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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***A Rae Dorrough Speaker Series online presentation:***

**CIVIL ENGINEER AND HISTORIAN PAUL GIROUX TO PRESENT PICTORIAL STORY OF  
TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD'S CONSTRUCTION IN RAE DOROUGH LIVESTREAM**

Paul Giroux, Dist. M.ASCE, construction engineer and historian, will present "Building the Transcontinental Railroad" in a Rae Dorrough Speaker Series livestream presentation at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10.

Experience the monumental challenges of constructing the Transcontinental Railroad with unique insight, stunning historical photos, and modern animations. An accomplished engineer, builder, and award-winning historian, Raymond Paul Giroux will leverage over four decades of mega-project construction experience combined with meticulous research to bring the story of the Transcontinental Railroad to life à la Ken Burns.

"The building of the Transcontinental Railroad was, in its day, an extraordinary feat of engineering and technology equivalent to landing a man on the moon," said Giroux. "The effect on the country was transformative. The building of the Transcontinental Railroad is a quintessential American can-do story."

Giroux was a featured speaker at the May 2019 Transcontinental Railroad sesquicentennial celebration in Sacramento.

RDSS is requesting a \$10 donation to participate in the livestream Zoom presentation featuring Giroux. To sign up, contact the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First Street, Livermore by calling (925)-373-6800, emailing [boxoffice@lvpac.org](mailto:boxoffice@lvpac.org) or go to: <https://livermoreperformingarts.secure.force.com/ticket/#/instances/a0F1Q00000eW2cOUAS>

The author of a number of bridge design and civil engineering papers, Giroux also is an active lecturer having delivered over 250 lectures at engineering schools around the globe. In 2016 he received the prestigious Norm Augustine Award for communication from the American Association of Engineering Societies and he was elected a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Giroux received the ASCE Roebling Award for Construction Engineering in 2017 and was inducted into the Iowa State University Construction Engineering Hall of Fame in 2018. He received his BS in Construction Engineering from Iowa State University in 1979.

This livestream presentation will not be recorded for future rebroadcast.

The speaker series, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> season, honors the late Rae Dorough, a respected Livermore resident and strong supporter of cultural events. Members of her family and friends 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 even a former secretary of defense.

The Rae Dorough 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, the Alameda County Arts Commission, Towne Center Books and ImageSetters. Additionally, individual and corporate supporters help sponsor specific presentations.

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