

## Next PDAA Lunch Program

Monday, Sept. 13, 2021

DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC

**Topic:** Fulbright at 75

- Cash bar 12 noon
- Lunch 12:30 pm
- Speaker 1:00 pm

\$35.00 members and guests, \$42.00 non-members

**Reservation deadline:**  
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021,  
5:00 pm

To reserve, please return coupon on page 7, or reserve online at [pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org/](http://pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org/)

### Future Events

Aug. 2—**What next for Canadian public diplomacy?** A panel discussion to mark the publication of Nicholas J. Cull and Michael Hawes's edited collection *Canadian Public Diplomacy* (Palgrave 2021). Register in advance for this meeting at <https://usc.zoom.us/j/9291292929>

Aug. 18—**China's Public Diplomacy Operations.** China is using online technologies that include bots to amplify the voices of Chinese diplomats online. The authors of a new study will discuss the implications and challenges of China's online public diplomacy and propaganda. RSVP: Demme Durrett at [Durrett@usc.edu](mailto:Durrett@usc.edu)

# PDAA Today

Public Diplomacy Association of America

## First Post-Pandemic Luncheon Discussion to Focus on 75th Anniversary of Fulbright Exchanges

As it turns 75, the internationally esteemed Fulbright Program faces a number of critical global challenges, including those related to human security. Among the issues are accelerating climate change, unprepared public health systems, threats to civil society and democratic governance by corrupt and authoritarian regimes, communication technologies that mislead as well as clarify.

Underlying these challenges and intensified by them are ongoing injustices around the world related to race, caste, religion, gender and identity. Disenfranchised individuals and groups are disproportionately the losers in the contest for goods and benefits, services and influence. Lasting solutions to major contemporary issues are unlikely in the absence of fundamental rights and equal opportunities.

How can the Fulbright program contribute to greater understanding and more concerted progress in meeting challenges related to race, religion, gender, and identity? How have Ful-

brighters been affected by these issues and what steps would they prescribe for future programs? To what extent are there non-traditional options for future programs that merit consideration? Are there opportunities that the U.S. should seek to expand or re-open Fulbright programs? What other concerns do Fulbright alumni and those of us who have administered Fulbright exchanges have about the program's future?

The discussion will take place on Mon., Sep. 13, from 12:00 to 2:00, at DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F St., NW. To register, please complete the form on page 7 or register on-line [on our website](#). Deadline is Sep. 9. The cost is \$35 for PDAA members and their guests and for PDC members; the cost is \$42 for non-members.

The event will also be broadcast live over Zoom and recorded for later viewing. To register for the Zoom experience, please see our [website](#).<sup>□</sup>



## PDAA Honors Excellence in Public Diplomacy

COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, public diplomacy practitioners across the globe continue to creatively engage their local audiences on key policy issues, as clearly evidenced by the winners of the 2021 PDAA awards.

Whether showcasing U.S. support for democracy and human rights, combating trafficking in persons, encouraging entrepreneurship, or crafting calibrated messaging on immigration policy, this year's award winners employed strategies ranging from old school printed flyers to cutting edge social media campaigns to effectively communicate with foreign publics.

The four winners of the 2021 PDAA awards are:

- Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong & Macau
- Sohini Das, Public Engagement Specialist, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata
- Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Algiers
- Allyson Hamilton-McIntire, Assistant Information Officer, U.S. Embassy Mexico City

To read **Domenick DiPasquale's** report on the 2021 recipients of the PDAA Awards for Excellence in Public Diplomacy, see our [website](#).



**Joel Fischman**  
PDAA President

**“Now that we have heard from PDAA members, and from PDC members in an earlier PDC all-member meeting, we are moving into the next phase of the transition.”**

**Excerpts from the May 18 Meeting of the PDAA Board of**

## President's Notes

**F**or the past couple of issues, PDAA TODAY has been arriving in the email and snail mailboxes of Public Diplomacy Council (PDC) members as well as PDAA members. We hope our enhanced readership is finding this newsletter and the closer collaboration between our two organizations useful. Your feedback is welcome.

Thank you to PDAA members who joined our July 19 “Town Hall” on Zoom. Hearing your concerns and preferences is helpful to those of us who are working on the impending PDAA/PDC merger. All of us working on the transition are striving for a new organization that serves all its members with distinction. It will leverage the strengths of both PDAA and PDC to be better than the sum of its parts. This has to be a win-win situation for all members of PDAA and PDC.

Now that we have heard from PDAA members, and from PDC members in an earlier PDC all-member meeting, we are moving into the next phase of the transition. The four transition working groups (Governance, Finance,

Media Presence/Branding, and Membership and Data Management) have submitted reports to the Joint Oversight Group (JOG). Within the next couple of weeks, the JOG and the working group chairs will meet to decide on issues raised by the working groups. The JOG will then make formal recommendations to the PDAA and PDC Boards on the structure of the merged organization and steps needed to get to that point. By September, we should be ready to start an implementation phase.

All members in good standing of PDAA and PDC will automatically become members of the merged organization. Public Diplomacy Council of America (PDCA) is the working title.

Our goal is to have final approval for the new organization before the end of November. We can then devote the month of December to completing incorporation of the new organization and to choosing the new board, officers, and committees that will take effect on January 1, 2022.

In the meantime, we are working to bring you high quality programs. Our Joint Program Committee, co-chaired by PDAA Vice

President Joan Mower and PDAA Board Member Ambassador Greta Morris, has planned a schedule of twice-monthly programs that bring us into the early months of 2022. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a list of programs for the next couple of months. Note the September 13 First Monday, Fulbright at 75, will be a hybrid event. We will be meeting in-person at DACOR for the first time since Nov. 18, 2019. That is almost two years! In a first, this event will also be available live via Zoom, using the technology and techniques we have relied on during the prolonged pandemic.

Note that in the spirit of closer collaboration, the September 13 lunch is available to both PDAA and PDC members at the members' only cost of \$35. We can only accommodate the first 70 registrants in person, so sign up as soon as you can.

Finally, I wish to again thank the chairs and members of the four transition working groups who put in the time and energy to offer creative and insightful recommendations for our new organization.

*Joel*

**Joel Fischman** reported that the four transition working groups (media presence/branding, finance, membership/administrative data management, and governance) are still working on their respective issues, with their final reports due by June 30. At that point, the PDAA and PDC boards, and the Joint Oversight Group, will review the recommendations and resolve any outstanding issues. By the end of November, the PDAA and PDC boards will vote on the merger. If the merger is approved, the two current boards will then determine the new board and officers of the combined entity. A legal transition working group will have examined a number of issues post-merger,

including registering the new organization.

The question of a new dues schedule received attention. Noting that the proposed dues are higher than the current ones paid by PDAA members, Joel asked how best to reach out to PDAA members to encourage their interest in the new organization. He noted that the proposed dues levels are not high by the standards of other organizations, but PDAA dues have been especially low and there may be ‘sticker shock’ with the new dues structure. **Mary Jeffers** raised the idea of trying to bring in more new members, especially more recently retired PD practitioners, under the existing dues

schedule. **Brian Carlson**, substituting for **Sherry Mueller**, noted that individuals who currently belong to both PDAA and PDC will actually see their dues go down after the merger.

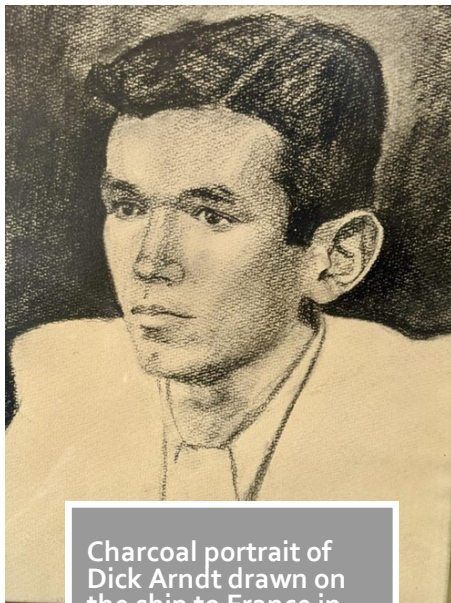
Turning to the proposal for professional staffing in the new organization, **Pat Kushlis** raised the question of how this will be paid for and organized, since she believed such staffing could result in the board losing some degree of control. Joel replied that the new organization will still be driven by the board, not staff. We are not talking about hiring an executive director, but rather paying for specific administrative and technical

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Fulbright at 75: Dick Arndt - Fulbrighter to FSO

By Skyler Arndt-Briggs, Ph.D.

As one of the first cohort of US Fulbrighters to go to France, Richard T. Arndt arrived in October 1949, two days before his twenty-first birthday. Despite growing up poor, he had benefited from two lucky breaks. He won a scholarship for promising New Jersey kids to attend Princeton University; and, just as he was graduating, IIE's Larry Duggan succeeded in getting the Fulbright program to France up and running.



Charcoal portrait of Dick Arndt drawn on the ship to France in 1949.

In Dick's own words, his year in Dijon "was a complete change of life—with regard to food,

dress, behavior, manners, history, customs, anti-Americanism, foreign 'ignorance,' languages, everything." After his return, he taught and completed a PhD in French literature at Columbia. In 1960, he answered J.F. Kennedy's call to "ask what you can do for your country" and joined USIA.

In Beirut (1961-63), Sri Lanka (1963-66), and Teheran (1966-71), Dick focused on cultural affairs—programming artists and scholars, running libraries, ESL and cultural centers, and supporting universities—and was able to make important contributions that crossed political lines without, for the most part, getting mired in controversial issues. His approach even worked in Rome (1974-78)—where he was posted together with his new spouse, USIA officer Lois Roth—but not in Paris (1978-80). Dick and Lois spent the next few years in Washington, DC, until Dick's retirement in 1985 and Lois's untimely death in 1986.

In retirement, Dick continued writing about US cultural diplomacy, returning to the lessons he'd learned as a Fulbrighter and expanded upon in successive posts. A personal

friend of Senator J. William Fulbright, Dick co-founded the Fulbright Association (of US alumni), wrote an article on "Questioning the Fulbright Experience," and co-edited *The Fulbright Difference, 1948-92*. Teaching classes at the University of Virginia and Georgetown, he researched and wrote his history of US cultural diplomacy, *The First Resort of Kings*. In recent years, he has

been working on a history of US contributions to education in Iran and an argument for the rehabilitation of Larry Duggan—whose reputation was torpe-

doed by mythmaking surrounding the Red Scare and the Cold War.

The foundation Dick created in memory of his deceased wife, Lois Roth, works with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to honor the achievements of those working in cultural affairs for the U.S. Foreign Service.✉

**Skyler Arndt-Briggs chairs the Lois Roth Endowment.**



Amb. Armin H. Meyer, Dick Arndt, Lois Roth at award ceremony for FSN Kazem Passima. Teheran c. 1970

importance of public diplomacy and steps to revitalize it, rather than the nuts and bolts of merging the two organizations. Joel said the session might best be held after the June 30 deadline for the transition working groups to submit their reports, and that publication of the newsletter could be advanced from August to July in order to publicize the town hall event.✉

—Prepared by Domenick DiPasquale

(Continued from page 2)

support, since it is not sustainable for board members themselves to carry the burden as they now do. Mary said using a member-driven platform would also reduce the workload.

Communicating with the PDAA membership at large about the merger is another area of concern. Pat asked what would appeal to members, current and potential, who live out-

side the Washington, DC, area and how to address that. Joel said we are just at the beginning of the dialogue on how we reach out and what we say. **Judy Baroody** and **Domenick DiPasquale** suggested the idea of a Zoom town hall session for PDAA members at which we could get feedback from membership, hear reaction to the proposed dues structure, etc. **Cynthia Efirid** thought any such session should emphasize broader themes, such as the



Young woman singing at the 1982 Deir az-Zor Cultural Festival

**This special issue on the 75th anniversary of the Fulbright Program elicited several memories of Sen. Fulbright and of Fulbrighters who became Foreign Service Officers. See also the contributions of Amb. Mark Asquino and Peter Becskehazy on the PDAA website, [pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org](http://pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org).**

## Fulbright at 75: Public Diplomacy & Cultural Festivals in Syria

By Evelyn A. Early, Ph.D.

The trust and friendships cultivated during my 1982 Fulbright in Syria continued through my return in 1996 as a diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Damascus.

In 1982, when I was one of only a few American researchers in Syria, I focused on Syrian popular culture.

At the Baathist Vanguard Youth Party Cultural Festival I attended in Deir az-Zor in 1982, the students presented dances and plays highlighting pan-Arabism. The Vanguard Cultural Director Dr. Abdullah, who had earned his doctorate in Moscow, spoke in a formal style of Arabic to demonstrate the cultural and political unity among the Arab states. While the children's festival pieces presented serious themes like feudalism and nationalism using a similar Arabic, the skits were set in a child's everyday play world peopled with colorful folk heroes.

When I returned to Syria in 1996 as PAO, my friends introduced me to producers of the popular historical television dramas which all debut during the month of Ramadan. Such series have presented Arab audiences with critiques on



Vanguard youth dancing at the 1982 Festival. Red slogan reads: "We want our children to live a happy childhood."

important issues such as terrorism much more effectively than any soft power initiative by western powers. I recommended that Washington fund local teledrama efforts, which it did.

Some of our best dialogues with Syrian officials took place over such dinners as our

American Jazz Tour celebration. Ambassador Crocker knew the value of attending openings where similar opportunities for informal talks with Syrian officials were interspersed with such programs as Vanguard folkloric dances similar to those in Deir az-Zor in 1982.

A few years later when I was PAO Rabat, Jamal Suleiman—a heartthrob of these Syrian television dramas whom I'd come to know in Damascus—was in Morocco for a film festival. I invited top Moroccan actors/actresses to lunch to meet him. My staff told me Jamal would never come, given current Middle East politics. They were wrong. After a lunchtime discussion of pan-Arab cultural issues, Jamal announced that, given events in Lebanon, he was on his way to resign as UN Goodwill Ambassador, but that he had not wanted to miss the chance to discuss culture with a friend like Dr. Early.☞

**Evelyn Early is a retired senior Foreign Service Officer.**

## Fulbright at 75: Chairing a Trinational Fulbright Commission

By Judith R. Baroody

Soon after I arrived in Cyprus in 1996 to take up the job as PAO, I received an official letter from Ambassador Richard Boucher appointing me as Chairperson of the Fulbright Commission. This presented a special challenge in a country described as "paradise with a problem."

The island is divided across the middle, east-to-west, into Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. UN troops guard the

neutral zone, and citizens were not allowed to cross from one

side to the other.

When I took on the chairmanship, Cyprus had the largest per capita budget of any Fulbright Commission in the world. We had an annual budget of over six million dollars in a country of about a million people, thanks to Senator Paul Sarbanes. He managed to add a line item of 15 million dollars in the federal budget every year for the island.

Five million went to Fulbright, which also received



PAO Judith Baroody with Special Envoy to Cyprus Richard Holbrooke.

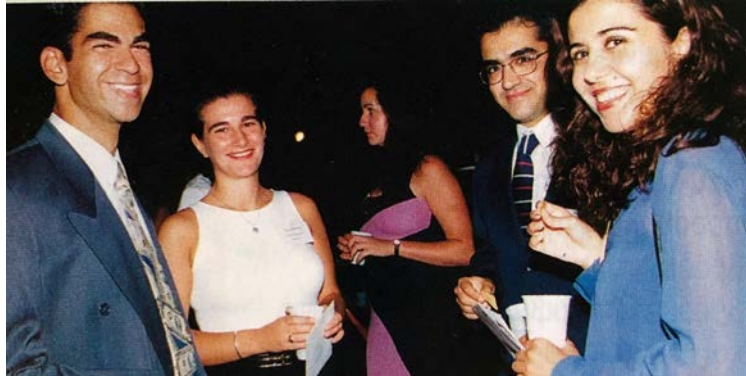
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money from investments and the Government of Cyprus. Ten million went to a special fund administered by the Embassy for bicomunal reconciliation. With that kind of money, we were able to dream up and carry out a range of ambitious projects with the approval of the board.

The Fulbright Board was considered trinational. Members included Americans, Greek Cypriots, and Turkish Cypriots, who regarded themselves as citizens of a separate republic. The meetings could get lively.

Among those representing the Greek Cypriots was Lellos Demetriades, mayor of Nicosia and a tough-talking lawyer.



Greek and Turkish Cypriots at Fulbright-Sponsored Bicomunal Art Exhibit

Lellos would take a maximalist approach to negotiations, demanding the impossible and settling for the plausible. He was also warm and funny. He once told me, “We realized that Cyprus would never be a major power, so we decided to be a major nuisance instead.”

Despite the sometimes heated rheto-

ric, it was actually a congenial group. We all wanted the same thing, which was to find an equitable peace settlement and provide academic opportunities for the young people of Cyprus, whatever their ethnicity.

The first year I was there, we gave out 65 scholarships and 65 training opportunities, sending mid-level professionals to the U.S. to learn about their fields and meet American counterparts. We also hosted a variety of workshops and cultural exhibits on the island to encourage Greek and

Turkish Cypriots to get to know each other.

Bringing the two sides together was, in reality, our only job—bicomunal reconciliation and, ultimately, peace.▣  
**Judith Baroody is a retired Foreign Service Officer and a member of the PDAA Board of Directors.**

## Fulbright at 75: That Time the Senator Undermined U.S. Foreign Policy

By John Quintus

I was retired Senator J. William Fulbright's Control Officer when he visited Germany in 1985 at the invitation of the German-American Fulbright Commission. It was the eve of the 40th Anniversary of the program that still bears Fulbright's name, and the Commission, one of the world's largest, wanted to be among the first to enjoy the Senator's presence.

Fulbright spoke to a large gathering at the University of Bonn with Ambassador Arthur Burns in attendance. When Bill told the German audience that they should resist the stationing of Pershing medium-range rockets on their soil, the Ambassador covered his face with his right hand. He was not amused, since the Embassy was doing its utmost to justify the installation of the Pershing

system to counter the Soviets' SS-20 missiles.

Then Bill, who had always preferred diplomacy to military action, said something I've never forgotten: “Before I left on this trip I asked the folks at the U.S. Information Agency to determine how much money had been spent on the Fulbright Program since its inception nearly 40 years ago. Well, let me tell you here today that all that money wouldn't buy the tail end of a Trident submarine!”

It was typical Fulbright, and a pointed reminder that investing in peace and mutual understanding was and is far less costly than preparing for war.

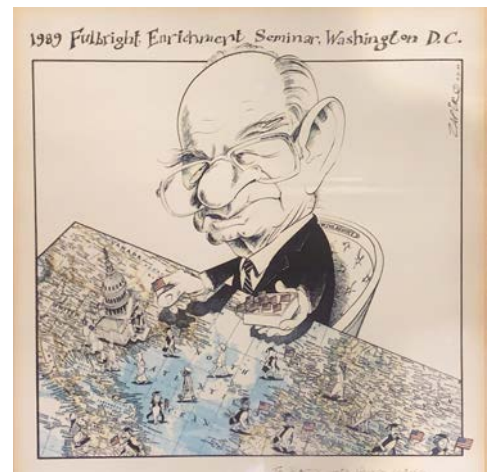
USIA actively supported the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Fulbright Program. It was good that the

Agency did so, since—alas—the Senator did not live to witness the 50th Anniversary. Fortunately, Fulbright's legacy endures; it is a legacy we all hope will rebound with the end of the current pandemic and with increasing funding from the Biden Administration.▣

**John Quintus is a retired Foreign Service Officer and member of PDAA. He served as Assistant CAO in Bonn.**



John Quintus and Senator Fulbright



PDC President Sherry Mueller recalled her memories of Sen. Fulbright in the [January 2020 issue of PDAA Today \(click to read\)](#). The sketch of Sen. Fulbright was presented to Dr. Mueller by a South African participant in one of the Fulbright Enrichment Seminars she helped organize.

**PASSINGS**

**Michael Hugh Anderson, 75**, passed away June 20 after suffering a heart attack. A resident of Arlington, VA, and a native of International Falls, MN, Anderson was born October 28, 1945. He received a B.A. and M.A. in Journalism/Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii/East-West Center in Honolulu. A Peace Corps volunteer, Anderson was an English teacher and journalism lecturer/trainer in Malaysia. At the University of Minnesota, he was an instructor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and Information Services Coordinator for the College of Education. Anderson's media experience included reporting stints on daily newspapers in Minneapolis and St. Paul, as well as serving as editor-in-chief of *The Minnesota Daily* when it was the world's largest college newspaper.

Anderson joined the U.S. Information Agency in 1981; as an Asia specialist, he served in Papua New Guinea, India, Pakistan, Singapore, the Philippines, and Indonesia, including assignments as Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs. His awards include the Exceptional Service in the Public Interest Certificate and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the East-West Center. After retiring from the State Department in 2011, he remained active in volunteer and philanthropic activities in the Washington, DC, area, including the Public Diplomacy Association of America, the Public Diplomacy Council, and Friends of Malaysia. Anderson shared his engaging personality and love of journalism and public affairs with his friends and family, often through his memorable Christmas letters and special "clipping service." He loved to travel world-wide and was beginning his first post-COVID trip when he passed.

**Winona Kim Blackburn, 80**, died peacefully in Poulsbo, WA, June 12. Born in Honolulu, she attended Barnard College and obtained a Master's in teaching and a Ph.D. in Development Psychology from George Washington University. Blackburn was married 22 years to our colleague Paul Blackburn, now deceased. Together their travels took them from Washington,



**Michael Anderson**  
 Photo courtesy of Alan Kotok  
 See the Tribute by Charles Silver at [pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org](http://pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org)

DC, to posts in Thailand and Japan. In retirement, she enjoyed visiting galleries and attending Smithsonian concerts.

**Arnaud Roujou de Boubée, 60**, passed away June 2. He was Executive Director of the Franco-American Commission for the last 21 years. As a tireless advocate for the Fulbright program, he was deeply committed to fostering mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and France. His leadership left a lasting impact on thousands of students, researchers, and professionals in both countries.

**Dean Kelvin Brown, 94**, died January 25 in Bethesda, MD. After serving five years as a writer-editor for the Ford Motor Company, Brown joined the U.S. Information Agency in 1958 and embarked on a 26-year career in the Foreign Service. He served as a magazine editor and publisher in Manila and New Delhi, a cultural affairs officer in Kingston, and director of the American Center and Library in Islamabad before his retirement in 1984. In retirement, Brown enjoyed traveling, photography, and spending time with his family.

**John (Jack) Curtiss, 78**, a former VOA correspondent in Central America, died recently of natural causes. Born in Oakland, CA, his long career in broadcasting ranged from pirate radio to the Voice of America. His career spanned the globe from Florida to Australia and ultimately to Seattle, where he lived for the last nine years.

**Thomas Dowling, 85**, a former Foreign Service officer and director of Pakistani services at the Voice of America early in his career, died of cancer May 13

at his home in Washington, DC. A native of Cleveland, Dowling became a columnist for the *Washington Star* after leaving the Foreign Service, covering sports and national affairs until the newspaper folded in 1981. He also wrote for *Washingtonian Magazine* and authored a book on Vince Lombardi's year of coaching the NFL team then known as the Washington Redskins. Dowling later was book editor for the *San Francisco Examiner*, living on an icebreaker in San Francisco Bay while also keeping his home in Washington.

**John Dwyer**, former head of the Office of International Information Programs (IIP), died May 30 in Teramo, Italy, where he had been living for many years. A fluent speaker of Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian, Dwyer joined USIA in 1978. His early Latin American assignments included La Paz; Salvador, Brazil, where he was branch public affairs officer; and Caracas, where he was information officer. Following several years with the Americas Society in New York, Dwyer rejoined the Agency and later served as public affairs officer in Brasilia and deputy director of USIA's Latin American area office before becoming Coordinator (Assistant Secretary) of IIP. His final assignment before retiring was public affairs officer in Rome.

**Curtis Elton Huff, Jr.**, passed away peacefully at home April 2 after a several-year struggle with Parkinson's. Huff spent 35 years at USIA and the State Department, working in African affairs and living in African countries. At USIA he was chief of the Near East/South Asia and Africa division of the Office of Citizen Exchanges. His work with Rotary in Bethesda, MD, and Unity Center Church in Washington, DC, created a network of philanthropy that generated resources and assistance for his projects in Africa. Through education, training, and guidance, Huff helped many Africans overcome poverty to achieve independence, higher education, and business ownership.

**Lois Winner Mervyn, 88**, died October 20, 2020, in Pueblo, CO. Mervyn taught English, primarily at the University of Arizona, before joining the Foreign Service with the U.S. Information Agency in 1977. In her 20-year career, she served as a cultural affairs officer at posts in Madrid,

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London, Tegucigalpa, Managua, Lima, and Lahore, where she was acting deputy chief of mission.

**Louis E. Polichetti, 88**, died peacefully at his home in Honolulu, May 6, 2020. Polichetti joined the Voice of America in 1959 before transferring to the U.S. Information Agency as a Foreign Service Officer in 1966. He worked in Vietnam as a field representative for the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office and as an advisor to the South Vietnamese government's rural cultural drama program. Polichetti served five years in Thailand as radio/TV officer, three years as information officer in Afghanistan, and then as public affairs officer in Lilongwe, Malawi. He returned stateside in 1979 to work in the Office of International Trade in Los Angeles, and then as acquisitions manager for USIA's film and television service. From 1982 to 1986, he was assigned to New Delhi, where he coordinated cultural programming and audio-visual services. Stationed in Honolulu on his last assignment prior to retiring in 1991, he was the USIA representative to Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Micronesia, and the

Marshall Islands. As director of the Pacific Islands Program Office, he worked closely with the East-West Center on its cultural exchanges throughout the Pacific. Passionate about politics and international affairs, he also loved film and music and was a supporting member of the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

**Warren Schor, 83**, a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Information Agency from 1966 to 1989, died April 9 at his home in Lincoln, CA. The cause was heart ailments, said a daughter, Elizabeth Williams. He was born in Naperville, IL, and lived in the Washington area from 1962 to 2015, when he moved to California. After leaving the Foreign Service, he worked as a psychotherapist with the Psychiatric Institute of Washington from 1995 to 1999. Schor was also a therapist and case manager with the D.C. Mental Health Commission from 1994 to 1997.

**Julianne Simpson Thomas**, known to her colleagues as Julie Simpson, died of cancer April 13 at her home in Washington, D.C. Following nine years with the USIA legal staff and previous work in private practice, Simpson joined the State Department's Office of the Legal Adviser in 1999 upon USIA's

merger with State. Serving in its Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, she worked most closely with clients in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to support international exchange programs. She was particularly committed to youth and students, and believed strongly in the power of using the face-to-face sharing of ideas to break down barriers and increase mutual understanding. Simpson loved walking near her home at Dupont Circle and on trails by her second home close to Shenandoah National Park in Rappahannock County, VA. She was an avid reader and an activist about organic food and the impact of chemicals on human health. Simpson is survived by her husband of 33 years, Richard G. Thomas, and a sister, Willa Hawk.✉

Obituaries are compiled by PDAA Member News Editor **Claude Porsella** ([admin@publicdiplomacy.org](mailto:admin@publicdiplomacy.org)), with editorial assistance from PDAA Board Member Domenick DiPasquale. PDAA publishes tributes and remembrances on its website. Submissions should be sent to [admin@publicdiplomacy.org](mailto:admin@publicdiplomacy.org).

## PDAA September 13, 2021, Luncheon Program

DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC

Deadline for reservations: **September 9, 2021**. See page 1 for program details.

Please complete the form below and mail with your check, payable to PDAA, for **\$35** for members and guests, and **\$42** for non-members. Or pay online at [pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org](http://pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org).

Number of members/guests \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35      Number of non-members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$42

## PDAA membership for 2021 ... Check your mailing label for renewal status

If your mailing label says **[2020]** it is time to renew your membership for 2021.

- Membership type, please check one:
  - DC-MD-VA local membership \$50 annually: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal
  - Other membership (\$35 annually): \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Please complete the form below and mail your check, payable to PDAA, or pay online at [pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org](http://pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org).

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Send form to: **Mary Jeffers, PDAA Treasurer**  
**1001 Dale Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910**

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**PDAA Today**

Editor: Michael Korff

Member News Editor: Claude Forcella

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