

# BUSINESS beat

## Personal History Productions

Susan Milstein and Andi Reese Brady

Phone: 707-539-5559

Email: [susan@personalhistoryproductions.com](mailto:susan@personalhistoryproductions.com)

[andi@personalhistoryproductions.com](mailto:andi@personalhistoryproductions.com)

Website: [www.personalhistoryproductions.com](http://www.personalhistoryproductions.com)

When Skyhawk resident Karen Shanahan lost her mother and father within two years of each other, she suddenly saw there was so much about their lives that she'd never talked to them about and could no longer ask.

"Unless you've lost a parent, you wouldn't understand what it's like to have no more opportunities to talk to your parents and ask them questions," Karen said. "I would give anything to hear my mother and father tell their stories one more time."

Determined not to miss the chance to record the life stories of her husband's parents, Karen hired Susan Milstein



Andi Reese Brady & Susan Milstein

and Andi Reese Brady, of Personal History Productions, to interview her in-laws, Thomas and Theresa Shanahan, and to produce audio histories of their lives.

"I knew that John's parents had health issues," Karen said. "Every time they came to see us, I worried that it might be our last visit. I wanted to make sure that I preserved their stories for their five children and 12 grandchildren while their minds were still intact and they weren't struggling to remember," Karen said.

Since starting Personal History Productions in 2005, Andi and Susan have helped dozens of people record their life stories and family memories as a legacy for future generations of their families. Along with audio and video histories, they also produce heirloom-quality personal history books illustrated with family photos. "Our clients often give their parents a gift certificate for a life story project to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary," Andi said. "And companies sometimes give personal history projects as gifts to retiring executives." Andi and Susan also help people who have written their own memoirs but who need editing and publishing assistance.

Before becoming a personal historian, Susan worked as a newspaper reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Dallas Times Herald, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Andi spent many years as an editor in the publishing industry.

Susan and Andi, both long time Skyhawk residents, were neighbors before they were business partners. "We realized that our professional skills perfectly complemented each other and that together we could provide a service that people really need," Susan said.

Andi and Susan's projects are customized to the desires and budgets of their clients. Projects range in cost from \$200 to \$25,000. "We can craft a project to meet just about anyone's budget," Andi said. "And we offer free consultations."

Are you a Skyhawk resident who owns their own business? If you would like to have your business featured in *Skyhawk Living*, please contact me at **Paige Pedri** at [n2pub.com](mailto:n2pub.com).

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