

# THE FOREIGN SERVICE GROUP

-- Texas --

[WWW.TFSG.ORG](http://WWW.TFSG.ORG)

**Fifth Annual Fun Festival Luncheon**

Tuesday 10 December 2013

## **"Fun, Surprising, and Down-Right Interesting Things"**

Our members suggest:

### **Web and Other, Related Media Sites:**

"The Top of the Best Infographics 2013," Posted by Marianna, August 12, 2013,  
<http://www.bestinfographics.biz/the-top-of-the-best-infographics-2013/>

Poodwaddle World Clock: <http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf> Note: This is an amazing clock with all sorts of world data/ statistics.

Time Ticker: <http://www.timeticker.com/> Note: This is a world time clock for all time zones.

WonderMap: <http://www.wunderground.com/wundermap/?sat=1> Note: This interactive map can be set according to weather stations, radar, satellite, storm reports, US fronts, etc., and it changes every few seconds.

John Ingham, "Revealed at Last: What Deep Space Actually Sounds Like (and You Won't Believe It!)," *express.co.uk*, 1:50, November 14, 2013,  
[http://www.express.co.uk/news/science-technology/443069/Sound-of-deep-space-revealed-for-first-time-in-stunning-new-recordings?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+daily-express-news-showbiz+%28Daily+Express+%3A%3A+News+%2F+Showbiz+Feed%29&utm\\_content=My+Yahoo](http://www.express.co.uk/news/science-technology/443069/Sound-of-deep-space-revealed-for-first-time-in-stunning-new-recordings?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+daily-express-news-showbiz+%28Daily+Express+%3A%3A+News+%2F+Showbiz+Feed%29&utm_content=My+Yahoo) Note: This is a compelling "Dawn Chorus" of planetary pulses from the sun.

Larry Farlazzo's Websites of the Day, for teaching ELL, ESL, & EFL," June 25, 2013,  
<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2013/06/25/the-best-infographics-of-2013-so-far/>

### **Articles:**

Karen Kaplan, "Ig Nobel Prizes: Why Onions Make You Cry and Enya Is Bad in the O.R.," *Los Angeles Times*, September 13, 2013, <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/sep/13/image/la-sci-sn-ig-nobel-prize-winners-beer-goggles-20130913>

S.I. Rosenbaum, "Charting a New Course: The Best American Infographics 2013," *Boston Magazine*, October, 2013, <http://www.bostonmagazine.com/arts-entertainment/article/2013/10/14/best-american-infographics-2013/>

Matthew Power, "Excuse Us While We Kiss the Sky," *gq.com*, March 2013, <http://www.gq.com/news-politics/newsmakers/201303/urban-explorers-gq-march-2013>

Scott Barry Kaufman, "The Real Neuroscience of Creativity," *Scientific American*, August 19, 2013, <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/beautiful-minds/2013/08/19/the-real-neuroscience-of-creativity/>

Jason Horowitz, "Susan Rice: The Comeback Queen," *vogue.com*, September 2013, <http://www.vogue.com/magazine/article/susan-rice-the-comeback-queen/#1>

Robert Sullivan, "Samantha Power Takes on the Job of a Lifetime as Ambassador to the U.N.," *vogue.com*, October 2013, <http://www.vogue.com/magazine/article/samantha-power-americas-ambassador-to-the-un/#1>

Joshua Davis, "How a Radical New Teaching Method Could Unleash a Generation of Geniuses," *Wired*, November 2013, <http://www.wired.com/business/2013/10/free-thinkers/all/>

Mickey Rapkin, "When Ben Affleck Wants to Change the World, He Calls This Woman," ("The Real Action Hero") *elle.com*, November 11, 2013, [http://www.elle.com/life-love/society-career/whitney-williams-profile?click=main\\_sr](http://www.elle.com/life-love/society-career/whitney-williams-profile?click=main_sr)

Jeremy Stahl, "Segregation in America: Every Neighborhood in the U.S. Mapped along Racial Lines," *slate.com*, August 15, 2013, [http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/map\\_of\\_the\\_week/2013/08/segregation\\_in\\_america\\_every\\_neighborhood\\_in\\_the\\_u\\_s\\_mapped\\_along\\_racial.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/map_of_the_week/2013/08/segregation_in_america_every_neighborhood_in_the_u_s_mapped_along_racial.html)

James Fallows, "The 50 Greatest Breakthroughs Since the Wheel," *the atlantic.com*, October 23, 2013, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/11/innovations-list/309536/>

Bob Simon, "Reinventing Opera at the Met," *60 Minutes*, October 27, 2013, Transcript: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560\\_162-57609330/reinventing-opera-at-the-met/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+cbsnews%2Ffeed+%28CBSNews.com%29&utm\\_content=My+Yahoo](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560_162-57609330/reinventing-opera-at-the-met/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+cbsnews%2Ffeed+%28CBSNews.com%29&utm_content=My+Yahoo) & (The exact video segment: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=50157983n> [13:43])

## **Books:**

*The Ambassador's Wife*, Jake Needham, Marshall Cavendish Trade, Singapore, 2011, 364 pgs

*Crazy Rich Asians*, Kevin Kwan, Doubleday, NYC, 2013, 416 pgs

*Howard Zinn on Democratic Education*, Howard Zinn with Donaldo Macedo, Paradigm Publishers, Boulder, 2005, 213 pgs

*David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwell, Little Brown & Company, Boston, 2013, 320 pgs

*Corn Woman, Mujer Maiz*, Sue Littleton, Waltsan Publishing, Ft. Worth, 2011, 186 pgs

*Modern Manners: Tools to Take You to the Top*, Dorothea Johnson and Liv Tyler, Potter Style, NYC, 2013, 176 pgs (Note: Johnson is the Founder of the Protocol School of Washington, <http://www.psow.edu/> [saving diplomats from faux pas since the 70s]; Tyler is her actress granddaughter.)

*Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, Michael Bagent et. al., Dell Publishing, NYC, 1983, 489 pgs

*The Secret Teachings of All Ages (Reader's Edition)*, Manley P. Hall, Penguin Group USA), NYC, 2003, 751 pgs

## Videos:

"Romancing the Wind" - Ray Bethell, 3 Kites and Lakme, *YouTube* video, 5:35, posted by kitsilano99, published on November 2, 2006, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SV6ScA9rc1E> Note: Bethell, the man flying the 3 kites, is in his 80s, from Canada, and comes to the Washington State International Kite Festival every year. He is deaf, so when he flies his kites, attendees hold their hands up and wave them for applause. This video is set to the music of "Flower Duet" from *Lakme*.

"Bud Clyde Commercials 1," *YouTube* video, 7:52, posted by Wiltshire, published on October 12, 2012, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g77TQx2ZvE0&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g77TQx2ZvE0&feature=player_embedded) Note: The Bud Clyde commercials are beautifully shot, with a gorgeous music background, themed around life lessons to learn and master.

"Sugar Plum Fairy by P. Tchaikovsky--Glass Harp LIVE (HD)," *YouTube* video, 2:36, uploaded February 18, 2011, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdoTdG\\_VNV4#t=0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdoTdG_VNV4#t=0) Note: This sounds like a glass harp, done by a duo in Italy. ([www.glassduo.com](http://www.glassduo.com))

"Watch Long-Lost 1966 Documentary that Digs Deep into 2001: A Space Odyssey," *blastr.com*, Trent Moore, 23:13, November 8, 2013, <http://www.blastr.com/2013-11-8/watch-long-lost-1966-documentary-digs-deep-2001-space-odyssey> Note: This is a vintage documentary about the making of the 1968 film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*; it has a prescient message. Also see 'Related Stories' under this video.

"Volkswagen Levitating Car", 3:40, <http://www.flixxy.com/volkswagen-levitating-car.htm> Note: The Volkswagen Hover Concept Car is a pod-like, zero-emissions vehicle that uses electromagnetic road networks to float above the road.

## **Barnes & Noble – Arboretum (Austin, Texas) suggests:**

- \* *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, Katherine Boo, Random House Publishing, NYC, 2012, 288 pgs
- \* *Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened*, Allie Brosh, Touchstone, NYC, 2013, 384 pgs
- \* *The Luminaries*, Eleanor Catton, Little, Brown & Co, NYC, 2013, 848 pgs (2013 Man Booker Prize)
- \* *The U.S. of Eh? How Canada Secretly Controls the United States and Why That's OK*, Kerry Colburn and Rob Sorenson, Chronicle Books LLC, San Francisco, 2008, 128 pgs
- \* *The Orchardist*, Amanda Coplin, Harper Collins Publishers, NYC, 2013, 420 pgs
- \* *The Brain that Changes Itself: Stories of Personal Triumph from the Frontiers of Brain Science*, Norman Doidge, Penguin Group (USA), NYC, 2007, 448 pgs
- \* *The Psychopath Inside: A Neuroscientist's Personal Journey into the Dark Side of the Brain*, James Fallon, Current Hardcover (Penguin USA), NYC, 2013, 256 pgs
- \* *Double Down: Game Change 2012*, Mark Halperin and John Heilemann, Penguin Group (USA), NYC, 2013, 512 pgs
- \* *Dear Life*, Alice Munro, Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, NYC, 2013, 336 pgs (2013 Nobel Laureate Prize in Literature)
- \* *The Onion Book of Known Knowledge: A Definitive Encyclopaedia of Existing Information*, The Onion, Little, Brown & Co., NYC, 2013, 256 pgs
- \* *The Why of Things: Causality in Science, Medicine, and Life*, Peter V. Rabins, Columbia University Press, NYC, 2013, 278 pgs
- \* *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*, Cheryl Strayed, Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, NYC, 2013, 336 pgs
- \* *Smarter Than You Think: How Technology Is Changing Our Minds for the Better*, Clive Thompson, Penguin Group (USA), NYC, 2013, 352 pgs
- \* *The Age of Miracles*, Karen Thompson Walker, Random House Publishing, NYC, 2013, 304 pgs
- \* *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*, Fredrik Logevall, Random House Publishing, NYC, 2014, 864 pgs
- \* *Dallas 1963*, Bill Minutaglio and Steven Davis, Grand Central Publishing, NYC, 2013, 384 pgs
- \* *The Accidental Species: Misunderstandings of Human Evolution*, Henry Gee, U. Chicago Press, Chicago, 2013, 224 pgs

\* This book is also available as an e-book.