



# WIFV NEWS

## April 2016 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Featuring Susan Barocas, Julia Marie Myers, Gwen Tolbart, Cintia Cabib, Gabrielle Ewing, Gloria Chan, Tatiana Breslin, Jane Barbara, Oriana Oppice, Gus Soudah, Shoshanna Rosenbaum, Arlette Thomas-Fletcher, Nasreen Alkhateeb, Flowstate Films, Call for Members in the News Articles, Call for Awards Info!

### Barocas: It's All About Film, Food & Fun



**Susan Barocas** enjoys leading a double life professionally. On the film side, she is working with **Filmfest DC (April 14-24)** to do outreach for *Justice Matters* and *Lunafest* films as part of the festival's Impact Project. (WIFV is a Community Partner on several of the films.) Again this year, Barocas will chair the Filmfest DC Circle Award jury. As part of her ongoing work with varied film festivals, she helped review

programs for this year's Annapolis Film Festival and led some of the post-film discussions. In February, she led a filmmaker discussion at the Library of Congress in conjunction with the Washington Jewish Film Festival. In tandem with director Yael Luttwak, Barocas is co-producing a documentary called *NEW AMERICAN GIRLS*. The film follows a group of immigrant and non-immigrant girls in a Maine high school as they come together once a week to learn about healthy eating, Hip Hop, each other and themselves. Barocas is equally devoted to the world of food. In addition to writing and teaching about food, she also caters and has served as guest chef for the White House Seders for the past two years. Barocas has made several radio and TV appearances, talking about and demonstrating such iconic dishes as homemade hummus and matzah ball soup plus more innovative foods, including vegan recipes. Last month, she says, "I really enjoyed bringing both of my professional worlds together by serving as a panelist for a workshop on video for culinary professionals at the 10th Women in Gastronomy conference, sponsored by Les Dames d'Escoffier." To learn more about her work in both the film and food worlds, [email Susan here](#).

### Myers Directing Civil War Drama, **UNION**



Award-winning filmmaker and director, **Julia Marie Myers**, explores a range of societal and philosophical issues in her films, amplifying the voices of underrepresented people, cultures, and experiences. "My past work," she says, "has delved into the cyclical nature of domestic abuse, broken some misconceptions about disability, and examined the beautiful but manipulative effects of music on emotion." Myers

currently works as a post-producer and editor at Discovery Communications. Her current film, *UNION*, set in the American Civil War, deals with women's rights, disability, and the impact of war on family. It tells the story of a young woman surgeon in the Union Army who visits home for Christmas with an unexpected companion: a soldier whose arm she amputated. *Union* features a strong woman protagonist and is written, directed, filmed, and largely coordinated by women. The film also features several Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity Association actors with disabilities as well as crew members with disabilities. "*UNION*," says Myers, "promotes the idea that women and people with disabilities are capable and deserve inclusion and equality in all areas of society." For more on *UNION*, [visit the campaign website](#).

Visit Julia's website [here](#).

## Tolbart Recognized for Community Service

WTTG FOX5 DC Weather Anchor/ Reporter, **Gwen Tolbart**, received a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Obama for Community Service ([see it here](#)). Most recently, Gwen spent 10 years of dedicated time volunteering for the non-profit "Our House" helping to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged/at-risk male youth by setting up programs, activities, mentoring them, and giving them new opportunities. She coordinated fundraisers to build a new dorm, and got Our House to the first round in CNN Hero Award. Send your congratulations to Gwen [here](#).



Gwen's lesson? "It doesn't take much to impact a life, bring a smile to someone or to be compassionate for an animal, the environment or a cause of any kind that is important to you. Giving back is important. It feels great to know you have made a contribution to making a difference in this world in some way. All you have to do is pick your lane. The "give back highway" has room for everyone with stops for every type of need & cause!"

## Ewing's A HEARTH OF OUR OWN at Festivals



Meet **Gabrielle Ewing**, new to WIFV. Her short documentary, *A HEARTH OF OUR OWN*, has screened at the Chicago Irish Film Festival, the Irish Reels Seattle Film Festival, and the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival in March. At the Chicago event, she won the Honorable Mention Audience Award. *A HEARTH OF OUR OWN* tells the story of Jacob, an undocumented Irish immigrant who was forced out of

his home country after the 2008 financial crisis. He is one of the estimated 50,000 undocumented Irish living in the US. With dreams of opening his own bar hanging in the balance, Jacob must find an American girl to marry--for papers instead of love. One [review](#) notes, "The documentary [...] is highly informative and eye opening. It offers emotional glimpses into Irish life and culture and hard facts about immigration, all while humanizing the plight of illegal immigrants through compassionately telling Jacob's story." Ewing has submitted her film to several more festivals but ultimately hopes to get it distributed. To learn more, check out [Ewing's Facebook page](#) or follow her on [Twitter](#).

## Cabib Premieres LABYRINTH JOURNEYS

LABYRINTH JOURNEYS, filmmaker **Cintia Cabib**'s new documentary, will premiere at Washington National Cathedral on Tuesday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the *Cathedral Crossroads* program. The film presents the personal stories of individuals who walk the labyrinth at seven locations in the DC metropolitan area: Washington National Cathedral, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed, the School for Tomorrow, the American Psychological Association's green roof, a neighborhood garden, and MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Adults, teenagers and children describe how they use this ancient path as a tool for healing, rehabilitation, meditation, stress reduction, spiritual awareness and playful exploration.



The free screening on May 31 will be held at the Charles A. Perry Auditorium and will include a post-film discussion with Cintia Cabib. Between 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the Cathedral's monthly labyrinth walk accompanied by a harpist. For more information about LABYRINTH JOURNEYS, visit [www.labyrinthjourneysfilm.com](http://www.labyrinthjourneysfilm.com).

## Chan Launching *ImpostHER*



After working for a documentary nonprofit in China for two years, **Gloria Chan** became a PA, grip, and camera assistant in the DC Metro area, working on feature films, shows, and commercials. "While in China," Chan says, "we produced a feature length documentary called *GLOBAL CIVICS*, based on a non-fiction book by Hakan Altınay, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution." The team

was also heavily involved in participatory documentary activities. "We taught local farmers how to document their own lives using film and photography," she explains. "It was a challenge linguistically and creatively. There are few non-profits in China that aren't involved in humanitarian activities so we faced a large amount of pressure from the government to avoid 'publicizing' the lives of the average rural farmer." About a year ago, Chan started working full-time at [Squad 47 Inc.](#), where she learned how to operate the Phantom Flex4K camera and Milo Motion Control rig. Recently, Chan and her partner, Regina Lam, are producing a series of online interviews called *ImpostHER*, about the difficulties women face in the tech industry. Look for *ImpostHER.com* to be launched this year! For more information, email Chan [here](#).

## And the Doll Goes to...

Thanks to an anonymous donor we had an Ava DuVernay limited edition doll by Mattel to use as thank you for one lucky contributor to the annual 31 Women in 31 Days fundraising campaign. All contributions benefited the WIFV Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers and the 2016 application round is now open ([more info here](#)).



The winner of the Ava DuVernay doll is **Tatiana Breslin**.

## Soudah Shooting ROLLING OUT in Baltimore



**Gus Soudah**, an experienced director of photography, has shot dozens of digital media projects, from indie films to documentaries and music videos. He has traveled the world, filming for a variety of production companies, including Vice TV, People's Television,

and DC Visionaries. His overarching goal has always been "to craft striking images that tell of a deeper, complex narrative." Recently, Soudah began shooting and co-producing a feature documentary about a prison reentry program. ROLLING OUT follows a cheeky bakery owner encouraging ex-cons to swap dope deals for puff pastries and hone their entrepreneurial spirit. Soudah also just completed shooting the feature documentary, VICTORIOUS: WOMEN OF THE GRIDIRON, about the 2015 Women's Football Alliance National Champions-better known as the DC Divas. His most recent indie film, DINNER WITH THE ALCHEMIST, is a period piece set in New Orleans, featuring Dionne Audain, Tamara Johnson and Dan Istrate. This supernatural tale unravels a spider web of lives that come clashing together as Old New Orleans is plagued by a series of mysterious deaths. In his spare time, Soudah mentors newcomers to the film and television industry in production basics and collaborates with colleagues and peers in the screenwriting writing process. [Email him here](#) or call him at 202-577-6169.

## Barbara & Oppice Sizzle with LOBSTER

**Jane Barbara** and **Oriana Oppice's** award-winning comedy short, LOBSTER FRA DIAVOLO, has gotten into 18 film festivals since first appearing at Cannes last year. The film, written and produced by Barbara, was directed by Oppice, who also has the starring role. It has won several awards, including Best Comedy, Best Editing and Best Screen Fight. Oppice continues to be its roving "ambassador." In addition to attending Cannes last year, where LOBSTER had its world premiere at the *Court Metrage* Short Film Corner, she attended the Sonoma International Film Festival in March and will travel to Rome in June to represent the film. Oppice also directed and stars in WIFV-DC's 2015 48 Hour Project short, FOR THE LOVE OF PETE, which was co-produced by Jane Barbara and **Faith DeVeaux**. The short was voted Audience Favorite and a finalist at 2015's 48 Hour Project Screening. Both LOBSTER and FOR THE LOVE OF PETE will be screened on June 10 at the Laugh or Die Comedy Fest in Peoria, Illinois. The intrepid team of Barbara and Oppice is currently working on a feature length comedy, THE SUNSHINE GIRLS. For more information, visit Barbara's site, [Testa Dura Media](#) or Oppice's site, [Trinacria Pictures](#).



## GOBLIN BABY Adds Laurels



**Shoshanna Rosenbaum** is pleased to announce that THE GOBLIN BABY won 3 Indie Capitol Awards: Best Narrative Short, Best Visual Effects and

Best Sound Design! Read a recent interview with Shoshanna [here](#).

## THE LONESOME TRAIL Leads to CineFest

THE LONESOME TRAIL Trailer has been OFFICIALLY SELECTED to Los Angeles CineFest Online Monthly Competition. Producer/director **Arlette Thomas-Fletcher** truly wants it to be selected for Best Audience Competition so please vote share and ask friends and family to vote for us until April 20, 2016. [VOTE here!](#) Also go to [The Lonesome Trail Facebook page](#) and show your support.

## NASA Cinematographer of the Year Award Presented to Alkhateeb

NASA will award Cinematographer of the Year Award to Transmedia Producer **Nasreen Alkhateeb** at the NAB conference in Las Vegas, for her film, THE HELHEIM EXPERIENCE.



Photo Courtesy of Nasreen Alkhateeb\_GSFC

Last year, when documenting Operation Icebridge inside the hull of NASA's C-130, Nasreen captured the arctic field campaign during flights over land ice, sea ice, and glaciers. The airborne campaign flies over the Arctic and Antarctic every year measuring changes in the ice with instruments including radar and lasers. THE HELHEIM EXPERIENCE is a birds-eye view of the expanse of Greenland's mountainous region above the gap between Helheim Glacier and Kangerlussuaq. You can see videos from the 2015 research year [here](#).

The film was also featured at this year's FilmGate Interactive Conference where Nasreen built an interactive installation to allow audiences to immerse themselves within Greenland's vast landscapes.

## Flowstate Films Launches as All-Women Owned Production Company

Flowstate Films, an all-women owned production company based in Washington, DC launches in mid-April. At the helm of Flowstate Films are **Kiley Kraskouskas**, **Leola Calzolari-Stewart** and **Rachell Shapiro** whose films have been individually and collectively featured in NPR, *The Washington Post*, Pitchfork Media, *On Tap* and *Bethesda Magazine*, and have received film festival accolades from around the globe. Kraskouskas, Calzolari-Stewart and Shapiro are well known for mission-driven films like, THE LAST SONG BEFORE THE WAR, DEAL WAL-MART, and FROM HELL TO HERE. Flowstate Films will remain committed to creating content for ethical businesses, and authentic and impactful films geared toward socially conscious issues.



The first project in the works for Flowstate Films is BLACK DIPLOMACY, a documentary that explores the overlooked history and struggle of unsung black diplomats in the post World War II era. Emmy winner and Academy Award nominee, Sam Pollard, has signed on as executive producer of BLACK DIPLOMACY. Pollard's previous credits for editing and producing include several Spike Lee films (WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE, 4 LITTLE GIRLS, JUNGLE FEVER, CLOCKERS) as well as several successful television documentaries.

"A few months ago Leola Calzolari-Stewart reached out to me about becoming involved in this documentary," says Pollard. "I had never considered this story but when she sent me the treatment I was intrigued. After a few conversations and reading more about the US black diplomats, I knew this was clearly a film that had to be made. I am glad to become a part of the team. This film is a worthwhile endeavor."

Besides full-length, independent documentaries, Flowstate Films will also be creating branded, client-based content. The three principals have recently worked with a diverse array of organizations including, The George Washington University, BAE Systems, and Big Picture Media, producing films and video geared toward advertising elements.

"Although we are a new company, we have over 30 years of experience combined," says Kraskouskas. All three co-founders met and worked together a decade ago at a different production company. They quickly bonded over their shared goals of making independent films and dreams of one day starting their own company. Over the next ten years they worked at different places while still finding ways to collaborate. When the opportunity of starting their own company recently presented itself, they seized it. "During those ten years we developed our own strengths in producing, editing and business development," says Calzolari-Stewart. "Flowstate combines our complimentary skill-sets and our passion for strong storytelling, cinematic aesthetics and collaboration built on respect and professionalism," says Shapiro.

The name of the company came to the three co-founders while discussing their love of finding a deep creative space while working, a feeling best described as a 'flow state.' "We realized immediately that the term defined the way we strive in our creative work and our lives," says Kraskouskas. "With every client and every project we will work to cultivate this feeling to ensure every story flows." You can learn more about their company [here](#).

## 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)



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

## 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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