

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**KQED PUBLIC BROADCASTING CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN FEBRUARY**

*- More than 70 African American-related Television and Radio Programs to Air -
- Five Local Heroes honored in Awards Ceremony on February 6
Sponsored by Union Bank of California -*

San Francisco, California, January 28, 2008 – This February, KQED Public Broadcasting proudly celebrates the culture, heritage, and history of the Black experience in the United States. This month-long commemoration includes special programming, unique teaching resources and an event honoring a group of five local leaders for their outstanding accomplishments and exemplary service within their communities.

For over a decade, KQED Public Broadcasting and Union Bank of California have partnered each February to celebrate the history of the Black experience through the Local Hero awards program. The special evening of recognition, hosted by KQED and Union Bank, will take place on Wednesday, February 6, from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the KQED Public Broadcasting Center in San Francisco. The five new honorees have been chosen based upon their outstanding contributions to their local communities and the Bay Area community at large.

The 2008 Black History month honorees are: **J. Douglas Hollie** (S.M.A.R.T. Students, Inc.); **Diane Gray** (100% College Prep Institute); **Jackie Cohen** (100% College Prep Institute); **Pam Hogan** (Pam Hogan Productions); and **Gloria Rhodes Brown** (Mills-Peninsula Health Services).

Also in honor of Black History Month, KQED Public Broadcasting will offer over 70 programs that focus on African American themes and culture. **Some of the month's highlights include:**

- **African American Lives 2** invites viewers to follow Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. as he guides an all-new group of prominent African Americans, including poet Maya Angelou, actor Morgan Freeman and rock 'n' roll legend Tina Turner, on a journey to discover their ancestry.
Airs Wednesday, February 6, at 9:00pm on KQED Public Television 9. Repeats on Saturday, February 9, at 3:00am and Monday, February 11, at 1:00am on Channel 9. Also airs on KQED Life-Encore and KQED World; visit www.kqed.org/dtv for details.
- **Prince Among Slaves** profiles an African prince enslaved in the Antebellum South for 40 years before securing his freedom and returning to Africa.
Airs Wednesday, February 6, at 11:00pm on KQED Public Television 9. Repeats on Saturday, February 9, at 3:00pm on Channel 9. Also airs on KQED Life-Encore and KQED World; visit www.kqed.org/dtv for details.
- **The Last Letter Home** is a poignant retelling in radio drama and interview of the experience during World War II of the 32nd fighter group, also known as the

Tuskegee Airmen. These men overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of the war and paved the way for full integration of the U.S. military.

Airs Thursday, February 7, at 8pm on KQED Public Radio 88.5 FM and KQEI 89.3 FM in Sacramento.

- **Soul of Justice: Thelton Henderson's American Journey** is a riveting and thought-provoking film that transports viewers through the inspiring life and work of one of the first African American federal judges in the United States.

Airs Sunday, February 17, at 6:00pm on KQED Public Television 9. Also airs on KQED Life-Encore and KQED World; visit www.kqed.org/dtv for details.

- **Independent Lens: Banished** tells the story of three counties that violently expelled African American families from their towns a century ago -- and the descendants that return to learn a shocking history.

Airs Tuesday, February 19, at 11:00pm on KQED Public Television 9. Also airs on KQED Life-Encore; visit www.kqed.org/dtv for details.

Program listings and descriptions for February can be found in the KQED Black History Month Guide, online at www.kqed.org/heritage.

KQED Education Network continues to provide its series of learning tools for local teachers working with their students in the classroom through the initiative, **Bay Area Mosaic**. The program highlights films and accompanying online lessons that aid teachers during heritage months and throughout the year. For Black History Month, **Bay Area Mosaic** will highlight films **Banished** and **Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes**. Online lessons and further information about workshops and videos for educators can be found at www.kqed.org/ednet.

Union Bank of California is a full-service commercial bank serving individuals, businesses and corporations. With nearly 10,000 employees and 330 branches, the bank also provides investment management and trust services, private banking, brokerage, insurance and custody. During the past ten years, Union Bank of California has invested more than \$17 billion in the communities it serves through consumer and real estate loans, loans to nonprofits, small businesses, and small farms, and through grants from its charitable foundation. The company's Web site is located at www.unionbank.com.

KQED (www.kqed.org) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB). KQED Public Television 9, one of the nation's most-watched public television stations during primetime, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *Jacques Pepin: Fast Food My Way*, and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include KQED HD, KQED Life-Encore, KQED World, KQED Kids and KQED V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio, home of *Forum with Michael Krasny* and *The California Report*, is the most-listened-to public radio station in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service (88.5 FM in San Francisco and 89.3 FM in Sacramento). KQED Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community

screenings and multimedia resources. KQED Interactive offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at www.kqed.org, featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.