

# Documentary Delights

by Alex Henteloff / Special to CASA

**T**HE SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL just grows more exciting every year. For those who enjoy documentaries, there will be much to enrich, enlighten, and enthrall.

There is action, drama, triumph, and tragedy. Whether soaring *Into the Wind* with its adventurous journey into powered paragliding with a backdrop of some truly picturesque places of the southwest, U.S. and Mexico, or being mesmerized and inspired by the life of Christa McAuliffe in *Christa McAuliffe: Reach for the Stars*, as fine



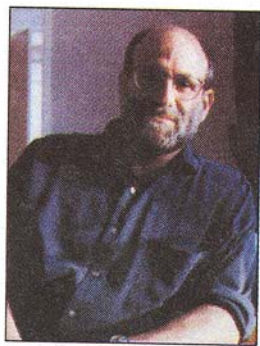
Alex Henteloff

a tribute to her courage, compassion, and commitment to life as exists.

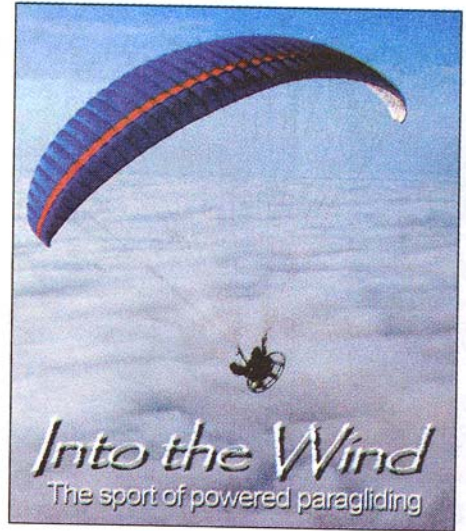
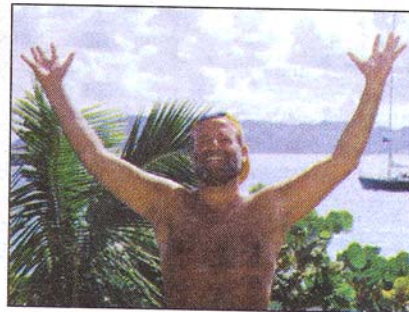
Last year students from a film studies class at UCSB, in association with the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara, undertook a project to create video portraits of local Holocaust survivors for part of a permanent exhibit, *Portraits of Survival: Life Journeys*

*During the Holocaust and Beyond*. The results of six of these short films make up *Video Portraits of Survival*, a unique, compelling and insightful look into the past from the real life histories of some of our neighbors.

Another fascinating world perspective comes from another local filmmaker, Mark Manning. *CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: The Untold Story of Falluja* is a joint production of Iraqi and American filmmakers filmed inside Falluja during the U.S. bombardment (Operation Phantom Fury) and its aftermath (Nov. 2004 through Apr. 2005). This city of 250,000 people, about the size of Cincinnati, was decimated and this short documentary (by a crew that was not embedded with the military, was on its own,



Special Thanks To Roy London



*Into the Wind*  
The sport of powered paragliding

unprotected and uncensored) gives us an up close and personal glimpse at the terror, the trauma of a fire zone that we know continues.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** Filmmaker Christopher Monger, along with producers Karen Montgomery and Julie Warner have brought a revealing and loving documentary, *Special Thanks To Roy London*, to the screen. Interviews with dozens of actors, writers and directors



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