

THE FOREIGN SERVICE GROUP

- Texas -

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April 2014 Luncheon Meeting

Carrabba's Italian Grill
11590 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
11:10 a.m.; Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Robert J. Silverman

"Opportunities and Challenges for U.S. Diplomacy in the Middle East"

Note: From 11:15 to 11:45, Bob will discuss our Foreign Service and AFSA and take questions on AFSA and our Foreign Service from our members and their guests. The luncheon will begin at 11:50. At 12:40 there will be short announcements, followed by 25-30 minutes for the speaker and then 25-30 minutes for Q&A.

April Menu:

House salad or cup of soup
Fresh bread with an Italian dipping sauce
Iced tea, coffee, soft drinks

Choice of

Chicken Marsala (Topped with mushrooms, prosciutto, and Carrabba's own Marsala sauce)

or

A small Grilled Salmon topped with tomato basil vinaigrette

or

Vegetarian option

Harvest Salad with beets, apples, carrots, celery, onions, tomatoes

Dessert: Chef's choice

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance and menu choice by noon on Wednesday, April 2
- By mail to TFSG, P.O. Box 50246, Austin, TX 78763-0246, or

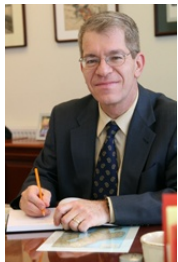
- By e-mail to jmclean@computermoms.com, or
- By phone to John at 512.797.0538

Mailing a check made out to TFSG is our preferred method. In all cases, please include a phone number so we can confirm your reservation. All RSVPs will be confirmed. If you do not get a confirmation, please contact us.

Lunch begins at 11:50. Members \$24. Guests of members \$30. No new reservations after 12 noon on Wednesday, April 2. 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 per person for three years or \$12 per year.

About the Speaker:



Robert J. Silverman is an active career Senior Foreign Service Officer with 24 years of service, 18 overseas and six in Washington. His overseas tours include DCM Stockholm, political counselor Tel Aviv, economic counselor Riyadh and Baku, deputy economic counselor Ankara, political officer Cairo and Jerusalem, and PRT team leader in Tikrit, Iraq. In Washington, he served as the Director of State's Iraq Reconstruction and Economic Affairs Office and as senior advisor on global and functional affairs in H. He has earned Senior Performance Pay and five Superior Honor Awards. His publications include a translation from Arabic of Ali Salem's *A Drive to Israel* (2002) and an article about Saudi Arabia in *Foreign Policy* magazine (November 2008).

Bob has a BA and MPA from Princeton and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School. He and his wife have three children. Bob is the newly-elected president of AFSA.

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.

Upcoming Luncheons:

All TFSG luncheons are on the second Tuesday of even-numbered months. Suggestions for restaurants are always welcome.

- June 10, 2014: Professor Peter Awn, Columbia University,
"You Can't Eat Ideology: The Future of Political Islam"
- August 12, 2014: TBA
- October 14, 2014: TBA
- December 9, 2014: Sixth Annual Fun Festival Luncheon

AFSA and DACOR members are welcome at any one of the first five TFSG luncheons per year at TFSG member prices.

In Memoriam:

TFSG extends condolences to the family and friends of TFSG member Barbara Shelby Merello, who died on February 14. Her memorial service was March 2 in Austin.

Barbara worked in cultural exchange for USIA from 1960 to 1987 in Brazil, Ecuador, Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina, Washington, DC, and Peru, with short postings at the United Nations, Belgium, Zaire, and Tunisia. She translated 12 books by Brazilian authors of widely differing styles from Portuguese into English for the publisher Alfred

A. Knopf, earning finalist in the 1968 National Book Award for her translation of Gilberto Freyre's *Mother and Son*. For several years she wrote an internationally syndicated column in Spanish, "América Joven," about the interests of young people in the U.S. After she and her husband retired to Austin in 1987, Barbara served as a docent at the LBJ Library for over a decade.

Announcements:

We have a "trade-or-toss" table at our luncheons for members wanting to trade or toss books or magazines that are in excellent condition. If you have read your copy of the Foreign Service Journal and/or State magazine, please put them on the table for others to take and read.

Door prizes are awarded at every luncheon. (One member received a lottery ticket and it was a winner!) Carrabba's gave us a certificate for a weekend brunch for two, which will be a door prize in April.

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

Please give our website address to potential members, 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 suzakna@gmail.com.

Doris and Naomi, our Contact Coordinators, hope that you will share with them some of your biographical information and the name of a contact person for you.

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