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Gertrude Bell: Desert Adventurer

Robert Baer

Wednesday, July 6 at 1 p.m.

Gertrude Bell is considered one of the boldest and most adventurous women of her time. A desert explorer, archeologist, pioneering mountaineer, spy, diplomat, and popular travel writer, she blazed paths across the Near East where few Western men dared to go. This presentation will examine her accomplishments and long-term contributions to the culture and politics of the region.

Robert Baer holds a B.A. in history from Towson University, an M.L.A. in the history of ideas from Johns Hopkins University, and a D.Ed. in higher education from Morgan State University. He spent 30 years as a college administrator in Connecticut, New York, and Maryland. He has been an instructor in history at York College-CUNY, Norwalk Community College, Community College of Baltimore, and Howard Community College.

ONLINE ONLY The United States Supreme Court and Slavery

Rex Rehfeld

Wednesday, July 13 at 1 p.m.

The most well-known case involving slavery that was decided by the Supreme Court was that of Dred Scott. Because of its denial of citizenship to African-Americans, it is today considered the most outrageous decision ever made by the Court. But at the time, while that was denounced there were other more important parts of the decision: the issue of due process and the holding that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional. But Dred Scott was only one of five cases in which the court faced the issue of slavery starting with the Antelope case in 1825. The lecture will discuss these cases and the full ramifications of Dred Scott.

Rex Rehfeld has a B.S. from the University of California and a J.D. from the University of Maryland. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the U.S. Army in the Korean War and for several years afterward. After leaving the service he worked as an investment advisor until retiring in 2014. Rex's avocation is the study and teaching of history. He has presented courses and lectures at local university senior learning programs as well as lectures at retirement centers.

How I Won (and Lost) on 'Jeopardy!'

Kicking Glass: 50 Years of Title IX

Tricia Brandenburg

Wednesday, August 10 at 1 p.m.

Fifty years ago, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was passed prohibiting discrimination in education on the basis of sex. Since 1972, Title IX has helped women shatter previous barriers to admissions, financial aid, and activities connected to education, including athletics. Title IX also prohibits pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and other inequitable treatment in education. Title IX has been subject to intense backlash throughout its history. Learn more about Title IX's history, the backlash, and what's left to do.

Tricia Turley Brandenburg is the Deputy Director of Athletics, Internal Operations, at Towson University. She oversees the department's sport management, academics, compliance, student services, sports performance and Total Tiger programs. She is currently the sports administrator

Baltimore Eternal

Rafael Alvarez

Wednesday, August 31 at 1 p.m.

From the founding of Fells Point in the 17th century to Paul McCartney rocking Camden Yards 350 years later, Baltimore has been one of the most consequential cities in the nation. Alvarez—reporter, author, and historian—takes us on a first-person, working-class tour through the decades by way of family history.

Rafael Alvarez is a writer based in Baltimore. Formerly a journalist for the “Baltimore Sun”, he has also written fiction and non-fiction books, essays, and short stories. He wrote for the HBO drama, “The Wire”, during its first three seasons. He is co-editor of “A Lovely Place, A Fighting Place, A Charmer: The Baltimore Anthology” from Belt Publishing (release date: June 28, 2022).