



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Central Library to Show Documentary Film

“Chisholm ’72 – Unbought & Unbossed”

Feb. 7 Screening Part of Library’s Black History Month Celebration

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will screen the documentary film “Chisholm ’72 – Unbought & Unbossed,” as part of the Library’s celebration of Black History Month. The film will be shown on Monday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown. This event is FREE to the public.

The year 1972 was extraordinary. Richard Nixon was president, running for his second, ill-fated term. The voting age had just changed from 21 to 18, and millions of new voters were expected at the polls. The Vietnam War was in full swing, as were anti-war protests, a burgeoning women’s movement, and the rise of the Black Panther Party. Into the center of this maelstrom – shocking the conventional political wisdom – stepped Shirley Chisholm, a determined, rather prim and unapologetically liberal black woman with a powerful message: Exercise the full measure of your citizenship and vote.

The first black woman elected to Congress, Chisholm championed the causes of the poor, the young, minorities, gays, women and other marginalized Americans. In doing so, she prefigured Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow Coalition campaigns, not only in substance but in style. Chisholm saw the 1972 presidential race itself as an opportunity to draw people to politics who traditionally did not participate.

As revealed in “Chisholm ’72 – Unbought & Unbossed,” this first-ever run by a woman and person of color for presidential nomination was no laughing matter. Nor was it a polite exercise in symbolic electioneering. The New York Democratic congresswoman’s bid engendered strong and sometimes bigoted opposition, setting off currents that affect American politics and social perceptions to this day. Shirley Chisholm died at the age of 80 on Jan. 1, 2005, at her home in Florida. This POV presentation recaptures the times and spirit of a watershed event in American politics, when a black woman dared to take an equal place on the presidential dais.

Carole Kennedy, Ph.D., professor in political science at San Diego State University, will facilitate a discussion after the presentation.

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