UC SANTA BARBARA

THE Current

August 14, 2024
Johannes Steffens

Marilyn F. Solomon's television archives join UCSB Library's film & television collection

A pioneer in local commercial television broadcasting, Marilyn F. (Dillard) Solomon produced weekly prime-time current affairs news analysis programs and long form documentaries on critical issues such as the Iran hostage crisis, the Turkish-Armenian conflict, and the history of Los Angeles' Afro-Latino settlers. Her archives, now part of UC Santa Barbara Library's Film & Television Collection, offer significant research potential and preserve the historic record of Southern California media.

"Marilyn's archives are an incredible addition to our Film & Television Collection because she was a pioneer in telling the stories of underrepresented communities on television, recognizing that local issues could have national effects," said Laura Treat Liebhaber, UCSB Library film and television curator. "It is rare that local television programming archives from this era exist because most TV stations did not preserve their materials. Marilyn's collection represents an important voice in the historic record of Southern California media and her archives hold significant research potential for scholars across various disciplines."

Raised in Detroit by activist parents Ernest C. and Jessie M. Dillard, Solomon's commitment to activism shaped her career. Hired by KCOP-TV in 1969, she produced programs highlighting civic and governmental affairs, international events, and multiracial relations, including the first weekly program addressing gay and

lesbian issues in Southern California, “My Turn.” Solomon's work earned numerous accolades, including the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Silver Baton for Excellence in Television Journalism and the International Documentary Association CINDY Award.

“It is deeply satisfying to have my archives included in the Library’s Film & Television Collection,” Solomon said. “For 25 years, I was blessed with the opportunity to provide a series of video bridges, connections toward understanding and appreciation. During those years, the catchphrase was, ‘LA’s the place.’ Now, thanks to UCSB Library, some of the history of this unique American region is preserved.”

Media Contact

Johannes Steffens

UCSB Library

jsteffens@ucsb.edu

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