



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY

A collaboration between the City of San José and San José State University

News Release

For Immediate Release
Thursday, January 29, 2009

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“Pride & Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience”

***Traveling Exhibit Will Headline “2010 Black History Month” Observance
at San Jose’s Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Library***

Editor: Please retain sponsorship credits in the closing two paragraphs.

San Jose, CA – The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in San Jose is one of 25 libraries nationwide and the only one west of the Rockies selected to host *Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience*, a traveling exhibition that chronicles the remarkable history of baseball’s Negro leagues and the challenges and successes of African-American baseball players over the past century and a half. The 1,000-square-foot exhibit begins its tour this month at the New York Public Library, Countee Cullen Branch. It makes five more stops on its travels west before arriving in San Jose to open during Black History Month in February, 2010.

Baseball is one of America’s central institutions and it has long reflected the complicated and painful history of race in the United States. The story of African Americans in baseball is a remarkable and fascinating slice of American history, displaying the failures of the greater American society in solving the racial problems resulting from slavery, the Civil War and the confusion of Reconstruction. Through a cultural timeline of American history that will be part of the “Pride and Passion” exhibit, visitors will be able to place the African American baseball story into the larger context of American history. For additional background information, visit:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ppo/programming/pridepassion/prideandpassion.cfm>.

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The King Library, in collaboration with community partners, will present related programs and activities during the course of the five-week exhibit. Those interested are encouraged to check the library’s website (www.sjlibrary.org) for future updates. For information, contact Molly Westmoreland at (408) 808-3000.

Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience, a traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, New York, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office, Chicago. The traveling exhibition has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life.

The traveling exhibition is based on an exhibition of the same name on permanent display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

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