

# The Key Connection

Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa

PSAPBK, P.O. Box 15258, Seattle, WA 98115-9998 [www.psa-pbk.org](http://www.psa-pbk.org)



## 40th Triennial Council

August 6 - 10, 2003

This year, PSAPBK members have a rare opportunity to attend the 40th Triennial Council, which is being held at The Westin Hotel in Seattle. See lead story on the right for details.

Volunteers are greatly needed for this event. You'll be helping PSAPBK, and at the same time meeting people with similar interests from all over the country. If you'd like to volunteer, please fill out the information on the bottom of the flap, reverse side.

## A first in history, National PBK Council held in Seattle

For the first time ever, Puget Sound area members of Phi Beta Kappa can attend a Phi Beta Kappa Triennial Council without leaving the state. This year's Council will be at The Westin Hotel in Seattle, August 6 - 10. The program includes a number of items that Washington Phi Betes won't want to miss. Luminary banquet speakers include 2003 PBK award winners, Jonathan Spence, Sterling Professor of History at Yale University, and Robert Pinsky, former United States Poet Laureate.

Our current president and vice president will officially represent PSAPBK. Representatives from all Washington State chapters and associations will be assisting in this event. You, too, can help by volunteering at the registration or hospitality tables. It's a great opportunity to meet other members from all over the United States.

Members are also welcome to attend any or all of the scheduled events, including the Friday's Council Symposium entitled "A Question of Relevance: The Social Value of Liberal Education," and the special reception following. Group sessions of interest include a discussion on the subject of Friday's symposium, topics of importance to chapters and associations, and news from editorial staff members of *The American Scholar*, *The Key Reporter*, and senior staff of the National Office. District meetings bring together those from West Coast chapters and associations. The daily plenary sessions are primarily business meetings.

A one-time \$40 fee will be charged for admission to general members meetings and discussion sessions. Additional fees apply to events where food is served. The Council Delegates' Reception will be hosted by our Association. For an agenda and advance-registration form, email [triennial@psa-pbk.org](mailto:triennial@psa-pbk.org) or call (206) 685-2132.

## Bill Gates, Sr., champion for causes, speaks at Spring Luncheon



Bill Gates, Sr., speaker at the PSAPBK Spring Luncheon, Tues., May 13, 11:45 a.m., at the WAC

Bill Gates, Sr., will speak to the Puget Sound Association's Spring Luncheon, May 13, about one of the most important public policy issues facing the state and nation, the federal estate tax, called by its opponents the "death tax."

Mr. Gates would like to ask our members, "can it make sense to repeal this most progressive tax in the federal revenue menu when we are about to begin incurring huge deficits?" One might infer his answer from his speech's formal title: The Federal Estate Tax: Fix It—Don't Nix It.

Why should we care about the way we tax ourselves? Bill Gates, Sr., has wrestled with the tough issues. He chaired the Washington State Tax Structure Study Commission in 2001 and 2002, looking deeply at the state tax system's fairness and adequacy. We can expect a discussion informed by serious principles. There will be opportunities for members and their guests to ask questions and propose answers.

Bill Gates, Sr., is Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, established by his son, the Microsoft founder, and the son's wife Melinda. He earned his bachelor's and law degrees at the University of Washington. After Army service in World War II, he joined the law firm that he guided to become Preston Gates & Ellis. Described as "a natural leader with a commitment to and passion for the law," he and his family have invested their time in many civic programs and cultural organizations.

Readers interested in the Washington Tax Study Commission can find additional information at [www.dor.wa.gov/content/WA\\_taxstudy](http://www.dor.wa.gov/content/WA_taxstudy).

This special event is being held on May 13, 11:45 a.m., at the Washington Athletic Club, Lobby Lounge, 1325-6th Avenue. The cost is \$35 per person; advanced reservations required. Complete and return the attached form and send with a check. Deadline for reservations is May 6.



## Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa

P.O. Box 15258  
Seattle, WA 98115-9998

## Awards, recognitions, and news from our chapters

### Spring Activities

#### Spring Luncheon

See lead story for details.

#### Free Seattle Chinese Garden Tour

In China, the creation of a garden—with pavilions, stone, water and plants—is considered one of the highest forms of art. Please join us on a brief sojourn to the Seattle Chinese Garden on June 7, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. The 1-1/2 hour tour will include a slide presentation about the culture and history of this and other Chinese gardens, and a visit to the Song Mei Pavilion Demonstration Garden and Arboretum.

Space is limited, so please RSVP by May 26. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Horticulture Bldg. at South Seattle Community College, 6000-16th Ave. SW, north parking lot entrance. For directions, visit [www.psa-pbk.org](http://www.psa-pbk.org).

### PBK Pathfinders Awards

The Pathfinder award reflects the imagery found on our key, a hand pointing to the stars. It is awarded to those who encourage others to seek new worlds and discover untouched destinations. Join us at our Spring Luncheon as we honor this year's winners:

**Thomas Carlson** is one of the most outstanding students ever to participate in the UW Transition School/Early Entrance Program. Elected to PBK as a junior, he graduated in 2002 with the Science Medal and a near-perfect academic record. What makes Thomas so noteworthy has been his career-long willingness to assist classmates and younger students with academic pursuits.

**Mina Miller** is known as "the soul" of the Music of Remembrance organization. A talented music scholar, Dr. Miller began the group by creating two annual concerts, one at Kristallnacht (when the Nazis destroyed all synagogues and Jewish stores in Germany and took men ages 18-60 to concentration camps) and one on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Dr. Miller's devotion to this work is a labor of love that greatly enriches the greater Seattle community.

**Helen Wong** blends academic excellence (3.96 GPA) with leadership (senior class president) and state championship gymnastics. But her "Pathfinder" status comes from her creation of Odle Outreach, a community service program to mentor eighth-graders and prepare them for the adjustment to high school.

### High School Outreach Program

Over many years, our association has sponsored an annual award program in area high schools. The program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated high levels of scholastic excellence, and at the same time, introduces Phi Beta Kappa and its ideals to students who are highly likely to be elected to PBK as undergraduates. This year's award this year is the book entitled *The Metaphysical Club* by Louis Menand, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, described as "A Story of Ideas in America."

### Chapter News

**ALPHA (University of Washington)** Phi Betes and their guests are invited to attend the following:

-Initiation on June 12, 7:30 p.m., at the HUB Auditorium. Professor Mary-Claire King will speak.

-The Spring Quarter Forum on "Money" on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. in the Faculty Club Conference Room. Faculty panelists will present: "Old Money: A Short History of Currency in Classical Antiquity"; "Tempting Fate: Currency and Crisis in Burma in 1988"; and "The EURO: Rival to the Dollar?"

**DELTA (University of Puget Sound)** Delta of Washington elected 26 new members at a meeting held March 26. Steve Rodgers's term as president ends on April 22, when Carolyn Weisz begins as chapter president.

## From your president

Greetings. Your Board has been busy with various Association activities, including those related to the upcoming National PBK meeting in Seattle. One of our accomplishments was organizing the various papers of the Association for placement at the University of Washington (UW) Archives. The UW is a most appropriate location since the "graduate association" started there. Here are some highlights from those early papers.

In November 1951, the Washington Alpha executive committee invited five Seattle PBKs to dinner at the campus to discuss a "loose organization" to aid in raising scholarship funds to present a scholarship in each Seattle high school annually. The final agreement was to "appoint a small working group to send out a letter requesting funds in small amounts, such as one or two dollars, to see what the results might be."

It was Spring of 1952 when a letter was sent to 1,000 Seattle PBKs to establish a Seattle Association, primarily for the encouragement of scholarship, particularly in area high schools. By mid-June 1952, a total 80 Phi Betes had sent in \$223.50 for scholarship funds. The 25 people who attended a June 14 meeting voted to form an Association and adopt a constitution. Attendees favored inviting members from the entire Puget Sound area saying "the need of encouragement to students of small towns is very great."

On July 1, 1952, a letter was sent to the Washington Alpha Executive Secretary (at the UW Department of Political Science) requesting the model constitution of the Phi Beta Kappa Association. The reply arrived two weeks later. It read "Dear Bob, My nice husband kept me swamped with peas from the garden to process last week, so I am just now back in the office." She did write to Phi Beta Kappa United Chapters that same day. The first official Association gathering on January 22, 1953, took place immediately after the Washington Alpha initiation. We've been going strong ever since.

Congratulations, PSAPBK members, on *our* 50th anniversary!

*Nancy G. Blase*

### Continue the legacy

As part of its mission, PSAPBK awards scholarships to well-qualified undergraduate and graduate students in financial need. Long ago, the Association established a scholarship fund for these grants. We rely on member donations to assure this much-needed tradition continues generation after generation. May we suggest, next time you revise your will you consider including a bequest to the Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa.

#### Spring Luncheon, Tuesday, May 13 (RSVP by May 6)

Total number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost: \$35 each, members or guests  
Meal: Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

#### RSVP for free Seattle Chinese Garden Tour, June 7 (RSVP by May 26)

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Total number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Place: Seattle Chinese Garden, West Seattle. The tour is free, however, contributions to the Seattle Chinese Garden Society are appreciated.

#### Pay your dues for 2003, and get involved!

It's never too late to offer your support. Please check the date on your newsletter mailing label to see if your membership has expired. Dues are tax deductible.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 30.00 Regular \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 60.00 Sustaining

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100.00 Patron \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250.00 Key

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me, I want to volunteer for the upcoming Triennial.

#### My enclosed check to PSAPBK is allocated as follows:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount for Spring Luncheon  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount for scholarship donation  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount for 2003 dues  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total check amount**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check(s) payable to:  
Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa  
P.O. Box 15258, Seattle, WA 98115-9998

**Questions? Email us at [administration@psa-pbk.org](mailto:administration@psa-pbk.org), or call Nancy Blase at 206-685-2132.**