



# WIFV NEWS

## October 2018 Members in the News

Featuring Robin Phillips, Betty Sullivan, Monica Lee Bellais, Bonnie Rich, Heather Taylor, Dr. Sheila Brooks, Colin and Carla Sandy, Martha Karl, Kristin Harris, Bonnie Breuner, Call for Articles

### Phillips at Shakespeare Conference



**Robin Phillips**, CEO, Groundbreaker Films LLC will be presenting the final cut of her 93-minute documentary film, "O MISTRESS MINE: The Secrets, Disguises, Loves & Wives of the REAL Shake-speare!" at Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship's annual conference in Oakland, CA.

"Scholarship brushed with humor." - This meticulously-researched film is a delightful and witty exploration -and a visual feast -of why 'the tradesman from Stratford' could not have written the courtly works of "Shakespeare." Forgotten 400-year old clues hiding in plain sight helped solve this mystery. The film reveals a fascinating tale of the secrets and disguises of one nobleman whose name was lost for centuries - but whose literary genius defined the entire Elizabethan era.



### Bellais Elected to WGA-E Council

**Monica Lee Bellais**, screenwriter/producer elected to a Council seat for the Writers Guild of America, East.



Monica Lee Bellais and Beau Willimon 9/23 at Eaton Hotel in DC.

In September, she organized a packed event with WGA-E President, Beau Willimon, screenwriter for HOUSE OF CARDS and Hulu's new series THE FIRST, and screenwriter/ journalist Matt Bai, author of *All the Truth is Out: The Week Politics Went Tabloid*, which is about the failed campaign of American Senator Gary Hart. Matt discussed how his book was adapted

### Sullivan Shares Good News!



**Betty Sullivan** recently answered the Creative World Awards call for submissions because it is a solid, established competition with a reputation of "having the writer's interest at heart when it comes to industry promotion." And the results are....

"After winning the genre category for action/adventure for my feature SAVING ESPERANZA and being a finalist for my

original drama pilot BOURBON COUNTY, I got a check right away! A pile of emails flowed in giving me joyful gifts. Heather Waters, a co-founder of the competition, personally wrote to me. I even met her. She is a wealth of knowledge giving me insight into a strategy for my script. Prompting me to enter the Richmond Film Festival which is nearby and a definite attend. I started receiving a few writing assignments so feel like (cross fingers) I might (writer fear) be on my way.

I wrote SAVING ESPERANZA over a period of years with help from kind pros and friends in the industry. The script speaks to the border crisis between Mexico and the U.S. but especially is about the plight of children in Mexico who've been orphaned by the cartels and widespread poverty. I thought of what I wanted from telling a semi-autobiographical story and decided it would be worth it even if one person adopted or took in a foster child. Let me know if you do.

BOURBON COUNTY came to me during last year's Christmas dinner when my north and south of the Mason Dixon line diverse family had a political row. I wanted to depict a family with diverging values and beliefs. Once part of Virginia, Bourbon County distillery country seemed like the right place to set it.

Writing what you're passionate about is critical when writing an original script. It will show."

**LIFE IS RICH Fest Screening 10/19**

into a screenplay for the upcoming film **THE FRONT RUNNER**, and shared production stories. The film will be released in November.

Monica is the founder and creator of *Spotlight on Screenwriters*, which will celebrate its 5th year during the 40th Anniversary of the founding of WIFV. Monica's professional memberships include the PGA, WGA, SAG-AFTRA, National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences - Documentary Programming Peer Group, British Academy of Film and Television Arts, and The National Press Club.

## Taylor Inducted Into IFOF

**Heather Taylor** was honored as a 2018 inductee into the International Forest of Friendship (IFOF), in Atchison, Kansas during ceremonies in September. The Forest is a living, growing memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace. She was recognized for her work in preserving women's history.



Heather was sponsored into the International Forest of Friendship by Lynda Meeks and Laura Smith. Heather is the foremost authority on the First Women's National Air Derby, the nine-day air race in the summer of 1929 in which twenty female pilots, including Amelia Earhart, raced from Santa Monica, California, to Cleveland, Ohio. After fourteen years of intensive research, Heather wrote, directed, and produced the award-winning documentary **BREAKING THROUGH THE CLOUDS: The First Women's National Air Derby**.

The International Forest of Friendship was a gift to America on the Nation's 200th birthday (1976) from the City of Atchison (Amelia Earhart's birthplace) and the Ninety-Nines, the International Organization of Women Pilots. It is made up of trees representing all the 50 states and 35 countries around the world, including a "moon tree" grown from a seed taken to the moon on Apollo 14. Among the more than 1500 honorees are such internationally recognized flyers as Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, the Wright Brothers, Sally Ride, Eileen Collins, and Chuck Yeager. More information about the Forest, and points of contact are at [www.ifof.org](http://www.ifof.org)

## Martha Karl in VA Lottery Commercial



**LIFE IS RICH** has been selected for the Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival. In this real-life comedy, filmmaker and Jewish mom **Bonnie Rich** drags her 20-something daughters to a variety of rabbis and holiday celebrations, in an effort to get them to agree to raise her future grandchildren Jewish. **LIFE IS RICH** uses humor, family and food to address a timely social issue-how to make tradition and religious ritual personally meaningful. It will play with the short **WENDY'S SHABBAT** on Friday, October 19 at 10:30 am at the Angelika Film Center & Cafe at Mosaic. The screening will be followed by a Q & A with director, Bonnie Rich. [Tickets and more information here.](#)



## Multiple CRMSDC Recognitions



**Dr. Sheila Brooks**, and her company **SRB Communications**, won two top honors at the recent Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council's Annual Leaders and Legends Awards Ceremony - "Supplier of the Year" and "Top 100 MBE" in the Mid-Atlantic region. SRB Communications was nominated by Pepco Holdings, an Exelon company, one of its Fortune 100 corporate clients. Congrats Dr. Brooks and **SRB Communications!**

Also recognized were **Colin and Carla Sandy** as owners of **Sandy Audio Visual LLC** when the company was named a 2018 Top 100 MBE® winner. Colin, CEO, says, "I am honored and excited to be recognized and to be among such an outstanding group of awardees. I am grateful to our staff, clients, partners and family for their commitment to our success." Carla, CFO says "We are grateful for the recognition of our hard work and the continued support of all our clients. Our outstanding service and attention to detail speaks for itself." [Learn more here.](#)



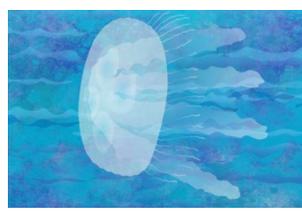
These prestigious awards recognize owners of minority business enterprises in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia who have demonstrated exceptional entrepreneurial accomplishments, a high level of professionalism, and have made substantial contributions to their community. Established in 2007, the Top 100 MBE Awards® ceremony welcomes nearly 1,000 attendees in celebration of the creativity and innovation of regional MBEs who are role models and inspire the entire community. The awards ceremony was held in late September.

## Facets Kids Streams Anim8Nature

**Kristin Harris Design** is pleased to announce that Facets Kids has made all of the studio's Anim8Nature documentary series available through their streaming service. Produced to

## Breuner Celebrates at OAN

**Bonnie Breuner** is getting ready to celebrate her one year anniversary with ONE AMERICA NEWS, a cable news network on Direct TV and Fios. She is a videographer and producer who has conducted live interviews in the Capitol and Senate buildings. In addition to interviewing members of Congress for stories related to the Mueller probe, North Korea relations, she provided live coverage on the Supreme Court confirmation process this year from the time the President made the nomination in June to the votes during the confirmation process. She also provided coverage for the *Capital Gazette* shooting in Annapolis last June.



inspire careful observation of the natural world and encourage children and families to become environmental stewards, Anim8Nature documentaries inform children about the facts of life science in a creative way.

The two series include six animated life cycles and nine shorts about nature in motion. Kristin believes the transformative power of art and the creative problem solving of science can help develop environmental stewards. Anim8Nature was the recipient of a WIFV Seed Fund grant.

Facets Kids is a leader in children's media. They empower kids to actively explore films specially selected to inspire them to become the creators of tomorrow. Their films expose kids to diverse viewpoints and ways of life, encouraging them to become open-minded global citizens. Facets has organized the Chicago Children's International Children's Film Festival since 1983.

Learn more about Kristin Harris Design at [KristinHarrisDesign.com](http://KristinHarrisDesign.com) and [Anim8Nature.com](http://Anim8Nature.com). Email Kristin at [Kristin@kristinharrisdesign.com](mailto:Kristin@kristinharrisdesign.com)

## Submit Member-centric 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 10th 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.



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