



The Key Connection

Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa (PSA-PBK)

News and Events

What's New At-A-Glance:

- Event-A-Month: Our President's new initiative is launched
- Leslie Boba, joined us as Administrative Assistant, replacing Amy Davis who ably and professionally served us for 9 years
- New Board Member: Melisa Lasell (see below)
- New Committee Member: Sarah Stucky
- Increased Social Media Presence: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [psa-pbk.org](#)

Upcoming Events & Programs:

We have planned a robust offering of gatherings, both large and small, at least once a month. Please make plans to participate. We welcome your ideas and suggestions!

Spring Luncheon: After 3 years, it's back!



When: Thursday, May 18, 2023, 11:30 a.m.; register and pay by May 11

Where: Seattle Yacht Club, 1807 E. Hamlin St., Seattle, WA 98112

May 18th at the Seattle Yacht Club. Don't miss out! Space limited. Come attend to hear our guest speaker UW Professor Shawn Wong, who will talk to us about his fascinating and upbeat perspectives on diversity. Luncheon choice of chicken or vegetarian. Cost \$40. Register now at: [PSA-PBK Events](#)

Board Member Spotlight: Melisa Lasell

Melisa was born in Northern California and lived for 20 years in Italy where she owned and operated a PR agency that conducted media relations in five languages for small and multinational clients. Her team designed and produced branding events that attracted visitors world-wide and, over time, she began to specialize in architecture, industrial design, personal protection and 3D printing with clients that included DuPont, Disney, DSM, Missoni, Zaha Hadid, Jean Nouvelle, and Karim Rashid, to name only a few. After returning to the USA, she was ready for a career change, and graduated from UC Berkeley in 2018 with a B.A. in Sociology; her induction into Phi Beta Kappa came later in 2019 and she earned a Masters of Public Policy from Mills College in Spring 2022. She moved to Seattle in Fall 2022 when she started a service year with AmeriCorps, working as a volunteer Digital Equity Coordinator at Seattle Housing Authority. There she works to build SHA capacity to support its residents' digital skills and equity needs. She has already secured a federal grant that will fund 11 new positions, revamped the agency's recording and reporting tools, and is currently drafting a 5 year plan for the SHA Digital Equity team. She loves Seattle and plans to remain here with her 19 year old Italian cat Strillo.



An example of Asian Art at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience

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.Upcoming Events, Continued:

⇒ **Seattle Central Library Guided Tour: Free**

When: Saturday, April 29, 2023, 2 p.m.

Where: 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

Join us for a free guided tour of one of the must-see landmarks of Seattle, designed by famed Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas. Please register for this tour by sending an email to pugetsoundpbk@gmail.com. If you plan to bring a guest, please provide the name of your guest when you register. This tour is limited to 20 participants.

If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Yamashita at president@psa-pbk.org.

University of Washington Campus Guided Tour: Free

⇒ **When: Saturday, May 13, 2023, 10:30 a.m.**

Where: Red Square in front of Suzzallo Library, University of Washington campus, Seattle

You and your guests are invited to join us for a guided tour of the University of Washington campus on Saturday, May 13, at 10:30 a.m. Our tour guide will be Sarah Stucky, a recent PBK initiate, who is a student at the UW and is also a trained UW campus tour guide. The tour will last approximately 75 minutes. We will stop at major locations on campus, including the Quad (home of the iconic Yoshino cherry trees), Sylvan Grove, and Drumheller Fountain, to name a few.

The UW campus has grown and evolved a lot in the last few years. Whether you are an alum, or if you've recently relocated to Seattle for your new job and have never set foot on campus, please join us for this tour! This will be a fun opportunity to connect with other PBK members and enjoy touring the UW campus.

To register, please send an email to pugetsoundpbk@gmail.com. If you have any questions, you can email Dennis Yamashita at president@pbk.org.

NB: If you know any Phi Beta Kappa members in the Puget Sound Area who have not yet joined PSA-PBK, please invite them to become members. Visit psa-pbk.org/join for additional information.

Your PSA-PBK Board and Committee Members

Executive Committee:

Dennis Yamashita, President
Linda Willenberg, Immediate Past President
Moirra Tamayo, Vice President
Terry Jankowski, Secretary and Archivist
Howard Johnson, Treasurer
Amy Ojendyk, Assistant Treasurer
Benjamin Lukoff, Electronic Communications

Board Members:

Karrin Klotz
Melisa Lasell
Harrison Owens
Margaret Palmquest
Louise Richards
Amy Rykan
Doris Stiefel

Non-board Committee Members:

Leslie Holmes, Joan Peterson, Marcie Stone, Sarah Stucky, Barbee Tucker-Pigott.

A Heartfelt Thank You to our Donors

The Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their generosity. Their contributions support our undergraduate and graduate scholarships, our High School Book Awards, our Humanities Achievement Awards, our Pathfinder Awards, and many programs and events throughout the year.

The following donations were made from April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023. *

Champions (\$500 or more)

Janice Anderson
Redmond Barnett
Bobbe Bridge
Loveday Conquest
Howard Johnson
Suzanne Poppema
Barbee Tucker-Pigott
Linda Willenberg

Carol Lee Goodall
David Hallowell
Constance Hellyer
Terry Jankowski
Sharon Kaku
Deborah Katz
Margaret Palmquest
Alene Patterson
Edward Perrin
Joan Peterson
Suzanne Ragen
Louise Richards
Carolyn Scott
Michael Shapiro
Barbara Smith
Doris Stiefel
Marcia Stone
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Ted Fosberg

Donations in memory of Ernie Stiefel

Jane Stiefel
Rabbi Sharon Stiefel

*This list was accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication. We apologize if we missed your name. Please contact us if this is the case: pugetsoundpbk@gmail.com

FINANCE CHALLENGE: Howard Johnson, Treasurer

Due to a decline in general economic conditions of these past couple years, PSA-PBK has experienced a significant loss of funding in its scholarship fund. This asset level for scholarship funding is something the Board is addressing now with a very special “asset restoration” plan. A key part of this “asset restoration” plan is our solicitation of significant financial support in these final months of the 2022-23 fiscal year from a few of our more substantial givers of the recent past. This special restoration effort should help us reach at least the 95% level (as required by Board policy) by the beginning of the 2023-24 year. The exact amount of funding required to reach this 95% level is not known for certain; however, the Finance committee is estimating it will be in the \$18,000 to \$20,000 range.

We are indeed thankful that some of our loyal members are forthcoming with this needed level of support at this special time in our organization’s history and are anticipating that a combination of a reduction in the level of scholarships awarded and the implementation of our normal annual development efforts over these next 2-3 years should raise our scholarship fund back to a level that can sustain our annual scholarship awards in the \$14,000 to \$16,000 range. This will be the task facing our Finance committee and Board as we prepare the budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. If you would like to help, please visit: <https://www.psa-pbk.org/payments-and-donations>

CHAPTER NEWS:

University of Washington Alpha Chapter News

The Alpha of Washington chapter will hold its annual induction ceremony on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, on the University of Washington campus in Kane Hall. New members and their families and friends are invited to attend. Each new PBK member is welcomed at the ceremony and signs the member book. A distinguished UW faculty member will give a short address.

In spring 2023 the chapter will have a pizza lunch for 2022–2023 invitees. The special guest will be Professor Dianne Harris, dean of the UW College of Arts and Sciences.

University of Puget Sound Delta Chapter News

The Delta of Washington chapter held its annual initiation ceremony on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Tacoma Room in Thomas Hall. Along with UPS President Isiaah Crawford, PSA-PBK President Dennis Yamashita made congratulatory remarks to the new inductees. Following a toast, refreshments and light appetizers were served following the ceremony.

Can you help?

We are seeking members who would like to get involved by helping in two areas!

- 1) Help update our website and social media; and/or
- 2) Help by suggesting *innovative or creative* programs and events that may appeal to young professionals

Please email president@psa-pbk.org if you are interested.

President’s Message from Dennis Yamashita

Having been raised in Tokyo, cherry blossoms have a special meaning to me and signify the official start of spring. In Seattle, that means making the annual pilgrimage to the Quad on the UW campus to view the “Sakura”. What are your rites of Spring? For your PSA-PBK, this Spring kicked off a set of new initiatives, including more effective use of social media and recruiting new board and committee members. Have you noticed that our event invitations are more descriptive, with photos and colors that catch the eye? Have you acquainted yourself with our [Facebook page](#) and [Linked-In page](#)? Check them out now!

After almost three years of virtual meetings and events held on Zoom, this Spring we are kicking off a robust series of in-person events in a campaign which I call “event-a-month.” In March of this year, 30 members signed up for our guided tour of *The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience*. This strong response to our invitation signals interest in attending in-person events now that quarantining is over. The Annual Spring Luncheon, our largest event, is returning at the Seattle Yacht Club. Don’t miss out! Mark your calendars to attend on May 18th. We are also excited to start a mentorship program soon. I welcome your participation in our programs and events and seek your comments and feedback on how we are doing. Please write to me at president@psa-pbk.org. I look forward to meeting you in person at upcoming events.



COUPON

DUES (Please contact us by email at pugetsoundpbk@gmail.com if you are unsure whether your dues have expired.)

_____ **\$40 Regular**

_____ **\$75 Sustaining**

_____ **\$125 Patron**

_____ **\$250 Key**

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____ **Scholarship fund**

\$ _____ **Stiefel Graduate Award**

\$ _____ **Lupton Scholarship**

\$ _____ **Dues**

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

**PSA-PBK
PO BOX 84223
SEATTLE, WA 98124**

Or register and pay via credit card through our website,

www.psa-pbk.org/events

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Please keep in touch!

Please let us know if you have recently moved or changed your email address or telephone number. You can send your updated information to pugetsoundpbk@gmail.com or call Dennis Yamashita at (206)-709-4091.

We would like to hear from you! Share with us any topic or event suggestions and ideas to make PSA-PBK more relevant to you. Please email president@psa-pbk.org.

Visitors at the Wing Luke
Museum of the Asian
American Experience



Did you miss our March visit to Seattle’s Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience? With 30 registrants, our delegation enjoyed a guided tour including the historic East Kong Yick buildings that eventually became the Wing Luke Museum itself. After the guided tour, attendees enjoyed viewing the exhibits at their leisure. It was a rich and rewarding experience.

Don’t miss our next tour! [psa-pbk events](#)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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