



April 2024 Newsletter

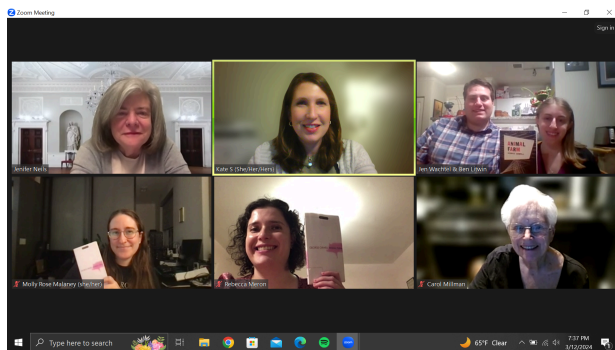
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Book Club

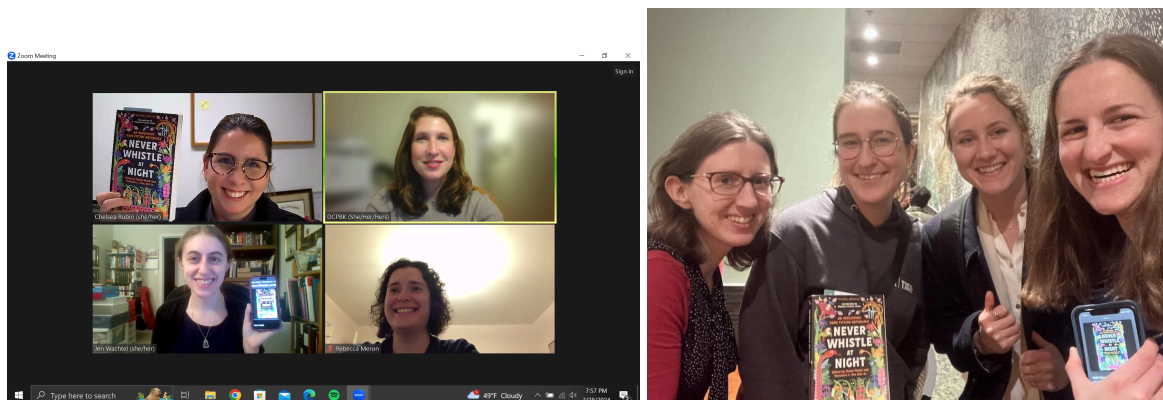
Mid-March Meeting Recap:

On Tuesday, March 12, seven members of the book club met to discuss the Classic selection *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Almost everyone had previously read this as part of their grade school curriculum, so we spent a good portion comparing our perceptions from past to now, and discussing how the text may have been met by contemporary audiences when it was first published. We made comparisons to a previous book club favorite, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, how it seems inevitable that hierarchy and decadence at the top emerges, despite the textbook intentions of 20th century communism. We spoke of the dangers of a naive and uneducated working class, and made parallels to the danger of a similarly blinded modern day American electorate. This one definitely requires an understanding of the historical context, and we discussed the parallels of each animal character to their Russian human counterpart.



March Recap:

On Thursday, March 28th, four of us gathered to discuss the gripping Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology *Never Whistle at Night* edited by Shane Hawk and Theodore C. Van Alst Jr. We did not all make it through all 26 stories in the collection, but had much to say about the visceral impact of the ones we read. Some featured traditional horror arcs and themes, woven with traditional Indigenous lore, and some were more psychological thrillers. One standout theme was that most featured an Indigenous character who finds power and agency over situations that might otherwise harm them, making the overall book quite hopeful despite its ominous tales.



Upcoming Meetings

We will meet online on Zoom on Tuesday, April 30th to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann, Nonfiction (2017), 416 pages. To RSVP please visit <https://www.dcpbk.org/events/#!event-list>

Here are the remaining choices for the spring semester.

- Mid-May Bonus: Asylum: A Memoir and Manifesto by Edefe Okporo, International, Nigerian (2022), 224 pages
- May: The Country of the Pointed Firs by Sarah Orne Jewett, Classic (1896), 224 pages
- June: Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver, Fiction (2022), 560 pages

Kate Smith
Book Club Chair
bookclub@dcpbk.org

Young Professionals Network

James Madison University PBK Induction Ceremony

We had a great time at the Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony at James Madison University on March 24th, welcoming nearly 60 JMU grads to the organization. I spoke to the value of our alumni networks and a liberal arts education in the professional world.

Campbell Nilsen
YP Network Chair
yp@dcpbk.org

High School Awards

The 2023-2024 High School Awards application is live and the applications are flowing in as the April 6 deadline approaches!

The High School Awards program is made possible by generous financial contributions from our members and supporters. In the past, the program has benefited greatly from the commitment of members like Mary Corinne Rosebrook, who served on the High School Awards committee until 1989, and was still tutoring young D.C. pupils upon her 100th birthday in 1993. Another important supporter was Ruth Knee, who dedicated significant time and energy to ensure the success of the program until her death in 2008. More recently, a longstanding member of DCPBK has included a substantial legacy endowment to the High School Awards Program in her will in order to help secure its future income.

To continue this longstanding DCPBK tradition of supporting students in the DC area, check out our [website](#).

Sameer Jaywant

High School Awards Chair
awards@dcpbk.org

[Spanish Language Group](#)

Join us for our [April Spanish Language Group](#) meeting on April 22nd. 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 above to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with additional details. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you to all who joined for our March meeting!

Molly Rose Malaney
Spanish Language Group Chair
spanish@dcpbk.org



[Membership & Outreach](#)

Thank you to everyone who participated in the March Coffee and Conversations on minimum wage regulation! I think everyone came away from the presentation with a clearer understanding of the current policy discussion and the tools that can be used to analyze policy.

For those who missed it, we have plenty more in store. Stay tuned for the next event!

Matthew Thomas
Membership & Outreach Chair/Webmaster
membership@dcpbk.org

[Elections](#)

DCPBK Board Elections are coming up! Please keep your eyes peeled for the executive committee ballot, which will be sent over Google Forms to current members no later than May 1, 2024 at midnight. The Ballot closes on June 1, 2024 at midnight, and results will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting this summer.

Clen “Damon” Moore
Secretary
secretary@dcpbk.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? Take a peek at the following opportunities to serve our members:

Newsletter Editor

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Newsletter Editor to take over following our elections in early June, with training to begin immediately in preparation for a smooth transition. The Newsletter Editor works closely with the Newsletter Publisher to ensure publication on or before the 15th of each month.

Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#). Please let us know if you are interested! Email your resume and a brief paragraph of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

Vice President of External Relations

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Vice President of External Relations to take over following our elections in early June, with training to begin immediately in preparation for a smooth transition. The VPER is first in the line of succession to take over presidential responsibilities if needed, and represents DCPBK externally. The VPER builds and maintains strong relationships with National PBK, local academic chapters, alumni associations, and within the South Atlantic District. The VPER also seeks out opportunities to partner with other like-minded organizations for mutually beneficial projects.

Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#). Please let us know if you are interested! Email your resume and a brief paragraph of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

Secretary

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Secretary to take over following our elections in early June, with training to begin immediately in preparation for a smooth transition. The Secretary takes and publishes meeting minutes, researches and upholds DCPBK’s governance structures, and assists the President with recruiting and as otherwise requested.

Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#). Please let us know if you are interested! Email your resume and a brief paragraph of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

YP Network Chair

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a YP Network Chair to take over at the beginning of April. The YP Network Chair plans and hosts 1-3 events each month for our YP Network members, and assists with locating new candidates to join the board.

Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#). Please let us know if you are interested! Email your resume and a brief paragraph of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

Events & Programs Committee

DCPBK is seeking to recruit **3-5 members** to sit on the [Events & Programs Committee](#), co-chaired by our Vice President of Member Experience and Membership & Outreach Coordinator. Committee members will assist the VPME with planning annual events, and Membership with planning and incubating new programs for DCPBK. Volunteers must be members of DCPBK in good standing.

Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#). Please let us know if you are interested! Email your resume and a brief paragraph of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

Fundraising & Development Chair

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a [Fundraising & Development Chair](#) to help us maintain our operating budget, assist with the High School Awards Program, and keep the website's fundraising pages up to date. Volunteers must be members of DCPBK in good standing.

Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#). Please let us know if you are interested! Email your resume and a brief paragraph of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

Niku Neshati
President
president@dcpbk.org

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2024-2025

Officers

President: Niku Neshati (George Mason University, 2018)

Vice President of External Relations: Catherine Stallsmith (Elon University, 2022)

Vice President of Member Experience: Kyle Coen (Colorado State University, 2000)

Secretary: Clen Damon Moore (University of Mississippi, 2020)

Treasurer: Sarah Eckhardt (University of Wisconsin, 2023)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Newsletter Editor: Carol L. Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)

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

Past President: Elizabeth “Liz” Marshall Anderson (Lawrence University, 2009)

Book Club Chair: Kate H. Smith (Boston University, 2010)

Fundraising & Development Chair: VACANT

Advisory Council

Past Vice President: Deirdre LaPin (Agnes Scott College, 1967)

Past President: Christel G. McDonald (George Washington University, 1986)

Past President: Lindsay Parco (Osborne) (University of Hawai'i, 2021)

Volunteers

Young Professionals Network Chair: Campbell Nilsen (University of Oklahoma, 2017)

High School Awards Chair: Sameer Jaywant (New York University, 2014)

Membership & Outreach Chair/Webmaster: Matthew Thomas (Williams College, 2017)

Social Media Chair: Alaina Ruffin (George Mason University, 2023)

Mentorship Network Chair: Christina Hughes (Rice University, 2013)

Committees

High School Awards Committee

Events & Programs Committee