



**Media Contact:**

Don Johnston  
(925) 963-8443  
Email: don.b.johnston@gmail.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 9, 2018

**PHYSICIST DAVID SHOEMAKER TO DISCUSS ‘NEW WORLD OF GRAVITATIONAL WAVES’ THAT PROMISES NEW UNDERSTANDING OF COSMOS**

Livermore, Calif. — Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) physicist David Shoemaker will present “Gravitational Waves — The New Cosmic Messenger” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory, called LIGO, measured gravitational waves from the merger of two black holes in 2015, inaugurating a new era for gravitational-wave astronomy. This was the first direct measurement of gravitational waves — the ripples in space-time predicted by Albert Einstein more than 100 years ago in his general theory of relativity. Shoemaker will provide updated information from the second observing period that ended in the summer of 2017.

“The window to this new world of gravitational waves has just been cracked open ... We’ll be rewarded with discoveries that will give us all a thrill of understanding things much bigger than ourselves,” Shoemaker, project leader for Advanced LIGO and director of the LIGO Lab at the MIT, told a US Congressional panel in 2016, according to the magazine of the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE).

Shoemaker is also a senior research scientist in MIT’s Kavli Institute, as well as a visiting associate at the California Institute of Technology. In March of 2017, he was appointed spokesperson for the international LIGO collaboration, which includes 1,000 scientists and engineers in 15 countries. He received a Masters in Physics from MIT in 1980 and a Ph.D in Physics from the Université de Paris in 1987. He has worked in the field of gravitational-wave detection since 1980.

Tickets are available for the remaining speakers in the series as well as for individual presentations. 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.

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

Sponsors of Dr. Rosenthal’s presentation include Kaiser Permanente and Stanford Health Care/Valley Care. The speaker programs begin at 7:30pm, followed by a lively audience Question and Answer (Q&A) from the stage, and culminate in a reception for the speaker that is held in the lobby of the Bankhead.

[www.RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org](http://www.RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org) | <http://www.facebook.com/RaeDoroughSpeakers>