



## 2018 Festival Intro

By Gordon Kit, Festival Donor

Thank you Dean Becker.

It was about 5 years and one snow storm ago that I first had the idea of funding a film *noir* festival. My goal was/is to help educate the public on the historical, cultural and cinema-graphic aspects of film *noir*, to expose a new generation of film students to film *noir*, and hopefully inspire them to learn more about this uniquely American art form.

The festival is in honor of my parents. My father was a professor, and as such, loved to give lectures and speeches. He would have been delighted to be here tonight to speak to you about his and my mother's love for film. They would have especially relished the opportunity to engage our festival speakers in an intellectual discussion on film *noir*. And of course, they would have enjoyed viewing again films from their formative years.

My parents strongly believed in the concept of "giving back". They also had an incredible sense of curiosity. I am fortunate that they passed this on to their children – as well as the importance of continuing one's education, learning and exploring throughout one's life. They truly believed that life is a never ending classroom. I hope that the general public and the Columbia community will find the festival an interesting and enjoyable classroom.

I want to thank my sister Sally, my nephew Ben and and my daughter Lili for being here tonight.

I want to especially thank Dean Roberta Albert for helping to put together our Festival team, and to Rob King, our festival programmer, and to all of the folks at Columbia who have helped make the festival a reality.

– for the festival has evolved from the stuff that dreams (my dreams) are made of.

Thank you for coming.