



August 2024 Newsletter

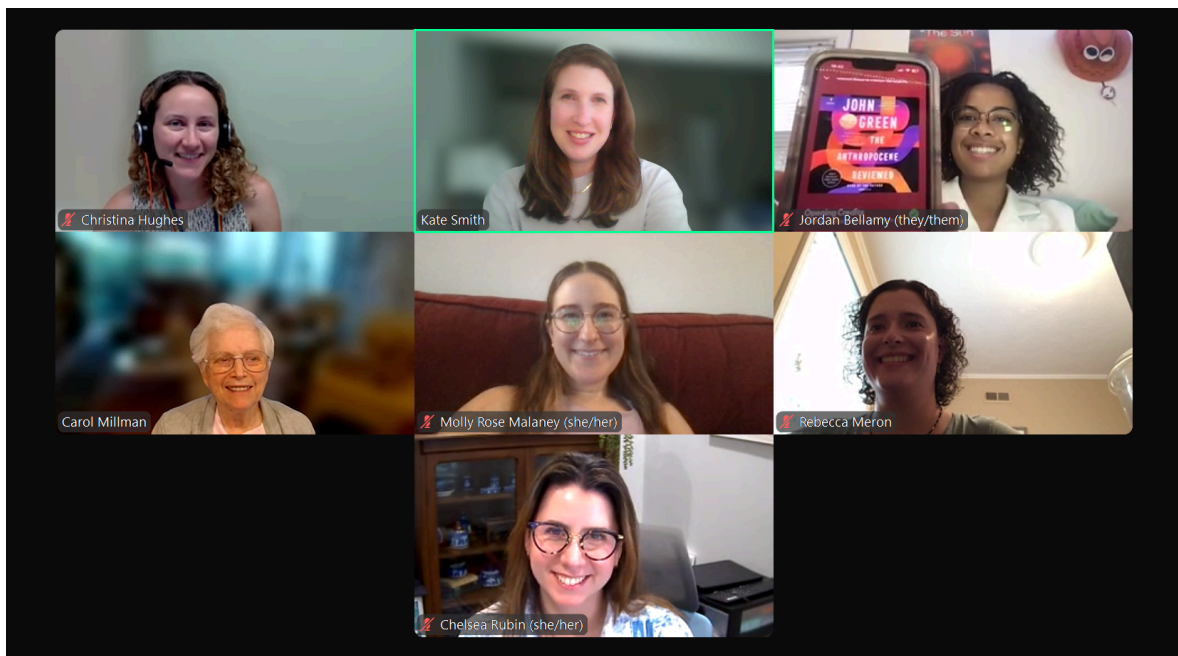
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I. Book Club

July Meeting Recap

On Monday, July 29, seven members of the book club met to discuss the eclectic nonfiction selection of essays *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green. The group was a delightful mix of readers deeply versed in Green's prior works, and others with no prior exposure to his writing, which made for a fascinating chat on the merits of our July pick. In *Anthropocene*, Green reflects on a range of topics in the human experience, both broad (our capacity for wonder), and narrow (diet Dr Pepper). While some members wished the book's tone was more academic, and others simply didn't find resonance with Green's personal anecdotes, we appreciated his effort to grapple with the singular unmoored and contemplative mood many found starting in 2020 amidst lockdowns and a relentless news cycle.



Upcoming Reads

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 upcoming readings:

- **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 August meeting will be held on Wednesday August 28 both on Zoom and with a limited capacity In Person option at Teasim Penn Quarter, to discuss *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang, Fiction, 336 pages.

RSVP on our Association page:

<https://www.dcpbk.org/events/upcoming-events/#!event/2024/8/28/august-2024-dc-pbk-book-club-yellowface-by-r-f-kuang>

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

II. Language Groups

Spanish

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

La próxima reunión mensual será el **20 de agosto de 6:30-8:00PM en el restaurante Colada Shop (Dupont)**. ¡Registra aquí! 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

Francophones, c'est ici! Hourra! On a maintenant un groupe pour pratiquer notre compétences linguistiques, parler en français, et célébrer la culture francophone

Pour le moment, on va réunir mensuellement, probablement sur les samedi matins, mais on peut revoir ce programme plus tard si nécessaire. La réunion prochaine sera **Samedi, 17 Août à 11:00** à la maison d'un de notre membres. S'inscrit sur l'événement en linge pour tous les détails. Ce sera une conversation détendue pour apprendre à se connaître. Aussi, si tu veux, tu peut me donner les idées pour les sujets des discussion futurs ou les événements francophones que tu voulais attendre ensemble.

Kelly Williams
French Language Group Chair
french@dcpbk.org

III. 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: **January 2025 - June 2025**
Next year we will restart the pre-pandemic Mentor Match Program in which 10-15 mentors will be matched with 3-5 local mentees 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.
CALL FOR MENTORS: Do you have 10+ years of experience in your industry and/or the DMV area? Are you interested in providing mentorship and connecting with new members and young professionals through our six-month program? Please email mentorship@pbk.org to find out more and how to get involved.
CALL FOR MENTEES: Applications for mentees will be posted starting September 2, 2024 on our website and will close November 15. The link will also appear in next month's newsletter.

Christina Hughes

Mentorship Network Chair
mentorship@dcpbk.org

IV. Young Professionals Network

Please give a warm welcome to our new Young Professionals Chair, Sarah Uhran!



Sarah is a recent graduate of Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, with a degree in International Politics and a minor in Arabic language. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this past May, when she graduated from Georgetown. Sarah originally hails from Cleveland, Ohio, and is a huge supporter both of Cleveland sports teams and of the city itself. In her free time, Sarah likes to hike and kayak, watch basketball, read, and play saxophone. She is excited to meet the members of DCPBK and start planning events for the Young Professionals Network to meet and find community.

V. 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

VI. Membership & Outreach

Coffee & Conversation with Lindsay Wright!



[Coffee & Conversation](#) is back with another scintillating speaker! [Join us Monday, September 9th from 6:30 - 7:30 pm EDT](#) for an interview with one of our own -- Lindsay Wright!

Lindsay Wright is a mission driven, bilingual, strategic management professional. She is currently the Managing Director of Strategy Management at the Flamboyant Foundation, a family foundation working in Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico to build a world where all children have the opportunity to live a fulfilling life by making strategic investments in public education, arts, and culture. Lindsay is a 2016 PBK alumna of James Madison University, where she double majored in Communication Studies and Modern Foreign Languages with concentrations in Cultural Communications and Spanish, respectively. Lindsay began her career in the non-profit sector at NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center and the Children's Defense Fund. She splits her time between Washington, D.C. and San Juan, Puerto Rico and loves to travel elsewhere around the world in her free time.

Her talk will be about strategic approaches in philanthropy to generate systemic change, focusing on Flamboyant's work with DC Public Schools and the multisectorial coalition *Todos a Leer* in Puerto Rico.

As always, the event will take place on **Zoom**, and the [link will be sent out to registrants shortly beforehand](#). If you would like to attend, please register [here](#). If you have questions or suggestions on future speakers, please reach out to Niku Neshati, President, at president@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](#).

VII. [Events](#)

Upcoming

Key Connections MentorMix Event

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 via email!

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

Matthew Thomas
Events Vice Chair
events@dcpbk.org

VIII. Newsletter Editor

Please give a warm welcome to our new Newsletter Editor, [Rose Burberry-Martin](#)!



Rose Burberry-Martin joined the Board in 2024 as the Newsletter Editor. Rose was inducted into the Lambda of Massachusetts Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Clark University where she graduated summa cum laude in 2014. She also earned an MBA from Clark University in 2021.

IX. [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. [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](#).

4. [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](#).

[XI. DC PBK Board](#)

[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: VACANT

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

Committees

High School Awards Committee

Events & Programs Committee