



August 2026 Newsletter

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Events & Announcements from Our Neighboring Chapters

I. [Events](#)

II. [Book Club](#)

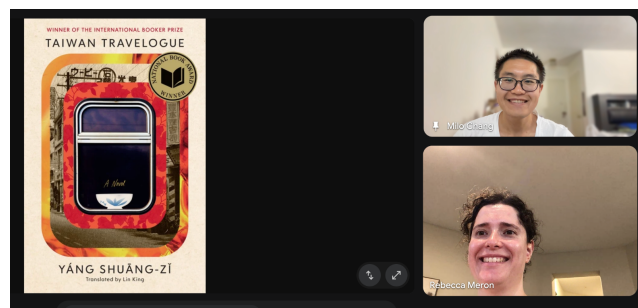
We will have two meetings in August (well one of them is actually in September, but before labor day so whatever). First, on **Wednesday, August 19th** we will discuss *I Who Have Never Known Men* by Jacqueline Harpman ([Register here](#)). Then on **Thursday, September 3rd** we will discuss *The Epic of Gilgamesh* ([Register here](#)). Both meetings will be from **6:30 to 8:00 pm** with an in-person (at Teism in Penn Quarter) and virtual option.

Here's the full sequence of books for this cycle (until Dec 2026):

- **Mid-August Bonus:** *I Who Have Never Known Men*, Jacqueline Harpman, Belgian, 183 pages (Fiction)
- **August:** *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Anonymous/Unknown, Ancient Mesopotamia, 128 pages (Classic)
- **September:** *The Secret Life of Groceries* Benjamin Lorr, American, 340 pages (Non-Fiction)
- **October:** *Dracula*, Bram Stoker, Irish, 418 pages (Classic)
- **November:** *An Immense World* Ed Yong, British, 449 pages (Non-Fiction)
- **December:** *The Windup Bird Chronicle*, Haruki Murakami, Japanese, 607 pages (Fiction)

In July we read *Taiwan Travelogue* which we adored for its skillful complexity—it's a book within a book within...honestly I lost track of how many layers. It also features interesting interpersonal relationships, commentary on colonialism, and mouth-watering food descriptions. We highly recommended it, but whatever you do, don't get the audiobook—it's missing the whole frame story.

Kelly Williams
Book Club Chair
bookclub@dcpbk.org



Photos from our July Book Club Meeting!

III. [Language Groups](#)

Spanish Group

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

French Group

Rejoignez-nous pour notre prochaine causerie mensuelle en ligne: **le mardi 18 août 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.

Pendant notre réunion précédente, nous avons discuté d'écouter un podcast bref de France Info. Il s'appelle "[Ça Te Dit Quoi?](#)" Rejoignez-nous, pour pratiquer, si vous voulez.

Finalement, 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

IV. [Young Professionals Network](#)

Sarah Uhan
Young Professionals Network Chair
yp@dcpbk.org

V. [High School Awards Committee](#)

Questions about the awards can be sent to awards@dcpbk.org.

VI. [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.

VII. 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

VIII. [Events & Programs Committee](#)

IX. [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.

Newsletter Editor

DCPBK is seeking to recruit a Newsletter Editor to manage our newsletter. We will be posting a full position description soon, but in the meantime, if this role is of interest to you, please email your resume and a brief paragraph of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

[Mentorship Network Chair](#)

DCPBK is seeking a Mentorship Network Chair to run the mentorship program and host networking events. The role involves matching mentors with mentees on a rolling basis. This is a great opportunity to meet highly qualified people and become familiar with the skillsets of Phi Beta Kappa members in the DC area. 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](#).

X. [DCPBK Board & Volunteers](#)

Executive Committee Election Results for the 2026 - 2027 Term

The ballot for the DCPBK 2026 - 2027 Executive Committee closed on July 24, 2026. Thank you very much to all who voted! This year's executive committee elect includes:

Officers:

1. President: [William Briggs Burton](#) (Hampden-Sydney College, 2016)
2. Vice President of External Relations: [Milo Chang](#) (Williams College, 2024)
3. Vice President of Member Experience: [Samuel Reed](#) (Occidental College, 2023) - pending nominee acceptance.
4. Treasurer: [Caitlin McLain](#) (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2018)

5. Secretary: [Brynn Poppe](#) (Gettysburg College, 2019)

At-Large Members:

1. National PBK Liaison, Past President: [Elizabeth "Liz" Marshall Anderson](#) (Lawrence University, 2009)
2. Immediate Past President: [Niku Neshati](#) (George Mason University, 2018)
3. Newsletter Publisher, Past President: [Paul B. Lubliner](#) (University of Oregon, 2006)
4. Mentorship Network Chair: [Sarah Uhran](#) (Georgetown University, 2024) - nominee declined to serve. The position remains vacant until filled.
5. High School Awards Chair: [Dan Bernstein](#) (George Washington University, 2017)
6. Fundraising & Development Chair: [Rose Burberry-Martin](#) (Clark University, 2014) - nominee declined to serve. The position remains vacant until filled.

You are cordially invited to meet your newly-elected executive committee at our Annual Business Meeting (details to come)!

2026-2027

Officers

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

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

Vice President of Member Experience: VACANT

Treasurer: Caitlin McLain (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2018)

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: VACANT

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: Alessandra Cipriani-Detres (University of Utah, 2021)

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 & Social Media Chair: Andrew Blatt (Drew University, 2026)

Committees

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

Events & Programs Committee Co-Chair: Samuel Reed (Occidental College, 2023)