



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2016

Media Contact:

Meghan Hurder, Publicist

meghan@unaff.org

**UNAFF CONTINUES THE PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 21th
AT MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER IN PALO ALTO, WITH FILMS
COVERING MEN AND WOMEN'S CHANGING ROLES IN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA,
AGING COMPETITIVE SWIMMERS, A UNIQUE SOLUTION TO SOLVING
POPULATION CONTROL, EFFORTS TO AID IMMIGRANTS AT SEA, AND A BRAVE
JOURNALIST ENTERS SYRIA AGAINST HER EDITOR'S ADVICE**

01:05:12 THE LONGEST RACE (*Ethiopia/Kenya/Spain*)

Can legs change the world? The victories of hundreds of Kenyan and Ethiopian athletes are turning to hit stride, the socioeconomic landscape two countries entrenched macho tradition. Men who cook and women who bring home their livelihoods are the new roles of the marathon towards equality. Directed by Javier Triana and Ruben San Bruno.

4:00pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

SWIM FOR LIFE (*France*)

Their names are Jean, Yvette, Gabriel and Christiane. At 78, 88 or even 101 years old, they're still determined to break new records in competitive swimming. As they go about their training, they speak about solitude and how to best avoid it, about the hurdles of life and how they overcame them, about our society that neglects or dismisses our elders and how they deal with it all. Unassuming swimmers in their lane, until, to everyone's surprise, they climb once again on the podium and break a new record for France, Europe or the World. And that's where we rediscover their incredible "joie de vivre".

Directed by Maya Lussier-Séguin and Pierre-Olivier François. 5:05pm

FILMMAKER PRESENT

WOMEN ARE THE ANSWER (*Australia/India*)

Population growth has been left out of the climate debate because it is seen as controversial, yet it is one of the most important factors. The global population has passed the seven billion mark and India is overtaking China as the most populous nation in the world, but one state in southern India has found the solution. The unique history of Kerala and 'the Kerala Model' is outlined, using it

as an example of achieving population control in developing countries without coercion. Directed by Fiona Cochrane. 6:05pm

NON ASSISTANCE *(France/Italy/Malta/Spain/Switzerland)*

Since 2011, thousands of migrants fleeing wars are trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. While governments are criminalizing migratory fluxes, women and men are getting organized—chartering boats to save the shipwrecked or prosecuting States for having failed to provide assistance to people in danger. Charles Heller, a young Swiss researcher whom, by actively participating to the creation of first the Watch the Med platform, which documents the disappeared-at-sea migrants boats cases, and then the emergency phone line AlarmPhone created for boats in distress, shows us that this is not a fatality. Not only is it possible to save migrants at sea, but it is also necessary today to address migrations differently.

Directed by Frederic Choffat. 7:50pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

7 DAYS IN SYRIA *(Syria/USA)*

Janine di Giovanni, *Newsweek Middle East* editor, submitted a proposal to cover the war in Syria. The newspapers rejected her request, deeming the situation too dangerous. She decided to go anyway. The conditions are extreme with constant shelling and bombardment, threat of sniper fire, and kidnappings. Only two weeks before the trip her friend, James Foley, was taken by three armed men and later executed. A few weeks after the trip, Steven Sotloff, who Janine speaks with while in Aleppo, is also captured and killed. Journalists are targets, and that much Janine knows. Yet, she and her crew put themselves in harm's way to bear witness and make sure the world knows about the suffering of the Syrian people.

Directed by Robert Rippberger. 9:00pm

For the full program, press material, photos and other details visit www.unaff.org

The award winning UNAFF (the United Nations Association Film Festival) held annually in October at Stanford, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and San Francisco, now in its 19th year has grown to be one of the oldest and most respected documentary film festivals in the United States. UNAFF was originally conceived to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was founded by Stanford educator and film critic Jasmina Bojic.

In 2014 the ICFT (International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication of UNESCO) presented the UNESCO Fellini Medal to Jasmina Bojic, Founder and Executive Director of UNAFF, in recognition of her exceptional contribution in promoting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the art of documentary film.