

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

11:20 a.m.; Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Marie Callender's Restaurant, Gateway Shopping Center
9503 Research Blvd, Austin, TX

Third Annual Fun Festival Luncheon

DECEMBER MENU:

- A light Caesar salad, with unlimited corn bread, tea (hot or iced) and coffee
- A choice of
 - A - Grilled Atlantic Salmon, Lemon Pepper Crusted
 - B - Meat Loaf
 - C - Rosemary Chicken
 - D - Steamed Vegetable Platter: broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, mushrooms, squash, zucchini
 - E - Soup and salad bar
- A choice of
 - Apple, Chocolate, or Lemon Meringue pie; or sugar-free Razzleberry or Apple pie

RSVP: *Please confirm your attendance and menu choice by noon on Friday, December 9, by*

- *E-mail to jmclean@computermoms.com*
- *Or phone call to John at 512.797.0538*
- *Or mail to TFSG, P.O. Box 50246, Austin, TX 78763-0246*

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

Lunch begins at noon. Members \$20. Guests, on a space-available basis, \$30. No shows or cancellations after 12 noon Friday, December 9, are billed for their lunch.

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

A selection of the world's most hilarious TV and cinema commercials of 2011, with maybe a few other, definitely ridiculous, videos tossed in for good luck.

Plus door prizes and Christmas bags for everyone!

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DIRECTIONS TO MARIE CALLENDER'S:

Research Blvd is also the Hwy 183 access road. Mapquest or GPS directions may vary.

From the north: Go south on Mopac and exit at Braker Lane. Stay in the middle lane on the Mopac access road heading south. Cross Braker Lane and then Capital of Texas Highway (Loop 360). Move to the right lane and follow the turn around to the right into the Hwy 183 northbound access road (Research Blvd.). Turn right into the Gateway Center just after Stonelake Blvd. Marie Callender's is on the right.

From the south: Go north on Mopac and exit at Capital of Texas 360/Braker Lane right after going under the Hwy 183 ramp. Turn left onto 360 and immediately turn left onto the southbound Mopac access road. Move to the right lane and follow the access road turn around to the right and onto the Hwy 183 northbound access road (Research Blvd.). Turn right into the Gateway Center just after Stonelake Blvd. Marie Callender's is on the right.

From the east: Go west on Hwy 183. Exit at Capital of Texas/360 (Research Blvd.). Move to the right lane and turn right into the Gateway Center just after Stonelake Blvd. Marie Callender's is on the right.

From the west: Go south on Hwy 183 and exit at Capital of Texas/360 Cross 360 and continue south to the North Hwy 183 U turn (on the left). Follow the U turn around, then head north in the right lane of the Hwy 183 access road. Turn right into to the Gateway Shopping Center just after Stonelake Blvd. Marie Callender's is on the right.

UPCOMING 2012 MEETINGS:

February 14: Dr. Fred Burton; Vice President for Intelligence, Stratfor

April 10: Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy, Jr.

Vice Provost for International Affairs, Texas Tech University

June 12:

August 14:

October 9:

December 11: Fourth Annual Fun Festival Luncheon

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

If you know of someone interested in joining the Foreign Service, please invite him or her as your guest to one of our meetings. If you know of someone who is eligible to be a member and is not, please send her/his name to us. We have members in 12 Texas cities and towns, five states, and three nations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If your dues will be due in 2012, NOW is a good time to pay that small amount and renew your good FSO friendships for three years. You might also consider paying for a membership for another FSO or friend who has spent a significant part of their adult life in other nations. Dues are only \$20 for three years, per person.

Other good gifts for good friends this year -- besides a TFSG membership -- are a subscription to the Foreign Service Journal or a copy of any of the books listed on our website. (If a friend was interested in a specific presentation, look on the website for the reading list for that date.)

A great gift book is the 2011 edition of "Inside a U.S. Embassy: Diplomacy at Work," and we have copies available at a special price of \$15, tax included. Our own TFSG T shirts (in bone with our name discreetly on the left breast, \$7 tax included) also make great gifts for friends of all ages. An easy way to pay for T shirts or the book is to add the amount for either or both of these to your December luncheon reservation check.

Have you published something that is not listed on our Publications page? If so, please send the bibliographic information to us.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Our group needs: a FEW drivers, greeters, mentors for new members, luncheon desk crew helpers, etc. Please contact John at 797-0538.

www.TFSG.org is our website. Please log on frequently and offer your suggestions for improvements. Note that we recently made a number of upgrades to the site, especially on the Publications page. Have you suggested to friends that they click on our website?

John S. Wood, President, jsw69intadv@hotmail.com
Joe McLean, Treasurer, jmclean@computermoms.com
Danny Root, Secretary, roadrunr2@usa.net
Florita Sheppard, Transportation Coordinator, sheppard-samario@sbcglobal.net

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The following letter was published by the Washington Post on 11 October 2011. The writer is a longtime member. Please feel free to pass this on to friends, colleagues, and your local media.

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Federal Diary
Joe Davidson

Readers on uncivil discourse, diversity and honor flags

The Federal Diary gets lots of reader reaction, some of it fit to print. Occasionally, we give readers a chance to speak out by publishing a few of their remarks, which may have been edited for clarity and length.

Honoring service to U.S.

I am outraged by the rightist opposition to presenting U.S. flags at the funerals of federal civilian workers killed in the line of duty.

I have lived on both sides of the military/civilian divide: seven years as an Air Force pilot, including combat in the Korean War, and 26 years as a Foreign Service officer during the Cold War. I know what it is to fly steadily on the bomb run into storms of bursting antiaircraft shells and to lose friends to enemy action. I also know what it is to face unfriendly foreign crowds, live under repeated threats of attack, lose friends to assassination and barely miss becoming a terrorist victim myself.

While the armed forces want the public to believe that all their people are combat types and often at risk, the fact is that the term "bureaucrat" exactly describes hundreds of thousands of armed forces personnel, while those who see combat are a relative few. Many armed forces personnel spend most of their careers in the United States or are sent abroad only to the safety of Western Europe.

Another fact is that the personnel at U.S. embassies have all too often become surrogate targets for foreigners' violent expression of hatred for all Americans. Federal civilians represent the United States — not only as models, but also as potential targets — at more than 180 capitals worldwide.

For me, the determining factor is not whether you are killed while wearing a uniform. You deserve a flag if you are killed while serving the country, whether as a grunt or as a civilian.

— George McFarland, retired Foreign Service officer, Annapolis

