



## April 2026 Newsletter

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## I. Announcements

### **Represent DCPBK at a Local PBK Induction Ceremony**

Local Phi Beta Kappa chapters will hold induction ceremonies in early to mid-May, and we are seeking DCPBK members to offer brief remarks welcoming new inductees and introducing them to our regional association. Alumni are especially encouraged to speak at their alma mater.

Confirmed dates where we are looking for DCPBK representation are:

- **George Mason University (Fairfax Campus):** May 5 at 5 PM
- **Howard University:** May 5, tentatively early evening
- **American University:** May 7 at 10 AM
- **Georgetown University:** May 14 at 5 PM
- **Catholic University of America:** May 15 at 10 AM

If you're interested in speaking at the above institutions, or at **Trinity University** or **University of Maryland – College Park** as they finalize their induction ceremony dates — please complete our [interest form](#). It's okay if you're not sure about your schedule yet; we are trying to gauge preliminary interest.

We're happy to provide talking points and past templates. Help us ensure that Phi Beta Kappa remains a lifelong intellectual community in the DC area!

Milo Chang  
Vice President of External Relations  
[vper@dcpbk.org](mailto:vper@dcpbk.org)

### **Events & Announcements from Our Neighboring Chapters**

The [Richmond PBK Association](#) will be hosting the following events:

- **Saturday, April 11th at 1pm:** Virginia Museum of History & Culture, 428 N Arthur Ashe Blvd, Richmond, VA 23220
- **Sunday, May 31st at 1pm:** Richmond Association of PBK at St. Catherine's School, 6001 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 2322

DCPBK members can RSVP for these events [here](#). Please RSVP 3-4 days prior to the actual event. You can contact Sailor Miao, the President of the Richmond PBK Association, with any questions: [ymiao04@wm.edu](mailto:ymiao04@wm.edu).

## II. [Events](#)

### **April 16th American University PBK Visiting Scholar Public Talk**

The American University chapter is inviting local PBK members to join the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar public talk on **Thursday, April 16th from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm in McDowell Formal Lounge with a reception to follow.**

[Professor David Rabban](#) is the Dahr Jamail, Randall Hage Jamail, and Robert Lee Jamail Regents Chair in Law and Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas School of Law. He will discuss his latest book, [Academic Freedom: From Professional Norm to First Amendment Right](#).

You can RSVP [here](#).

### **May 14th - Cellular Drift by Marilyn Mendell at ArtHub609**

Join us on May 14th for the debut a solo exhibit with multifaceted artist and DCPBK member Marilyn Mendell, debuting her series *Cellular Drift* at ArtHub609 on H Street. Doors open at 6:00 pm with an Artist's Talk at 7:30 pm. Cocktails and light fare will be served. More details can be found [here](#).

## III. [Book Club](#)

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm**. We will meet in-person (at Teatism in Penn Quarter) and/or virtually to discuss *Platonic: How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make—and Keep—Friends* by Marisa G. Franco, (American, 336 pages, Non-Fiction). [Register here!](#)

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

- **May:** *Beloved*, Toni Morrison, American, 325 pages (Classic)
- **June:** *Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World*, Henry Grabar, American, 368 pages (Non-Fiction)

**Head's up!** Look out for information about recommending books for the next series around the time of the April meeting and voting on selections in **late May**.

## March Meeting Recaps



Attendees of the mid-March meeting for *The House on Mango Street* (Cisneros) were charmed by its poetic style, vivid sense of place, and the authentic voice of the main character, Esperanza. However, we did find it difficult to remember the details even right after closing the book. Opinion on the month's second book, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* (Tozarczuk), was initially split. But those of us who were initially underwhelmed were (mostly) swayed to more positive views by the well-deserved praise for the book's fully-realized and quirky characters and the interesting and wide-ranging questions it opened for discussion.

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

## IV. [Language Groups](#)

### Spanish Group

Check [dcpbk.org](http://dcpbk.org) and the Spanish group's WhatsApp thread for updates on our next meeting!

### French Group

Joignez-vous pour notre prochaine causerie mensuelle en ligne: **le mercredi 8 avril de 18:30 à 19:30 sur Google Meet. [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.

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](#)

### **April 15th - Trivia at Franklin Hall**

On Wednesday, April 15th, join the YP network for trivia night at Franklin Hall in the U Street neighborhood. Trivia starts at 7:00pm, but feel free to join at 6:30pm to grab a drink or snack. Attendance for this event is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis, so [register now!](#)

### **April 19th - Volunteer at DC Central Kitchen**

On Sunday, April 19th, join the YP network and the Taiwanese American Professionals of DC for a National Volunteer Month event with DC Central Kitchen from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We have a limited number of group volunteer spots on a first-come, first-served basis. Please register at the [Eventbrite page](#) linked from the [DCPBK event page](#), after which you'll receive instructions to complete your DC Central Kitchen volunteer registration.

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
- [Facebook](#) - DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association
- [LinkedIn](#) - 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)