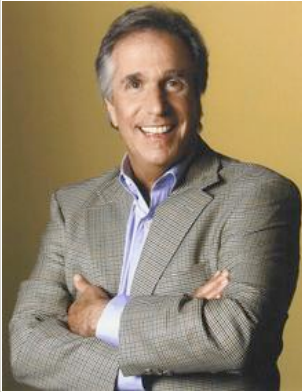


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Henry Winkler to have 'Conversation' in Vero Beach

By Peter Pringle

Thursday, April 2, 2009



Provided

Henry Winkler will speak Saturday at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach.

IF YOU GO

What: "A Conversation with Henry Winkler"

When: 1 p.m. Saturday

Where: The Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave., Vero Beach

Tickets: \$75, \$50, \$25, plus \$3.50 handling

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Henry Winkler usually works from a script. He'll make an exception when he takes part in an informal and unrehearsed conversation at 1 p.m. Saturday at The Emerson Center in Vero Beach.

Leading the conversation to benefit the Mental Health Association in Indian River County will be Vero Beach artist and author Leslie McGuirk, a longtime friend. "This is not going to be a boring, fluffy experience," she said. "It will be an uplifting and inspiring chat about life, creativity and how best to flow through life."

Winkler, who shot to stardom as Arthur "Fonzie" Fonzarelli in the TV sitcom "Happy Days," has demonstrated his creative talents as a television and movie actor, producer and director. He also has won critical acclaim as an author of children's books.

Despite struggling with academics through elementary and high schools — the result of dyslexia, which was not diagnosed until he was an adult — Winkler was determined to become an actor. "I would say 'OK, let me try it.' When you do that, it's surprising what you learn about yourself and your abilities," he said.

"I learned the truth of the saying 'If you will it, it is not a dream.' I also learned that you cannot let others define you. An inner voice will tell you who you are."

When Winkler started writing, he planned four mostly autobiographical books about the adventures of Hank Zipzer, a resourceful fourth-grader who has dyslexia. He just finished the 16th book in the series, and it will be published this summer. "I hope that children with a learning challenge will come

to understand that they have something great to offer," he said.

Winkler and McGuirk will engage in a second conversation Saturday evening at the Mental Health Association's invitation-only Turtle Trax Gala.

"Mr. Winkler doesn't usually make appearances of this kind, so I am excited that he accepted our invitation," president and CEO Kristine Sarkauskas said. "I know that his message will resonate with everyone in the community."

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