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From: **Lynn Northcutt Vega** <lynnvega1963@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2026 at 1:25 PM

Subject: SPIES AMONG US -- A special DACOR Luncheon Event, Sign up now!

To: Lynn Northcutt Vega <LynnVega1963@gmail.com>

Dear USAID Friends and Colleagues,

You are invited to join us for a very special DACOR Luncheon Session..... This will be a great opportunity to catch up with each other and to learn more about our former colleague and Cuban-Spy-On-The-Run Marta Velazquez. Many of of served with Marta during her career as the USAID Regional Legal Advisor in Nicaragua and Guatemala during the early 1990s. Mr. Popkin has traveled to Sweden to speak with Marta and people who live and work around her. He will tell us about that trip and where things stand with her criminal case today!

SPIES AMONG US: Cuba's Spies Inside the U.S. Government

A DACOR Lunch with Award-Winning Investigative Journalist Jim Popkin

Friday, September 11 | 12:00–2:00 p.m.

DACOR Bacon House | In Person & Virtual

Join DACOR for a fascinating conversation with **Jim Popkin**, award-winning investigative journalist and author of *Code Name Blue Wren*, as he takes us inside the extraordinary stories of **Ana Montes, Manuel Rocha, Marta Velázquez, and others** who worked within the U.S. government while secretly spying for Cuba.

How were they recruited? Why did they do it? How did they remain undetected for so long? What damage did they cause—and what warning signs did we miss?

For the DACOR community, these questions are particularly compelling because **many of us knew the people Popkin will discuss**. We worked with them at State, USAID,

DIA, and other agencies. They were our colleagues, friends, and neighbors, at Post and in Washington. We attended weddings together, hosted baby showers, gathered at Marine House parties, and welcomed one another into our homes.

When the truth emerged, the betrayal was not only professional. **For many, it was deeply personal.**

Popkin will take us behind the headlines and into the world of Cuban espionage—and we hope DACOR members who knew or encountered these individuals will add their own memories and perspectives. It promises to be a rare conversation between an investigative journalist who has spent years uncovering these stories and members of the foreign affairs community who, in some cases, **actually lived them.**

About Jim Popkin

Jim Popkin is an award-winning investigative journalist and former head of the **NBC News Investigative Unit**. His work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *WIRED*, *Newsweek*, NBC News, MSNBC, and CNBC. He has won **four national Emmy Awards, two Edward R. Murrow Awards, and the George Polk Award.**

His acclaimed book, *Code Name Blue Wren*, tells the extraordinary story of **Ana Montes**, the senior DIA Cuba analyst who spent 17 years spying for Havana.

Join Us

Date: Friday, September 11 | 12:00–2:00 p.m.

Venue: DACOR Bacon House

Hybrid Event — Participate In Person or Virtually

This link to register is found here: <https://www.memberleap.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=65756>

Join us for an extraordinary look at the spies who weren't operating in some distant outpost—they were living and working among us.

CODE NAME BLUE WREN

The True Story of America's
Most Dangerous Female Spy—
and the Sister She Betrayed

JIM POPKIN

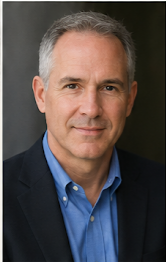


A DACOR LUNCH EVENT

SPIES AMONG US

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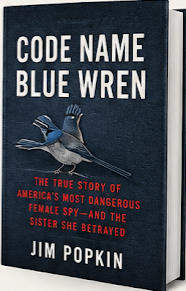
CUBA'S SPIES INSIDE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT



A CONVERSATION WITH
JIM POPKIN

Award-Winning Investigative Journalist
and Author of *Code Name Blue Wren*

Jim Popkin will discuss the extraordinary true stories of **Ana Montes, Manuel Rocha, and Marta Velázquez**—U.S. government officials who secretly spied for Cuba for years from inside our own institutions.





Why it matters to DACOR:
Many of us worked with these individuals, were their friends, neighbors, and socialized with them—at Post and in Washington. Discovering the truth was shocking, painful, and deeply personal.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
12:00 – 2:00 P.M.



DACOR BACON HOUSE
1801 F Street NW, Washington, DC

★ **A conversation you won't want to miss.**

Followed by Q&A and opportunity for DACOR members to share their experiences.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

DACOR
An Organization of Foreign Affairs Professionals

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Lynn Northcutt Vega
Career Foreign Service Officer (ret.)
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Member, National Security Leaders for America
Member, The Steady State
International Development and Foreign Affairs Professional