

## October 2020

### President's Message



I don't know about you, but my involvement in WIFV is providing me a much-needed shelter from the storm of bad news that is 2020. When I start feeling down about things, I inevitably find something WIFV-related that helps to cheer me up. Within the

WIFV community, there is so much going on – and it's all positive!

Case in point: our Open House celebration on September 10. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2020 Woman of Vision Award to our very own Melissa Houghton. Long-time WIFV members joined in, giving us a sense of the history behind the award. And at just the right moment, Melissa's daughter Charlotte handed her the award, much to Melissa's surprise and our collective joyful delight as we watched live on Zoom.

That was a big moment for sure. But elsewhere during the evening, there were many memorable moments. For example, during a breakout discussion, a filmmaker shared with us that she is busy most of the day homeschooling her kids. However, each day of the week, she sets aside time to further improve one specific thing about her craft. Something along the lines of: Mondays are for directing, Tuesdays are for producing; Wednesdays are for writing. I found her example very inspiring, and thought you all might as well.

In any event, these days WIFV is my happy place. If you too are finding yourself dragged down by the outside world, I encourage you to seek refuge within the WIFV community: watch a WIFV member's film, attend a WIFV event, and/or reach out to either me ([president@wifv.org](mailto:president@wifv.org)) or Melissa ([director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)) to find out how you can get more involved in all that is going on.

There's lots to do. The WIFV Board of Directors has five Committees (Website, Membership, Development, Programming, and Mentorship), which are all busy working on a variety of new initiatives: modernizing the WIFV website, developing programming to respond to specific requests by executive members for events targeted at their needs, developing materials to allow us to reach potential corporate sponsors, and

### In This Issue

1. Roundtable Roundup
2. COVID-19 Resource - Makeup Protocols
3. Submit YOUR News
4. WIFV Receives DCCAH Grant
5. Polish Your IMDb Profile - Oct 7
6. ScriptDC Continues - 8 Oct Workshops
7. One Woman, One Vote Virtual Film Festival Now Streaming
8. Wonder Women Behind the Lens - Oct 13
9. Online Happy Hours - Oct 1, 15 & 29
10. Online Coffees - Oct 6 & 20
11. Bellais Re-elected!
12. FILMS ACROSS BORDERS in October
13. PAPER CLIPS Takes Its Bracket
14. DCEFF is *City Paper* Best of...
15. Taymor Interview THE GLORIAS
16. Heroes of Science/Breakthrough Filmmakers
17. Call for Applications - WIFV Fiscal Sponsorship DUE Oct 22
18. New & Renewing Members
19. THANKS

### Roundtable Roundup

#### **Narrative Directors:** *Recent Indie Films*

October 5, 2020, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

This is an online program.

[RSVP here](#)

#### **Documentary:** *Doc Production During Pandemic: The Joys and the Oy's*

October 19, 2020, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

This is an online program in collaboration with Docs In Progress.

[RSVP here](#)

**Screenwriters:** Because of multiple ScriptDC workshops currently underway, Screenwriters Roundtable is on temporary hiatus.

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members. You must pre-register to receive login links for online programs.

creating a mentorship program for our members. All members are welcome to join any Committee – please reach out to Melissa or me and we'll connect you to the right person.

To ensure that WIFV remains top of mind at our local film offices, Executive Vice-President Sara Barger, Melissa, and myself recently met (virtually, of course) with representatives of the Maryland Film Office and the Virginia Film Office. We also plan to meet with the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment. The Board has been working on updating our Bylaws and formalizing our mission statement. And WIFV is increasingly active in groups such as WIFT-US (the umbrella group for Women in Film organizations across the country) as well as WIFTI (the umbrella group for Women in Film organizations world-wide).

WIFV's usual slate of high-caliber programming continues, with our annual ScriptDC conference in full swing, along with our Wednesday One programs and roundtable events. As always, if you find yourself in need of something to do, just check the listserv or WIFV calendar, there is something going on almost every night of the week.

Despite all that 2020 has been throwing at us, good things continue to happen at WIFV: New connections are being made, new projects are moving forward, talented individuals are being hired, important stories are being told, and our members continue to inspire, inform, and support each other. And for all its might, 2020 can't last forever. So please, hang in there, stay safe, keep creating, and take advantage of all that WIFV has to offer.

Until next month,

**Cathie Saadeh**

## COVID-19 Resources

Thanks to **Carolyn Marie** for collecting a **Best Practice Makeup Protocols**. **You can access them here.**

WIFV has been collecting (and suggesting) relief resources for freelancers, artists, and small businesses across the region. **Access them here.** We will update as new information becomes available.

## Submit Your News - We Want to Know and Celebrate!

The deadline to submit your information for the monthly Members in the News e-publication is the 10th of the month. Send your article (100 words or so) and a jpg-format photograph or link to your video project to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org). **You can see past issues here.**

Have an article for the monthly newsletter? Send your article (see guidelines above) to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org) by the 20th of the month.

## DCCAH Increases Support

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) board members have voted to authorize the distribution of over \$2 million of unallocated funds in the agency's FY 2020 budget as relief grants to DC-based artists and cultural organizations affected by COVID-19.

The funds will be distributed to 123 current organizational grantees of CAH as an additional 25% of the organization's FY20 grant amount. WIFV is a proud recipient of a FY20 general operating grant and these additional funds.

## Upcoming Events

### Polish Your IMDb Profile - October 7



Now that production is slowly starting to ramp up, it's a great time to polish your IMDb profile! **Joe Dzikiewicz** will show you the ins and outs of IMDb including claiming your profile, posting new projects, fixing incorrect credits, and more!

**Wednesday, October 7, 6:30 - 8:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)  
\$10 WIFV Members / \$20 Public

This is an online event. We will send you the link to join the webinar with your registration confirmation and a reminder the day before. **You must register** to receive the link.

## ScriptDC Continues!

We are so eager to bring filmmaking resources to this community

that we aren't waiting for the return to "normal." And really, how good was "normal" for you anyway? ScriptDC has always been about changing the field for this region's filmmakers by bringing information, resources, and connections that you can use to tell your stories.



So, we're deconstructing the weekend event into a series of 20+ workshops that will be presented across six months or so. Each month will have a theme and the workshops will feature subject-matter experts who are interested in nurturing your talent. More info and presenter bios on registration pages.

#### September Workshops - Screenwriting Basics

September 8 - **You Had Me at Page One** - Pilar Alessandra

September 15 - **The Dreaded 2nd Act & How To Tame It**- Dara Marks, PhD

September 22 - **Creating Memorable Characters** - Marilyn Atlas

September 29 - **How to Receive Feedback and Provide Revisions**- Laurie Scheer - [Register here](#)

#### October Writing Workshops - Writing for Television/Episodic Delivery

October 6 - **Writing for Television Panel** - Co-hosted by SeriesFest and featuring Charla Lauriston, Liz Keyeshian, Daheli Hall, and HaJ - [Register here](#)

October 13 - **Story or TV Pilot?** - Ellen Sandler - [Register here](#)

October 20 - **Hands-On TV Series "Bible"** - Ellen Sandler, Felicia Pride - [Register here](#)

October 27 - **Breaking Into the Writers' Room** - Lijiah Villalobos. Karyn Folan, Felicia Pride, and Paul Ruehl - [Register here](#)

#### October Documentary Workshops

October 8 - **Current State of Documentary Panel** -Deborah Riley Draper, Peter Hamilton, Dan Salerno, Nina Gilden Seavey - [Register here](#)

October 15 - **Business of Documentary Filmmaking** - Yi Chen, Deborah Riley Draper, Mike Garrity, Dawn Porter, Eden Wurmfield - [Register here](#)

October 22 - **Impact Producing** - Charlie Crocker, Andrea Meditch, Marga Varea -[Register here](#)

October 29 - **Distribution Models** - Mike Garrity, Peter Hamilton, Kate Pearson, Ann Zamudio -[Register here](#)

#### November - **Writing Features and Script One-on-Ones**

January - **Producing Workshops**

February - **It's Up to You!**

Workshop fees - \$15 WIFV Members & Students / \$30 Public; Baker's dozen discount available!

These are online events. You will be sent the login link with your registration confirmation email.

\*Speakers are subject to change.

## One Woman, One Vote Film Festival Comes to You



To celebrate the centennial of the 19th amendment winning women the vote and continue to bring women's voices front and center, the 2020 One Woman One Vote Festival (OWOV) and Women Make Movies (WMM) invite you to join us in a nationwide initiative -- the 2020 One Woman One Vote Film Festival, a [curated](#)

[collection of films](#) for you to [create your own online film event](#), and four online national screening events (RBG, COUNCILWOMAN, WONDER WOMEN, WITHOUT A WHISPER) to encourage, inspire and empower women everywhere to use their power for change. **The collection titles are available at no charge through November 3, 2020.**

For more information visit [2020owovfest.org](http://2020owovfest.org).

**Join us for a One Woman One Vote Film Festival National Event  
October 13, 2020 at 4 pm ET**

**WONDER WOMEN: Behind the Lens**

#GALSNGEAR founder **Amy DeLouise** brings together and leads a conversation with three top women in the field of visual effects and editing. How do they use visual effects to tell a story and give characters their special super powers? We'll also hear more about women working behind the lens for blockbuster Marvel, Star Wars, Disney, SciFi, fantasy films and series. This event is presented by the 2020 One Woman One Vote Film Festival in partnership with [#GALSNGEAR](#). [Register here](#)

GUEST PANELISTS:

**Maryann Brandon**, Editor/Producer

Credits: STAR WARS EPISODE IX - THE RISE OF SKYWALKER, STAR WARS EPISODE VII - THE FORCE AWAKENS, STAR TREK, HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON, KUNG FU PANDA 2, THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB

**Sheena Duggal**, Visual Effects Supervisor

Credits: THE HUNGER GAMES, VENOM, IRON MAN 3, DR. STRANGE, THOR: THE DARK WORLD, SPIDER-MAN 3

**Jen Kitching**, Visualization Supervisor

Credits: WONDER WOMAN, GAME THRONES S8, MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL, ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

[Sign up for this online event and get a link to screen the documentary](#)

## WONDER WOMEN! The Untold Story of American Superheroines

directed by Kristy Guevara-Flanagan (2012)

WONDER WOMEN! traces the fascinating birth, evolution and legacy of Wonder Woman and introduces audiences to a dynamic group of fictional and real-life superheroines fighting for positive role models for girls, both on screen and off. [Get link here](#)



For those of you who don't want to face a conversation in the morning, WIFV will be hosting Happy Hours online. They are a chance to see new faces and discuss what's on your mind! Collaborations have already been formed. These are online events. You will receive the login with your registration confirmation.

**Thursday, October 1**, 4:30-5:30 pm  
[RSVP here](#) Free to participate

**Thursday, October 15**, 4:30-5:30 pm  
[RSVP here](#)

**Thursday, October 29**, 4:30-5:30 pm  
[RSVP here](#)



The beverage will be in a cup at your house, but the conversation will be online! Board Members look forward to conversing with mediamakers to hear how you are nurturing your creative soul. These are online events. You will receive the login credentials with your registration confirmation.

**Tuesday, October 6**, 9:30 - 10:30 am  
[RSVP here](#) Free to participate

**Tuesday, October 20**, 9:30 - 10:30 am  
[RSVP here](#)

## News You Can Use

### Bellais Re-elected to WGA-E Council

WIFV Advisory Committee member, **Monica Lee Bellais** is re-elected to Council for the Writers Guild of America, East, AFL-CIO. [Read \*The Hollywood Reporter\* article here.](#)

Monica is a screenwriter/producer who bridges policymakers and filmmakers. She has worked for James Cameron's Lightstorm

Entertainment, Jeffrey Katzenberg at DreamWorks, Warner Bros. Records, Discovery Channel, Smithsonian Networks, PBS, and TeleProductions International. Monica has substantial production experience in Canada, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Monaco, Pakistan, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates. She's a member of the WGAE, PGA, SAG-AFTRA, NATAS - Sciences - Documentary Programming Peer Group, BAFTA, NYWIFT, WIFV, and The National Press Club.



## FILMS ACROSS BORDERS Begins in October Stories of Resilience and Hope



**Films Across Borders**, a showcase of critically acclaimed films, documentaries and shorts from around the world, launches virtually this fall. In its sixth year, the theme for 2020 focuses on *Stories of Resilience and Hope*. The film series is co-presented by American University in partnership with 19 embassies, cultural organizations, arts institutions, and environmental groups.

The 2020 series includes a diverse range of films – all free to the public and viewable on a variety of online platforms from October through December. As additional selections are made, presenting partners will include new films to those currently listed on the series website -- [FilmsAcrossBorders.org](https://FilmsAcrossBorders.org).

“This year’s theme of resilience and hope is especially timely given the challenges we face the world over. The series brings together inspiring stories of how humans and wildlife prevail and flourish against the odds,” said Nada Maalouf, Chief Advancement Officer, School of Communication at American University, who heads up the film series on behalf of AU.

*Films Across Borders: Stories of Resilience and Hope* kicks off with a discussion of the extraordinary documentary FOR SAMA produced by Emmy award-winning filmmakers Waad al-Kateab and Edward Watts. Through a visually enthralling love letter from a young mother to her daughter, the film tells the story of Waad al-Kateab’s life through five years of the uprising in Aleppo, Syria as she falls in love, gets married and gives birth to Sama, all while cataclysmic conflict rises around her.

Launched in 2014, *Films Across Borders* raises awareness about highly relevant themes by combining international films and panel discussions with filmmakers and special guests.

*Films Across Borders: Stories of Resilience and Hope* events are co-presented by the following organizations: [American University](#), [National Gallery of Art](#), [National Geographic](#), [Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital](#), [We Are Water Foundation](#), [The Nature Conservancy Pennsylvania/Delaware](#), [Anacostia Riverkeeper](#), [Embassy of the Argentine Republic](#), [Delegation of the European Union to the United States](#), [Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain](#), [Mexican Cultural](#)

Institute, Austrian Cultural Forum, Embassy of Sweden, Japan Information and Culture Center, Goethe-Institut Washington, Embassy of Switzerland, Immigration Film Fest, DC LaborFest, Women in Film and Video, and Vital Voices Global Partnership.

## PAPER CLIPS 2020 AJFF Playback Winner



The voting has ended and PAPER CLIPS won in the doc category for the Documentary Playback Award at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival. It was basically like a playoff bracket where films of different types (narratives, docs and shorts) were paired off against other films of their same type over a number of weeks, with a vote at the end of each week. The winner of each week was then moved ahead and

eventually the top vote-getters were paired off against each other for the final selection. Screening access was provided so that people who might not have seen the films or wanted to see them again could do so. These were all films that had been popular with the Atlanta Jewish film Festival, where PAPER CLIPS was selected audience favorite back in 2004 (the release year).

### PAPER CLIPS

Dir: Elliot Berlin, **Joe Fab** • USA • 2003 • 52 mins • English

In this inspiring story of Holocaust education, a rural Tennessee town undergoes a transformative experience as students seek to grasp the meaning of six million lives lost. In 1998, faculty and administrators at a middle school in Whitwell, Tennessee began a Holocaust studies class that would not only change their community, but spark a movement that gained international attention. [You can rent or buy the film on Amazon.](#)

## DCEFF Continues as DC's Best Film Festival

After some pandemic-related delays, the *Washington City Paper* has released their annual Best of D.C. results featuring the top businesses and organizations in the area - as voted on by its readers. **For the second year in a row, DCEFF was named D.C.'s Best Film Festival!**



Thank you to everyone who cast their vote for us. We plan on living up to this title again in the year ahead, offering the best virtual programming possible until it becomes safe to return to in-person screenings in the city we call home. [See all the Best Of recipients here.](#)

## Heroes of Science: Breakthrough Filmmakers Announced

TheWrap and the Breakthrough Prize Foundation announced the winners of the inaugural “**Heroes of Science: Breakthrough Filmmakers Challenge**” – a new competition created to promote and support the development of films dedicated exclusively to science and scientists. The announcement was made at **TheGrill 2020**, TheWrap’s annual business conference focused on the convergence between entertainment, media and technology.



(From top left clockwise): Grace McNally, Hussain Currimbhoy, Carrie McCarthy, Dana Turken, John Hibey, Cutter Hodlerliem, Molly Murphy and Thor Klein

Competitors submitted a proposal for a short film about a Breakthrough Prize laureate. Each candidate was then judged by a panel of experts including filmmakers, scientists and science communicators, based on the

proposal's engagement with the laureate and their work, its characterization, creativity, clarity, accuracy and vision, as well as the filmmaker's experience.

The six winners are:

- Cutter Hodierna and John Hibey (US)
- Dana Turken (US)
- Grace McNally (US)
- Hussain Currimbhoy (Sweden) and Carrie McCarthy (US)
- Molly Murphy (US)
- Thor Klein (Germany)

Each winner receives \$5,000 in prize-money, and has the opportunity to produce a short film with a \$25,000 budget. The films' subjects will be the new 2021 Breakthrough Prize laureates, whose names were announced two weeks ago. Thor Klein is paired with mathematician Martin Hairer; Molly Murphy with Steven Weinberg, winner of the Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics; Hussain Currimbhoy with biologist Dennis Lo and experimental physicists Eric Adelberger, Jens Gundlach and Blayne Heckel; Grace McNally with biochemist Richard Youle; Dana Turken with computational biologist David Baker; and Cutter Hodierna with molecular biologist Catherine Dulac.

## Call for Applications: WIFV Fiscal Sponsorship

The WIFV Board of Directors is pleased to offer a fiscal sponsorship program to support the film and media projects of its members. The WIFV Fiscal Sponsorship Program is a financial and legal system where our 501(c)(3) status provides limited financial and legal oversight for a project initiated independently by a filmmaker. That project must be non-commercial in nature, i.e., not produced solely for financial gain. Sponsored Projects are eligible to solicit and receive grants and tax-deductible contributions.

While many fiscal sponsorship programs exist for filmmakers, WIFV presents a known and trusted entity for its members. We further differentiate our program by offering a mentoring component with accomplished WIFV members, by providing access to the Executive Director and her knowledge of funding resources, and by bringing the power of our programming events and workshops to address key education needs. We look forward to the many successful film and media projects that WIFV will help usher into creation through our fiscal sponsorship program.

**The next application deadline is October 26, 2020.**  
**Instructions and necessary forms are available [here](#).**

## New & Renewing Members (Aug 25 - Sept 25, 2020)

Elizabeth McGraw Austin  
Peggy Aw  
Pierre Bagley  
Kristin Bohnhorst  
Nancy Breslin  
Rachel Choppin  
Emily Cohen  
Cheryl Crim  
Martin C. Dale  
Travis Edwards  
Joe Fab  
Irene Fanous  
Alan Field  
Karina Gardia  
Erica Ginsberg  
Jack Harris  
Piper Hendricks  
Steven Holloway  
Rebecca Howland  
Carletta Hurt

Mariana Alvarez Joyal  
Lauren Knapp  
LaTina Lewis  
Amanda Luthy  
Rachael Marcum  
Shahnaaz Mason  
Thomas Mason  
Gerard McGrade  
Lauren D. Menkes  
Louise Miller  
Ginger Moss  
Sarah Nelson  
Nathan Ochole  
Aileen O'Hearn  
John O'Neill  
Diana Owens  
Allison Parshall  
Kathryn Pasternak

Adielenah Perez  
Yolanda Powell  
Scout Pruski  
Melissa Rogers  
Christopher Root  
Jody Hassett Sanchez  
Diana Scott Shields  
Lisa Simmons  
Susan Branch Smith  
Lynn Stack  
James Stemple  
Maggie Burnette Stogner  
Tanya Thielke  
Dianela Urdaneta  
Christine Weber  
Mary Wright  
Marlene Yencho

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## About WIFV

Women in Film & Video supports media professionals by promoting equal opportunities, encouraging professional development, serving as an information network, and educating the public about women's creative and technical achievements. WIFV welcomes all genders, genres, and experience levels.

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