



The Key Connection

News and Events

Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa

Humanities Achievement Award

On October 11, 2022, we presented our Humanities Achievement Award to Professor Valerie Curtis-Newton. The in-person event was held at the Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington.

Professor Curtis-Newton is the head of directing and playwriting at the University of Washington School of Drama. She is also the founding artistic director of the Hansberry Project, a professional African American theatre lab. She has directed plays at professional theatres around the country, including Seattle Rep, Seattle Children’s Theatre, and Intiman Theatre. She has been widely recognized for her work, including being named to the 2020 edition of *The Seattle Times*’s Most Influential People of the Last Decade.

Pathfinder Awards

On November 17, 2022, we presented four Pathfinder Awards at a virtual event.

Each year we honor individuals (both adult and youth), businesses, and institutions with our Pathfinder Award. The award reflects the imagery on the Phi Beta Kappa key — a hand pointing to the stars.

It is given to those who “encourage others to seek new worlds to discover, pathways to explore, and untouched destinations to reach.” The people, businesses, and institutions honored do something to broaden people’s interests in active intellectual accomplishments; they reach beyond ordinary routine, beyond the regular requirements of their lives and jobs, to break new intellectual ground and/or inspire others to do so. This year we honored four recipients with our Pathfinder Award:

- [Dr. Quinton Morris and Key to Change](#), for inspiring underserved youth through world-class music instruction and supporting their development as self-aware leaders.
- [The Brotherhood Initiative](#), for providing support and opportunities for academic growth and leadership to underrepresented men of color at the University of Washington.
- [Treehouse](#), for advancing equity and racial justice in the foster care and education systems.
- [Book-It Repertory Theatre](#), for bringing theatre into classrooms to bolster students’ imaginations, problem-solving skills, social-emotional skills, and enjoyment of reading.



Valerie Curtis-Newton and PSA-PBK Board member Harrison Owens

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.Key Connections

On October 20, 2022, we held a virtual Key Connections meet-and-greet social to welcome new Phi Betes who live in the Puget Sound area. The event included a trivia game and the opportunity for attendees to share information about where they grew up and went to college, their major, and their current career or career aspirations.

We also shared information about PSA-PBK, including our events, programs, scholarships, and awards. We had a very robust and lively interchange and dialogue, and several attendees expressed interest in volunteering to help PSA-PBK in the areas of PR and scholarship applicant recruitment. It was a wonderful networking opportunity.

PSA-PBK Scholarships Awarded

PSA-PBK offers a robust scholarship program. This fiscal year, we have budgeted \$14,200 in scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Puget Sound and the University of Washington, the two universities in our catchment area with Phi Beta Kappa chapters.

We have awarded three \$2,000 Undergraduate Scholarships to students from the University of Puget Sound and the University of Washington:

- Abigail Gerrish (UPS; biology): *Paradise Lost*, by John Milton
- Kaya Heimowitz (UPS; English, creative writing, and Chinese language and culture): *The Golem and the Jinni*, by Helene Weckers
- Sarah Stucky (UW; biochemistry and chemistry); *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder

Applicants must have a high GPA and do not need to be PBK members. They write a short essay on the theme “What book has influenced your college career most, and why?” The essays are judged on the strength of the argument developed. PSA-PBK members serving on the scholarship committee include Barbee Pigott, Marcie Stone, and Louise Richards.

Your support of our scholarship program is very important and valued. Please visit PSA-PBK.org/scholarships to donate. Thank you for your consideration.

Board Member Spotlight: Moira Tamayo

Moira was born and grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She graduated from Vassar College and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 1980, with a degree in social anthropology. After a year of postgraduate studies at Princeton, she moved to Caracas, Venezuela, and started her marketing career at Procter & Gamble. Eventually she specialized in marketing payment technologies, and this job took her all over the Americas and Europe. Among other jobs, she was VP of Latin America and the Caribbean for Western Union, SVP of marketing for Vantiv/Worldpay, and head of U.S. marketing for Amazon Pay. In 2019 she left Amazon to pursue a master’s in biology and conservation through a joint program with Woodland Park Zoo and Miami University in Ohio. She graduated from the program in 2021, and in April 2022 she started working at the Seattle Aquarium as senior marketing manager. Her responsibilities at the aquarium include branding, signage, integrated marketing campaigns, website, emails, and social media. Moira has two adult sons and lives in Queen Anne with her partner, Steven Aday, who relocated to Seattle six years ago.

If you know any Phi Beta Kappa members who have not yet joined PSA-PBK, please invite them to become members. Visit PSA-PBK.org/join for additional information.

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 speakers and events throughout the year.

The following donations were made from January 1, 2022, through December 30, 2022.

Champions (\$500 or more)

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Non-member donors

Jane Stiefel, in memory of Ernie Stiefel
Rabbi Sharon Stiefel, in memory of Ernie Stiefel

Financial Status and Update, by Howard Johnson, Treasurer

PSA-PBK has, like many other organizations, experienced a significant loss in its investment assets over the past 2-3 years. Even with our investments favoring bonds rather than equities, we have managed to lose about 10% in our asset base in just the last two years. The PSA-PBK organization has a policy requiring our Board to maintain an asset balance of at least 95% of the appreciated total assets of \$320,000 as established on June 30, 2020. Unfortunately, our overall asset balance at this time is approximately \$10,000 under even this 95% level.

There are just three ways to restore our current scholarship asset base from its current level of approximately 92% up to the required 95% level and then on up to the desired 100% level. The first of these is to hope that the bond and equities markets recover a considerable part of the recent losses. It is quite possible that this could happen over the next year or two; however, the situation could get worse, and a major collapse in markets is still a possibility. This leads us to the other two ways to increase our asset base for supporting scholarships. The other two approaches to restoring our required asset base are to either increase member donations to the scholarship fund or reduce the number of scholarships in the next year or two to make up at least a part of the difference. Some combination of all three options will likely be the solution to our current problem of restoring the assets needed to support a reasonable level of scholarships in the years ahead. This will be the task facing our finance committee as we begin our budget deliberations for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Donations to Scholarships Welcome

As summarized by Treasurer Howard Johnson above, we are below our expected budgeted funding levels. As responsible stewards, the Finance Committee will meet during the first quarter 2023 to discuss options for staying within our projected revenues to fund scholarships before June 30, the end of our fiscal year. Steps could include reducing the award amount and/or the number. Scholarships make a material difference in the lives of our student awardees. Our preference is not to modify our plan. If you are in a position to help us, your consideration is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.psa-pbk.org/payments-and-donations>

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. New members and their families and friends are invited to attend. Each new 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 will hold its initiation on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the President's House.

Can you help us?

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

Happy New Year, as we “hop” into the Year of the Rabbit. There’s hope and brighter signs of the return to pre-COVID activities despite continuing risk exposures. It’s been almost six months since my tenure began as president. Among the highlights, we carefully restarted our in-person indoor events this fall with the Humanities Achievement Award ceremony in October. This followed an outdoor Key Connections gathering at Ravenna Park in the summer. It made me realize that while Zoom meetings were effective, they’re no replacement for face-to-face interactions, which we all miss. We will cautiously continue to monitor the current infection rates as we plan programs and activities for 2023.

At this end of the year, I extend my thanks to all the board members and non-board committee members who contributed to the successes of PSA-PBK. I also thank all of you for continuing to support us by attending events and activities and making generous donations to our scholarships.

Your PSA-PBK Board and Committee Members

Executive Committee: Dennis Yamashita, president; Linda Willenberg, immediate past president; Moira Tamayo, vice president; Terry Jankowski, secretary and archivist; Howard Johnson, treasurer; Amy Ojendyk, assistant treasurer; and Benjamin Lukoff, editor and electronic communications coordinator.

Other board members include Karrin Klotz, Harrison Owens, Margaret Palmquest, Louise Richards, Amy Ryken, Doris Stiefel, and Moira Tamayo.



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**

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Support PSA-PBK with Amazon Smile, now available in the app

As we've mentioned in past issues, PSA-PBK is part of Amazon Smile, through which we receive a donation of 0.5% of the purchase price for orders you place via [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). Previously, this only worked on web browsers, but now Amazon has made Smile available via their app! If you're already signed up, see <https://tinyurl.com/smileappinst> to learn how to change your app settings. If you'd like to start supporting PSA-PBK via Amazon Smile, see <https://tinyurl.com/psapbk-smile> to learn how to designate us as your preferred charity. Thank you for your continued support of PSA-PBK.

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 membership@psa-pbk.org or call Dennis Yamashita at (206)-709-4091. Please also notify Doris Lawrence at the national Phi Beta Kappa Society office at dlawrence@pbk.org or call (202) 265-3808.

We would like to hear from you! Any topics suggestions, ideas to make PSA-PBK more relevant to you. Please email president@psa-pbk.org.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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