

Friday digest

November 22, 2013

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New today from the *Century*:

- Heath Carter [reviews Ira Katznelson](#): "Were liberal democracies ill equipped to manage the crises of the 1930s? It was a genuine question, as Katznelson underscores in this engrossing book." (subscription required)
- Steve Thorngate [observes Benjamin Britten's 100th birthday](#)
- David Heim on [Pope Francis and R. J. Palacio](#)
- "[Advent](#)," a poem by Donna Pucciani

In the news:

- [Aging expert Vern Bengtson: Boomers will return to church](#)
- [Atheists challenge IRS over nonprofit finances](#)
- [Americans divided on facing death: Fight it, choose it or let it come](#)
- [Religious groups rally around U.N. climate talks in Warsaw](#)
- [Congress pushes for release of American pastor imprisoned in Iran](#)
- [Behind scenes, Catholic bishops seek an exit strategy for Obamacare mandate](#)