



Lifelong Learning, Inc

A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Education Corporation

## Documentary Film Club

### September 2013 through June 2014

#### September 2013

##### *Trash Dance*

Sometimes inspiration can be found in unexpected places. Choreographer Allison Orr finds beauty and grace in garbage trucks, and in the men and women who pick up our trash. Filmmaker Andrew Garrison follows Orr as she joins city sanitation workers on their daily routes to listen, learn, and ultimately to convince them to collaborate in a unique dance performance. Hard working, often carrying a second job, their lives are already full with work, family and dreams of their own. But some step forward, and after months of rehearsal, two dozen trash collectors and their trucks perform an extraordinary spectacle. On an abandoned airport runway, thousands of people show up to see how in the world a garbage truck can "dance."

In the shared moment Orr's goal is reached; people who might never get together connect, and the audience sees the performers differently.

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#### October 2013

##### *The Grove, Texas*

What do you do with your life's accumulation of stuff, especially if you are a collector and have bought a ghost town to house your collections? "The Grove, Texas" is the story of the man, the town and his solution. He is quite a character. The story is well told, interesting, and amusing.

VISTAS member, Ray Stone's cousin, who made the film, is supplying us with additional material. You will enjoy yourselves and come away ready to clean out closets.

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#### November 2013

##### *The Gatekeepers*

Academy Award nominated, "The Gatekeepers," provides a deeply insightful look into Israel's war on terror through the eyes of the men who have overseen the agency in charge for almost half a century. They reflect openly, without evasion on the morality of the torture and killing their decisions involved. What these tough and tough minded men have to say about Israeli politics and the nation's current stance vis a vie its enemies is essential to understanding the Middle East. Each man individually and the 6 collectively have come to support

the two state solution. Many of the points made in the film apply to the US. We will have a lot to discuss and think over.

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## **December 2013**

### **Defiant Requiem**

Tells the little-known story of the Nazi concentration camp, Terezin. Led by imprisoned conductor Rafael Schächter, the inmates of Terezin fought back...with art and music. Through hunger, disease and slave labor, the Jewish inmates of Terezin hold onto their humanity by staging plays, composing opera and using paper and ink to record the horrors around them.

This creative rebellion reaches its peak when Schächter teaches a choir of 150 inmates one of the world's most difficult and powerful choral works, Verdi's Requiem, re-imagined as a condemnation of the Nazis. The choir would ultimately confront the Nazis face to face... and sing to them what they dare not say.

For over ten years, conductor Murry Sidlin has dreamed of bringing the Requiem back to Terezin. Now, through soaring concert footage, powerful survivor recollections, cinematic dramatizations and evocative animation, DEFIANT REQUIEM brings the incredible story of this artistic uprising to life.

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## **January 2014**

### **Moving Midway: a Southern Plantation and Slavery**

At Christmas 2003, New York-based film critic Godfrey Cheshire is visiting his family in North Carolina when his cousin Charlie Silver tells him something startling. Charlie inherited Midway Plantation, the ancestral home of his and Cheshire's extended family, and has been its devoted caretaker. But now Charlie and his wife Dena have made a decision: They want to move Midway - the antebellum manor house and several outbuildings - to a new location to escape Raleigh's encroaching sprawl. Can you really transplant a plantation? Will the "place" be the same if it is uprooted from the soil in which it has stood since 1848? Charlie's plan provokes immediate controversy in Cheshire's tradition-minded family. For Cheshire, it brings back memories of the stories he heard there - stories of his mother's family, settling the area in the early 1700s, fighting in the Revolution, being invaded by Yankee troops in the Civil War, and surviving Reconstruction. Yet stories both convey and conceal. The reality of the Southern plantation was that it depended on the institution of slavery. In Cheshire's family, stories of slaves always depicted them as happy and devoted, which surely disguised a more painful, complex reality. In fact, Midway bred two sets of Hintons, one white, one black. For years, they have rarely encountered each other. But that begins to change as Cheshire sets out to chronicle Charlie's attempt to move Midway. York film critic Godfrey Cheshire returns home to North Carolina in early 2004 and hears that his cousin Charlie Silver plans

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## **February 2014**

### **Dirty Wars**

This sobering documentary concerns the efforts of investigative reporter Jeremy Scahill to uncover the truth behind a covert military operation. It s the dirty little secret of the War on Terror: all bets are off, and almost anything goes. We have fundamentally changed the rules of the game and the rules of engagement. Today drone strikes, night raids, and U.S. government condoned torture occur in corners across the globe, generating unprecedented civilian casualties. It traces the rise of the Joint Special Operations Command, the most secret fighting force in U.S. history, exposing operations carried out by men who do not exist on paper and will never appear before Congress. No target is off-limits for the JSOC kill list, not even U.S. citizens. Director Richard Rowley and whistle-blower Scahill s DIRTY WARS is a chilling battle cry for the soul and conscience of an America few of us know exists.

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## **March 2014**

### **More Than Honey**

"If bees were to disappear from the globe, mankind would have four years left to live." That assertion, attributed to Albert Einstein but perhaps apocryphal, is voiced in "More Than Honey," a fascinating documentary about the decimation of the world's bee population. Directed and written by Markus Imhoof, a Swiss filmmaker, the movie is a tutorial on the biology and social behavior of bees and their exploitation in the age of industrial agriculture. Mr. Imhoof is descended from a long line of beekeepers whose cultivation of bees and harvesting of their honey are still carried out in more or less traditional ways. The film approvingly contrasts Mr. Imhoof's family tradition with the techniques of modern agribusiness in which bee colonies are trucked from place to place to pollinate enormous orchards.

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## **April 2014**

### **Our Nixon**

Three of Nixon's top aides -- H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and Dwight Chapin -- documented their experiences with home movie cameras during their time in the White House. A few years later, they were all in prison. Now, that footage seized by the FBI during the Watergate investigation is presented in a new documentary along with other rare footage and interviews to reveal a new look of the Nixon presidency as never seen before.

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**May 2014**

**Waste Land**

An uplifting feature documentary highlighting the transformative power of art and the beauty of the human spirit. Top-selling contemporary artist Vik Muniz takes us on an emotional journey from Jardim Gramacho, the world's largest landfill on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, to the heights of international art stardom. Vik collaborates with the brilliant catadores, pickers of recyclable materials, true Shakespearean characters who live and work in the garbage quoting Machiavelli and showing us how to recycle ourselves.

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**June 2014**

**THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE SHOWING - THURSDAY, JUNE 19  
NO TUESDAY SHOW IN JUNE**

**Unfurling The World**

Recently released by Mystic Seaport, this film spans from the 1930s into the 1950s, so it features black & white as well as color footage. Irving and Electa "Exy" Johnson made seven circumnavigations, starting and ending in Gloucester MA, and visiting some of the more "exotic" destinations on the planet.

As a kid, a visitor to Irving's house was none other than Joshua Slocum, whose stories no doubt were a strong influence. The Johnson's made their sailing "habit" work by having young, 18-25 year olds, as inexperienced crew for the sailing adventure of a lifetime. In 1947 the 18 month trip cost \$4860... not exactly small change in those days.

Gary Jobson narrates the original footage shot by Captain Johnson and the YANKEE crews. New interviews of several of the crew members talk about the Johnsons, and share their memories of their voyages around the world. Easter Island, Bali, Pitcairn Island, and many parts and ports of Southeast Asia are included.

Runtime 1 hr, 17 minutes

VISTAS member, Gretchen Bercaw will be presenting the film. Her husband sailed with the Johnsons, so she has a wealth of additional information to share.