



October 2024 Newsletter

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I. Events

Past Event

Key Connections MentorMix Event @ Harbour Grille (9/29/24)



This year's Key Connections / MentorMix Event was held on **Sunday, September 29, 11:00AM-1:00PM at the Harbour Grille** on the Occoquan River in Woodbridge, VA.

The event was a huge success! We had about 30 participants, mostly from recent graduating years, and about half said that this was their first DC PBK event. A few board members spoke about the Association and our major programs/events and we all played a round of "Speed Mentorship". Recent grads were paired up with different PBK members who were several or more years into their careers to ask mentorship-related questions (e.g.: how do you stay connected to your alma mater, or what is your definition of success?) every 2-3 minutes. This gave early-career Phi Betes a chance to connect with each of the more established career members, getting advice on everything from their next move to where they want to be in 10 years. We successfully introduced DC PBK to new inductees, produced multiple career connections from the MentorMix portion of the day, and created a discursive space for recent grads to ask difficult questions about their career paths. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the next event!

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

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

II. [Book Club](#)

A Book Club Update

Please see below for information on how the Book Club will be run while we are still looking for a new Book Club Chair (see [Board & Committee Vacancies](#) below)!

Kelly Williams will be the interim organizer of sorts. Hosting Book Club will rotate between Molly Rose, 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 October meeting will be held [Wednesday October 30th from 6:30pm to 8pm](#). There will be a virtual option via Google Meet and an in-person option at Teasm Penn Quarter. Please be careful to select the type of ticket that matches your preference! We will discuss *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley.



Book Club members discussing How High We Go In The Dark by Sequoia Nagamatsu in September

Fall 2024 Voting Cycle

The book club's current books for the Fall 2024 voting cycle are listed below. Members who have participated within the last six months recommended, then voted on these books in June 2024. Our next voting cycle will take place in December 2024 and set our picks for Jan-June 2025.

- **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!](#)

*Únete a nosotros para la reunión del grupo de español **en el 17 de octubre a las 6:30pm ET a La Cosecha** (1280 4th St NE, Washington, DC 20002). La reunión es para todos los niveles de hablar, pero hablamos en español por todo el tiempo, entonces le recomendamos un nivel básico de comprensión conversacional para participarse en el discusión.*

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 mensuelles sont des conversations détendues (en français bien sûr) sur n'importe quel sujet. Tous sont bienvenues! De temps en temps, nous espérons assister aux événements culturels aussi.



Notre prochaine réunion aura lieu [le samedi, 2 novembre, 2024 de 11:00 heures et 12:30 heures à la maison d'un de notre membres en Arlington VA.](#) La réunion suivra par un déjeuner facultatif au Thai Treasure restaurant. Pendant le déjeuner on peut continuer à parler en français, mais c'est pas obligatoire. Tous les deux lieux se trouvent à dix minutes de la Station Metro Virginia Square (ligne Orange). Une fois inscrit, vous trouverez des détails plus spécifiques.

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

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.

Recent Events:

- Key Connections/Q3 MentorMix Event: Sept 29, 2024
As Kyle noted in the opening of the newsletter, we had a fantastic turnout at the Key Connections/MentorMix event this past month! Thank you to everyone who joined us! If you are interested in getting more involved in our upcoming mentorship programs, please contact me at mentorship@dcpbk.org.

Upcoming Events:

- MentorMix Virtual Event: **December 4, 2024, 6:30pm - 8:00pm**
Our next MentorMix Event will be virtual. Please join us for a panel discussion on **Early- and Mid-Career Changes**, followed by small group break-out sessions. [Registration](#) is free for Members.
- 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 three-to-six month mentorship program (duration will be dependent upon needs). 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](#)

YP has two planned events coming up in the next month!

First, on **Thursday, October 24** come have a drink and celebrate the winding down of the week at happy hour at [Froggy Bottom Pub](#) (2021 K Street NW) from 5:30 to 6:30pm. This will be a casual event to relax and get to know one another - feel free to arrive or leave whenever you need to. The YP chair will be there for the full hour. If you plan to attend even for a few minutes, please register [here](#) so we can make a reservation if necessary.

Second, on **Sunday, November 10**, join other YP network members for a fall hike in Rock Creek Park. We will meet at Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium (5200 Glover Rd. NW) in D.C. at 1:00pm and complete a 2.5 mile loop on some of the park's amazing trails. The hike will be light, and everyone is welcome, whether you've never hiked or you backpack in the Andes on your vacation. Make sure to dress for the weather, and bring sturdy walking shoes, water, and a snack if you think you might want it. [Please make sure to RSVP here](#) so we know how many to expect.

If you haven't already, please fill out the survey below to help us gauge what types of events young professionals in the DMV are interested in attending, so that we can better tailor our programming to YOU!

[Interest Survey](#)

Sarah Uhran
Young Professionals Network Chair
yp@dcpbk.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@dcpbk.org

VII. [Membership & Outreach](#)

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

VIII. [Events & Programs Committee](#)

IX. [High School Awards Committee](#)

Please join us in welcoming our new High School Awards Chair, [Dan Bernstein](#)!



Dan Bernstein is a freelance data management consultant specializing in helping nonprofits enhance their use of data and technology to improve service delivery. He has worked with both local and national organizations in the housing, criminal justice reform, and education sectors to enhance their advocacy, outreach, and strategic decision-making. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2017 at the George Washington University, where he completed a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Outside of work, Dan enjoys biking, woodworking, and ultimate frisbee.

Say hello to a member of our High School Awards Committee, [Sameer Jaywant](#)!



Sameer Jaywant is an attorney and advocate. He has served as Counsel in the U.S. House of Representatives and practiced law at an international law firm and a federal public defender's office. Sameer received his undergraduate degree from New York University and his law degree from Yale Law School.

X. [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. [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: VACANT

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

High School Awards Chair: Dan Bernstein (George Washington University, 2017)

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: VACANT

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 Ubran (Georgetown University, 2024)

Membership & Outreach Chair/Webmaster: VACANT

Committees

High School Awards Committee: Dan Bernstein (George Washington University, 2017), Sameer Jaywant (Yale Law School, 2018)

Events & Programs Committee: Ted Spear (University of Maryland, 2024)