

Student Handout
Oakland Museum of California
What's Going On? California and the Vietnam Era
Lesson Plan #2

1968: Year of Social Change and Turning Point in Vietnam and the U.S.

Oral History
Barbara Sonneborn

Barbara Sonneborn's husband Jeff was killed in Vietnam in 1968. Twenty years later, she made the Academy Award nominated documentary *Regret to Inform* about the experiences of women, both American and Vietnamese, during the war.

When I came to California in 1967, I went uh, to Fort Ord, which was where Jeff was stationed. And we had very much wanted to come to California. Uh, we didn't realize at that time that Fort Ord was the major infantry jumping off point for Vietnam. But 1967 was the era of Golden Gate Park and of people dancing... you know, dancing nude in the park. It was uh, a time of our generation turning against the generation before. And yet being at Fort Ord uh, at the same time as huge protests were happening against the war was difficult for me, because I was against the war and I was against his going to Vietnam. But he felt that he was doing what he had to do. So by then we had stopped fighting about it. We weren't fighting anymore. We had had some pretty s- ... you know, heavy duty fights.

