



## May 2025 Newsletter

### Table of Contents

<b>I. Events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II. Book Club</b>	<b>2</b>
Next Meeting: Thursday, May 29th	2
Upcoming Books in the Spring 2025 Series	2
Seeking a New Book Club Chairperson!	2
<b>III. Language Groups</b>	<b>3</b>
Spanish Group	3
French Group	3
<b>IV. Young Professionals Network</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>V. Mentorship Network</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VI. Social Media</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VII. Membership &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VIII. Events &amp; Programs Committee</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>IX. High School Awards Committee</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>X. Board &amp; Committee Vacancies</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>XI. DCPBK Board</b>	<b>7</b>

## I. [Events](#)

### **Elections** (*virtual; asynchronous*)

It's time to elect the DCPBK 2025 - 2026 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 open until June 1, 2025 at midnight. Click [here](#) to make your voice heard!

## II. [Book Club](#)

### **Next Meeting: Thursday, May 29th**

Our [next meeting will be Thursday May 29th](#). We will meet in-person (at Teaism in Penn Quarter) and/or virtually to discuss our May selection, *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates.

### **Upcoming Books in the Spring 2025 Series**

- **June:** *The Book of Night Women*, Marlon James, Jamaican, 417 pages (International)

### **Seeking a New Book Club Chairperson!**

We are still looking for a new Book Club Chair (see [Board & Committee Vacancies](#) below)! In the meantime, I could use members' help with **rotating “hosting” duties, particularly if your preference is to attend virtually**. “Hosting” is super easy--just read the book, log on (I'll have everything set up), start the introductions, and have a discussion question or two in your back pocket. If this sounds like something you could do, please let me know and tell me which month you might like to help with. You can reach me at [kelly@dcpbk.org](mailto:kelly@dcpbk.org).

## April Recap



Book club members enjoying discussion of *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, which we rated (on average) 4 out of 5 stars.

## III. Language Groups

### Spanish Group

Únete a nosotros para la reunión del grupo de español en el 15 de mayo a las 6:30pm ET a Colada Shop - 14th St (1405 T St NW, Washington, DC 20009). 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. [More information can be found here.](#)

### French Group

The French Language Group & YP hosted a group to attend the annual [“Passport DC” Embassy Open Houses](#). Embassies from around the world opened their doors on Saturday May 3, 2025 and the EU embassies opened on Saturday May 10, 2025.

On the first day of this event, we opted to stay mostly off the beaten path (read Mass Ave) and explore smaller embassies, visiting Colombia, Serbia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cameroun, & Guyana. We enjoyed the food samples, marketplaces, displays of traditional clothing and more from these countries. Serbia had a photo booth (see below). On the second day, one group met in the morning to explore the German embassy (which was hosting the open house for Germany & France), while an afternoon group visited Poland, Lithuania and Spain. All of the locations were unique and interesting—we highly recommend the event!



*Pour parler en Français, joignez-vous à une réunion virtuelle en Avril ou Mai. Regardez le site web PBK pour les dates prochaines.*

Kelly Williams  
French Group Chair  
[french@dcpbk.org](mailto:french@dcpbk.org)

#### IV. [Young Professionals Network](#)

On Saturday, June 14 at 11:00am, the YP network will be checking out the Smithsonian National Zoo. All are welcome. Please [register here](#) if you intend to come, and secure a [free entry pass](#). Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sarah Uhran  
Young Professionals Network Chair  
[yp@dcpbk.org](mailto:yp@dcpbk.org)

## V. [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).

Christina Hughes  
Mentorship Network Chair  
[mentorship@dcpbk.org](mailto:mentorship@dcpbk.org)

## VI. Social Media

Be sure to like and subscribe to our social media to keep up with the latest announcements and association updates. See you online!

- [Facebook](#) - DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association
- [Instagram](#) - @dc.pbk
- [LinkedIn](#) - DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association
- [Twitter/X](#) - @DCPhiBetaKappa

## VII. [Membership & Outreach](#)

## VIII. [Events & Programs Committee](#)

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

We had over 160 high school students apply for four scholarships in this year's application cycle. The Scholarship Committee reviewed all applications carefully, shortlisted applicants, and collectively selected finalists who demonstrate a commitment to PBK's values. This year's scholarship recipients are:

- Aneri Sanghani from Northwest High School will attend Brandeis University.
- Austin Moon from Winston Churchill High School will attend Johns Hopkins University.
- Ryan Nisay from Potomac Falls High School will attend Cornell University.
- Sophia Schell from School Without Walls High School will attend Wellesley College.

You can read bios for the winners on the PBK website [here](#). Congratulations to all recipients and thank you to all who applied!

## 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.

### [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](#).



### [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](#).

### [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](#).



### [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](#).

## XI. [DCPBK Board](#)

### 2024-2025

#### Officers

**President** (acting): Briggs Burton (Hampden-Sydney College, 2016)

**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)

**Past President**: Niku Neshati (George Mason University, 2018)

**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

**Newsletter Editor & Social Media Chair**: Rose Burberry-Martin (Clark University, 2014)

**Spanish Group Chair**: Molly Rose Malaney (University of Florida, 2020)

**French Group Chair**: Kelly Williams (Allegheny College, 2014)

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

**Membership & Outreach Chair / Webmaster: VACANT**

**Book Club Chair: 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)