

Week Nine

Healing and Healthy Aging: Nurture and Nature

(August 20 – August 24)

Is aging well by choice or by chance? Advances in medical science provide for longer life expectancies in many Western countries. As we age, what are our expectations for quality of life, freedom from pain, and ability to coherently contribute to our families and the greater society? Will emerging research in neuroscience – marking the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Alzheimer's Disease – guide us to better aging? Can the growing industry of pharmacology counter individual genetic tendencies, and at what expense and length? We will explore how the "boomers" heading into retirement affect families, communities, the workplace, economics, and medical ethics.



Lecture Series

The morning lectures are a signature of Chautauqua's program. Weekdays at 10:45 a.m., the stage of the 5,000-seat Amphitheater becomes the platform for distinguished scientists, authors, educators and experts in such fields as national and international affairs, arts and humanities, business and the environment. Through the years, Chautauqua has committed itself to civil, civic dialogue on matters that shape our world. Susan B. Anthony argued here for women's suffrage in 1892 and Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his "I Hate War" speech from the same stage in 1936. Margaret Mead, Amelia Earhart, Thurgood Marshall, Freeman Dyson, Jane Goodall, Sandra Day O'Connor, Kurt Vonnegut and Oscar Arias are among the speakers who have shared their experiences, knowledge and vision at Chautauqua.

Chautauqua Institution

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Chautauqua Institution

2007

Amphitheater Lecture Series

June 25–August 24



2007 Amphitheater Lecture Series

Week One

The Media and News: Applied Ethics

(June 25 – June 29)

Instantaneous news, censorship, blogs – new media, old media, good media, bad media – a public glued to television and wireless computers. Does the news and media form or inform our opinions on politics, values, international and national events? What is spin and is it ethical? Who decides what we hear, see and read in the newspapers, journals, radio and internet? A variety of voices will explore the media, its ethics and the role it plays in our lives.

Week Two

Family: All of a Kind? All Different?

(July 2 – July 6)

Is the family structure “hard-wired” in our human DNA? With an anthropological and historical base, we will explore our changing landscape that defines the modern family. Driven by cultural background, economic necessity, and diverse value systems, how do families thrive? What are internal and external influences on our families and how are they impacted by immigration, inter-religious and inter-racial households, and inter-generational family members living closely together and widely apart?

Week Three

The Meteoric Rise of China and India

(July 9 – July 13)

In the last 20 years, a half billion people have risen out of poverty in China and India combined. China, with the world’s fastest growing gross domestic product (and energy demand), and India, with the largest educated middle class (and democracy), are global economic forces. Exploring the economic development of India and China, its global repercussions and future impacts on politics, economic competition, and resources use, lecturers will analyze the navigation of these forces in globalization. Is the world really flat, and if so how do we navigate it?

Week Four

21st Century Cities

(July 16 – July 20)

Great cities have risen and fallen over time, prey to war, pestilence and natural disaster. Some are rebuilt and others take a permanent place on the scrap heap of history. Growing from a governmental forum, the hub of agricultural trade and the heart of the industrial revolution, cities are now the center of the information and technology revolution. In the 21st century, what causes some cities to thrive while others experience decay?

Week Five

The Middle East: Focus on the Future

(July 23 – July 27)

Will the cradle of civilization be a source of hope or doom? For nearly 20 years, the Chautauqua Institution has reviewed the political and cultural landscape of the Middle East. Featuring a diversity of analysts, we will investigate the continuing situation in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Palestine and Israel. We will explore long-term involvement of the international community and the United States.

Week Six

Sacred Texts in Context: Literalism and Interpretation

(July 30 – August 3)

Sacred texts exert great influence over humankind, whether interpreted literally or metaphorically. Texts are, for many, the primary source of faith and ethics, and as such have the power not only to impact, but also to change the course of human events. During this week, we will look objectively and respectfully at the sacred texts of the Abrahamic Faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Week Seven

Security and Preparedness

(August 6 – August 10)

The opening years of the 21st century have provided stark examples of the need to be prepared for terrorist attacks, possible pandemic health threats and devastating natural disasters. How do individuals and governments decide on personal safety and security measures while maintaining an open civil society that is democratic? What are our sources of intelligence and our techniques for analysis and predictions? Speakers will consider the issues of privacy vs. preventive knowledge and action, the responsibilities of government, and the rights of citizens.

Week Eight

Music: Heart, Soul and Dollar

(August 13 – August 17)

Music hath charms to soothe the beast – or unleash it. Music is integral to identity in culture and society, from our most primitive expressions to the iPod. We will cross cultural music trends, examine how music affects learning and creativity and contributes to economy, and look at the connection between performer and audience.