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The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center
1051 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159
(352) 751-7799 | www.TheSharon.com

**THE SHARON L. MORSE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES
AN INTREPID GROUP OF CHANGEMAKERS IN ITS NEW SPEAKER SERIES**

*Renowned photographers and an astronaut
take the stage during the 2023-2024 season.*

Significant Productions www.SignificantProductions.org and The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center www.TheSharon.com are thrilled to present a bold group of changemakers in its new 2023-24 Speaker Series. This exciting 3-part series will include a remarkable lineup of renowned changemakers who have pushed the boundaries in their respective fields and whose work reveals fascinating insights about our planet.

Mark your calendars for October 12, 2023 as astronaut Terry Virts takes the stage. From the *danger zone* to the International Space Station, Terry Virts has mastered every aviation and aerospace job a pilot could dream of—such as Top Gun fighter pilot and ISS commander. During 200 consecutive days in space, he had time to reflect on life below. Terry reveals the wonders of our world from above and *How to Astronaut*.

It's time to get out of your comfort zone on January 23, 2024. And, "camera-toting badass" (says *Glamour* magazine) Annie Griffiths is just the woman to help you do it. After a career spanning three decades—in 100+ countries—Annie knows how to navigate any situation. Whether working in a remote village or a mega-metropolis, Annie demonstrates how humor, body language, and listening can build a bridge with anyone.

On April 19, 2024, join photographer David McLain on a journey to a life well-lived as he uncovers the secrets of the *Blue Zones*—places where people live vibrant lives beyond 100. David has spent years studying the habits of centenarians across the globe. Now, through personal anecdotes and scientific research, David shares how adopting their practices can add quality years to our own lives.



All events will take place at **The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center** at 1051 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159 and will feature stunning imagery and riveting video footage. Following each presentation, there will be a Q&A session, and an audience meet & greet, providing attendees with the opportunity to engage directly with the visiting speakers.

Save 15% with the Subscription package for the series that is ON SALE NOW:

<https://www.thesharon.com/event.php?id=897&title=Changemaker-Speaker-Series>. Single tickets are already on sale as well. Given the high demand for this exceptional series, we encourage attendees to secure their seats early. For more information and ticket details, visit www.TheSharon.com.

2023-2024 Changemaker Speaker Series events:



Astronaut Terry Virts / *How to Astronaut*

Thursday, Oct 12, 2023

<https://www.thesharon.com/event.php?id=894&title=How-To-Astronaut-by-Astronaut-Terry-Virts>

Astronaut Terry Virts has served in the US Air Force as an F-16 fighter and test pilot, piloted the space shuttle *Endeavour*, served as commander for the International Space Station, and conducted three spacewalks during a 200-day mission in 2014 and 2015.

During his seven months in space, Terry took over 300,000 photographs and hours of video—the most of any space mission before or since. These images form the backbone of IMAX film *A Beautiful Planet*. National Geographic published *View from Above*, a book featuring some of Terry's best images alongside his reflections. On stage, Terry reveals the wonders of our world from above, personal insights into how NASA could have done better on previous shuttle missions, and, you know, *How to Astronaut*—which happens to be the title of his best-selling book.



Photographer Annie Griffiths / *Through the Lens: Creating a Ripple*

Tuesday, Jan 23, 2024

<https://www.thesharon.com/event.php?id=895&title=Through-the-Lens>

Trailblazing photographer Annie Griffiths has worked on dozens of magazine and book projects for *National Geographic* magazine since the late 1970s. As one of the few female photographers at the time, Annie photographed the stories not being told,

particularly the daily lives of women in developing countries. She is the founder of Ripple Effect Images, a nonprofit collective of prize-winning photographers and filmmakers who document programs that empower women and children in the developing world. Annie has received awards from the National Press Photographers Association, the Associated Press, the National Organization of Women, and the White House News Photographers Association. Named one of the “Best of the Best” speakers by the World Presidents Association, Annie has spoken to audiences at the United Nations, Sydney Opera House, and TEDx, among many others.



Photographer David McLain/ *The Search for Longevity*

Friday, April 19, 2024

<https://www.thesharon.com/event.php?id=896&title=The-Search-for-Longevity>

National Geographic photographer, filmmaker, and best-selling author David McLain honed his photographic chops shooting feature-length assignments around the world for *National Geographic* magazine. His assignments took him to six continents and often required 200 days on the road each year. He’s photographed seven feature stories for *National Geographic*, shot for major brands like Sony and Apple, and was director of photography for the feature documentary *Bounce*, which premiered at SXSW in 2015. For 15 years, together with author Dan Buettner, David has traveled the world to study and document the world’s five Blue Zones. His work on the Blue Zones project has produced several books, including a *New York Times* best-selling cookbook *Blue Zones Kitchen*, and stories for *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and others. David is also one of the original Sony Artisans of Imagery.

About the Changemaker Speaker Series

The Changemaker Speaker Series is a highly curated touring program of thought leaders, celebrated explorers, award-winning journalists, photographers and filmmakers, innovators, and artists who are actively engaged in creating a better tomorrow. One by one, they are striving to solve big problems, inspire environmental stewardship, document the world around us, and bridge the distance between us. In short, they are changing the world, one story at a time.