

PREVIOUSLY ON “MEDIA EDGE” (January-July, 2017)

Episode 638 (July 29 – August 4)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Organizing in a Trump and Amazon World -- new concentrations of power are bringing forth new models of resistance. Cathy Albisa and Sabino Milian discuss the targeting of activists in immigration sweeps. Those ICE raids aren't that random, they say. And as Amazon gets ever bigger, what happens to the workers behind your mouse-click? We'll hear how low-wage warehouse workers are Raising the Floor from Sophia Zaman.

Segment 2 -- "Nine Short Environmental Videos"

These nine short videos focus on a range of issues, including methane leaks from natural gas wells, the impact of climate change around the world, efforts to preserve endangered species, and wiser food choices.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "40 Strangers, 50 Questions"

As our country becomes increasingly divided, we must acknowledge our many differences, yet understand and embrace that we are all one. We must help one another, and pledge to step out of the boxes of fear and hate, and step into one of empathy, solidarity, and unity.

Segment 5 -- "How Pollution is Changing the Ocean's Chemistry"

As carbon dioxide is pumped into the atmosphere, more of it dissolves in the oceans, leading to drastic changes in the water's chemistry. Triona McGrath researches this process, and describes how the "evil twin of climate change" is impacting the ocean — and the life that depends on it.

Episode 637 (July 22-28)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

The lines between politics and branding have been blurred, not just in recent years, but in a gradual effort by corporations to commodify media and politics. So says our guest this week, Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* and *This Changes Everything*, joining Laura to discuss her most recent book *No Is Not Enough*. How will the movements of resistance and creation challenge a “reality TV politics?,” and where is it already happening? Klein sets out the map. Plus, a short report on water protector Red Fawn Fallis, who faces an imprisonment for life sentence as a result of her participation in the Standing Rock protests of 2016.

Segment 2 -- "How Fake News Does Real Harm"

On April 14, 2014, the terrorist organization Boko Haram kidnapped more than 200 schoolgirls from the town of Chibok, Nigeria. Around the world, the crime became epitomized by the slogan #BringBackOurGirls — but in Nigeria, government officials called the crime a hoax, confusing and delaying any efforts to rescue the girls. In this powerful talk, journalist Stephanie Busari points to the Chibok tragedy to explain the deadly danger of fake news and what we can do to stop it.

Segment 3 -- "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.

Segment 4 -- "The Story of Citizens United vs. FEC"

An exploration of the inordinate power that corporations exercise in our democracy.

Segment 5 -- "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.

Episode 636 (July 15-21)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Money media keep telling us that Trump voters are sticking by him, but are they? And what do so-called swing voters really want? Working America, the community organizing affiliate of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., took to the streets of Ohio to find out. Matt Morrison, the deputy director of Working America, shares the findings of the Front Porch Focus Group, and we hear from some of the canvassers who knocked on all those doors. Plus, why it's business as usual for the Koch brothers in the states. Right wing funders know power shifts from the bottom up, not Trump-down. Sadly, the same can't be said of our media.

Segment 2 -- "SB 562 - The Healthy California Act"

California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon singlehandedly killed the popular single payer healthcare bill, SB 562, which had been passed by the State Senate. On July 3, concerned citizens gathered at the Capitol. Media Edge was there to capture the event.

Segment 3 -- "Canada's Largest Logging Company Wants to Sue Greenpeace out of Existence"

After receiving criticism from Greenpeace for its irresponsible practices, Resolute Forest Products (Canada's largest logging company) decided to sue Greenpeace Canada, and then years later also sued Greenpeace USA and Greenpeace International. Three Greenpeace Forest campaigners who were individually named in the suits describe what this experience has been like. They also talk about their own connections to nature, the importance of the Boreal forest, and how a lawsuit against Greenpeace could end up endangering free speech everywhere.

Segment 4 -- "Fukushima: Living with a Disaster"

Many years after the nuclear accident in Fukushima, an end to the disaster is not in sight. This short documentary tells the story of the people from Fukushima, forced to leave their homes without knowing if they could ever return, and explores the work that Greenpeace has been doing in the region since 2011.

Segment 5 -- "Catching Fire"

Catching Fire tells a compelling story of how a small but committed group of local, tribal, state and federal land managers are bringing back the use of prescribed fire as a tool to protect communities and ecosystems across Northern California. It examines the use of fire by the Karuk Tribe of California, and the connection between the rise of megafires across the West and the last century of fire suppression. Drawing on interviews with fire scientists, tribal and federal land managers, and fire savvy residents from across the North State, this film provides insight on how our relationship to fire can be restored through strategic use of fire as a powerful management tool.

Episode 635 (July 8-14)

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE STONEY:

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 (especially George Stoney), 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 634 (July 1-7)

Segment 1 -- "Bernie Sanders at the People's Summit 2017"

Bernie Sanders delivered this rousing keynote speech on June 10 at the People's Summit 2017 in Chicago. Sanders makes it clear: The time for Revolution is now.

Segment 2 -- "This is What Democracy Looks Like"

In a quest to make sense of the political environment in the United States in 2017, lawyer and ACLU executive director Anthony D. Romero turned to a surprising place — a 14th-century fresco by Italian Renaissance master Ambrogio Lorenzetti. What could a 700-year-old painting possibly teach us about life today? Turns out, a lot. Romero explains all in a talk that's as striking as the painting itself.

Segment 3 -- "The Story of Cap & Trade"

Meet the energy traders and financiers at the heart of the "Cap & Trade" scheme, which gives free permits to big polluters, provides fake offsets, and distracts from what's really required to tackle the climate crisis.

Segment 4 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Can social movements take power and stick to their promises? There are lessons to be learned from the government of Syriza which ran against austerity and ended up imposing it. Laura's joined by Helena Sheehan, author of a new book on The Syriza Wave in Greece and we consider the Movement for Black Lives. Should it ever run candidates? Natalie Jeffers, British Black Lives Matter activist, weighs in, ahead of the UK election. Also, a special feature on Stop And Frisk - UK style.

Segment 5 -- "Carbon"

This short film, narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, shows how we can keep carbon in the ground through putting a price on carbon.

Episode 633 (June 24-30)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

If, in the twenty-first century, credit is the new capital, what are the implications for our finances, but also our relationships? This week, Laura talks with Ivan Ascher, author of a new book on The Portfolio Society, and debt activist Pam Brown, about the implications of a society based on risk rather than labor. And we hear from Mandy Cabot, CEO of Dansko shoes who chose her workers over a corporate buyout. She's joined by Richard Eidlin, co-founder of the American Sustainable Business Council.

Segment 2 -- "Am I Not Human? A Call for Criminal Justice Reform"

For a crime he committed in his early twenties, the courts sentenced Marlon Peterson to 10 years in prison — and, as he says, a lifetime of irrelevance. While behind bars, Peterson found redemption through a pen pal mentorship program with students from Brooklyn. In this brave talk, he reminds us why we should invest in the humanity of those people society would like to disregard and discard.

Segment 3 -- "2017 High School Scholarship Essay Contest"

On April 30, 2017, Sacramento area high school students read and defended their essays in response to this quotation from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."

The 10 finalists presented their essays at the contest finals dinner that was attended by more than 200 people. The finalists answered questions about their essays from a distinguished panel of judges from the community, who then choose the First Place (\$3,000 scholarship), Second Place (\$2,500 scholarship), and Third Place (\$2,000 scholarship) winners. Each of the other finalists received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Episode 632 (June 17-23)

Segment 1 -- "Robert Reich: 7 Reasons Trump's Corporate Tax Cuts Make No Sense"

Donald Trump wants to cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 15%. This would blow a massive hole in the federal budget while benefitting Trump's super-rich friends and business associates.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

A new world based on community and collaboration is closer than you think. We can steward resources together, in fact, millions of people are doing just that. And not just in the history books. This week, from Kingston, NY, author and activist David Bollier, Co Founder of the Commons Strategy Group, explains what it means to Think Like A Commoner. Then, two activists engaged in Commons projects right now, talk about two very distinct but complementary Commons strategies -- one digital in Barcelona, the other rural, in Mozambique. Graça Samo is the director of the Global March of Women and Mayo Fuster is on the faculty of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University and a researcher at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Autonomous University of Barcelona. The commons are no tragedy, say our guests, they're an opportunity to model ourselves on creativity and shared resources, instead of enclosure.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "Poverty Isn't a Lack of Character, It's a Lack of Cash"

"Ideas can and do change the world," says historian Rutger Bregman, sharing his case for a provocative one: guaranteed basic income. Learn more about the idea's 500-year history and a forgotten modern experiment where it actually worked — and imagine how much energy and talent we would unleash if we got rid of poverty once and for all.

Segment 5 -- "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 631 (June 10-16)

Segment 1 -- "How Human Noise Affects Human Habitats"

Oceanographer Kate Stafford lowers us into the sonically rich depths of the Arctic Ocean, where ice groans, whales sing to communicate over vast distances — and climate change and human noise threaten to alter the environment in ways we don't understand. Learn more about why this underwater soundscape matters and what we might do to protect it.

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

The 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 630 (June 3-9)

Segment 1 -- "The Call to Sanctuary: How to Create Safety in Your Community"

The Trump agenda calls for a rush on deportations. That means we need a call to sanctuary now by keeping our communities safe and speaking out louder than ever before. Together we can protect the most vulnerable by pushing our cities and counties to take up Sanctuary and uphold the constitutional rights of all. There is plenty that you can do: Act now, act locally, with your faith community, or at school.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Two episodes are featured this week:

1. How can we collaborate across skills, communities, and history to build new spaces? Laura talks to Pamela Shifman and Iris Bowen, two of the minds behind the Women's Building project, which is transforming a former New York women's prison into a space for activism, community, and reclamation. Plus, an interview with Yoav Litvin, author of *2Create*, a book which documents the possibilities of creative collaboration for social and systemic change.
2. Systematic problems don't limit themselves to just the countries we know and hear about; racism, occupation, profiteering, these are global problems and the solutions, too, must look to the world. Cazembe Murphy Jackson, a trans-man and anti-racist socialist organizer from Atlanta, speaks to how the American South is typically erased from activist conversations -- despite having a long history of radical organizing under conservative administrations. Plus, a conversation between two women working on abolition, Johnae Strong (of BYP100) and Maseru Maru (Rhodes Must Fall), and why the movement against anti-Blackness spans the world.

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

"I ask the groups that hire me to pay me what feels good and right and fair to them, an amount they can afford, and that they can give joyfully... I basically trust them. And it works out really well." Freelance group facilitator Tree Bressen has made her livelihood in the sharing economy for over a decade. She has also participated in a neighborhood Gift Circle and an online version called Kindista. In these, people put out what they have to offer, and make requests of what they need. Her personal stories reveal how the circles not only facilitate exchanges, but build relationships. Dave Pollard, author of *howtosavetheworld.ca*, makes presentations on the sharing economy. He has been inspired by Janelle Orsi's book *The Sharing Solution*. She frames four levels, from casual and spontaneous, to simple agreements, organizations like a tool library, which might have many players. Dave says sharing can start with something as simple as a potluck: "Invite all your neighbors and chat about what other neighborhoods are doing. I'll bet something will catch."

Segment 4 -- "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.

Episode 629 (May 27 – June 2)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

On this week's episode, a question of how we can use direct action to create and sustain long-range, inclusive and effective movements. Guests L.A. Kauffman and Jesse Myerson discuss the history of protest movements, the limits, and the potential that they incur for creating community-oriented solutions to patriarchy, capitalism, and colonialism. L.A. Kauffman is the author of *"Direct Action: Protest and the Reinvention of American Radicalism,"* which looks at the history of protest movements. Jesse Myerson is an organizer, former "Occupy" leader and writer for publications like *Dissent* and *Rolling Stone*.

Segment 2 -- "Why Civilians Suffer More When a War Is Over"

In a war, it turns out that violence isn't the biggest killer of civilians. What is? Illness, hunger, poverty — because war destroys the institutions that keep society running, like utilities, banks, food systems and hospitals. Physician Margaret Bourdeaux proposes a bold approach to post-conflict recovery, setting priorities on what to fix first.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "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 5 -- "Behind the Lies of Holocaust Denial"

"There are facts, there are opinions, and there are lies," says historian Deborah Lipstadt, telling the remarkable story of her research into Holocaust deniers — and their deliberate distortion of history. Lipstadt encourages us all to go on the offensive against those who assault the truth and facts. "Truth is not relative," she says.

Episode 628 (May 20-26)

Segment 1 -- "2017 High School Scholarship Essay Contest"

On April 30, 2017, Sacramento area high school students read and defended their essays in response to this quotation from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."

The 10 finalists presented their essays at the contest finals dinner that was attended by more than 200 people. The finalists answered questions about their essays from a distinguished panel of judges from the community, who then choose the First Place (\$3,000 scholarship), Second Place (\$2,500 scholarship), and Third Place (\$2,000 scholarship) winners. Each of the other finalists received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Segment 2 -- "Single Payer Healthcare - SB 562"

On April 26, 2017, nurses, doctors, medical professionals and others rallied in Sacramento, marched to the State Capitol, and presented a strong case for "Healthcare For All." Later that day, Senate Bill 562 overwhelmingly passed through the California State Senate Health Committee.

Segment 3 -- "The Story of Stuff"

"The Story of Stuff" -- an animated documentary about the lifecycle of material goods -- is one of the most widely viewed environmental-themed short films of all time. Since its release in December 2007, The Story of Stuff has been shown in thousands of schools, houses of worship, community events and businesses around the world.

Episode 627 (May 13-19)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show Presents: 'Ireland's New Rising'"

With the news around Brexit, the question of Irish sovereignty still looms large. New challenges face the Irish in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, and slashes to public spending in the North have ignited fresh waves of resistance. In this special report, Laura Flanders returns to Ireland, 30 years after first reporting on the so-called "Troubles". With photographer Paula Allen she takes a fresh look at Irish nationalism through the stories of socialists, anti-imperialists, anti-austerity activists and several generations of republicans. With Fintan O'Toole of The Irish Times, Sinn Fein TD Eoin O'Broin, Clare Daly TD, and more. Made possible by the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting.

Segment 2 -- "Why I Left the Westboro Baptist Church"

What's it like to grow up within a group of people who exult in demonizing ... everyone else? Megan Phelps-Roper shares details of life inside America's most controversial church and describes how conversations on Twitter were key to her decision to leave it. In this extraordinary talk, she shares her personal experience of extreme polarization, along with some sharp ways we can learn to successfully engage across ideological lines.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "We Should All Be Feminists"

We teach girls that they can have ambition, but not too much ... to be successful, but not too successful, or they'll threaten men, says author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. In this classic talk that started a worldwide conversation about feminism, Adichie asks that we begin to dream about and plan for a different, fairer world — of happier men and women who are truer to themselves.

Episode 626 (May 6-12)

Segment 1 -- "5 To Life Compassionate Release"

The terminally ill deserve to die a dignified death with loved ones able to see them go in peace. But for Allison's father, it was too late. Watch their story about the agonizing struggle against time and red tape that is all too familiar to too many Americans dealing with the criminal justice system.

Segment 2 -- "How Racism Makes Us Sick"

Why does race matter so profoundly for health? David R. Williams developed a scale to measure the impact of discrimination on well-being, going beyond traditional measures like income and education to reveal how factors like implicit bias, residential segregation and negative stereotypes create and sustain inequality. In this eye-opening talk, Williams presents evidence for how racism is producing a rigged system — and offers hopeful examples of programs across the country that are working to dismantle discrimination.

Segment 3 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

The chorus for radical action demands a versatile effort: it needs people power, initiative, and funding, but if we're caught between offense and defense, how do we take time to insure the well-being of our most vulnerable communities?

The Laura Flanders show this week features Adaku Utah, founder of healing collective Harriet's Apothecary, and J Bob Alotta, executive director of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, which supports grassroots LGBTQ efforts across the globe. Utah and Alotta discuss what healing and healing justice would look like for communities under attack and in particular, for trans women of color and gender non conforming people. It's not enough to fund direct action or leadership training, say our guests; activist organizations have a responsibility to help their concerned communities heal from trauma, and to empower them towards fellowship and autonomy.

Adaku Utah is a master herbalist, educator, and artist who is "armed with the legacies of a long line of healers, witches, priestesses and fearless women who refused to shut up."

J Bob Alotta is a filmmaker, global activist, and one of the organizers of the Women's March on Washington.

Segment 4 -- "The Growing Danger of Nuclear War... and What We Can Do About It"

The 2016 Joint Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapters of Physicians 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 5 -- "What It's Like to Be a Parent in a War Zone"

How do parents protect their children and help them feel secure again when their homes are ripped apart by war? In this warm-hearted talk, psychologist Aala El-Khani shares her work supporting — and learning from — refugee families affected by the civil war in Syria. She asks: How can we help these loving parents give their kids the warm, secure parenting they most need?

Episode 625 (April 29 – May 5)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

This week, Angela Glover Blackwell, executive director of PolicyLink and former Obama advisor, has a long history of using policy for progressive, radical, change. Blackwell says this is a moment to protect and resist, certainly, but also a time to return to the roots that are our local neighborhoods, our cities, our suburbs and build something better with them.

People must make demands of the system if the system is to change, says Blackwell. Plus, an F-Word from Laura on why Putin's alleged crimes are a distraction from his real ones.

Segment 2 -- "Pursuing the Dream What You Need to Know About DACA, Immigration, and Beyond"

In Trump's America, it seems that no one is safe from detention and deportation, even if you have legal grounds to be in the United States. What side of history will you be on? Demand your elected officials defend immigrants and push for permanent protections!

Segment 3 -- "Our Food, Our Future"

Our current food system is broken. We must move away from industrial agriculture to ecological agriculture, today. Ecological farming is a system which has farmers and food-lovers at its heart. It's a system which safeguards biodiversity and diverse and nutritious food on our plates. A system which reduces waste and decreases meat consumption. Increases soil fertility without using chemical fertilizers, and controls pest and weeds without chemical pesticides.

Segment 4 -- "Greenpeace Exposes Illegal Fishing"

During joint surveillance between Greenpeace and the Guinean fisheries inspection CNSP, shark fins have been discovered on two Chinese fishing vessels. One of the vessels, as well as a third vessel, also had illegally altered fishing nets on board. The two vessels with shark fins on board have been fined €250,000 each, while the third vessel has been fined €350,000.

The catch of all vessels has been seized by Guinean authorities. Apart from the shark fins, Greenpeace also found numerous carcasses of sharks including hammerhead sharks, an endangered species, and manta rays on board several vessels.

Segment 5 -- "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 624 (April 22-28)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

We're living in a time of economic babble, where politicians and economists throw out words like "reform," "privatize," and "austerity" to prop up corrupt capitalist opportunists. So says our guest this week, economist Michael Hudson, author of J is for Junk Economics.

Plus, a report from Diverse Filmmaker's Alliance on the Yemeni bodega workers who went on strike in New York to protest the Muslim Ban. And Laura's F-Word on why Donald Trump's new budget isn't about cuts -- it's about conversions. The budget wants to convert public dollars into private funding for military research and spending, for the only government apparatus that never gets audited.

Segment 2 -- "A Young Poet Tells the Story of Darfur"

Emtithal "Emi" Mahmoud writes poetry of resilience, confronting her experience of escaping the genocide in Darfur in verse. She shares two stirring original poems about refugees, family, joy and sorrow, asking, "Will you witness me?"

Segment 3 -- "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.

Episode 623 (April 15-21)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Three episodes of The Laura Flanders Show are presented:

(1) "Trumpism, Warfare, and Fixing Fissures in the Left."

Laura interviews organizers about going beyond Trumpism and Trump, with Color of Change director, Rashad Robinson; immigrant rights advocate Kica Thomas, and anti-war activist Medea Benjamin.

(2) "Women's Solidarity Strikes Back."

When feminism has come so far, how do modern day strikes, marches, and protest reflect the evolving and complex aspects of the movement, as well as its radical herstory?

(3) "What Intersectionality Really Means for Movements."

Laura interviews celebrated academic, organizer, and advocate Professor Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, who is perhaps best known for coining the term intersectionality. In order to use this moment effectively and strategically to change culture, according to Crenshaw, we have to build movements that use genuine intersectional analysis to point out differences and commonalities.

Segment 2 -- "OverCriminalized -- Alternatives to Incarceration"

Homeless Hate Laws are spreading throughout the country. There are alternatives. OverCriminalized focuses on the people who find themselves being trafficked through this nation's criminal justice system with little regard for their humanity and zero prospects for actual justice. They are victims of unwillingness to invest in solving major social problems, and the consequent handling off of that responsibility to the police, the courts, and the prisons. They are the mentally ill, the homeless, and the drug addicted. Sometimes they are all three.

Segment 3 -- "How Racism Harms Pregnant Women -- and What Can Help"

Racism is making people sick — especially black women and babies, says Miriam Zoila Pérez. The doula turned journalist explores the relationship between race, class and illness and tells us about a radically compassionate prenatal care program that can buffer pregnant women from the stress that people of color face every day.

Episode 622 (April 8-14)

Segment 1 -- "How Jails Extort the Poor"

Why do we jail people for being poor? Today, half a million Americans are in jail only because they can't afford to post bail, and still more are locked up because they can't pay their debt to the court, sometimes for things as minor as unpaid parking tickets. Salil Dudani shares stories from individuals who have experienced debtors' prison in Ferguson, Missouri, challenging us to think differently about how we punish the poor and marginalized.

Segment 2 -- "How Martin Luther King's Dream Became A Nightmare"

When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave the "I Have a Dream" 50 years ago, he had no idea Jim Crow would be replaced with another oppressive system: mass incarceration and the drug war. Nixon started the drug war just 8 years after King's "I have a Dream" speech. Both Reagan and Clinton continued it.

In 2013 a study found that more black men were incarcerated than were enslaved in the 1850. It's our turn to dream how to end mass incarceration. If you have a felony on your record, it's harder to get a job and you also cannot get many forms of public assistance.

In Dothan, Alabama, T.O.P.S. is offering support for people just getting out of jail-everything from clothes to GED. This is one way to end mass incarceration. It is important to see the links between civil rights, voting rights, and the drug war.

Segment 3 -- "Google and the World Brain"

The story of the most ambitious project ever conceived on the Internet. In 2002 Google began to scan millions of books in an effort to create a giant global library, containing every book in existence. They had an even greater purpose - to create a higher form of intelligence, something that HG Wells had predicted in his 1937 essay "World Brain". But over half the books Google scanned were in copyright, and authors across the world launched a campaign to stop Google, which climaxed in a New York courtroom in 2011. This film explores the dreams, dilemmas and dangers of the Internet.

Episode 621 (April 1-7)

Segment 1 -- "Trump's Troubling Ties to Russia"

Donald Trump's dangerous infatuation with Russian President Vladimir Putin has been well documented. Less well known, however, are his vast ties to shady Russian businessmen and oligarchs who have helped to fund his real estate empire. Here's what you need to know about Trump's shady and long-running ties to Russia and how they are putting America at risk.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

With the Trump administration embracing private prisons, and a crackdown on all crimes, how police departments operate will come under scrutiny. We treasure what we measure so why do police metrics count captures and kills but not conflicts resolved? Could a change in metrics change police practice? And is "progressive policing" an oxymoron with no place in a radical agenda?

Laura sits down with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman, and Professor Emerita Judi Komaki to discuss lowered crime rates, a decline in Stop and Frisk policing, and changing practices around drug arrests. A model can exist where there are trusting relationships between the public and police, but it needs data, training, and a change in attitudes -- on both sides, say our guests.

After serving as an NYPD police officer and New York State Senator, Eric Adams became the first Africa-American man to be the Brooklyn Borough President in 2013.

Donna Lieberman has been the executive director of the NYCLU since December 2001, during which time the organization has been a vocal critic of Stop and Frisk.

Judi Komaki is a professor emerita of organizational behavior, whose work focuses on how good data can improve organizations' policies.

Segment 3 -- "Dirty Water, Dirty Money II"

Ohio has seen a boom in the storing of fracking wastewater, much of it from neighboring states, and this wastewater includes a mix of toxic chemicals—many of which are harmful to human health. Some communities have responded by trying to limit wastewater dumping, but the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that municipalities have no power to regulate or limit the disposal of fracking waste. Many of the Ohio Supreme Court justices who made this decision received large campaign contributions from fracking companies and other fossil fuel interests.

This is the story of the communities that will have a difficult time protecting their quality of life and drinking water from harm resulting from fracking wastewater.

Segment 4 -- "3 Ways to Fix a Broken News Industry"

Something is very wrong with the news industry. Trust in the media has hit an all-time low; we're inundated with sensationalist stories, and consistent, high-quality reporting is scarce, says journalist and entrepreneur Lara Setrakian. She shares three ways we can fix the news and make the complex issues of our time easier to understand.

Segment 5 -- "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 Gavl 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.

Episode 620 (March 25-31)

Segment 1 -- "Indivisible -- A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda"

Together, we can resist and win! Watch this quick guide to learning about the best practices for making Congress listen. This short video was created by Brave New Films.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Laura attends the Progressive Congress Summit to speak with members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) and their colleague, Keith Ellison (D-MN). Joining Laura this week are Representatives Mark Pocan (D-W); Barbara Lee (D-CA); Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY). Pocan and Lee are optimistic; Jayapal and Clarke see challenges ahead, especially if party leaders reject the overhaul agenda Rep. Ellison has laid out. They all see a critical role for voters in this period working in collaboration with electeds. If ever there was a time to push bold progressive vision rather than timid centrism, they say, this is it - before the 2018 election.

Segment 3 -- "Dirty Water, Dirty Money -- Coal Ash and the Attack on North Carolina's Courts"

This mini-documentary from Legal Progress showcases the real human impact of special interest money infiltrating judicial elections by featuring one North Carolina family's story of how coal ash pollution has poisoned their community. Since state and federal governments have failed to regulate coal ash as a hazardous waste, citizens' only recourse to address the catastrophic environmental and health damages caused by the pollution is the judiciary. As detailed in a recent CAP report, however, there is a troubling correlation between North Carolina Supreme Court rulings and the success rates of firms that donate big to judicial candidates following the repeal of the state's public financing system. This raises concerns about corporate influence in judicial races - including corporate polluters like Duke Energy, which currently has billions of dollars at stake in North Carolina courts over its responsibility to keep toxic coal ash out of the state's drinking water.

Segment 4 -- "What We Don't Know about Europe's Muslim Kids"

As the child of an Afghan mother and Pakistani father raised in Norway, Deeyah Khan knows what it's like to be a young person stuck between your community and your country. In this powerful, emotional talk, the filmmaker unearths the rejection and isolation felt by many Muslim kids growing up in the West - and the deadly consequences of not embracing our youth before extremist groups do.

Segment 5 -- "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 619 (March 18-24)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Trump has been critiqued, among other things, as the troll-in-chief. His presidential win can be credited to the rise of alt-right internet 'trolls,' complex bots, and the online harassment of his opponents. Our guest this week, Thenmozhi Soundararajan, a filmmaker and activist, says the spread of online attacks comes with vast offline risks for communities in danger. When Steve Bannon, an avowed white nationalist, serves on the National Security Council, with access to the largest police and surveillance apparatus in world history, there's a problem we haven't even gauged yet, says Soundararajan.

Laura speaks with Thenmozhi about the history of surveillance as a tool for state control and violence. And why, to build an effective resistance against the threat represented by Breitbart and the NSA, resources need to go to counter measures. Although the language of cybersecurity can seem overwhelming, simple tools and training can reduce an average person's risk by 80%, says our guest. For undocumented immigrants, women, and people of color, these practices can make the difference between life and prison. She and her colleagues know first-hand, from their own experience of a hack attack sourced to the extremist Modi government in India.

Segment 2 -- "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 last 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 3 -- "The Data behind Hollywood's Sexism"

Where are all the women and girls in film? Social scientist Stacy Smith analyzes how the media underrepresents and portrays women — and the potentially destructive effects those portrayals have on viewers. She shares hard data behind gender bias in Hollywood, where on-screen males outnumber females three to one (and behind-the-camera workers fare even worse.)

Segment 4 -- "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.

Episode 618 (March 11-17)

Segment 1 -- "The Racial Politics of Time"

Cultural theorist Brittney Cooper examines racism through the lens of time, showing us how historically it has been stolen from people of color, resulting in lost moments of joy and connection, lost years of healthy quality of life and the delay of progress. A candid, thought-provoking take on history and race that may make you reconsider your understanding of time, and your place in it.

Segment 2 -- "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 in September 2015. The Media Edge crew recorded this event.

Episode 617 (March 4-10)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Political voices Kate Aronoff and Jonah Birch discuss the future of the Left: were the election results a testament to the decline of the Left, or is this a moment for a new left movement? When 13 million people in America cast a vote for a self-described Democratic Socialist, is there hope to be found in a political movement propelled by the swamp in the White House? Our guests this week discuss how we got to Trump, and where we – as progressives -- are going.

Segment 2 -- "Trump's Election and the Power of Fear"

Years of fear mongering, paranoia, and conspiracy theories on Fox News and talk radio paved the way for a Trump presidency. It's up to journalists to stop that fear from continuing to hijack American politics.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "Trump's Infrastructure Scam"

Donald Trump says he has an infrastructure plan. Robert Reich shows how it's really an infrastructure scam.

Segment 5 -- "We Are Not Strangers To This Land: Untold Stories of DREAMERS"

The documentary "We Are Not Strangers To This Land: Untold Stories of DREAMERS" was filmed and produced by immigrant rights activists who are part of Alianza, a coalition at Sacramento City College. This impactful documentary shares the stories of local Dreamers in order to humanize the ongoing struggle of navigating their lives in the United States while undocumented.

Episode 616 (February 25 - March 3)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

In a time where unconstitutional and violent orders like the Muslim travel ban are the daily occurrences, it's important to lift up the people and organizations who have continuously been on the frontlines of this work. In this special for Black History Month, Laura interviews Opal Tometi, a Black feminist writer, communications strategist, cultural organizer, and co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Network. She is also executive director of the US' leading Black organization for immigrant rights, the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. Plus, a look back at our BLM coverage in Ferguson and Baltimore. And a word from Laura on taking a breath in the midst of panic, to recollect, and then, organize.

Segment 2 -- "If a Story Moves You, Act On It"

Stories are necessary, but they're not as magical as they seem, says writer Sisonke Msimang. In this funny and thoughtful talk, Msimang questions our emphasis on storytelling and spotlights the decline of facts. During a critical time when listening has been confused for action, Msimang asks us to switch off our phones, step away from our screens and step out into the real world to create a plan for justice.

Segment 3 -- "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 the 2016 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).

Episode 615 (February 18-24)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

If we're going to liberate anyone in the era of Trump, we'll have to start looking where we haven't looked before. This week's guests, radical Southern activists Suzanne Pharr and Stephanie Guilloud, spoke with Laura at Facing Race in November 2016, just days after the election. Through their movement work in the South, both have seen, and built, ground models for equitable, democratic, and defended communities.

Pharr, a movement hero, was the former head of the Arkansas Women's Project and the Highlander Center, the movement training school that graduated among others, Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King. Pharr was also one of the founders of Southerners on New Ground (SONG), a group that Guilloud came up through. Now Guilloud co-directs Project South, which has been part of a Southern Movement Assemblies process seeking to build local governance since Hurricane Katrina.

Also in this interview, breakout Latinx singer/songwriter Xenia Rubinos meets us at Tonita's Social Club (found in Williamsburg, Brooklyn). Tonita's Social Club is playfully called the last "social club" of its kind, a venue where seasoned neighborhood locals -- most of them Dominican and Puerto Rican -- come to meet the block's recent young hip transplants. Regularly featured on 2016's Best Album lists (NPR, Remezcla, Pitchfork), Xenia talks about her own version of looking at unseen places, featured in her song "Mexican Chef," a song about the back of the restaurant meeting the front.

Segment 2 -- "Guns with History"

States United to Prevent Gun Violence opens a "gun store" in New York City as a hidden camera social experiment to debunk safety myths. Every gun has a history. Let's not repeat it.

Segment 3 -- "The 800 Mile Wall"

The 800 Mile Wall highlights the construction of border walls along the U.S.-Mexico border as well as the effect on migrants trying to cross into the U.S. This powerful 90-minute film is an unflinching look at the failed U.S. border strategy that many believe has caused the death of thousands of migrants and violates fundamental human rights. Since border walls have been built, well over 5,000 migrant bodies have been recovered in U.S. deserts, mountains and canals. Some unofficial reports put the death toll as high as 10,000 men, women and children. As a direct result of U.S. border policy, migrants are forced to cross treacherous deserts and mountains in search of low skill and low paying jobs in the United States.

Episode 614 (February 11-17)

Segment 1 -- "DAPL: The Struggle Continues"

On January 24, 2017, Donald Trump signed an executive order to advance the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline. Protests broke out around the country, including this one in Sacramento, California.

Segment 2 -- "Fukushima: Living with a Disaster"

Five years after the nuclear accident in Fukushima, an end to the disaster is not in sight. This short documentary tells the story of the people from Fukushima, forced to leave their homes without knowing if they could ever return, and explores the work that Greenpeace has been doing in the region since 2011.

Segment 3 -- "How Online Abuse of Women Has Spiraled Out of Control"

Enough with online hate speech, sexual harassment and threats of violence against women and marginalized groups. It's time to take the global crisis of online abuse seriously. In this searching, powerful talk, Ashley Judd recounts her ongoing experience of being terrorized on social media for her unwavering activism and calls on citizens of the internet, the tech community, law enforcement and legislators to recognize the offline harm of online harassment.

Segment 4 -- "Catching Fire"

Catching Fire tells a compelling story of how a small but committed group of local, tribal, state and federal land managers are bringing back the use of prescribed fire as a tool to protect communities and ecosystems across Northern California. It examines the use of fire by the Karuk Tribe of California, and the connection between the rise of megafires across the West and the last century of fire suppression. Drawing on interviews with fire scientists, tribal and federal land managers, and fire savvy residents from across the North State, this film

provides insight on how our relationship to fire can be restored through strategic use of fire as a powerful management tool.

Segment 5 -- "How I Took On the Gene Patent Industry -- and Won"

Are human genes patentable? Back in 2005, when Tania Simoncelli first contemplated this complex question, US patent law said they were — which meant patent holders had the right to stop anyone from sequencing, testing or even looking at a patented gene. Troubled by the way this law both harmed patients and created a barrier to biomedical innovation, Simoncelli and her colleagues at the ACLU challenged it. In this riveting talk, hear the story of how they took a case everybody told them they would lose all the way to the Supreme Court.

Episode 613 (February 4-10)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Capitalism looks different to those who were once commodities, and that has implications for how we build a future not based in domination. In this conversation, Laura talks with Farah Tanis, executive director of Black Women's Blueprint and Marxist economist Professor Richard Wolff about late capitalism, early democracy, the crisis that gave rise to Donald Trump's election and what might come next, if we take seriously the task of erasing race, gender and other disparities. Solidarity economy models exist across all cultures, times and traditions, points out Tanis, and those models had to be "unlearned" says Wolff. Can we learn anew, together? Tanis and the Black Women's Blueprint recently hosted the first Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Black women and sexual assault in the U.S. Dr. Richard Wolff is a Marxist economist, professor, and the founder of Democracy at Work. His new book, *Capitalism's Crisis Deepens*, is out now.

Segment 2 -- "The World Doesn't Need More Nuclear Weapons"

Today nine nations collectively control more than 15,000 nuclear weapons, each hundreds of times more powerful than those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We don't need more nuclear weapons; we need a new generation to face the unfinished challenge of nuclear disarmament started decades ago. Nuclear reformer Erika Gregory calls on today's rising leaders — those born in a time without Cold War fears and duck and cover training — to pursue an ambitious goal: ridding the world of nuclear weapons by 2045.

Segment 3 -- "Breaking Down Bail Debunking Common Bail Myths"

Few people know what bail really is, let alone how it all works. This short video explains it all.

Segment 4 -- "Grounds for Resistance"

This documentary film is about Coffee Strong, a coffee shop located outside the gates of the U.S. Army base Fort Lewis in Washington: its importance for its most active members, active duty soldiers and their families, veterans of recent and past conflicts, and regional and national political movements. At the center of the film are the men and women whose experiences in the military and war compel them to commit themselves to help others who are serving or have served in the past. Each individual featured in the film exists within a nuanced tangle of conflicting emotions tied to pride, dedication to service, friendship, anger, disillusionment, sadness, and guilt. The film examines each one's stories from their decisions to join the military, their experiences of war, and their motivations for devoting themselves to Coffee Strong. It explores how their relationships with one another and their activist efforts to make a more peaceful and just world help them cope with their own experiences.

Segment 5 -- "Border, Inc."

The same companies that profited from the wars in Iraq are profiting from the militarization of our own border. Donald Trump called for building "the great wall of Trump" on the U.S./Mexico border. This would require the construction of almost 2,000 miles of wall in hostile desert terrain, to block out a country that we are not at war with -- and who is our third largest trading partner in the world.

In this new short documentary, Brave New Films exposes how the last three decades of immigration politics in this country have created a massive payday for military contractors and wasted millions of taxpayer dollars in this business operation fueled by xenophobia and greed. The jackpots for companies will soar even higher, as taxpayers see a larger portion of their checks going to this effort.

Episode 612 (January 28 - February 3)

Segment 1 -- "How Students of Color Confront Impostor Syndrome"

As a black woman from a tough part of the Bronx who grew up to attain all the markers of academic prestige, Dena Simmons knows that for students of color, success in school sometimes comes at the cost of living authentically. Now an educator herself, Simmons discusses how we might create a classroom that makes all students feel proud of who they are. "Every child deserves an education that guarantees the safety to learn in the comfort of one's own skin," she says.

Segment 2 -- "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 3 -- "To Prison for Poverty"

To Prison for Poverty documents the system that enables private probation companies to profit from charging excessive fees to low income people who can't pay small fines like traffic tickets. If they can't pay, they go to jail.

Episode 611 (January 21-27)

Segment 1 -- "Last Hours"

"Last Hours" was written by Thom Hartmann and co-produced by Leonardo DiCaprio's father, George. This short documentary leaps far ahead of immediate issues of oceans rising to take away coastland. Frequent extreme weather events are happening in unusual places, causing record breaking destruction. Hurricanes, tornados, ice, hail and snow storms, floods, droughts, wildfires all over the planet are happening nearly every week. Even the Department of Defense and the CIA have identified global warming as a threat to national security, as people around the world become climate change refugees, driven from their homes by the ensuing loss of food, water, livestock, shelter and employment.

Narrated by Thom Hartmann, "Last Hours" is tightly focused on the macro view of geologists, and scientists interested in the Permian Period, in which global warming resulted in the extinction of 95% of all life on Earth. The event was started by a massive volcano in Siberia, which raised the temperature 6 degrees. Then, warming of the oceans melted frozen methane at the bottom, so when it bubbled up and turned into gas, it entered the atmosphere and triggered the planet catastrophe. There have been Five Mass Extinctions since life began on Earth. The purpose of "Last Hours" is to start looking at the possibility of a Sixth Mass Extinction, triggered by the burning of fossil fuels. The film examines situations like the melting of the Arctic Ice Sheet. In July 2013 it melted at the rate of the size of Kansas, every two days.

Endorsements for "Last Hours": Al Gore; Robert Kennedy, Jr; Michael Brune, Sierra Club; Lester Brown, Earth Policy Institute; Denis Hayes, founder of Earth Day; and others too numerous to mention.

Segment 2 -- "The Great Divide with Joseph Stiglitz and Robert Reich"

Economist Joseph Stiglitz and former Labor Secretary Robert Reich reminisce about opposing "corporate welfare" during their days in the Clinton Administration and talk here about problematic trade deals, income inequality and Stiglitz's book, "The Great Divide: Unequal Societies and What We Can Do About Them." Recorded at UC Berkeley.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "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, 2016) 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 5 -- "Hands in Peace"

Hands in Peace builds peace among diverse communities by adapting the ancient Greek Olympics for children. The children celebrate our common humanity and cultural diversity through non-competitive festivals like this one held in Sacramento.

Episode 610 (January 14-20)

Segment 1 -- "How America's Public Schools Keep Kids in Poverty"

Why should a good education be exclusive to rich kids? Schools in low-income neighborhoods across the US, specifically in communities of color, lack resources that are standard at wealthier schools — things like musical instruments, new books, healthy school lunches and soccer fields — and this has a real impact on the potential of students. Kandice Sumner sees the disparity every day in her classroom in Boston. In this inspiring talk, she asks us to face facts — and change them.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

The Laura Flanders Show tries to find the common ground that unites Americans, stories of progress, equity, and resilience -- to discover that there is more evidence of congress, than of division. This week's guest speaks to some ways that he has built a career on these very philosophies of equity and unity.

Anthony Flaccavento is the founder of SCALE (Sequestering Carbon, Accelerating Local Economies) and author of "Building A Healthy Economy from the Bottom Up." Much of the Trump campaign and its cohorts campaigned for "trickle-down" economics -- the idea that, when those at the top (the 1%), do well, that prosperity "trickles down" to the bottom 10%. This concept has been disproven repeatedly. Flaccavento's experience and success in reinvigorating rural communities, which are often left out of macro policies, suggests one major way we can bridge the divides between these disparate parts of America. A restorative, perhaps, for the shared economic struggles that led to Trump's ascent.

Flaccavento hails from rural Virginia in Appalachian country, and has spent the last 25 years in community development advocating for directing government policy and resources towards building sustainable, thriving, rural communities. By building an economy from the bottom up -- that is, from the farm -- we make its foundations sturdy, says Flaccavento.

Segment 3 -- "Seeds of Freedom"

This film, narrated by Jeremy Irons, details how seeds, which have been the heart of traditional farming and natural biodiversity since the beginning of agriculture, are being transformed into an expensive, patented commodity used to monopolize the global food system.

Segment 4 -- "The Big Picture"

Former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich and MoveOn.org Civic Action teamed up to create this new multi-video series of 12 short videos that focus on advancing bold, progressive policy solutions—such as expanding Social Security and making public higher education free.

Segment 5 -- "Help for Kids the Education System Ignores"

Define students by what they contribute, not what they lack — especially those with difficult upbringings, says educator Victor Rios. Interweaved with his personal tale of perseverance as an inner-city youth, Rios identifies three straightforward strategies to shift attitudes in education and calls for fellow educators to see "at-risk" students as "at-promise" individuals brimming with resilience, character and grit.

Episode 609 (January 7-13)

Segment 1 -- "Inside the Mind of a Former Radical Jihadist"

"For a long time, I lived for death," says Manwar Ali, a former radical jihadist who participated in violent, armed campaigns in the Middle East and Asia in the 1980s. In this moving talk, he reflects on his experience with radicalization and makes a powerful, direct appeal to anyone drawn to Islamist groups claiming that violence and brutality are noble and virtuous: let go of anger and hatred, he says, and instead cultivate your heart to see goodness, beauty and truth in others.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Supposedly, the far right have won. So what now? We ask our guests this week the same question, taking from a mixed pot of loss and success. Whether it's about the fight for reproductive justice in the South, or a movement for rural agency in progressive work, our guests offer some wisdom on what's happening now, and what's next as we head into the new administration.

The Facing Race conference, coordinated by Race Forward this November in Atlanta, brought together some of the most noteworthy names in progressive organizing right now. This show has a special compilation of interviews from the conference with these very activists. Laura speaks with Tarso Luís Ramos, executive director of Political Research Associates, about the far right's global dawn; Kim Diehl of the National Employment Law Project, on strategy for progressive movements; Cara Shufelt and Jessica Campbell, of the Rural Organizing Project, on supporting rural mobilization; and Esha Pandit, from the Center for Advancing Innovative Policy, on reproductive justice victories in Texas.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "A Queer Vision of Love and Marriage"

Love is a tool for revolutionary change and a path toward inclusivity and understanding for the LGBTQ+ community. Married activists Tiq and Kim Katrin Milan have imagined their marriage — as a transgender man and cis woman — a model of possibility for people of every kind. With infectious joy, Tiq and Kim question our misconceptions about who they might be and offer a vision of an inclusive, challenging love that grows day by day.

Segment 5 -- "Treatment vs. Jail"

David Moss was arrested 14 times for drug possession and never offered treatment. He finally got clean on his own. How much taxpayer money got wasted arresting this guy instead of helping him fix the problem? Can California afford to keep spending so much on criminal justice while getting so little in return? This video was produced by Brave New Films in partnership with the ACLU of California.

Episode 608 (December 31 - January 6)

Segment 1 -- "Islamophobia Killed My Brother"

On February 10, 2015, Suzanne Barakat's brother Deah, her sister-in-law Yusor and Yusor's sister Razan were murdered by their neighbor in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The perpetrator's story, that he killed them over a traffic dispute, went unquestioned by the media and police until Barakat spoke out at a press conference, calling the murders what they really were: hate crimes. As she reflects on how she and her family reclaimed control of their narrative, Barakat calls on us to speak up when we witness hateful bigotry and express our allyship with those who face discrimination.

Segment 2 -- "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 3 -- "Your Smartphone is a Civil Rights Issue"

The smartphone you use reflects more than just personal taste ... it could determine how closely you can be tracked, too. Privacy expert and TED Fellow Christopher Soghoian details a glaring difference between the encryption used on Apple and Android devices and urges us to pay attention to a growing digital security divide. "If the only people who can protect themselves from the gaze of the government are the rich and powerful, that's a problem," he says. "It's not just a cybersecurity problem — it's a civil rights problem."