

# p r o o f s



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**Signs of Our Times** opened on September 13, 2008 to a warm reception & will run until October 1, 2009. The exhibit includes a massive **Timeline, Community Quilt & LA Wishboard** (where visitors can post their wishes for our beloved city). All of the entries on the LA Wishboard will be sent to Mayor Villaraigosa & the Board of Supervisors in October 2009.

## In this issue:

*the top ten reasons  
to join the Studio!*

*Walking Tours!*

*Our 2009 Schedule!*

*& much more!*

The Studio for Southern California History is a nonprofit organization that seeks to critically chronicle the region's social history in order to foster sense of place.

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## NEWS NOTES

The Studio for Southern California History will have an entry in this year's **2008 Echo Park Community Parade** on Saturday December 13 (noon - 3 pm) more info at [www.echoparkcommunityparade.com](http://www.echoparkcommunityparade.com). Join us & show your support for the Studio!

The Studio is working with **Phyllis Esslinger & Diane Hara** of the **Western Conservancy of Nursing (WCNH)** in creating a "Wall of Nursing History" (with a focus on Southern California) for the WCNH's headquarters at Azusa Pacific University. This project builds on the **California Hospital School of Nursing Digital Archive**, a Studio project.

**Dr. Vicki Callahan**, a Professor of Conceptual Studies at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, visited the Studio in early November to interview Director Sharon Sekhon on the origins, goals & methods of the Studio --look for a **podcast** link on our website in early 2009.

Since September 2008 we have shared a space at **the Hive Galleries** at 729 S. Spring Street with artist **Linda Vallejo** (see page 9). Currently on display is a memorial to **Karen Bocalero** for the **Day of the Dead** that profiles 4 cemeteries in Southern California. The Hive is open Wednesday - Saturday from 1 - 6 pm and by appointment. For more info on The Hive visit [www.thehivegallery.com](http://www.thehivegallery.com).

**The LA History Archive**, the Studio's online resource for teaching local history, is well underway-- with its first iteration in development. The Archive is scheduled for completion in October 2009. Those interested in contributing to or evaluating the Archive should contact the Studio.

Founder Sharon Sekhon has been elected to the Board of Directors for the **Los Angeles City Historical Society** for 2009 - 2011 where she hopes to connect the Studio to this venerable institution & assist with its website.

On **Facebook** or **Myspace**? Be sure to link, friend, or become a fan of the Studio. Don't know what these are? That's ok too!



The Studio's newest installation at the Hive Galleries at 729 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles.

## 2008 Volunteers of the Year

*Thank you to all of our  
volunteers--2008 was a  
success because of you!*

We are pleased to announce the Studio for Southern California History's 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award recipients. Each of these individuals has assisted the Studio in immeasurable ways and we wish to highlight their efforts and thank them publicly here. *Maria Bautista* is someone we thank for her consistently sunny disposition and assistance in embellishing different quilt blocks as part of our Community Quilt for Signs of Our Times. *Peggy Bernal* is a seamstress whose attention to detail and steady hand stitched straight borders on different quilt blocks. *Josh Gill* digitized different assets in the Studio's collections & volunteered at last year's "Be Our VIP Fundraiser," long after his internship at the Studio ended. We thank *Barbara Jury* for her bi-weekly stops at the Studio to assist in mass mailings, discussions of ongoing projects & the California Hospital School of Nursing Digital Archive. Finally, we honor *Isa-Kae Meksin*, with these other wonderful souls, for her weekly stops at the Studio and for serving as the Studio's "Ambassador-At-Large" & bringing our literature to local, like-minded events and "keeping us in the loop." We are thankful for all of our volunteers. 2008 was a very successful year for the Studio, and a part of that success is directly attributable to you. Thank you!



*Are you a history buff?  
Do you enjoy research?  
Are you an avid weekend photographer?  
Did you recently move to Southern California  
& want to know about your new home?  
Do you know a relevant story about our history  
that you want to share?*



If you answered  
'YES' to 1 or  
more of these  
questions, you are  
a prime candidate  
to volunteer.

We are always seeking volunteers. Opportunities may include anything from evaluating our online programming, to scanning and digitizing images and ephemera from our collection, to assisting at events and fundraisers. **If you are interested in volunteering, contact us at 213 - 229 - 8890 or [thesocalstudio@gmail.com](mailto:thesocalstudio@gmail.com).**

# The Times of Harvey Milk (1984)

## A Review by Nancy Bautista

The Academy Award winning (best documentary) [The Times of Harvey Milk](#) (1984) by Rob Epstein and Richard Schmiechen documents Harvey Bernard Milk's journey to becoming the first openly gay man appointed to a political office in California and his assassination.

Milk runs three times before being elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978. From the "Pooper Scooper" Initiative, which fined any citizen who did not pick up after their pet, to the fight against Proposition 6 or the "Briggs" Initiative that allowed discrimination against teachers in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, Harvey's passion for social justice makes him one of the century's greatest political figures. Harvey's intelligence and humor is magnificently captured through the various interviews with close friends and supporters.

Alongside San Francisco Mayor George Richard Moscone, Milk years to end the politics of hate amongst all underrepresented communities, with a strong inclusion of gay rights. At the height of Milk's career, fellow Board member Dan White opposes his political views.

After resigning his position and unsuccessfully attempting to return to office, Dan White guns down Mayor Moscone & Milk. It is discovered that White entered



San Francisco's City Hall through a window to avoid the metal detectors at the entrance and has extra bullets in his pockets, clearly showing premeditation.

Milk and Moscone supporters rally outside San Francisco City Hall in a candle light vigil that is called an "eloquent response to violence." White confesses and is tried for voluntary manslaughter. After an attempted "twinky-defense," he is sentenced to seven years in prison. White later commits suicide.

30 years after his death and in a time when we are still demanding equal rights for everyone, [The Times of Harvey Milk](#) gives a necessary & mind-opening account of an unfortunate chapter of our history and the life of one courageous man. Not only does the film uncover the flawed ideologies behind homophobia, but it shows \*how\* Harvey Milk successfully fought them.

In addition to being available on Netflix, [The Times of Harvey Milk](#) is part of the Studio's library and is available for viewing at the Studio. Why not check it out? Why not see & hear Harvey Milk for yourself!--No offense intended, Sean.

## PROFILES IN COURAGE: ROSE HANG

Our "Profiles in Courage" series highlights an individual from the Studio's oral history collection. Excerpts of Studio oral histories will be on the LA History Archive in early 2009 at [www.lahistoryarchive.org](http://www.lahistoryarchive.org).

**Rose Hang** is like many immigrants in the US and underwent extreme hardship before coming here. She was born in Binh Dinh in South Vietnam in the late 1950s into a Chinese-Vietnamese family, the third eldest of eleven children. She recalls the Vietnam War; at 15 Rose walked her pregnant (and in labor) mother to the hospital through the war-torn streets. She remembers bombs being dropped and looters pillaging abandoned shops. Her family fled South Vietnam in March of 1975 when the Communists took over. She remembers leaving in the middle of the night, taking a long bus ride to the coast and taking a refugee boat (built by her uncle) to Hong Kong. She later came to Alhambra in 1980,



Above: Rose in her Sierra Madre home.

primarily because her immigration sponsor lived there. Approximately 400 people were on her boat to Hong Kong for the 6 day voyage. Some boats were not built well and did not survive the voyage. The waters off of the Vietnamese coast were extremely dangerous & rocky, with marauding pirates who seized boats and killed everyone on board. (continued on 11)

Below: The only existing image of Rose's family from Vietnam. Rose is in the back row, second from the right.



## *Imagining America: New Chinatown Walking Tour*



Above: Monica Pelayo discusses the building of New Chinatown during a walking tour on October 4, 2008 that was part of the annual conference for [Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life](#), a consortium of colleges and universities that supports public scholarship and practice & whose mission is to strengthen the public role and democratic purposes of the humanities, arts and design. This year's conference "Layers of Place, Movements of People: Public Engagement in a Diverse America" was hosted by the Center for Diversity and Democracy at USC. In addition to making stops at the Croatian-American Church, Leo Politti's mural at Castelar Elementary School, the Joan of Arc statue at the Pacific Alliance Medical Center, the tour highlighted the history of the Chinese and Vietnamese communities that reside in this amazing neighborhood. The walking tour & the Studio were included as part of the conference's schedule, and visiting faculty provided support in unique commentary on the Studio's efforts, financial donations, and new networks of support and friendship for the Studio.

Monica Pelayo was on the tour and provided great insight on the specific goals in building New Chinatown. Ms. Pelayo is a graduate student in the History Department of USC and will be leading a walking tour of Union Station & its environs on April 4, 2009 for the Studio. Special thanks to Adam Bush, Juliet Feibel, Robin Goettel & George Sanchez for coordinating this opportunity with Imagining America. For more information on Imagining America visit [www.imaginingamerica.org](http://www.imaginingamerica.org). For information on USC's Center for Diversity and Democracy visit [www.college.usc.edu/cdd/home/index.cfm](http://www.college.usc.edu/cdd/home/index.cfm).

## *Westwood Memorial Park Walking Tour*

On October 11, Studio friends & TOWN HALL Los Angeles members joined Resident Storyteller Steve Goldstein for a walking tour of Westwood Memorial Park. In the heart of Westwood, this hard-to-find resting place was established in 1905. Historians Will & Ariel Durant are buried here, along with dozens of Hollywood luminaries from Marilyn Monroe to Billy Wilder, to Frank Zappa in an unmarked grave (see bottom photo at right). This event was done in partnership with TOWN HALL Los Angeles. Special thanks to Pierce Brothers for allowing the tour, Steve Goldstein for leading it, & Chamara Russo & Keanna Sheu for coordinating this partnership. For information on TOWN HALL Los Angeles, visit [www.townhall-la.org](http://www.townhall-la.org).



## *The Sherman Indian School, Museum & Cemetery*

On April 18 the Studio will host a walking tour at the Sherman Indian School Cemetery in Riverside (see back page for details) in tandem with its annual Pow Wow. The Sherman Indian School was the first off reservation Indian Boarding School in the state of California. The enrollment was made up of Southern California Indian Children from Tule River Agency to San Diego County, and students' ages ranged from 5 years old to their early 20s. Originally known as the Perris Indian School, this boarding school was established in 1892 in Perris, California and moved to its current, Riverside location at the corner of Magnolia and Jackson Streets in 1904. The Sherman Indian School still operates today as a high school but has completely reversed the assimilationist practices of former administrators and educators and is part of the Office of Indian Education Programs with approximately 500 students in grades 9 to 12. The School's Pow Wow celebrates the dances and rituals of local tribes, practices once prohibited. The Studio's walking tour at the School's cemetery, a few miles from the school, will take place before this year's Pow Wow. The Sherman Museum is housed in the Sherman Indian High School's administration building, the current school's only original architecture. The museum is a great resource on local tribes, boarding schools & the Sherman Indian School itself. For more information on the museum visit [www.shermanindianmuseum.org](http://www.shermanindianmuseum.org).

## My Neighborhood by Bob Drwila

I live in **South Pasadena** and it is truly home & a place I love, both for its mom & pop businesses like the Munch Company (which is never open) & its sense of history. It is a "Tree City" and a relatively older community, becoming a city in 1888--and there are many amazing vistas with mature trees.

The City encourages filming & it is featured in many commercials and films, making it a somewhat surreal place to live in--as though this were "Anywhere, USA." One house is used alot--one week, it is dressed up to represent the Midwest in a Netflix ad; and the next week, the house is dressed differently to be in Dade County in CSI Miami..

*But South Pasadena is not just "Anywhere."* It is my home. It is a place with a history that is inconsistently tracked and sometimes commodified--from the Native Americans who lived in the Arroyo Secco (where there is now an archery range), to the Cawston Ostrich Farm (now the Ostrich Farm lofts), to the health sanitarium that attracted people with tuberculosis in the late 1890s (now an OSH hardware store & apartments).

South Pasadena has different public monuments that trace its history and some of them are amazing, but I am more intrigued by the history we can see but don't always recognize--like the natural spring on Arroyo Drive that makes the road perpetually wet or the cross that marks the place of a Cathedral Oak and where the first Easter mass was conducted by Father Juan Crespi in 1770.



# An Angel in Topanga

## by Linda Vallejo

Topanga Canyon is a place of angels, artists and nature all in a strange mix of California history, 60's Hippies, modern technologies and conveniences, and natural lifestyle. The Angel of Topanga sits in the center of my neighborhood guarding passer-bys and residents. The angel, with its bright mosaic colors sits in a bed of pine trees and indigenous herbs and plants reminding me of many of the people that I know in my neighborhood; strikingly individual people with brightly colored imaginations and lifestyles living in the closest thing to pristine nature that we have here in Southern California.



The angel sits overlooking Topanga

Canyon Boulevard guarding over residents and visitors with its blue hues reminding us that the beach is very close by. Its hands are positioned with palms upwards welcoming all and presenting its spirit to nature itself. In the evening the angel becomes a ghostly figure surrounded only by moonlight and the whisper of crickets.

An artist's vision is one of individuality and unique place. The Angel of Topanga has a unique and unusual presence, made of uncommon elements living in the midst of "a strange space." (continued on page 11).

### MY NEIGHBORHOOD PHOTO/ESSAY CHALLENGE

The Studio for Southern California History is now accepting entries from Southern California residents responding to the "My Neighborhood" Photo-Essay challenge. Each entry must include FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS taken in Southern California along with a 500 - 1,000 word ESSAY that explains how the images illustrate "my neighborhood." This is an ongoing challenge and an Ipod Nano will be awarded to the quarterly winners. Include: Photographer's Name, Home Address (Number, Street, Apt #)

City, State, Zip code

Phone Number

E-mail address (optional)

500-1,000 Word Essay

Photographs with title, location and date for each image. One entry per person.

All entries will be judged anonymously and will become property of the Studio for Southern California History and included in the LA History Archive.

Submissions must be postmarked, or your email dated, on or before the contest deadline. Submit entries by mail or electronically to: [thesocalstudio@gmail.com](mailto:thesocalstudio@gmail.com).

*The next deadline for this  
quarterly challenge is  
February 1, 2009.*

## The TOP TEN Reasons to Join the Studio's Membership Program:

10. Exclusive invitations to receptions, walking tours, exhibit openings, special symposia, workshops & film screenings;
9. An annual subscription to the Studio newsletter PROOFS.
8. One Studio T-shirt with logo and "Because my history matters" emblazoned across the back (\$10 value);
7. One set of four LA History Collectors Cards (\$5 value);
6. One A People's Guide to LA (a \$10 value);
5. A Sneak-Peak at upcoming Studio programming like the LA History Archive;
4. A 10% discount on all Studio products like T-shirts, LA History Playing Cards & Collector Cards;
3. Access to local public history and a place that wants your voice added to the record;
2. FREE red licorice at the Studio;
1. Peace of mind that you are supporting an institution that seeks to preserve our past.

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

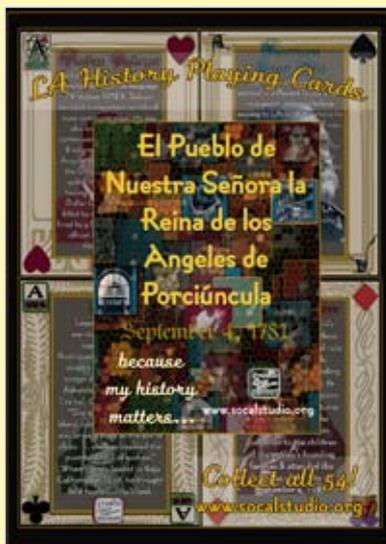
Student.....	\$25
Individual.....	\$55
Family.....	\$75
Friend.....	\$100
Institution.....	\$250
Supporting.....	\$500
Benefactor.....	\$1,000

\*denotes yearly membership fee

### *The Studio Store*

(available online at [www.socalstudio.org](http://www.socalstudio.org))  
Come to the Studio, mail in your order with a check, or visit our website to make your purchase. Note: shipped items have a \$6 shipping & handling charge added.

- Studio Memberships;
  - LA History Playing Cards (\$20/deck)
  - T-Shirts (\$10 each)
  - People's Guides to LA (\$10 each)
  - LA History Collector Cards (\$5/set)
- New! A set of four of the LA History Playing Cards (the Aces, of course!) featuring Califa, Felipe de Neve, Harrison Gray Otis & Ruben Salazar.



(LINDA VALLEJO - An Angel in Topanga: continued from page 9)  
Artists live in their own "space" much like this angel. Artists present their palms up offering the fruit of their creativity to the world and to their neighborhood. Topanga is home to hundreds of painters, potters, photographers, filmmakers, poets and writers. They too are the angels of my neighborhood!

I often wonder what people driving through on their way to the beach or the San Fernando Valley think of our neighborhood and its zany mix of realities. Southern California is not known for many natural settings, but Topanga Canyon is an exception to the rule with many homes situated on multiple acres of land, native plants and trees including the California Valley and Canyon Oak, and animals of all kinds including bob cat, cotton tails, quails, hawks, and coyotes, among many others. In the winter the Topanga Creek becomes its only little raging river with small waterfalls and pools. Croaking frogs come to life in their renewed, wet environment and their song arises just as the sun goes down each evening. There are no street lights in Topanga which makes it possible to see and appreciate thousands of stars and the planets. There is little traffic on the small roads, and police and emergency vehicles turn their sirens off when visiting. It is so quiet that on a summer's day you can hear the thousands of bees gathering their pollen and making honey. The silence is an angel's silence, a silent prayer for nature in a city where nature is hard to find.

I moved to Topanga seven years ago and promised myself that I would wait for my new home and the beauty of nature to affect me. Now, I am surprised when I enter a crowded, noisy urban area of our city and wait anxiously to return to my Topanga Angel and the quiet of nature. The Angel of Topanga has inspired me to stand calmly and strong with my palms facing skyward as a symbol of my dedication to my art and my neighborhood.

(ROSE HANG - Profile in Courage: continued from page 5)

The trip could take up to 6 months, with boats waiting for safe entry into China. Rose counts herself very lucky; her husband Lloyd (who is also from Vietnam) was not lucky. Lloyd was unable to make the boat his family left on and the boat sank, killing everyone on board and all of his immediate family. Rose's story represents the "American Dream" in many ways--she has an entrepreneurial drive and an unshakeable patriotism as a US citizen. She started her own business, Dynasty Salon, in 1984 after attending cosmetology school. As a manicurist, Rose defied her mother's class concepts of appropriate work and her own fears about opening a business. She sees her work as an extension of her interest in design and a form of caregiving. She has two successful sons Danny & Brian, who are attending college, and a large extended family in Southern California who demand her time, but she works \*every\* day of the week and rarely takes vacations.

Rose counts her father as the most influential person in her life, citing his humor and warm heart. He was killed in a bus accident when she was a teenager but his memory is still vividly etched in her heart. She still has old boyfriends who ask about her in Vietnam, but she sees Vietnam "as the past." And though she misses the place and people alot, she chooses to not return and contribute to its communist economy. Despite all that she has witnessed, Rose cites letting Danny go away to college as the most difficult thing she has ever done.

**2009 Studio Calendar  
Fridge Version**

Be sure to check our website for updates on dates and times as this schedule is subject to change. All Walking Tours are 10 am - 12 pm and are FREE but RSVPs are suggested to ensure space--tours are capped at 30 people.

**Saturday February 7, 2009: Walking Tour Angelus Rosedale**  
Resident Storytellers: Steve Goldstein & Joe Walker  
Meet: at the cemetery gates at 1831 West Washington Blvd, LA.

place  
magnet  
here

**Saturday February 21, 2009: Walking Tour Hollywood Forever**  
Resident Storyteller: Steve Goldstein & Joe Walker  
Meet: at the cemetery gates at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd, LA.

**Saturday, March 7, 2009: Walking Tour Palms**  
Resident Storyteller: George Garrigues  
Meet: at the Ivy Substation & Media Park at 9070 Venice Blvd, Culver City.

**\*Saturday, March 21, 2009: Spring Fling--the Annual Studio Fundraiser**  
Tickets \$20 each. *Be there or be shamed & square.*

**Saturday, April 4, 2009: Walking Tour Union Station & environs**  
Resident Storyteller: Monica Pelayo  
Meet: at the Alameda entrance to Union Station.

**Saturday, April 18, 2009: Walking Tour Sherman Indian School Cemetery**  
Resident Storyteller: Sharon Sekhon with help from Lorene Sisquoc  
Meet: in Riverside, across the street from the cemetery at the intersection of November Drive and Indiana Ave. This event is in tandem with the Sherman Indian Museum and coincides with the Sherman Indian High School's annual Pow Wow later in the day at 9010 Magnolia Ave, Riverside. For more information visit [www.shermanindianmuseum.org](http://www.shermanindianmuseum.org).

**Saturday, September 5, 2009: Walking Tour New Chinatown**  
Meet: at the Studio for Southern California History

**Saturday October 3, 2009: Walking Tour Evergreen Cemetery**  
Resident Storytellers: Steve Goldstein & Joe Walker  
Meet: in front of the cemetery at 204 N. Evergreen Avenue.



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