Unity in Diversity event features a special screening of Salam Neighbor at the Berkshire Museum April 22, 2017

[Pittsfield, Mass.] – Unity in Diversity, an event featuring a special screening of the documentary film Salam Neighbor, followed by a panel discussion and a reception, will be held Saturday, April 22, at 5 p.m. at the Berkshire Museum. The event is free and open to the community. Unity in Diversity is organized by Sandra Newman, founder of Community Access to the Arts, in collaboration with the Berkshire Immigrant Center and Kelley Vickery, director of the Berkshire International Film Festival.

The panel discussion after the film will be led by Sherwood Guernsey, a Four Freedoms Coalition founder and outreach chair for the First Congregational Church of Williamstown, with individuals from a range of diverse backgrounds representing the immigrant experience.

The event includes a reception with hors d’oeuvres, wine, and desserts from a number of Berkshire restaurant owners and chefs, many of whom are immigrants from countries all over the world.

About the film Salam Neighbor

During the making of the award-winning documentary Salam Neighbor, Zach Ingrasci and Chris Temple, who directed, produced, and appeared in the film, spent one month living alongside displaced Syrian families in the Za’atari refugee camp. They were the first filmmakers ever allowed by the United Nations to be
given a tent and registered inside a refugee camp. The experience gave them a unique look at this pressing crisis, uncovering overwhelming trauma but also the untapped potential possessed by their uprooted neighbors. The filmmakers’ stated goal is to tell the stories of these refugees with the dignity they deserve and the depth the world needs. The film, released in 2015, runs 1 hour and 15 minutes and is appropriate for all ages. It is in English and Arabic with English subtitles.

“I feel this film is very important to share with our community in the spirit of bringing together all races, religions, and cultures and to honor the values of inclusivity, respect, and equality that are at the heart of our local and national identity,” says Newman. “The response to this event has been very positive. I’m proud to live in a community that embraces the concept of unity in diversity.”

About the Berkshire Museum

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian’s resources with the nation.

The Berkshire Museum integrates science, history, and the arts in dynamic educational and engaging programs and exhibitions for visitors of all ages. Curiosity Incubator is now on view. Tell Me More ... Time and Travel, Extreme Exploration, and Art of the Ammunition is on view through April 30, 2017. The Science of Color is on view through April 30, 2017. Little Cinema is open year-round. Lab102, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

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