

THE FOREIGN SERVICE GROUP

-- Texas --

WWW.TFSG.ORG

Sixth Annual Fun Festival Luncheon

Tuesday 9 December 2014

"Fun, Surprising, and Downright Interesting Things"

Our members suggest:

Web and Other, Related Media Sites:

CNET Reviews: <http://reviews.cnet.com/> (Notes: The CNET Reviews are detailed descriptions of the latest electronic products. Reviews contain: 'The Good', 'The Bad.', 'The Bottom Line' and videos that show how to operate the item. Research is done by independent researchers, not connected to the companies which produce the products.)

Flight Aware: <http://flightaware.com/> & <http://flightaware.com/miserymap> (Notes: This site deals with everything that a person would want to know about live flight tracking. The Misery Map sub-link deals with flight delays and cancellations.)

Great Book List – A Progressive Exploration of the Great Books:
<http://thegreatbookslist.com/otherlistsadler.html> (NOTE: See the 'Global Era' section)

How Our World Would Look if You Were a Bird: <http://pixtale.net/2013/12/how-our-world-would-look-if-you-were-a-bird/>

Solar Wind Sounds-Links: http://cse.ssl.berkeley.edu/stereo_solarwind/sounds_links.html

Articles/Journals/ Interviews:

Oliver Knox, "U.S. Ambassadors Court the World in Campaign-Style Video Introductions," *yahoo.com*, April 10, 2014, <http://news.yahoo.com/u-s--ambassadors-star-in-campaign-style-video-introductions-170242508.html> (Note: Watch all accompanying videos and read the Comments, at end.)

"Pictures: A Century of Reading around the World," *nationalgeographic.com*, September, 2014, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/pictures/140927-reading-writing-books-literacy-people-places-culture/> (Note: Click each parenthetical inside each entry to access.)

Richard Carwardine, "Out of the Anglo-Jewish Past," *wsj.com*, September 23, 2014, <http://online.wsj.com/articles/12th-century-hebrew-prayer-book-reveals-secrets-from-the-anglo-jewish-past-1411514903>

Victoria Fleischer, "Have You Read the 200 'Best American Novels'?", *pbs.org*, September 11, 2014, <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/have-you-read-the-200-best-american-novels/>

Daniel A. Gross, "This Is Your Brain on Silence," *nautil.us*, August 21, 2014, <http://nautil.us/issue/16/nothingness/this-is-your-brain-on-silence>

Kristin Hohenadel, "Fun and Beautiful Maps of the World Made from Signature Regional Foods," *slate.com*, March 17, 2014, http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_eye/2014/03/17/fun_and_beautiful_maps_of_the_world_made_from_signature_regional_foods_by.html

Raffi Khatchadourian, "A Star in a Bottle," *newyorker.com*, March 3, 2014, http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2014/03/03/140303fa_fact_khatchadourian?currentPage=e=al

Elena Shumilova, "Russian Mother Takes Magical Pictures of Her Two Kids with Animals on Her Farm," *themetapicture.com*, January 28, 2014, <http://themetapicture.com/these-pictures-are-what-dreams-are-made-of/> (Note: These photos are stunning on many levels. *National Geographic* needs to see these and hire her!)

Alan Taylor (In Focus), "Scenes from D-Day, Then and Now," *theatlantic.com*, June 5, 2014, <http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2014/06/scenes-from-d-day-then-and-now/100752/>

Simon Jenkins, "100 Buildings, 100 Years Review: A Battle Between Modernism and Tradition," *theguardian.com*, November 12, 2014, <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/nov/12/100-buildings-100-years-review-catherine-croft-modernism-tradition>

Simon Rogers, "The Top 100 Bestselling Books of All Time: How Does *Fifty Shades of Grey* Compare?" *theguardian.com*, August 9, 2012, <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2012/aug/09/best-selling-books-all-time-fifty-shades-grey-compare>

Books:

The Politics of Diplomacy, James Baker III, Putnam Adult, 1st ed., NYC, 1995, 687 pgs (Note: Secretary Baker also wrote: *Work Hard, Study...and Keep Out of Politics!*)

The Ranch on the Pecos River, Sue Littleton, Waltsan Publishing, Ft. Worth, 2011, 208 pgs (Note: One of our TFSG member's picture, as a youngster, is on page 203.)

The Demilitarization of American Diplomacy: Two Cheers for Striped Pants, Laurence Pope, Palgrave Pivot, Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK, 2014, 90 pgs

The State Department – More Than Just Diplomacy: The Personalities, Turf Battles, Danger Zones for Diplomats, Exotic Datelines, Miscast Appointees, the Laughs—And Sadly, the

Occasional Homicide, George Gedda, AuthorHouse Publishing, Bloomington, IN, 2014, 188 pgs

The Foreign Circus: Why Foreign Policy Should Not Be Left in the Hands of Diplomats, Spooks, and Political Hacks, James Bruno, Bittersweet House Press, (location???) , 2014, 254 pgs

Diplomat's Dictionary, Chas W. Freeman, Jr. (David Ignatius Foreword), U.S. Institute of Peace, 2nd ed., Washington, DC, 2010, 362 pgs

Dossier Secreto: Argentina's Desaparecidos and the Myth of the 'Dirty War', Martin Edwin Anderson, Westview Press (Short Disc), Boulder, CO, 1993, 424 pgs (Note: Also see: http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Kissinger/Kissinger_DirtyWar.html & <http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2004/12/hitchens200412>)

Democracy and Political Ignorance: Why Smaller Government Is Smarter, Ilya Somin, Stanford University Press, Redwood City, CA 2013, 280 pgs (<http://www.cato-unbound.org/2013/10/11/ilya-somin/democracy-political-ignorance> & http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_and_Political_Ignorance)

Videos/ Podcasts/ Other:

"State Department: File 649," *YouTube*, 1:25:47, published on September 25, 2012, uploaded by PizzaFlix, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvkkb9rnoLs>

"NASA/Earthrise: The 45th Anniversary," *YouTube.com*, 6:50, published on (not listed), published by (not listed), <https://www.youtube.com/embed/dE-vOscpiNc>

"John Denver – Country Boy BBC 4 Documentary," *YouTube*, 59:00 uploaded by Jimmy Jackson on November 22, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cygpEFw19v0&list=RDcygpEFw19v0>

"How Were Easter Island's Gigantic Statues Carved?," *smithsonianmag.com*, 4:12, *Smithsonian Channel*, (no date) <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/how-were-easter-islands-gigantic-statues-ac/>

"Hot Crazy Matrix," *YouTube.com*, 7:05, published on July 21, 2014, published by James Yeager, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKWmFWRVLIU>

"Inside New York City's Most Secret Basement," *chonday.com*, 3:49, video by *sciencechannel.com*, <http://www.chonday.com/Videos/newyobasemese2>

"The Writer Automaton, Switzerland," 4:48, *The BBC* and lesterfontayne, <http://www.chonday.com/Videos/the-writer-automaton> (Note: This was built over 240 years ago.)

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

* *The Psychopath Will See You Now: Dispatches of a Foreign Correspondent from Around the World*, Graham Barrett, Xlibris, Bloomington, IN, 2013, 408 pgs

* *Laughter in Ancient Rome: On Tickling and Cracking Up*, Mary Beard, U. California Press, Berkeley, 2014, 319 pgs

Essential Foreign Swear Words, Emma Burgess, W, Sussex, UK, 2013, 128 pgs

* *Under Fire: The Untold Story of the Attack in Benghazi*, Fred Burton and Samuel Katz, St. Martin's Press, NYC, 2014, 336 pgs (Notes: Dr. Burton, VP at Stratfor, was TFSG's 2-14-12 speaker. This book is a *New York Times* Best Seller. Also see:

<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/2013/08/Benghazi-book-fred-burton-samuel-m-katz>

* *The Truth about Trust: How It Determines Success in Life, Love, Learning, and More*, David DeStano, Hudson Street Press, NYC, 2014, 208 pgs

* *The End of Absence: Reclaiming What We've Lost in a World of Constant Connection*, Michael Harris, Current Hardcover, NYC, 2014, 256 pgs

* *The Georgetown Set: Friends and Rivals in Cold War Washington*, Gregg Herken, Knopf Doubleday, NYC, 2014, 512 pgs

* *Outpost: Life in the Frontlines of American Diplomacy*, Christopher R. Hill, Simon & Schuster, NYC, 2014, 448 pgs

* *Writing History in the Global Era*, Lynn Hunt, Norton, NYC, 2014, 196 pgs

* *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations that Made the Modern World*, Steven Johnson, Penguin Group, USA, NYC, 2014, 304 pgs

* *Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power*, Rachel Maddow, Crown Publishing, Crown Publishing, NYC, 2013, 288 pgs

* *Rethinking Positive Thinking: Inside the New Science of Motivation*, Gabriele Oettingen, Current Hardcover, 2014, 240 pgs

* *The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century*, Steven Pinker, Viking Adult, NYC, 2014, 368 pgs

* *Proof: The Science of Booze*, Adam Rogers, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, 2014, 272 pgs

* *Letters of Not*, Dale Shaw, Harper Collins, NYC, 2014, 192 pgs

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