



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

October 2023

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"Like" the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association page and follow us on Twitter at [@DCPhiBetaKappa](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKappa)!

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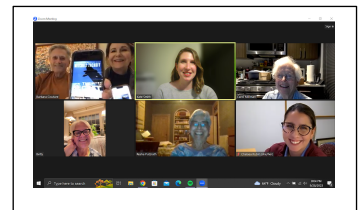
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Upcoming and Recent Events

Book Club News and Reviews

September Meeting Recap

On Thursday, September 28, eight members of the Book Club met to discuss *The Secret Gate: A True Story of Courage and Sacrifice During the Collapse of Afghanistan* by Mitchell Zuckoff. Despite living in the Washington



area, surrounded by members of military, diplomatic and other event-adjacent organizations, few of us had much context for the whirlwind final days of the war in Afghanistan. We agreed the narrative style requires some suspension of disbelief, since it purports to be nonfiction but is written like a fiction retelling, complete with specific, quoted dialogue. Nevertheless, the visceral scenes from the Kabul airport, and details from the lives of Zuckoff's primary subjects, paint a candid and harrowing picture of the events surrounding our country's formal exit.

October Meetings

We have two October meetings scheduled; the links with all the relevant details are shown below!

Note for the 24th session there are Zoom and in-person options. The in-person will be held at Boqueria, in Dupont. We are trying out new locations until we find a solid replacement for our pre-pandemic regular spots.

- **Mid-October Bonus: *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder*** by David Grann (Nonfiction) 352 pages
<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2023/10/19/mid-october-dc-pbk-book-club-the-wager-a-tale-of-shipwreck-mutiny-and-murder-by-david-grann>
- **October: *Stolen*** by Ann-Helén Laestadius (International, Sweden), 400 pages
<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2023/10/24/october-2023-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-stolen-by-ann-hel-233-n-laestadius-with-in-person-online-options>

All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend.

- **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. Feel free to grab food and drink for the meeting, as we normally would.

I hope to see many of you there!

Sincerely,
Kate Smith
Book Club Coordinator, DC PBK Association
bookclub@dcpbk.org

October Spanish Language Group

Join us for our Spanish Language Group meeting on **October 25th at 6:30 PM** at **Colada Shop Dupont** (1900 N St NW, Washington, DC 20036). 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 **October 25th at 6:30pm ET.**

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity. Please contact Molly Rose (mollyrose048@gmail.com or 954-304-2907) if you have any questions about the group or have trouble registering.

To Register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2023/10/25/october-spanish-language-group>

Coffee & Conversation Series with Dr. Leslie Sinn

DCPBK held our third Coffee & Conversation Event for 2023 on Thursday, October 5, 6:30-7:30 PM via Zoom

Dr. Leslie Sinn, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist and doctor of veterinary medicine, heads the Veterinary Technician training program at Northern Virginia Community College, and has her own animal behavior firm in Loudon County, VA. She talked about her experiences working with animals and common behavior misconceptions! And answered participants' questions about their own feline and canine companions.

Niku Neshati
Outreach & Membership Coordinator
Contact: membership@dcpbk.org

Young Professionals (YP) Network

The **YP Network** is becoming livelier all the time! We're jumping into fall with an exciting variety of fun programs, as noted below. You can also learn more about these opportunities on our website, dcpbk.org.

Recent Events

The DCPBK **Young Professionals** held a number of events in September, including trivia games, a mini-golf venture that ended up cancelled due to storms, and a trip to the National Gallery that saw low

attendance due to rain. This October we're planning another art museum trip, hiking, and a couple of more low-key events in the city, with a volunteer event for early November in the planning stages.

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.

Announcements

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

2023-2024 Officers

PRESIDENT: Lindsay Osborne (University of Hawaii, 2021)
VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAPTER RELATIONS: Catherine Stallsmith (Elon University, 2022)
VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER EXPERIENCE: **OPEN**
SECRETARY: Clem Damon Moore (University of Mississippi, 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 Anderson (Lawrence University, 2009)—Past President
Kate H. Smith (Boston University, 2010)—Book Club Coordinator
Niku Neshati (George Mason University, 2018)—Membership and Outreach Coordinator
Rebecca DeSantis Randell (Washington College, 2016)—Past President

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 (University of Oklahoma, 2017)
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