

THE FOREIGN SERVICE GROUP
- Central Texas –
WWW.TFSG.ORG

Carrabba's Italian Grill
11590 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
11:20 a.m.; Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Joanne Cummings
Chief, Political/Economic Section
United States Embassy, Yemen

"American Diplomacy in Today's Middle East"

April Menu:

Caesar salad; fresh bread with herb mix and olive oil

A - Chicken Marsala: Wood grilled chicken topped with mushrooms, prosciutto, and Lombardo Marsala sauce

B – Spaghetti: Topped with pomodoro sauce with choice of meatballs, meat sauce, or Italian sausage

C – Chef's vegetarian selection

Dessert: Chef's surprise

Coffee, Iced Tea

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance and menu choice by noon on Wednesday, April 3
- By mail to TFSG, P.O. Box 50246, Austin, TX 78763-0246 or
- By e-mail to jmclean@computermoms.com or
- By phone to John at 512.797.0538

Via mail with a check is our preferred method. In all cases, please include a phone number so we can confirm receipt of your reservation. All RSVPs will be confirmed. If you do not get a confirmation, please contact us.

Lunch begins at noon. Members \$24. Guests of members \$30. No new reservations after 12 noon on Wednesday, April 3. No-shows or cancellations after this date will be billed for their lunch. Checks may be made out to TFSG and mailed to P.O. Box 50246, Austin, TX 78763-0246. Checks mailed in advance are greatly appreciated.

Memberships are \$30 for three years or \$12 per year.

Need a ride to lunch? Please call Florita Sheppard at 512.331.7808 or John at 512.797.0538.

About the Speaker

Joanne Held Cummings is a career Foreign Service Officer (FSO) of the Department of State (DOS). She has served extensively in the Middle East, North Africa, and East Africa. Daughter of an FSO, she was raised in Lebanon, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. In the private sector and for DOS, she has worked in Iraq, Afghanistan, Jerusalem, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Syria, and Ethiopia, as well as nine years working regionally from Morocco through Pakistan. Ms. Cummings has served as POLAD, Refugee Coordinator, Consular Officer, Political Officer, and Economic and Pol/Econ Section Chief in various posts. She has lived through, and served in, a variety of stress and conflict environments. She was evacuated from Syria and now serves in Yemen as Political/Economic Section Chief. She speaks Arabic fluently (Lebanese, Egyptian, Saudi, and Iraqi dialects) and French, and is familiar with Spanish, Hebrew, Farsi, and Kurdish.

Ms. Cummings was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. She attended schools overseas and was graduated summa cum laude in History from the American University in Beirut. She received her MA in Geography from the University of Texas at Austin, and has studied economics and finance at the graduate level. Ms. Cummings is married with two sons, and her family home is in Austin, Texas.

Directions to Carrabba's Italian Grill:

Note: Research Blvd. is the eastbound Hwy 183 access road. If you approach the restaurant from Jollyville Road, you enter the parking lot from the rear. Or, if you miss that turn, drive straight to Duval, turn right onto Duval and right again onto the Hwy 183 access road, and enter the parking lot from the front. There is plenty of free parking close to the restaurant.

From the Northwest

Drive east on Hwy 183. Exit at Duval, cross Duval, turn right into the large parking lot at Outback Steakhouse. Carrabba's is on the left, Outback Steakhouse on the right.

From the North

Drive south on Mopac. Exit at Braker Lane and turn right onto Braker. Drive underneath Hwy 183 and turn right at the next light onto Jollyville Road. Drive about 400 yards past Balcones Woods Drive and turn right at the Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse sign into the parking lot. The restaurant is about 50 yards ahead on the right.

From the South

Drive north on Mopac or Loop 360, then west on Hwy 183. Exit at Braker Lane and turn left onto Braker. Turn right at the next light onto Jollyville Road. Drive about 400

yards past Balcones Woods Drive and turn right at the Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse sign into the parking lot. The restaurant is about 50 yards ahead on the right.

From the East

Drive west on Hwy 183. Exit at Braker Lane and turn left onto Braker. Turn right at the next light onto Jollyville Road. Drive about 400 yards past Balcones Woods Drive and turn right at the Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse sign into the parking lot. The restaurant is about 50 yards ahead on the right.

Other Upcoming 2013 Luncheons:

All TFSG luncheons are on the second Tuesday of even-numbered months.

- June 11 (at Chez Zee)
- August 13 (at Chez Zee)
- October 8 (at Le Cordon Bleu, College of Culinary Arts)
- December 10 and 12 (annual Fun Festival Luncheon, at Marie Callender's)

If you know of someone interested in joining the Foreign Service, please invite him or her as your guest to one of our luncheons. If you know of someone who is eligible to be a member and is not, please send his/her name to us.

Announcements:

We welcome suggestions for speakers. When you nominate someone, please add biographical information and suggestions on how best to approach him or her.

If you know of potential members, please email them our website address, WWW.TFSG.ORG. Then call and invite them as your guest to our next luncheon.

Please browse through the website regularly yourself. Corrections and additions are always welcome. In particular, we want to keep our EISs (Enhanced Information Sheets) up to date. As new speakers and their subjects are listed, please send your suggestions for EIS information to rmae10@aol.com.

John S. Wood, President, jswood98@hotmail.com

Joe McLean, Treasurer, jmclean@computermoms.com

Danny Root, Secretary, roadrunr2@usa.net

Florita Sheppard, Transportation Coordinator, sheppard-samario@sbcglobal.net

Mae Scheib, EIS Coordinator, rmae10@aol.com

Doris Scott, Contact Coordinator, dscott007@austin.rr.com