



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

July 2023

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Upcoming and Recent Events

Coffee & Conversation Series

Tuesday, August 1, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Don't miss the next installment of Coffee & Conversation, for an insightful discussion about modern Iran by **Amin Neshati**.

Amin Neshati was born in Tehran, Iran, in pre-revolutionary days. At the age of 10, he was sent to a boarding school in India, where several years later he applied for refugee status after the revolution of 1979 in his home country. In 1987 he moved to the U.S. to marry his American sweetheart, with whom he has two grown children. He worked for several years as an assistant and associate editor of the *Journal of Iranian Studies*. He also translated articles from Persian (Farsi) into English for inclusion in the *Encyclopædia Iranica*, the premier reference work on the Persianate world. He also worked for ten years at the FBI, serving as both translator and interpreter. Amin currently works as an analyst at PersuMedia, Inc., in Virginia, where he monitors digital and social media relating to Iran, and provides written reports for the company's government and business clients. As a break from his demanding professional work, his hobbies include playing and refereeing soccer, playing table tennis, and noodling on guitar and bass.

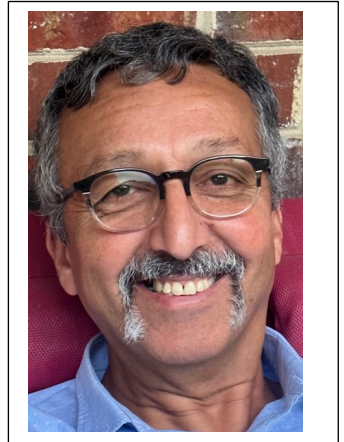


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Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you soon!

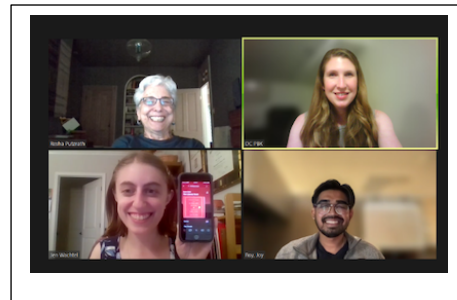
Register Here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2023/8/1/coffee-conversation-with-amin-neshati>.

Zoom link forthcoming. Please direct your questions/comments to Niku Neshati, Outreach & Membership Coordinator: membership@dcpbk.org

Book Club News and Reviews

June 2023 Meeting Recap

On June 27 we hosted two concurrent versions of the book club, to discuss Susan Orlean's *The Library Book*. One met on Zoom and one in person at Dupont's Sette Osteria. Members have craved an in-person option for a while, and attendees were resoundingly positive about seeing one another again. We may try for dual meetings every other month or so moving forward, while keeping open the Zoom option, which has proved a popular, adaptable mainstay for the group in recent years. We may try to crowdsource a new location for the in-person group, as Sette seemed less accommodating to larger groups than in the past. Suggestions are welcome! Discussion topics included the investigative journalism genre, the evolution of fire protection and library services, and the cast of characters surrounding the Los Angeles public library fire event at the heart of the book. We'd recommend this to fellow PBK members; it is a love letter to reading and to libraries as a community institution, although we took issue with some of its narrative structure.



July Meeting

On Thursday, July 27, the group will meet for our first selection of the Fall Series, the very buzzy Barnes and Noble Book of the Year, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (Fiction) 400 pages. You can RSVP here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/2023/7/27/dc-pbk-july-2023-book-club-meeting-lessons-in-chemistry-by-bonnie-garmus>

Semi-Annual Voting Process—Fall Sections Finalized

Through June, recent attendees completed our voting cycle to select our upcoming roster of books for the Fall 2023 Series. Members recommend, and then vote in, their choices for Fiction, Classic, Nonfiction, and International Selections. The compiled list is below:

- **Mid-August Bonus:** *The Daughter of Doctor Moreau* by Silvia Morena-Garcia (International, Mexico), 306 pages
- **August:** *The Possibility of Life: Science, Imagination, and our Quest for Kinship in the Cosmos* by Jaime Green (Nonfiction) 288 pages
- **September:** *The Secret Gate: A True Story of Courage and Sacrifice During the Collapse of Afghanistan* by Mitchell Zuckoff (Nonfiction) 336 pages
- **Mid-October Bonus:** *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann (Nonfiction) 352 pages
- **October:** *Stolen* by Ann-Helén Laestadius (International, Sweden), 400 pages
- **November:** *Trust* by Hernan Diaz (Fiction) 416 pages
- **December:** *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway (Classic) 96 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!

Happy reading,
Kate Smith
Book Club Coordinator

July Spanish Language Group

Join us for our Spanish Language Group meeting on **July 25 at 6:30 PM** at **Teaism Penn Quarter** (400 8th St NW, Washington, DC 20004).

The meeting is open to all skill levels, but note that it will be conducted in Spanish, so a basic conversational level is recommended to be able to participate in the discussion.

Click below to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with additional details. We look forward to seeing you on **July 25th at 6:30PM**.

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity. If you have any questions about the group or have trouble registering, please contact our new group leader, **Molly Rose Malaney** (mollyrose048@gmail.com).

To Register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/register/2023/7/25/july-spanish-language-group>

Young Professionals (YP) Network

With abundant thanks to Reyna Yang for a wonderful year as YP Network coordinator, **Campbell Nilsen** is the new YP Coordinator, and has lots of ideas for future events for this lively group.

Board Games at The Board Room

On Sunday, July 23, we'll be enjoying **board games at The Board Room in Arlington**, at 925 N. Garfield Street. We can look forward to pub grub, craft beer, and clever cocktails served in a buzzy space with a big selection of board games.

We'll be starting right when they open at 12:00, and you don't have to register in advance.

Contact Campbell Nilsen (campbell.nilsen@gmail.com) if you want to know more, be added to the semi-official DCPBK Whatsapp group (not only for young professionals), or suggest a potential event.

Stay tuned for more opportunities with music, games, and fun!

Announcements

Annual Meeting

The **Annual Meeting** of the DCPBK Association took place on Sunday, July 9, at the Brazilian Steakhouse Fogo de Chao in downtown DC. Following a sumptuous meal, the program leaders and other board members shared details about their programs, including activities and achievements of the past year, and plans for the coming year. The gathering ended with a short business meeting. Look for more details in our August newsletter.

Mentorship Network News

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!

If you're searching for a mentor, please visit the Mentor Directory and reach out to any mentor that looks like a match for your needs. If you need assistance in drafting outreach, don't hesitate to drop me a note.

To learn more about the Mentorship Network, please visit <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

Elena Helmers-Wegman
DCPBK Mentorship Network Coordinator

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2022-2023 Officers

PRESIDENT: Lindsay Osborne (University of Hawaii, 2021)
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 University, 2022)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

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
Niku Neshati (George Mason University, 2018)—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: Campbell Nilsen
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