Conversations speaker series. There is a lot going on with DCPBK that you don't want to miss!

As your President, my priorities for this year involve continuing to bring in and engage members in the DC area. As an association, we know how important it is to engage not only with current Phi Betes, but also with our local PBK Chapters who initiate the newest classes of PBK inductees every year. We are looking forward to strengthening our relationship with the local chapters and helping to support the next generation of PBK. We are also taking a look at our programming to ensure we are offering inclusive and diverse engagement opportunities for all Phi Betes. We, as leaders of DCPBK, want our members and future members to know that they belong here, and we will work hard to advance our ideals of life-long learning and strong civic character by providing members an opportunity to participate in cultural and intellectual activities and networking opportunities.

We plan to gather your thoughts about events and the possibility of transitioning to in-person through a survey in the next few months as we know more about this current variant. I wish you and your family a safe and healthy start to the new year, and I hope to "see" you at an event in the near future!

Rebecca DeSantis-Randall  
DCPBK President  
[rdesantis2@gmail.com](mailto:rdesantis2@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

### International Health and Development Salon

Stay tuned for our next quarterly virtual Salon, which will be held via Zoom on **Sunday January 23, 2022 at noon**. The timely topic will be **Climate Change and Global Warming**, enhanced by rich outputs from the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 held last November in Glasgow. Burning questions will include: (1) were commitments to reduce fossil fuels, methane, and coal emissions sufficient? (2) were the planned financial supports for controlling climate change in lower and medium income countries adequate and fair? (3) were the national-level reductions proposed likely to add up to a global warming reduction of under 2 degrees C? (4) were the interactive roles of economic, political, and social systems given strong consideration?

Please check monthly newsletters, your emails, and our website at [dcpbk.org](http://dcpbk.org) for joining instructions via Zoom. Meanwhile, feel free to email **Dr. Deirdre LaPin** at [dlapin21@yahoo.com](mailto:dlapin21@yahoo.com) for topic suggestions, information or questions.

### Coffee & Conversation Series

We're working diligently on setting up the next installment of **Coffee & Conversation!** Last year, members heard from a variety of speakers, including the Chief of Investments for the National Gallery of Art, the immediate past President and CEO of the International Center for Research on Women, an expert on risk assessment and analysis, and a leading scholar in Middle East politics and constitutionalism. If you have any suggestions for possible speakers, please don't hesitate to reach out to Dan Rosenberg at [dmborg8@gmail.com](mailto:dmborg8@gmail.com).

### Young Professionals (YP) Network

#### YP Virtual Happy Hour!

**January 26, 6:00-8:00 PM**

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to meet more people or better use your Phi Beta Kappa membership? If so, come attend our first **Virtual Happy Hour of 2022!** On January 26, 6:00- 8:00 PM, DCPBK will be hosting a free virtual happy hour filled with fun times and excellent conversation!

Registration is absolutely free and space is limited! Please email Hunter Hamrick, [hunterhamrick@gmail.com](mailto:hunterhamrick@gmail.com), if you have any questions. **To Register:**

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/1/26/dc-young-professional-virtual-happy-hour>

### DCPBK Young Professionals Series: Networking 101

**February 10, 6:30 PM**

With 2022 in full swing, many people's New Years resolution is to either get a new career or develop themselves professionally in order to move up within their current career. Are you one of those people? If so, we encourage you to attend the first of our **Young Professionals Series** events on February 10 starting at 6:30 PM.

The first of our professional series will focus on networking and include topics such as 1) How do you grow/start your professional network?, 2) How do you best utilize your network?, and 3) What can you do to maintain your professional network?

Registration for the event is free and a networking session will be held both before and after the presentation. Hunter Hamrick, [hunterhamrick@gmail.com](mailto:hunterhamrick@gmail.com), if you have any questions.

**To register:** <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/2/10/dc-pbk-young-professional-series-networking-101>

## Recent Events

### January Spanish Language Group Meeting

The Spanish Language Group met on January 10 for an evening of lively discussion and fellowship! Our February meeting is scheduled for **February 7 at 6:00 pm EST** and will take place via Zoom. **To register:** <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2022/2/21/february-spanish-language-group>

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

Please contact Hadley Ashford ([hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu](mailto:hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu)) with questions."

### A German Happy Hour--Die Plauder-Stunde

**March 24, 6:30-7:30 PM**

As members of PBK, many of us have had the opportunity to learn different languages and immerse ourselves in other cultures. However, between Covid, careers, and the normal hustle and bustle of life, how often do we have a chance to sit down with friends to have a fun and relaxed conversation to practice our language skills and share stories of adventures abroad?

DCPBK will once again be hosting opportunities to practice German language skills in an informal, virtual setting. If you are interested in joining us to "plauder" about German culture, food, current events, politics, sports, US-German transatlantic relations, literature, music or anything else, we welcome you to register, in our next Newsletter (mid-February), for A Plauder-Stunde on Thursday, March 24, 2022 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Please reach out to Kenny Sobek ([jksobek@gmail.com](mailto:jksobek@gmail.com)) and Christel McDonald ([ChrisJohnMcDon@aol.com](mailto:ChrisJohnMcDon@aol.com)) with any questions.

### Book Club News and Reviews

On January 5th, nine members met to discuss *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, a fantasy novel heavily based on Sino-Japanese history. Replete with Asian cultural references and military strategy details, we considered this at once an international and a local pick--the author is a graduate of Georgetown University. The novel opens like a Young Adult selection with parallels to other genre favorites like *Harry Potter*, following young inductees through their years at a school for elite training called Sineward, with all the social and academic intrigue so popular with fans of the genre. However, the second half of the novel turns incredibly violent and grim, with wartime atrocities described in detail. The group was split in our ratings for the book for this reason--while not billed as YA, it is likely to attract younger readers, and the themes are quite mature. We debated which relationships influenced the main character the most, parallels to historical events and societies, and the teachings of Sineward's professors in context of the story's arc.



Please join us on **January 27 at 6:30 PM** for our first Spring 2022 selection, the incredibly timely *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou (Nonfiction, 339 pages). Elizabeth Holmes' recent conviction is sure to influence our reading and discussion. We are thoughtful about where we place books in our lineup, and this one happened to dovetail perfectly with current events.

Between our October and November meetings our coordinator orchestrated our biannual voting cycle. We are pleased to present our Spring 2022 Series, below:

- **February:** *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler (Classic, 345 pages) February 28, 6:30 PM
- **March:** *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker (International, United Kingdom, 325 pages)
  - **Mid-March Bonus:** *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (Fiction, 314 pages)
- **April:** *Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe* by Brian Greene (Nonfiction, 384 pages)
- **May:** *The Skin of the Sea* by Natasha Bowen (International, Nigeria/West Africa, 336 pages)
  - **Mid-May Bonus:** *Fathers & Sons* by Ivan Turgenev (Classic, 244 pages)
- **June:** *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich (Fiction, 387 pages).

The DCPBK Book Club will continue meeting via Zoom 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 all start 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.

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

## Announcements

### High School Awards Program for 2021-2022

The **High School Awards Program** seeks two Committee Members to assist with outreach and selection of awardees for the 2021-22 academic year. The committee's work takes place from January-May. 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.

#### **Position Description:**

- Conduct outreach to DMV-area high schools to inform school counselors about the scholarship opportunity
- Evaluate applications and participate in selection process of 2022 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

Keep a lookout for the next **Mentorship Mixer**, which will be announced in the February newsletter!

We have new mentors joining our **Mentorship Directory**! If you are looking for career support, check out our lists of mentors by logging into the DCPBK website and reviewing our Mentorship Directory!

We are continuing to seek 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](http://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>.

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Rebecca DeSantis-Randall  
DCPBK President  
[rdesantis2@gmail.com](mailto:rdesantis2@gmail.com)

## **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 office of **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**. We are also seeking applications for the following Executive Committee volunteer position: **Mentorship Network Manager**.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

The **2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 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).**

### **DCPBK Winter Board Meeting**

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Winter board meeting was held via Zoom on **January 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM**. The Spring meeting will be in April.

## DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

### 2021-2022 Officers

**PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randell** (Washington College, 2016)  
**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: (Jim Stricker,** George Washington University, 2015)  
**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)



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