



**Lifelong Learning, Inc**

A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Education Corporation

## **Documentary Film Club**

### **September 2014 through June 2015**

#### **September 2014**

##### **Losing Iraq**

"Losing Iraq," a timely look at the US military involvement in Iraq through 2014 as told by the military and civilians who were in charge. PBS Frontline made the film, so it is dependably well done.

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#### **October 2014**

##### **The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg**

Critics, audiences and I love this film because Hank Greenberg was a believably admirable hero, and because Kempner weaves a lively mix of interviews and archival footage to tell her story.

Hank is probably the most famous Jewish member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. His career in the 1930's and 1940's came when baseball truly was the national pastime; so his tremendous success made him more of a focus for adulation and anti-Semitism than it would today. We see what Hank's strength of character, equanimity and humor meant away from the ballpark, throughout the country

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#### **November 2014**

##### **We Still Live Here**

Nutayunean tells the amazing story of the return of the Wampanoag language, the first time a language with no Native speakers has been revived in this country. Spurred on by an indomitable linguist named Jessie Little Doe, the Wampanoag are bringing their language and their culture back. Four centuries ago, the Wampanoag people helped the first English settlers in America - the Pilgrims - to survive. Although Americans celebrate the friendship between the Pilgrims and 'the Indians' every year at Thanksgiving, few know that their descendants are still living on their homelands in Southeastern Massachusetts.

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**December 2014**

***Inside Animal Minds***

Nova looks at the science of animal cognition to show us how dogs, dolphins, birds and elephants experience their worlds. What would it be like to go inside the mind of an animal? We have all gazed into a creature's eyes and wondered: What is it thinking about? What does it really know? Now, the revolutionary science of animal cognition is revealing hard evidence about how animals understand the world around them, uncovering their remarkable problem-solving abilities and exploring the complexity of their powers of communication and even their emotions.

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**January 2015**

***Forgotten Journey***

"Forgotten Journey" is a spectacular film that tells the story of the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy party of 50 emigrants who pioneered the trail followed by the Donner party. They also were trapped in snows, but they managed to get everyone to California alive. The documentary is beautifully filmed and meticulously researched.

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**February 2015**

***Inside Animal Minds 2***

At the urging of members who saw sections of Decembers Inside Animal Minds, the February Documentary Film Club choice will be the rest of that fascinating film. We will also review scenes which summarize important findings. If you missed the first part come anyway. There will be the summaries and the all new sections. Trust your fellow VISTAS members, this is quite an amazing film!

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## **March 2015**

### **Code Black**

"Code Black," which is the term used when the emergency room is beyond capacity and people are waiting 18 hours to be seen. Filmed by a doctor in LA County's emergency room to show us what patients and medical staff face in our current medical system, it has won numerous awards for the skill with which the story is told. There are unforgettable characters at every turn.

In his vivid and thought-provoking filmmaking debut, physician Ryan McGarry gives us unprecedented access to America's busiest Emergency Department. Amidst real life-and-death situations, McGarry follows a dedicated team of charismatic, young doctors-in-training as they wrestle openly with both their ideals and with the realities of saving lives in a complex and overburdened system. Their training ground and source of inspiration is "C-Booth," Los Angeles County Hospital's legendary trauma bay, the birthplace of Emergency Medicine, where "more people have died and more people have been saved than in any other square footage in the United States." CODE BLACK offers a tense, doctor's-eye view, right into the heart of the healthcare debate – bringing us face to face with America's only 24/7 safety net.

Best Documentary winner at Los Angeles Film Festival and the Hamptons International Film Festival, as well as the Audience Award Winner at both Denver Starz Film Festival and Aspen Film Fest

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## **April 2015**

### **Hey Boo: Harper Lee and "To Kill a Mockingbird"**

As the name implies, "Hey Boo: Harper Lee and "To Kill a Mockingbird,"" explores Nell Harper Lee's life and her Pulitzer Prize winning book's impact. Published in 1960, Mockingbird opened eyes to the realities of Southern culture just as the Civil Rights Movement began. The film version of the book added to its influence and popularity. The documentary is remarkably good at letting us understand Harper Lee without actually interviewing her. She is well worth knowing. The characters and setting gain depth as we learn their sources. The novel's literary power becomes clear as authors, celebrities and ordinary people describe what it means to them. This is another documentary you will find yourself thinking about and referring to beyond our viewing and discussion.

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**May 2015**

***The Armstrong Lie***

Even for those who do not follow professional cycling, Lance Armstrong or professional sports this brilliant documentary is extremely interesting. It is not so much about cycling as about the power of celebrity and the immense pressure to win.

Alex Gibney, a devoted fan of Armstrong's, set out to make a documentary about Armstrong's come back from retirement in 2009. Numerous invasive cancers had been the cause of the withdrawal from cycling. In 2013 after being kicked out of his sport for life because of the use of performance enhancing drugs Armstrong did a confessional interview with Oprah Winfrey and then with Gibney. The film gives a clear examination of the appeal of the hero that the public chooses to embrace and the bitterness with which they reject him for not being what they had been lead to believe.

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**June 2015**

*June showing was cancelled*