

Book Notes

May 2021

By Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence
Dr. Andrew Roth

Hiatus & *FREE* GLOBAL SUMMIT XII

Well, Jeffersonians, as I said last week, after 58 consecutive weeks of *Book Notes* on topics as diverse as *Spoon River Anthology*, the origins and meaning of *Auld Lang Syne* and what in God's name was Marshall McLuhan talking about, it's time for your scribe to take a breather. This is the second of two brief previews of Jefferson Educational Society's *FREE Digital* Global Summit XII.

Digital means you can enjoy it from the comfort of your own digs; just follow the instructions once you have registered.

When *Book Notes* returns on Thursday June 3, we'll look at "Boomer Redux" asking once again "Did the baby boomers ruin America?" as we scan two new books on the topic by Helen Andrews and Jill Filopovic. The answer, for the curious, is yes and no and the yes is not the folks romping in the mud at Max Yasgur's farm in Woodstock, New York. On Thursday June 10, we'll look into James Shapiro's *Shakespeare In a Divided America* and, on June 17, more suggestions from readers about their favorite poems.

But for now, a quick glance at **Global Summit XII**. It runs for three weeks in May beginning Monday, May 10 and ending Thursday, May 27. It features world class lecturers and presenters, such as *Our Towns* authors **James and Deb Fallows**, **Avi Loeb**, author and chairman of the Astronomy Department at Harvard University; **Dr. Michael Saag**, Director of Infectious Disease at the University of Alabama Birmingham; and Washington Post columnists **David Ignatius** and **Karen Tumulty**.

And, did I tell you – it's **FREE!** You can register [here](#).

Having whetted your appetite with Weeks One and Two's chock-full schedules and assuming **Avi Loeb** doesn't have you nervously scanning the skies for aliens,

Week Three concludes **Digital Summit XII** with a stellar lineup. On Monday, May 24, renowned Washington Post columnist and author of 11 novels, including his most recent *The Paladin*, which can be found [here](#). **David Ignatius** will discuss “Russia, China and What You Need to Know about America’s Greatest Foreign Policy Challenges.” You know the old cliché, “do you want to hear it from the horse’s mouth?” Well, he’s no horse, but on Tuesday, May 25, **Christopher Hill**, a former Peace Corps member and former Assistant Secretary of State of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and former ambassador to Iraq, South Korea, Poland and Macedonia, will discuss “Understanding America’s 21st Century Diplomacy: Lessons from the Front Lines of Europe and Asia.”

For those who can’t get enough politics, on Wednesday, May 26, **April Ryan**, CNN political analyst and White House correspondent and D.C. Bureau Chief for The Grio, will speak about “Front Row to History: Reporting from the Front Lines of the White House.” As the only black female reporter covering urban issues from the White House, Ryan provides a unique – as in one of a kind – vantage point. You can find her latest book *Under Fire: Reporting from the Front Lines of the Trump White House* [here](#).

Concluding Week Three and **Digital Summit XII** on Thursday, May 27 will be **James and Deborah Fallows**. Frequent visitors to Erie, the Fallows were recipients of the Jefferson Educational Society’s Hagen Dignitas Award at Global Summit X in 2018. The Fallows will be joined by **Steven Ascher**, an Academy Award nominated director and writer and **Jeanne Jordan**, an independent director, producer, and editor. They worked with the Fallows in bringing their book, *Our Towns*, to the screen. In *Our Towns: A 100,000 Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, which can be found [here](#), the Fallows tracked down and reported on towns just like Erie that were not waiting for someone to come help them, but were reinventing themselves through the leadership and dynamism of determined local leaders. *Our Towns*, the book, concludes with a visit to Erie and interview with the Jefferson Society’s President, Dr. Ferki Ferati.

The Fallows, Ascher, and Jordan will discuss how they traveled the journey of transforming the *Our Towns* book into the 97-minute HBO program, *Our Towns*, which, as the HBO page dedicated to the program, notes: “From Academy Award-nominated filmmakers Steven Ascher and Jeanne Jordan comes *Our Towns*, a documentary that paints a remarkable picture of America and how the rise of civic and economic reinvention is transforming small cities and towns across the country. Based on journalists James and Deborah Fallows’ book *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, the film spotlights local initiatives and explores how a sense of community and common language of change can help people and towns find a different path to the future.” More about *Our Towns* on HBO can be found [here](#).

Whew! That’s a lot – the Jefferson Educational Society’s **FREE Digital Global Summit XIII!**

It all begins Monday, May 10th. For the sessions you want to see, you can register [here](#).

Oh, and did I tell you, it’s **FREE!**

Enjoy the Summit and I’ll see you on Thursday, June 3, as we try once and for all to define “OK Boomer” and to answer the question, “Did the boomers break America?”



-- Andrew Roth, Ph.D.
Scholar-in-Residence
The Jefferson Educational Society
roth@jeserie.org

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In Case You Missed It

[Hiatus & FREE GLOBAL SUMMIT XII](#) written by Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Andrew Roth

[Robert E. Lee – Traitor?](#) written by Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Andrew Roth

[The Fuller Brush Man Bay Rat Cleaning Tools](#) written by Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. David Frew.

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