



September 2024 Newsletter

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I. Events

Upcoming Event

Key Connections MentorMix Event @ Harbour Grille

Join us at this year's Key Connections MentorMix Event **Sunday, September 29, 11:00AM-1:00PM at the Harbour Grille** on the Occoquan River in Woodbridge, VA. Our Key Connections event is a chance to welcome new members, both recent graduates and recent DMV transplants, to our Association. This year's annual Key Connections event will be a partnership with DC PBK's Mentorship Network to include a focus on networking and career mentorship opportunities for new graduates, young professionals, and veteran members.



DC PBK will provide food from the Harbour Grille for all attendees. Registration is open and there is limited availability. RSVP before 9/18/24 to reserve your seat.

[Register here on the MentorMix event page!](#)

Harbour Grille, 13188 Marina Way, Woodbridge, VA 22191

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

Past Event

The Phi Beta Kappa Society held its 47th Triennial Council Meeting in Baltimore, MD, from August 1-3, 2024. The delegates in attendance on behalf of DCPBK included President, Niku Neshati, Mentorship Network Chair, Christina Hughes, and Past President, Liz Marshall Anderson. Delegates participated in a number of workshops and panels around building strong boards, community relationships, and social media, and were treated to several illuminating panel conversations. DCPBK eagerly looks forward to sending delegates to the upcoming 48th Triennial Council Meeting in 2027, which will conclude the National 250th anniversary commemoration.



For photos and videos from other past events, check out our [Past Events](#) page!

II. Book Club

A Book Club Update

An enormous thank you to Kate for hosting the book club for so long and doing such a wonderful job! We are still looking for a new Book Club Chair (see [Board & Committee Vacancies](#) below), but wanted to give an update on how Book Club will run in the interim.

Kelly Williams will be the interim organizer of sorts. Hosting Book Club will rotate between Molly, Ali, & Kelly. Some meetings will be online only, but we will do our best to continue to offer some in-person options as well—read each event posting carefully to see how the meeting will be conducted. **We could use some additional hosts to help with either online or in-person meetings. If you would like to volunteer for this please reach out to kelly@dcpbk.org!** You can also use this email for any Book Club questions and comments.

Upcoming Meetings

Our [Mid-September Bonus meeting](#) will be held **Tuesday September 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Google Meet** to discuss *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin. The regular September meeting is not scheduled yet but will be a weeknight during the final week of the month. Check back on the website soon for details.

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:

- **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

III. Language Groups

Spanish

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

La próxima [reunión mensual](#) será el 17 de septiembre a las 6:30pm ET a La Cosecha, y la reunión de octubre será el 15 de octubre. Inscríbete 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

Francophones, joignez-vous à parler en français et célébrer la culture francophone. Nos réunions menueselles sont des conversations détendues (en français bien sûr) sur n'importe quel sujet. Tous sont bienvenus! Des temps en temps, nous espérons assister aux événements culturels aussi.

*La réunion prochaine sera **le samedi 21 Septembre à 4:00pm** à la maison d'un de notre membres. [S'inscrit ici](#) pour tous les détails.*

Si vous avez des questions ou des idées, n'hésitez pas à me contacter.

Dans l'espoir de vous voir!

Kelly Williams
French Group Chair
french@dcpbk.org

IV. [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 [Harbour Grille](#)** (Woodbridge, VA)
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, [visit the event page on our website](#).
- Mentor Match Program: **January 2025 - June 2025**
Update: the program start date has been delayed to January to allow new members to apply following the Key Connections event and to avoid holiday conflicts. In 2025 we will restart the pre-pandemic Mentor Match Program in which 10-15 applicants will be matched with 3-5 local mentors for a six 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 six-month series applications will open 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

V. [Young Professionals Network](#)

Calling all young Phi Betes in the DC area! As you saw in last month's newsletter, I've just started as the new Young Professionals Network Chair for DCPBK. I'm hoping to get some programming up and running beginning mid-September, and to do that I need some information from all of you. If you consider yourself a young professional, please fill out the survey linked below so I can get to know you all and gauge interest in various YP activities. Feel free to reach out with any questions or comments!

[Interest Survey](#)

Sarah Uhran
Young Professionals Network Chair
yp@dcbpk.org

VI. 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@dcbpk.org

VII. [Membership & Outreach](#)

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

VIII. [Events & Programs Committee](#)

Please join us in welcoming our new Events & Programs Committee Member, [Ted Spear](#)!

Ted Spear is a Maryland native who grew up in Bethesda, MD and graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in the spring of 2024. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences and a minor in LGBTQ Studies. Following his graduation, Ted joined the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association where he now serves as a member of the Events & Programs Committee, assisting in the event planning and programming processes. His academic background is complemented by hands-on experience teaching genetics and working in the healthcare/pharmaceutical industries. Outside of his professional endeavors, you can find Ted enjoying weight lifting, yoga, cycling, and attending concerts in the DC area.



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. 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. [High School Awards Committee Chair](#)

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a High School Awards Committee Chair for the 2025 awards cycle. The Committee Chair is responsible for managing the DCPBK High School Awards Program, which provides four \$1,000 scholarships to exemplary students in the DC area. The awards cycle lasts from January to May, and the Chair's responsibilities include holding Committee meetings, organizing outreach to local schools, overseeing the application review and selection process, and planning a ceremony to honor the awardees. The Chair also liaises with the DCPBK Board, including by attending quarterly Board meetings. The High School Awards Committee is the central component of our Chapter's commitment to public service. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

5. [Events & Programs Committee](#)



DCPBK is seeking to recruit **3-4 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

X. 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 (Clark University, 2014)

Young Professionals Network Chair: Sarah Uhran (Georgetown University, 2024)

Membership & Outreach Chair/Webmaster: VACANT

Committees

High School Awards Committee

Events & Programs Committee