



May 2024 Newsletter

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Book Club

April Meeting Recap

On Tuesday, April 30, eight members of the book club met to discuss the popular selection *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. With the timely release of Scorsese's film a few months ago, we found much to discuss, including Grann's storytelling. Similar to Erik Larson, he injects so much humanity into the facts and figures of history, and his extensive research weaves a dark corner of American history straight into the light. We were dismayed, if not shocked, to not have encountered the Osage and their brief moment in time as the richest population in the world per capita in our history classes. We covered each player's motivations and trajectory, the evolution of law enforcement tactics, and how justice is portrayed in the book. Last year we read Grann's *The Wager* and felt, similar to *Flower Moon*, that the rich details of systemic control, violence, and survival seemed impossibly nefarious and harsh. Kudos to Grann, then, for exposing such greed and accomplishing his stated intent, "acknowledging the original sin that comes with the formation of our country."



Upcoming Meetings

Here are the remaining choices for the spring semester:

- May 20th: Mid-May Bonus: *Asylum: A Memoir and Manifesto* by Edefe Okporo, International, Nigerian (2022), 224 pages
<https://www.dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2024/5/20/mid-may-2024-bonus-dcpbk-book-club-meeting-asylum-a-memoir-and-manifesto-by-edafe-okporo>
- May 30th: *The Country of the Pointed Firs* by Sarah Orne Jewett, Classic (1896), 224 pages
<https://www.dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2024/5/30/may-2024-dcpbk-book-club-meeting-the-country-of-the-pointed-firs-by-sarah-orne-jewett>
- June: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, Fiction (2022), 560 pages

Kate Smith
Book Club Chair
bookclub@dcpbk.org

High School Awards

The 2023-2024 High School Awards application is officially closed and we received an incredible **148 applications**! The HS Awards Committee is hard at work reviewing the applications and selecting the four awardees for this cycle. The awardees will be notified

ASAP and a reception will be held in their honor in May or June. If you're interested in attending, email awards@dcpbk.org!

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](https://www.dcpbk.org/awards).

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

It is with sadness that we say so long (for now) to Campbell Nilsen, our former YP Network Chair as he embarks on a new career opportunity in Miami, FL! All the best to you, Campbell, and thank you for your dedication to DCPBK. Please keep us updated!

If you're interested in taking over as YP Network Chair and hosting some fun events for the network, please see the [volunteer opportunities](#) below for more information on how to apply.

Language Groups

Spanish

Join us for our [May Spanish Language Group meeting](#) on May 14, 2024. 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 the link 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 May meeting!

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 are willing to host or co-host monthly meetings over Zoom, please contact Niku Neshati to volunteer.

Merci d'avance.

Membership & Outreach

It's time for another [membership survey](#)! What kinds of events and programs would you like to see? Click the link to let us know. Please respond **NO LATER THAN June 30, 2024 at midnight**.

Stay tuned for details on an upcoming Coffee & Conversation.

Our wonderful former Membership & Outreach Chair, Matthew Thomas, has transitioned into the role of Treasurer. 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.

External Relations

Induction Ceremonies

George Mason University (Omicron of Virginia)

DCPBK was warmly welcomed at George Mason University's induction ceremony on April 23, 2024 3:00-4:00PM for the PBK Omicron of Virginia chapter. Niku Neshati, a two-time Mason alumna, attended on behalf of DCPBK in her capacity as president, and witnessed the induction of 29 new phi betes by chapter president, Richard Davis, PhD (pictured here standing with Niku in front of Omicron's charter, est. 2013). Niku delivered some brief remarks on the community-building benefits of membership in PBK through its associations, and explaining DCPBK's many wonderful programs and events. She was approached on the spot by 5 brand new inductees, and one PBK faculty member, to ask about how to join. The ceremony occurred on the heels of a meeting about future partnerships and innovative collaboration between DCPBK and Omicron of Virginia. Stay tuned for some exciting new developments!



Our longtime Vice President of External Relations, Catherine Stallsmith, is pursuing new educational opportunities. Catherine, thank you for your diligent service! We will miss you. If you're interested in taking over as VPER, please see the [volunteer opportunities](#) below for more information on the position and how to apply.

Events

Spring Fling

Join us May 25, 2024 11:00AM for our annual Spring Fling at the [Franciscan Monastery Gardens](#)! The gardens were developed in the early 20th Century. They include replicas of Holy Land Shrines, over 1,000 roses, beautiful azaleas, and numerous perennials and annuals on the 42 acre site. Also on the property are some of the best architectural designs by noted architectural sculptor, John J. Earley, who also designed Meridian Hill Park in Washington, DC.

The garden tour includes the upper gardens, the lower gardens, and a trip with a guide to the areas behind the Monastery. These include a 100 year old greenhouse used by the Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild, a cemetery still in use for burial of friars, bee hives for collection of honey, a barn from the original McCeney property, a working farm run by the Garden Guild, and other shrines.



We will meet at the entrance gate of the portico just across 14th Street. Free parking is available onsite at the corner of 14th and Quincy Street. Registration required, and capacity is capped at 25. Member ticket price is \$3. Reserve your spot [here](#)!

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

Mark your calendars for this year's Key Connections event on September 29th, 2024. This event will begin at 11:00 AM and focus on the arts and local artists 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!

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

Matthew Thomas
Events Vice Chair
events@dcpbk.org

[Elections](#)

It's time to elect the DCPBK 2024 - 2025 executive committee! All current DCPBK members have the privilege of electing the members of this year's executive committee. In addition to our five officers (President, Vice President of External Relations, Vice President of Member Experience, Treasurer, and Secretary), the executive committee includes up to six senior board volunteers with high levels of leadership responsibility. The ballot is live as of May 1, 2024 at midnight, and will close June 1, 2024 at midnight. Click [here](#) to make your voice heard!

[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. [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](#).



2. [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](#).



3. [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](#).



4. [Vice President of External Relations](#)

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Vice President of External Relations to work closely with the President to build and maintain strong relationships with National PBK, local associations and chapters, among the South Atlantic District (of which DCPBK is a part), and with other like-minded organizations. 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: VACANT

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

Secretary: VACANT

Treasurer: Matthew Thomas (Williams College, 2017)

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