

Up From the Ashes

Malibu

Thousand Oaks

Paradise

Charlotte Lerchenmuller

VIDEO AND CAPTIONS BY Kitty Hu

Charlotte Lerchenmuller, wife of late Mexican-American educator and activist, Sal Castro and president of the Sal Castro Foundation, reflects upon the history of Camp Hess Kramer. Tucked away in the hills of Malibu, this Jewish campsite hosted the Chicano Youth Leadership Conference (CYLC), which Castro started in 1963. The conference reinforced the importance of higher education and understanding one's history and culture. It's goal was to foster a sense of community among Chicano youth, many of whom attended UCLA later on and returned to volunteer, and empowered the 1968 East Los Angeles Walkouts fighting for education reform. UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center supports CYLC and regularly hosts symposiums with the Sal Castro Foundation. Camp Hess Kramer was severely damaged by the Woolsey fire in November, but Lerchenmuller has faith in the restoration of the campsite and hopes to bring students back to this place in Chicano history.



CHARLOTTE LERCHENMULLER