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BESTSELLING AUTHOR TO DISCUSS LITTLE KNOWN STORY OF WOMEN OF THE MANHATTAN PROJECT AT LIVERMORE'S BANKHEAD THEATER

Janet Beard, author of “The Atomic City Girls,” will talk about the women’s history hidden in America’s nuclear past and what we still can learn from the women who worked on the Manhattan Project in a Rae Dorrough Speaker Series presentation at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14 in Livermore’s Bankhead Theater.

The best selling historical novel follows the story of 18-year-old June Walker as she boards an unmarked bus in 1944, destined for a city that does not officially exist: Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The result of extensive research, reviews of oral histories about the project, “The Atomic City Girls” provides a revealing picture of day-to-day life in the secret city of Oak Ridge, including the effects of World War II on rural America, social class, the role of women in society and racial discrimination. These issues still resonate today.

“Nuclear issues have been on our minds more than anyone would like over the past couple years. Unfortunately, I think that’s never really going to go away. It’s interesting to look back at that moment just before the world changes in that way. It’s like the opening of Pandora’s box,” said Beard in an interview with the Columbus Dispatch.

Born and raised in East Tennessee, Beard has a personal connection to Oak Ridge. Her grandmother worked an administrative job related to the Manhattan Project in Knoxville and a great aunt worked at Oak Ridge. Beard earned an MFA in creative writing from The New School. She currently lives and writes in Columbus, Ohio. See <https://www.janetbeard.com> for more information.

Beard also will speak at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as part of the Lab’s author series and events marking Women’s History Month.

Individual presentation tickets are \$16 for students and vary from \$32 to \$40 for adults. For additional information about the Rae Dorrough Speaker Series, visit : <http://raedoroughspeakerseries.org/>. Tickets are available online raedoroughspeakerseries.org/JanetBeard 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 Dorrough, a respected Livermore resident and strong supporter of cultural events. Friends and 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 Dorrough Speaker Series partners with the Livermore Valley Unified School District and Las Positas College 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. The Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF) is a special sponsor of Janet Beard’s presentation.

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

Tickets – 925.373.6800 or www.bankheadtheater.org | PO Box 592 | Livermore | CA 94551