



# PHI BETA KAPPA

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



[www.pbknca.org](http://www.pbknca.org)

September 2020

[Go to the Mobile copy](#)

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Asilomar Conference has been cancelled due to the uncertainties surrounding the Covid-19.**

Many of you will open this newsletter anticipating that welcome reminder that it is again time to submit registrations for our treasured spring weekend of friendship, inspiration, and intellectual rigor. For the past 34 years this event has been a staple of PBKNCA, and a source of shared delight. This year, however....

Nature evidently had other plans. So, with deep regret and a heavy sigh, I am writing to say that **our 35<sup>th</sup> Asilomar Conference** will have to wait for the 2022 Presidents' Day weekend, and **will not take place in 2021.**

As of today, the Conference Center has reopened for tourists and families but with **no shared dining facilities, and dramatically reduced conference space.** Thus far they are booking only events that happen largely outdoors – quite a challenge, for a mid-February session. After extensive deliberation and with great sadness, the Board has determined that in the wake of Covid-19, the safety of members, guests and speakers cannot be assured at Asilomar. And without that assurance, it is impossible to plan and promote an event that may put attendees – especially older attendees – at risk.

The good news is, The Asilomar Center has agreed to defer our contract to a future year, so **space is already reserved for the Presidents' Day, 2022 and 2023 events.** We will sorely miss being with all those friends we see just once a year. But, I know we'll celebrate all the more when we assemble again the following year, in good health and ready to share our adventures! Please watch our newsletters, emails and website for more details.

*Deirdre Frontczak, Asilomar Chair*

## From the President



I hope all of you are doing well this summer, in spite of sheltering in place. We on the PBK-NCA Board thank you for being a member of our Northern California Association.

While circumstances don't permit us to hold events in person, O'Neil Dillon, our First Vice President–Programs, is planning some very interesting programs online using ZOOM. He also will have some wonderful excursions for us around the Bay Area that will take place when it is safe to hold them.

In May, 2021, which seems a long time from now, but which will be here before we know it, we'll confer scholarships on worthy graduate students from our Association's campus Chapters. The hard work of Second Vice President–Scholarships, Joanne Sandstrom, and her committee (and your monetary contributions) makes this possible. My thanks to all members who have given generously to our scholarship program during the past year and before. Please keep it up! We didn't hold our Annual Meeting this past May due to the virus, and we don't know what May 2021 will bring, **but we shall give scholarships again this coming year.**

We encourage nominations for our Teaching Excellence awards for faculty members at the universities in our Association area that have Phi Beta Kappa chapters. If you<sup>[SEP]</sup> were motivated, impressed, or enthralled by a teacher at any of those schools, please nominate him/her for a Teaching Excellence award, using the form available at [www.pbknca.org/teaching/](http://www.pbknca.org/teaching/). Teaching Excellence Chair Melissa Stevens awaits your input.

Wishing you a peaceful autumn and happy holidays,

*Mary Turner Gilliland, President 2011-21*

## Nominations for the Teaching Excellence Award for spring 2021 are being accepted

We are seeking nominations for this prestigious award, which carries an honorarium as well as a certificate. Please nominate a professor you consider outstanding: someone who taught an especially memorable course or who impressed you as an unusually skilled educator, who had a special impact on your education, career, or life, or whom you found inspiring and admirable. Making such a nomination is an appropriate and satisfying way of expressing your gratitude to that person. Awardees nominated in 2020 will be honored in May 2021.

Faculty members of any rank (including lecturers and *emeriti*) at the following schools are eligible for nomination: Mills College, San Francisco State University, Santa Clara University, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and The University of the Pacific. Please give as complete information as possible. Your nominees need not be Phi Beta Kappa members. You may make more than one nomination, but please use a separate form for each nomination you make.

Nominations for spring 2021 must be received by November 30, 2020. Please use the webform at [www.pbknca.org/teaching/](http://www.pbknca.org/teaching/) (preferred), or the hardcopy available by printing the pdf there.

*Melissa X. Stevens, Teaching Excellence Chair*

## Events

**In light of the public health recommendations to increase social distancing and reduce the incidence and spread of COVID-19, Phi Beta Kappa Northern California is suspending all in-person events and meetings for the foreseeable future. O'Neil has created a number of online events that sound exciting. If you agree, we would appreciate a contribution to the Scholarship fund online at <https://www.pbknca.org/membership/payments/scholarship1.contribution.form.php>**

**Or send a check to: Ms. Patricia Kenber VP Membership PBKNCA, 1073 River Rock Lane, Danville CA 94526-4001**

For questions about the events, email O'Neil Dillon at [oneildillon@gmail.com](mailto:oneildillon@gmail.com)

**PBKNCA "Member Stories" programs #2 and #3 for August 22 and September 26 will be a coordinated presentation of the principles of mediation/negotiation and conflict resolution followed by an example of how they can be put to use in the real world.**

**Saturday, August 22, 2020 10-11AM PBKNCA Member's Stories #2 Judge Elaine Rushing will present "NEGOTIATION, MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION PRINCIPLES 101"**



Judge Elaine Rushing, Mediator and Arbitrator with Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (JAMS), 2011- present

- Lecturer, UC Berkeley School of Law (Negotiations), 2013- present
- Judge, Sonoma County Superior Court, 1992-2010
- Civil trial attorney, private practice, 1979-1992
- Graduate, Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University, "Mediating the Litigated Case," 2006
- J.D., Hastings College of Law, Order of the Coif, 1979 (Research Editor, Hastings Law Journal, 1978-1979)
- National Defense Fellow, University of Wisconsin, 1969-1970 (Ph.D. candidate in Geography)
- B.A., Phi Beta Kappa with Honors in German, Syracuse University, 1969

Join Zoom Meeting August 22, a few minutes before 10, by clicking this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83147719453?pwd=dVNvQlE0dHI5bU9GdDc4SFIMWE45Zz09>

Or call in #- 1-669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 831 4771 9453, Password: 206483

**Saturday, September 26, 2020 10-11AM PBKNCA Member's Stories #3 Mr. Vic Schacter will present "HOW NEGOTIATION, MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE REAL WORLD"**



Mr. Victor Schachter, President of The Foundation for Sustainable Rule of Law Initiatives is the founder and president of The Foundation for Sustainable Rule of Law Initiatives (FSRI), an NGO dedicated to establishing sustainable mediation centers globally to achieve timely, fair and peaceful conflict resolution in countries with backlogged court systems. He has served extensively as a mediator, and as an advocate representing clients in numerous mediations and arbitrations over his fifty-year career. In addition, he has led rule of law and related educational initiatives promoting judicial reform, alternative dispute resolution and judicial case management in India, Brazil, Liberia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Republic of Georgia, Turkey and Malaysia, among other countries. Mr. Schachter has been honored as a California Lawyer Attorney of the Year for his service in judicial reform, rule of law and mediation building. His work has been reported and cited in numerous publications. Previously, he was a litigation partner at Fenwick & West LLP in Silicon Valley, California for 17 years.

Join Zoom Meeting September 26, a few minutes before 10 by clicking this link  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87690907102?pwd=Uy9NcDY2Vno3azVFcUpBQjhyRy9nQT09>  
 Or call in #- 1-669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 876 9090 7102, Password: 511074

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 6PM PBKNCA Member's Stories #4 "HAPPY HOUR WITH PBK YOUNG PROFESSIONALS"**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://managementpartners.zoom.us/j/98052236194>  
 Meeting ID: 980 5223 6194, One tap mobile, +16699009128,,98052236194# US (San Jose)



Wesley Park, Leslie Marie Brownlee and Claire Coleman are up to some very interesting things during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on mental health, academia, and local government, as well as how they are responding to these unique challenges in their personal and professional lives. This program will be an exciting opportunity for all PBKNCA members who want to learn about the lives and careers of young Phi Betes during this unprecedented time. We invite you to bring your own beverage of choice to this happy hour conversation.

Wesley Park is a community-based case manager and psychiatric rehabilitation counselor who provides mental health services for the underserved chronically homeless and justice-involved communities of San José. Wesley is a recent recipient of the Community Solutions Essential Worker Award for his continued service to this vulnerable population during the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing in-person patient support for psychotic episodes, manic episodes, dependent adult abuse, evictions, hospitalizations, and incarcerations. In 2019, Wesley graduated with Highest Honors from the University of California, Davis with a B.A. in Philosophy as well as a B.S. in Biological Sciences, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In his free time, Wesley enjoys thinking about the meaning of life and practicing recurve archery as a form of mindfulness.

Leslie Marie Brownlee is a second year Ph.D. student at UC Davis with a focus in 19th century American literature and transcendentalism. She is currently exploring intersections between transcendentalism and race politics in the United States, and recently presented a paper entitled, “The Hydrologic Cycle and Emerson’s Response to Racism,” on a panel with the Emerson society. Leslie has written a memoir entitled, “Saint’s Song, or My Body in Place,” that she hopes to publish soon. After earning her Ph.D., she hopes to begin a career in academia, teaching and hopefully mentoring other students of color. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her dog and camping in the mountains.

Claire Coleman is an Analyst for Management Partners, a local government consulting firm, where she works on a variety of projects for local government agencies including fiscal sustainability models and strategic planning. A native of Davis, CA, Claire graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Oberlin College, with a double-major in Economics and Russian Studies. Previously, she worked for a tech startup and a transportation company. Claire is the Chair of the PBKNCA Young Professionals subcommittee and enjoys the outdoors in her free time.



**PHI BETA KAPPA**  
**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION**  
Ms. Patricia Kenber  
VP Membership, PBK-NCA  
1073 River Rock Lane  
Danville CA 94526-4001

### **Return Service Requested**

#### **Go green – get the newsletter by email**

Send an email to [online@pbknca.org](mailto:online@pbknca.org)

or

Scan this QR code with your smartphone  
to sign up for the newsletter online now



#### **ΦBK Board, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021**

Mary Turner Gilliland, President  
Menlo Park, (650) 321-9966, [Mltg@aol.com](mailto:Mltg@aol.com)  
O'Neil Dillon, First Vice President – Programs  
Berkeley, cell 510-207-8761, [oneilsdillon@gmail.com](mailto:oneilsdillon@gmail.com)  
Joanne Sandstrom, Second Vice President – Scholarships  
Oakland, (510) 339-1352, [joannes@berkeley.edu](mailto:joannes@berkeley.edu)  
Patricia Kenber, Third Vice President – Membership  
Danville, (925) 838-2296, [kenber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenber@sbcglobal.net)  
Duncan Missimer, Treasurer  
Mountain View, (408) 368-0835, [Duncan.missimer@ieee.org](mailto:Duncan.missimer@ieee.org)  
Susan Jenkins, Corresponding and Recording Secretary  
San Jose, (408) 532-6550, [sjenkins4@yahoo.com](mailto:sjenkins4@yahoo.com)  
Deirdre Frontczak, Asilomar Chair  
Santa Rosa, (707) 546-4238, [dfontczak@santarosa.edu](mailto:dfontczak@santarosa.edu)  
Amanda Sanyal, Chapter Liaison  
Campbell, (650) 520-5419, [a\\_derry@yahoo.com](mailto:a_derry@yahoo.com)  
Ray Hendess, Communications Officer  
Petaluma, (707) 763-2072, [Ray@pbknca.org](mailto:Ray@pbknca.org)  
Melissa X. Stevens, Teaching Excellence Chair  
Rocklin, (530) 933-1550, [melstevens@berkeley.edu](mailto:melstevens@berkeley.edu)