



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STORIES INCLUDE A LOOK INTO THE LIVES OF BUDDHIST NUNS IN MYANMAR AND THE AFTERMATH OF THE MASS SHOOTING IN NEWTON, CONNECTICUT AS NOTHING HAS TRULY CHANGED IN REGARDS TO THE COUNTRY'S LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE. IT IS PART OF THE 20th UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25th AT EASTSIDE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN EAST PALO ALTO

A THOUSAND MOTHERS (*Myanmar*)

Set at an ancient nunnery above the majestic Irrawaddy River, *A Thousand Mothers* is an unprecedented look into the lives of Buddhist nuns in Sagaing, Myanmar, an ancient religious region with one of the largest concentrations of monasticism in the world.

While the choices available to girls and women in Myanmar are quite limited, the film poetically unfolds to reveal unexpected opportunity and beauty as young orphans find a refuge, an education, and a healthy environment with older nuns. The pink and orange robed nuns, ranging in age from seven to seventy, have a deep spiritual commitment to following the Buddha's teachings as a way of life. *A Thousand Mothers* is a celebration of this unique life, and its value as a force for good in our troubled world. Directed by Kim Shelton. 7:00pm **Filmmaker Present.**

NEWTOWN (*USA*)

On December 14, 2012, a disturbed young man committed a horrific mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut that took the lives of twenty elementary school children and six educators. Filmed over the course of nearly three years, *Newtown* uses deeply personal, never-before-heard testimonies to tell the story of the aftermath of the deadliest mass shooting of schoolchildren in American history. Through raw and heartbreaking interviews with parents, siblings, teachers, doctors, and first responders, *Newtown* documents a traumatized community still reeling from the senseless killing, fractured by grief but driven toward a sense of purpose. They speak candidly about their grief, anger, and disbelief over what occurred and their disappointment that nothing has truly changed in regards to the country's legislative response to gun violence. Directed by Kim A. Snyder. 7:50pm. **Filmmaker present.**

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 20th 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.