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Susan Quinn, Director

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PRESS RELEASE

What: Award winning documentary by past TR resident about early civil rights leader

When: 2 p.m. Saturday Feb. 21

Where: Lacey library branch

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Award winning documentarian to speak at Lacey library

TOMS RIVER - Award-winning documentarian Susan Bailey, writer of “Justice is a Black Woman: The Life and Work of Constance Baker Motley” will discuss her work and Motley’s life 2 p.m. Saturday Feb. 21 at the Lacey library branch, 10 E. Lacey Rd., Forked River.

The biographical film tells the story of an extraordinary woman who was a civil rights activist, state senator, attorney, judge and Borough Council President of Manhattan.

Born of immigrant parents, she graduated Columbia University’s School of Law in 1946 and was hired by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

She was the first black woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. She successfully won James Meredith’s right to be the first black student to be admitted to the University of Mississippi in 1962. She argued nine other cases before the Supreme Court, winning all but one.

President Lyndon Johnson appointed her to the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in 1966, making her the first black woman federal judge. She remained on the bench until her death in 2005.

Susan Bailey, a former Toms River resident, wrote the movie’s screenplay. She will speak at the film’s showing and join in a Q&A session after the screening.

The film received The Best Documentary Feature Award at the 2013 St. Tropez International Film Festival.

The movie was produced by Quinnipiac University and directed by Michael D. Calia. This 57-minute film has not been rated.

The program is free and open to the public but registration is required. To register telephone the branch 609-693-8566 or go to the library's website www.theoceancountylibrary.org , click on the "Events & News" icon, then click on "Calendar of Events."