



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 14, 2007

CONTACT: Lynn Whitehouse
619-236-5821

First African-American Newspaper's Contribution to San Diego Explored *Black Community Development and Activism Helped Shape Culture in San Diego*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will host an author talk by Jacqueline Bacon. Ms. Bacon holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of the new book *Freedom's Journal: The First African-American Newspaper*, published by Lexington Books in February 2007. This event will be held Sunday, December 9th at 2:00p.m. in 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. The event is FREE to the public.

On March 16, 1827, *Freedom's Journal*, the first African-American newspaper, began publication in New York. *Freedom's Journal* was a forum edited and controlled by African Americans in which they could articulate their concerns. National in scope and distributed in several countries, the paper connected African Americans beyond the boundaries of city or region and engaged international issues from their perspective. It ceased publication after only two years, but shaped the activism of both African-American and white leaders for generations to come.

A comprehensive examination of this groundbreaking periodical, *Freedom's Journal: The First African-American Newspaper* is a much-needed contribution to the literature. Despite its significance, it has not been investigated comprehensively. This study examines all aspects of the publication as well as extracts historical information from the content. The book traces the influence of this groundbreaking periodical; and uses the information in its columns to create a rich, detailed portrait of African-American life in the late 1820s.

Bacon writes for a variety of audiences and her publications consider a variety of subjects, including nineteenth-century African-American history and rhetoric, women's rhetoric, media criticism, and issues of race and gender in contemporary society. As her diverse interests demonstrate, she wishes to engage in conversations both within academic circles and beyond them, believing that scholarly engagement with historical questions about race, gender, and oppression can inform contemporary debates and activism. She is particularly interested in the ways that people who are marginalized use the power of language to create positive identities, to fight for civil rights, and to critique institutional and societal oppression.

Jacqueline Bacon is a writer and scholar living in San Diego. She is also the author of *The Humblest May Stand Forth: Rhetoric, Empowerment, and Abolition*.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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