



# WIFV NEWS

## March 2018 Members in the News

Featuring Kathleen Gardner, Interface Media Group, Aviva Kempner, Darley Newman, Robyn DeShields, Maggie Burnette Stogner, Jill Yesko, Shoshana Rosenbaum, Martha Karl, Robin Noonan-Price, Kathi D. Overton, Richelle Taylor, Jane Barbara, Via Bia, Maria Duke, Lauren Knapp, Oriana Oppice, Betty Sullivan, Karyn Langhorne Folan, Annika Young, Kathy Dismukes, and Lesli Linka Glatter's Tips for Success.

### Gardner Update from USC



**Kathleen Gardner**, recipient of the 2016 **Carolyn's First Decade Fund** award, reports from Los Angeles that film grad school at USC in the Peter Stark Producing Program is going very well. She's working on a film about an emotionally abusive father who reneges on a lifelong promise and forces a determined millennial to choose between fighting for a relationship with her father or her freedom and dreams. Kathleen says

the all-female crew is an amazing chance to work with a lot of really talented female filmmakers. See more info about the film, **SPOILED MILK**, [here](#).

"I feel like my experiences with WIFV in DC," Kathleen says, "and especially receiving the First Decade award, really helped me get to where I am today, and I'm so grateful for that." She's happy to get emails from WIFV still and read about all the exciting projects going on back in DC. This summer Kathleen will be interning at United Talent Agency to learn more about that side of the industry.

### Kempner Before and After Oscar Blogs!

**Aviva Kempner**, a member of the Docs Branch of AMPAS, was at the 90th edition of the Oscar Awards this year. Not one to pass up such a chance to express her views, Aviva penned two guest blogs for *The Wrap*. The first was published in advance of the ceremonies and entitled **The Timely Accessory I'm Wearing to This Year's Oscars**.

"This year I have a much different concern even though the first questions all my friends asked was, "What dress and jewelry are you going to wear to the ceremony?" Without missing a beat, I answered that this year no designer dress,



### Are We There Yet?

The classic question an antsy child asks on a road trip.

IMG's been on a 'road trip' and the answer to that question is Yes & No.

"Yes," our 'must see' fresh [website](#) is ready for you to check out. "No" speaks to how we will not stop our creative journey. IMG has successfully nurtured a culture of creativity for over 40 years.

Creative curiosity is a living, breathing thing at IMG. When what you do day in and day out is based on high-tech tools & a mind wired for authentic artistic skills - you get brilliance.

Get to know our culture and you'll understand the difference between having the tools and having your back.

**Our creative road trip never ends.**



### TRAVELS WITH DARLEY 5th Season!



**Darley Newman**, host and producer of **EQUITREKKING** and **TRAVELS WITH DARLEY** debuts a new, fifth season of **TRAVELS WITH DARLEY** on PBS stations in March. You can view locally on Maryland Public Television. In the new season, Darley takes viewers to France and across the USA to experience food, culture and outdoor adventure with

even if I could afford one or fit into its narrow dimensions, was going to represent the look I wanted to achieve in 2018. As a citizen of Washington, D.C. - whose population is unfairly denied any voting representation in Congress - I only wanted to wear an accessory that reflected the courageous responses of the young adults who survived the Parkland, Fla., shooting and the parents who tragically lost their teenage children."

[Full blog here](#)



### How This Year's Oscars Became a Feminist Game Changer

"I believe the 2018 Oscars are going to have a lasting influence....Frances McDormand, a week has passed since the Oscars, and I'm still fired up by your speech. The highlight of attending this year's ceremony was when you symbolically lowered your much-deserved masculine statue down on the stage, and called on all the nominated women to stand. Your recitation of

"inclusion rider" validated a legal concept that needs to be shouted throughout the land.

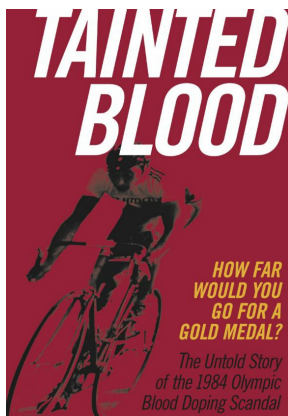
I was moved to tears and stood up cheering your inspiring gestures from my nosebleed seat at the Dolby Theatre."

[Full blog here.](#)

## TAINTED BLOOD Screens April 9

In a nearly forgotten incident, seven members of the US cycling team blood doped at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles to earn the first US cycling medals since the 1912 Olympics.

Told through the voices of Olympic athletes, coaches, doctors, and sports historians, TAINTED BLOOD explores the secret world where athletes push themselves to the precipice and are driven by coaches with their own Olympic-fueled dreams. [More info on film here.](#)



April 9, 7:30 pm  
Parkway Theatre, 5 W. North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21201  
[Purchase tickets here](#) \$10

Filmmaker **Jill Yesko** is a former cyclist who represented the United States in the 1983 World University Games and competed in the Olympic Trials. She will be presenting her film and work at Cal State Fullerton this Spring as part of an Olympic conference.

## SWAN Day Celebration - March 24

locals as the guides. Fellow WIFV member **Robyn De Shields** of De Shields Associates works with Darley on the series. Watch on Wednesday nights at 11 pm on MPT2 starting March 21st and check out previews at [TravelswithDarley.com](#).

## IN THE EXECUTIONER'S SHADOW

WIFV executive member **Maggie Burnette Stogner** invites you to the first public event for her timely documentary IN THE EXECUTIONER'S SHADOW on April 11. The film is about justice, injustice and the death penalty. [RSVP here.](#) Clips from the film will be shown along with a panel discussion and Q&A with filmmakers and panelists.



Four years in the making, IN THE EXECUTIONER'S SHADOW is a poignant film that takes us into the rarely seen world of death row with Jerry Givens, who conducted 62 executions for the State of Virginia and is haunted by how close he came to executing an innocent man. It follows survivor Karen Brassard, who was severely injured in the Boston Marathon bombing, and her deep moral conflict while she attends the trial. It defies our perception of justice as Vicki and Syl Schieber ultimately choose to fight for the life of their daughter's rapist and murderer.

**April 11, 2018 - 6:00 pm reception; 6:30 pm screening**  
Doyle Forman Auditorium, McKinley Bldg, AU  
[RSVP here](#)

## HIDE AND SEEK at DCIFF

Story and Photos by Richelle Taylor

Writer/director **Shoshana Rosenbaum** premiered her second short film, **HIDE AND SEEK** at the DC Independent Film Festival in February. She is pictured here with Chelsea Gonzalez, writer/lead actor of the short film **SUSANNE AND THE MAN**, which also premiered at the festival.

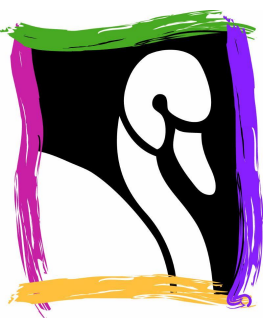


Also, here's another photo from the festival, in case you want to include one with other WIFV members/HIDE AND SEEK crew. Pictured (left-to-right) is casting director **Martha Karl**, producer

**Robin Noonan-Price**, writer/director **Shoshana Rosenbaum**, and location sound engineer **Kathi D. Overton**.

## 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](#) and adds to your SEO. Submit your paragraph, jpg photo, and any links to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org) by the 10th of the month.



WIFV and the Guillotine Theatre are collaborating once again to Support Women Artists Now on March 24 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at Grace Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue, Georgetown.

2:00 pm - 3 live performances;  
3:00 pm - Laptop Film Festival featuring short films by **Jane**

**Barbara/Oriana Oppice, Via Bia,**

**Maria Duke, Paige Morrow Kimball, Lauren Knapp.**

4:00 pm - #MeToo Discussion - How can the DC film and theatre communities come together to address issues of harassment on set and stage?

## 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)

## Betty Sullivan Named to 2018 Athena List

By **Karen Langhorne Folan**



Screenwriter **Betty Sullivan** was named a 2018 Athena List Winner in an awards ceremony in Manhattan on February 23. Her screenplay *SAVING ESPERANZA* was one of four winners selected from hundreds of entries to the prestigious contest which, since its inception eight years ago, has focused on curating a list of the best scripts written by women or featuring female characters.

"I'm really honored and excited," Sullivan said about being an Athena List Winner. "I've been working on *SAVING ESPERANZA* on and off for years. It's nice to see all that hard work pay off!"

*SAVING ESPERANZA* was inspired by the true story of an American woman grieving the loss of her child. During a business trip to Mexico, the woman meets a child in need of medical care and is inspired to smuggle her across the border for the medical care to save her life. The themes are relevant to our treatment of a country we share a border with, the plight of orphans and the poor. In this case one woman could make a difference for one child proving we all can. In the real story she ended up adopting the girl.

"I entered this competition because it highlights strong, audacious female leaders. Athena cares about women and social justice. I thought my script fit their goals and it might be a platform I could win in."

Betty and three other winners met with Lauren O'Connor Literary Development/Adaptation Executive for Amazon Original Movies, Features at Amazon Studios who will read their scripts with an eye toward production.

Among the other distinguished 2018 Athena honorees were documentary film maker Barbara Kopple (2007 WIFV Women of Vision Award recipient), director Amma Asante, comedian Bridget Evans, and filmmaker producer, J.J. Abrams.

Held at Barnard College and sponsored by the Artemis Rising Foundation among a host of other corporate and government sponsors, The Athena List screenplay competition is a part of the Athena Film Festival, a joint project of the Athena Center for Leadership Studies at Barnard and Women and Hollywood, a leading voice for women in the entertainment industry. In addition to the awards ceremony, the weekend featured workshops and panels on women in the industry and a schedule of films featuring strong female characters, and films written and directed by women.

## DAHLIAS: An Anthology in Four Chapters Premieres March 24

Award-winning filmmaker **Annika Young** will premiere her female-focused short film *DAHLIAS: An Anthology in Four Chapters* on Saturday, March 24 at **Steadfast Supply** (300 Tingley Street SE #140, Washington, DC, 20003). [RSVP here](#). The screening will be followed by a special panel discussion featuring the four women highlighted in the film. *DAHLIAS* follows a diverse collection of four local women who have been planted, watered and are growing full bloom in life's garden.

Young produced and shot the four films in locally, making *DAHLIAS* a kind of love letter to her compelling on-screen subjects as well as the nation's capital. The four women viewers will meet in the film are: Hafsa Siddiqi, who is a publicist by day with a deep passion for photography, is the subject of *Dahlia's* "A Thousand Words." In "Lost One," Na'Tasha Slade shares searing and raw emotion as she seeks to purge her heart after the loss of her father. Jamie Garcia, shape shifts onscreen into her true self during "The Main Act," artfully shot in a Metro car. And, in "Close Knit," we meet fashion designer Virginia Arrisueño whose deep Peruvian roots are woven quite literally into her clothing, using thread imported from her family's homeland.



Annika Young started AuhnReel Productions in 2010 following her tenure as a CNN producer where she conceived and produced her first documentary film, *DAUGHTERS OF LEGACY* featuring the daughters of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X,

Muhammad Ali, Sidney Poitier and Johnnie Cochran. She's lends her expertise as a producer, creative and production consultant to network and independent clients in developing and producing content for television. Young's climate refugee documentary film concept SHISMAREF IS MELTING won this year's Real Screen Pitch Summit and a development deal with National Geographic.

## Lesli Linka Glatter's Success Tips - Women's History Month Treat

From [A Special Afternoon with One of Today's Top Directors: Lesli Linka Glatter](#) blog by **Kathy Dismukes**

- Get baseline knowledge. Try out as many different roles as you can on a film production so you can appreciate everyone's perspective, level of effort, and problems that arise. This includes writing and taking an acting class or two.
- That said, if you're new to the industry, you must also figure out what area you want to be in, build skills in it, and stay focused on it.
- You may not be a choreographer, but what unique thing do you bring to a production?
- When preparing to direct a scene, think things through and be highly organized.
  - When blocking, use the space you're in and try thinking of everything involved as moving through that space. Storyboarding every single shot will help you develop this skill.
  - Storyboarding anything with action in it will help everyone else on set see clearly what you want to happen.
  - In production design, what's important to a director is what's interesting in the frame and how it advances the story.
  - Make sure you're open to the magic that can happen on a set. Serendipity can be very freeing.
- When you're watching a scene that isn't working, listen to your instincts. Don't shut them down.
- Don't be afraid to be simple.
- Be a storyteller. Pick up your phone and go shoot things. Practice using your phone to tell a story.
- One of Glatter's mentors, director George Miller, advised her to watch a lot of classic movies like TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE. He would ask her how she would shoot certain scenes. You can do this, too.
- Use social media to build community, raise your profile, and support other women media makers.
  - Use Twitter, and find and use hashtags like #FemaleFilmmakerFriday. Here's one of Glatter's Twitter posts using that hashtag: "It shouldn't be harder for our daughters to direct than for our sons, it should be an equal playing field. It's time that this is no longer an issue, the time is NOW!!!@SHO\_Homeland"
  - Include lots of behind-the-scenes material to build interest in your project.
- Hire women for as many roles as possible on your own productions.
- Women don't get many second chances. You're judged faster. Know your stuff, but admit when you don't know something, too. That shows confidence. Fear is the biggest killer of creativity.
- Be tenacious. You may hear a billion no's, but it only takes one yes.



WIFV is grateful for the annual support of these [companies](#) and our [corporate members](#).

Just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Women in Film & Video. Don't forget to add [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

## 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.



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