

THE FOREIGN SERVICE GROUP

- Texas -

WWW.TFSG.ORG

June 2014 Luncheon Meeting

Carrabba's Italian Grill
11590 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
11:20 a.m.; Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Dr. Peter J. Awn
Dean of the School of General Studies
Columbia University

"You Can't Eat Ideology: The Future of Political Islam"

June Menu:

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

Choice of

A - A small Grilled Salmon topped with tomato basil vinaigrette

or

B - Chicken Bryan (Wood grilled chicken with goat cheese, sun dried tomatoes, and a basil lemon butter sauce), mashed potatoes

or

C - Vegetarian option

Vegetarian plate with a healthy and hearty mix of fresh vegetables

Dessert: Chef's choice

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance and menu choice by noon on Wednesday, June 4

- 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. Guests of members \$30. No new reservations after 12 noon on Wednesday, June 4. 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.

Columbia University alumni are welcome to attend the June luncheon at the TFSG member price.

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

About the Speaker:

Peter J. Awn is Professor of Islamic and Comparative Religion in the Department of Religion and Dean of the School of General Studies (GS) at Columbia University. He is in his 17th year as Dean and his 36th year as a professor at Columbia. He often speaks to business and academic professionals on the role Islamic religion plays in the current political and social development of the Muslim world.

Most recently, while remaining Dean of GS, Professor Awn served for three years as Director of the Middle East Institute and for three and a half years as Acting Dean of the School of Continuing Education. Before becoming Dean, he served as chair of the Department of Religion, chair of the Steering Committee of the Chairs of the Arts & Sciences Departments, and chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences.

Professor Awn received his Ph.D. in Islamic Religion and Comparative Religion from Harvard University in 1978, at which point he joined the Columbia faculty. Previously he earned degrees in Philosophy/Classical Languages, and Christian Theology. Professor Awn's book, *Satan's Tragedy and Redemption: Iblis in Sufi Psychology*, received a book award from the American Council of Learned Societies. In 1984 he was the first recipient of the *Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Award* for distinguished teaching and research. In 1995 Professor Awn received the *Great Teacher Award* from the Society of Columbia Graduates.

Professor Awn continues to teach courses on Islamic mysticism (Sufism) and Islamic Religion as well as Literature Humanities, one of the year-long, signature courses of the Columbia Core Curriculum. He also mentors graduate students working on advanced degrees in the field.

Upcoming Luncheons:

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

- 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.

Announcements:

TFSG members and their guests are invited to the opening gala performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore," presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin on Friday evening, June 13. A free buffet with the cast follows the performance. Further details are found at the Society's website, <http://www.gilbertsullivan.org/>.

Every year, partially as a result of several of our members being long-time supporters of the G & S Society of Austin and/or being on the G & S board, we are offered opening night tickets for TFSG members and our guests at several dollars under the lowest group price from the G & S Society of Austin. The wonderful buffet, from king size shrimp to chocolate cake with lots of good food in between, is by itself worth more than our ticket price of only \$19. Our final price, which we will not know until our June meeting, will be \$19 or lower. Ticket requests are due to John no later than May 20.

The actors and singers are great, the music is wonderful, and the theater is modern with good seating, great acoustics, and lots of free parking. This annual G & S event is always a fun evening.

Never heard or seen a Gilbert & Sullivan musical comedy? There will be a free preview of "The Secrets of H.M.S. Pinafore" on Sunday, May 18, at 3 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 West Anderson Lane (between Lamar and IH 35). \$10 donations will be appreciated.

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 only \$20. Consider buying two mugs for a coffee mug tree (only \$5) and help promote our website and our group.

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 five luncheons with outstanding speakers, we put on a FUN Festival Luncheon in December for members only, showcasing some of the most hilarious, funniest, unique 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 died.

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.

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

Treasurer, Joe McLean, jmclean@computermoms.com

Secretary, Danny Root, roadrunr2@usa.net

Webmaster, Jane Dunham, dunham@austin.rr.com

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

Speaker Bibliographies, Suzanne Natafji, suzakna@gmail.com

Contact Coordinators

Doris Scott, dscott007@austin.rr.com

Naomi Ritchie, jarnfrdar@yahoo.com