

In Memoriam: Tony Tiano

By **John L. Boland**, KQED President

I am writing to share the sad news that **Anthony Tiano** (*Silver Circle*, '91), who served as the President of KQED from 1979-1993, passed away on August 12 at his home in New Mexico.

Tony, as we all knew him, had been serving as the President of Santa Fe Productions, a company that produced independent programming for public television stations nationwide.

Tony Tiano led KQED through a period of significant growth and change including the institution of a full 7-day a week schedule for KQED Public Television and the conversion of KQED Public Radio to an all-news and public affairs format. These and other innovations during his tenure positioned KQED to become one of the largest joint-licensee public broadcasting organizations in the country.

He also ushered in new programming, including *This Week in Northern California* on television and *Forum* on radio, both of which remain among KQED's most popular offerings. In 1989, Tony worked with legendary promoter **Bill Graham** to broadcast an Earthquake Relief Concert that raised more than \$2 million dollars for victims of the Loma Prieta Earthquake.



In the early 1990s, he managed in a difficult economy to consolidate all of KQED's San Francisco operations—previously scattered among a number of South-of-Market locations – under one roof in a building on Mariposa Street that remains KQED's headquarters today. This and other important strategic moves during his tenure laid the foundation for KQED's great

success in the 21st century and, more important, positioned us to do a better job of serving the community.

Even after leaving KQED, Tony remained part of public broadcasting as an independent producer of many outstanding specials that aired on KQED and other PBS stations nationwide. I was delighted to see Tony in 2010 when he came back for a rare visit to KQED shortly after I returned from PBS.

Services were held on August 17th in Albuquerque, NM. KQED honored Tony Tiano for his contributions to this station and to our community by dedicating an evening of programming on KQED Public Television on August 20th in his memory.

Tony led KQED and public broadcasting through a very critical stage of our history. We are grateful for his good work and we will miss him.

In Memoriam: Helen Bentley

By **Carl Nolte**,
San Francisco Chronicle



Helen Bentley, who was one of the first women in news roles on Bay Area radio and television, died Aug. 4 in Mill Valley at the age of 83. Ms. Bentley had suffered from Wegener's disease, a rare illness that affects the autoimmune system.

Her broadcast career covered a wide spectrum. She was at various times a writer, a talk show host, a news anchor and even for a time the hostess on *Romper Room*, a show for preschool children.

Ms. Bentley was best known as co-anchor with **John Weston** on the *Noon News* on KPIX. *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist **Terrence O'Flaherty** (*Silver Circle* '86) called her "one of the best newswomen in the business."

"She was great as an interviewer," said **Ken Ackerman**, who worked with Ms. Bentley at KCBS radio and followed her career on television. "You could tell she had a very good education. She was

a woman of class."

Ms. Bentley was born **Helen Swenderman** in Berkeley. She attended Berkeley High School and UC Berkeley, and received a teaching credential from San Francisco State College. After a brief career as a teacher in Richmond, she moved to Los Angeles with her husband, **Pax Beale**.

While in Los Angeles, she answered an ad in 1955 for women with teaching experience to audition as hostess on the new *Romper Room* show. She was picked to be Miss Helen on the show in Los Angeles. She then assumed the name of Helen Bentley.

Following a divorce, she moved back to the Bay Area and worked in radio and television. In 1967, she moved to TV and worked on the *Noon News* on KPIX as a consumer reporter. She also had her own talk show, *The Bentley Affair*.

She moved to KBHK-TV in 1974 and hosted a talk show called *Live From the City*.

Ms. Bentley left broadcasting in 1975 and worked in corporate communications and as a media training consultant. She was later elected to the Bay Area *Broadcast Legends* Hall of Fame.

She is survived by a daughter, **Lyndi Beale** of Oakland.