



June 2024 Newsletter

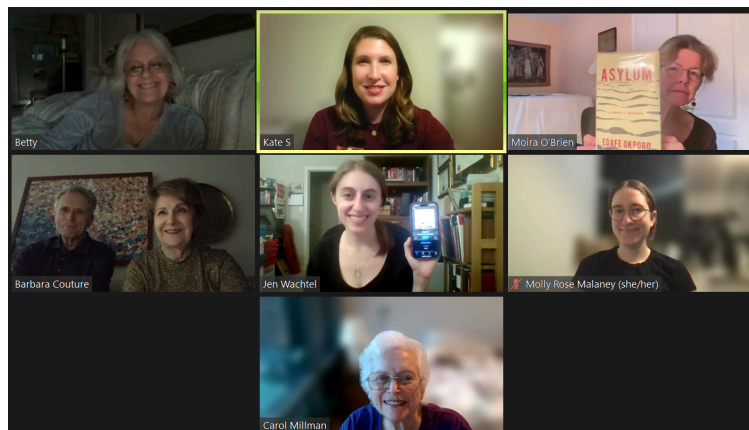
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Book Club

Mid-May Bonus Meeting Recap

On Monday May 20, eight members of the book club met to discuss *Asylum: A Memoir and Manifesto* by Edeafe Okporo. This moving text definitely achieved its goal of opening our eyes to not only the legal realities of immigration in our country on paper. However, the deeper impact of Okporo's story comes from his recounting of the physical reality of those



who make their way here and are met with dismal, for-profit detention centers, homelessness, and a piecemeal network of aid to support integration into the community. The group was also struck by the question of "where is safe," when Okporo spoke of fleeing Nigeria for freedom of sexual identity expression in the U.S, only to be met here with the reality of modern American racism. The book ultimately lends

a humanizing voice to a population often overlooked and vilified in political debate.

May Meeting Recap

Towards the end of the month on May 30, eight members and guests met to discuss the 1890s classic "The Country of the Pointed First" by Sarah Orne Jewett. Many of us had not



heard of this one, and it divided the group in two, with a mix of low and high ratings. Lush descriptions of the remote Maine landscape and depictions of female friendship, loneliness, and the town's past contend for the reader's enjoyment over occasionally tough dialogue and seeming lack of plot.

Current Voting Cycle

The book club is currently in our semi-annual voting cycle. Members who have participated within the last six months recommend and vote on our selections for July-December. Stay tuned for a refreshed upcoming list in the next newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings

Here are the remaining choices for the spring semester:

- June 26, 6:30 PM Zoom Online: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, Fiction (2022), 560 pages

Kate Smith
Book Club Chair
bookclub@dcpbk.org

Language Groups

Spanish

Join us for our July Spanish Language Group meeting in mid to late July! 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. For more details, including scheduling, please [join our Whatsapp Group](#).

Thank you to all who joined for our May & June meetings!

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

French

Chers amis francophones, on a besoin de votre aide!

DCPBK has been trying to start a French language group for some time to meet considerable demand among the membership, but our current board is over capacity and unable to lead the group. If you're interested in hosting as French Group Chair, please see the [volunteer opportunities](#) below for more information on the position and how to apply.

Merci d'avance.

High School Awards

The DCPBK High School Awards committee successfully held its first in-person ceremony since the pandemic on Saturday, June 8 at the Westover Library from 1:00PM - 2:30PM!



Awardees **Saithi Akula** and **Aidan Eftekhari** attended with their family members, while **Kendi Caldwell** and **Kayla Bethea** were honored in absentia (see [awardee bios](#) here). Also in attendance were guest speaker, Dr. Heidi Elmendorf, current President of the Georgetown University Chapter of PBK, HS Awards Committee members Mackenzie Fusco and Dan Bernstein, HS Awards Committee Chair Sameer Jaywant, current DCPBK President Niku Neshati, and former DCPBK President Christel McDonald.

The ceremony began with some remarks from Sameer on the history of PBK and DCPBK, and the purpose of the High School Awards. He emphasized that in addition to the impressive scholastic and



extracurricular achievements of this year's awardees, the quality that most distinguished all four of them was their commitment to the public good. Dr. Elemendorf agreed, noting that their target populations were uniformly among the most marginalized groups in society, and admiring their rare ability to seamlessly integrate interests in both global and local service. She shared some valuable advice as a scientist, Phi Beta, academic advisor, and mother, on the importance of being open to the unexpected, pursuing interests that feed one's soul, not just finding, but hand-selecting one's own group of allies, and remembering that "you are all enough."

Finally, Sameer delivered some additional observations about the power of family and community in shaping one's trajectory, reminding all in attendance that no one of us achieves things alone. He encouraged the awardees not to be defeated by the inevitable challenges they will face in college, to call on their network for support, and to lean into hardship, as it is critical for growth. After the program, we enjoyed great conversation over delicious catered refreshments.

Sameer Jaywant
High School Awards Chair
awards@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. Please review and update your information by **June 30**. For questions or assistance, or to be added to the Mentor Directory, please contact mentorship@dcpbk.org.

Upcoming Events:

- Summer 2024 MentorMix: date and location TBA (in-person)
Are you a past mentor/mentee? Are you interested in participating in one of DC PBK mentorships programs? Join us for a summer mixer to get more information about our Mentor Directory, Mentor Match Program, and upcoming mentorship events!
- Mentor Match Program: September 2024 - January 2025
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.

Finally, check out this special message from **National PBK** for public service professionals and hopefuls!



The PHI BETA KAPPA Society

Join us on **Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 5:30-7:30 PM**, when the Phi Beta Kappa Society will host our Key into Public Service Call to Serve event on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The event is designed for current students, interns, and young professionals looking to pursue careers in public service.

The Call to Serve event will include a panel discussion featuring inspirational public service leaders who will reflect on their own paths from campus to service careers. Before and after the panel, the Society will host a complimentary reception where attendees can make professional connections and learn more about pathways into public service for arts and sciences graduates.

This event is made possible through the generosity of the Gray Foundation.

Register Today!

Social Media

We are now LIVE on [Instagram!](#) ✨
We are so excited to move to a new platform and introduce even more content for you all, and ways to interact with us! Follow us **@dc.pbk** for more updates, announcements, and opportunities within our association and beyond!

Have any DC PBK memories to share? Tag our account and show off your PBK selfkeys with our #dcpbk tag!

If you haven't already, be sure to also check out our pages on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), 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](#)

Results from the [membership survey](#) are in! See below for the top programs & events chosen by our members for this year:

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.

Coffee & Conversation

[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 coeditor 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 Niku Neshati, President, at president@dcpbk.org.

Elections

The ballot for the DCPBK 2024 - 2025 Executive Committee closed on June 1, 2024 at midnight. Thank you very much to all who voted! This year's executive committee elect includes:

Officers:

1. President: [Niku Neshati](#)
2. Vice President of Member Experience: [Kyle Coen](#)
3. Treasurer: [Matthew Thomas](#)

At-Large Members:

4. [Elizabeth "Liz" Marshall Anderson](#) – PBK Liaison, Past President
5. [Paul B. Lubliner](#) – Newsletter Publisher, Past President
6. [Kate Smith](#) – Book Club Chair
7. [Christina Hughes](#) – Mentorship Network Chair
8. Sameer Jaywant – High School Awards Chair

The following positions were vacant when the ballot opened, so a separate by-election will be held after they've all been filled:

9. Vice President of External Relations: [Briggs Burton](#) (by appointment of the Executive Committee)
10. Secretary: VACANT
11. Fundraising & Development Chair – VACANT

Alternate nominees have been contacted to inform them of their nomination.

You are cordially invited to meet your newly-elected executive committee at our [Annual Business Meeting](#) on **June 23, 11:00AM-2:00PM**! Mark your calendars and see below for more details.

Events

Past

Spring Fling

Thank you to all who attended our annual Spring Fling event at the [Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America](#)! Established in 1895, the monastery is surrounded by 40 acres of lush garden, featuring a neo-Byzantine architectural style and detailed replicas of holy sites from across Europe and the Middle East. The portico walkway surrounding the upper gardens contains mosaic icons depicting significant moments in Christian history, plaques of the Ave Maria prayer translated into over 100 languages, and beautiful symbolic medallions. Our 14 attendees were treated to a lovely tour in perfect weather of the upper and lower gardens of the monastery, the man made grottos, a small oriental garden, and the tranquil koi pond. Several folks stuck around to explore the church inside the monastery before walking a few blocks for lunch at the Busboys & Poets off the campus of Catholic University.



Sad you missed it? Don't worry – we have plenty more fun events up our sleeves! See below for more details on what's next.

Picnic in the Park

Thank you to those who attended our Picnic in the Park event on Sunday, June 9 10:00AM-1:00PM at Green Spring Gardens! We enjoyed an intimate picnic and stimulating discussion about international affairs, working in government, local hidden gems, and Hershey Park. The event took place on the site of a historic farm owned until the 19th



century by the Moss family, who were highly influential in policy in DC. Now run by the Fairfax County Park Authority, the park is now a national historic site, outdoor classroom, and museum dedicated to the study of local horticulture, with a historic farm house on the property where Afternoon Tea is served. We soaked in the sunshine surrounded by idyllic landscaping and flora native to Northern Virginia, ending just in time to miss the brief afternoon rain shower. Keep an eye out for more small scale events over the summer!

Upcoming

Annual Business Meeting

The D.C. Area Phi Beta Kappa Association will hold our [Annual Business Meeting](#) on **Sunday, June 23rd, 2024 11:00AM-2:00PM.**



The Annual Business Meeting is both an administrative event to conduct critical association business, and a great chance to socialize with other members! This is your opportunity to meet the 2024-2025 Executive Committee in person, and to hear from each of them, both about last year's achievements, and this year's plans.

We will meet at the Anacostia location of Busboys and Poets, in the Marion Barry Jr. Room, starting promptly at 11:00 AM with the administrative portion. Afterwards, we'll be treated to a great speaker!

Food and drink will be available for purchase during the meeting thanks to the fantastic team at Busboys and Poets.

Capacity is capped at 60, and member ticket price is \$15, so [buy your ticket](#) now! If you have a speaker to suggest for this event, please reach out to us.

Key Connections

Following the rave reviews of our outstanding Spring Fling, we will be hosting another event to bring our membership together and enrich our daily lives with a dive into the works of local artists and artisans. This year's Key Connections event will take place on **September 29th, and begin at 11:00 AM.** With a focus on art, we are investigating two potential venues, The Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. Both locations will offer stimulating views and interaction with local creators who produce



thoughtful and stimulating works. Key Connections 2024 will provide an opportunity to further connect with current members and meet with other Phi Betes who are prospective members of our association. More details to come later in the summer.

Kyle Coen
Vice President of Member Experience
vpmemberexperience@dcpbk.org

Matthew Thomas
Events Vice Chair
events@dcpbk.org

External Relations



Please give a warm welcome to our new Vice President of External Relations, Briggs Burton!

W. Briggs Burton is a Registered Wealth Management Client Associate with The Corey Group at Merrill Lynch, where he has worked since 2021. Prior to his career in wealth management, Briggs worked for multiple nonprofits in development, operational, and communications roles. A native of southeastern Virginia, Briggs graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in

history from Hampden-Sydney College, where he was a Patrick Henry Honors Scholar and twice served as a Student Fellow at the Wilson Center for Leadership in the Public Interest.

In addition to his role at DCPBK, Briggs is also the Director of Development for the Loudoun Lyric Opera and a member of the board of trustees of Bel Cantanti Opera in Rockville, Maryland. In his free time, Briggs is an avid theatergoer, book collector, and rural conservationist.

Volunteer Opportunities

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. [French Group Chair](#)



DCPBK is seeking to recruit a French Group Chair to organize and lead monthly verbal practice meetings over Zoom. 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. [Newsletter Editor](#)



DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Newsletter Editor to work closely with the Newsletter Publisher, ensuring publication of the monthly newsletter on or before the 15th of each month. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

4. [Secretary](#)



DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Secretary to take and publish meeting minutes, research and uphold DCPBK's governance structures, and assist the President with recruiting and as otherwise requested. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

5. [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](#).

6. [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](#).

7. 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](#).

Niku Neshati
President
president@dcpbk.org

DCPBK Board **2024-2025**

Officers

President: Niku Neshati (George Mason University, 2018)

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

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

Treasurer: Matthew Thomas (Williams College, 2017)

Secretary: VACANT

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)

Volunteers

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

French Group Chair: VACANT

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

Membership & Outreach Chair/Webmaster: VACANT

Newsletter Editor: VACANT

Young Professionals Network Chair: VACANT

Committees

High School Awards Committee

Events & Programs Committee