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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2018 RAE DOROUGH SPEAKER SERIES BRINGS LEADERS  
IN DOCUMENTARY FILM, DROUGHT PREVENTION, HEALTHCARE, CLIMATE  
SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY TO THE BANKHEAD THEATER**

The five distinguished presenters for the 2017-18 Rae Dorough Speaker Series will cover topical issues ranging from the preservation of national parks, healthcare, California's next water crisis, and climate change to new insights into the nature of the universe.

Presentations will be held in the Livermore Bankhead Theater between October 5 and March 29, 2018.

"We're very excited to have these leaders in their fields discussing hot topics of particular interest to our community," said Chuck Hartwig, President of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series. "In keeping with the civic spirit of its founder, the Rae Dorough Speaker Series offers members of our community a unique opportunity to get up close and interact with authors, journalists, scientists and entertainers whose work shapes the world in which we live; all in the intimacy of the Bankhead Theater."

Award winning environmental documentary filmmaker David Vassar will kick off the series Thursday, Oct. 5 with a presentation of clips from his films that feature Yosemite as the "Birthplace of the National Park idea." Vassar will highlight the loss of the Hetch Hetchy Valley in 1913 as the impetus for the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. In addition, he will offer personal and professional insight into the art of documentary filmmaking.

The other speakers this season include:

- Elisabeth Rosenthal, a physician and journalist, will present "An American Sickness: Healing Our Health System" Tuesday, Dec. 12. Rosenthal will discuss why health costs in the United States are 2-3 times more than in other developed nations and how health care delivery can be reformed. Her presentation is based on her best-selling book "An American Sickness," an in-depth investigation into America's health care system.
- Astronomer David Shoemaker will present "Gravitational Waves – The New Cosmic Messenger" Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018. Albert Einstein predicted gravitational waves in his theory of general relativity. In 2015, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) succeeded in measuring

Rae Dorough Speaker Series  
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waves from the merger of two black holes, inaugurating a new field of astronomy. As LIGO project leader, Shoemaker speaks for scientists in 15 countries.

- Roger Bales, a 30-year veteran of climate-related research, will present “Avoiding California’s Next Water Crisis” Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018. Bales will discuss drought resilience in the Sierra Nevada and what we learned during the 2011-2015 drought. He will outline steps the state can take to adapt and provide sustainable water security into the future. Bales is a professor at UC Merced and adjunct professor at UC Berkeley.
- Climatologist Ben Santer, a pioneer of climate science, will present “Fingerprinting the Climate System” Thursday, March 29. Santer will talk about how ‘fingerprint research’ separates human from natural climate-change signals. In addition, he will provide a historical perspective on what scientists have learned over two decades of fingerprinting the climate system and how this tells the story of human-caused global warming.

All presentations start at 7:30 p.m. For additional information, see the Rae Dorough Speaker Series Website: <http://raedoroughspeakerseries.org/>

Season tickets are available for the five-speaker series as well as for individual presentations. For season tickets purchased before Sept. 30, the price ranges from \$136 to \$170, depending on seat location. Individual presentation tickets are \$16 for students and range from \$32 to \$40 for adults. Tickets are now available online <http://raedoroughspeakerseries.org/tickets/> or may be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First Street, Livermore, Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., or by calling [\(925\)-373-6800](tel:925-373-6800).

The speaker series honors the late Rae Dorough, a respected Livermore resident and strong supporter of cultural events. Members of her family were the initiating sponsors in 2008. The series features provocative, entertaining and enlightening presentations on a wide variety of topics. Past speakers have included engineers, scientists, fiction and non-fiction writers and historians, entrepreneurs, comedians and entertainers, diplomats, astronauts, journalists, and a secretary of defense.

The series is sponsored in part by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, The Hertz Foundation, Sandia National Laboratory, Tri-Valley Conservancy and ImageSetters.

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