

EDDIE DAVIS

Interviewed by Amber Duke

July 26, 2011

Interview Number 2011-036-13

Transcribed by Amber Duke

University of Louisville

Oral History Center

University Archives and Records Center

Amber Duke: My name is Amber Duke, and today is Tuesday, July 26, 2011, and I'm interviewing Mr. Eddie Davis at the Carl Braden Memorial Center. Thank you for joining me today.

Eddie Davis: Thank you for inviting me.

A: Can you say and spell your name for me?

E: Eddie Davis. E-d-d-i-e D-a-v-i-s.

A: Can you tell me when and where you were born?

E: Louisville, Kentucky...1950.

A: So you've lived here your whole life?

E: Correct.

A: Do you want to talk about your educational background and all?

E: I went to...most of my education took place in the West End. In fact, I went to Holy Cross, which is right down the street at the corner of 32<sup>nd</sup> and Broadway. That's the grade school that I went to, and from there I went to Flaget High School, which is at the end of Broadway. And from there, I went to Jefferson Community College and then to U of L.

A: And what was your major at U of L?

E: Fine Arts.

A: Okay, great. Do you want to talk about your professional life a little bit?

E: Most of my professional life has been involved with newspaper work, newspaper photography, and freelance photography. I've done some things in between. I've worked for the family business and I've worked in the beauty supply business, manufacturing. I also am a product of ACORN [Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now]. I did a stint with ACORN at one point in time. I worked for Ford Motor Company at one point in time. Currently, I'm working as a freelance photographer.

A: How did you first learn about race and racism?

E: The hard way. My mother is from Louisiana and my parents used to drive from Louisville to Louisiana and as you drive through the south, we had one of those incidents where, because my mother has a very fair complexion and straight hair, and my father being a dark-skinned African American with short hair, we at one time, the police stopped us and asked my father where was he going with that white woman.

Then when there was the experience of going to Louisiana and going to a Kresge's, I think it was a Kresge's or one of those five and dime places that have a bar, and being rejected at a very early age...you know, the black waitress tells you that they don't serve colored.

A: How did your parents talk to you about those issues?

E: They didn't.

A: Did they talk to you about political or social issues at all when you were growing up?

E: Not much.

A: Were there people who people who were inspirational to you that you really looked up to as you were growing up?

E: Carl and Anne Braden.

A: So you knew of them early on?

E: Well, like I said, I went to grade school down the street and a lot of times, I've had to pass the building, even though when I was young I didn't know what went on or what this place was about or what the Kentucky Alliance or it may have been called SCEF [Southern Conference Educational Fund] back then, but it was always a center of political activism.

A: What was the first political or social justice issue that interested you?

E: Vietnam War.

A: How so?

E: While I was attending U of L, I was drafted, and that was during the Vietnam War, and one of the first places I came to for help to avoid the draft was the Kentucky Alliance.

A: And so how did they help you through that process?

E: They hooked me up. They knew the right people. They knew the right organizations to contact that could help me get through this situation.

A: Was that your first involvement with the Alliance?

E: As an adult.

A: Okay, and so as a young person, were you involved or were you kind of just walking by and seeing what was going on?

E: Well, you know how kids are; I mean, you know, there's nothing really pressing. I mean, there was plenty of racism going on. I mean, you heard about Fontaine Ferry, you heard about Blue Boar, you heard about "Nothing New for Easter." You know, and, but you was too young to actually go and be in that mix. Even though you heard it was going on, it was kind of somewhat removed from you. It's kind of like you hear about it, but to actually experience and be there is something else, it's a whole different experience. It's like one thing happens after another and then the light bulb goes off.

A: Can you remember back, I know it's sometimes hard to think about, you know, you came to the Alliance, they were helping you with the drafting situation, when did you sort of transition from coming to them for help to actually becoming a part, or a member, or an organizer as part of the Alliance?

E: They don't call Anne "Mother" for nothing. You know, Anne just always had an attraction for young people, for people with political ambitions, and she was always very nurturing to a lot

of people. And a lot of those people went on to now hold political office. I mean, a lot of them got their start right here at the Kentucky Alliance because of Anne Braden's ability to teach and inspire.

A: So you were one of those young people who sort of fell under her wing?

E: Yeah, that's about the best way to put it, because she always had something for you to do. You know, if you were going to hang out here, she had something for you to do, and then you kind of get that exposure. You know, you get that exposure to The Movement and then it's just one thing after another.

A: Can you think back to the actual...I mean, you're still active with the Alliance now...but can you think back to the year that you became active with the Alliance?

E: No, I really can't because it was kind of like, this was kind of like the neighborhood house, and even if you weren't an activist, people would just stop in just to see what's going on, see what's hanging on the walls and just, you know, be friends because Anne was friends with everybody. I guess it's just part of the culture. You know, because at the time, people would just drift in and out of the Alliance because of the type of activities at the time, there was Joe Moe, the Black Panther Party, the Rainbow Push Coalition, you know and on and on and on. There was always some group that sprung up around a particular issue, and even if you didn't understand the issue, they would teach you about the issue and then, you know, it's just over a course of time or over evolution, you become radicalized without really knowing it.

A: It sneaks up on you.

E: That's about it, yeah.

A: Well, you named some of the different initiatives of the Alliance, talking about the Rainbow Coalition.

E: Yeah, that's the office [gestures to office across the hall] which is now the office of the Black Caucus.

A: What were some of the major, over the years that you've been with the Alliance; can you talk about some of the major issues that the Alliance has gotten involved in with the city and nationally?

E: I don't know. I'm sure you know the history better than I do. Police brutality at one time was always a hot issue. We would tackle any, just about every police brutality case that we could possibly handle, we were dealing with it. You know, busing, integration, fair housing, gay rights, equal representation, I really can't think of a major social justice issue that we didn't deal with.

We kind of think that we set the stage for the city bringing Chief [Robert] White to Louisville, and once Chief White became chief of police, police brutality just kind of almost disappeared. It's kind of like Citizens Against Police Abuse almost went out of business. Because there really weren't any major things happening and it seems like he turned the force around. But then again, over the years, it's kind of like the Kentucky Alliance set the stage for that to happen. At one time, it was just totally unacceptable for a black man to have that kind of power in this town. Now, I don't think anybody really thinks about it.

You know, so we're kind of like part of the cultural mind-set change. Probably current issues, we oppose privatization-we opposed privatization of jobs by the city, we didn't want the city to lay off employees and then privatize their jobs to a private company for less money. We figured the city should step up to the plate like everybody else, plus these employees, these have been employees for 15 or 20 years and just because they want to save a few bucks, they want to attack the working class.

I think the Alliance has a reputation of defending the working class across the board: black, white, gay, or straight. LG&E [Louisville Gas and Electric], we were the first activist organization to pursue and promote public ownership and local ownership for LG&E. [Former mayor Jerry] Abramson also proposed city ownership of LG&E because he knew it was a cash cow, so why can't the consumers be the owners? So, you know, of all the other social justice organizations, the Kentucky Alliance is the only one that took that lead on that issue.

We also were the only social justice organization to actively oppose the merger. I personally attended a hearing with Anne Braden where she argued against the merger based on the fact that it took 100 years for African Americans in this community to develop the political clout that they had at that point in time, and that the merger was going to erode it like overnight just to justify some business interests. I mean, that's in the paper. Where was everybody else at? You know, Anne Braden personally in her 80s went door-to-door campaigning against the merger in the West end.

A: You've kind of talked about how the Alliance has been the organization that has taken the lead on a lot of issues, but I also know that the Alliance has been a convener of a lot of different social justice groups, so how would you describe the relationship of the Alliance to other social justice organizations in town?

E: We're very strong on coalition-building, building coalitions around the issues. We like to try to, sometimes have to, take the lead because we have no other choice. Our preference has always been to try to bring our coalition partners together to work as a team. It doesn't always work because sometimes other organizations don't get it; it's not their niche, or they feel overwhelmed, or they just don't think it's their place to form these coalitions.

That's one of the things that the LG&E issue taught me. The LG&E issue about local ownership is really about protecting the working class. Why should profits generated in Kentucky go to Wall Street? Why can't they stay at home? It's like the water company, because the water company is locally owned, the city was able to borrow, what was it, \$10 million to cover themselves? Our Mayor Abramson, he knew that if we owned LG&E, we'd have some back-up; we could keep the cash cow at home. I just don't understand why the other social justice organizations that represent...that have a strong working class constituency, why didn't they step up to the plate? I mean, that was the time to really jump on it. But trying to sell coalition politics has been difficult, sometimes you can make it work and sometimes it's been an uphill battle. You just have to take the lead and hope the rest of the tribe will catch on.

Case in point, right after the merger passed, we knew that the grassroots was going to lose a lot of political clout. First thing that we did was try to form the Coalition for the People's Agenda, and kind of try to bring all the social justice organizations together under one umbrella, and try to work collectively on issues that we could work collectively on. I mean, it was a very innovative approach in this city. You know, we're going to bring all the social justice organizations together, and we're going to discuss everything that we have in common that we can work together as a coalition which will give us more political juice. Which is Anne Braden's last major project that she initiated that I can remember, was the Coalition for the People's Agenda that we're still trying to revamp, you know, as we speak.

We didn't have that problem with, probably, with police brutality case situations; it seems like it was really easy to build coalitions when kids get shot in the back, you know. It has to be extremely tragic, something like that. You know, we were able to build a coalition, but when it comes to domestic policy, which I think that the history of the Bradens speak for



themselves, that they basically dealt with domestic policy that affects the working class across the board and, you know, sometimes you got organizations, well, “We specialize in international politics. International issues is our niche.” And then you have, well, “Gay issues is our niche. Labor issues is our niche. Fair housing is our niche.” It all works together in terms of social justice, it’s just bringing people together to show them where they’re going to have more political juice rather than, “Well, that’s my niche and I’m going to stay right here.” It’s an ongoing project, and I’m happy to still be working on it along with my colleagues here at the Alliance. Hopefully we’ll make this a reality at some point in time. One of the other things that we launched out of the Alliance is we initiated incorporating the city of West Louisville, which I thought was pretty innovative.

A: No one has talked to me about that. Tell me a little bit about that.

E: It was during a time when we was having some police brutality problems and we was wondering, “Well how can we solve this problem?” And I says, you know, Sterling Neil was here and some of my other colleagues, and we was saying, well, you know, “What if West Louisville had its own police department, like Shively?” I said, “Shively’s got a police department. St. Matthews has got a police department. City of Audubon’s got a police department,” I says, “What if we had our own police department that specialized just in West Louisville, that’s their specialty?” “Well,” he said, “in order to do that, we’d have to be an incorporated third-class city with our own city council.” And that’s how that movement got test marketed or got launched; it was out of the Alliance. One of the things that Anne taught people was to think outside the box and to come up with some new way of accomplishing social justice. You gotta think out of the box and kind of seize the moment. What is it that’s happening now that you can make work to your advantage, or how to use that window of opportunity? So, as

you know, city of Shively is still there. City of St. Matthews is still there. City of Audubon is still there, and you got, what 92 city councils, none in the west end. So, you know where is the equal representation? Still a problem, but it's still one of those projects that's still on the drawing board. It did get some attention, it got a lot of discussion, but it was kind of like we were a separatist movement. You would've thought we were Marcus Garvey or something; it was, well, "Who's going to run it? Who's going to pick up the garbage?" But, you know, interesting dynamics. But that's one of the things I like about the Alliance, they do some innovative things, or they teach you how to do innovative things to create social justice or create that climate that moves toward a new social order or a new consciousness.

A: Well, thank you for sharing that, no one had told me about that movement yet. I think one of the things I've learned through these interviews is a lot about community organizing and the difference between thinking about how things happen in the business world and how this person is the boss and this person is the administrator and this person does this...and it seems like community organizing-you come into an organization like the Alliance and, you know, you're helping doing things in the office, and you're making signs, and you're also out in the streets, and you might also have to talk to the media, and you know, everyone is doing a little bit of everything. And maybe of the people I've interviewed, I know that you've been involved on many different levels, but I consider you sort of *the* photographer of the Kentucky Alliance, so well, I'm just interested to hear, one, if you would agree with that comment, and with that characterization.

E: I'm one of them, originally it was Tom Moffett. Tom Moffett probably has the most extensive collection of Alliance pictures. I'd say his stuff probably needs to be archived, if they haven't been archived. I still do what I can but sometimes, it's kind of difficult to do two things

at one time. You know, it's like trying the recording secretary, listening to what's going on and think about what's happening at the board and meeting and then trying to figure out, "What are we going to do about this?" or, you know, trying to think out the box.

For instance, the last, probably the last project I worked on was a press conference dealing with Judy Green<sup>i</sup>. The feedback that I was getting from the black caucus; I'm the chair of the black caucus of the Kentucky Alliance. All my colleagues said, "We just can't remain silent, we have to say something." I would always tell them, I said, "By now, Anne would have probably already had three press conferences and wrote six articles. So, at least we can do one." So anyway, we formed Concerned Citizens for District One. We had a meeting to plan the press conference; we invited James and Judy [Green]. They both showed...stayed a couple hours, explained to us their side of the story, what's going on, what we could do to help. We decided to have a press conference, Mattie Jones showed up, Gracie [Lewis] showed up, Kathleen Parks, myself, Jessie Harris, Tom Moffett.

Our slant was-let's make the process fair. Let's put the brakes on the lynch mob. Let's let the appeals process play out to make it fair. What if she wins her appeal? In the process of her going through appeals process, they're going through the impeachment process simultaneously. And if you look at the charges, nobody that I know of believes that those charges, even if she's guilty of it, merits impeachment. Pass-through grants are common practice. So all we're saying is let's make the process fair and let the appeals go through and not allow her to be tried and convicted by the media for the purpose of selling newspapers. And basically, that was our position; that, and to try to get District One voters more involved. That's why we call ourselves Concerned Citizens for District One, because we feel we want to empower, no matter what happens, even if she's impeached, we want to empower voters of

District One and not allow them to be disenfranchised by political warfare. Which I thought was pretty creative and thinking out the box. You know, rather than have a prayer vigil, we're coming up with a real political strategy that would help the voters in District One and the office.

I think that's what Anne Braden would've done; of course, she would have been a lot more forceful and held two or three press conferences and people were not going to tell her no. But now that she's not here, you got to wrangle with people because some people say, "Well, we shouldn't touch it," and then, the caucus says, "Look, we just cannot remain silent, that's just not in keeping with the tradition of this organization." So, I think that's one of the beauties of the Alliance as an institution, it allows community organizers and community activists a place to operate and try to educate people and get them to look at other viewpoints and other possibilities.

A: You said that you're the chair of the Black Caucus of the Kentucky Alliance, and one of the things that's really neat about this organization is the fact that there's always been this focus of it being a multi-racial organization...of making sure that there's a balance of black and white and, as from what I understand, that there's work going on to get Louisville's growing Hispanic population involved so that the makeup of the organization is representative of the makeup of the city. And no one's talked to me about the Black Caucus, so can you kind of describe the racial makeup of the Alliance and how blacks and whites work together in this organization?

E: The Caucus is just a caucus. It's primarily a way of channeling a viewpoint because most of the African American members actively live and work in West Louisville, which means we have a different social environment, or different social background. The social makeup of West Louisville is not the Highlands. It's a whole different social makeup or social environment that people operate that live in the Highlands. So people do, because of where people live, and their social backgrounds, tend to shape them and give them different viewpoints.

One of the interesting things I experienced about dealing with the Judy Green situation is that east end white liberals had a different position; it was almost like the board was split. And it's not like one was opposed to the other; it was like some people don't want to touch it, they feel like it's too much of a hot potato, and other people think that, "Hey, look, the District One voters are being disenfranchised by the power structure and we need to take a stand." And, you know, the Alliance makes room and accommodations for those differences and we still operate. So, you know, it's about due process, and due process works for everybody.

I think it's no accident that [Louisville Mayor Gregg] Fischer, by executive order, passed the ordinance allowing gay partners to have equal benefits, equal benefits as married heterosexuals. That's just politics, I mean, you lobby for what you want, you work the system as much as you can, and sometimes it works to your advantage. That's the payoff of working in politics and being an activist. So, what I'm saying is, they're all working-class issues, and they really benefit everybody that's a worker. So, it's not a division based on cultural background or where you live at. It's like LG&E bills, everybody pays an LG&E bill, they only come in one form.

I would say that we're probably more issue-driven as opposed to, well, how do the Hispanics fit in, well, they pay LG&E bills, too. I remember that they do have a community center, they do have a political base, much like the gays, much like labor unions and various other groups, CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together]. I mean, there's all kinds of niches based on different things. It doesn't mean they're opposed. It just means that people...there's things in common based on their social background. I mean, police violence is police violence. Even if its police violence against gays or whatever, it's police violence. But I mean, there's certain issues that we come together on, and certain issues that we have to do

outreach. And we're always doing outreach. Of course, right now we're terribly understaffed, terribly underfunded, we can barely keep the LG&E and things operating, but we do a lot of outreach. For instance, I've been working with Ike Thacker, and we've been going out, trying to recruit organizations to become more active in the Coalition for the People's Agenda. I mean, we go to other people's board meetings. The last one I went to was a Fairness board meeting, to meet and greet and try to explain to them why we want their participation. We do that with other groups. CCDS, Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism. I mean, so that's part of it is doing outreach, but it's not like we're excluding anybody, especially when we're dealing with broad-based issues.

A: Have you made friends while you've been organizing here over the years at the Alliance and can you talk about some of the relationships that you've built with people?

E: The core group, basically all the veterans. I've been working with, you know, the Tom Moffetts and the Bob Cunninghams, and the Howard Owens, and the Kirk Owens. I say the majority of the older members. It's almost like we have an extended family.

A: And I know you've talked a lot about Anne Braden, I know she was very special to you. Do you want to talk about your relationship with her over the years?

E: Yeah. I could say I was, at one time, I was working as a volunteer assistant driver/gopher, you know, "Take me to the grocery store, run this to Fed-Ex, do this, do that." You know, that kind of brings you into whatever the project is and pretty soon, you become part of the project and you begin learning and growing. I'd say I was probably in and out on a daily basis probably the last two years of her life; I was here on a daily basis, basically, working on the projects that I had mentioned. Anne had a way of calling you up in the middle of the night, leaving you three

or four messages, or giving you dictation over the phone and you wake up in the morning and you had your marching orders.

A: I know a lot of people have talked about the struggles the Alliance faced in the wake of her death, and I've talked to people. How do you think the Alliance has been able to survive and continue to work after her passing, because she was such a force here?

E: I'd say, kind of like the last apostles. I think that there's been enough people to work with her intimately on an ongoing basis, people like myself, Kirk Owens, Howard Owens. Plus, Anne was big on recruiting and I can say I've personally recruited at least three to four board members. One of them is a co-chair. And I've been able to bring some new blood into the organization that I've really been impressed with. And I think that's part of why we've been able to keep going is because there are enough activists out there that want to work for the Alliance and know about Carl and Anne Braden are and know how tireless they were about social justice and about protecting the working class and they want to step up to the plate. And I really don't think there's a shortage of volunteers, I just don't think there's enough recruitment, but we do have a core group that has made some things happen. Despite it, there are people who understand what the Bradens were about and they know how to capitalize on windows of opportunity and they know how to move on issues. It doesn't always work that way, but we try to operate as activists in the tradition of Carl and Anne Braden, which means you've got to study the news and pay attention to the newspapers and study politics and politicians and history and it's an ongoing process. But most of us that spent a lot of time around Anne, you kind of picked it up and, like it or not, it's almost ingrained in you, because we used to watch how she operated, and technology has changed but political ideologies have not.

A: I know that the Alliance has worked hard to work with young people and through the Arts and Activism Camp over the years has tried to approach this project of educating young people and getting them interested and involved in politics. And you're talking about recruitment of new members; do you have any comments about some of the challenges of getting young people involved and keeping them involved in the work?

E: To be honest with you, most of the people that I've been able to recruit or sort of been able to bring into the fold or bring on board are people who are already politically radicalized. They're just looking for a base of operation or an organization that they can express themselves through. Which means that these are people, I don't have to teach them. I just need to bring them in and say, "Hey, your agenda is our agenda and we can help each other and try to build a base that way." It's always good when you can find a young person who has some type of political ambition who is willing to learn. I'm just always somewhat removed from them.

That's a tough question. I don't know...I think something has to happen that causes the light bulb for people to go off politically. One of the things that we were trying to do in the Judy Green press conferences was trying to educate people. There are options. That seat, that metro council seat, belongs to District One and its voters. It doesn't belong to certain individuals on the metro council that want to control it. You do have a voice. That includes young people. Even if they can't vote, if they live in District One, they owned a piece of that seat. Everybody that voted owns a piece of that seat, so they don't really have to roll over, they really can step up to the plate collectively.

And one of the things that the Alliance does is try to motivate and try to organize grassroots people to be in power. I just have not...I guess I really just haven't worked enough with young people. It's almost like I'm really too busy being in the middle of a political war,



and it's been a political war here to keep the organization alive, viable, on the cutting edge, and looking at the right issues; that's a struggle. Everyone doesn't agree for whatever reasons. The east end people think one way, the west end people another, the socialists think one way, your mainstream, two-party system people think another, and we still try to bring it together as a collective, and it's a struggle. But I guess that's how it is.

A: You talked about how you've been in this political war for so long, and I think the thing that's so interesting about community organizing is it doesn't pay well, and it's not a 9-to-5 where you clock in at a certain point and clock out at a certain point, it becomes a 24-7...

E: It's 24-7. I mean, hey, you heard the president. I mean, the president was very clear about what time it is. He's very clear about the Republican Party. Which, I mean, is another brainstorm because we want to discuss why is it that Mitch McConnell is so anti-working class and he has so much presence on an urban university [University of Louisville] that works to educate working class students and he is so opposed to working class values and the working class? Those are questions we have to raise. Those are questions Anne Braden raised.

A: How over the years has your family life been impacted by all of this activist work, community organizing work you've done?

E: Well, I tell you, when my last wife walked out on me, as she walked out the door she said, "You don't belong to me; you belong to Anne and Buster [nickname for Rev. Louis Coleman]." No, she really said that and meant it. That was during the time when Buster and Anne were working, like, every day. They were working, like, every day they were working together, they had something going on. The Alliance and the Justice Resource Center was always on a roll. And a lot of people don't realize how much work the Alliance did when Reverend Coleman was alive. Reverend Coleman depended on Anne for a certain amount of advice and a certain

amount of administrative support. And they worked closely together until they departed. But it was a good run, I tell you, they kept a lot of activists busy and they kept downtown Louisville and the powers that be on their toes.

A: As we start to come to a close, is there anything that you'd like to share that you haven't had the opportunity to talk about yet?

E: I think the future is bright for an organization like the Kentucky Alliance because we're able to deal with issues that really affect a lot of different organizations and we still try to bring different communities together. I mean, we have international events here, the type of events that take place in the Braden Center take place no place else in Louisville. We're still really an international political center. And this building is really a historical landmark based on the history of Carl and Anne Braden based on the...I mean if you look at the work that they did during their lifetime and all the activities and events and all the organizations that worked through and out this building, it is a major resource for this town and I will welcome seeing this building declared a historical landmark.

A: It is a really unique space. Especially, a lot of people in the interviews have talked about how this is really one of the only spaces in the west end that consistently a lot of white east-enders, white liberals, this is the place in the west end if they're going to spend time in the west end, this is the place where that happens.

E: It is; it still is. We still take on the issues that nobody wants to take on. I remember there was a gay man that was shot to death, he was in drag. They shot him down for sport. We took on the issue. I don't think they solved the murder but we took on the issue. All I can say, I'm not going to name the other organizations but we worked with our coalition partners. But there's so many organizations that just won't take on the hot-button issues, for whatever reasons, it's just taboo or

something. But you know, I think we have a bright future but we got to get some new people in, we got to get some fresh blood, and we got to get some more funding. I mean, we're still doing great but we can't move as fast as we want to, and we can't really effectively manage all the issues that we want to handle.

A: More people and more money, that's what we all...

E: The issues are there, we try to make policy changes. And you have to lobby for policy change.

A: Is there anything else you want to add?

E: No, is there any questions...?

A: No, but thank you so much.

E: Well, I really feel honored to be a part of this project. And whatever I can do to help, let me know. And if you have any additional questions you can think of.

A: This has been really great, you mentioned several things that I hadn't heard in other interviews. That's what keeps me going, every interview I hear about something I hadn't heard before, so...

E: Oh, yeah, we also have this joke about "men who have slept with Anne Braden." Have you heard that one?

A: No, I hadn't heard that one.

E: Well, actually, some people did sleep with her. She used to stay here and sleep on the couch. She became very ill and we kind of took shifts sleeping in the building with Anne Braden because she wouldn't go anywhere.

A: I have heard from Bob about how she used to do yoga here in the building.

E: Yeah, she used to have an exercise bike in...actually, right there on the floor, she had her exercise bike and she got into yoga.

A: Yeah, I've heard Bob tell the story several times where he came in and she was in sort of yoga pose with her eyes closed and he thought, "Oh, my God, she's died." You know, he went over to her, but she was just doing yoga at the time.

E: Oh, yeah, I remember seeing her do yoga. (Long pause) Any more questions?

A: No, no more.

E: Well, thank you again for letting me participate and anything else I can do to help, let me know.

A: I will.

E: I will say this. This is one thing that I think needs to be mentioned. Anybody who knew Anne Braden...Anne Braden had a way of letting you know, she was always and always would be married to Carl Braden. I mean they were a political couple, a unit. Which I thought was interesting; because I had never met anybody that was just...it's almost like he's not here but he's really here. And she just had a way of letting you know that.

A: They were a power team.

E: Right.

A: Well, thank you. [END OF INTERVIEW]

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<sup>i</sup> African American, female Metro Councilperson in 2011 accused of misusing taxpayers dollars in a summer youth job program and impropriety in giving grants to local organizations. She was found guilty and eventually resigned her position on the council.