



# WIFV NEWS

## March 2016 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Featuring Member Gallery Update - John Wetmore, Sharon Sobel, Debbi Mack, Kristin Reiber Harris, Frances A. Cheever; Royal Kennedy Rodgers, Vanina Harel, Rebecca Howland, Aditi Desai, Jacquie Greff, Kim Holcomb, Anna Jhirad, 31 Women in 31 Days, CITY OF TREES, FEAST YOUR EARS, Call for Members in the News Articles, Call for Awards Info!

### New Additions - WIFV Member Gallery



Our Member Gallery on YouTube continues to grow with exceptional work from our members. Since its inception during our 35th anniversary celebration, WIFV members have submitted 40 videos, showcasing a range of talent from producing and directing, to animation and voice over.

Our latest submissions continue in that wide-ranging tradition. **John Wetmore's** [entry](#) gives voice to a dangerous pedestrian situation outside of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

**Sharon Sobel's** entry features a [promotional video](#) she created for the Dental Integrators Association conference in April.

**Debbi Mack's** submission, "[How Clean Water Prevents Disaster](#)," was her entry to the Eco-Comedy Video Competition.

The "[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)" video was animated by **Kristin Reiber Harris** and highlights the services the organization provides to families and children.

### Rogers Producing **HOLLYWOOD'S ARCHITECT**



Producer/ director **Royal Kennedy Rodgers** and her co-producer, Kathy McCampbell Vance, have just completed principal photography on an independent production for public television, **HOLLYWOOD'S ARCHITECT**. The documentary follows the little-known life and career of African American "Architect to

the Stars" Paul R. Williams, who had a spectacular career during Hollywood's Golden Age. Williams, whose best known works were located in Southern California, designed such notable buildings as the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel, the original MCA Headquarters Building, the Beverly Hills Saks Fifth Avenue store and St. Jude Children's Hospital. He was also part of the architectural team that designed Los Angeles International Airport. Williams' celebrity residential clients included Frank Sinatra, Cary Grant, William Holden, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. Today, his work is sought after by a new generation of Hollywood stars like Denzel and Pauletta Washington, Debra Messing, and Disney CEO Robert Iger and his wife Willow Bay. Rodgers says Paul Williams' amazing personal story could have been dreamed up by a Hollywood screenwriter. Orphaned at the age of four, he worked his way up to the top of a profession that was largely closed to African Americans at the time. "Whenever I get discouraged," she says, "I think of what he overcame. It really was the personification of the American Dream." For more information, [check out the website](#) or contact [email Rodgers](#).

Frances A. Cheever's "**Never Mistake Kindness for Weakness**" was derived from her military action screenplays, "Rally Point" and "Derailed."

Visit the [Member Gallery](#) to see the new submissions and the previous work of your fellow WIFV members.

## Howland Announces Latest Film in JOURNEY TO PLANET EARTH Series



**Rebecca Howland** is the co-producer of the environmental documentary series JOURNEY TO PLANET EARTH, narrated by Matt Damon. She is pleased to announce that the latest film in the series - *Dispatches from the Gulf: Science, Community & Recovery in the Aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill* - will have



its world premiere at the Smithsonian on March 25 as part of the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital. *The Los Angeles Times* recently commented, "The scope is wide, the photography compelling, the presentation is crisp. Take notice unless you've already booked passage to another galaxy." Howland is also the editor of the book, *The Girls: Sappho Goes to Hollywood*, which reveals the complex and intimate connections that roiled behind the public personae of Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, and Tallulah Bankhead. *The Girls* is [available in kindle and paperback editions on Amazon](#). To learn more about Howland and her projects through Screenscope, you can [email her](#) or visit the [Screenscope website](#).

## Greff Completes Feature & Doc Web Series



**Jacquie Greff**, President of Tonal Vision in Baltimore, is busy at work on two compelling projects. She serves as one of the producers for a recently finished film, MEMORIES OF THE WARSAW GHETTO, the moving story of a Polish boy who became deaf after being hit by a Nazi rifle butt at the start of WWII and was later imprisoned in the

Warsaw Ghetto with his family, many of whom died there or in the gas chambers of Treblinka. Miraculously, the boy escaped with his mother and brother, and lived to tell the stories in this film, a collage of docudrama scene reenactments, narrated explanations of the times, and archival footage and photos. MEMORIES OF THE WARSAW GHETTO has been accepted into several film festivals, including the Hong Kong International Deaf Film Festival and the Seattle Deaf Film Festival. Be sure to [check out the website](#) and look for a local premier of the

## Harel Working on Mauritius-based Doc

**Vanina Harel** is currently working on a 30-minute documentary called VEY NOU LAGON (*Living the Ocean*) that will be released in May 2016. The inspirational film follows Georgie, a traditional artisanal fisherman, and his family, as they recount the story of the Mauritian lagoons and show us the current state of the ocean. The film will be broadcast on public television in Mauritius, screened in schools and fishing villages, and used by local NGOs to raise awareness and provide viable alternatives for fishermen. Harel says it will also be used as part of an audiovisual campaign to initiate the first national seasonal octopus-fishing closure in Mauritius in August 2016. For more information, [visit the film website](#) or [email Vanina](#).



## For Desai, Birds & Collards Are All in a Day's Work



**Aadi Desai**, Senior Producer at the American Bird Conservancy, produces films and edits short documentaries related to conservation issues affecting birds and other wildlife. From golden-winged Warblers to Hawaiian Petrels, Desai shares stories of the

people working to conserve these threatened species. Recently, Desai trekked into the deep woods of Minnesota and the grasslands of North Dakota to film conservation in action. She also just completed the third in a series of short documentaries about local, organic food and farms in the DMV region for the Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University and the Prince Charitable Trusts. Her most recent film, with the quirky title, THE CULTURE OF COLLARDS, features culinary historian Michael Twitty, Three Part Harmony Farm, and nonprofit City Blossoms. To learn more, [email Desai](#); and to see some of Desai's work, [click here](#).

## Holcomb Reflects on 30 Years with MPT

Award-winning producer and director **Kim Holcomb** crafts video projects ranging from documentary and instructional videos to PSAs. As Director of Production Services at Maryland Public Television (MPT), she has collaborated with dozens of state, county, and federal agencies and non-profits, helping them effectively tell their stories. She produces the annual Maryland Teacher of the Year Gala event with MSDE's Dr. Darla Strouse. Kim interviews the 24 regional teachers of the year, edits the feature packages, and pulls together the program that



film in May.

Greff is also the producer of HISTORY AT RISK, a biweekly reality/documentary web series that follows filmmaker Frank Tybush as he searches out and interviews everyday heroes in their work to keep Americans in touch with their history. The 2016 season recently got underway. In the animated teaser, Frank's intern Dee feels neglected and is determined to pay him back by the topics she selects. In Episode 1, she sends him to a tattoo museum, where he gets a tattoo while interviewing the museum's president. In Episode 2, she sends him to a bar to find out how Baltimore earned the name "mob town." In Episode 3, Frank hears theories of how Edgar Allen Poe died but also learns Poe is being kept alive by a brewery. Can Frank continue to survive Dee's ideas on history? Stay tuned for [more episodes of HISTORY OF RISK here](#).

For more information on these projects, contact Jacquie Greff at 410-675-0591 or visit [Tonal Vision's website](#).

### 31 Women in 31 Days Drawing

Every March for the past four years WIFV has recognized the work of a member every day during the month as our way of celebrating Women's History Month. The \$31 for 31 Campaign is an important way to celebrate our own trailblazers and to raise donations for WIFV programs.

[Contribute here](#)



**Don't hold back.** The WIFV Board has decided that any contributions received as part of this Campaign will benefit the Documentary Seed Fund. All contributors will be entered in a drawing to receive a limited edition AVA DuVERNAY doll by Mattel. We are grateful to the anonymous donor who has made this special prize available! [Make your contribution here](#).

is then aired on MPT2. She says she is truly inspired by the amazing teachers she meets. As a lifelong learner, Kim is also partnering with MPT's Education Division to develop online learning for students and adults. "I've always been attracted to television/video production," Kim notes, "because, at its best, it reflects a team's working together to take an inspired idea and create something tangible that is greater than anyone could do alone. In that way, WIFV also reflects the power of pooling creative and practical energy for the benefit of all." Over her long career in public television and as a freelancer, Kim has experienced dramatic changes in the television industry and looks forward to whatever the future may bring. To learn more about MPT projects, [email Kim here](#).

### Jhirad Wraps EINSTEIN'S INCREDIBLE UNIVERSE - and More...



Kudos to the intrepid documentary writer and producer, **Anna Jhirad**. Recently, Jhirad wrapped up a year of work as development producer on EINSTEIN'S INCREDIBLE UNIVERSE, a forthcoming giant screen film for distribution to science museums and centers worldwide. This groundbreaking project, produced by an international film team, Cosmic Picture Ltd., with rights granted by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is the very first IMAX film on Einstein. The film captures Einstein as a child and as a young man, when he formulated groundbreaking theories in modern physics and cosmology (gravitational waves, black holes) that continue to transform the way we think about the universe. Apart from Einstein's world, Jhirad is working on several other productions. She serves as the writer and contributing producer on THE POWER TO HEAL, a one-hour documentary co-production of BLB Productions, LLC and WETA for a prime time national broadcast about President Lyndon Johnson's use of Medicare in 1966 to racially desegregate American hospitals. She is also a writer on REDISCOVERING KATE CAREW, a feature documentary about America's first female caricaturist (1897-1920), with producer/director Barnard Jaffier of Jaffa Films, LLC in New York City. As the writer and contributing producer for RETURN TO RAMALLAH; A PALESTINIAN - AMERICAN STORY, Jhirad works closely with director Ziad Foty through Foty Fusion Productions, Inc., about Palestinians in the Diaspora, through the lens of an Arab-American family that returns to Ramallah, Palestine after 40 years of exile. To learn more about these projects, you can [email Jhirad here](#).



### CITY OF TREES Will Receive National Broadcast!

By Lance Kramer

We have some big news to share with you: **CITY OF TREES** will be broadcast nationally on public television on Tuesday, April 19 at 8pm on the critically-acclaimed program **AMERICA REFRAMED!!**

Sharing CITY OF TREES through public broadcast is a dream come true and will allow millions of viewers to have access to this story. AMERICA REFRAMED is an exceptional program featuring films that present personal viewpoints and a range of voices on the nation's most pressing social issues. The program offers an unfiltered look at people rarely given a voice on national television. Each film is followed by provocative conversations led by host/moderator Natasha Del Toro. And after the April 19 broadcast ([check local listings](#)), the film will be available to stream for free for 90 days on [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org).

Just two days ago, we held the DC premiere of CITY OF TREES to a standing-room-only audience at the Carnegie Institution for Science as part of the [Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital](#). The evening was magical. The audience received the film with openness, empathy and curiosity. Every seat was filled even without Metro running. People gave hugs, laughed, cried, asked hard questions, and spoke deeply about the story while exiting the theater. The texts, Facebook posts, tweets, and emails continue to roll in by the minute.

We can't begin to tell you what this moment feels like. We continue to be overwhelmed by the genuine love and support that flows uninterrupted out of our community and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being a part of this journey with us. **Mark your calendars for April 19** and help us to spread the word about the broadcast!

In gratitude,  
Lance, Brandon and the Meridian Hill Pictures/CITY OF TREES team

Meridian Hill Pictures [official website](#)

## FEAST YOUR EARS Concert - May 7



By Jay Schlossberg

We have put together a rare concert featuring two of the finest singer/songwriters on planet Earth for a concert to raise finishing funds for our feature documentary film, "Feast Your Ears: The Story of WHFS 102.3 FM". While we did well with the Kickstarter campaign last year (Thank You!!) these funds will go towards covering the intense costs for music and publishing rights to the tunes that'll be used in the movie. Oh yeah...and the lawyers. Gotta take care of them, too.

[Get your tickets here.](#)

Date: Saturday, May 7th, 2016

Location: Montgomery College, Rockville

Building: Robert E. Parilla Center for the Performing Arts

Time: 6pm for Meet 'n Greet with Artists & DJ's/7pm for reserved seats

The show will feature two staples of the WHFS 102.3 FM playlist in the 1970's and into the 1980's: Jonathan Edwards ("Sunshine", "Emma", "Shanty", "Everybody Knows Her") as well as Danny O'Keefe ("Good Time Charlie's Got the Blues", "The Road", "Magdalena", "Junkman"). Also sitting in with Jonathan for a few songs will be Washington, DC bass player extraordinaire T. Michael Coleman, who toured with Doc & Merle Watson for 15 years and was a member of the great bluegrass group The Seldom Scene for 9 years. If we're not mistaken, this is the first time these three fabulous musicians have shared the same stage here in the DC area. You are not going to want to miss this show!

We are offering a limited amount of "Meet 'N Greet" reception tickets before the show to give you the special chance to meet these stellar artists, some of your favorite deejays, and the people who ran the offices at WHFS and kept the lights on.

## Tell YOUR WIFV Story

WIFV is honored to be recognized again as a Top-Rated organization by Great Nonprofits. Less than 1% of eligible nonprofits received this distinction. Because of the reviews WIFV has received, we've been a Top-Rated nonprofit since 2012. Your review makes a difference!

Please tell Great Nonprofits about an experience you've had at a WIFV program, an interaction you've had with a speaker or fellow member, or just what WIFV means to you. [Click here to go straight to the WIFV page on their site.](#)



## Call for WIFV Members in the News Articles

What's the best way to brag about your accomplishments? With a Members in the News article, of course. Not only can you include a photo and your website, it is archived at [wifv.org](http://wifv.org) and adds to your SEO. Submit your paragraph, jpg photo, and any links to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org) by the 5th of the month.

## Call for Award Info

If you have won an award, screened at a film festival, or received a major grant, please let me know so we can share your success. Send the info to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)



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## About WIFV

WIFV supports women in the industry by promoting equal opportunities, encouraging professional development, serving as an information network, and educating the public about women's creative and technical achievements.



## Contact Us

Women in Film & Video  
4000 Albemarle Street NW, Suite 305  
Washington, DC 20016  
202-429-9438  
[www.wifv.org](http://www.wifv.org)

**Send Stories to**  
[director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)



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