

Steve Masover - Long Bio

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Steve Masover is an author, activist, and information technologist. A native of Chicago, his family relocated to the Bay Area in 1970; he graduated from UC Berkeley in 1982 with a degree in English.

His short fiction has appeared in *Five Fingers Review* and *Christopher Street*. An essay-length memoir piece is anthologized in *Our Mothers' Spirits* (HarperCollins, 1997). Masover shares screenplay credit for an anti-apartheid movement documentary, *Soweto to Berkeley* (Cinema Guild, 1988). He blogs at [One Finger Typing](#) and on [Daily Kos](#).

Masover's lifelong dedication to political activism took an academic turn when he worked in the 1990s for UC Berkeley's Emma Goldman Papers Project, assembling source material for historian Paul Avrich's acclaimed biography, *Sasha and Emma*, and testing Goldman's recipe for blintzes while maintaining the project's database. His vocation for activism began decades before, in the fifth grade, when he joined millions in wearing a black armband for the Vietnam War Moratorium—a nationwide series of political actions in October, 1969 that Daniel Ellsberg credits with dissuading President Nixon from deploying tactical nuclear weapons against North Vietnam. He organized on the UC Berkeley campus in opposition to South African apartheid during the mid-1980s. Hearing Nelson Mandela, recently freed from a twenty-seven year imprisonment, acknowledge Berkeley's movement for its contribution to South Africa's liberation struggle inspired Steve for life. He participated in the first successful political blockade of the Golden Gate Bridge in 1989 to protest inadequate response to the AIDS epidemic; helped lead the East Bay chapter of Queer Nation in the early '90s; and joined in staging guerilla theater across the Bay Area in opposition to government-administered torture from Abu Ghraib to Guantanamo. Currently he is active in the Bay Area around climate change issues, with a focus on the fossil fuel divestment movement on the UC Berkeley campus. From opposing reckless wars, to realizing queer liberation, to decrying the pacifying tyranny of television, Masover has spoken out in the media, choked on the tear gas, and kissed-in at the suburban malls.

Currently Masover works for UC Berkeley's information technology division, supporting research computing on the campus. He writes, organizes as a grassroots activist, and studies Tai Chi Chuan in Berkeley, California.