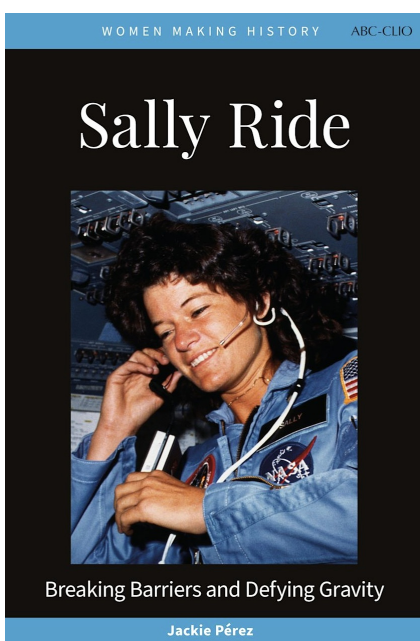


WIFV People in the News - April 2025

Jackie Perez, Mel Howerton, Jay Schlossberg, MacKenzie Galloway, Cheryle Franceschi, Amita Sarin, Jacquie Greff, Suzanne Brindamour, Frances Kramer, Amy Johanson, Ben Howard, Walter Ware, Women of Vision Committee, Volunteers, Sponsors - oh my!



Perez Book Published

Jackie Perez's first book is out in hardback print and ebook via Bloomsbury publishing. In "**Sally Ride: Breaking Barriers and Defying Gravity**," Jackie chronicles the life of Astronaut Sally Ride, the first US woman in space, while contextualizing her history-making flight and distinguished career against the systemic obstacles of her time. This biography is part of the Women Making History educational series. Jackie is thrilled to share Ride's legacy with this book when it's more important than ever to lift up the stories of pioneering women. Representation matters! [Order your copy of the book here.](#)

Jackie is a 2024 Documentary Development Fellow.

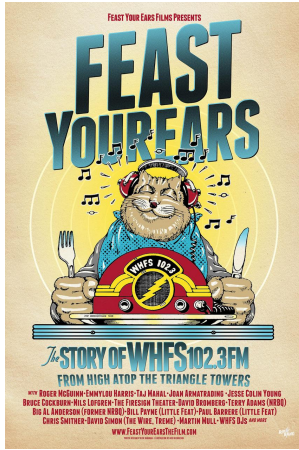
MISS PATIENT in Festival

Melissa Howerton has another short going on the film festival circuit! MISS PATIENT is a 1st *Official Selection* for the 2025 Seven Cities Showcase, Hampton Roads, VA, and screening on April 13.

With a toothache and afraid of the dentist, Harper goes in for a root canal with her supportive boyfriend by her side. While under, she plays out her fantasy of their future. As she comes to, a newfound perspective of what the future holds is revealed. Written by Kendra Louka and Produced/Directed by Melissa Howerton MISS PATIENT was made for the 2024 Richmond 48 Hour Project.



This is Howerton's second short film as director. Her first one was THE POCKET for Richmond's 48 in 2022. THE POCKET made it into the top 10. MISS PATIENT is Howerton's fifth 48 Hour Film Project.



FEAST YOUR EARS at Gaithersburg's First Film Fest!

On April 27th, FEAST YOUR EARS will be the closing film for this first annual film festival at 2:15pm in Gaithersburg, MD at the Kentland Arts Barn. Q&A with film's director **Jay Schlossberg**, Editor/Co-Producer Dick Bangham & some of the legendary 'HFS deejays post screening. This will be followed by wine & cheese with other festival filmmakers. Limited tickets available. [Get yours here.](#)

Galloway's Casting Net

MacKenzie Galloway has been hard at work shaping the future of film through her work in casting! She recently completed casting for NO MORE MEN in Washington, DC, and WHATEVER MAKES US HAPPY in Baltimore, MD, while also sourcing cast and crew for FATAL FURY and a Survival Media Agency film in Boston, MA. As the curator and director of the Afrofuturist Femmes Film Festival, MacKenzie is deeply connected to a diverse network of actors across the DMV and East Coast. With a passion for bringing stories to life through casting, she has played a key role in more than a dozen feature films, TV shows, and shorts that have premiered on top networks and streaming platforms. Her work is driven by a commitment to uplifting marginalized voices and telling the stories that often go unheard. You can email MacKenzie here - mackenziegallowayllc@gmail.com



Rooted in Legacy: The Impact of Maryland Forestry Heritage Through Film

Research is at the heart of every impactful doc. For **Cheryle Franceschi** of **Por Eco Productions/One Idea Dos Languages**, that meant literally walking in the footsteps of a forester. To create her self-funded film, MR. BESLEY'S FOREST, she enrolled in the UMD Extension Woodland Stewardship Program, gaining on-the-ground experience that would later support her volunteer service as Chairwoman Emerita of the Carroll County Forestry Board. An approach to storytelling by walking-the-walk to gain a better understanding of the field of forestry.



Since 2020, her film about Maryland's first State Forester, Fred W. Besley, has aired on Maryland Public Television, continues to stream on PBS, and is distributed nationally by NETA. Another special sharing of the legacy of Maryland's First State Forester continues this Earth Month. In celebration of scientific forest management this National Arbor Day, **viewers can tune in to watch the local encore of MR. BESLEY'S FOREST, on Friday, April 25th at 11pm on MPT2.**

Fred W. Besley, a pioneer of forestry conservation, created The Big Tree Program in 1925—now celebrating its 100th year. His legacy lives on through the "National Register of Champion Trees" that is managed today by the University of Tennessee.

Last month, Franceschi was honored to screen MR. BESLEY'S FOREST at the "Maryland Big Tree Program Centennial Reunion Luncheon" in Port Deposit, MD. She ended the day with a meaningful photo alongside two film interviewees, John Bennett of the Maryland Big Tree Program and Writer Francis "Champ" Zumbrun (pictured above)—bringing her journey full circle.

Cultural Literacy Associates presents

*A SACRED PIECE OF HOME:
WASHINGTON D.C.*

SACRED PIECE OF HOME Broadcasts in April

Amita Sarin's doc series **A SACRED PIECE OF HOME: WASHINGTON DC** has upcoming episodes being broadcast by WETA. Several WIFV members worked on this so please watch these episodes which explore the DC area's history through selected places of worship and the communities that built them. Other WIFV members involved in the production are **Jacque Greff, Suzanne Brindamour, Frances Kramer, Amy Johanson, and Ben Howard.**

Watch WETA PBS Broadcasts

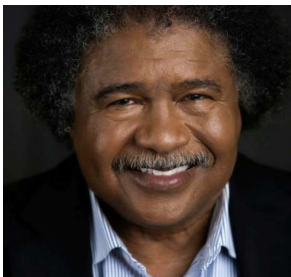
Ep3-MID-CENTURY TRANSFORMATIONS, Sat 4/19 at 5:30p

Ep4-EXPANDING TO THE SUBURBS, Sat 4/26 at 5:30p

WETA Metro

Ep3-MID-CENTURY TRANSFORMATIONS, Sun 4/27 at 2p (repeats on 5/4 at 2p)

Ep4-EXPANDING TO THE SUBURBS, Sun 4/27 at 2:30p (repeats on 5/4 at 2:30p)



Ware Singing Across Maryland

Over the next four months, **Walter Ware** will perform at the following community centers. Attendees will have a chance to dance and listen to a live entertainer at these open to the public events, during daylight hours.

Montgomery County: Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center - Dance Event, Friday, April 25, 1:00-2:30 pm, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901.

Emcee on the Community Stage for the Olney Days - Party in the Park 2025, Saturday, May 3, 3:00-8:00 pm, Olney Manor Park, 16601 Georgia Ave, Olney, MD. [More info here.](#)

Summer Birthday Party, City of Rockville - Rockville Senior Center - Tuesday, July 15, 1:30-2:30 pm, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

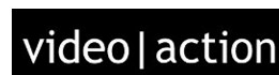
It Takes a Community!



And the WIFV Community definitely came together to celebrate the 2025 Women of Vision Award recipients - **Rachel Morrison**, **Robin Noonan-Price**, and **Felicia Pride** - on April 3 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts! WIFV President **Connie St. John** and OCTFME Director **LaToya Foster** welcomed guests to the program. NPR Pop Culture Critic, **Linda Holmes**, moderated a fascinating discussion! The photos above by Lauren Fletcher are just a sampling of the volunteers, Silent Auction Donors and Bidders, programming, and conversations that happened that evening!

The success of evening is due to the **Women of Vision Committee**: sheri ratick stroud (Chair), Michal Carr, Angela Edwards, Cassidy Edwards, Merilyn Francis, MacKenzie Galloway, Nikkia Glover, Martha Karl, Shari Lewis, Kerri Lane Mariano, Amanda McShane, Jennifer Parris, Renata Phillippi, Sarah Olscamp, Geri Reinhart, Lisa Scott; and **Event Volunteers**: Kaitlyn Babinski, Candice Bloch, Jillian Cardillo, E. Samantha Cheng, Alyscia Cunningham, Cheryle Franceschi, Mira Kelly, Rachel Kerr, Ginger Moss, Tatyana Pokrovskaya, Linda Robbins, Alexandra Salter, Sydney Salter, Liza Slutskaya, Sheila Smith, Kendal Stewart, Stephanie Vann, and Monda Raquel Webb. The Production Team included Carolyn Marie (Makeup/Hair), Sara Barger (Editor), Kathi Overton and Hillary Reskin (Videography), Dan Martin Productions (House AV), and C Grace Productions (Graphics).

Thanks to the 2025 Women of Vision Sponsors & Silent Auction Donors



Auction Donors: Avalon Theatre, Sara Barger, Sandra Brennan, E. Samantha Cheng, Alyscia Cunningham, Merilyn Francis, Hallucynate Photography, MacKenzie Galloway, Melissa Houghton, Martha Karl, Steve Lack: Audio, Shari Lewis, Mattel Play It Forward, Pearl Fine Teas, Price Family, Geri Reinhart, Lisa Scott, Kendal Simone, Sharon Sobel, Susan Verbeeck/Pursue Props.

Thanks to the WIFV Sponsors



News Deadline

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.



About WIFV

Women in Film & Video (WIFV) provides educational and networking opportunities for screen-based media makers, celebrates women's creative and technical achievements in media, and advocates for parity both in front of and behind the camera to ensure that all voices can be heard.





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