



May 2026 Newsletter

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I. Announcements

Last Call - Represent DCPBK at a PBK Induction Ceremony

Local Phi Beta Kappa chapters will hold induction ceremonies in May, and we are seeking DCPBK members to offer brief remarks (~3 minutes) welcoming new inductees and introducing them to our regional association.

We are looking for DCPBK representation for these upcoming ceremonies:

- **George Mason University (Fairfax Campus):** May 5 at 5 PM
- **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 — please complete our [interest form](#). 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

DCPBK Annual Executive Committee Elections

It's time to elect the DCPBK 2026 - 2027 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, 2026 at 11:59 PM**. **Complete this [GoogleForm ballot](#) to make your voice heard!**

Events & Announcements from Our Neighboring Chapters

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

- **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.

II. [Events](#)

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](#)

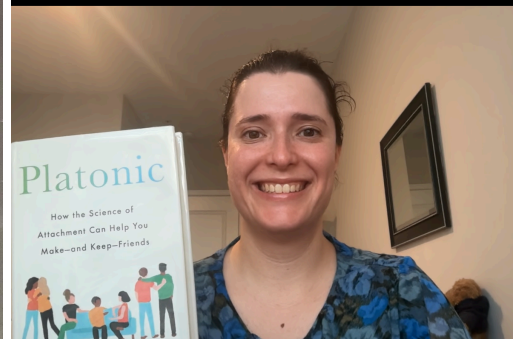
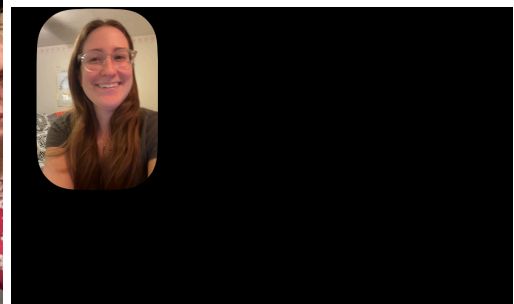
Our next meeting will be **Tuesday May 19th at 6:30 pm**. We will meet in-person (at Teatism in Penn Quarter) and/or virtually to discuss *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. [Register here!](#)

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

- **June:** *Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World*, Henry Grabar, American, 368 pages (Non-Fiction)

It's recommendation time! A Google Form for recommending books for the July to December 2026 cycle went out earlier this week. Reach out to Kelly if you didn't get it and want it. We'll vote on books from the recommendations list in **late May**.

April Meeting Recaps



While many of us were initially leery of a book that sounded as much self-help as pop-sci, we ended up impressed by the accessibility of and actionable advice in *Platonic* by Marisa G. Franco.

Kelly Williams
Book Club Chair
bookclub@dcpbk.org

IV. [Language Groups](#)

Spanish Group

Check dcpbk.org and the Spanish group's WhatsApp thread for updates on our next meeting!

French Group

Joignez-nous pour notre prochaine causerie mensuelle en ligne: **le mercredi 13 mai 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.

J'ai créé un "What's App" pour notre groupe. Dites-moi si vous voulez le rejoindre.

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

V. [Young Professionals Network](#)

Spring Hike at Rock Creek Park

Join the YP network on Saturday, May 9, for a spring hike in Rock Creek Park. We'll meet at 10:30am at the trailhead of the Soapstone Valley Trail. Be sure to bring good walking shoes and water. For additional details, and to register, check out the [DCPBK website!](#)

Sarah Uhran
Young Professionals Network Chair
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.

We received a record-breaking 197 applications for the scholarship this year! The scholarship committee is currently reviewing the applications and will notify winners in Mid-May. Questions about the award can be sent to 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.

Christina Hughes
Mentorship Network Chair
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**. Volunteers must be members of DCPBK in good standing.

[Webmaster](#)

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Webmaster to administer the association's website and digital infrastructure. The Webmaster oversees the website, email, and assists with organization accounts under the purview of other volunteers as needed. Ideal for someone seeking to develop/demonstrate valued skills such as administration of Google Workspace, Cloudflare Business, Canva, and WordPress. 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: Gracie Loeser (Loyola University Maryland, 2025)

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: Samuel Reed (Occidental College, 2023)

Webmaster: VACANT

Committees

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

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