



FEBRUARY 2026

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A MESSAGE FROM DEANNA MACKEY

February is a time when we think about love languages. For KPBS, our love language is storytelling. Public media is America's historian and KPBS is San Diego's storyteller. We share stories that might otherwise go untold.

This month we have two wonderful examples of this. "[Black And Jewish America: An Interwoven History](#)" by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is a new four-part docuseries that explores the complex relationship between Black Americans and Jewish Americans – forged in shared struggle, tested by division, and representing a uniquely American experience. Its release is timed with Black History Month and is a must-watch show. The KPBS newsroom recently released the "[Price of San Diego](#)" series. San Diego County is known for being one of America's most expensive regions. Locals are feeling the squeeze and looking for solutions. The newsroom dives into the rising costs of groceries, child care, car insurance and even our beloved California burrito. Journalist Katie Hyson focused her reporting on specific issues facing families, as part of her three- month digital fellowship tied to the special series.

The essential service KPBS is providing right now has more value than ever in our 65-year history. How San Diegans like you stepped up to show your support after the federal funding rescission is a statement of how much this community values KPBS.

The weight of the annual loss is still present, however, especially as the cost of doing business rises. We recently took time to assess our member benefits and levels, and how we might connect you closer to KPBS and to your community.

To uphold the level of service we provide, and to be good stewards of your support, we are increasing some of our membership levels for the first time in more than 10 years, and in the case of Producers Club, in more than 20 years. At the same time, we are adding benefits that you told us you would like to experience. Read more details on these changes later in this newsletter.

Support like yours is what creates tipping points. It's what ensures that facts stay louder than misinformation and that curiosity triumphs over indifference. Your gift isn't just a donation. It's momentum. Thank you for being a Producers Club member and please reach out if you have any questions.



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Deanna Mackey
KPBS General Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us for these upcoming KPBS events!

At KPBS, we are committed to stewarding your support by curating meaningful, high-quality experiences for our Producers Club members. To ensure every gathering is unique, we've moved away from a monthly schedule to focus on more intentional opportunities.

While exclusive Producers Club events may be less frequent, there are always fantastic ways to engage with the station. Please save the date for the following KPBS highlights, and stay tuned for registration details in the coming weeks. As always, **members receive first priority** to sign up!

- **March 18:** [Ken Kramer's About San Diego 100th Episode Celebration](#) - A special party honoring Ken's milestone of 100 episodes sharing local history.
- **March 27:** **The Gratitude Collective's Leading the Way: San Diego Women Founders Event** – An inspiring showcase of local leadership and entrepreneurship around Women's History Month.
- **April 30:** **Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me! Live Show in San Diego** – NPR's beloved news quiz returns for a night of live comedy and current events.

We will be back next month with an **exclusive Producers Club event offer for April** that we think you will love. Stay tuned! In the meantime, please reach out to the KPBS

Development Team if you have questions or suggestions for future events.

PC MEMBER BENEFITS



Enhanced Member Benefits

Unlocking New Value: Enhanced Benefits for the Producers Club

Our Producers Club members are the backbone of KPBS.

As we navigate a landscape without federal funding, your leadership has never been more critical. You don't just watch or listen to KPBS; you sustain the high-quality journalism and educational programming our entire region relies on. We are profoundly grateful for your unwavering support during these challenging times.

To ensure we remain good stewards of your investments amidst budget constraints and rising costs, we have refreshed our Producers Club and member benefits. Based on member feedback from our summer survey, we will be introducing new ways to deepen your engagement and provide more meaningful value.

More Value for Your Membership

We are thrilled to introduce several new benefits designed to bring you closer to the stories and content you love, such as:

- **The Ultimate Digital Bundle:** Enjoy a seamless experience with KPBS Passport and NPR+.
- **The Gift of Great Content:** PC members can now gift a KPBS Passport account to a friend or family member.
- **Expanded Access:** Expanding our regional events, ensuring easier access and more opportunities for members to connect locally.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Tours:** Get an insider's look at how the magic happens at the KPBS studios.
- **KPBS Gear:** Exclusive merchandise giveaways to show your KPBS pride.
- And much more ...

We will provide more information about how to access these Producers Club enhancements in the weeks and months ahead.

Updating Our Giving Levels

To keep pace with the costs of providing these premium benefits and events, and to also make sure your gifts are making the most impact on our mission, we are adjusting our entry-level tier and introducing a new pinnacle of support:

Silver Level Update: Starting this year, the Silver level will move to **\$1,500 annually (or \$125/month)**.

New Diamond Level: We are proud to debut the **Diamond Level** for donors giving **\$10,000 or more** annually, offering our highest level of engagement and impact.

What This Means for You

We value your support above all else. To make this transition smooth, **all active Producers Club members as of December 31, 2025, have been grandfathered** at their current membership level through 2026.

When you reach your renewal date in 2026, Silver members will have the opportunity to renew at the new \$1,500 level, but not required. Sustaining members will have until January 2027 to upgrade their monthly gift. By 2027, all new and renewing members will transition fully to the updated structure.

Many of you have already increased your support in response to recent funding losses, and for that, we thank you. We remain committed to offering you a world-class experience that reflects your vital role in our community.

We will be sure to keep you updated with all the important details in the PC Post. From all of us at KPBS, thank you for being a Producers Club member.

KPBS 65TH BIRTHDAY LEGACY CHALLENGE



What a Wonderful Birthday Gift!

We are writing to you with hearts full of gratitude to share some truly remarkable news regarding the **KPBS 65th Birthday Legacy Challenge**.

While we set out with a big goal to find 65 visionary friends to include the station in their estate plans, we are thrilled to announce that we didn't just meet that goal, we soared past it! Thanks to your incredible commitment, more than 100 new donors stepped forward, successfully unlocking a **\$65,000 challenge match** for the station.

By making KPBS a part of your legacy, you have ensured that the independent journalism and storytelling San Diego relies on will thrive for the next 65 years and beyond. This "birthday gift" is a testament to the strength of our community, and we are so deeply grateful for your belief in our mission. Thank you for securing the future of KPBS!

Donation Acknowledgements

The dedicated KPBS development team wants to be able to thank you for your generosity and acknowledge you with a 2025 tax receipt. We received a few **stocks** and **IRA checks** in 2025 with no donor attribution. If you are missing a receipt, please email producersclub@kpbs.org with the date, quantity and name of the stocks, or the name of your IRA administrator/bank and the amount of your distribution, so we can correctly identify and acknowledge your gift. Or call us at 619-594-2028.

Sustaining (monthly) Members: 2025 tax receipts were mailed at the end of January or early February. If you have not received yours, please email

ONE BOOK, ONE SAN DIEGO EVENT



Register today for the 2026 One Book, One San Diego Pitch Party!

What book will be chosen as our next One Book, One San Diego for 2026?

Join us for the Pitch Party to kick off the 20th chapter of One Book, One San Diego!

The Pitch Party event launches the One Book, One San Diego season, serves to build excitement for the program, and encourages public nominations. You'll hear fresh book recommendations from publishers, literary agents, and local independent booksellers featuring a mix of genres and reading levels, plus have an opportunity to go home with a free book! It's one of KPBS' most popular One Book, One San Diego events of the year, and one you won't want to miss!

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

San Diego Central Library

330 Park Blvd

San Diego 9210

Ticket Price: \$20

RSVP

STAY CONNECTED WITH KPBS

Local News

Public Matters

National News

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TV Highlights

TV Schedules

Your Producers Club membership brings trusted news and high-quality programs to the whole community.

DONATE

 Don't want to receive Producers Club emails anymore? **Manage your email preferences.**

 Treat your inbox. **Subscribe to our newsletters.**

 KPBS has lost federal funding. **Learn more here.**

 **Donate to KPBS**

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