October 23, 2019

**Turmoil and Hope in Afghanistan: The Tortuous Denouement of an 18-Year War**

DACOR Bacon House

1801 F Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006

12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST

DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20

programs@dacorbacon.org

Pamela Constable is the Kabul and Islamabad bureau chief for The Washington Post. As a foreign correspondent and former South Asia Bureau Chief with the Post, she has also reported from India, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Ukraine, Mali, and Nigeria.

Before joining the Post in 1994, she was a foreign correspondent for the Boston Globe, covering Central and South America and focusing on Haiti and Chile. She also reported from the former Soviet Union, Korea, and the Philippines, and served as deputy Washington bureau chief. She was previously a staff reporter for The Baltimore Sun.

The promotion of human rights has been a part of U.S. foreign policy at least since the time that Eleanor Roosevelt championed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the earliest days of the UN. Human rights policy has also been the subject of recurring controversy, often related to its very basis in philosophy and law.

Robert Paul Churchill, who grew up overseas as the son of a diplomat and an artist, took his PhD in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University, and was the Elton Professor of Philosophy when he completed 42 years of teaching, research, and educational innovation at George Washington University in 2017. While serving as department chair several times, Dr. Churchill published seven books and numerous monographs, edited volumes and articles in his major areas of interest: ethics and global justice, ethnic and gender violence, human rights, just war theory, peace studies and nonviolent activism, national defense, terrorism, tolerance, reconciliation and moral psychology. His books include Human Rights and Global Diversity and Women in the Crossfire: Understanding and Ending Honor Killing forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

Discussion Questions:

How universal are universal human rights? How can one justify the notion of universal human rights when the world is so divided by cultural, religious, and ideological norms? Is there a philosophical basis for reaching agreement on issues of equality, religious liberty, and freedom of expression?

How can one reconcile personal autonomy, the foundation of individual rights, and the idea of state sovereignty, the premise of diplomacy? Can the community of states hold a sovereign nation to account for violating the human rights of its citizens?

Does the theory of human rights need to be extended to include the collective rights of peoples, like the indigenous, whose identity and way of life differ so much from the basic notions of Western jurisprudence -- property, contract, individual rights?
October 24, 2019  
**Members' Lunch**
DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM EST  
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25  
events@dacorbacon.org  
*A delicious lunch with the choice of the special of the week or a vegetarian option. The meal also includes dessert, coffee/tea and House wine. Premium wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

October 29, 2019  
**Members' Buffet Lunch**
DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST  
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25  
events@dacorbacon.org  
*Enjoy a delicious buffet, including vegetarian and gluten free options. Self-serve coffee & tea included. Wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

October 30, 2019  
**Gulliver's Troubles: America in the Middle East**
DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST  
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20  
programs@dacorbacon.org  
*Aaron David Miller recently joined the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as a Senior Fellow focusing on U.S. foreign policy. Previously, he was a Global Fellow at the Wilson Center from 2006-2019. Dr. Miller is among America’s foremost experts on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and U.S. policy in the Middle East. A former adviser to six secretaries of state (George Schultz to Colin Powell), he helped shape America’s policy in the region for more than two decades. A prolific commentator, Miller is currently a global affairs analyst for CNN. He is the author of five books, including the national bestseller The Much Too Promised Land: America’s Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace, and most recently, The End of Greatness: Why America Can't Have (and Doesn't Want) Another Great President.*

October 31, 2019  
**Weekly Discussion Group on Current International Events**
DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST  
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20  
programs@dacorbacon.org  
*Come to exchange views and analysis of significant current events, foreign and domestic. Some weeks, a pre-chosen topic will be discussed after an initiator launches the discussion with a brief (~5 minutes) framing of a topic, after which free-wheeling discussion follows. Other weeks, the discussion will revolve around what currently piques attendees’ interests.*
October 31, 2019

Members' Lunch
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM EST
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25
events@dacorbacon.org

*A delicious lunch with the choice of the special of the week or a vegetarian option. The meal also includes dessert, coffee/tea and House wine. Premium wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

November 3, 2019

Music of the Feminine Spheres - Heard but not Seen
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
03:00 PM - 05:00 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

*The violin & viola duo of MarcOliva will be joined by Ralitza Patcheva, piano, and Vasily Popov, cello. Both husband & wife teams, they return to DACOR to perform the music of Rebecca Clarke, Clara Schumann, Dora Pejacevic and Frances McKay, all highly talented and fascinating composers who deserve to be heard, better known and performed more often. Our musicians will comment on the lives of these gifted composers. This musicale kicks off our new 'Women Composers' series.*

November 5, 2019

Members' Buffet Lunch
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25
events@dacorbacon.org

*Enjoy a delicious buffet, including vegetarian and gluten free options. Self-serve coffee & tea included. Wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

November 5, 2019

French Conversation Group
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

*Interested in keeping up with your French? Join the French Conversation Group!*

*Formed to help French-speaking members maintain their proficiency, the group meets monthly for lunchtime conversation involving foreign relations, diplomatic history, cultural activities, travel, and - of course! - French food and wine.*

*The DACOR cash bar opens at 12 noon and the group moves to a reserved table at Members' Buffet Lunch at 12:30 pm. Only French is spoken during lunch.*
November 6, 2019
Quiz Night
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
06:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org
*Quiz Night is back by popular demand!*

Join us for a fun and challenging evening. Come solo and be assigned a team or register a team of six. An entertaining way to show off your knowledge of the world and learn new facts, you are welcome to bring non-members to join your team. Enjoy snacks, a cash bar and friendly competition.

*Each member of the winning team will receive a prize.*

November 7, 2019
Members’ Lunch
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM EST
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25
events@dacorbacon.org
*A delicious lunch with the choice of the special of the week or a vegetarian option. The meal also includes dessert, coffee/tea and House wine. Premium wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

November 7, 2019
Weekly Discussion Group on Current International Events
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org
*Come to exchange views and analysis of significant current events, foreign and domestic. Some weeks, a pre-chosen topic will be discussed after an initiator launches the discussion with a brief (~5 minutes) framing of a topic, after which free-wheeling discussion follows. Other weeks, the discussion will revolve around what currently piques attendees’ interests.*
Ricklef Beutin took over the position of Deputy Chief of Mission at the German Embassy in Washington, DC, in July 2019. Prior to this, he was a Visiting Fellow in the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) in Washington.

Before coming to the United States in 2018, Ricklef Beutin served as Chief of Staff to German Federal Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel. Between 2011 and 2017, he was Chief of Staff to several State Secretaries of the German Federal Foreign Office.

From 2015 to 2016, Ricklef Beutin headed the division for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and served as deputy head of the Task Force for the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016.

Previous positions in the German Foreign Office include Head of the Division for Parliamentary and Cabinet Affairs and Deputy Spokesman of the German Permanent Representation to the EU. Between 2005 and 2007, Ricklef Beutin was seconded to the EU Commission’s policy planning division Bureau of European Policy Advisors (BEPA) as foreign policy analyst.

DACOR Closed
The DACOR Bacon House will be closed for Veterans Day.

Members’ Lunch Honoring Our Veterans
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

Join us for a special Members' Buffet Lunch in honor of veterans, their families and friends. A microphone will be available for any who wish to share their experiences as veterans and/or for those who want to express their appreciation for members of our Armed Forces. This is a family friendly event.

Members’ Lunch
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM EST
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25
events@dacorbacon.org

A delicious lunch with the choice of the special of the week or a vegetarian option. The meal also includes dessert, coffee/tea and House wine. Premium wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.
Weekly Discussion Group on Current International Events  
DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST  
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20  
programs@dacorbacon.org
Come to exchange views and analysis of significant current events, foreign and domestic. Some weeks, a pre-chosen topic will be discussed after an initiator launches the discussion with a brief (~5 minutes) framing of a topic, after which free-wheeling discussion follows. Other weeks, the discussion will revolve around what currently piques attendees' interests.

2020 Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) Update  
DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST  
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20  
programs@dacorbacon.org
Ms. Paula Jakub will discuss benefits and OPM initiatives, wellness programs, support for chronic conditions, managing prescription drugs, and quality and affordable coverage. She also will talk about the FEDVIP program, and the latest on Medicare.

As CEO and Executive VP of AFSPA, Ms. Jakub provides strategic leadership that facilitates the development and enhancement of various insurance and specialty programs offered by the Association. AFSPA administers the Foreign Service Benefit Plan under contract with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, as authorized by the FEHB law. She is also the Executive Director of the Senior Living Foundation (SLF) of the American Foreign Service, where she provides proactive management to the vital organization solely devoted to helping elderly Foreign Service retirees and widows.
Gregory Thielmann is a former official in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research who, after retiring in September 2002, publicly disputed the rationale for the U.S. invasion of Iraq offered by the George W. Bush administration. He is currently a board member of the Arms Control Association and member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His areas of expertise and research include threat assessments, nuclear/missile proliferation, and US-Russian strategic arms control.

A native of Newton, Iowa, Thielmann is a graduate of Grinnell College and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He served for more than 25 years working on arms control and security issues. He was acting director of the Strategic, Proliferation, and Military Affairs Office in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the State Department at the time of his retirement.

After retiring from the State Department, Thielmann worked for four years for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence before joining the Arms Control Association.

Questions
Democratic states are based on the idea of “popular sovereignty.” The people decide on their future through elected representatives and leaders. In a world of ever-increasing complexity, however, elected governments have come to rely on career officials to advise on policy. Some argue reliance on unelected officials undermines the public will. Others argue that ignoring expert advice weakens policy making and harms American interests.

How much influence should unelected government officials have in the making of policy? Can career officials be trusted to give unbiased and nonpartisan assessments of matters for decision? How can an elected leader be sure that experts do not have their own agendas or, conversely, that experts are not “yes men”? Does a cadre of experts working in Washington lose touch with the American people and lose sight of their interests? Can such a group become an elite operating inside the government, undermining popular sovereignty?

What should a career-official do when he or she thinks that an elected government is wrong? Does the government have a right to ignore, reassign, or fire such persons? Is it wise for an elected government to ignore the views of career experts?
Africa Discussion Group
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM EST
Amb. Christopher Goldthwait,
goldthwaitce@yahoo.com

If you have an interest in Africa or want to learn more, join DACOR members at the monthly Africa Discussion Group. Discussions are organized around theme, country, region or on a selected speaker’s interests.

Welcome to DACOR Lunch
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM EST
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25
events@dacorbacon.org

Join us in welcoming new DACOR members to the DACOR community and our home.

Weekly Discussion Group on Current International Events
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

Come to exchange views and analysis of significant current events, foreign and domestic. Some weeks, a pre-chosen topic will be discussed after an initiator launches the discussion with a brief (~5 minutes) framing of a topic, after which free-wheeling discussion follows. Other weeks, the discussion will revolve around what currently piques attendees’ interests.

The Mysteries of Cairo’s Magnificent Mamluk Carpets
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

During the 1480s, carpets more magnificent than any seen before suddenly appeared in three of the most elite spaces in the multicultural Mediterranean: the Alhambra in Andalusia, the Vatican Palace, and the Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem. The origin of these carpets has long remained mysterious. Evidence now indicates that the Mamluk sultan Qaitbay established a new industry in Cairo which was deliberately planned to be the world leader. This lecture will show how well the plan succeeded.

Rosamond Mack was completing a Ph.D. in Italian Renaissance painting at Harvard University when she married FSO David Mack. Their 15 years in the Arab world did not advance a career in the Renaissance. After his retirement, her lucky decision to combine these life experiences led to a groundbreaking book, Bazaar to Piazza: Islamic Trade and Italian Art 1300-1600 (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 2002), which has been translated into Turkish (Istanbul, 2005). She continues to research, write, and lecture internationally, and for the National Gallery of Art in Washington.
November 26, 2019

**November Holiday Buffet Brunch**
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

*DACOR's Holiday Buffet Brunches are great fun for all! Bring visiting friends and family to our Holiday Brunches for a delicious spread and great conversation. This is a perfect event for introducing prospective members to our House and community. This event is family friendly. The buffet will feature a wide assortment of tasty dishes, including vegetarian and gluten free options. Be sure to save room for the dessert selection!*

We will be holding a canned food drive during the brunch. Please bring unopened, nonperishable food items. All items will be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank and will help feed those in need during the holiday season. Visit [www.capitalareafoodbank.org/donate-food/](http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/donate-food/) to see CAFB's most wanted items.

November 28, 2019 - November 29, 2019

**DACOR Closed**
The DACOR Bacon House will be closed for Thanksgiving.

December 3, 2019

**Members' Buffet Lunch**
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25
events@dacorbacon.org

*Enjoy a delicious buffet, including vegetarian and gluten free options. Self-serve coffee & tea included. Wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

December 3, 2019

**French Conversation Group**
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

*Interested in keeping up with your French? Join the French Conversation Group!*

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December 5, 2019

**Members’ Lunch**
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM EST
DACOR, 202-682-0500 x25
events@dacorbacon.org

*A delicious lunch with the choice of the special of the week or a vegetarian option. The meal also includes dessert, coffee/tea and House wine. Premium wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

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December 5, 2019

**Weekly Discussion Group on Current International Events**
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

*Come to exchange views and analysis of significant current events, foreign and domestic. Some weeks, a pre-chosen topic will be discussed after an initiator launches the discussion with a brief (~5 minutes) framing of a topic, after which free-wheeling discussion follows. Other weeks, the discussion will revolve around what currently piques attendees’ interests.*

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December 9, 2019

**Leave No One Behind: Time for Specifics on the Sustainable Development Goals**
DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20
programs@dacorbacon.org

Homi Kharas, Interim Vice President and Director of Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution, will speak about his new book *Leave No One Behind: Time for Specifics on the Sustainable Development Goals*. He will offer practical ideas for transforming a slogan into effective actions which, if implemented, will make it possible to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Dr. Kharas served as the lead author and executive secretary of the secretariat supporting the High Level Panel, co-chaired by President Sirleaf, President Yudhoyono and Prime Minister Cameron, advising the U.N. Secretary General on the post-2015 development agenda (2012-2013). He has served on numerous panels and committees at Brookings including the High Level Panel on the Reform of the Development Assistance Committee (2017). His publications include articles, book chapters, and opinion pieces on global development policy, global trends, the global food crisis, international organizations, the G20, the DAC, and private philanthropy.

Prior to joining Brookings, Dr. Kharas spent 26 years at the World Bank, serving for seven years as Chief Economist for the World Bank’s East Asia and Pacific region and Director for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Finance and Private Sector Development.
December 10, 2019

**Members' Buffet Lunch**

DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST  
events@dacorbacon.org  

*Enjoy a delicious buffet, including vegetarian and gluten free options. Self-serve coffee & tea included. Wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

December 12, 2019

**Members' Lunch**

DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM EST  
events@dacorbacon.org  

*A delicious lunch with the choice of the special of the week or a vegetarian option. The meal also includes dessert, coffee/tea and House wine. Premium wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*

December 12, 2019

**Weekly Discussion Group on Current International Events**

DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST  
programs@dacorbacon.org  

*Come to exchange views and analysis of significant current events, foreign and domestic. Some weeks, a pre-chosen topic will be discussed after an initiator launches the discussion with a brief (~5 minutes) framing of a topic, after which free-wheeling discussion follows. Other weeks, the discussion will revolve around what currently piques attendees’ interests.*

December 15, 2019

**Geoff Pilkington & Friends**

DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
03:00 PM - 05:00 PM EST  
programs@dacorbacon.org  

*First Horn of the Washington National Opera, Geoff Pilkington, will be joined by Sophia Cooke, piano, in this second of the Dacor ‘Modernists series’ that focuses on the supreme mastery of one instrument to celebrate the season. Mulled wine will be served and the House decorated.*

December 17, 2019

**Members' Buffet Lunch**

DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST  
events@dacorbacon.org  

*Enjoy a delicious buffet, including vegetarian and gluten free options. Self-serve coffee & tea included. Wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at the table.*
December 17, 2019  
Africa Discussion Group  
DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM EST  
Amb. Christopher Goldthwait,  
goldthwaitce@yahoo.com  
If you have an interest in Africa or want to learn more, join DACOR members at the monthly Africa Discussion Group. Discussions are organized around theme, country, region or on a selected speaker’s interests.

December 19, 2019  
December Holiday Buffet Brunch  
DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
Seating 1: 10:30 am - 12 pm Caroling: 12 - 1 pm Seating 2: 1 - 2:30 pm  
DACOR Programs, 202-682-0500 x20  
programs@dacorbacon.org  
Happiness comes to all who attend our festive December Holiday Buffet Brunch! Bring visiting friends and family to our December Holiday Brunch for a delicious spread and great conversation. The buffet will feature a wide assortment of tasty dishes, including vegetarian and gluten free options. Be sure to save room for the dessert selection!

This event is so popular that we have two separate seatings. In-between the seating from 12 noon - 1 pm we will hold a caroling session. Please join us for Caroling whether you attend the 1st or 2nd seating, or just want to sing. A long-time annual DACOR tradition, help spread cheer as we sing a selection of winter songs. A good singing voice is not required – just enthusiasm!

December 25, 2019 - January 1, 2020  
DACOR Closed  
The DACOR Bacon House will be closed from Christmas Day through New Years Day.