

Life

Bloomfield photographer to be inducted into hall of fame

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Nationally renowned photojournalist Linda Solomon of Bloomfield Township is one of three people inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

The organizers noted that Solomon is famous for “capturing international acclaim and the essence of celebrated personalities through natural light and a lens.”

Solomon has photographed numerous celebrities through the years, including Tony Bennett, Elizabeth Taylor and Morgan Freeman.

Her work is featured in numerous books and her portraits have been selected by noted authors for their books, including Elmore Leonard and “The Bridges of Madison County” author, Robert James Waller.

Solomon also has put cameras in the hands of more than one million children, organizers said.

Solomon grew up in Detroit and Birmingham.

Her father Daniel Rappaport gave her a camera for her fifth birthday.

“But it was another birthday present that changed my life,” she said.

“On my 13th birthday, I opened a box and inside was a blue leather photo album with my name embossed. This special gift showed how much my parents respected my love of photography. And I still have that first photo album”

Solomon, a frequent lecturer, has had many one-woman exhibitions across the nation.

She is a former Detroit News columnist and entertainment correspondent for CBS in Detroit. She has been selected Artist of The Year in Michigan and named as one of Michigan’s Most Powerful Women.

Solomon and her sister Jill Rappaport, entertainment correspondent for The Today Show have collaborated on four books. Their first collaboration, “People We Know, Horses They Love” was a New York Times best seller. The acclaimed book features photo essays including Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman and Richard Gere.

Solomon has divided her career between capturing the most famous personalities of our time and teaching others to express themselves through photography.

“I have always believed you have to help and encourage others,” said Solomon who was honored nationally with a Distinguished Women’s Award from Northwood University.

Since 1985, the Hall of Fame has recognized Michigan reporters, editors, publishers, owners, photographers, broadcasters and educators throughout the state who have advanced the legacy of a free and responsible press and who have inspired others with their lasting contributions to Michigan journalism.

Solomon’s “Pictures of Hope” photo project, where she provided cameras to children living in homeless shelters in America, was featured nationally on CBS Evening News, World News Tonight, People Magazine and USA Today.

Solomon also donated her time at her second home in Tucson, Ariz. Her “Pictures of Hope” project with Tucson elementary children has changed lives, and has helped the children heal during a difficult time.

Greeting cards with the children's images and words are available through the Salvation Army and other homeless shelters throughout the U.S. Every dollar of the proceeds goes back to helping homeless families in America, Solomon noted.

Solomon also will be honored by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 21, for her work in assisting the Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court by having participants in the program become involved in the "My Hope for America" photography project.

— Press staff reports

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