



PHI BETA KAPPA

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
THE GAMMA ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
Association Chartered June 14, 1946

March 2024

Go to the Mobile copy <https://pbknca.com/Newsletter/>

From the President

Dear fellow Phi Betes,

Nearly one hundred enthusiastic Phi Beta Kappa members gathered at the **PBK NCA conference held at Asilomar** from February 16th to 18th. It was an exceptional event featuring world-class speakers who shared their expertise on a diverse array of topics - see the end of this letter (page 4). If you haven't had the opportunity to attend this remarkable annual gathering, or if it's been some time since your last attendance, I encourage you to join us next year. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who participated in this year's conference, including the esteemed speakers, dedicated volunteers, and especially Deirdre Frontczak and Mike Sitzer, whose efforts were instrumental in making the event a success.



The nominations for this year's **Teaching Excellence Awards** have concluded, and we are excited to learn about the outstanding educators. We are seeking two additional Phi Betes to join the Teaching Excellence Award committee for 2024. The time commitment required is minimal, and I will personally guide you through the process. Serving on this committee is an honor and a delightful experience. Please reach out to me directly at melstevens@berkeley.edu if you can help. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

I am pleased to announce the return of our **Annual Awards Luncheon**, which had been on hiatus due to COVID-19. This cherished tradition allows us to celebrate our student scholarship recipients and Teaching Excellence Awardees. Further details about this event are in this newsletter ([page 2](#)). I hope to see you there!

We at Phi Beta Kappa actively advocate for education in the liberal arts and sciences, which is essential for nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped with critical thinking. We believe investing time, money, care, and energy in the liberal arts and sciences is an investment in democracy, a thriving US economy, and a healthy planet Earth. **If you haven't done so, please renew your membership ([page 5](#))**, invest in our students and educators as they strive for excellence, consider volunteering for a service position, and join us for an event

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As we navigate the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, I extend my sincerest well wishes to all of you. Whether immersed in academia, managing outside responsibilities, or applying for graduate programs or teaching positions, I hope you find strength and fulfillment in your endeavors.

Warm regards, Melissa Xanthe Stevens, President

Upcoming Events

Currently, the Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association suggests masking for indoor activities.

Note: The price stated for events is for current PBKNCA members; elapsed or non-members (except guests of members) will pay a surcharge. Full event information, and means of credit card payment, are available on our website <https://pbknca.com/Events/>

If you won't be able to make an event, contact O'Neil Dillon at oneilsdillon@gmail.com ASAP, or if it is the day of the event call him at 510-207-8761, as there may be others on the waiting list who will then be able to take your place.

No-shows do NOT receive a refund! Cancellations probably do.

Sign up for events at <https://pbknca.com/Events>

To register for an event if you don't have Internet access, please contact O'Neil Dillon, cell 510-207-8761.

**It's been a while. Have you missed it?
Can't wait for it to happen again?**

**Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon,
Sunday, April 28, 2024, 12 noon to 4 p.m.**



You are in luck. After a four-year hiatus, we are planning to resume our Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon this year on Sunday, April 28, at the Bancroft Hotel in Berkeley. This is your opportunity to meet the outstanding scholars and professors whom we have selected to receive our awards, as well as to mingle with long-missed fellow Phi Betes. Just when you might have lost faith in the future of liberal arts education, seeing and hearing these awardees will act as an inspiring restorative.

Where: Bancroft Hotel, 2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

When: Sunday, April 28, 2024, noon to 4 p.m.

How much: \$70 (includes salad, main course, dessert; wine; tax and tip).

An anonymous donor is contributing \$10 to the scholarship fund for each member attending!

Registration by credit card at

<https://pbknca.com/event-5610057> is preferred, or clip the coupon to send a check.

Questions? Contact Jean James at

jeanejames@comcast.net or (415) 328-7978

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

Sunday, April 28, 2024. Noon to 4 p.m.

Deadline April 7, 2024

Attending _____ x \$70 per person = \$ _____

(Check payable to PBKNCA- Enter "Annual" on check)

Handicap parking? _____

Member _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Guest name(s) _____

Mail coupon and payment to:

Ms. Patricia Kenber, VP Membership, PBKNCA

1073 River Rock Lane, Danville CA 94526-4001

Bringing Back Nature - the Skyline Gardens Project. Sat., May 25th



Skyline Gardens is a 1.5-mile trail running south from the steam trains at Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley to Sibley Volcanic Regional Reserve. It is on EBMUD watershed land. Skyline Gardens is an East Bay Botanic hotspot for native plants, with more than 280 species.

The reason it is called a "Garden" is because since 2016 there has been a major volunteer-led restoration program that is removing a massive invasive non-native plant population. With this help, native plants, animals, and insects have thrived.

This event will be led by two docents and will be not only a Spring wildflower walk, but an education on restoring nature.

<https://www.skylinegardens.org/>

<https://baynature.org/article/weeding-the-wild/>

Date: Saturday May 25th, Time: 10:30 a.m.

Cost: Members \$15, Non-members \$25 (for scholarships),

Maximum group size 20

Reservations at <https://pbknca.com/event-5597760>, or contact O'Neil Dillon at oneilsdillon@gmail.com or 510-207-8761

Dogpatch Art Walk, Saturday, June 8th, 2024, 11 AM



This exclusive, guided tour of contemporary art will begin at the Minnesota Street Project, a three-warehouse complex dedicated to educating the public through exhibitions, galleries and programs. Led by collector, traveler and art historian Rhoda Becker; participants will have access to galleries, meet owners and collectors, speak with artists, and get an insider's perspective on this vibrant contemporary art community. Our guide will have previewed the most current exhibits and created a varied itinerary showcasing current artists and works. The Project recommends allowing three hours to view all galleries and visit with the creatives.

The Minnesota Street Project is in Dogpatch, which is the Bay Area's new epicenter of innovation, craft and artistic expression. The Museum of Craft and Design, the California College of the Arts, the San Francisco Center for the Book, entrepreneurial ventures, and various art spaces make this an internationally recognized art destination. After the tour, people may want to explore this vibrant area further.

Nearby cafes are available for lunch and refreshments, or bring your own and eat in the nearby park.

When: June 8th, 2024, Time: 11 a.m., Length: 3 hours

Where: The Minnesota Street Project, 1275 Minnesota St. San Francisco

Group limit: 20

Cost: members \$40 (\$15 for scholarships), Non-members \$50 (\$25 goes for scholarships)

Parking: Ample street parking

Reservations at <https://pbknca.com/event-5381075> or contact Tina Hittenberger [by email](#) or at 707-738-5607

38th Annual Asilomar Conference Feb 14–17, 2025



Register now for 2025 at <https://pbknca.com/event-5621925>, or use coupon on page 6.

Recap of the fantastic 37th Annual Asilomar Conference Feb 16–19, 2024



Friday night: Brant Robertson, Ph.D., PBK. *Astrophysics, U.C. Santa Cruz*

Exploring the Most Distant Reaches of the Universe with James Webb Space Telescope



Saturday Morning: Susan Shillinglaw, Ph.D., San Jose State University

John Steinbeck and the Land, People and History of California



Saturday Afternoon: William J. Clancey, PBK, Ph.D., Computer Science, Stanford / I.H.M.C.

Working on Mars: Voyages of Scientific Discovery with the Mars Exploration

Rovers.



Saturday night: Jennifer King, Ph.D., PBK, Stanford

After AI – Will Privacy Exist? What must we do to preserve it?



Sunday morning: Michael Dylan Foster, Ph.D., PBK, U.C. Davis, East Asian Languages and Cultures

The Persistence of the Kappa and Other Creatures of Japanese Folklore



Sunday afternoon: Robert Shanklin, Ph.D., PBK, Santa Clara University, Philosophy

Toward a 21st Century Global Pragmatism



Sunday night: Lucille Lang Day, Ph.D., PBK, U.C. Berkeley, Poet, Writer, and Science Educator

Poetry as Microscope and Time Machine



Monday morning: Katherine Magoulick, Ph.D. Candidate, PBK, UC Berkeley Integrative Biology

Studying Migrations in the Fossil Record

PBKNCA Book Club



There is an ongoing virtual book club open to interested members.

Contact Program VP O'Neil Dillon at oneilsdillon@gmail.com

**All memberships (except Auto Renewals) expired on December 31.
If you haven't yet joined, or renewed your membership, it is time
to contribute now.
Go to <https://pbknca.com/Join/Renew>**

ΦBK Board, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Melissa X. Stevens, President and Teaching Excellence
Rocklin, (530) 933-1550, melstevens@berkeley.edu
O'Neil Dillon, First Vice President – Programs
Berkeley, cell 510-207-8761, oneilsdillon@gmail.com
Joanne Sandstrom, Second Vice President – Scholarships
Oakland, (510) 339-1352, joannes@berkeley.edu
Patricia Kenber, Third Vice President – Membership
Danville, (925) 838-2296, kenber@sbcglobal.net
Duncan Missimer, Treasurer

Mountain View, (408) 368-0835, Duncan.missimer@ieee.org
Susan Jenkins, Corresponding and Recording Secretary
San Jose, (408) 532-6550, sjenkins4@yahoo.com
Deirdre Frontczak, Asilomar Chair
Santa Rosa, (707) 546-4238, dfrontczak@santarosa.edu
Amanda Sanyal, Chapter Liaison
Campbell, (650) 520-5419, a_derry@yahoo.com
Ray Hendess, Communications Chair
Petaluma, (707) 364-7615, rhendess@gmail.com

Several members have already reserved their places for the 2025 Asilomar; you can too!

ΦBK at Asilomar **February 14-17, 2025**, Deadline for Registration: January 20, 2025

Please pay the appropriate fee:

- A/ You are a currently paid member of PBKNCA or a new initiate who has joined PBKNCA - \$150.00**
- B/ You were elected to PBK in college but have not joined PBKNCA or your dues have lapsed - \$180.00**

Please make checks payable to PBKNCA. Enter "Asilomar" on check
Mail to: Barry Haskell, 1190 Fairbrook Dr., Mountain View, CA 94040
Questions? Call Deirdre Frontczak at 707 546-4238

Member Name(s): _____ Member Phone #(s): _____

Member Address: _____

Member Email (essential!) _____

First time you have attended our Asilomar Conference? _____ Where initiated to ΦBK (For your nametag) _____

Guest Name(s): _____

The Editor thanks Dr. Larry Lerner for proofing this newsletter