**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***“ – the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program described below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the computer screen. Also, see much information at the issue category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary at the “TV Programs” part of [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

🡪 In addition to summarizing what we said during this article, this article also includes some ideas we did not have time to mention or discuss. Explicit notes identify those as such.

**Here is the August 2019 program:**

**“Insights for Effective Grassroots Organizing”**

by Glen Anderson, the TV series’ producer and host
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**Introduction to this interview:**

**NONE** of the positive changes that have happened in our nation’s political or social lives were gifts from Congress or big business.

Women’s right to vote was **NOT** a gift from male politicians. Women won the right to vote only because they organized vigorously and effectively.

Labor unions, better pay and benefits were **NOT** gifts from big business. Workers won these only because they organized vigorously and effectively.

Environmental laws were **NOT** gifts from governments or big business. Environmentalists won these only because they organized vigorously and effectively.

The victories for civil rights and many other serious issues were won only by smart, courageous nonviolent grassroots organizing.

This month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” will help **you** become more effective in working for the political, economic and social changes **you** want to see.

Two guests – **Holly Gwinn Graham** and **Bob Zeigler –** and I share insights that will strengthen **your** ability to organize. Holly and Bob are savvy organizers with long experience working on a variety of important issues.

**Let’s reverse our typical understanding of the official “powerholders” and the public.
Let’s turn the traditional “pyramid” upside down.**

Glen began by laying out a fresh way to see the power struggle between grassroots people and the people who hold the official power. He said the typical way of understanding power is a pyramid with a few powerful people on top and the rest of us at the bottom. This puts us in a subservient and powerless position, so we must ask the people with official power to please do us a favor.

Instead, we need to turn the pyramid upside down, so “WE THE PEOPLE” are on top and we recognize that – as Thomas Jefferson and our nation’s founders understood – “WE THE PEOPLE actually have the power. With this model, we allow official people to use **our** power only as long as they use it responsibly. If they mess up, we take **ou**r power back from them. “WE THE PEOPLE” are in charge.

Bob emphasized the importance of starting at the base and building power there. This strategy has laid an effective foundation for things that have started well and lasted a long time. He said, “The ‘top-down’ approach is like the ‘trickle-down’ economic theory. It doesn’t really work.” He said starting at the bottom is necessary if we want to empower people.

He gave a practical example of a group of people going on a hike. They know they need to go at the rate of the slowest person. The smallest person with the shortest stride is put in front to set the pace. In this way, everyone is included and no one is left behind. This allows everyone to travel together, he said.

Glen said that this wisdom would probably be expressed through other metaphors, as well.

He said. “When people who have official power (and think they’re on top) fail to solve a problem, here is a smart way for us to empower ourselves and move a majority of the public to solve the problem.” He listed a few steps:

FIRST, we make the issue **hot** on the public agenda, so our society – the public, the media and politicians – absolutely must deal with it seriously.

SECOND, we educate the general public to understand the current problem, see that the status quo is not solving the problem, and agree with the solution that we are recommending, instead of the status quo’s neglect.

This requires us to peel people away from the status quo, show that our solution better serves the public’s deeply held values, and win the public’s hearts, minds, and support. This approach empowers the society to actually solve the problem in the way we are urging.

Holly enthusiastically agreed with this strategy. She said often people don’t understand what other people are going through. She said empathy is very important. She affirmed the potential power of grassroots people to move the “leaders” with the official power. She mentioned safety and intelligence as factors in this process.

Bob said people can do significant things even if the “leaders” are not willing to act. He said, “Cities and states have taken on the climate issue in the face of the Trump administration.”

Bob also mentioned a powerful, inspiring example he witnessed in El Salvador, where peasant women knew what was right and what was wrong, and they refused to settle any longer for things they knew were wrong, so they skillfully organized to restructure their local society from the bottom up. He said they did amazing things. They organized environmental restoration projects, created an art school for kids who were in gangs, and reduced violence in their communities. He said they accomplished many things “in spite of everything at the top working against them – their government, our government, and the international economic order.” But he said the people at the base knew the value of their own “people-power.” They knew that the power of the people is stronger than the people in power.

Glen said it’s important to start by recognizing and affirming our best values.

Holly said another powerful aspect of these movements – including the movement in southern Mexico’s Chiapas area – is the art that the people created. Giant murals and other kinds of art brought people together and advanced their efforts.

**Let’s practice more profound democracy.
Grassroots organizing to build effective movements is more powerful than merely voting.**

Glen said this kind of creative thinking pertains also to democracy. Pretty much everybody nationwide says they support democracy, but many Americans say our nation is not living up to that value or that goal.

Holly said Marian Wright Edelman recently talked about the ongoing work of creating America. Holly said Langston Hughes had said America has never been America for him. Holly said this is perfectly understandable when we consider the racism that has persisted here for so long. She said, “Democracy is not a done deal,” so we must continue creating it and continue creating America. She mentioned the concept of “imaginal cells.” You are part of something greater than you – a cell in a body that is creating a larger vision and even something tangible that you can step on. She said it seems like you are on the end of a tightrope and you are holding the end of it and you’re out over the distance. You and your intention and your friends can help you make it across that chasm. Likewise, we can create a movement and bring other people into the movement, and bring several movements together and accomplish our goals.

Holly said we are at this kind of crossroads now. Many people would like to help the kids that ICE has imprisoned at the border. Who has the power to organize and fund strong remedies for that? We do what we can – we write, we phone, we sing, we organize – and we keep trying to connect. She said people are working on democracy.

Glen expressed appreciation for Holly’s sense that democracy needs to be an ongoing project. He said typically people think about “democracy” as merely voting, but that’s not enough because voting happens only occasionally, and then it’s done. He said it’s more important to organize **grassroots movements** that will **build and grow over the long term** to achieve our goals. When we organize at the grassroots to move the public to solve problems, we are practicing democracy continuously and in more profound ways to accomplish bigger goals. Then we are DOING democracy. He said ***Doing Democracy*** is the name of Bill Moyer’s smart book about nonviolent grassroots organizing.

All three of us – and many more people – have been doing that for decades. Perhaps our conversation during this hour will inspire and equip more people to do that too.

Glen said he defines **“organizing”** as “working with other people to make good things happen. Organizing is working strategically in groups to make progress toward social and political change.”

Bob revisited the democracy theme. He said the U.S. is only one state away from passing the Equal Rights Amendment. In the 1970s our nation got stuck three states short, but he said two states ratified the constitutional amendment within the past year, so we need to persist until we achieve that goal.

He mentioned the term “persistent resistance,” which is an English translation of a familiar Spanish term for nonviolent grassroots organizing in Latin America. We need to continue engaging as part of the struggle for the very long term and never give up.

When we were preparing for this interview, Bob said it’s useful to know about some methods that were developed in the past. He mentioned:

* Bill Moyer’s “Movement Action Plan” for a long-term vision
* Saul Alinsky’s ***Rules for Radical***s and the importance of building coalitions
* The campaign strategies developed by Gandhi, King, and other skilled organizers

Glen expressed appreciation for these too, and he said he very much appreciates a book that explains clearly and powerfully how different movements have learned from the movements that had come before, built upon those strategies, and made even more progress. The book is ***This Is an Uprising*** by Mark Engler and Paul Engler. Their website is [**www.thisisanuprising.org**](http://www.thisisanuprising.org).

Glen said we live in an era of “instant everything,” so many people simply jumping from crisis to crisis. But we need to wage our social movements deliberately:

* We need to understand the problems deeply and thoroughly.
* We need to set goals that change power relationships and inspire people to join with us.
* We need to devise smart strategies to reach our goals.
* We need to take long-term views and persist for a number of years to finally succeed.
* We need to set short-term goals that will be stepping stones to bigger victories and inspire our people to stay with us all the way until we win the big long-term victories.

**During the interview, we did not have time for Glen to mention these points, but they are worth mentioning here in this more thorough printed article about our topic:**

* Success happens all along the path – even before we accomplish our final goal. We need to recognize our successes at each step along the way.
* We need to recognize the progress we are making, even when our opponents and the news media say we're losing.
* We don’t know in advance what will bear fruit.
* During Olympia’s weekly peace vigils, drivers, passengers and pedestrians see our signs and probably start conversations among themselves later, even if we don’t know now what fruits those conversations might bear later.
* Sometimes I wear a button that says, “When the people lead, eventually the leaders will follow.”
* It’s not enough for activists to merely accumulate more information and talk among ourselves. We must act on it, reach out to more people, and build ever-larger grassroots movements.
* In order to make political progress, we must define clear goals, devise smart strategies, and interact skillfully with the general public.
* We must set goals and strategize how to bring more people into our movement to accomplish our goals.
* We must design strategies to win a strong majority of public opinion to our side.
* We must recognize other people’s emotional and psychological realities, and plan accordingly.
* To be effective, we must practice nonviolence in how we interact with all people, including people who do not agree with us.
* We can become much more effective at moving public opinion! Be friendly and open and welcoming.
* We must respect our volunteers, spell people’s names correctly, pay attention to practical details, produce high quality work output, etc.

Face-to-face relationships over a period of time are important for building and sustaining a movement’s strong supporters.

Rallies, marches, buttons and bumper stickers can raise issues, but they are not sufficient to accomplish revolutions. They are tools – parts of larger strategies. **Face-to-face relationships are important.**

We need to reach out at the grassroots and organize the general public to:

* Help people care about issues
* Help people understand issues
* Bring people to our side about issues
* Inspire and empower people to act about issues

We need to distinguish the term “activism” from real “organizing.” The term “activism” can imply merely some random frenzy. Instead, **we need “organizing” to make clear goals, smart strategies, and effective steps forward.**

**For many issues, most people want to replace the status quo with a better future.**

We organize because we see a problem that we want to fix. We recruit other people and work together to replace the status quo with a better future. We talked about this positive aspect.

Holly said she learned about Native American issues when she was living in England. When she returned to the U.S. she began working with the American Indian Movement. She has worked extensively throughout the U.S.’s anti-nuclear movement. She cares about issues and wants to find her best ways to help those movements. She has gathered people together, organized meetings, circulated petitions, and done other things. Often she writes songs that teach people about the issues.

Currently she is active also with the Raging Grannies. “We wear wonderfully funny hats, we say awfully serious things in a very funny way, and we’re always in the face of power.” She emphasized the importance of using humor.

Glen expressed appreciation for Holly’s work in Skagit County (four counties north of Olympia). When Holly moved there in the 1970s, people were already organizing to prevent a nuclear power plant form being built on the beautiful, clean Skagit River ten miles from the small town of Burlington – in the midst of an earthquake zone. She said the struggle against the nuclear plant continued for six years, and the Magic Skagit music festival was part of a local grassroots coalition’s struggle to protect the Skagit River and the surrounding communities.

Glen noted that many of the powerful grassroots movements around issues are really grounded in people’s values and in people’s visions for the future they want. Holly said that although we change throughout our lives, she appreciates people’s ongoing commitment to enduring values and the things that will last so our children can inherit those. She said people came together from bakeries and the co-op and from the gardens and from the local businesses and from many kinds of people who want to protect their wild and scenic river from a nuclear power plant. “All of those things matter.”

Bob affirmed the need to “speak truth to power.” He said in his professional job he was reviewing environmental documents for that proposed nuclear power plant, and some powerful people were saying there was no need for an environmental impact statement. He said that was ridiculous. Ordinary people countered that by “speaking truth to power,” and some people used music. People worked from the bottom up to counter the official top-down process. He said that the bureaucracy he worked in could review documents and make comments, “but the things that made the changes were the citizens – those who would go and be at the hearings – and those who were marching.”

Holly said she and others kept talking to the electric utility company that was trying to build the nuclear plant – Puget Sound Power & Light, which is now Puget Sound Energy. Glen said that’s the capitalist company that provides electricity in our local community, and local people want to replace it with a publicly owned electric utility to serve Olympia.

After a six-year struggle, they finally created the opportunity for Skagit County’s voters to decide whether to allow or reject the nuclear power plant. Holly said that on Election Day an earthquake occurred at the exact site of the proposed nuclear plant. She said this further raised people’s consciousness about the danger. The voters stopped it, and people celebrated.

Bob affirmed the importance of celebrating victories. Recognizing and celebrating our successes can help sustain our movements for change.

Glen said that so many serious problems exist – nuclear weapons, the climate crisis, endless wars, fascist tendencies in the U.S.’s current administration, and so forth – that people can get bogged down in doom and gloom. The problems can seem so overwhelming that the general public and the people in the grassroots movements can feel depressed and shut down emotionally because they don’t want to deal with the problems. Instead, “what we need to do is confront it and take strong nonviolent actions – and don’t just protest what we’re against but also say here is what we need instead, and here is what’s in my heart that causes me to want this other thing instead. It really is up for grabs.”

He said in 1982 President Reagan was threatening the world’s survival with reckless nuclear weapons, and people were terrified that Reagan was going to blow up the world,. Glen said he and Bob and hundreds of other people worked with the Thurston County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign to put a nuclear weapons freeze proposal on the county-wide ballot for November 1982. Local governments in Massachusetts and elsewhere had already passed measures calling for stopping (“freezing”) the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons, so we wanted Thurston County’s voters to do this too. Instead of saying, “Holy crap! We’re doomed to blowing ourselves up!” we chose the positive and witty slogan, **“Ain’t it great to be alive!”** This positive exclamation conveyed our positive attitude and attracted the public to our side. We won the county-wide initiative with 62 ½ % of the vote.

Glen said that during the 1980s people were arguing about various kinds of numbers regarding nuclear weapons: how many missiles each side had, how many warheads on which missiles, how much megatonnage of destructive power, how much “throw-weight,” etc., etc., etc. People bogged down arguing about numbers. The genius of the Freeze Campaign was that it said, “JUST STOP!” The public could easily understand that and agree with that.

Also, some years later Olympia joined other local communities in becoming a Nuclear-Free Zone for a while.

Bob mentioned something he remembered from college. The history professor had told the class that if they don’t remember anything else from the class, they should remember this message, which he **wrote on the blackboard: “Hope = Revolution.”** The professor said his professional research had focused on revolutions throughout history and throughout the world. He said revolutions occurred not when things got so bad but rather when people saw a way for things to get better.

Glen agreed and mentioned the historical concept of “the revolution of rising expectations.” When things were very bad people were beaten down and suppressed. But when they could see the possibility of improvement – such as the decades when people around the world were rising up against their colonial oppressors – they realized that they could empower themselves to demand and achieve freedom.

Bob said this is what Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement did. Glen agreed. They used metaphors about leaving Egypt for the Promised Land. They built a sense of community and drew upon religious faith and music to empower themselves to achieve freedom.

When we respect the humanity of the adversary, we are not only avoiding making an enemy, but also we are building a relationship for continuing engagement. We can move people continually and plea to their humanity and humanitarian values.

**Nonviolence is crucial. Let’s ground ourselves in nonviolence. Nonviolence really works.**

When we were preparing for this interview, Bob mentioned that it’s important for grassroots organizing to “be principled.” Bob also mentioned the importance of “a spirituality, and that can be faith or value based, but also can be the concept that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves and the whole is more than the sum of the parts.”

Holly added that good communication is important. Glen said this includes good listening – and listening to the people with whom we disagree. This is hard but important.

Bob stretched nonviolence further into actual respect for the adversary. He said this does not mean that we “give way” or “back off.” Rather, “you respect the basic humanity of the adversary, and you try to draw upon that humanity as much as possible.”

Glen said that when Martin Luther King and the people in the Civil Rights Movement were working hard against racism, they suffered a lot of violence, but King “never called any of his adversaries evil people. He talked about **systems** that were evil.” He said racism, economic injustice, and war were evil systems, but he never called any white people evil – not even the police officers or the violent white racists. Glen said we need to make that kind of distinction now, especially with the polarization that exists in our nation.

**We did not have time during this hour to discuss these additional ideas relevant here:**

* All three of us are grounded in a spirit of nonviolence and in the oneness of the human family. Our nation is immersed in violence from our endless wars to our unjust social and economic systems. We need to replace chronic and systemic violence with nonviolent ways of running our society. Nonviolence is our goal for what we want our society to practice – and nonviolence also is the method that can help us achieve it.
* People are taught that there are only two responses to a problem: “fight” or “flight.” People assume that you either use violence or you run away. Actually, there is a third alternative that often works better. Nonviolence is a different way to fight back but without using violence.
* Some people think nonviolence is “nice and moral” but naïve and not practical in the real world. But actually nonviolence is what really does work. One hundred years ago World War I was promoted as “the war to end all wars.” Did it accomplish that?
* Erica Chenoweth’s research and book (***Why Civil Resistance Works***) proved that nonviolence works better than violence in achieving freedom and democracy. Movements that were strictly nonviolent have been proven to actually work better than movements that included any violence.
* Erica Chenoweth’s book also said a relatively small number of people with their sustained nonviolent efforts can make a huge difference.
* Grounding ourselves in nonviolence is crucial for grassroots organizing because it is safe and easy for members of the broad general public to join with us. Also, building a movement that is nonviolent moves the public toward goals of peace and social justice.
* I’m convinced that if we are grounded in nonviolence – and if we strategize well and act responsibly – then everything we do will make a positive difference.
* Let’s recognize that all people are one human family. Do not let anyone split us apart from each other or divide any groups into “us” vs. “them.”
* One of the most important reasons why nonviolence works is that nonviolence uses means that are consistent with the ends. If we want to build a world that is peaceful and just, we must use methods that are peaceful and just.
* What we do sows the seeds of the world that will grow. Violent and unjust seeds produce a violent and unjust world. Peaceful and just seeds produce a peaceful and just world.
* See much more information about nonviolence at the “Nonviolence” part of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

**We shared more insights about interacting with people with whom we disagree.**

Glen said many people trip up on two pitfalls when dealing with opponents:

**One pitfall** is to reject them altogether by saying, “You just can’t deal with those people.”

**Another pitfall** is to fret because we can’t convert hard opponents all the way over to our side.

He offered a smart remedy for those two pitfalls. This model is called “The Spectrum of Allies.” This model helps us recognize that public opinion is not a sharply polarized “us vs. them” situation. Instead, we can recognize that different people’s positions on an issue actually stretch across a spectrum with five positions:

1. Strongly on the wrong side **and** strongly pushing against our goal
2. Somewhat on the wrong side **but no**t doing much to oppose us
3. Undecided with mixed feelings
4. Somewhat on our side **but not** actively helping us
5. Strongly on our side **and** strongly helping us reach our goal

He said we need to devise different strategies for the people in each of these 5 positions along the spectrum. Let’s figure out ways to move the people in each position one step further toward where we want them to be.

Instead of fretting about trying to convert our hard-core adversaries (position #1 above), think creatively to devise strategies to cause them to weaken their opposition to us and move them into the next position on the spectrum. Most of our progress will come from moving people in positions #2, #3, and #4 each one step further toward #5, respectively. He said this model is called the “Spectrum of Allies,” and he has conducted workshops to help people learn how to use this.

Bob said that he and other people work for immigrant rights through the local Strengthening Sanctuary organization. They try to build relationships with local law enforcement agencies and keep pointing out to them the needs, the opportunities and the benefits of adopting policies that protect immigrants’ rights.

He said this approach has allowed some major breakthroughs to occur in Olympia and elsewhere. For example, he said a police officer in a small city nearby had a real awakening during a discussion, and the officer said, “If I were an immigrant, I’d be afraid right now.” Bob said the officer had not thought of that insight before.

Glen said if people continue face-to-face and keep the conversation going, people can open up.

Bob affirmed that and said that even when they hit brick walls, they go back again and again and keep interacting well. He said they can ask, “Do you support breaking up families?” and other questions to encourage thoughtful interactions and relationships. Bon said, “even people you’re not necessarily going to agree with are going to be important in the movements.”

Glen said Bob’s example illustrates the “Spectrum of Allies” model that he had just described.

**Let’s bring many kinds of people into our grassroots movements. We will be stronger and more effective with musicians, demographic diversity, and other kinds of people.**

Building strong grassroots movements requires bringing together many kinds of people from the grassroots. Both Holly and Bob have long experience bringing people together – diverse ethnic groups, musicians, artists, and so forth. Decades ago Holly had founded Skagit Citizens for Nuclear Disarmament, and she worked with a variety of people, including the Swinomish Tribe. (Bob also has close connections with the Swinomish Tribe.)

Holly showed a 1983 photo of Skagit County’s local peace organizers who created a sister community relationship with Olga, a town in the Soviet Union. The Swinomish Tribe hosted the location for this photo, with the town of La Conner in the background. The photo includes a greeting to Olga’s people, written in the Russian language. She said some people dressed according to their jobs or roles in the local community, so they could show the people of Olga what our people were like and what they do. She wrote a song she titled, “Song for a Russian Mother.”

Holly provided a warm update to this story from 1983. She said that – similar to Bob’s concept of “persistent resistance” and things needing a long time to bear fruit – just lately (after nearly four decades of no responses from Olga) Skagit County people heard from a young woman in Olga, Russia. The people there had put Skagit County’s information in Olga’s museum and forgotten about it, but now this young woman wrote and said they are thrilled to be connected, so the reconnection is occurring now.

Bob said he was participating in a spiritual encampment at Swinomish and the woman who was going to start the fire to get it underway. She kept striking her flint but the fire was not starting. This went on for a long time, and Bob was wishing someone would give her a match or a lighter, but she just kept striking the flint with no results, while she was continuing to talk. Finally someone brought some dry leaves, and her next spark ignited the cluster of leaves. She said, “It just goes to show: when the conditions are right it only takes a spark.”

Holly said she and the Swinomish and her peace group and the anti-nuclear power group worked together a lot when she lived in La Conner.

Glen said now tribes are working very cooperatively and productively with majority-white environmental groups and climate groups to stop oil pipelines, fracking and other abuses of the environment and the land and the water. This is happening in other countries as well as throughout the U.S. Bob mentioned uranium mining too. Glen said it’s important that various kinds of people are willing to accept Native leadership for many of these efforts.

Holly showed another photo. This was a more recent (approximately 2005) photo in Olympia’s Heritage Park related to our local “Beyond Hiroshima” organizing for a nuclear free zone. Holly was a key organizer of this photo and campaign, just as she had done in Skagit County. She said this town photo brought together many peace organizations, including the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation, Olympia’s chapter of Veterans for Peace, the Rachel Corrie Foundation, the Quakers, and many other people.

She said another participating group in the photo was the team that had produced the documentary film “Conviction,” which was being shown in its debut at Olympia’s Capitol Theater. Holly explained that this film was about three elderly Catholic nuns who had committed a “Plowshares” action at a nuclear missile silo in Colorado. They carefully cut the chain-link fence, walked to the silo, poured their blood on it, and tapped a ball-peen hammers on top of the silos (reminiscent of the biblical vision of “turning swords into plowshares”). When the military base security troops went to them, the military vehicle destroyed part of the fence, and the MPs threw the elderly nuns to the ground. The women served three-year sentences in federal prison.

She linked the usefulness of the film debut, the community peace photo, and the possibility of selling prints of the photo to raise money for peace activities.

Decades before, Holly had performed music and helped the annual “Magic Skagit” music festival as a way to raise money to pay a lawyer to help their campaign against the nuclear power plant planned for the Skagit River. “Magic Skagit” was a project of Skagitonians Concerned About Nuclear Plants (SCANP). Many musicians donated their talents, and many diverse people attended every year. This annual event helped provide the funding that allowed their campaign to defeat the nuclear power plant in the countywide election of November 1979.

On many occasions Holly has written music to support important issues and movements. She told us about a great song she wrote about the 1997 Cassini Mission in which the U.S. launched into space a missile carrying 72 pounds of plutonium – an extremely dangerous radioactive element – as fuel for its deep-space activities. She said in 1996 she heard about this upcoming event and was inspired to write her “Poison Arrow” song about that. Just one tiny speck of plutonium can cause cancer in many people, so she did not want to risk the danger of contaminating a huge geographical area. If Cassini were to blow up in the atmosphere it would have destroyed most of Florida and other areas.

She already knew Bruce Gagnon, who was organizing against the Cassini Mission. Bruce leads the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, [**www.space4peace.org**](http://www.space4peace.org). She asked Bruce to let her sing it there at the launch site, but he told her they did not have time to squeeze it into the protest event’s agenda. But she sent him a recording of her song, and when he heard the song he invited her to perform it at the launch pad in Florida, so she did that.

They did not stop the mission, but they did prevent its route from returning too close to earth, where it was going to hook into earth’s gravity field and generate more momentum for the rest of its journey to Saturn. The opponents’ efforts did persuade the U.S. government to move its return to earth’s gravitation farther away from earth before continuing its journey. The Cassini item did crash into one of Saturn’s moons (as intended) and contaminate that moon with plutonium. We really can make a difference.

She said they did convince the government to stop using plutonium as a fuel for space activities, but instead to use solar power by designing satellites, etc., with wings that could unfold and absorb sunlight for solar power.

We have not, however, stopped the government’s reckless and expensive plans for fighting wars in space. Thousands of scientists refuse to work on space weapons. Holly and Glen criticized Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) as expensive and unworkable. Glen said SDI is really a fraud, and knowledgeable people ridicule it by calling it “Star Wars.” Glen’s previous TV series’ third episode (April 1987) exposed SDI’s stupidity and unworkability. He said it is so fraudulent that the only way they can make the “tests” succeed is by installing a homing device on the target that the SDI missile is supposed to hit. It is a total scam. But every Congress and every President have continued to fund it for more than 30 years anyway.

All across Canada and in parts of the U.S. (including Seattle and now Olympia) the Raging Grannies have been using music and wit to address serious issues. They take familiar songs that everybody knows, but they write new words to match those tunes, and they use wit and smart political insights to entertain and inform audiences. Now Holly is a leading organizer of Olympia’s Raging Grannies, and she mentioned the names of many of our local Grannies. She told us a bit about the Raging Grannies and their strategic usefulness in organizing. Glen said he devoted one of his TV programs to Seattle’s Raging Grannies many years ago.

We did not have time during this interview to mention the powerful role of music in the Civil Rights Movement. It could not have accomplished nearly as much without the Black Church’s many local congregations where grassroots people interacted every week – and without their music and inspiring solidarity.

**Let’s replace cynicism and despair with hope, long-term vision, and self-confidence.**

Glen said the actual things that we do – the actions we take – are important, and also important are the feelings and attitudes that underlie and support our actions. Glen urged people to design our organizing about all of our issues to replace negative feelings – such as cynicism and despair – with positive feelings such as hope, self-confidence, and a positive long-term vision.

He said many people in the general public do not want to deal with serious issues such as the climate crisis or nuclear weapons because their psychological defenses try to prevent them from exposure to difficult problems. He urged organizers to devise strategies that will reduce the public’s psychological barriers and make it easier for people to open themselves to hearing about and dealing with these serious issues. The arts and the Raging Grannies can help with that. Using spiritual perspectives to address the issues also can help with that.

Holly affirmed that Bob has done a huge amount of that kind of work on a variety of fronts. Bob affirmed Holly’s use of music as a way to touch people’s hearts as well as their minds.

Poetry and other arts are effective. Holly said Skagit County’s people organized art shows with the best artists, and they sold pieces of art for hundreds or even thousands of dollars to raise money for their organizing efforts. She said they did that successfully for many years.

Glen said we need to change people’s hearts along with changing their minds, their voting, and their economic activities. Holly added that artists are quick to do that.

**Let’s be proactive (not just reactive). Be bold and creative. Inspire supporters and the public.**

Glen said one of the basic principles of grassroots organizing is that nothing will happen by itself. Our role as organizers is to figure out what should happen – and then to make it happen. We need to develop smart strategies and work through other people to bring about positive political and social change.

He said we should always anticipate the next step or two. If I could take that next step now, do it. If I can’t yet take that step, do something useful to prepare for that next step. Gather some information. Write down some notes or plans. Bring someone else into the process. By taking the next step, subsequent steps become clear. It’s like walking somewhere at night. Even if you can’t see all the way ahead, when you take one step the next step becomes visible.

When all the nasty stuff gets imposed on us by governments, big businesses or other oppressive forces, it’s common to feel oppressed and merely **react** to the string of nasty stuff. But in order to make positive progress, we can’t get stuck being merely **reactive**. We must become **proactive**. We must become **bold and creative**, so we can **create our own agendas** and **inspire** our supporters and win the public to our side.

Holly agreed and emphasized the importance of having a clear, strong vision. She has experience teaching students in schools, and incorporating peace and social justice into her teachings. For example, she has written songs and plays to help kids understand and value kids of other racial or ethnic backgrounds – the new kid in school who speaks Chinese or Spanish, and other situations.

She affirmed the importance of adults planting seeds to help young people develop values supporting peace and social justice. She said that in addition to working within organizations and movements, we also plant seeds for people for the future.

Bob agreed with this. He emphasized the importance of including young people in the movements. They have been important for the movement to reduce gun violence and the movement to protect the climate. Greta Thunberg is a well-known example. He also said recently eight kids arranged to win a spelling bee in a tie instead of having only one winner. Most of those eight kids were immigrants.

Glen said all three of us started doing this kind of work when we were young people. We need to find ways to keep this going instead of elbowing younger people out of the way.

Bob emphasized the need to communicate effectively with young people. Music can offer ways of doing that. Let’s connect with young people’s values and insights.

Holly said hip-hop music is huge. She affirmed other kinds of arts, including theater, dance, painting, sewing, and other kinds of arts – and also the social media that can be used for good purposes, even though social media also has been used for hurting people. Let’s expand the potential for the good of other people.

Bob urged people to be creative in a variety of ways.

**We did not have time during this interview to discuss these relevant points:**

* Let’s recognize that we are not doomed, or is victory assured. Really, “It’s all up for grabs.” Glen often has told this story: During the 1980s millions of people were scared witless by President Reagan’s reckless militarism and especially his cavalier escalation of nuclear weapons and his willingness to use them. I have often said that many people asked me whether we were doomed or whether I thought we could survive. I always replied to the person by asking what they thought. Some people said we were doomed, so I replied that if they thought that, then they were dooming us. But other people said we could organize and stop the nuclear arms race, so I agreed with them that their willingness to work for peace would indeed turn things around. In each case I told the people, “It’s all up for grabs. If we organize smartly and vigorously we can turn things around. But if we give up, it’s the giving up that dooms us.” That is precisely our crisis now! The choice is up to us!
* When we organize, seek long-term goals (long-term political and social changes) and also focus on short-term goals that will be stepping-stones toward our longer goals. This kind of strategy can inspire and stimulate our volunteers by providing short-term reinforcing successes along the way toward our long-term goals.
* When we were preparing for this interview, Bob told Glen, “There are many paths to justice and peace,” and he urged people to be creative and not think there is only one way to do things.
* Bob has urged grassroots organizers to have fun and incorporate humor whenever possible.
* Bob has also emphasized the importance of building a sense of community. When we were preparing for this interview he quoted Jim Corbett, a leader in the 1980s Sanctuary Movement, who said: “As individuals we can fight injustice but to do justice, we need community.”
* Bob has said, “In community there is value of diversity not just culture and age but also personality and ideas. Do not require perfection. We all have feet of clay and are works in progress. Do more than just run the mechanics of the movement.”
* Glen has often said that organizing requires making actual decisions. We can’t shy away from that. Problems and obstacles are very likely to occur. When they do, instead of feeling defeated and powerless, we need to generate several alternative ways to proceed.

**We can devise smart strategies to improve our outreach.**

In addition to what we’ve already said, Glen invited us to pay attention to any “lessons learned” and other insights that could help other people improve our outreach and our effectiveness.

Holly said we don’t often achieve great success right away. It can take a very long time. She said they did not hear back from Olga, Russia, for 38 years. She said the American Indian Movement is still working decades later, although most people are not aware of that. She appreciated working with John Trudell, a great poet and activist for AIM.

Holly agreed with what Bob had said a few minutes before: “Hope = Revolution.” She said some of us are still waiting for the revolution. She said people are waiting for that moment in the 1976 film “Network” where the TV news anchor leaned out the window and shouted, **“I’m as mad as hell and I’m not going to take this anymore!”** He also urged TV viewers to do the same.

Bob suggested that we “learn from the wisdom of people who have been through struggles.” He affirmed the wisdom and skills and determination of a young Native woman who had worked at Standing Rock and then also here in Olympia. Bob said that when he asked her once how she was feeling, she replied that it was not a political struggle, but rather a spiritual struggle. She said political struggles appear to be over soon, but spiritual struggles proceed for a very long time. Bob said Native people have been oppressed for hundreds of years, but they maintain wisdom.

He said we need to listen. He said everyone in our culture has some subtle racism and sometimes we don’t take the time to listen to people who are different from us in any way. He said we need to work on that.

Holly said that decades ago Fran Peavey went around with a sign saying, “An American willing to listen.” Glen expressed delight that Holly mentioned that story. He said that during the Vietnam War, Fran Peavey went to a park in France, sat down with that sign, and practiced good listening skills. Glen went to Seattle to hear her speak, and he read her book about her activities. Holly said she opened a concert for Fran.

**Holly, Bob and Glen have used smart grassroots organizing skills to make progress on many issues besides what we had time to discuss during this one-hour interview.**

The principles and methods we’re discussing are useful for a very wide range of issued that we have worked on – and an even wider range of issues that the various people watching this interview care about. Everyone watching this interview or reading this thorough summary can use these principles and methods to strengthen their skills and become more effective as organizers.

Holly has accomplished much more than we had time to discuss here to oppose nuclear power, nuclear weapons, weapons in space, Native American rights, and other vital concerns. Decades ago when the FBI was physically attacking the American Indian Movement, she supported that movement and worked specifically with the late John Trudell, who was a great Native American activist and poet.

Bob accomplished much during the 1980s helping Central American refugees find Sanctuary in the U.S. Now he is working hard – and effectively – for immigrants’ rights. He has also used his professional knowledge of science and governmental laws and regulations to protect the environment as a volunteer.

Glen said it would be fun to invite a different combination of guests to a future TV interview on this broad topic so they could discuss their own experiences and insights about how they have organized effectively for many other kinds of issues too. Different people have used these principles, insights and skills while organizing against poverty, organizing for workers’ rights, organizing to protect the environment, organizing to restrain the abuses of big business, organizing for a peaceful foreign policy, organizing to protect voters, rights, and so forth.

Movements can learn from each other. Glen says this in his workshops about grassroots organizing (see a paragraph near the end of in this document), and the Engler brothers emphasize this in their smart, practical book ***This Is an Uprising!***

Many years ago Glen created an example of one movement learning from another when he organized an outreach table opposing the death penalty during Seattle’s annual Pride event. Many years ago LGBTQ people proved how powerfully effective it was to “come out” rather than hide in the closet. They created much visibility and public acceptance of LGBTQ rights. Glen drew upon that smart strategy for his work to abolish the death penalty. Many people who oppose the death penalty do not tell other people they oppose it, so Glen wrote a half-page flyer with the headline, “Do Your Friends Know You Oppose the Death Penalty? The flyer explained that “coming out” against the death penalty can strengthen the movement to abolish the death penalty.

**Practical nuts and bolts will help us organize more effectively.**

Glen said little details are important! Little details can cause airplanes to crash, dams to burst, and health disasters. Likewise, little details can seriously weaken grassroots organizing efforts. In contrast, **careful attention to little details** can strengthen our organizing efforts!

He urged people to spell people’s names correctly (especially if you want them to volunteer or donate!). Return phone calls.

He said many other practical nuts and bolts are important for making our grassroots organizing more effective. He includes these in the workshops he offers to help people organize at the grassroots. (See information at the end of this document.)

***This document’s next few sections provide information we did not have time to cover during the one-hour interview. Glen offers it here to provide additional practical insights and help for the readers.***

**We make more progress by being positive and welcoming rather than negative or frightening.**

Sometimes people who are organizing for social or political change do things unwittingly that cause negative reactions and are actually counter-productive. People should not convey a smug superiority or insult the public’s intelligence, attitude or values. We can’t convert people by antagonizing them. The public is NOT the enemy! The public is NOT idiots. The public will reject us if we “talk down” to them or if we seem not to respect them.

Instead, we need to be friendly, open, warm, welcoming and inclusive. Let’s appreciate where people are starting from. Let’s reach out in friendly, welcoming ways. Let’s use positive behaviors and messages to welcome people and affirm good values.

Our peace vigils receive warm and supportive responses from pedestrians and motorists. We are friendly, say a friendly “good afternoon” to pedestrians, and we smile and wave at motorists. Our vigil signs use positive messages (*e.g*., “All people are one human family” and “Human rights are for everyone”), and often the signs use active verbs (*e.g*., “Choose peace” and “Include everyone”).

Psychology and empathy are very important! In most of our everyday interactions with other people, when someone asks for information, we give a factual answer. But when someone asks a hard question about the issue we are working on, there is often more behind it than merely a request for factual information. We need to recognize and satisfy the person’s underlying values, feelings and needs too. Indeed, unless we acknowledge and satisfy these underlying feelings and needs, the person won’t be able to hear our facts.

Some of the issues we work on (*e.g*., climate crisis or nuclear weapons) are very serious and frightening. Typically, our outreach and organizing publicizes only the scary facts without also addressing people’s real psychological needs. We must deliberately strategize how to address the public’s fears and other psychological barriers that inhibit them from learning about these hard, scary issues. Let’s devote strategic attention to people’s psychological needs so they will be able to hear and absorb the facts and feel good about joining our movements.

Instead of conveying “doom and gloom,” we will make more progress by promoting a positive vision of a better future. Besides organizing against what we oppose, we must also organize for positive visions and goals. Instead of being mostly reactive, we will make more progress by being proactive in working for positive goals.

**Here are even more examples and lessons learned from our various efforts.**

* Experienced organizers have learned more ways to bring people together to work effectively to set goals and devise strategies and activities to accomplish them.
* Gandhi and King were skilled organizers. They devised smart strategies. They brought many people together and helped the people commit themselves to strategically smart nonviolent actions – even at significant risks to themselves. People nowadays can study what skilled organizers have done in other times and places. We can adapt their best values and strategies to current activities here and now.
* In 2004 a small number of people in Thurston County organized to prevent the construction of a gigantic and horribly expensive new county jail. All of the local governments and influential community officials and the local newspaper supported it. But we organized smartly, we turned the public against the juggernaut, and we won the election to defeat the $103 million bond issue!
* An expert researcher conducted scientifically valid public opinion studies in other states about public attitudes about the death penalty. His methodology proved that the public was more open to abolishing the death penalty if they were offered a viable alternative (*e.g*., life without parole and working in prison to earn money to help the victims’ families). In 1999 our local group working to abolish the death penalty replicated his research in Thurston County WA. We devised and conducted a scientifically valid survey of registered voters in Thurston County. We proved here what the researcher had proved elsewhere, so I publicized our results to the public, the media, and all state legislators.
* Our survey also asked additional questions about people’s reasons for supporting or opposing the death penalty, so we could use the results to help us devise outreach strategies to turn the public against the death penalty. We found that the biggest concern of people (including people who supported the death penalty) was the risk of executing innocent people. We used our survey results to plan a variety of activities to build upon the public’s huge concern about innocence. So not only did we replicate a scientifically valid survey and publicize the results to media and state legislators, but we also used those research findings to help us plan strategic steps to educate the public and move public opinion against the death penalty.
* It is important to set a clear goal and focus our organizing on our goal without getting distracted by other issues that could bog us down or divert our attention and energies or confuse the public or elected officials.
* In the 1980s I organized some people to prevent a Junior ROTC program from being inserted into a local school district. We had the clear goal of stopping that proposal. I helped our people recognize that the school board would be deciding the issue, so we focused on them. I helped us identify the five members of the school board and figure out what different reasons would persuade each different individual to vote against the JROTC proposal. We learned that teachers don’t have power relative to the school board, but parents and voters do, so we mobilized these people and presented clear reasons that would be persuasive for the various individual members of the school board. We focused on these reasons and deliberately avoided raising larger issues of peace vs. militarism, Reagan’s foreign policy in Central America, etc. Our clear strategy worked, and the school board voted to reject the JROTC proposal.
* I started the Olympia chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in 1976, and within just a few years the Olympia FOR had become one of the most active FOR chapters in the nation. In about 1980 I attended a nationwide gathering of local FOR organizers and someone asked me how I had accomplished that. Nobody had asked me that before, so – just off the top of my head – I said the top three reasons for the Olympia FOR’s success were “personal contact, personal contact, and personal contact.” I kept connecting with people, bringing them together, seeking out other people to bring into the group, doing things that would connect and engage more people, and so forth.
* Face-to-face relationships over a period of time are important for building and sustaining a movement’s strong supporters. In order for any effort or campaign or project or organization to grow and persist and succeed, people need strong face-to-face working relationships. People need to know they can trust other people to do what they had said they would do, and follow through, and maintain the collaborative face-to-face working relationships. In order to organize people, we must build their trust early – and we must keep their trust over the long haul. We need to create harmonious and productive working relationships that will continue.
* Nowadays people do not do enough of this face-to-face organizing. Nowadays many people think social media will suffice. Actually, ongoing face-to-face working relationships and mutual trust are absolutely necessary so for us to persist and succeed.
* Methods such as rallies, marches, buttons, bumper stickers and yard signs can be useful tools to raise issues and provide visibility, but they are not sufficient to accomplish revolutions. They are tools – parts of larger strategies – that can be useful at certain times in a movement’s life cycle but less useful at other times. When a new issue is struggling to become visible a large rally or march can help to raise the issue. But once the issue has become visible these become less useful and other strategies and activities need to be organized. Throughout everything, face-to-face relationships are important.
* The Civil Rights Movement could not have accomplished much without the Black Church’s many local congregations where grassroots people interacted face-to-face every week. Also, the grounding in religious values, theology, biblical stories and music were necessary for group cohesiveness and self-confidence. They knew God was on their side and helping them succeed.
* We did not have time during the TV interview for Bob to share something smart that a young volunteer said to him recently in the context of a local organization working for immigrants’ rights and solidarity with them. Some members of that local group had died or were focused on dealing with serious family health problems. The young volunteer told Bob, “Accompaniment is not just for the immigrants. We need to accompany ourselves too.”
* Do not let our own egos or other people’s egos interfere with effective organizing.
* Produce informative, concise and attractive written materials to offer at events. Include a reliable person’s name, phone number, e-mail address and an informative website so someone who receives these handouts can follow up, contact us, and get involved.
* Be specific rather than leaving anything vague. At meetings or on the phone or by e-mail, make clear decisions and actual commitments. Ask for volunteers to help accomplish specific tasks by specific dates.
* At the end of every meeting, review the commitments of WHO will do WHAT by WHEN. If necessary, remind people after that meeting and far enough ahead of the next meeting. The next meeting’s agenda should include progress reports on these specific items and whatever follow-through is necessary.
* Follow through. Fulfilling promises and commitments – and producing good results – reinforces the group’s positive self-image as well as reinforcing your own credibility. (So does starting meetings on time.)
* Ask for financial donations and in-kind donations. Say how to make checks payable. Process donations promptly. Maintain reliable recordkeeping.
* Maintain an accurate, current roster of volunteers and interested persons. Protect confidentiality so only authorized persons can access the list.
* Be accessible to the public and our volunteers. Promptly return phone calls and e-mails.
* Think ahead. Anticipate the next steps, what people will need, user-friendliness, etc. Always keep pressing ahead.
* Appreciate volunteers and other people. Thank them sincerely. Don’t cut too much slack because you’re working with “volunteers.” Maintain professional quality.
* Produce high quality work, including details. Errors undermine credibility and good feelings. Spell everything correctly, especially people’s names. Avoid typographical errors, wrong addresses in publicity, errors in mailing list addresses and zip codes, errors in dates, etc.
* Prepare well in advance for meetings and activities. Start on time: It’s a covenant with your participants. It respects the time of those who arrived on time. It accomplishes a track record of group success to start and end on time.

**These suggestions will help us communicate with the public.**

In order to build a grassroots movement into a majority of the population, we need to communicate effectively with the general public. Some strategies and activities work better than others.

Gear our written and oral communications to be understandable and compatible with the audiences we are trying to reach. What do the members of this audience value? What communication styles will best convey our message to this audience?

Keep speeches short.

First-hand experiences and stories are memorable and powerful. An academic explanation of U.S. foreign policy will be less memorable and less impactful than a first-hand story from somebody who has lived in a nation that the U.S. was bombing. An innocent person who has spent years on death row has a story to share that will be more memorable and more impactful than a factual speech about the death penalty.

**Expert sources of information include grassroots people as well as national organizations.**

The Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space has carved out a unique niche as the very most knowledgeable organization in its field. I am amazed at the solid information at its website and its blog – and in the printed periodical it mails out several times a year. The organization’s leader, Bruce Gagnon, does an amazing job in running a worldwide organization and also doing a huge amount of speaking engagements at very local levels (including Olympia a few years ago), and also organizing in his own local community against a military weapons manufacturer. Bruce is a great example of a national expert who also organizes locally. Contact the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space at PO Box 652, Brunswick, ME 04011 (207) 443-9502 [**http://www.space4peace.org**](http://www.space4peace.org) BLOG: [**http://space4peace.blogspot.com**](http://space4peace.blogspot.com)

Every organizing effort needs sources of information. Typically we think of national organizations doing this, but local grassroots people and local organizations can be expert sources of info too. I have helped some local organizations’ members to develop expertise on issues such as nuclear weapons, the death penalty, nonviolence, etc. (You are reading an example of that now.)

**Glen recommends these sources of information:**

Right now you are reading a thorough summary of what we said during the interview – plus some additional information that we could not squeeze into that hour. This thorough summary and our TV interview are posted on my blog – [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) – at my blog’s categories for “TV Programs” and “Organizing.”

A great many non-profit organizations, books, websites, and other resources exist. On Glen’s blog [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) see information posted in the “Nonviolence” and “Organizing” categories, such as the one-page list titled “Resources for Organizing Nonviolent Grassroots Movements.” The direct link is: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/resources-for-organizing-nonviolent-grassroots-movements**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/resources-for-organizing-nonviolent-grassroots-movements)

Research shows that nonviolence works better than violence in achieving freedom and democracy. Glen especially recommend works by Gene Sharp and Erica Chenoweth and the Engler brothers:

* + Albert Einstein Institute: [**www.aeinstein.org**](http://www.aeinstein.org) has many books and resources.
	+ Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan, ***Why Civil Resistance Works***
	+ Mark Engler and Paul Engler wrote the book ***This Is an Uprising*** and created their website [**www.thisisanuprising.org**](http://www.thisisanuprising.org)

Glen volunteers his time and mileage to conduct practical conversational workshops to help people improve their skills in organizing effective grassroots movements. Look on my blog for information about my **series of 6 workshops on “Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing.”** These workshops explain what nonviolence is and why it works, how to strategize and organize grassroots movements, how to empower our movements, how to persuade the public, and many practical insights that can help us be more effective. For more information about the workshops, see my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), and click the link for “Organizing.”

**Glen offered some closing encouragement:**

When we were nearing the end of the hour, Glen said that if we had more time we could have shared much more of our insights. He also said if we had different guests we would have shared many different stories, examples and insights.

Glen thanked **Holly Gwinn Graham** and **Bob Zeigler** for sharing their insights with us during this hour.

He also thanked the people who have been watching this interview.

Political and economic elites do not voluntarily give up their power. Nearly all of the progress our nation and the world have made in achieving democracy and fairness and justice in our societies and economies were accomplished by ordinary grassroots people who used smart, courageous nonviolent grassroots organizing.

Glen encouraged people to use what they have gained from watching this interview to help them become more effective in working for the political, economic and social changes they want to see.

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at **glenanderson@integra.net**

I end each TV program with this encouragement:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**