



Long Island Great Books Council

Arlene Stock: 212.688.0034 • arlenestock@verizon.net
Grahme Fischer: 631.361.3401 • ligb@optimum.net

AMERICA TRANSFORMED

The Civil War and the Spanish American War of 1898 were among the major influences that transformed the hearts and souls of the people of the United States of America from their earlier attitudes to those of contemporary Americans. These fascinating readings will provide insight into our past and present beliefs, attitudes, and practices. Join us for a day of intelligent discussion. Experience a stimulating day of camaraderie and, possibly, civilized controversy at the Long Island Great Books Council's Annual Spring Discussion in New York City or Annual Fall Discussion in Commack, Long Island. We invite you to attend one of two concurrent discussions at one or both events.

GROUP A	GROUP B
1. Morning: The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of American Empire by Stephen Kinzer (about 320 pages), 2017 2. Afternoon: To a Person Sitting in Darkness by Mark Twain (about 19 pages), 1902	3 & 4. Morning and Afternoon: Grant by Ron Chernow (about 1,100 quick-read pages), 2017

Who is this for? Anyone who wants to read and discuss thought-provoking literature.

What do you get: Books, participation in two discussions; food (continental breakfast, beverages, lunch); an opportunity to present your ideas, listen to, and explore the ideas of others.

When & Where: Saturday, **June 9**, 2018, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Roosevelt Island, New York City, readily accessible via public transportation; **AND** Saturday, **October 27**, 2018, 9:30 a.m. — 4 p.m., in Commack, Long Island, New York

Cost: \$65 per person per event

The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of American Empire In the late 19th Century, a public debate emerged over whether or not the U.S. should invade, occupy, administrate, and possibly annex countries beyond the borders of the U.S. Stephen Kinzer's book "brings to life the forgotten political debate..." and history. Critics have said: "One could not ask for a timelier argument.... Kinzer is right. The first debate over American empire...speaks to our own time," and "lively and very readable reconstruction of one of America's most consequential debates,...this century-old debate mirrors contemporary issues and positions...." Kinzer is an award-winning foreign correspondent, formerly of *The New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*.

To a Person Sitting in Darkness is a 1902 Mark Twain essay, published during a period of his life when he was very active in the Anti-Imperialist movement. The essay will surprise many who know Twain only through his novels and humor. Understanding the Kinzer book is a pre-requisite to understanding this essay and life in eastern USA at the start of the 20th Century.

Grant Chernow's best-selling biography was loved by almost every reviewer. Some typical comments were: "highly entertaining, highly readable...," "presents the whole, colorful mid-19th Century America in vivid hues...," "meticulously researched, well-written, with an easy style..." and "despite its length, it was a quick read." Most people today know little about Grant, but in his time, after his successes in the Civil War and as President, he was the most popular man in the U.S. and Europe, perhaps the most admired man in the world. Long after his death, some revisionist historians conducted a smear campaign against him. The public opinions created by that campaign have only begun to be reversed in recent decades. This book presents Grant as a real hero, with flaws and errors, whose behavior in personal and public life and fundamental values we can all applaud.



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REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home or Work Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Annual Spring Discussion in New York City

Saturday, June 9, 2018, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

at

531 Main Street, Apartment 1603

Roosevelt Island

New York, NY 10044

Registration Deadline: May 16, 2018

Fee: \$65

____ Group A (Kinzer/Twain) ____ Group B (Chernow)

Annual Fall Discussion in Commack, Long Island

Saturday, October 27, 2018, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

at

Commack Public Library

18 Hauppauge Road

Commack, NY 11725

Registration Deadline: October 3, 2018

Fee: \$65

____ Group A (Kinzer/Twain) ____ Group B (Chernow)

Please make check payable to Long Island Great Books Council or LIGBC and mail to:

Arlene Stock
531 Main Street, #1603
New York, NY 10044

Books will be mailed upon receipt of registration and payment. Detailed travel directions and the agenda will be sent under separate cover.

Questions and comments are welcome: arlenestock@verizon.net, 212.688.0034; Grahme Fischer, ligb@optimum.net, 631.361.3401.