

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at [www.tctv.net](http://www.tctv.net).

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs) at the Olympia FOR's website, [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org). Simply click the TV programs link to reach [www.olympiafor.org/tv\\_programs.htm](http://www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm), scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

## FEBRUARY 2011

### “A NONVIOLENT SOCIETY FOR THE COMMON GOOD”

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

In recent years American society has experienced a serious upsurge of anti-government rhetoric, including threats of violence against members of Congress – and in January an actual shooting. We have seen a continuation of war, torture and human rights abuses by our government, cutbacks in vital social and health services, a mania for privatizing public services, intolerance of minority races and religions, and an overall breakdown in the sense of our common humanity.



The Olympia FOR's February TV program asks: Are these interconnected? Do they have common roots? Can we find solutions that will resolve these problems and restore our public ethics and our common humanity? How could we reduce fear and violence – and build a society that is secure and nonviolent?

Our two guests – Larry Kerschner and Becky Liebman – are knowledgeable, wise and compassionate about these matters. They explore the problems and generate positive solutions.

We examine our society's polarization into “us” vs. “them” and the lack of empathy for anyone who is not “us.”

We consider the legitimate roles of government and the mania to “privatize” public functions for private profit. We consider taxes as the dues we pay for a civilized society and urge the rich to start paying their fair share.

We acknowledge the fears that many Americans feel, and we put those fears into context. Ordinary people's wages peaked in 1976 or 1977 and have been sliding downward. People know that the government serves rich people and big corporations instead of the public interest. Right-wing demagogues have exploited those legitimate



public concerns and shifted the anxiety and anger toward vulnerable scapegoats instead of the actual sources of the problems.

Becky helps us understand the widespread southern African concept of *ubuntu* – the sense that we are all in this together and that each person’s humanity depends upon the well-being of all other people.

The TV program’s conversation builds upon this foundation to examine violence – including systemic and institutional violence – and “the myth of redemptive violence,” the notion that violence (*e.g.*, the big shoot-out just before a movie ends) can solve problems and put us back on top. Our foreign policy reflects this movie formula.

We consider the U.S. empire and urge a nonviolent foreign policy that would interact with other nations in humane and collaborative ways. In the end, a humane and nonviolent foreign policy would improve our security in more profound ways than our current attempts to merely dominate other countries.