“US: Past, Present, Future” Virtual Discussion Tackles the Concept of Citizenship April 17

Cora Masters Barry, Carly Fiorina, and Jeffrey Rosen.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (April 12, 2021) – Colonial Williamsburg’s monthly virtual conversation series “US: Past, Present, Future,” which explores the intersection of current events, our shared history and the enduring promises of America, continues April 17 when prominent voices in national affairs join participants online to examine the concept of American citizenship.

“The challenges and debates that confront us today are not new, in fact they were all experienced or anticipated by those present at our nation’s founding,” said Beth Kelly, Colonial Williamsburg vice president for education, research, and historical interpretation. “With the ‘US: Past, Present, Future’ series Colonial Williamsburg hopes to convene a civil national discussion on a range of critical topics, and we invite guests to join us April 17 when we examine the fundamental meaning of citizenship for Americans.”

A former University of the District of Columbia political science professor, Barry is founder and CEO of the Recreation Wish List Committee, a Washington, D.C. public-private partnership established in 1995 to create and support safe spaces for youth to grow and play, and founder of the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center. She began her career completing community projects in Washington’s Anacostia and Shaw neighborhoods and in 1980 was appointed as the first woman on the city’s Boxing and Wrestling Commission, which she later
chaired. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Southern University and a Master of Arts degree in urban studies and public administration from Howard University.

Fiorina began her business career as a receptionist in a nine-person real-estate firm and rose to become the first woman to lead a Fortune 50 company when she was appointed the chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard in 1999. She led HP through the worst technology recession in 25 years, 9/11, as well as SARS, to become the 11th-largest company in the country and among the world’s leading innovators. She is founder and chairman of Carly Fiorina Enterprises, which counsels companies on building high-performance teams, developing leaders at every level, and creating equitable and inclusive workplace cultures. Its nonprofit subsidiary, the Unlocking Potential Foundation, brings this same expertise to nonprofits and community leaders. In 2016, she sought the Republican nomination for president.

Rosen is a professor of law at The George Washington University Law School and a contributing editor of The Atlantic. He is the author of books including “The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries that Defined America,” “The Most Democratic Branch: How the Courts Serve America,” and “The Unwanted Gaze: The Destruction of Privacy in America.” He hosts the weekly “We the People” podcast and is a graduate of Harvard College, Oxford University, and Yale Law School.

Previous programs in the monthly “US: Past, Present, Future” series, which kicked off in January, have addressed topics including the history of race relations in the City of Williamsburg and the traditional and actual roles of women both in the 18th century and today.

Image credits: Recreation Wish List Committee; Marvin Joseph; National Constitution Center

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization; philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and operations sustain its educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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