



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

December 2022

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Upcoming and Recent Events

Upcoming Events

Coffee & Conversation with Mary Kadera

Thursday, January 12, 2023, 6:00-7:00 PM via Zoom

Please join us for our next installment of **Coffee & Conversation** with **Mary Kadera**, director of TED Courses at TED. Mary will be speaking to us about the team she led at TED that recently designed and launched TED Courses, which are four-week virtual social learning experiences that bring together TED speakers and classmates from around



the world, and about her prior leadership roles across several educational organizations, including as Vice President of Education at PBS, Interim Executive Director for the Center for Inspired Teaching, and as a consultant for such organizations as the George Lucas Educational Foundation, the National Commission for Teaching and America's Future, and the Consortium for School Networking, among others.

In her ten years of consulting for TED, Mary developed programs for adult English learners, undergraduates, and corporate L&D (learning and development). Prior to that, she was the vice president of education at PBS, where she created and improved many of PBS's first-generation digital resources for teachers, students, and general audiences. In particular, she oversaw PBS' federal grant program (including a \$25 million grant from the United States Department of Education to produce some of the earliest online professional development courses for teachers) and coordinated and supported the work of more than 300 local member stations. In 2021 she was elected to serve as an at large member on the Arlington County School Board for a four-year term.

After her talk, there will be opportunities for Q&A, as usual.

Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you soon! **To register:**

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2023/1/12/coffee-and-conversation-with-mary-kadera>

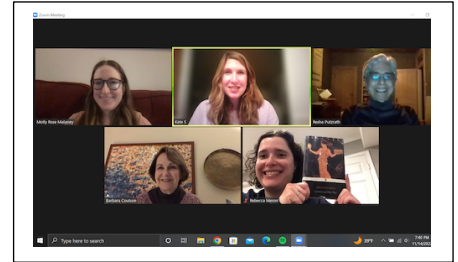
If you have any questions about this event, please contact Dan Rosenberg at dmberg8@gmail.com.

Holiday Party! It's always fun to keep the festivities going for as long as we can, so let's all gather for our annual **Holiday Party on the evening of Friday, January 13**, at the PBK Society Headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, which is just 2 blocks from the Dupont Circle North Metro station. We're looking forward to a special time of togetherness, fun, food, and maybe some surprises. We'll keep you posted by email as plans progress, including what you can bring. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Osborne at vicepresident2@dcpbk.org.

Book Club News and Reviews

Mid-November Recap:

On November 14, five members of the book club met to discuss the ancient Greek Classic *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. Over the years we have explored many original texts, and we always enjoy thinking how a contemporary audience would have received the messages of their authors. *Lysistrata* is quite bawdy and progressive, rife with sexual innuendo. Aristophanes suggests that women's logic and planning, typically reserved for the domestic, could helpfully inform the political sphere as well, and hints at the sense of a future unity between the warring Greek city-states. We remarked that the women of the play are essentially engaging in civil disobedience, but not for their own rights; in the end the overall social order is improved though they return to their relatively powerless roles.



Late November Recap:

On November 29, eleven members joined to discuss the incredibly unique *Winter in Sokcho* by Elisa Shua Dusapin. This short novel left quite an impression on us all. It would be easy to say very little happens by way of plot, but the story is so rich in tactile, auditory, and olfactory description that it feels like a rich snapshot into the main character's life nonetheless. An international selection set in South Korea, we found it an entertaining and haunting portrait of daily life and personalities in an off-season resort town close to the DMZ. If you decide to pick this one up, we recommend reading it all in one go.



December Meeting:

As we normally do, we'll be holding our December 2022 meeting the first week of January, after holiday travel and commitments. Please see below for the meeting invite for our final selection to close out our Fall 2022 series, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, by Thornton Wilder.

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/2023/1/5/november-2022-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-the-bridge-of-san-luis-rey-160-by-thornton-wilder>

Upcoming Spring 2023 Series:

I'm very happy to announce the book club has concluded its biannual recommendation and voting cycle. The winners are below, comprising our Spring 2023 schedule. As always, if there are books you feel strongly about, feel free to email me with recommended meeting dates. We always meet around the 15th for a Bonus, and the last week of the month for a regular monthly pick.

- **January: *The Bluest Eye*** by Toni Morrison, Classic 216 pages

- **February:** *Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People who Think in Pictures, Patterns and Abstractions* by Temple Grandin, Nonfiction, 352 pages
- **Mid-March Bonus:** *Letters to Camondo* by Edmund de Waal, Nonfiction, 192 pages
- **March:** *Signs Preceding the End of the World* by Yuri Herrera, International (Mexico), 114 pages
- **April:** *Babel, Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution* by R.F. Kuang, International (China, Britain), 545 pages
- **Mid-May Bonus:** *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, Classic, 254 pages
- **May:** *The Cartographers* by Peng Shepherd, Fiction, 392 pages
- **June:** *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, Nonfiction, 317 pages

A Note from our Coordinator Kate Smith:

My husband and I are eagerly awaiting the birth of our first child in the next few weeks and as such, I will be bowing out of a few of our early 2023 meetings. I will be setting up everything on the tech side and asking PBK friends to step in as facilitators in the meantime, so the book club won't skip a beat and I will see you all later in the spring!

Happy reading,

Kate Smith,

DCPBK Book Club Coordinator

December Spanish Language Group

Join us for a Spanish Language Group meeting on **December 14 at 6:30 PM** at El Rinconcito (1129 11th St NW, Washington DC 20001). 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.

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

Click below to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with additional details. We look forward to seeing you on **December 14th at 6:30 PM**.

To register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/register/2022/12/14/november-spanish-language-group>

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

Recent and Upcoming Events

Trivia Night Is a Winner!

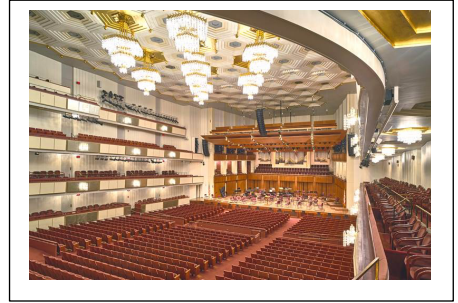
Trivia Night with the YP Network is back! The group met recently for a happy hour at Crimson DC, to enjoy food and drinks and another round of trivia. The team worked together to answer a host of trivia questions from a mix of categories including history, science, movies, arts, sports, and pop culture—and

ultimately finished in first place! DCPBK for the win!

YP Evening at the Kennedy Center

Friday, January 20, 2023, 7:00 PM at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F Street, NW, Washington, DC

Enjoy live classical music with the YP Network! Join us at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on Friday, January 20. The National Symphony Orchestra *Foreword* begins at 7:00 PM, and covers fascinating stories behind the music. The concert begins at 8:00 PM, featuring violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** playing the haunting “First Violin Concerto” of Shostakovich, a challenging showpiece raging with fury and dark humor. **Noseda** will conduct the concerto, followed by Bruckner’s striking “Symphony No. 6.”



Space is limited, so please sign up soon. Registration is \$5 per person.

To register:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/register/2023/1/20/yp-event-at-the-kennedy-center>

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please contact Reyna Yang, YP Network Coordinator (reyna_yang@gwu.edu) if you have any questions about the event and the registration.

Announcements

High School Awards Program

The High School Awards Program seeks 1-2 Committee Members to assist with outreach and selection of awardees for the 2022-2023 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, which are awarded in the spring.

Volunteers must be members of DC PBK 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 2023 awardees
- Assist in planning the annual Awards ceremony.

To Apply:

- Please email the High School Awards Committee at awards@dcpbk.org with a resume and a brief statement of your interest in joining the Committee.

Mentorship Network News

Fall Mentorship Mixer

October’s Mentorship Mixer was a success—mentors and mentees alike gathered to get to know one another through various conversation starters and topics related to mentorship, professional growth, and career goals!

We look forward to sharing our 2023 Mentorship Programming after the new year. In the meantime, please consider becoming a mentor through the **DCPBK Mentor Directory**, which 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

DCPBK Winter Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Winter board meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 21, from 10:00-12:00 AM via Zoom.**

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2022-2023 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randall (Washington College, 2016)
VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAPTER RELATIONS: Catherine Stallsmith (Elon University, 2022)
VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER EXPERIENCE: Lindsay Osborne (University of Hawaii, 2021)
SECRETARY: Daisy Yu (University of Maryland, College Park, 2022)
TREASURER: Reyna Yang (George Washington U., 2022)

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)—Membership and Outreach 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