

# THE FOREIGN SERVICE GROUP

-- Texas --

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

**Seventh Annual Fun Festival Luncheon**

Tuesday 8 December 2015

## **"Fun, Surprising, and Downright Interesting Things"**

From our members:

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

American Diplomacy: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/>

Brain Pickings - A collection of articles from the worlds of literature, science, the arts, philosophy, the intellect, and spirituality: <http://www.brainpickings.org>

Real Clear Politics – One of the most concise collections of articles written from all sides of the political spectrum, from top media sources ('America's premier independent political web site'): <http://www.realclearpolitics.com>

See All 50 States from the Air: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/50-states-aerial-america-smithsonian-channel-series-video-180955480/?no-ist>

### **Articles/Journals/Interviews:**

Omar Kardoudi, "How the Most Popular Alcoholic Drinks around the World Are Made," *sploid.gizmodo.com*, February 19, 2015, <http://sploid.gizmodo.com/neat-infographic-shows-how-alcoholic-beverages-are-made-1686728508>

Jesus Diaz, "Fascinating Graphics Show Who Owns All the Major Brands in the World," *sploid.gizmodo.com*, July 3, 2014, <http://sploid.gizmodo.com/fascinating-graphic-shows-who-owns-all-the-major-brands-1599537576>

Simon Crerar, "49 Maps That Explain the U.S. for Dumb Foreigners," *buzzfeed.com*, March 13, 2015, <http://www.buzzfeed.com/simoncrerar/usa-maps-for-dummies?bftw#.poqdl7lQzk>

Bloomberg Graphics: "A Pessimist's Guide to the World in 2015 – Global Hot Spots," *bloomberg.com*, December 17, 2014, <http://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2015-flash-points/> (Note: These graphics were created by interviews with academics, researchers, investors, and 84 economists from around the world.)

George Hobic, "10 Ways to Get a Better Airplane Seat," *yahoo.com*, January 21, 2014, <http://travel.yahoo.com/ideas/10-ways-to-get-a-better-airplane-seat-205058457.html>

"Crimea Just a Blip? Time Lapse Map Video Shows 1000 Years of Europe's History in Three Minutes," Adam Withnall, (3:23) *independent.co.uk*, March 19, 2014, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/crimea-just-a-blip-time-lapse-map-video-shows-1000-years-of-europes-history-in-three-minutes-9201414.html>

Maria Popova, "Neil deGrasse Tyson Selects the Eight Books Every Intelligent Person on the Planet Should Read," *brainpickings.org*, December 29, 2014, [http://www.brainpickings.org/2014/12/29/neil-degrasse-tyson-reading-list/?lang=en&utm\\_campaign=10today&flab\\_cell\\_id=2&flab\\_experiment\\_id=19&uid=37967783&utm\\_content=article&utm\\_source=email&part=s1&utm\\_medium=10today.0107&position=7&china\\_variant=False](http://www.brainpickings.org/2014/12/29/neil-degrasse-tyson-reading-list/?lang=en&utm_campaign=10today&flab_cell_id=2&flab_experiment_id=19&uid=37967783&utm_content=article&utm_source=email&part=s1&utm_medium=10today.0107&position=7&china_variant=False) (Notes: Tyson got his MA degree in astronomy at UT and was a champion ballroom dancer. He also met his wife in one of his physics classes there.)

Victor Navasky, "Crime and Caricature: A History of Political Cartoons – and the Backlash They've Inspired," *foreignaffairs.com*, February 11, 2015, [http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/143027/victor-navasky/crime-and-caricature?cid=nlc-foreign-affairs-today-021215-crime-and-caricature-5-021215&sp\\_mid=48012797&sp\\_rid=c3V6YWtuYUBnbWFpbC5jb20S1](http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/143027/victor-navasky/crime-and-caricature?cid=nlc-foreign-affairs-today-021215-crime-and-caricature-5-021215&sp_mid=48012797&sp_rid=c3V6YWtuYUBnbWFpbC5jb20S1)

Joel N. Shurkin, "Going in a Trance to Play Music," *insidescience.org*, August 13, 2014, <http://www.insidescience.org/content/going-trance-play-music/1906>

## **Books:**

\* *A Lifetime in the Eye of the Storm*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Andre Nguyen Van Chau, Erin Go Bragh Publishing, Canyon Lake, TX, 2015, 660 pgs

*About Cats: Some of Whom Have Kindly Kept Me as a Pet*, Sue Littleton, Botella al Mar, Maldonado, Uruguay, 2014, 80 pgs (<https://bilingualmca.wordpress.com/sue/>)

*Beloved Dog*, Maira Kalman, Penguin Publishing, NYC, 2015, 160 pgs (See the BN 3:15 video book trailer: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/beloved-dog-maira-kalman/1121287631?ean=9781594205941>)

\* *America's Other Army: The U.S. Foreign Service and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Diplomacy*, Nicholas Krlev, CreateSpace Publishing, Amazon, 2012, 256 pgs (AFSA <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pCeDLMqtrg> [1:08:10])

\* *Tribe*, James Bruno, Bittersweet House Press, Cazenovia, NY, 2011, 366 pgs

\* *Good Manners & Bad Behavior: The Unofficial Rules of Diplomacy*, Candida Slater, Troubadour Publishing, Leicester, UK, 2014, 166 pgs

\* *Parting Shots: Undiplomatic Diplomats – The Ambassadors' Letters You Were Never Meant to See*, Matthew Parris & Andrew Bryson, Penguin UK, London, 2011, 224 pgs

*Where Chefs Eat: A Guide to Chefs' Favorite Restaurants (2015)*, Joe Warwick, Phaidon Press, NYC, 2015, 976 pgs

\* *The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House*, Kate Andersen Brower, Harper Collins, NYC, 2015, 320 pgs (an excerpt: [http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/04/clinton-white-house-the-residence-excerpt-116706.html#.VSQv0\\_nF\\_2g](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/04/clinton-white-house-the-residence-excerpt-116706.html#.VSQv0_nF_2g))

*The Lost Worlds of 2001*, Arthur C. Clarke, [bibliotecascienaga.unimagdalena.edu.co](http://bibliotecascienaga.unimagdalena.edu.co), 1972, 155 pgs, <http://bibliotecascienaga.unimagdalena.edu.co/vidioteca/book/Clarke%20Arthur%20C/Arthur%20C.%20Clarke%20-%20Lost%20Worlds%202001.pdf> (free ebook: original drafts of the movie that were cut and then placed into this book)

## **Videos/Podcasts/Other:**

"The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," *cbs.com*, 42:21, October 1, 2015, [http://www.cbs.com/shows/the-late-show-with-stephen-colbert/video/LCKuNILZuzFeIMI6IT9Jg0Wl\\_lfZ2kES/the-late-show-10-1-2015-secretary-of-state-john-kerry-claire-danes-pewdiepie-/](http://www.cbs.com/shows/the-late-show-with-stephen-colbert/video/LCKuNILZuzFeIMI6IT9Jg0Wl_lfZ2kES/the-late-show-10-1-2015-secretary-of-state-john-kerry-claire-danes-pewdiepie-/) (Watch the John Kerry segment, especially at the end.)

"Charting Culture: An Animated Map of Notable Births and Deaths," *aeon.co*, 5:36. September 10, 2015, [http://aeon.co/video/society/charting-culture-an-animated-map-of-notable-births-and-deaths/?utm\\_source=Aeon+newsletter&utm\\_campaign=6e88453252-Daily\\_Thursday\\_September\\_10\\_2015\\_7\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_411a82e59d-6e88453252-68862921](http://aeon.co/video/society/charting-culture-an-animated-map-of-notable-births-and-deaths/?utm_source=Aeon+newsletter&utm_campaign=6e88453252-Daily_Thursday_September_10_2015_7_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_411a82e59d-6e88453252-68862921) (Based on science research at UT-Dallas)

"How Were Easter Island's Gigantic Statues Carved?," *smithsonianmag.com*, 4:12, *Smithsonian Channel*, <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/how-were-easter-islands-gigantic-statues-ac/>

"Find the # 1 Song on the Day You Were Born," *playback.fm*, <http://playback.fm/birthday-song>

"The American Heiresses Who Inspired 'Downton Abbey'," *cbsnews.com*, 7:01, uploaded by Sunday Morning on January 11, 2015, <http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/the-american-heiresses-who-inspired-downton-abbey/>

"Cave-digging Artist Finds Inspiration Underground," *YouTube.com*, 5:30, uploaded by *cbsnews.com* on August 24, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/embed/oxcftjJ39BU>

"Texas by Ban 2014," *YouTube*, 9:36, published on April 26, 2014, uploaded by Ban Capon, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQjsUvy3sXU&feature=youtu.be> (Note: This video features the Dallas-based, 150+ male international-award-winning chorus, Vocal Majority.)

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

- \* *The Skeptical Optimist: Why Technology Isn't the Answer to Everything*, Nicholas Agar, Oxford University Press, NYC, 2015, 256 pgs
- \* *Sick in the Head: Conversations about Life and Comedy*, Judd Apatow, Random House, NYC, 2015, 512 pgs
- \* *Palimpsest: The History of the Written Word*, Matthew Battles, W.W. Norton & Co., NYC, 2015, 272 pgs
- \* *Eureka: How Invention Happens*, Gavin Weightman, Yale U. Press, New Haven, 2015, 280 pgs
- \* *A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety*, Jimmy Carter, Simon & Schuster, NYC, 2015, 272 pgs
- \* *Contraband: Smuggling and the Birth of the American Century*, Andrew Wender Cohen, W.W. Norton & Co., NYC, 2015, 384 pgs
- \* *Kissinger's Shadow: The Long Reach of America's Most Controversial Statesman*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., Greg Grandin, 2015, Henry Holt & Co., NYC, 288 pgs
- \* *Spooky Science: Debunking the Pseudoscience of the Afterlife*, John Grant, Sterling Pub. Co., Inc., NYC, 2015, 264 pgs
- \* *The Pentagon's Brain: An Uncensored History of DARPA, America's Top-Secret Military Research Agency*, Annie Jacobsen, 2015, Little, Brown & Co., NYC, 2015, 560 pgs
- \* *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations that Made the Modern World*, Steven Johnson, Penguin Publishing, NYC, 2015, 320 pgs
- \* *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that Explain Everything about the World*, Tim Marshall, Scribner, NYC, 2015, 304 pgs
- \* *How We'll Live on Mars*, Stephen Petranek, Simon & Schuster/TED, NYC, 2015, 96 pgs
- \* *Memory and Movies: What Film Can Teach Us about Memory*, John Seamon, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 2015, 272 pgs
- \* *Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning*, Timothy Snyder, Crown Archetype, NYC, 2015, 480 pgs
- \* *The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government*, David Talbot, Harper Collins, NYC, 2015, 704 pgs
- \* This book is also available as an e-book.