

2008

# Diane Solomon Civil Rights and Viet Nam War Era Button Collection

San Jose State University, Special Collections and Archives

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**Diane Solomon Civil Rights and Viet Nam War Era Button Collection**  
**MSS.2007.11.14**



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**Title:** Diane Solomon Civil Rights and Viet Nam War Era Button Collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** MSS.2007.11.14

**Contributing Institution:** SJSU Special Collections & Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 10.0 Linear feet, 1 Box, 2 Flat File Drawers

**Date (bulk):** Bulk, 1960-1979

**Date (inclusive):** 1954-1989, 2008

**Abstract:** The Diane Solomon Civil Rights and Viet Nam War Era Button Collection represent the history of social and political movements during the 1960s and 1970s. Political buttons have been used for centuries as a means to support political candidates and later became popular in promoting specific social causes. Political buttons, pins, fobs and banners were very popular and inexpensive to produce. The buttons in the collection represent many of the social and political movements of the 1960's and 1970's, including the Civil Rights Movement, Anti-war movement in Vietnam, feminism and women's rights, the war on poverty, immigrant and farm labor, gay rights, and the counterculture movement in San Francisco. Images of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bobby Seal, Angela Davis, Huey Newton, Eldridge Cleaver, Malcolm X, Richard Nixon, Cesar Chavez, are well represented, as well as the Black Panther Party, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Organization of Women (NOW), and many others. A small collection of newspapers documenting San Jose State University and Martin Luther King Jr. are included.

**Physical Location:** The button collection is located in vault 1, folio 02-13 and 02-14; newspapers are located in vault 1, shelf range 20-20-05.

**creator:** Diane Solomon

#### **Publication Rights**

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#### **Access**

The collection is open for research.

#### **Preferred Citation**

Diane Solomon Collection, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

#### **Processing Information**

Collection processed by Toni Nix. Finding aid created in the Archivists' Toolkit. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

#### **Biographical History**

Diane Solomon is a local journalist and political activist in San Jose, California. Solomon attended San Jose State College as a student of New College, an experimental four-year liberal arts program, and later she received a Masters degree. She developed an early interest in political and social movements and at age 14 she started collecting political buttons. Solomon continues the hobby of button collecting, while working as a freelance journalist, accountant, and as the radio host of "A Meeting of the Ways, on Radio KKUP.

#### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The Diane Solomon Civil Rights and Viet Nam War Era Button Collection represent the history of social and political movements during the 1960s and 1970s. Political buttons have been used for centuries as a means to support political candidates and later became popular in promoting specific social causes. Political buttons, pins, fobs and banners were very popular and inexpensive to produce. The buttons in the collection represent many of the social and political movements of the 1960's and 1970's, including the Civil Rights Movement, Anti-war movement in Vietnam, feminism and women's rights, the war on poverty, immigrant and farm labor, gay rights, and the counterculture movement in San Francisco. Images of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bobby Seal, Angela Davis, Huey Newton, Eldridge Cleaver, Malcolm X, Richard Nixon, Cesar Chavez, are well represented, as well as the Black Panther Party, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Organization of Women (NOW), and many others. A small collection of newspapers documenting San Jose State University and Martin Luther King Jr. are included.

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**Arrangement**

The Diane Solomon Civil Rights and Viet Nam War Era Button Collection is arranged into two series: Series I: Political Buttons, 1954-1989, 2008 (Bulk 1960-1979); Series II: Newspapers, 1957-1968 (Bulk 1962-1964).

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Civil Rights Movement

Martin Luther King, Jr and the Civil Rights Movement

San Jose State College

San José State University

Social Movements -- United States -- History

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Protest movements

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**Series I: Political Buttons, Bulk, 1960-1979 1954-1989, 2008**

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description**

2 Flat File Drawers

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Diane Solomon button collection documents the diversity of social and political movements that emerged during the 1960s and 1970s through a diverse collection of buttons that were used to support a variety of political positions and social movements. The production of political buttons in the U.S. has a long history, dating back to the inauguration of George Washington. By the late 1890s buttons, pins, fobs, and banners were used extensively in political campaigns. The creation of buttons to promote political candidates has extended into social movements and culture. From the 1960s to the present, political buttons are no longer an ephemeral publicity tool, but are avidly collected.

The buttons in the collection represent many of the social and political movements of the 1960's and 1970's, including: Civil Rights Movement, Anti-war movement in Vietnam, feminism and women's rights, the war on poverty, immigrant and farm labor, gay rights, and the counterculture movement in San Francisco. Images of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bobby Seal, Angela Davis, Huey Newton, Eldridge Cleaver, Malcolm X, Richard Nixon, Cesar Chavez, are well represented. As are some of the most important movements of the era that include the Black Panther Party, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Students for Democratic Society (SDS) and the National Organization of Women (NOW), and many others. A small collection of newspapers documenting San Jose State University and Martin Luther King Jr. are included.

**Arrangement**

This series has been arranged topically by specific the political and social movements and placed into archival trays. The organization of the buttons in each tray is based on the arrangement of the donor.

**Trays 1-5: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Black Panthers, and Civil Rights Buttons 1954-1970, 2008**

**Trays 6-7: Cesar Chavez and United Farm Workers Buttons 1962-1979, 1989**

**Trays 8-16: Vietnam War Resistance, Vietnam War Support, Draft Resistance, and Peace Promotion Buttons 1960-1979**

**Display Trays 17-18: Counterculture Buttons 1960-1979**

**Series II: Newspapers, Bulk, 1962-1964 1957-1968**

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description**

1 Box

**Scope and Content of Collection**

This small collection of newspapers consist of the San Jose State University student newspaper, the Spartan Daily, from 1962-1964, as well as a commemorative publication from the San Jose Mercury News celebrating San Jose State University's 150th anniversary in 1957. A copy of the 1963 Chicago Daily News highlighting the civil rights march on Washington, D.C. where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech, and a Chicago Sun-Times insert dedicated to the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. published in 1968 after he was assassinated, is also represented.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged by publication and chronologically within the publication.

**Folder 1: San José Mercury News, 1957**

**Folder 2: Spartan Daily, 1962-1964**

**Folder 3: Chicago Publications, 1963-1968**