



## February 2026 Newsletter

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## I. Announcements

### Newsletter Schedule

This is the first month of our new monthly newsletter cycle! The monthly newsletter will now go out at the beginning of the month, detailing that month's events and announcements.

### Events & Announcements from Our Neighboring Chapters

Also starting in February, the DC PBK chapter will start highlighting events and/or announcements from our neighboring PBK chapters in Virginia and Maryland to share broader awareness and encourage engagement across PCK alumni chapters. Stay tuned!

## II. Events

### Passion & Purpose: Voices of Maryland's Civil Rights Activists

*PBK Baltimore Event: Thursday, February 5, 2026*

Celebrate Black History Month with the [Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Baltimore](#) for a visit to the Maryland Center for History and Culture's exhibit, Passion and Purpose: Voices of Maryland's Civil Rights Activists. A tour of the exhibit will be conducted by the museum's Vice President of Education and Engagement, David Armenti. For more info and registration, [visit their website here](#).

## III. Book Club

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 25th at 6:30 pm**. We will meet in-person (at Teaism in Penn Quarter) and/or virtually to discuss *Water Moon* by Samantha Sotto Yambao (Filipino, 374 pages, International). [Register here!](#)

Here are the remaining selections of the January - June 2026 series:

- **Mid-March Bonus:** *The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros, American, 110 pages (Classic)
- **March:** *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead*, Olga Tokarczuk, Polish, 272 pages (Fiction)
- **April:** *Platonic: How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make--and Keep--Friends*, Marisa G. Franco, American, 336 pages (Non-Fiction)
- **May:** *Beloved*, Toni Morrison, American, 325 pages (Classic)
- **June:** *Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World*, Henry Grabar, American, 368 pages (Non-Fiction)



In January our members braved the wintery weather to discuss *One Day, Everyone Will Always Have Been Against This* by Omar El-Akkad, which we all agreed was a critically important, beautifully written, and disconcerting read.

Kelly Williams  
Book Club Chair  
[bookclub@dcpbk.org](mailto:bookclub@dcpbk.org)

## IV. Language Groups

### Spanish Group

Únete a nosotros para la reunión del grupo de español en **el 26 de febrero a las 6:30pm 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. [Mas información aqui.](#)

### French Group

Joignez-nous pour notre prochaine causerie mensuelle en ligne: **le jeudi 19 février 2026 de 18:30 à 19:30.** [Inscrivez-vous ici.](#) Pendant ces causeries, nous discuterons des sujets d'intérêt général (en français bien sûr). Toutes sont bienvenues, mais un niveau intermédiaire pour la compréhension et l'expression orale est conseillé pour bien participer.

Candlemas, the Christian feast day that coincides with Groundhog Day (I was today years old when I learned this was a thing), is celebrated in France as La Chandeleur, and one traditionally eats crepes. The **Hillwood Museum** is having an event to celebrate this—crepes, art projects, and a pretty cool house museum—and I'd like to invite anyone interested to attend on **Saturday February 7th, at 10:30 am**, until whenever we're done (an hour or two, probably). [PBK registration is here](#), but this event also **requires purchase of a**

**ticket** on [Hillwood's website](#). This is open to anyone interested, regardless of languages spoken.

Finalement, je suis en train de modifier la date de notre visite à une librairie française, "Bonjour Books". Dis-moi si tu t'intéresse.

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)

## V. Young Professionals Network

National Gallery of Art: February 21, 2026

This month, we'll be checking out the **National Gallery of Art on Saturday, February 21st**. Meet us at the main entrance of the gallery at 3:30pm to explore the gallery. Please [register here](#) if you'd like to join!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, or suggestions for future events, feel free to reach out!

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

## VI. High School Awards Committee

Every year our members select deserving high school seniors in the District and nearby Virginia and Maryland to recognize their scholastic achievements and community service. This Program has become the centerpiece of the Association's commitment to our community, and in recent years DCPBK has offered up to four awards to college-bound seniors of \$1,000 each. Contributions to the High School Award Program from our members and supporters are gratefully received.

In addition to having an unweighted GPA of at least 3.5, the students receiving our award must show a commitment to the values and mission of Phi Beta Kappa, including academic achievement, community involvement, and a dedication to the liberal arts and sciences. Upon selection, D.C. PBK will ask each recipient for a letter of acceptance from their chosen college or university.

The application period for 2025-2026 is open! Eligible students can submit their applications using [this form](#). Be sure to refer any high school seniors who may be interested to check out our [High School Awards Page](#). Questions about the award can be sent to [awards@dcpbk.org](mailto:awards@dcpbk.org).

## VII. [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)

## VIII. 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!

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

## IX. [Events & Programs 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.

### 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 & Volunteers

### **2025-2026**

#### Officers

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

**Vice President of External Relations**: Milo Chang (Williams College, 2024)

**Vice President of Member Experience**: Briggs Burton (Hampden-Sydney College, 2016)

**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 and Book Club Chair**: Kelly Williams (Allegheny College, 2014)

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

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

#### Committees

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

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