



July 2024 Newsletter

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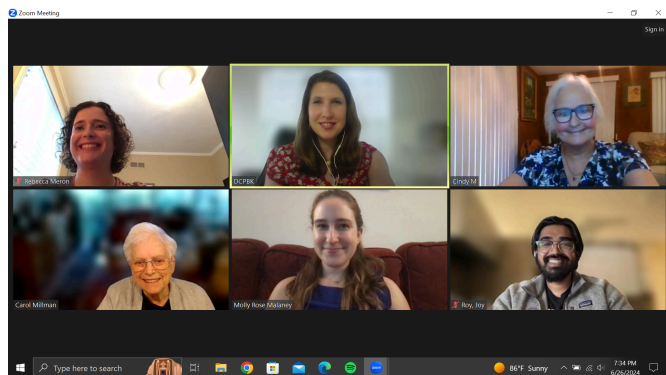
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Book Club

June Meeting Recap

On Wednesday, June 26th, a group of six met to discuss the bestseller *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. Universally we agreed on the quality of the writing but also how incredibly difficult the subject material is for any reader, but especially parents wishing to

provide the best for their child and shield them from hardship. Based on the classic Dickens novel *David Copperfield*, Kingsolver explores a childhood and beyond impacted by drug abuse, child abuse, extreme deficiencies in the foster care system, and much more. We spoke about the tone set by the novel's first person narration and reflection, themes of abandonment and predetermination vs agency in one's own life, and the main character's many influences over time.



Fall 2024 Voting Cycle

The book club recently completed our semi-annual voting cycle. Members who have participated within the last six months recommend and then vote in these picks. Please see below for our July-December list:

- **July:** *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green, Nonfiction, 293 pages
- **August:** *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang, Fiction, 336 pages
- **Mid-September Bonus:** *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin, Classic, 197 pages
- **September:** *How High We Go in the Dark* by Sequoia Nagamatsu, International, Japanese American, 304 pages
- **October:** *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Classic, 260 pages
- **Mid-November Bonus:** *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, Fiction, 288 pages
- **November:** *Dancing in the Mosque: An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son* by Homeira Qaderi, International, Afghanistan, 224 pages
- **December:** *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* by David Brooks, Nonfiction, 304 pages

Upcoming Meetings

Our July [meeting](#) will be held Monday, July 29 at 6:30PM on Zoom to discuss our first selection of the Fall Series, *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green.

While not every meeting features an in person option, we hope to continue to offer in person meetings every few discussions. Be sure to read each event posting closely to see whether the meeting is Zoom-only or features an in person option for members.

Kate Smith
Book Club Chair
bookclub@dcpbk.org

It is with great sadness that Kate, our cherished book club chair of 9 years, is stepping down from the position to focus on a new chapter of her life. She has graciously agreed to stay on through August, but we will be handing the position off to a new member as of September 1. If you are interested in taking over as book club chair, please check out the [Board & Committee Vacancies](#) section for further details on how to apply.

Language Groups

Spanish

¿Hablas español? ¿Buscas un grupo chévere para practicar tu conversación? ¡Únete a nuestro grupo informal!



La próxima [reunión mensual](#) será **mañana**, 16 de julio de 6:30-8:30PM en persona en el restaurante Dos Toros (Chinatown). Insíbete por el enlace por encima. Para más detalles, incluso sobre eventos de cultura latina, ¡échale un vistazo a nuestro chat en [Whatsapp](#)!

¿Preguntas? ¿Comentarios? No vaciles a ponerte en contacto conmigo.

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

French

Est-ce que tu parles français et as envie de participer dans un groupe de pratique avec d'autres francophones? On a de bonnes nouvelles pour toi!

Francophones, the wait is over!

Join us for the long-awaited inaugural [French Language Group meeting](#) on **July 24th at 7:00pm ET on Zoom**. This will be an interest meeting (conducted in English) for anyone looking for a low-key conversation practice group in French. We want to hear your thoughts! Join us in building this brand new program from the ground up.

Please register to confirm attendance. A Zoom link will be sent out a few days ahead of the meeting.

À bientôt!

Join us in welcoming our new French Group Chair, [Kelly Williams](#)!



Kelly is a book-loving, travel-mad, contra-dancing, mostly-vegetarian musician and educator. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at Allegheny College in 2014, where she received her bachelor's in Environmental Science. Since then, Kelly has been a science educator in a variety of settings, from a traditional high school to the Colorado backcountry. She received her MA in Science Education from the

University of Northern Colorado in 2018. She currently teaches middle school science at the Edmund Burke School in DC.

Kelly Williams
French Group Chair
french@dcpbk.org

[Mentorship Network](#)

The DC PBK Mentorship Network program focuses on connecting DC PBK Association members to share professional advice and foster the intellectual curiosity that brings our PBK community together at its core. Through connecting members of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences, the Mentorship Network aims to catalyze learning relationships among Association members and strengthen the personal and professional lives of individuals and their connections to the Association. We invite all members of DC PBK to get involved by: signing up to become a mentor, browsing our online Mentor Directory and initiate contact with mentors at your own convenience, apply to participate in our annual Mentor Match Program, or attend one of our quarterly MentorMix events.

Calling all current [Mentor Directory](#) participants: We are working on refreshing the Mentor Directory. For questions or assistance, or to be added to the Mentor Directory, please contact mentorship@dcpbk.org.

Upcoming Events:

- September 29, 2024 [Key Connections MentorMix Event](#): **Sunday, September 29 11:00AM-2:00PM at the Workhouse Arts Center**

Are you a past mentor/mentee? Are you interested in participating in one of DC PBK mentorships programs? Join us for an end-of-summer joint mixer with Key Connections to meet incoming Phi Betes and get more information about our Mentor Directory, Mentor Match Program, and upcoming events! For more details on the event, scroll down to the [events](#) section.

- Mentor Match Program: **November 2024 - March 2025**

Update: the program start date has been delayed to November to allow new members to apply following the Key Connections event. This fall we will restart the pre-pandemic Mentor Match Program in which 10-15 applicants will be matched with 3-5 local mentors for a five month mentorship program. Mentorship topics are self-selected and can include a variety of topics including professional development, career growth, navigating the DC Metro area, volunteering/activism, etc. The five-month series will restart in the fall of this year. Stay tuned for more information about how to apply as a mentor or mentee.

Christina Hughes
Mentorship Network Chair
mentorship@dcpbk.org

Young Professionals Network

The YP Network has a fun activity in store for July. Join us for a [Nature Walk/Hike at Potomac Overlook Regional Park](#) **Saturday, July 20 10:00AM-12:00PM!** Whether you like walking, hiking, birding, or just chatting with friends, this is sure to be right up your alley.



If you need a ride or are willing to give someone a ride, please contact yp@dcpbk.org so we can coordinate carpooling for anyone who might need it.

If you're interested in taking over as Young Professionals Network Chair, please see the [volunteer opportunities](#) below for more information on the position and how to apply.

Social Media

If you haven't already, be sure to check out our pages on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Our Discord server is currently being revamped for the new year, so stay tuned for more ways to get connected! 🔑

Alaina Ruffin
Social Media Chair
social@dcpbk.org

Membership & Outreach

Member Engagement Survey

Results from the member engagement survey are in! See below for the top programs & activities chosen by our members for this year:

Programs

1. Arts & Crafts (61.5%)
2. What makes a Phi Bete? (53.8%)
3. Pickup Sports (30.8%)

Activities

1. Monument Tours (76.9%)
2. Museum Visits (76.9%)
3. Afternoon Tea (69.2%)

To those who participated in the survey, many thanks for your input! Stay tuned for more news about upcoming events and programs on the horizon.

Coffee & Conversation

It's almost here – [Coffee & Conversation](#) is back with another scintillating speaker! Join us for an interview with one of our own -- the woman who wrote the book on reporting, Maurine Beasley,

Ph.D., on **Monday, July 22 6:30PM-7:30PM** over Zoom!

Dr. Maurine H. Beasley is professor emerita at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland - College Park where she was a faculty member for four decades. A native of Sedalia, Missouri, she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Missouri Columbia where she received bachelors' degrees in journalism and history. She also holds a master's degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism and a Ph.D in American civilization from George Washington University. At Maryland she was president of the College Park chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The author, editor or co editor of some eight books and author of dozens of articles in academic publications, Dr. Beasley's scholarly interests center around the history of women in the Washington press corps including Eleanor Roosevelt, herself a journalist. Her book, *Women of the Washington Press*, won the national Kappa Tau Alpha prize for the best book on journalism history published in 2012. Her professional experience includes three years as education editor of the Kansas City Star and ten years as a reporter for The Washington Post. She is a past president of the Association for Education in Journalism and the American Journalism Historians Association and has won awards from both organizations as well as from the Washington chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists of which she also is a past president.



Dr. Beasley will share with us her expertise in journalism, some observations of current trends, and the history of women's contributions to the field. Don't miss it!

As always, the event will take place on Zoom, and the link will be sent out to registrants shortly beforehand.

If you have questions or suggestions on future speakers, please reach out to membership@dcpbk.org.

If you're interested in taking over as Membership & Outreach Chair, please see the [volunteer opportunities](#) below for more information on the position and how to apply.

How are we doing? Let us know with this anonymous [member feedback survey](#).

Events

Past

Annual Business Meeting



On the heels of this year's exceptional Spring Fling, The D.C. Area Phi Beta Kappa Association held our **Annual Business Meeting** on Sunday, June 23rd, 2024 11:00AM-2:00PM at the Busboys & Poets location in Anacostia. It was another great success! Members were introduced to the newly elected executive committee for the 2024-2025 term, heard about the board's accomplishments over the previous

year, and were treated to an inspiring talk about the scientific method of “Contemporary Prestidigitation” from business leader, author, and Phi Bete, Ian Kallenbach of Dream Machine. Finally, attendees networked and socialized over scrumptious bites, got a close-up look at the President’s Cup (above), and shared their feedback directly with the board. Many thanks to all who attended!

Missed it? Check out our [past events](#) page for some photo and video highlights!



Upcoming

[Key Connections MentorMix Event](#)

Believe it or not, our next annual event is already around the corner! Join us at this year’s [Key Connections MentorMix Event](#) **Sunday, September 29 11:00AM-2:00PM at the Workhouse Arts Center**. As always, Key Connections will support Phi Betes helping Phi Betes through networking at all career stages – from brand new inductees to veteran members. This year’s event will be hosted on the picturesque campus of one of the most eclectic art galleries in the area, where guests will be surrounded by pieces from preeminent artists in a wide variety of media: painting, ceramics, glasswork, sculpture, textiles, and more...but that’s not all!

For fans of dark history, the beautiful red brick architecture in the style of Thomas Jefferson belies, by design, the true purpose for which the structures were built. Originally a



penitentiary under the DC prison system, the workhouse was notoriously a place for would-be prisoners to work off their debt to society as an alternative to formal imprisonment. None other than the suffragettes were detained within these walls before they were sent off to their permanent prison quarters, and the grounds contain a small museum dedicated to the women’s suffrage movement. Not until the early 2000s was the workhouse repurposed from a functioning prison to an arts gallery, as careful observers can glean from the guard’s watchtower on

the lawn, still viewable from the main building.

This year’s event will be a mashup of the annual Key Connections event with our MentorMix events offered through the [Mentorship Network](#).

Registration opens in August – stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter!

Kyle Coen

Vice President of Member Experience
vpmemberexperience@dcpbk.org

Secretary

Please give a warm welcome to our new secretary, [Brynn Poppe!](#)



Brynn Poppe is the Secretary of the Board for the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association. As the Secretary, she advises the Board on the governance of DCPBK, maintains board administrative records, and assists the President with recruitment and completion of special projects. She has been a member of DCPBK since shortly after her induction into the Iota of Pennsylvania Chapter in 2019. She graduated summa cum laude from Gettysburg College in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences and French. After college, she began work in law firm administration, specializing in risk management, client coordination, and records management. Her love of learning and connection drive her diverse intellectual interests which include science communication, health advocacy, chronic pain management, disability studies, visual arts, foreign language, and much more.

Board & Committee Vacancies

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? Help us take our association to the next level! Take a peek at the following opportunities to serve our members while gaining valuable leadership skills that will take you far in the professional world. To apply for any of the following vacancies, **please email your resume and a brief paragraph of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org**. Volunteers must be members of DCPBK in good standing.

1. [Book Club Chair](#)



DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Book Club Chair to organize and lead monthly book club meetings over Zoom effective September 1, 2024. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

2. [Membership & Outreach Chair](#)



DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Membership & Outreach Chair to oversee membership payments, renewals, and member-driven programming for the association. The Membership & Outreach Chair hosts DCPBK's popular hour-long Coffee & Conversation series each quarter over Zoom, and helps to incubate new programming ideas pursuant to member input. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

3. [YP Network Chair](#)



DCPBK is seeking to recruit a YP Network Chair to plan and host 1-3 events each month for our YP Network members, and assist with locating new candidates to join the board. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

4. [Fundraising & Development Chair](#)



DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Fundraising & Development Chair to help us maintain our operating budget, assist with fundraising for the High School Awards Program, and keep the website's fundraising pages up to date. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

5. [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. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

Think you're up to it? Questions or concerns? Please don't hesitate to reach out to me about how to join our board!

Niku Neshati
President
president@dcpbk.org

DCPBK Board **2024-2025**

Officers

President: Niku Neshati (George Mason University, 2018)

Vice President of External Relations: Briggs Burton (Hampden-Sydney College, 2016)

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

Treasurer: Matthew Thomas (Williams College, 2017)

Secretary: Brynn Poppe (Gettysburg College, 2019)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

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)

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

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

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 (University of Hawai’i, 2021)

Appointed Volunteers

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

Spanish Group Chair: Molly Rose Malaney (University of Florida, 2020)

French Group Chair: Kelly Williams (Allegheny College, 2014)

Newsletter Editor: Rose Burberry-Martin

Membership & Outreach Chair/Webmaster: VACANT

Young Professionals Network Chair: VACANT

Committees

High School Awards Committee

Events & Programs Committee