



# WIFV NEWS

## March 2017 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Featuring Suzanne Brindamour, Shoshana Rosenbaum, Robin Noonan-Price, Martha Karl, Rinny Wilson, Kathi Overton, Keri Williams, Alison Bauer, Kim Tuvin, Trystin Kier, Giovanna Chesler, Lisa Thrasher, Cheryl Ottenritter, Irem Dogancali, E. Samantha Cheng, Elizabeth McGraw-Austin, Cheryl Franceschi, Rosemary Reed, Lauren Cardillo, Bonnie Nelson-Schwartz, Donna Woolf, Call for Members in the News Articles, Call for Awards Info!



### Brindamour Producing **ANACOSTIA DELTA**

Producer and composer **Suzanne Brindamour** is currently producing the film **ANACOSTIA DELTA: HOME OF THE WORLD'S GREAT UNKNOWN GUITARISTS**. Highlighted in the Arts section of the *Washington Post* on February 19, the documentary recently screened as a work-in-progress to a sold-out crowd at AMP by Strathmore.

**ANACOSTIA DELTA** explores the musical legacy of Danny Gatton and other influential guitar players, and a music scene unique to DC - an electric guitar-driven, genre-defying scene where improvisation is expected and virtuosity is the norm-that he called the "Anacostia Delta." Suzanne is also one of the film's editors. "I'm excited to help shine a light on these incredible musicians to come out of DC," she notes, "and on the scene that lives on today. DC deserves to be known not just as a political town, but as a music town." Previously, Suzanne was an associate producer and editor for the documentary, **PICTURES FROM A HIROSHIMA SCHOOLYARD**, a story of peace and reconciliation now being distributed nationwide for classroom use. Her broad experience in television and radio production includes composing musical scores, most recently for the award-winning PBS documentary, **BARNSTORMING**. Suzanne's music has been heard on National Geographic television, the CW and MTV. Look for this singer/songwriter's fourth CD of original songs to

### Rosenbaum Directing **HIDE & SEEK**



Writer and director **Shoshana Rosenbaum** has been busy assembling her cast and crew for her short film, **HIDE & SEEK**. With a crew comprised of women in most key roles,

she is breaking the Hollywood mold. WIFV members joining her on this project include: **Robin Noonan-Price**, producer; **Martha Karl**, casting director; **Rinny Wilson**, DP; **Kathi Overton**, sound; **Keri Williams**, 1st AC, **Alison Bauer** and **Kim Tuvin**, PAs. **Trystin Kier**'s talents will be on display as production designer. (To follow their crowdfunding campaign, or to learn more and watch the pitch video, [click here](#). "So far, Shoshana says, "over 90 percent of contributions have come from women!"

With her previous short film, **THE GOBLIN BABY**, Shoshana traveled to many festivals, including the female-director-focused Citizen Jane (Columbia, MO) and Stranger With My Face (Hobart, Australia.)

come out this Fall. For more information, visit Suzanne's [website](#) or [email her here](#).

### Director Chesler Screens JAVA

WIFV members **Giovanna Chesler**, **Lisa Thrasher**, **Cheryl Ottenritter**, and **Irem Dogancali** successfully collaborated on a new short fiction film, JAVA, which tells the story of an artist and her obsession with an addict. Featuring Drae Campbell and



Java Trailer

Rebecca Wahls, the film premiered in competition at the Richmond International Film Festival in March and will continue its festival run throughout 2017. Giovanna wrote and directed the film and Lisa Thrasher produced; Cheryl Ottenritter at Ott House Audio worked as re-recording mixer and Irem Dogancali served as sound editor. Lisa and Giovanna are working on moving JAVA forward as a feature. For more information on the film, its trailer, and the story of its production in George Mason University's Film Lab, [click here](#).

### McGraw-Austin Producing Animated Videos



"It's important to me that my values are aligned with the video work I do," said **Elizabeth McGraw-Austin**, a longtime WIFV member who has been active in the DC/ Baltimore documentary film festival scene and the music scene since the 1990's. While producing for the The Fairfax Channel, NAHB and PGCC, Elizabeth was also central to

the production of **AMERICAN DRIVE-IN**, **MOLE IN THE GROUND**, **ONE MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE**, and her master's thesis film for JHU, **REVEALED VISIONS**. Now living in Baltimore, Elizabeth is a producer at the international NGO, Catholic Relief Services. A key project is producing a series of animated videos that show how CRS's programs and partnerships work to support children's health, fight human trafficking, maintain safety

As a screenwriter, she attended Stowe Story Labs last fall, and will be a part of their spring retreat in May. Shoshana's feature script, **THE GOBLIN CHILD**, was named to the **2017 Bitch List**, an annual industry list of unproduced Bechdel-Test-passing screenplays.

### Noonan-Price Producing MEET THE AUTHOR

In addition to her work on **HIDE & SEEK** (see above), **Robin Noonan-Price** is an Emmy nominated producer, writer and editor for Fairfax County Public Schools. Among the various media



projects she creates for FCPS, Robin's passion is producing **MEET THE AUTHOR (MTA)**, a live streamed program that gives students direct access to authors who share their stories. MTA has a local, national and international audience. Outside of work, Robin co-leads WIFV's Narrative Director's Roundtable on the first Monday of each month. As a WIFV Board member, Robin is working with producer **Julie Allen**, to produce WIFV's Kids World Film Festival. The undaunted Robin is also about to launch her newest venture, Robin's Nest Productions. For more information, [email Robin here](#).

### Cheng Documents Asian American Contributions



**E. Samantha Cheng** of **Heritage Series, LLC**, is an award-winning writer, producer and director of television and documentary programs for broadcast and education distribution, and of

public service campaigns for broadcast and the Internet. Her recent broadcast program is **HONOR AND DUTY: THE**

for vulnerable populations and strengthen the capacities and resilience of CRS beneficiaries.

"We use video, web and social media to show the work we're doing around the world," she says. "We're currently exploring the use of 360 degree VR to create immersive encounters with our beneficiaries at home, at work and in school," she notes. Other CRS videos range from character-driven mini-docs, to meditations on aspects of the Catholic faith, to conference opener videos and grant application support. [You can see some of her work here.](#)

### DC's PANORAMA from Double R

If you're from Washington, DC or have been here awhile you'll remember a program on WTTG-TV (now FOX, Channel 5) called PANORAMA, which in 1987 was our nation's longest-running talk show. Then it was cancelled to the despair of the community and the *Washington Post*, which bemoaned the programs' demise in an editorial.



Double R Productions is attempting to bring the program back as DC's PANORAMA, giving a voice to those who don't get a vote on the Hill. **Rosemary Reed** and the Double R team shot our first pilot programs at UDC-TV, with host Maggie Linton of the *The Maggie Linton Show*, a two-hour weekday talk show on Sirius XM Urban View Channel 126.

Stay tuned to see DC'S PANORAMA program on UDC-TV and all over social media. See our Twitter account [@DCPanorama](#) and send us your ideas for this new program. Here's our production team.

See our [promo](#) and [behind the scenes videos](#) to get the full picture of our first two pilots of DC's PANORAMA. Now all Double R needs is sponsorship dollars to keep the program going for a year, intended as a weekly show, serving all of metro-DC.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA CHINESE, a three-part documentary series, that recently aired on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. She is currently working on three projects relating to Asian American history. Samantha is producing 2017 APA Legacy, a two-time Gold Peer award-winning and Emmy-nominated public service campaign; creating a short film documenting the contribution of Asian Americans to the US Armed Services from the Civil War to current conflicts; and co-authoring a piece of legislation for Congress and leading the advocacy efforts to honor and recognize the contributions and accomplishments of Chinese American WWII Veterans for the 115th Congress. To learn more about Samantha's projects, [click here](#).

### Franceschi Receives Conservancy Award

**Cheryle Franceschi** received a Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards MEL Award during the bi-annual state-wide meeting on March 4, 2017 at Arundel Community College in Arundel Mills, MD. The MEL Award, created in memory of former long-time Association President Mel Noland, is presented to Forestry Board members "who have exhibited outstanding leadership and volunteer commitment to the mission of their local Forestry Board".

Only five recipients of the MEL Award are selected each year from a pool of nominees submitted from



Jim Bardsley, President  
MAFCDB, Franceschi  
Credit: Donna Davis

from counties across the state. Franceschi, from Eldersburg, MD, is the Vice-chairman and communications specialist for the Carroll County Forestry Board. She directed the filming of the Annual Carroll County Forestry Board Winter Educational Workshop (aired on Carroll Access Channel). She produced a [public service video](#) to promote the Forestry Board sponsored Natural Resources Careers

Camp, an environmental careers week for Maryland high school students. Information about the Maryland Forestry Boards and the Natural Resources Careers Camp can be found [here](#).

Franceschi is the writer and producer of MR. BEASLEY'S FOREST, a documentary about Maryland's first State Forester and MR. BEASLEY'S BIG TREE PROGRAM, a video about Maryland's significant contributions to the development of the National Arbor Day Foundation Big Tree Program.

## Salute to our Foremothers - The WIFV Q&A



For the next several months, we will be featuring interviews with the women who founded and nurtured Women in Film & Video from the beginning to today! It is quite astounding for a professional development nonprofit to celebrate a 40th Anniversary (ours will begin in 2019) and even more astounding to have so many of its founders and leaders remaining actively involved with the organization. We are honored by their support and nourished by their expertise and enthusiasm. Thanks to **Flo Dwek** for this great idea!

### Lauren Cardillo

**How long have you been a WIFV member, and why did you join WIFV, all those years ago?**

I have lost track of how long I have been in WIFV. Suffice to say it was after the last Ice Age. It was the early 1990s, and I was looking for like minded women, having just moved here from Los Angeles. If memory serves me right, we had about 250 to 300 members.

**What were you doing then, and what are you doing today?**

I relocated here to be a producer at CNN Special Assignment, a documentary and investigative unit started by Ted Turner, and my then-boss, Pam Hill. Since then, I have been a senior producer at National Geographic and a freelance producer and writer for a myriad of channels and clients. Today, I still produce award-winning magazine segments and documentaries; I write scripts and direct ads. And, I'm also working on two indie docs, shooting them myself...much like in the old days in film school.



**What are some of the most beneficial things about your membership with WIFV?**

The best thing about WIFV is -- hands down -- the people and connections. I made so many great friends during those early years. And most of us are still at it! The networking has been amazing, too. My second staff job here, Senior Producer at Nat Geo Explorer, came through WIFV contacts. Probably half of my gigs since then have come through the group, too.

**What advice do you have for emerging filmmakers?**

Meet everyone you can, have an endless amount of energy, and never say no to an opportunity. (And also, black clothes never go out of style!)



### **Anything else you would like to share?**

I ended up serving as Treasurer on the WIFV board for several years. One time, our president, Amy DeLouise, had this idea of putting on an annual event to honor outstanding women in our business. It would eventually morph into today's Women of Vision Awards. That first affair was a dinner at the Mayflower Hotel, and we all wondered if we could pull it off on budget, and on time. We did!

## **Bonnie Nelson-Schwartz**



### **How long have you been a WIFV member, and why did you join WIFV, all those years ago?**

I joined WIFV back in 1980 or 1981, when we were still meeting in living rooms and sharing a communal soup pot. Although my major focus was theatre, and I had just founded the Helen Hayes Awards, I was pulled in by a friend and WIFV member who said they needed another board member, and 'for goodness sake, didn't I want to support women?' Despite our humble surroundings, it was an exciting time of building the organization -- premiering the first Women Make Movies film festivals and linking to the global movement of WIFV chapters.

### **What were you doing then, and what are you doing today?**

I am so proud to have served as the WIFV President from 1984 -1985. It was a time when I was still producing for the Broadway stage and shuttling back and forth between offices in NYC and my home in DC. It was a balancing act that allowed me to bring in star power and major financing for the Women Make Movies V Festival I produced at the John F. Kennedy Center the following year. We partnered with AFI, shared an office with George Stevens, Jr., were feted by *USA Today* and others, and made a huge impact bringing women filmmakers to the forefront of the public consciousness in DC and nationwide. [Take a look at this highly entertaining review.](#)

In 2000, I had the honor of being a Woman of Vision, something I'll never forget. I shared the podium that year with GwenIfill, Tipper Gore, Roseanne Barr, Judith McHale, and Wendy Malick! I had just produced the Closing Ceremonies for Barcelona and the Olympic Woman Multi-Media Exhibition for the Atlanta Olympic Games, celebrating women's achievements. In that spirit, I hired another WIFV colleague, Michal Carr, to produce the videos for the exhibition -- a testament to the networking and collegiality that WIFV offers its members

Today, I continue to produce theatre, television and film. My film and virtual reality project, TRAVELING WHILE BLACK, just premiered at the 2016 New York Film Festival, and I am producing a concert performance of the play, *Galileo's Torch*, at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre, which will tour festivals in Italy. In partnership with my WIFV colleague, Ruth Pollak (who is a pioneer in her own right), I am also producing THE POWER OF 7, a documentary that tells the story of seven women from seven countries who have overcome abuse and disempowerment.

I also serve on the WIFV Advisory Board and am honored to be a member of the Legacy Circle. Inspired by Ruth Pollak and her iconic film, ONE WOMAN, ONE VOTE, I am currently planning the One Woman, One Vote Film Event and Festival in 2020 (with the Advisory/Legacy members) to celebrate the Centennial year of achieving the vote for women!

### **What are some of the most beneficial things about your membership with WIFV?**

Continued networking and sharing with members, learning from younger members and feeling great pride at seeing the organization continue to grow and expand in innovative and exciting ways.

### **What advice do you have for emerging filmmakers?**

If you have a great idea, continue to pursue it -- no matter what others may say. Network ferociously! Find colleagues who share your passion and commitment and make it happen.

**Anything else you would care to share?**

One of my most important contributions followed the death of a beloved friend and colleague, Randy Goldman. Randy's career was dedicated to fighting for women's causes. We took up her spear when she fell and created the Randy Goldman Scholarship to allow women at mid-career crossroads to follow their dreams. To date, WIFV has awarded 15 of those coveted scholarships!

## Donna Woolf

**How long have you been a WIFV member, and why did you join WIFV, all those years ago?**

I joined WIFV in the mid-80s. It was the only organization in DC that was actively devoted to helping women filmmakers network. I was overseas for 6 years after joining the State Department. I rejoined WIFV's Advisory Committee last year.

**What were you doing then, and what are you doing today?**

I was producing news for the US Information Agency. Today, I am a retired Foreign Service officer working as a contractor on a major software data program, and I serve on the board of DC's Humanities Council.



**What are some of the most beneficial things about your membership with WIFV?**

Staying abreast of the many film activities taking place in this area. I marvel at how much the community of women filmmakers has grown since the mid-1980s!

**What advice do you have for emerging filmmakers?**

Learn your craft and keep up with new technologies. Equally important, if you are interested in documentaries, choose an issue you are passionate about and learn as much about that subject as you can.

**Anything else you would care to share?**

As a WIFV Board member, I organized a seminar on the art of making historical documentaries with the great Charles Guggenheim, who showed excerpts and shared stories about the making of his Oscar-winning documentaries. I share this story to suggest that Instead of a smorgasbord of programs, we consider developing the skills of our membership to address some of the seminal issues of the day.

## 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)

**Thank you!**

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!**



We value your your reviews throughout the year. 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.](#)



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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