

PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (July-November, 2017)

Episode #655 (November 25 - December 1, 2017)

"Saving the Heart and Soul of Our Democracy: Why America needs a Poor People's Campaign and a National Moral Revival"

This entire episode of Media Edge included our recording of a spellbinding presentation by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber in Sacramento on November 3 at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

Rev. Dr. Barber inspired a packed Moon Lecture Series audience to their feet with his enthusiasm. He was the architect of the "Forward Together Movement," which gained national acclaim with its Moral Monday protests. He is the President of "Repairers of the Breach," sits on the National NAACP Board of Directors, and is the 2015 recipient of the Puffin Award and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award. Rev. Dr. Barber described himself as a theological, evangelical, liberal, conservative, charismatic, liberationist, revolutionary, militant Christian.

Episode #654 (November 18-24, 2017)

Segment 1 -- Gun Violence In America: A Preventable Epidemic"

On October 22, 2017, Joshua Sugarmann, founder and executive director of the Violence Policy center in Washington, D.C., was the keynote speaker at the Joint Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapters of Physicians for Social Responsibility and Americans Against Gun Violence. Sugarmann asserted that the epidemic of Gun Violence in America can and must be solved.

Segment 2 -- "Does Cutting Corporate Taxes Create Jobs?"

President Trump and Congressional Republicans are planning to cut trillions of dollars in corporate taxes. They say that lowering taxes on businesses will spur investment and create jobs. Let's look back a recent corporate tax cut to see if their claims are true.

Segment 3 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Distinguished professor David Harvey joins Laura in the studio to talk about the spirals of capitalism and his new book "Marx, Capital, and the Madness of Economic Reason." Then Laura meets with filmmaker Pau Faus, whose film "Ada for Mayor" captured the unlikely, successful, campaign of Barcelona's Ada Colau, from activism to governance.

Segment 4 -- "The Revolutionary Power of Diverse Thought"

"From populist demagogues, we will learn the indispensability of democracy," says novelist Elif Shafak. "From isolationists, we will learn the need for global solidarity. And from tribalists, we will learn the beauty of cosmopolitanism" A native of Turkey, Shafak has experienced firsthand the devastation that a loss of diversity can bring — and she knows the revolutionary power of plurality in response to authoritarianism. In this passionate, personal talk, she reminds us that there are no binaries, in politics, emotions and our identities. "One should never, ever remain silent for fear of complexity," Shafak says.

Episode #653 (November 11-17, 2017)

Segment 1 -- "Immigrant Prisons"

Few Americans know about our nation's system of immigrant detention centers. Each year, the U.S. government locks up roughly 440,000 immigrants in over 200 immigrant prisons. Companies like the CCA and Geo Group, got started in the 1980s, and have since made over \$12 billion in profits, largely from immigrant detention.

These facilities have grown into a highly privatized, lucrative and abusive industry that profits off the misery of immigrants awaiting deportation. These abuses happen behind closed doors with little to no oversight.

"Immigrant Prisons", by Brave New Films, exposes the abuses of the deportation industrial complex, substandard medical care, widespread physical and sexual abuse, virtual slave labor working conditions and highlight the incredible stories of three former detainees.

Segment 2 -- "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 3 -- "How To Seek Truth In The Era Of Fake News"

Known worldwide for her courage and clarity, Christiane Amanpour has spent the past three decades interviewing business, cultural and political leaders who have shaped history. In conversation with TED Curator Chris Anderson, Amanpour discusses fake news, objectivity in journalism, the leadership vacuum in global politics and more, sharing her wisdom along the way. "Be careful where you get information from," she says. "Unless we are all engaged as global citizens who appreciate the truth, who understand science, empirical evidence and facts, then we are going to be wandering around — to a potential catastrophe."

Segment 4 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

This episode presents an urgent conversation about media diversity and our lack of it. We can do better, and we must. Laura is joined by Joe Amditis, associate director of the Center for Cooperative Media in Montclair, New Jersey, and Dru Oja Jay, a long time independent media activist and hacker. And then, from Detroit, a special report on the work grassroots media activists are doing, telling new stories, and creating their own media networks, with Jenny Lee of the Allied Media Projects, Diana Nucera and Anderson Walworth of Detroit Community Technology Project, Paige Watkins of The Detroit Narrative Agency, Monica Lewis Patrick and Cecile McClellan of We the People of Detroit, and Scott Kurashige, author of The Fifty Year Rebellion.

Segment 5 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Patri Ramirez Gonzalez from the Puerto Rico/Detroit Solidarity Exchange Network talks about grassroots plans to save family farmers and the ecosystem in Puerto Rico, and Trishala Deb, Asia regional director for Thousand Currents, a grant-making organization with partners across the world, shares hard won lessons from grassroots activists in Asia. Then, from food justice and grassroots brilliance we'll hear from David Galarza Santa, a labor and community activist, about a Puerto Rican plan to recover, revitalize and resist calls for electricity privatization by building back different.

Segment 6 -- "How Whales Change Climate"

When whales were at their historic populations, before their numbers were reduced, it seems that whales might have been responsible for removing tens of millions of tons of carbon from the atmosphere every year. Whales change the climate. The return of the great whales, if they are allowed to recover, could be seen as a benign form of geo-engineering. It could undo some of the damage we have done, both to the living systems of the sea, and to the atmosphere.

Segment 7 -- "The New Age Of Corporate Monopolies"

Margrethe Vestager wants to keep European markets competitive — which is why, on behalf of the EU, she's fined Google \$2.8 billion for breaching antitrust rules, asked Apple for \$15.3 billion in back taxes and investigated a range of companies, from Gazprom to Fiat, for anti-competitive practices. In an important talk about the state of the global business, she explains why markets need clear rules — and how even the most innovative companies can become a problem when they become too dominant. "Real and fair competition has a vital role to play in building the trust we need to get the best of our societies," Vestager says. "And that starts with enforcing our rules."

Episode #652 (November 4-10, 2017)

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

One year ago, on November 11, 2016 (just 3 days after the presidential election), a shocked Sacramento audience welcomed Eugene Robinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Washington Post and MSNBC contributor, who spoke with them about the results of the 2016 presidential 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 -- "Faith and Reproductive Justice Voices On Contraception Mandate Repeal"

Faith and reproductive justice leaders speak out against President Trump's rule to deny women contraceptive coverage. The proposed rule would allow any individual, employer, school, or insurance plan to deny the ACA's contraceptive benefit on the basis of religious or moral objection. Women deserve affordable access to the health care services they need without interference from their employers and politicians.

Segment 3 -- "Fox News is Mainstreaming White Supremacists and Neo-Nazis"

Fox News has been trying to normalize white supremacy for years. But since Donald Trump's election, Fox News hosts, guests, and contributors are now openly defending white supremacists and neo-Nazis.

Segment 4 -- "What We're Missing in the Debate About Immigration"

Between 2008 and 2016, the United States deported more than three million people. What happens to those left behind? Journalist Duarte Geraldino picks up the story of deportation where the state leaves off. Learn more about the wider impact of forced removal as Geraldino explains how the sudden absence of a mother, a local business owner or a high school student ripples outward and wreaks havoc on the relationships that hold our communities together.

Segment 5 -- "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 6 -- "The Purpose of Nonviolent Communication"

"At the core of all anger is a need that is not being fulfilled." - Marshall Rosenberg

Nonviolent communication is a tool that we can use to resolve conflicts at both the individual and collective levels. By focusing on identifying the needs of individuals and groups instead of the assigning blame for circumstances, nonviolent communication has the potential to heal the wounds most of us feel deep inside us. When we succeed in nonviolent communication, we are able to meet both our own needs and the needs of those we love. We begin to live from a place of "natural giving" which is where true joy and happiness emerges. A sustainable human society will emerge naturally if we focus on identifying and meeting not just the material needs of people but also the emotional needs as well.

Episode 651 (October 28 – November 3)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Going beyond the headlines of the Ferguson story, a talk with one of the directors of the documentary "Whose Streets?" As the news cameras left Ferguson, Missouri, after the police killing of Michael Brown, Sabaah Folan and her team stayed on to document what happens to people subjected to police violence as a matter of routine.

Segment 2 -- "Walking on the Sea"

A homage to the beauty and fragility of the Arctic, "Walking on the Sea" explores this incredible landscape through the eyes of a young crew member onboard the Greenpeace ship the Arctic Sunrise. Oil companies are still hoping to drill the last drops of oil from the melting Arctic. If we don't stop them, icy scenes like this could someday be nothing more than memory.

Segment 3 -- "What Is It Like To Be You?"

Both sides in any war believe that their side is the just side. The mentality of war says that only when our enemies are defeated can we have peace. Humanity has been fighting an endless war with each other for thousands of years and no side has been able to claim victory. For those who seek another way besides endless war, the question, "What is it like to be you?" offers us another path towards reconciliation and truth.

Segment 4 -- "A Black Man Goes Undercover in the Alt-Right"

Theo E.J. Wilson tells the story of becoming Lucius25, white supremacist lurker, and the unexpected compassion and surprising perspective he found from engaging with people he disagrees with. He encourages us to let go of fear, embrace curiosity and have courageous conversations with people who think differently from us. "Conversations stop violence, conversations start countries and build bridges," he says.

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.

Segment 6 -- "Greenpeace Exposes Illegal Fishing"

During joint surveillance between Greenpeace and the Guinean fisheries inspection CNSP, shark fins were 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 catch of all vessels was 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 7 -- "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 8 -- "Time Marches Forward And So Do We"

As legislative efforts continue to ban transgender people from public restrooms, this video by "Transparent" producer and artist Zackary Drucker, actress Laverne Cox and their creative team tells the story of trans history and resistance. This video comes on the heels of the President's tweets seeking to ban transgender individuals from military service and in the midst of continued legislative efforts in states like Texas to ban transgender individuals from public restrooms. The consequences of this discrimination from our government are deadly.

Episode 650 (October 21-27)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

From taking power to making power. This week on The Laura Flanders Show, a special report from Athens, Greece where many are asking if progressives in government can change much at all if people don't first change society. In 2015, anti-austerity Greeks were disappointed by the progressive left Syriza government, which they'd voted into office after the financial crisis, but the other things they did to meet society's needs just might be sowing the seeds for transformation.

Segment 2 -- "Say No To Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge"

Members of the native Gwich'in tribe say the refuge is sacred land and should not be drilled for oil. Footage provided by Patagonia.

Segment 3 -- "How Capitalism Exploits Us -- And What We Can Do About It"

"It's not an investment if its destroying the planet." ~ Vandana Shiva

Some seem to think capitalism is about buying and selling things. However, as this video shows, the core of capitalism is really about exploitation. Find out why and what we can do about it in this video remix.

Segment 4 -- "The Era of Blind Faith in Big Data Must End"

Algorithms decide who gets a loan, who gets a job interview, who gets insurance and much more — but they don't automatically make things fair. Mathematician and data scientist Cathy O'Neil coined a term for algorithms that are secret, important and harmful: "weapons of math destruction." Learn more about the hidden agendas behind the formulas.

Segment 5 -- "The Story of Solutions"

The Story of Solutions, released in October 2013, explores how we can move our economy in a more sustainable and just direction, starting with orienting ourselves toward a new goal. In the current 'Game of More', we're told to cheer a growing economy – more roads, more malls, more Stuff! – even though our health indicators are worsening, income inequality is growing and polar icecaps are melting. But what if we changed the point of the game?

What if the goal of our economy wasn't more, but better – better health, better jobs and a better chance to survive on the planet? Shouldn't that be what winning means?

Segment 6 -- "This Is What Climate Change Looks Like"

Extreme weather events like these are getting more powerful and more destructive. It's not a coincidence, this is what climate change looks like.

Segment 7 -- "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.

Episode 649 (October 14-20)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Marxist geographer David Harvey weighs in on natural and not so natural disasters and how we might organize our cities better to avoid them. And Thanu Yakupitiyage from 350.org explains why climate justice requires that we make movements that will reverse our policies on refugees.

Segment 2 -- "Trump's Strange Alliance with Russia"

Amy Siskind of MoveOn.org explains how Donald Trump is steering us to authoritarianism.

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 648 (October 7-13)

Segment 1 -- "The Struggle Continues"

On September 15, David Archambault II, tribal Chairman of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, spoke to a Sacramento audience about the the history of the struggle his ancestors had to endure, and how that struggle is very much alive today. Chairman Archambault was instrumental in setting up resistance camps to protest the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline under Lake Oahe at Standing Rock. He says the pipeline is being constructed across lands recognized by the U.S. as Sioux territory, violating the tribe's water rights from the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty and subsequent treaties.

A Media Edge crew recorded the event at St. Mark's United Methodist Church as part of its Moon Lecture Series.

Segment 2 -- "Let America Be America Again"

This beautiful video captures the spirit of "Let America Be America Again," a poem by Langston Hughes. Narrated by Alfre Woodard, the video was produced by MoveOn.org.

Segment 3 -- "Reverend Barber on White Supremacy"

"If statues come down, racism can still be up."

In the wake of the violence that erupted in Charlottesville, the Reverend Dr. William J. Barber sets the record straight on systemic racism and white supremacy in America.

Segment 4 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Laura talks to award-winning playwright and essayist Wallace Shawn, who has a new book of essays he calls his Night Thoughts, meditations and speculative dreams for a better world from the Tales of Genji to libraries and the power of fiction. And Ed Whitfield, from The Fund for Democratic Communities in Greensboro, North Carolina, has a few thoughts on cooperatives, consumer politics and impeachments. Plus a commentary from Laura on monuments.

Episode 647 (September 30 – October 6)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Anti-Trump is not enough! This week, the Laura Flanders show comes to you from Berlin. In the lead up to the German elections, the German left is saying that opposing Trump is simply not enough. But the left has work to do too, as we'll see. Then, two guests join us in Cape Town, South Africa to discuss new governance from the left.

Segment 2 -- "When Workers Own Companies, the Economy is More Resilient"

Another economic reality is possible — one that values community, sustainability and resiliency instead of profit by any means necessary. Niki Okuk shares her case for cooperative economics and a vision for how working-class people can organize and own the businesses they work for, making decisions for themselves and enjoying the fruits of their labor.

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 646 (September 23-29)

Segment 1 -- "How the US Government Spies on People Who Protest -- Including You"

What's stopping the American government from recording your phone calls, reading your emails and monitoring your location? Very little, says surveillance and cybersecurity counsel Jennifer Granick. The government collects all kinds of information about you easily, cheaply and without a warrant — and if you've ever participated in a protest or attended a gun show, you're likely a person of interest. Learn more about your rights, your risks and how to protect yourself in the golden age of surveillance.

Segment 2 -- "When Heritage Equals Hate -- The Truth About the Confederacy in the United States"

Jeffery Robinson, the ACLU's top racial justice expert, discusses the dark history of Confederate symbols across the country and outlines what we can do to learn from our past and combat systemic racism.

Episode 645 (September 16-22)

Segment 1 -- "How I Help Free Innocent People from Prison"

Harvard Law professor Ronald Sullivan fights to free wrongfully convicted people from jail — in fact, he has freed some 6,000 innocent people over the course of his career. He shares heartbreaking stories of how (and why) people end up being put in jail for something they didn't do, and the consequences in their lives and the lives of others. Watch this essential talk about the duty we all have to make the world a bit more fair every day, however we can.

Segment 2 -- "Bring Andres Home"

The lawyer for a Kona coffee farmer who was deported back to Mexico despite being called a "pillar of his community" by a U.S. judge plans to file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals on the grounds that he was legitimately married to a U.S. citizen and should not have been deported.

Segment 3 -- "Operation Virus Hunter"

Chief George Quocksister Jr. of the Laich-Wil-Tach Nation has witnessed firsthand the decline of wild fish where salmon farms are present. Chief George, alone and armed with only a camera, is bravely boarding salmon farms in his territory and has been invited by the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw to continue his work up the coast. His footage has revealed young, wild fish trapped in the farm pens and the deplorable conditions that farmed salmon exist in. This has long been a concern for him, as he has seen fisheries severely decline in his unceded territory.

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.

Segment 5 -- "Let's End Ageism"

It's not the passage of time that makes it so hard to get older. It's ageism, a prejudice that pits us against our future selves — and each other. Ashton Applewhite urges us to dismantle the dread and mobilize against the last socially acceptable prejudice. "Aging is not a problem to be fixed or a disease to be cured," she says. "It is a natural, powerful, lifelong process that unites us all."

Episode 644 (September 9-15)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Can music make a movement? This week, legendary music producer Danny Goldberg takes us back to a time when "All You Need is Love" was not meant to be ironic, and we talk about his new book, *In Search of the Lost Chord* about the hippie summer of 1967. Then, from today's movement music scene, Alixa Garcia and Naima Penniman celebrate the release of their new album, *Intrinsic*, and perform for us in studio.

Segment 2 -- "Here the Rains Never Come"

In a first for a case involving CIA torture, the American Civil Liberties Union settled a lawsuit against the two psychologists who designed and implemented the agency's brutal program. A jury trial was scheduled to begin on September 5, after the plaintiffs successfully overcame every attempt by the psychologists to have the case dismissed.

The lawsuit was brought by the ACLU on behalf of Suleiman Abdullah Salim, Mohamed Ahmed Ben Soud, and the family of Gul Rahman, who froze to death in a secret CIA prison. The three men were tortured and experimented on using methods developed by the CIA-contracted psychologists, James Mitchell and John "Bruce" Jessen.

The full terms of the settlement agreement are confidential. Until now, every lawsuit trying to hold people accountable for the CIA torture program has been dismissed at initial stages because the government successfully argued that letting the cases proceed would reveal state secrets. But unlike previous cases, this time the Justice Department did not try to derail the lawsuit. The defendants attempted to dismiss the case multiple times, but the court consistently ruled that the plaintiffs had valid claims.

Segment 3 -- "Can Art Amend History?"

Artist Titus Kaphar makes paintings and sculptures that wrestle with the struggles of the past while speaking to the diversity and advances of the present. In an unforgettable live workshop, Kaphar takes a brush full of white paint to a replica of a 17th-century Frans Hals painting, obscuring parts of the composition and bringing its hidden story into view. There's a narrative coded in art like this, Kaphar says. What happens when we shift our focus and confront unspoken truths?

Segment 4 -- "A Deal With the Devil"

A plea deal is an arrangement to resolve a case without going to trial. This is an option most often taken by those who cannot afford bail and want to go home instead of wait days, months, even years locked up in jail. An estimated 177,624 innocent Americans pleaded guilty in 2013 alone. Does this sound like a just system to you?

Segment 5 -- "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.

Episode 643 (September 2-8)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Throw out what you think you know about economics. This week, self-described "renegade economist" Kate Raworth of Oxford University, explains how to think like a reality based economist, and two eco-feminists, one from South Africa, the other Mauritius, share a chat under a tree about Marx, feminism and life on the planet"

Segment 2 -- "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 3 -- "Green Card Voices - Aziza Kabura"

Now living in Fargo, North Dakota, Aziza Kabura was born in Lusaka, Zambia. She says, "My mom explained that there are many different kinds of people in America and we should be respectful to all of them."

Segment 4 -- "Can Clouds Buy Us More Time to Solve Climate Change?"

Climate change is real, case closed. But there's still a lot we don't understand about it, and the more we know the better chance we have to slow it down. One still-unknown factor: How might clouds play a part? There's a small hope that they could buy us some time to fix things ... or they could make global warming worse. Climate scientist Kate Marvel takes us through the science of clouds and what it might take for the earth to break its own fever.

Segment 5 -- "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 642 (August 26 - September 1)

Segment 1 -- "The Bail Trap: American Ransom"

Three short films from this Brave New Films series, including:

1. "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.
2. "Tai's Story -- College or Bail?" -- 70% of people in jail are there for one reason: living in poverty. Low-income Americans are sitting in jails for days, months, and even years simply because they can't afford to pay high bail amounts. All the while, private companies are profiting in the billions each year. This must end.
3. "How Much Is Your Freedom Worth?" -- To shrink jails, let's reform bail. Money bail disrupts the lives of so many Americans in more ways than one. Even if you bail out, even if your charges are dropped, the repercussions continue long after you're "free."

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

"No is not enough, says Naomi Klein, so if no isn't sufficient, what might be? This week, Laura talks with author/activist Gar Alperovitz, co-chair of the Next System Project (a framework for imagining 'the next system' of governance, democracy, and security). From the gloom of today he sees the principles of a Pluralist Commonwealth emerging. Also: a video from Local Futures counts down the many changes that can come from investing locally.

Segment 3 -- "Green Card Voices - Javier Arreola Martell"

Javier Arreola Martell was taught by his grandmother to be kind and compassionate. He hopes to share her lessons of kindness with others around the world. Born in Mexico City, Javier moved around the country, living with different relatives after his father immigrated to the U.S. He spent most of his childhood raised by his grandmother, and forged a deep bond with her over the years.

At the age of 15, Javier asked his father to bring him as well so he could pursue a better future. Although he was excited to be reunited with his father in the United States, it was extremely difficult for Javier to leave his grandmother behind. While he struggled to adjust to this new land in the beginning, he started making many friends and improving his English.

After graduating from high school, Javier hopes to graduate from college to become a scientist and teacher so he can help people around the world.

Segment 4 -- "What Rivers Can Tell Us about the Earth's History"

Rivers are one of nature's most powerful forces — they bulldoze mountains and carve up the earth, and their courses are constantly moving. Understanding how they form and how they'll change is important for those that call their banks and deltas home. In this visual-packed talk, geoscientist Liz Hajek shows us how rocks deposited by ancient rivers can be used as a time machine to study the history of the earth, so we can figure out how to more sustainably live on it today.

Segment 5 -- "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 641 (August 19-25)

Segment 1 -- "Al Gore -- The Problems of Climate Denial"

Former Vice President Al Gore, Co-Founder of the Climate Reality Project, talks about the reasons for the unusually high denial of the existence of climate change by conservatives and their followers in the United States.

Segment 2 -- "Don't Feel Sorry for Refugees – Believe in Them"

"We have seen advances in every aspect of our lives — except our humanity," says Luma Mufleh, a Jordanian immigrant and Muslim of Syrian descent who founded the first accredited school for refugees in the United States. Mufleh shares stories of hope and resilience, explaining how she's helping young people from war-torn countries navigate the difficult process of building new homes. Get inspired to make a personal difference in the lives of refugees with this powerful talk.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "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 5 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

The GOP's anti-Obamacare push is defeated for now. But what if the debate over healthcare was as much about human and community health as it is about partisan politics? This week on the LF Show, health crusaders Loretta Ross and Lynn Paltrow explain why reproductive justice requires racial equity and Laura celebrates Oregon's new Reproductive Health Equity Act which moved everyone forward, together, regardless of income, citizenship status, and gender identity.

Episode 640 (August 12-18)

Segment 1 -- "Green Card Voices: Muhend Abakar"

Born in the city of Nyala, Muhend Abakar spent the first four years of his life in Sudan before moving to Egypt with his family. When he first arrived in Egypt, he was saddened by the racism he encountered and had a difficult time socializing. Muhend eventually made many friends by playing of soccer and discovered how easy it is to meet people through sports.

When his parents told him they were moving to the United States, Muhend did not believe them. Only when the paperwork started did he take them seriously. Muhend was shocked when he first arrived in America. From the snow falling from the sky to the English language, everything was foreign to him.

Currently, Muhend attends South High School in Fargo, ND. He is extremely active in the school and has participated on several athletic teams including soccer, basketball, and track. In the future, Muhend hopes to be a computer engineer like his uncle in Egypt.

Segment 2 -- "Deport Hate"

Our immigration system is broken. Families are being separated, immigrant workers exploited, human lives are being lost at the border, there is rampant persecution and discrimination of immigrants and a continuation in the perpetuation of negative stereotypes and the criminalization of immigration.

How did we get here? How did we sacrifice basic human and civil rights in the name of political posturing, agendas and money interests? What can we do to reverse this?

Segment 3 -- "Why Journalists Have an Obligation to Challenge Power"

You can kick Jorge Ramos out of your press conference (as Donald Trump famously did in 2015), but you can never silence him. A reporter for more than 30 years, Ramos believes that a journalist's responsibility is to question and challenge those in power. In this compelling talk — which earned him a standing ovation midway through — Ramos explains why, in certain circumstances, he believes journalists must take sides.

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.

Segment 5 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Although cities across the country have announced themselves as sanctuaries, the queer and trans communities who defined this movement have been routinely failed by those same cities' adherence to regressive policing tactics. This week, Jennicet Gutiérrez, of La Familia Trans Queer Liberation Movement, and Hamid Khan, of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, join Laura to take measure of the contradictions found in state sanctioned surveillance of so-called sanctuary communities.

Episode 639 (August 5-11)

Segment 1 -- "A Celebration of Natural Hair"

Cheyenne Cochrane explores the role that hair texture has played in the history of being black in America — from the heat straightening products of the post-Civil War era to the thousands of women today who have decided to stop chasing a conventional beauty standard and start embracing their natural hair. "This is about more than a hairstyle," Cochrane says. "It's about being brave enough not to fold under the pressure of others' expectations."

Segment 2 -- "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 3 -- "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 4 -- "The Refugee Crisis Is a Test of Our Character"

Sixty-five million people were displaced from their homes by conflict and disaster in 2016. It's not just a crisis; it's a test of who we are and what we stand for, says David Miliband — and each of us has a personal responsibility to help solve it. In this must-watch talk, Miliband gives us specific, tangible ways to help refugees and turn empathy and altruism into action.

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 Gatl 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 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 Millan 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.