



## **December 2024 Newsletter**

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## I. [Events](#)

### DCPBK Holiday Party

**LOCATION & DATE UPDATE!!!** DCPBK's annual holiday party will be on **Sunday, January 12th** at the **Marion Barry Jr Room at Busboys and Poets - Anacostia!** We will gather from **11:00 am to 1:00 pm** on the 12th to celebrate the holidays, each other, and books of our choosing. This year we will do a book (new or used) gift exchange. **Each member should bring a wrapped book of their choice.** All wrapped books will go on a table and members will select a wrapped book during the exchange. We will then provide time for conversation between the gift giver and the recipient to discuss why they chose to give a specific title.

Registration is open and you can do so [here!](#)

Kyle Coen  
Vice President of Member Experience  
[vpmemberexperience@dcpbk.org](mailto:vpmemberexperience@dcpbk.org)

Ted Spear  
Events & Programs Committee Chair  
[events@dcpbk.org](mailto:events@dcpbk.org)



## II. [Book Club](#)

**Upcoming Meetings:** Our "December" meeting will be in early January, to avoid holiday conflicts. The **tentative date is Tuesday, Jan 7th** but please check the website soon to confirm. We will discuss *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* by David Brooks, Nonfiction, 304 pages.

## Happening Now: Spring 2025 Voting Cycle!

Look out for an email from [kelly@dcpbk.org](mailto:kelly@dcpbk.org) containing a *Google Form* in which you can vote on books for the Jan to June 2025 cycle. This message will be sent to anyone who has registered for a book club event in the last year. If you haven't received this message by the time you're reading this newsletter, reach out to Kelly directly.

## A Book Club Update

We are still looking for a new Book Club Chair (see [Board & Committee Vacancies](#) below)! In the meantime, reach out to [kelly@dcpbk.org](mailto:kelly@dcpbk.org) with questions, comments or if you would like to help with hosting meetings.

## III. Language Groups

### Spanish

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

*Nuestras reuniones usualmente serán el tercer martes de cada mes.*

*Únete a nosotros para la reunión del grupo de español **en el 17 de diciembre a las 6:30pm ET** a **Colada Shop Dupont** (1900 N St NW, Washington, DC 20036). La reunión es para todos los niveles de conversación, pero hablamos en español por todo el tiempo, entonces le recomendamos un nivel básico de comprensión conversacional para participarse en la 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](mailto: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 **Mardi 21 Janvier de 18:30 heures à 20:00 heures sur Google Meet**. Le lien pour s'inscrire sera dans le prochain bulletin, ou vous pouvez chercher sur le site-web.

We are also planning a visit to the National Gallery of Art to tour an exhibit of Haitian Art. This part is in English because so is the exhibition/tour—anyone interested is invited. This will most

likely be Sunday, February 9th in the early afternoon. Full details will follow in the next newsletter and on the website soon.

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](mailto:french@dcpbk.org)

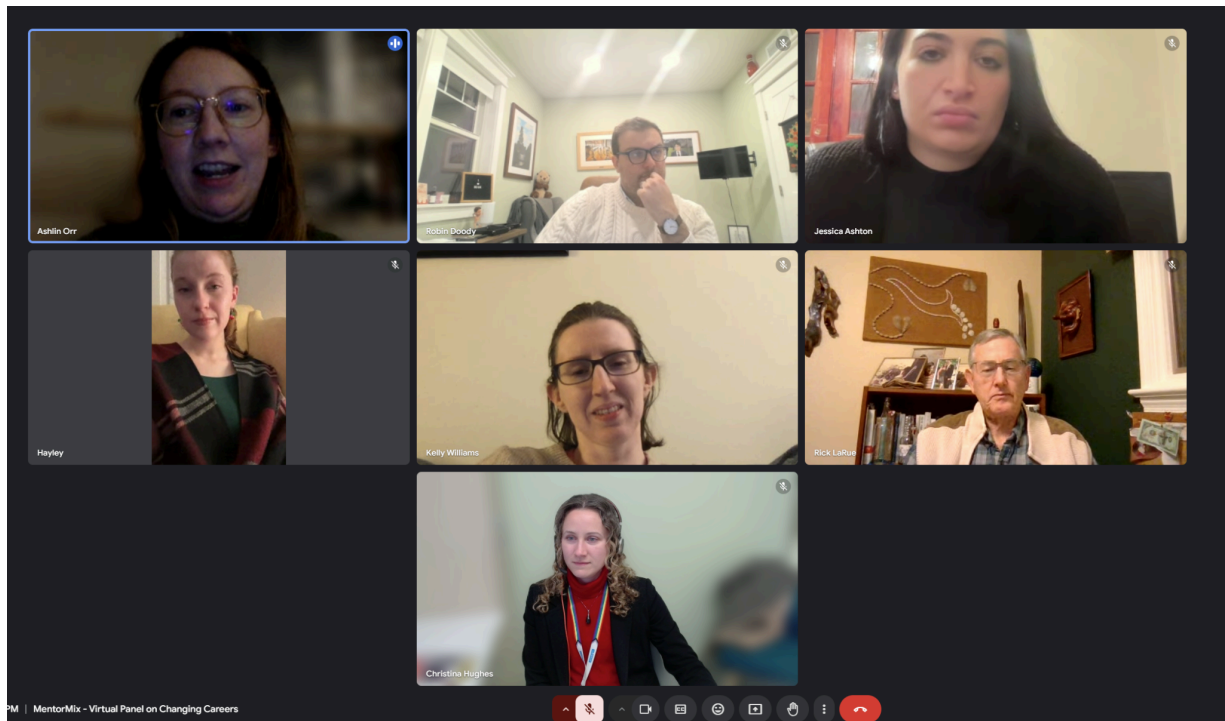
#### IV. [Mentorship Network](#)

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](mailto:mentorship@dcpbk.org).

#### Recent Events:

Our **December MentorMix event** featured a virtual panel discussion on career changes led by PBK Alumn Ashlin Orr (Rice University '14) and guest panelist Robin Doody. The panel started with an overview of Ashlin and Robin's personal experiences pivoting from teaching to law (Ashlin) and politics to marketing (Robin) followed by some general advice for others considering a change. Unfortunately our third panelist, Briggs Burton (Hampden-Sydney College '16), was out sick, but local DC PBK member Rick LaRue (GWU '81) stepped up to provide his own insight and experiences from a 40-year career in non-profit work in DC. Our attendees then jumped right in with several questions that steered the conversation towards resume building, personal marketing, and interview best practices. We ended with a discussion about job hunting and the inner turmoil that comes with making a job or career change. Our panelists were all in agreement that it's important to be kind to yourself, be open to new opportunities, and reflect who you are as a person separate from your career.



### Upcoming Events:

- Q1 2025 MentorMix Event: **TBA**
  - This event will be in-person. Stay tuned for more details!
- Mentor Match Program: **2025**

Update: the program start date has been delayed. 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](mailto:mentorship@dcpbk.org)

## V. Young Professionals Network

Thank you to everyone who came out to trivia at Present Company! It was great to meet some young Phi Betes from D.C, and our team got fourth place! We hope everyone who attended had a good time.





For our next event coming up after the holidays, we'll be meeting up at the [National Portrait Gallery](#) on Saturday, January 18, 2025. In addition to the presidential portrait gallery for which the museum is known, they have a number of rotating and traveling exhibits each year, plus it's a beautiful building and space! We'll meet inside the museum's Courtyard Cafe at 11:45am and peruse the gallery together. I anticipate spending between 1.5 and 2 hours in the gallery, but you're welcome to stay as briefly or as long as you like. If you'd like to join, please let me know by registering [here](#). All are welcome, whether you grew up going there or you've never been before!

As always, please don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for future events!

Sarah Uhan  
Young Professionals Network Chair  
[yp@dcbpk.org](mailto:yp@dcbpk.org)

## VI. Social Media

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Social Media Chair to manage the association's social media accounts. The role will include creating promotional content for programs and events, advertising board vacancies, and creating a sense of community through dialogue and engagement with DCPBK members on social media. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

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

## 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](#)

## 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](mailto:volunteer@dcpbk.org)**. Volunteers must be members of DCPBK in good standing.

### 1. [Social Media Chair](#)

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Social Media Chair to manage the association's social media accounts. Click here to see the [Full Position Description](#).

### 2. [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](#).

### 3. [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](#).

#### 4. [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](#).



#### 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](#).



## X. DCPBK Board

### **An important message from President Niku Neshati:**

Dear Fellow Phi Betes,

I am writing to inform you that after careful consideration, I will be stepping down as President of the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association.

When I stepped into the presidency in January, it was a challenging time for DCPBK. We faced a series of crises against a backdrop of high board turnover, low member engagement, huge lapses in programming and events, and outdated guidance documents. By the elections in May, the board had made significant progress on all fronts, about which we reported in detail at the Annual Business Meeting in June. Since then, we have launched our long-awaited French language group, held a successful Key Connections event, revived Coffee & Conversation, streamlined our budget, participated in the 2024 Triennial Council Meeting, and welcomed 8 new members onto the board.

With the association in a much more robust place, it is time that I step away from the presidency so I can tackle some challenges of my own. As the immediate past president, I will continue the DCPBK tradition of serving on the board as an advisor to my successor, and remain a dedicated member of the association at large. Vice President Briggs Burton has been elected as interim president and will serve out the remainder of the 2024-2025 term through May 2025, and will be eligible to run for election for the following term of June 2025-May 2026.

It has been an honor to serve in this capacity, and I am proud of what we have achieved together. Thank you for your support!

Gratefully,  
Niku Neshati  
President  
[President@dcpbk.org](mailto:President@dcpbk.org)

## **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 Uhran (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)