

THE FOREIGN SERVICE GROUP

- Texas -

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December 2014 Luncheon Meeting

Carrabba's Italian Grill
11590 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
11:20 a.m.; Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Sixth Annual Fun Festival Luncheon

December Menu:

Small salad or a cup of soup
Seasonal flat bread with Italian herb and olive oil dipping sauce
Iced tea, coffee, soft drinks

Choice of

A – Wood Grilled Salmon lightly topped with tomato basil vinaigrette
or

B – Wood Grilled Chicken Marsala topped with mushrooms, prosciutto, Carrabba's housemade Lombardo Marsala wine sauce
or

C – Tag Pic Pac (Fresh vegetables in a light Picchi Pacchiu sauce with garlic, olive oil, and basil on a small base of tagliarini pasta)

Dessert: Chef's festival seasonal surprise

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance and menu choice by noon on Wednesday, December 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

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 noon. Members \$24. No new reservations after 12 noon on Wednesday, December 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 per person for three years or \$12 per year.

NOTE: This is our one annual luncheon for TFSG members only.

****Make your reservation now!** Everyone wins a door prize – so not only does the December preparation team not want you to be left out, they also need an estimated head count very soon so that they have enough time to do their work.

Upcoming Luncheons:

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

February 10, 2015: Professor Joshua David Eisenman, UT Austin, "China-Africa Trade Patterns and African Perceptions of Chinese Business"

April 14, 2015: Dr. Sharyl Cross, Director of the Kozmetsky Center at St. Edward's University and a Global Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, "NATO-Russian Relations: The Ukraine Crisis and Beyond"

June 9, 2015: speaker invited but not yet confirmed

October 13, 2015: speaker invited but not yet confirmed

December 8, 2015: Seventh Annual Fun Festival Luncheon

Announcements:

12 November, Wednesday, 12:15 - 1:30 pm, The Strauss Center, LBJ School, UT-Austin, Sid Richardson Hall, room 3.122

"Why Do Rebels Resort to Terrorism and Does It Work?"

Dr. Page Fortna, Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Department, Columbia University

17 November, Monday, 8:45 am to 12 noon, The Strauss Center, LBJ School, Ayala Auditorium, POB 2.302

"The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform"

Free but advance registration is required (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arab-spring-pathways-of-repression-and-reform-tickets-14046925733>)

9:00 Bobby Chesney

9:05 Jeremi Suri

9:15 Panel 1 - The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform

Jason Brownlee, UT Austin; Tarek Masoud, Harvard; Andrew Reynolds, UNC Chapel Hill

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Panel 2 - Assessing Our Understanding of the Arab Spring

Melani Cammelt, Brown; Gregory Gause, Texas A&M; Amaney Jamal, Princeton

17 November, Monday, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Ragsdale Center, St. Edward's University

"Socioeconomic Factors in the United States Relationship with Mexico. Central/Latin America: Migration Challenges"

Dr. Edward J. Williams, Emeritus Professor, University of Arizona

A Kozmetsky Center program

09 December, Tuesday, 11:20 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Carrabba's Restaurant

Sixth annual TFSG Fun Festival Luncheon (see above for more information)

12 December, Friday-- Opportunity to host Fulbright scholars

The Institute of International Education (IIE) is organizing another enrichment seminar for first-year Fulbright students in December. The Austin Enrichment Seminar will take place **December 11-14**. Approximately 150 students, representing more than 60 countries, will participate in this seminar. They will be hosted here by GlobalAustin

(<http://www.globalaustin.org>). The seminar will be held at the **Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol, 701 E 11th St Austin, TX 78701**.

GlobalAustin is organizing an evening of home hospitality with citizens of Austin. If you would like to host a group of students for dinner in your home on **Friday evening, December 12**, please reply on the [online response form](#) by November 23. To share information about the evening hospitality opportunity with friends and neighbors, invite them to visit the web page, <http://www.fulbrighthosting.org>. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Dunham (jane@globalaustin.org, 512-585-2051).

14 December, Sunday, 5:30 pm, Scottish Rite Theater, 207 West 18th St. and Lavaca

"Wassail Austin," put on by Mundi Arts

An annual "Solstice Christmas Family Celebration" benefiting kids for kids. A fantastic and sort of crazy evening of music, song, stories, puppets, magic, mummers and morris dancers. Lots of fun and laughs for children of all ages. A number of TFSG members go every year for the laughs and seasonal spirit. The historic Scottish Rite theater is worth a visit all by itself. The fully modernized theater was built in 1871, the year Austin became the capital of Texas. Tickets are \$15 each. Email internationalrain@yahoo.com or call 512-917-4809.

16 December, Tuesday, after 7 p.m., Mozart's, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd.

Let's watch Austin's top seasonal sound and light show. It starts after dark and repeats every hour till midnight. Gourmet magazine named Mozart's the only Texas coffee house in America's Top 20. Dress warmly as we will be mostly outdoors, enjoying hot chocolate on the banks of Lady Bird Lake.

01 January, 2015, Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Book People; 6th & Lamar

Book People is one of the very few stores open on New Year's Day, and everything is usually 20% off. They also have a coffee shop.

TFSG Information:

One or more door prizes are awarded at every TFSG luncheon. One door prize always includes the AFSA book, "Inside a U.S. Embassy," and two TFSG mugs. We also sell the package (book and 2 mugs) for a single \$20 bill. Consider buying two mugs for a coffee mug tree (only \$5) and help promote our website and our group.

Our major tool for inviting widely recognized subject experts and excellent speakers to speak with us is our impressive list of past speakers, bibliographies, and the speakers' biographies. It is available at <http://www.tfsg.org/luncheons.html>. We encourage you to pass it on via the internet or by printing and handing copies to friends and colleagues. Some printed copies will be available at our December luncheon

All events mentioned in our announcements, except one, are usually open to your friends when you accompany them. We hope you will invite them to join you. The one event that is "members only" is our December luncheon.

The publication section of our website is where we list the books, articles, videos etc. produced by our speakers and members. Please check our website and help us keep it up to date.

We hope to refresh the Links page of our website in early 2015. Suggestions will be welcomed. Send them to jsw69intadv@hotmail.com.

We welcome suggestions for speakers. When you nominate someone, please add biographical information and suggestions on how best to approach him or her. Suggestions for funding of speakers from outside of Austin are always appreciated.

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 speaker biographies and bibliographies up to

date. As new speakers and their subjects are listed, please send any bibliographic information to suzakna@gmail.com.

Why should you belong to TFSG and encourage others to join? Because (1) our website has a full history of our group and links to over 100 international newspapers, think tanks, and other sites; (2) we publish excellent bibliographies on each speech and provide a hard copy of the listing with free internet access at the annual Texas Book Fair and other events; (3) in addition to our four luncheons with outstanding speakers, we put on a Fun Festival Luncheon in December for members only, showcasing some of the most hilarious, funniest, unique international TV ads of the past year and providing door prizes for all; (4) we print thousands of information cards for Americans who are planning to travel overseas or who are interested in joining our Foreign Service; (5) we maintain an impressive Memorial Book of TFSG members who have passed on, often with extensive bibliographies; (6) our website contains two listings of published books articles, videos, etc., one for our speakers and one for our members; (7) we try to keep our members up-to-date, in advance, on upcoming lectures on international affairs at UT-Austin and the Kozmetsky Center at St Edwards; (8) we offer the lowest group rate to the annual Gilbert & Sullivan Austin operetta for our members and their guests; (9) lunch and a chat five times a year with a group that has been called "Perhaps the most widely-traveled, well educated, multilingual, well-read, inquisitive, interesting internationalists to sit together in the Southwest on a regular basis in some time."

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.

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.

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