

THE *Current*

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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.”

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About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.