

PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (July-December, 2016)

Episode #607 (December 24-30)

Segment 1 -- "Black Lives Matter: Interview with the Founders"

Born out of a social media post, the Black Lives Matter movement has sparked discussion about race and inequality across the world. In this spirited conversation with Mia Birdsong, the movement's three founders (Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi) share what they've learned about leadership and what provides them with hope and inspiration in the face of painful realities. Their advice on how to participate in ensuring freedom for everybody: join something, start something and "sharpen each other, so that we all can rise."

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

In the aftermath of the election, much has been said about what liberal government, media, businesses failed to do: contextualize his rise to office and connect with his voters to change their minds. In this episode, Laura interviews Arlie and Adam Hochschild, the duo who have each spent their careers documenting the complexities of political behavior.

Arlie Hochschild, with pragmatic energy, undertook the work we'd all like to do: she left the liberal haven of Berkeley, CA to go to the Louisiana Bayou -- a stronghold of the conservative right. Hochschild interviews Trump voters about their "deep story," what drives them and how they feel left behind by the same liberal policies they need the most. Her new book, "Strangers in their Own Land" (a National Book Award finalist), hopes to find common ground with Tea Partiers and "alt righters" beyond politics.

Adam Hochschild is a celebrated writer and cofounder of Mother Jones magazine. An author of eight books, he writes with what the New York Times calls prose "constantly vivid yet emotionally restrained" about the struggle of young Americans who joined Spanish Republicans during the Spanish Civil War. In our current politically fraught time, Hochschild speaks to the hallmarks of fascism and how to mark its ascent.

Also, an F-Word from Laura on the media vs. Trump -- why it's not just about alternative news but about finding an alternative to news.

Segment 3 -- "How We Talk About Sexual Assault Online"

We need a more considered approach to using social media for social justice, says writer and activist Lone Wells. After she was the victim of an assault in London, Wells published a letter to her attacker in a student newspaper that went viral and sparked the #NotGuilty campaign against sexual violence and victim-blaming. In this moving talk, she describes how sharing her personal story gave hope to others and delivers a powerful message against the culture of online shaming.

Segment 4 -- "Unmanned: America's Drone Wars"

This documentary investigates the impact of U.S. drone strikes at home and abroad through more than 70 separate interviews, including a former American drone operator who shares what he has witnessed in his own words, Pakistani families mourning loved ones and seeking legal redress, investigative journalists pursuing the truth, and top military officials warning against blowback from the loss of innocent life.

Episode #606 (December 17-23)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

In Part 2 of a 2-part episode, a diverse panel of women further contemplate what a Trump presidency will look like in relation to the questions these panelists raise. What will Donald Trump mean for thousands of incarcerated and detained women; for trans women waiting on hormones; for vital acts like the Violence Against Women act?

Segment 2 -- "The Urgency of Intersectionality"

Now more than ever, it's important to look boldly at the reality of race and gender bias — and learn how the two can combine to create even more harm. Kimberlé Crenshaw uses the term "intersectionality" to describe this phenomenon; as she says, if you're standing in the path of multiple forms of exclusion, you're likely to get hit by both. In this moving talk, she calls on us to bear witness to this reality and speak up for victims of prejudice.

Segment 3 -- "Voices Across the Divide"

In this powerful documentary and oral history project exploring the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, interviews with Palestinians in the United States are woven together with historical photos and footage to create an intimate picture of one of the most complex conflicts of our time.

Segment 4 -- "How Immigrant Voices Make Democracy Stronger"

In politics, representation matters — and that's why we should elect leaders who reflect their country's diversity and embrace its multicultural tapestry, says Sayu Bhojwani. Through her own story of becoming an American citizen, the immigration scholar reveals how her love and dedication to her country turned into a driving force for political change. "We have fought to be here," she says, calling immigrant voices to action. "It's our country, too."

Episode #605 (December 10-16)

Segment 1 -- "What Happened? ... And What Do We Do Now?"

On November 11, 2016 (just 3 days after the presidential election) Eugene Robinson, Pulitzer prize-winning columnist for the Washington Post and MSNBC contributor, spoke to a packed house in Sacramento about the shocking results of the election, and what we can do about this in the future. A Media Edge crew recorded the event at St. Mark's United Methodist Church as part of its Moon Lecture Series.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

As we deal with the devastating results of the 2016 election, we are seeing a significant uptick in violence against all minorities. This election is already giving way to widespread Islamophobia, racism, and brutality. In this very special broadcast, we return to a panel convened last year, moderated by Laura, that takes on violence against women as it spans across those intersections. Convened by One Billion Rising, V-Day, and the Columbia Law School Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies, this panel wonders how women can resist the violence of "state, and empire." What can we learn from these panelists, including Monique Wilson and Eve Ensler, who address the issue from vast and diverse corridors of injustice? How should we plan to work to protect the many women in our lives, Black women, Trans women, Muslim women, and their rights to abortion, expression, or refuge?

Episode #604 (December 3-9)

Segment 1 -- "This Land is Our Land"

In the midst of California's historic drought, Nestle Waters—the largest bottler of water in the world—is drawing millions of gallons of water a year from the San Bernardino National Forest. Nestle's permit expired in 1988, at which point the Forest Service should have turned off the spigot. Let's hold Nestle accountable and ensure this shared public resource is protected for future generations.

Segment 2 -- "Unlabeled - The Most Dangerous Product on the American Market"

Cars, toys, and aspirin all have to meet mandatory safety standards before being available to the public. But, there's one product that doesn't. Guns. And one of the most heinous laws that protects gun industry profits is the protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), which makes the gun industry immune from being sued for damages.

Segment 3 -- "From a Silk Cocoon"

This film tells Dr. Satsuki Ina's family's story of the tragic outcome resulting from the wartime hysteria and racial profiling that occurred during WW II in the name of "military necessity." The film is followed by a panel and Q & A that includes Dr. Ina, Harry Wang, MD (Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento Chapter) and Basim Elkarra (Council on Islamic Relations). "From a Silk Cocoon" received a Northern California Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Historical/Cultural Programming.

Episode #603 (November 26 – December 2)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

This episode is a special call to action against post-election complacency. Although many of us affected by this election will be embittered and jaded by the "nightmarish" election season, the program's guests this week are activists from organizations including Global Grassroots Justice Alliance, Southerners on New Ground (SONG), Equality for Flatbush and more. They give us a sense of how to continue to engage with, and challenge, corporate politics. They explain why it's necessary that people continue to raise their voices against injustice - especially at the point that most of us will clue out of politics. Organizing communities on a range of issues, including gentrification and LGBTQI advocacy, our guests understand one thing well: the problems aren't going to go away.

Segment 2 -- "America's Forgotten Working Class"

J.D. Vance grew up in a small, poor city in the Rust Belt of southern Ohio, where he had a front-row seat to many of the social ills plaguing America: a heroin epidemic, failing schools, families torn apart by divorce and sometimes violence. In a searching talk that will echo throughout the country's working-class towns, the author details what the loss of the American Dream feels like and raises an important question that everyone from community leaders to policy makers needs to ask: How can we help kids from America's forgotten places break free from hopelessness and live better lives?

Segment 3 -- "Environmental Pathways to Peace Building"

Peace parks built between countries provide for shared needs such as access to scarce potable water and opportunities to experience nature. This short video offers strategies for maintaining peace and furthering sustainable practices.

Segment 4 -- "This Land Is Our Land"

For more than three decades, transnational corporations have been busy buying up what used to be known as the commons -- everything from our forests and our oceans to our broadcast airwaves and our most important intellectual and cultural works. In "This Land is Our Land," acclaimed author David Bollier, a leading figure in the global movement to reclaim the commons, bucks the rising tide of anti-government extremism and free market ideology to show how commercial interests are undermining our collective interests. Placing the commons squarely within the American tradition of community engagement and the free exchange of ideas and information, Bollier shows how a bold new international movement steeped in democratic principles is trying to reclaim our common wealth by modeling practical alternatives to the restrictive monopoly powers of corporate elites.

Segment 5 -- "Eating Mercifully"

This short film from the Humane Society of the United States explores Christian perspectives on factory farming. A growing number of Christians are changing their diet and consumer purchases because the way animals are treated in factory farms is inconsistent with their beliefs. Some are demanding better treatment of farm animals, while some are simply leaving animals off their plates altogether.

Episode #602 (November 19-25)

Segment 1 -- "The Growing Danger of Nuclear War... and What We Can Do About It"

The 2016 Joint Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapters of Physician for Social Responsibility and the United Nations Association featured a keynote address by Dr. Ira Helfand, co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). Dr. Helfand has spoken at the United Nations, at meetings of the International Congress to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and at many other national and international venues regarding the ongoing threat of nuclear weapons and the urgent need to abolish these weapons altogether, and he's been actively involved in working toward this goal through PSR, ICAN, and the UN.

Segment 2 -- "Forging a New Ethic"

The Executive Director of the UN Environment Program explains that we need a new ethic in which every person changes lifestyle, attitude, and behavior.

Segment 3 -- "Jazree's Court"

Jazree was like any other young kid: hanging out with friends and experiencing important milestones. She finished Elementary school and started the emotional roller coaster called puberty. She even started having crushes -- crushes on girls. All of these experiences impacted Jazree's future, but one experience overshadowed all others - Jazree's dad was sentenced to seven years in prison for possession of an unloaded firearm.

Segment 4 -- "From Danger to Dignity"

After more than a century of back-alley tragedies, a national movement to decriminalize abortion took root. FROM DANGER to DIGNITY combines rare archival footage with present-day interviews to weave together two parallel stories: the evolution of underground networks to help women find safe abortions outside the law and the intensive efforts of activists and legislators who broke the silence and changed the laws.

Episode #601 (November 12-18)

Segment 1 -- "Tom Hayden & Naomi Klein - Journalism, Global Economy, NAFTA, The Sixties"

Author, activist and former California State Senator Tom Hayden (who passed away on October 23) talks in depth with the author of No Logo and The Shock Doctrine, Naomi Klein, about the state of the fourth branch of government: journalists. Both Hayden and Klein became serious journalists in college, and it was during that time that both experienced their defining moment. When Tom Hayden interviewed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1960, he asked questions while imagining the headline, "Tom Hayden Interviews MLK," but by the time he wrote the article he knew there were more important things in the world than personal glory. Naomi Klein rebelled from her liberal, feminist mother until Mark Lepine gunned down fourteen women in what became known as the Montreal Massacre. It was then she realized people were dying for the beliefs her mother fought for, and that realization awakened the activist within her. After both events, Hayden and Klein dedicated their lives to telling the truth about the world, and doing everything in their power to not use subjects like "they," but use "we" instead. It is that distinction that defines their journalism to this day.

Segment 2 -- "Al Gore: The Case for Optimism on Climate Change"

Al Gore has three questions about climate change and our future. First: Do we have to change? Each day, global-warming pollution traps as much heat energy as would be released by 400,000 Hiroshima-class atomic bombs. This trapped heat is leading to stronger storms and more extreme floods, he says: "Every night on the TV news now is like a nature hike through the Book of Revelation." Second question: Can we change? We've already started. So then, the big question: Will we change? In this challenging, inspiring TED Talks presentation earlier this year, Gore says yes. "When any great moral challenge is ultimately resolved into a binary choice between what is right and what is wrong, the outcome is foreordained because of who we are as human beings," he says. "That is why we're going to win this."

Segment 3 -- "The Top Priority"

A retired Lieutenant General says that a top priority is raising consciousness in the military about the need for protecting the environment for future generations, and emphasizes the link between natural security and national security.

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

Artist Ezio Cusi's house is a work of art -- and also built smart. The cob house with timber-framed upper stories is made with mostly local natural materials. For the cold winters, it has an annualized geo-solar system (AGS) which in summer transfers hot water from solar panels to storage in the ground. In the cool months the heat flows back into the house, warming especially the periphery. It's comfortable even in the top story. A hand-sculpted dragon provides whimsy as well as warming in the masonry rocket stove — which burns far more efficiently than a wood stove as well as offering a nice warm bench to sit on! Art is embedded in walls while many windows are graced with original stained glass. Enjoy the blend of beauty and functionality.

Segment 5 -- "30th Annual August Peace Event"

The August Peace Event is held annually in memory of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the US on August 6th and 9th in 1945, the first and only use of atomic weapons in war. At this year's event (on August 7) John Burroughs spoke on "Challenging the Nuclear Giants to Disarm."

Burroughs is a member of the international legal team representing the Marshall Islands in the International Court of Justice, developing legal cases against the nuclear-armed states for their failure to disarm as required by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and international law.

Episode #600 (November 5-11)

Segment 1 -- "An Evening with Barry Scheck: Justice for the Innocent"

Attorney Barry Scheck, DNA expert and co-founder of the Innocence Project, delivered a moving presentation to a capacity crowd at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento, as part of the Moon Lecture Series. The Innocence Project exonerates the wrongly convicted through DNA testing and reforms the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. A Media Edge crew recorded this event on September 16, 2016.

Segment 2 -- "A Prosecutor's Vision for a Better Justice System"

When a kid commits a crime, the US justice system has a choice: prosecute to the full extent of the law, or take a step back and ask if saddling young people with criminal records is the right thing to do every time. In this searching talk, Adam Foss, a prosecutor with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Boston, makes his case for a reformed justice system that replaces wrath with opportunity, changing people's lives for the better instead of ruining them.

Segment 3 -- "How Texas Shut Down a Prison"

Texas saved \$2 billion for taxpayers by cutting prison spending while making the state safer. Now it's time to renew those reforms. This video was produced in partnership with the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition.

Episode #599 (October 29 – November 4)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

It may seem at times like there's a thousand movements to be a part of, a thousand and one tragedies in the news. How do we keep ourselves accountable to the communities we truly care about? Is "diversity" enough? And how do we stop ourselves from panicking? Our guest this week, celebrated journalist and author Jeff Chang takes on some of these questions. According to Chang, hope isn't yet lost and really, we're going to be alright -- if we work together. Connecting the dots between modern American resegregation, the 2016 elections, the Black Lives Matter Movement, and the "hip-hop generation," Chang paints a picture of distress. Yet, there's power in this, says Chang. Collaboration, the likes of which we see in successful movements everywhere (Movement for Black Lives, #NoDAPL), can ebb the flow of oppression. Jeff Chang is the co-founder of CultureStrike and Colorlines. He currently serves as the executive director for Stanford University's Institute for Diversity in the Arts.

Also in this episode, we see a movement in practice at Standing Rock in Očhéthi Šakówiŋ territory. Indigenous activists and nations across the country are joining together in a historic effort to protect the water and defend the land against corporate energy. These indigenous leaders can teach us a lesson about doing radical work, even when facing improbable odds.

Segment 2 -- "The Story of Cosmetics"

An examination of the pervasive use of toxic chemicals in our everyday personal care products, from lipstick to baby shampoo. This film by The Story of Stuff Project reveals the implications for consumer and worker health and the environment, and outlines ways we can move the industry away from hazardous chemicals and towards safer alternatives.

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

The growth economy is historically relatively recent, and is now consuming 1.5 Earths and growing. Compound interest is sucking the lifeblood out of the real economy, from households to countries. Mike Lewis, co-author of *The Resilience Imperative*, tells the story of the successful JAK cooperative Bank in Sweden, which is based on saving on behalf of others and uses only simple interest. It's one example from the book which illuminates "alternate pathways to move from a growth imperative to a resilience imperative... It presumes we will transition ourselves back to one Earth and find a different way of dealing with a number of ways we meet our basic needs — whether it's with food, energy, shelter, land, or finance (an important part of the problem)."

Segment 4 -- "Immigrants For Sale"

Immigrants For Sale is a ground-breaking documentary that goes inside the private immigrant detention industry, through the lens of those most impacted, the players behind the trade and the multi-billion dollar profits that fuel it all.

Segment 5 -- "My Country will be Underwater Soon -- Unless We Work Together"

For the people of Kiribati, climate change isn't something to be debated, denied or legislated against — it's an everyday reality. The low-lying Pacific island nation may soon be underwater, thanks to rising sea levels. In a personal conversation with TED Talks Curator Chris Anderson, Kiribati President Anote Tong discusses his country's present climate catastrophe and its imperiled future. "In order to deal with climate change, there's got to be sacrifice. There's got to be commitment," he says. "We've got to tell people that the world has changed."

Episode #598 (October 22-28)

Segment 1 -- "The United States of ALEC"

Bill Moyers' report on the most influential corporate-funded political force most of America has never heard of -- ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council. A national consortium of state politicians and powerful corporations, ALEC presents itself as a "nonpartisan public-private partnership". But behind that mantra lies a vast network of corporate lobbying and political action aimed to increase corporate profits at public expense without public knowledge.

Segment 2 -- "A Really Inconvenient Truth"

Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" woke the world up to the dangers of global warming. But, argues Joel Kovel, while we should be grateful to Gore for sounding the alarm, we also need to go far beyond his reading of the causes of this crisis and of what needs to be done about it.

Episode #597 (October 15-21)

Segment 1 -- "How to Raise a Black Son In America"

As kids, we all get advice from parents and teachers that seems strange, even confusing. This was crystallized one night for a young Clint Smith, who was playing with water guns in a dark parking lot with his white friends. In a heartfelt piece, the poet paints the scene of his father's furious and fearful response.

Segment 2 -- "Ecosystems, War and Climate Change"

Four scientists describe the impact of climate change on wildlife and fragile ecosystems, and draw the parallel between that and the destructive role of warfare in undermining our capacity to protect and sustain our essential natural resources.

Segment 3 -- "Wild Versus Wall"

This Sierra Club film details the unique and diverse natural areas along the southern borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and explains how they have been and will be affected by current and planned federal border policy and infrastructure, as well as the danger to our rights and safety imposed by sweeping new powers granted to the Department of Homeland Security.

Segment 4 -- "War on Whistleblowers: Free Press and the National Security State"

This film highlights four cases where whistleblowers noticed government wrong-doing and took to the media to expose the fraud and abuse. It exposes the surprisingly worsening and threatening reality for whistleblowers and the press. The film includes interviews with whistleblowers Michael DeKort, Thomas Drake, Franz Gayl and Thomas Tamm and award-winning journalists like David Carr, Lucy Dalglish, Glenn Greenwald, Seymour Hersh, Michael Isikoff, Bill Keller, Eric Lipton, Jane Mayer, Dana Priest, Tom Vanden Brook and Sharon Weinberger.

Segment 5 -- "Bring on the Female Superheroes!"

Why is it so hard to find female superhero merchandise? In this passionate, sparkling talk, media studies scholar (and father of a Star Wars-obsessed daughter) Christopher Bell addresses the alarming lack of female superheroes in the toys and products marketed to kids — and what it means for how we teach them about the world.

Episode #596 (October 8-14)

Segment 1 -- "Everyone's Channel"

This 1990 video documents the history of U.S. community television and public access TV, using rare video clips from across the nation. Combining unique archival footage from the early days of cable, rediscovered footage from the late 1960s, and interviews with access pioneers, it provides an illuminating overview of the people, ideas, and technological developments that helped make cable access a reality, and stresses the continuing need to see it as a vital necessity and right. From the birth of the video revolution, inspired by the marketing of portable TV equipment, to the first access channels in New York City and beyond, "Everyone's Channel" portrays the evolution of an idea that refuses to die.

Segment 2 -- "Happy Collaborator: George Stoney"

This poignant documentary by Mike Hazard portrays the late George Stoney as a filmmaker, teacher of film, and media activist. He is widely known as "the father of public access TV."

"Happy Collaborator" includes clips from 17 films, interviews with collaborators who worked with George in front of and behind the camera, and intimate recordings with him.

Episode #595 (October 1-7)

Segment 1 -- "A Letter to All Who Have Lost in this Era"

Summer, 2016: amid populist revolts, clashing resentments and fear, writer Anand Giridharadas doesn't give a talk but reads a letter. It's from those who have won in this era of change, to those who have, or feel, lost. It confesses to ignoring pain until it became anger. It chides an idealistic yet remote elite for its behind-closed-doors world-saving and airy, self-serving futurism — for at times worrying more about sending people to Mars than helping them on Earth. And it rejects the exclusionary dogmas to which we cling, calling us instead to "dare to commit to the dream of each other."

Segment 2 -- "What We Are Leaving Behind in Iraq"

An Iraq war veteran who served two deployments shows us the destruction and garbage he saw and photographed when leaving Iraq.

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

"Today we're looking at a ten percent world," says J.B. MacKinnon, author of *The Once and Future World*. "What we think of as nature today has been depleted by 90% in many cases." Diaries of explorers reveal an abundance of sea life, birds, and animals like bison in numbers far beyond our imaginations: "It's almost like visiting a different planet." Our urbanized population has become disconnected from our roots in nature. MacKinnon advocates re-wilding by actively building the wild back into our living spaces. We also need to regain the cultural understandings necessary to live alongside the natural world. He asserts, "We NEED the natural world...Not only is it good for us, but it's good in ways nothing else can provide." To re-wild ourselves, we can start small: sit down and actively see nature again. "Once I began paying attention, what I experienced was so wonderful, that it was easy to keep doing it. It's so easy to fall back in love with the natural world."

Segment 4 -- "The Risky Politics of Progress"

Global problems such as terrorism, inequality and political dysfunction aren't easy to solve, but that doesn't mean we should stop trying. In fact, suggests journalist Jonathan Tepperman, we might even want to think riskier. He traveled the world to ask global leaders how they're tackling hard problems — and unearthed surprisingly hopeful stories that he's distilled into three tools for problem-solving.

Segment 5 -- "Over Troubled Waters"

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas, is a national treasure being squandered by greed. In this visually rich documentary, Ed Begley, Jr. narrates the story of the battle being fought by the people of the Delta to protect the region they love and encourage saner water policies for all of the people of California.

Episode #594 (September 24-30)

Segment 1 -- "The Deadly Legacy of Cluster Bombs"

The destruction of war doesn't stop when the fighting is over. During the 34-day Israel-Hezbollah War in 2006, an estimated four million cluster submunitions were dropped on Lebanon, killing indiscriminately. The danger remains, as many bomblets failed to explode and lay dormant, waiting to maim or kill anyone who encounters them. In this TED Talk, photographer Laura Boushnak shares haunting photos of cluster bomb survivors and asks those who still produce and condone the use of these weapons, including the United States, to abandon them.

Segment 2 -- "The Internet's Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz"

This feature film follows the story of programming prodigy and information activist Aaron Swartz. From Swartz's help in the development of the basic internet protocol RSS to his co-founding of Reddit, his fingerprints are all over the internet. But it was Swartz's groundbreaking work in social justice and political organizing combined with his aggressive approach to information access that ensnared him in a two-year legal nightmare. It was a battle that ended with the taking of his own life at the age of 26. Aaron's story touched a nerve with people far beyond the online communities in which he was a celebrity. This film is a personal story about what we lose when we are tone deaf about technology and its relationship to our civil liberties.

Episode #593 (September 17-23)

Segment 1 -- "How Africa Can Keep Rising"

African growth is a trend, not a fluke, says economist and former Finance Minister of Nigeria Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. In this refreshingly candid and straightforward talk, Okonjo-Iweala describes the positive progress on the continent and outlines eight challenges African nations still need to address in order to create a better future.

Segment 2 -- "Koch Brothers Exposed"

This documentary shines a light on billionaires David and Charles Koch, who were handed the ability to buy our democracy in the form of giant checks to the House, Senate, and soon, possibly even the Presidency. It investigates where their money went and who their money hurt during the process leading up to the 2014 elections.

Segment 3 -- "Why You Should Talk to Strangers"

"When you talk to strangers, you're making beautiful interruptions into the expected narrative of your daily life — and theirs," says Kio Stark. In this delightful talk, Stark explores the overlooked benefits of pushing past our default discomfort when it comes to strangers and embracing those fleeting but profoundly beautiful moments of genuine connection.

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

Salt Spring Island -- near Vancouver, B.C. -- has designed its own form of currency. Michael Contardi, President of the Salt Spring Island Monetary Foundation, explains that they're widely accepted by local businesses and banks, and easily redeemed. They're purchased using Canadian dollars and are spent at many local businesses which accept them, including grocery and hardware stores. Michael shows us the intricately-designed multi-color bills featuring local artists' work on the back, and historical figures and quotations on the front. He explains different models of local currency, as well as Bitcoin, an emerging revolutionary decentralized, non-politicized approach to money available via the internet.

Segment 5 -- "To Prison for Pregnancy"

Feticide laws are meant to protect pregnant women and their unborn fetuses against battery and assault while pregnant. Instead, these laws are being used to criminalize pregnant women and worse can often discourage expectant mothers from seeking prenatal care. This short film highlights the problems and unintended consequences of these laws which are harming women and their families. If you live in one of the 38 states that has feticide laws, tell your lawmakers to remove feticide and related laws off the books and out of women's lives.

Episode #592 (September 10-16)

Segment 1 -- "How the Panama Papers Journalists Broke the Biggest Leak in History"

Gerard Ryle led the international team that divulged the Panama Papers, the 11.5 million leaked documents from 40 years of activity of the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca that have offered an unprecedented glimpse into the scope and methods of the secretive world of offshore finance. Hear the story behind the biggest collaborative journalism project in history.

Segment 2 -- "Hedge Fund Billionaires vs. Kindergarten Teachers: Whose Side Are You On?"

The top 25 hedge fund managers make more than all kindergarten teachers in the country combined. These investors make millions - sometimes billions - of dollars investing borrowed money in hopes of realizing large capital gains. But what is most absurd is that these millionaires and billionaires pay a lower tax rate than kindergarten teachers -- and very likely a lower rate than YOU!

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, filmmaker Robert Greenwald and other panelists discuss this issue at a screening of this Brave New Films production.

Segment 3 -- "The Fragile Promise of Choice"

Through vignettes from cities and rural areas around the country, this documentary examines how restrictive legislation, in an atmosphere of harassment and violence, affects the lives of abortion providers and the women who seek their services. The film features interviews with community doctors, women seeking services, clinic directors, clergy, and counselors. Their stories illustrate the increasing number of situations in which legal does not necessarily mean accessible.

Episode #591 (September 3-9)

Segment 1 -- "30th Annual August Peace Event"

The August Peace Event is held annually in memory of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the US on August 6th and 9th in 1945, the first and only use of atomic weapons in war. At this year's event (on August 7) John Burroughs spoke on "Challenging the Nuclear Giants to Disarm." Burroughs is a member of the international legal team representing the Marshall Islands in the International Court of Justice, developing legal cases against the nuclear-armed states for their failure to disarm as required by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and international law."

Segment 2 -- "The Secret US Prisons You've Never Heard of Before"

An Iraq war veteran who served two deployments shows us the destruction and garbage he saw and photographed when leaving Iraq.

Segment 3 -- "Reclaiming Their Voice: The Native American Vote in New Mexico"

This 2009 documentary -- directed by EMMY-winning filmmaker, Dorothy Fadiman -- documents ways in which Native Americans have been disenfranchised over centuries, in particular in voting representation. It chronicles the Laguna Pueblo tribe of New Mexico in their 2004 groundbreaking voter registration drive and the challenges they faced once Laguna voters arrived at the polls. The film also shows the Sacred Alliance for Grassroots Equality's (SAGE) fight to preserve parts of the sacred Petroglyph National Monument. The film is narrated by Peter Coyote and features interviews with members of the local Laguna community, including New Mexico House Representative, W. Ken Martinez. Robin H. Levin, the Community Librarian of the Fort Washakie School in Wyoming, said of the film: "Emotions run deep when viewing this insightful political documentary. The story blends sincere efforts to achieve political clout with unfortunate results that, somehow, do not shut down the hopes of Native voters in New Mexico." In 2010, the film won the "Best New Mexico Film Award" at the first Duke City Doc Festival, which later became the Albuquerque International Film Festival.

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

When new regulations required Salt Spring Island's meat producers to take their animals off-island for processing, local production plummeted nearly in half. In response, the Salt Spring Agricultural Alliance obtained grants to create a local meat processing facility for this important local food product. Chair Anne Macey gives a tour of the facility before it was put into use — from animal holding pens to humane harvesting, processing, meat cutting and packaging. This small local operation is a far cry from the enormous inhumane confined animal feedlot operations where most meat is processed. (No animals or meat products are portrayed in this program.)

Episode #590 (August 27 - September 2)

Segment 1 -- "A Highly Scientific Taxonomy of Haters"

Negin Farsad weaves comedy and social commentary to cleverly undercut stereotypes of her culture. In this uproarious talk/stand-up hybrid, Farsad speaks on her documentary, "The Muslims Are Coming!", narrates her fight with the MTA in New York and offers a detailed breakdown of the different types of haters she's encountered in her work. "Comedy is one of our best weapons," she says. "We've tried a lot of approaches to social justice, like war and competitive ice dancing — but a lot of things are still kind of awful."

Segment 2 -- "Dakota 38"

In the spring of 2005, Jim Miller, a Native spiritual leader and Vietnam veteran, found himself in a dream riding on horseback across the great plains of South Dakota. Just before he awoke, he arrived at a riverbank in Minnesota and saw 38 of his Dakota ancestors hanged. At the time, Jim knew nothing of the largest mass execution in United States history, ordered by Abraham Lincoln on December 26, 1862. "When you have dreams, you know when they come from the creator... As any recovered alcoholic, I made believe that I didn't get it. I tried to put it out of my mind, yet it's one of those dreams that bothers you night and day." Four years later, embracing the message of the dream, Jim and a group of riders retrace the 330-mile route of his dream on horseback from Lower Brule, South Dakota to Mankato, Minnesota to arrive at the hanging site on the anniversary of the execution.

This is the story of their journey- the blizzards they endure, the Native and Non-Native communities that house and feed them along the way, and the dark history they are beginning to wipe away.

Segment 3 -- "World Population"

A graphic video that illustrates how the world population has grown in the past 2,000 years, and how that growth has greatly accelerated since 1900.

Segment 4 -- "Vanessa's Eight Year Sentence"

This film follows a Bay Area teen with an incarcerated parent who is on the precarious edge of the system herself. When they took her mom away, Vanessa stopped caring. She acted out in school, got in trouble with the law, and ended up in a group home. When her mom only had a year left in her sentence, Vanessa was one small mistake away from violating her probation and ending up in juvenile hall. Imagine the mother walking out of the walls of prison, only to see her child step in.

Segment 5 -- "Why Brexit Happened -- And What To Do Next"

We are embarrassingly unaware of how divided our societies are, and Brexit grew out of a deep, unexamined divide between those that fear globalization and those that embrace it, says social scientist Alexander Betts. How do we now address that fear as well as growing disillusionment with the political establishment, while refusing to give in to xenophobia and nationalism? Betts discusses four post-Brexit steps toward a more inclusive world.

Episode #589 (August 20-26)

Segment 1 -- "2016 High School Scholarship Essay Contest"

In 2016, the Physicians for Social Responsibility (Sacramento Chapter) received essays that were submitted by more than 130 high school seniors in Sacramento and surrounding counties, reacting to this quotation from the Dalai Lama: "Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free. "Each of the 10 finalists in this year's contest, chosen by a panel of distinguished judges, received a \$1,000 scholarship. After each finalist read their essay at this May 1, 2016 event and responded to a question from one of the judges, the panel selected the First Place winner (\$3,000 scholarship), Second Place winner (\$2,500 scholarship), and Third Place winner (\$2,000 scholarship).

Segment 2 -- "This is What LGBT Life is Like Around the World"

As a gay couple in San Francisco, Jenni Chang and Lisa Dazols had a relatively easy time living the way they wanted. But outside the bubble of the Bay Area, what was life like for people still lacking basic rights? They set off on a world tour in search of LGBT people who were doing something extraordinary in the world. In 15 countries across Africa, Asia and South America — from India, recently home to the world's first openly gay prince, to Argentina, the first country in Latin America to grant marriage equality — they found the inspiring stories and the courageous, resilient and proud LGBT people they had been looking for.

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

"We've alienated ourselves so much from nature that our whole way of producing food is by trying to dominate nature. We're not really connected." Dan Jason, owner of Salt Spring Seeds (B.C.), points out how corporations now control most of the seeds and food products worldwide. They are poisoning plants, us, and the planet with pesticides. He passionately advocates our reconnecting with nature by gardening and farming "heirloom" and "heritage" plants started from open-pollinated seeds, just as our ancestors have done in 10,000 years of agriculture. Decades ago he helped start "Seedy Saturdays" for garden-loving people to swap seeds and information. His latest venture is a local Seed Library where people can borrow seeds, and return them at the end of the season complete with growing notes. "It's about love," he says. "Appreciating and enjoying and sharing life. It's about giving, not getting."

Segment 4 -- "Make a Better World"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blended with the music of Maria Muldaur.

Episode #588 (August 13-19)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Bill Kauth and Zoe Alowan, co-authors of *We Need Each Other: Building Gift Community*, modeled the tribe-forming process on fraternal lodges. It begins with a champion, one or two people who establish the tribe's values. The champion invites others into the tribe who wish to commit to those values: staying in place, time together, and being there for one another come what may. Potential members are sponsored by existing members. They go through a 15-hour training on the tribe's values, deepening intimacy, gender safety, and conflict resolution. After several months of provisional membership, they are initiated in a co-created ritual.

Segment 2 -- "Restoration"

RESTORATION is the fourth film in Green World Rising, a series of films aimed at moving the climate debate forward. The film focuses on how nature can protect the Earth from the harmful effects of climate change and how industrial design and science researchers can learn valuable lessons from natural systems.

"When we plug into the wisdom of nature and work alongside Earth's ecosystems, we discover new and exciting innovations. Many are already underway. It is this partnership with nature that will solve our most pressing climate concerns and create the building blocks of a civilization that works alongside nature, not against it," said Leonardo DiCaprio, Narrator of RESTORATION.

Segment 3 -- "Unmanned: America's Drone Wars"

This documentary investigates the impact of U.S. drone strikes at home and abroad through more than 70 separate interviews, including a former American drone operator who shares what he has witnessed in his own words, Pakistani families mourning loved ones and seeking legal redress, investigative journalists pursuing the truth, and top military officials warning against blowback from the loss of innocent life.

Segment 4 -- "Redemption Song"

John Legend is on a mission to transform America's criminal justice system. Through his Free America campaign, he's encouraging rehabilitation and healing in our prisons, jails and detention centers — and giving hope to those who want to create a better life after serving their time. With a spoken-word prelude from James Cavitt, an inmate at San Quentin, Legend treats us to his version of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song."

Segment 5 -- "Democracy"

Music video about the troubled state of our democracy by "Diversity," a Sacramento band.

Episode #587 (August 6-12)

Segment 1 -- "The Secret to Effective Nonviolent Resistance"

We're not going to end violence by telling people that it's morally wrong, says Jamila Raqib, executive director of the Albert Einstein Institution. Instead, we must find alternative ways to conduct conflict that are equally powerful and effective. Raqib promotes nonviolent resistance to people living under tyranny — and there's a lot more to it than street protests.

She shares encouraging examples of creative strategies that have led to change around the world and a message of hope for a future without armed conflict. "The greatest hope for humanity lies not in condemning violence but in making violence obsolete," Raqib says.

Segment 2 -- "Nowhere To Go But Jail?"

As documented in this short video by Brave New Films, Salt Lake City decided to give homeless people supportive shelter instead of throwing them in jail -- resulting not only in an extraordinary amount of savings on tax dollars but also returning respect back to those who were living on the street.

Segment 3 -- "An Evening With Angela Davis"

Social equality activist Angela Davis spoke to a capacity crowd at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento on December 5, 2014. With events in Ferguson and New York on everyone's mind, Ms. Davis spoke eloquently about these and related concerns. A Media Edge crew was on hand to record this inspirational event.

Ms. Davis, 70, is a political activist, scholar, and author. She emerged as a controversial leader in the 1960s, associated with the Communist Party USA, and the Black Panther Party. Ms. Davis was arrested, charged, tried, and acquitted of conspiracy in the 1970 armed takeover of a Marin County courtroom— four people died in the incident.

Ms. Davis is the founder of Critical Resistance, an organization working to abolish the prison-industrial complex. She is a retired professor with the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a former director of the university's Feminist Studies department.

Episode #586 (July 30 - August 5)

Segment 1 -- "Why I Put Myself in Danger To Tell The Stories Of Gaza"

When Ameera Harouda hears the sounds of bombs or shells, she heads straight towards them. "I want to be there first because these stories should be told," says Gaza's first female "fixer," a role that allows her to guide journalists into chaotic, war zone scenarios in her home country, which she still loves despite its terrible situation. Find out what motivates Harouda to give a voice to Gaza's human suffering in this unforgettable talk.

Segment 2 -- "An Artist's Unflinching Look at Racial Violence"

Conceptual artist Sanford Biggers uses painting, sculpture, video and performance to spark challenging conversations about the history and trauma of black America. Join him as he details two compelling works and shares the motivation behind his art. "Only through more thoughtful dialogue about history and race can we evolve as individuals and society," Biggers says.

Segment 3 -- "An Evening with Senator Marie Chappelle-Nadal"

Missouri State Senator Marie Chappelle-Nadal, a leading voice and advocate during the community unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, spoke at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento last September. The Media Edge crew recorded this event.

Episode #585 (July 23-29)

Segment 1 -- "Restorative Justice"

In California, year after year, thousands of children are lead down a career path of criminal behavior in large part due to the failure of our punitive justice system. Children who enter the juvenile jail system are 60% more likely to become repeat offenders and therefore more likely to enter the prison system as adults. Contrasting punitive programs, restorative justice programs that follow a model of behavior intervention and victim-offender mediation, pioneered by Centinela Youth Services (CYS), are successfully reducing recidivism rates and the number of children serving time in juvenile jails. The overall effect is positive for the children, the victims, and the community at large by stopping the cycle of crime before it begins - guiding the child to re-evaluate their actions, meet their victims and make better choices in the future.

Segment 2 -- "Greed 101"

Hedge funds that profit off of the misery of places like Puerto Rico are raking in massive dollars by forcing schools to close and making education unaffordable. They're called "vulture funds" and they make a killing off of places like Puerto Rico — sometimes literally.

Segment 3 -- "Returning Fire"

Video games like "Modern Warfare", "America's Army", "Medal of Honor" and "Battlefield" are part of an exploding market of war games whose revenues now far outpace even the biggest Hollywood blockbusters. The sophistication of these games is undeniable, offering users a stunningly realistic experience of ground combat and a glimpse into the increasingly virtual world of long-distance, push-button warfare. Far less clear, though, is what these games are doing to users, our political culture, and our capacity to empathize with people directly affected by the actual trauma of war. For the culture-jamming activists featured in this film, these uncertainties were a call to action. In three separate vignettes, we see how Anne-Marie Schleiner, Wafaa Bilal, and Joseph Delappe moved dissent from the streets to our screens, infiltrating war games in an attempt to break the hypnotic spell of "militainment." Their work forces all of us -- gamers and non-gamers alike -- to think critically about what it means when the clinical tools of real-world killing become forms of consumer play.

Segment 4 -- "Not Just a Game"

We've been told again and again that sports and politics don't mix, that games are just games and athletes should just "shut up and play." But according to Nation magazine sports editor Dave Zirin, this notion is just flat-out wrong. In Not Just a Game, the powerful documentary based on his bestselling book "The People's History of Sports in the United States," Zirin argues that far from providing merely escapist entertainment, American sports have long been at the center of some of the major political debates and struggles of our time. In a fascinating tour of the good, the bad, and the ugly of American sports culture, Zirin first traces how American sports have glamorized militarism, racism, sexism, and homophobia, then excavates a largely forgotten history of rebel athletes who stood up to power and fought for social justice beyond the field of play. The result is as deeply moving as it is exhilarating: nothing less than an alternative history of political struggle in the United States as seen through the games its people have played.

Episode #584 (July 16-22)

Segment 1 -- "Democracy"

Music video about the troubled state of our democracy by "Diversity," a Sacramento band.

Segment 2 -- "Our Water, Our Future"

Cascade Locks, Oregon is heaven on earth—a small town nestled in the awe-inspiring Columbia River Gorge. But when Nestlé came to town with a proposal to bottle their water, citizens launched an all-out effort to protect their most precious resource. Our Water, Our Future tells the story of these unlikely activists and their advice for communities facing water grabs around the world.

Segment 3 -- "Glenn Greenwald - Why Privacy Matters"

Glenn Greenwald was one of the first reporters to see -- and write about -- the Edward Snowden files, with their revelations about the United States' extensive surveillance of private citizens. In this video, Greenwald makes the case for why you need to care about privacy, even if you're "not doing anything you need to hide."

Segment 4 -- "The Ghosts of Jeju"

A shocking documentary about the struggle of the people of Jeju Island, S. Korea. Set in the context of the American presence in Korea after World War II, the film reveals horrible atrocities at the hands of the U.S. Military Government of Korea.

Episode #583 (July 9-15)

Segment 1 -- "Preventing Gun Violence – An International Perspective"

On October 25, 2015, the Joint Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapters of Physicians for Social Responsibility and the United Nations Association featured keynote speaker Rebecca Peters, the founding director of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA). Following the 1996 Port Arthur massacre in Australia, Ms. Peters led a grass roots gun control campaign that led to prompt action by the Australian government to ban all assault weapons in their country. For her work on gun violence prevention, she received the Australian Human Rights Medal, the Australian equivalent of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

During her keynote address, Ms. Peters described how she and her Australian colleagues were able to get the nationwide ban on assault weapons passed. She noted that following the ban, over a million firearms were removed from circulation, overall rates of firearm related deaths and injuries, already much lower than in the United States, declined even further, and there hasn't been a single additional mass shooting.

Ms. Peters challenged Americans to take similar action to stop the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

Segment 2 -- "The Mean World Syndrome"

This film examines how media violence forms a cultural environment that cultivates a heightened state of insecurity, exaggerated perceptions of risk and danger, and a fear-driven propensity for hard-line solutions to social problems.

Episode #582 (July 2-8)

Segment 1 -- "Happy Collaborator: George Stoney"

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of George Stoney (on July 1), we present "Happy Collaborator: George Stoney." This poignant documentary by Mike Hazard portrays the late George Stoney as a filmmaker, teacher of film, and media activist. He is widely known as "the father of public access TV."

"Happy Collaborator" includes clips from 17 films, interviews with collaborators who worked with George in front of and behind the camera, and intimate recordings with him.

Segment 2 -- "This Land is Our Land"

In the midst of California's historic drought, Nestle Waters—the largest bottler of water in the world—is drawing millions of gallons of water a year from the San Bernardino National Forest. Nestle's permit expired in 1988, at which point the Forest Service should have turned off the spigot. Let's hold Nestle accountable and ensure this shared public resource is protected for future generations.

Segment 3 -- "This is Crazy: Criminalizing Mental Health"

America is "treating" mental illness through incarceration - and the price we are paying both in dollars and human capital is enormous. This film focuses on the problems with criminalizing mental health, told through first-hand accounts.

Segment 4 -- "Unlabeled - The Most Dangerous Product On The American Market"

Cars, toys, and aspirin all have to meet mandatory safety standards before being available to the public. But, there's one product that doesn't. Guns. And one of the most heinous laws that protects gun industry profits is the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), which makes the gun industry immune from being sued for damages.

Segment 5 -- "When Abortion Was Illegal"

This Academy Award-nominated film features compelling first person accounts which reveal the physical, legal, and emotional consequences during the era when abortion was a criminal act.