



Detroit celebrity authors Anne Doyle and Linda Solomon are Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame inductees.

**Credits:** Wendy Clem

## Women in Communications honors Detroit media celebrities (Part 1 of 2)

By Wendy Clem, Detroit City Buzz Examiner

An enthusiastic gathering of women met Thursday to honor two of Detroit's most accomplished females in media. It all happened at a private home in Farmington Hills as renowned photographer Linda Solomon and former sportscaster and auto leader Anne Doyle received recognition for their induction into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

Held at the home of The Association for Women in Communications -- Detroit Board Member, Vice President of Programs Diana Jacokes, the meeting was attended by women who came by the dozens. They shared ideas and heard the stories of the remarkably youthful-looking honorees, Detroit icons Solomon and Doyle.

Both inductees were nominated by AWIC, which already has assisted in five of the fewer than 20 females in the 100 Hall of Fame members. Detroit's AWIC was established in 1938 and is still a driving force in the Motor City.


Solomon, 53, of Birmingham, who was inducted in April, signed copies of her book, "The Key: Celebrated People Unlock Their Secrets to Life." The book provides keys to life and lessons as seen through the eyes of the famous — a lifelong focus of her lens and work. She wore a sparkling silver key around her neck symbolizing the title, which has likewise received some glowing reviews.

Previous bestselling efforts include three written in collaboration with her sister, CBS Today Show correspondent and animal activist Jill Rappaport.

Solomon's art bests long-worshipped and overly-hyped photographer Annie Leibovitz when it comes to portraits of the famous. Solomon's expertise not only offers

beautiful photos in focus, but also focuses on capturing the essence of each personality she shoots.

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“I’m a purist, and I don’t believe in manipulating my photos; I believe in showing people as they are — and that doesn’t happen by using programs to change the pictures into people they aren’t,” Solomon said. “I’m old school; I shoot with film most of the time. I just find it more interesting, and I think it says what I want it to say about the people I shoot.”

She says Robert Redford was particularly intrigued by her use of film when she worked with him, and she credits much of what she knows to a former colleague, the late Channel-2 cameraman, Sid Siegel.

“He always knew just how to position each of us in the most flattering way, so he never had to resort to using any type of touch ups,” she said. “That was because he was so good at what he did.”

Solomon shared with the gathering some of the adventures she and Siegel enjoyed, including moments with stunning actresses Elizabeth Taylor and Catherine Deneuve.

“Sid knew how to photograph women, and he was the best at his work,” she said. “Beautiful women like these loved that, and he even went along with Elizabeth shopping at Hudson’s when she was here.”

“The Key” is a book that reveals the often eloquent and sometimes humorous wisdom of the famous — Sidney Poitier, Geraldine Ferraro, Katie Couric, Kelsey Grammar, Dolly Parton, Ann Curry, Gloria Steinem, Tiger Woods, Christie Brinkley and Peggy Fleming, among others.

At Thursday’s event, selected members each read excerpts of the book as others guessed the celebrity’s identity. Couric stated that our challenges shape our fortitude and determine our character, while Brinkley maintains the key to timeless looks is, “No overhead lighting.”

Solomon, who attended with her mother, retired Detroit Public Schools teacher Mona Rappaport, confides that her true passion in life is teaching — and learning from those charges. As an education graduate of the University of Michigan, she found no jobs available upon her 1970s graduation, so she pursued her second interest, photography.

The New York Times bestselling author, who has appeared on “Oprah,” “The Today Show,” and “CBS Evening News,” among others, is also celebrated for her photography work with children. Solomon takes them under her wing, guiding with free cameras to capture their ideas and images of their dreams. One of the best-known projects she headed was with homeless children, who were instructed to capture shots of their hopes.

“At the end of the project, we learned that one child’s hope was merely to hope,” she said. “Another little girl refused to hand in her camera to have the photos developed because she said all of her dreams were on it. She didn’t want to give that up.”

In addition to decrying the use of technology to re-invent photo images, the self-admitted non-techie also mentions another overuse in today’s society. That entails people always snapping pictures which ultimately become definitive mainstream media.

“Cell phones take jobs away from journalists,” Solomon said matter-of-factly.

Proceeds from “The Key” will also benefit breast cancer research.

Don't miss Part 2 of this series, with more insights into talented local women.

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