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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2018

FROM FAKE NEWS AND ‘THE MARTIAN’ TO HANNIBAL BARCA OF CARTHAGE AND THE ATOMIC CITY GIRLS, THE 2018-19 RAE DOROUGH SPEAKER SERIES BRINGS LIVELY FARE TO LIVERMORE’S BANKHEAD THEATER

The 2018-19 Rae Dorough Speaker Series season will present topics ranging from a timely discussion of the reliability of online news sources and a Livermore native son’s improbable voyage to literary stardom to the story of one of military history’s greatest generals, Hannibal of Carthage, and the untold story of the women who worked on the Manhattan Project in the secret city of Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Presentations will be held in Livermore’s Bankhead Theater between Oct. 4, 2018 and March 14, 2019.

“The compelling and varied line-up of speakers we are offering in our 12th season reflects how the Rae Dorough Speaker Series has become a Livermore cultural institution. We have the strong support of our community to thank for that,” said Chuck Hartwig, president of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series. “New as well as longtime supporters appreciate the opportunity to interact with our speakers in the intimacy of the Bankhead Theater.”

Opening the season Thursday, Oct 4 will be Joel Breakstone, director of Stanford University’s Education Group, with a discussion of the difficulties of determining the credibility of online information. ‘Fake news’ is but a symptom of a larger problem. A study by Breakstone’s group revealed the shocking inability of even digitally savvy students to evaluate the credibility of information on the internet. Breakstone will outline the curriculum his group has developed to address the problem.

Other 2018-19 Rae Dorough season presentations include:

— *The Martian: Science, Fiction and Life*, Nov. 15, 2018 — Andy Weir, a Livermore native and author of *The Martian*, will talk about his life before and after the best selling book adapted into a hit movie in 2015. With candor and humor, the self-professed geek will talk about how he went from engineering software to writing science fiction.

— *Hannibal’s Secret Weapon*, Feb. 7, 2019 — Patrick Hunt, a Stanford University archeologist and historian, will bring to life the compelling story of one of military history’s greatest generals, Hannibal Barca of Carthage. Hunt is the author of *Hannibal* and directed Stanford’s Alpine Archeology Project, later continued as National Geographic Society’s Hannibal Expedition.

— *The Atomic City Girls*, March 14, 2019 — Janet Beard, author of the New York Times best seller *The Atomic City Girls*, will discuss her historical novel telling the story of young women who worked on the Manhattan Project in the secret city of Oak Ridge, Tenn.

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 four-speaker series as well as for individual presentations. For season tickets purchased before Oct. 6, the price ranges from \$109 to \$136, depending on seat location. After Oct. 5, season tickets will range from \$128 to \$160. Individual presentation tickets are \$16 for students and vary 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 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 Rae Dorough Speaker Series partners with the Livermore Valley Unified School District to make presentations easily accessible to students and teachers.

The series is sponsored in part by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, Sandia National Laboratories, Tri-Valley Conservancy and ImageSetters. Additionally, individual and corporate supporters help sponsor specific presentations.

www.RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org | <http://www.facebook.com/RaeDoroughSpeakers>