



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

August 2022

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Recent and Upcoming Events

Coffee & Conversation with Jenny Abramson and Other PBK Associations!

Please join the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association, the Baltimore Phi Beta Kappa Association and the Richmond Phi Beta Kappa Association on **Thursday, August 25th at 5:30 PM** for a moderated discussion with Jenny Abramson, founder and CEO of Rethink Impact. **Rethink Impact** is the largest US

venture capital firm investing in female and non-binary leaders using technology to solve the world's biggest problems, with a focus on healthcare, environmental sustainability, education and economic mobility.



Jenny will be speaking about her work at Rethink and the impact of some of ReThink's most successful portfolio companies; the various roles she has held throughout her career, including as CEO of LiveSafe (a tech security company focused on preventing school shootings and sexual assaults), and leadership roles at *The Washington Post*, Personal (a data tech company), The Boston Consulting Group, D.C. Public Schools, and Teach for America; and how a background in the liberal arts and sciences has advanced her career and contributed to her professional successes.

Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP [here](#). We look forward to seeing you for what promises to be an engaging and exciting evening with members of Baltimore and Richmond Phi Beta Kappa Associations!

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Save the Date: Key Connections!

Are you a Phi Bete who just moved to the DC area or a Washingtonian who wants to make the most of their Phi Beta Kappa membership? Then come join DC PBK on **October 12 at 6:30 PM.** for a Networking Event! 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 speakers, food and beverages, and more information on the getting involved with DCPBK. 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. This DC area-based happy hour is hosted in conjunction with The Phi Beta Kappa Society's annual Key Connections programming.

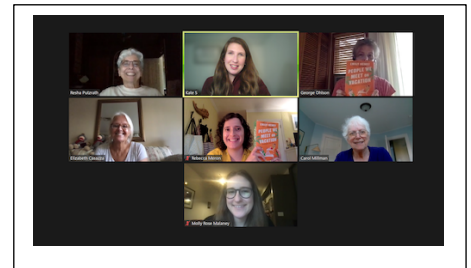
This event will be held at the George Washington University in the Lehman Auditorium. It is located on the B-level (1 floor below street level) of the Science and Engineering Hall (SEH), corner of G and 22nd Streets, NW (one block from Foggy Bottom Metro stop).

Contact Rebecca DeSantis-Randall, president@dcpbk.org, if you have any questions in the interim. We hope to see you there! Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pbk-dc-key-connections-career-panel-and-networking-event-tickets-391971145247>

Book Club News and Reviews

July Meeting Recap

On Tuesday, July 26th, seven book club members met to discuss *People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry. This meeting was the first of our Fall 2022 Series, with a very buzzy book tailor-made for the travel season. Though the novel starts off with a promising premise, we agreed it failed to hold our interest or deliver a compelling love story. The structure dovetails between past and present, but alludes most of the way to an anticlimactic reveal. We also felt that the author fails to make the characters' travel destinations interesting, which was part of the appeal of the selection for the group. We're always happy to dive into the zeitgeist in terms of lighter, popular reads, but overall, several attendees were not interested enough to finish the story and we look forward to digging into our August selections!



Upcoming Meetings

Monday, August 22, 6:30 PM

Please join us for a mid-August bonus meeting to discuss *The Employees: A Workplace Novel of the 22nd Century* by Olga Ravn (International, Denmark, 136 pages). All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend.

This meeting is tentatively organized as an in-person gathering; I have chosen a spot with a covered patio. In the event of inclement weather or new pandemic-related guidance, we will revert to the Zoom online format for the same date, same time. You will receive the Zoom link in your RSVP confirmation email just in case. I will send an email no later than 24 hours in advance to those who have signed up for the meeting, confirming the in- person or Zoom plans.

Register here:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/8/22/august-2022-dc-pbk-book-club-the-employees-a-workplace-novel-of-the-22nd-century-160-by-olga-ravn>

Wednesday, August 31, 6:30 PM

For our late August meeting, we'll be discussing *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah, Nonfiction, 289 pages

Register here:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/8/31/august-2022-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-born-a-crime-stories-from-a-south-african-childhood-160-by-trevor-noah>

Here are the rest of the selections that will take us from September

-December:

- **September:** *How Democracies Die* by Steven Levitsky, Daniel Ziblatt, Nonfiction, 320 pages
- **October:** *The Hacienda* by Isabel Cañas, Fiction, 352 pages
- **Mid-November Bonus:** *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, Classic, 132 pages
- **November:** *Winter in Sokcho* by Elisa Shua Dusapin, International, Franco-Korean author, 154 pages
- **December:** *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder, Classic, 160 pages

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! I hope to see many of you there!

As always, event dates are posted 1-2 months out. If there is a selection here you are particularly invested in, please reach out to bookclub@dcpbk.org and I am happy to accommodate schedule preferences as much as I am able.

If you have thoughts for downtown restaurants with patio seating for our next few meetings, please send them my way!

Happy reading,
Kate Smith,
DCPBK Book Club Coordinator

August Spanish Language Group

Join us for our Spanish Language Group meeting on **August 17 at 6:30 PM** at Fresca, 701 H St NE, Washington, DC 20002). These meetings are open to all skill levels, but note that they will be conducted in Spanish, so a basic conversational level is recommended to be able to participate in the discussion.

To register, visit the DCPBK events page here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event-list>

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with additional details. We look forward to speaking with you on **August 17 at 6:30 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) if you have any questions about the group or have trouble registering.

Young Professionals (YP) Network

It's really exciting that so many people are transitioning to in-person meetings, and YP wants to try that, too. We're working on plans for early fall events, so keep checking the website for updates. Also, if you are

someone who has lots of good ideas for the DCPBK YP Network or a cool event you think we would enjoy, please let us know!

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

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! We are 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 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, 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 Mentorship Network, please visit <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

Elena Helmers-Wegman, DCPBK Mentorship Network Coordinator: elena.helmerts.wegman@gmail.com

Open Volunteer Positions

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? We are currently seeking applications for the following positions.

VP of Chapter Relations

The VP of Chapter Relations (formerly 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 VP of Chapter Relations may also occasionally assist the Vice President of Member Experience, who is responsible for coordinating the Association’s programming. Other duties and responsibilities include:

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

Treasurer

The DCPBK Treasurer manages the funds of the association and ensures the financial health of the organization.

Responsibilities:

- Manage DCPBK funds, including receiving and reconciling bank and endowment fund statements, depositing checks, and writing checks/making payments.
- Make financial records easily available to other board members and presents a financial update at board meetings.
- Update Membership Works member records with payment information as necessary. Assure that all contributors receive an acknowledgement message, via email or paper, of their contribution.
- Prepare an annual budget to be approved by the board at its first meeting of the calendar year.
- Maintain records of all ongoing subscriptions and contract services used by DCPBK. List all businesses, including financial institutions, and their contact information. Maintain current password and other access information to permit access by another board member in case of need.
- Work with the board to establish best practices and customized financial policies.

Interested candidates should email president@dcpbk.org to express interest.

Thanks!

Rebecca DeSantis-Randall, MPA, CAPM

President, DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK)

rdesantis2@gmail.com

DCPBK Fall Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Autumn board meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 8, at 10:00 AM** on Zoom.

How to register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/10/8/fall-board-meeting>

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2022-2023 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randall (Washington College, 2016)

VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAPTER RELATIONS: OPEN

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER EXPERIENCE: Lindsay Osborne (University of Hawaii, 2021)

SECRETARY: Daisy Yu (University of Maryland, College Park, 2022)

TREASURER: ~~Pat Cascio~~ (Denison University, 1969) OPEN

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)—Past President

Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor

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

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

Additional Volunteers

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COORDINATOR: Reyna Yang (George Washington U., 2022)

HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS COORDINATOR: Sameer Jaywant (New York University, 2014)

MENTORSHIP NETWORK COORDINATOR: Elena Helmers-Wegman (Wofford College, 2019)



Love of Learning is the Guide of Life