

PREVIOUSLY ON “MEDIA EDGE” (January-July, 2018)

Episode 690 (July 28 – August 3)

"Is Trump the Worst President in History?"

Robert Reich compares Trump's presidency to the worst presidents in American history.

"The Fog of Trump"

Robert Reich explains how Trump creates a constant state of confusion.

"Trauma at the Border"

Pediatricians reveal the long-term damage that can be done when children are imprisoned – even with their families. Innocent, traumatized children are unwilling participants forced to endure the consequences of the Trump administration's cruel immigration policy.

"Making a Killing – Guns, Greed and the NRA"

This Brave New Films documentary tells how guns affect the lives of Americans, with stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families. The film exposes how gun companies and the NRA resist legislation for the sake of profit – and thereby put people in danger.

Episode 689 (July 21-27)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Building the Democratic Economy, from Preston to Cleveland.

Preston, England, the birthplace of the industrial revolution in many ways, is experimenting with a new, cooperative model, inspired by another formerly industrialized city: Cleveland, Ohio.

"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.

"The Democratic Party and 2018 Midterms"

Prior to her stunning upset victory in the recent Democratic Party primary election in New York, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez talked to Glenn Greenwald about the need for Democratic Party reform, her views on immigration and criminal justice reform, why she has taken such unusually blunt positions on Israel and Palestine, and the challenges of running against a machine boss politician.

"Who Should Get Into the USA?"

Robert Reich looks at the facts behind the immigration debate.

"A Tale of Two Cities"

The story of two very different Michigan communities -- picturesque, small town Evart and gritty, industrial Flint - who have found their futures inextricably linked by a threat to the one thing that all life requires: water.

Episode 688 (July 14-20)

"Caliph Donald Trump and the Rise of the Christian Taliban"

There is a growing threat to the laws and values of the United States from a group of religious extremists and fanatics. Not from so-called jihadists or Islamists, or to “creeping Sharia,” but from the “Christian Taliban” — those Bible-thumping fundamentalists who are bent on theocratizing the U.S. government.

"Living While Black"

Living While Black asks viewers to confront their own implicit racism and think before they call the cops. In this compilation of videos, white folks call the cops on black folks who were going about their daily lives – family BBQs, getting coffee, napping on campus, moving into a new home, going to the gym.

"The “Dead Zone” of the Gulf of Mexico"

Ocean expert Nancy Rabalais tracks the ominously named "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico — where there isn't enough oxygen in the water to support life. She tells us about what's causing it — and how we can reverse its harmful effects and restore one of America's natural treasures.

"Pursuing the Dream: What You Need to Know About DACA, Immigration, and Beyond"

In Trump's America, 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 that your elected officials defend immigrants and push for permanent protections.

"Daniel Ellsberg and Noam Chomsky Discuss Nuclear War"

A discussion between Noam Chomsky and Daniel Ellsberg on the topic of nuclear policy and war. Chomsky, a laureate professor of linguistics at the University of Arizona, and Ellsberg, the Pentagon Papers whistleblower, appeared onstage together for the first time at this event, recorded on April 24, 2018.

Episode 687 (July 7-13)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Is a Public Bank in the financial capital of the world possible? And how will that public bank help worker co-ops, students, entrepreneurs, and more? Laura's guests discuss why it's more needed than ever - and what they're doing to make it happen.

"Lacking Birth Control Options, Venezuelan Women Turn to Sterilization and Illegal Home Abortions"

Many young Venezuelan women are going to extreme lengths not to give birth to another child. They are in an impossible bind, in a country where abortion is illegal and a box of contraceptive pills costs the equivalent of up to 10 months' salary at the minimum wage.

"A Parkland Teacher's Homework for Us All"

Diane Wolk-Rogers teaches history at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, site of a horrific school shooting this year. She offers three ways Americans can move forward to create more safety and responsibility around guns — and invites people to come up with their own answers, too.

"Who Receives More Government Help, Stanford or UC Berkeley?"

Robert Reich examines higher education in America, and how it is funded.

"Happy Collaborator: George Stoney"

Media Edge marks the sixth anniversary of George Stoney's passing this year (on July 12) by presenting this documentary about his amazing life -- as an award-winning filmmaker, early advocate of democratic media, and "the father of public access TV."

Episode 686 (June 30 – July 6)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

In these two episodes, Laura and her guests address these topics:

“Should Activists Run for Congress?” and

“Outsider Power Shifts Insider Politics.”

"5 Things Every Forest-Lover Needs to Know About Sprite"

Sprite says it cares about sustainability, but did you know the company has been linked to illegal forest destruction in Argentina?

Get the facts -- then take action to tell Sprite to restore the forest it destroyed.

"What It Takes To Be Racially Literate"

Priya Vulchi and Winona Guo traveled across the US, collecting personal stories about race and intersectionality. Now they're on a mission to equip every American with the tools to understand, navigate and improve a world structured by racial division.

"The Bail Trap: American Ransom!"

Three short films about the U.S. bail system:

“Breaking Down Bail: -- Debunking Common Bail Myths”

“Tai's Story -- College or Bail”

“How Much Is Your Freedom Worth”

"The Military-Industrial Drain"

Robert Reich explains why military spending costs America so much money.

Episode 685 (June 23-29)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

In these three episodes, Laura and her guests address these topics:

“Art, AIDS & Challenge of Retrospection,” “Communities Over Commodities,” and “Making Data Shift Power.”

"The Standing Rock Resistance and Our Fight for Indigenous Rights"

Tribal attorney Tara Houska chronicles the history of attempts by government and industry to eradicate the legitimacy of indigenous peoples' land and culture, including the months-long standoff at Standing Rock which rallied thousands around the world.

"Erik Prince and the Case for Active, Documented Collusion Against Iran"

Jeremy Scahill breaks down the Trump Tower meeting that Blackwater founder Erik Prince set up with a representative of the Saudi and Emirati royals and an Israeli who runs propaganda and media manipulation operations.

"Immigrant Stories: Teachers"

In this latest video by Brave New Films, educators reveal how immigration enforcement actions are disrupting their students' lives and affecting not just their education, but their overall wellbeing.

"The Loss of the Immeasurable"

Our society has definitely become masters at increasing the amount of things we can measure -- more and more money, more and more floor space per capita, more and more GDP -- and less and less of more important things that we can't measure.

Episode 684 (June 16-22)

"2018 High School Scholarship Essay Contest"

On May 6, Sacramento area high school students read and defended their essays in response to a quotation from Iranian women's rights advocate, Mahnaz Afkhami: “The connection between women's human rights, gender equality, socioeconomic development, and peace is increasingly apparent.”

Sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, this annual event features presentations by the 10 finalists in the contest.

The first place winner receives a \$3,000 scholarship; second place a \$2,500 scholarship; and third place a \$2,000 scholarship. Each of the other seven finalists receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

"The Dire Consequences of Privatizing Ailing Public Water Systems"

Residents of Flint and Pittsburgh unknowingly drank water with high levels of lead. The rise in lead levels was preceded by a miscalculation related to chemicals used to control corrosion in water pipes. Both places have another important thing in common: a private water company named Veolia.

"What a World Without Prisons Could Look Like"

Deanna Van Buren designs restorative justice centers that treat crime as a breach of relationships and justice as a process where all stakeholders come together to repair that breach. "Imagine a world without prisons," Van Buren says. "And join me in creating all the things that we could build instead."

"How Cable News Poisons the Conversation about Abortion"

Fox News isn't just dominating the conversation about abortion; it's also filling an information void left by CNN and MSNBC with misinformation and stigma.

Episode 683 (June 9-15)

"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 includes our recording of a spellbinding presentation by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber in Sacramento on November 3, 2017 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 theologically evangelical, liberal, conservative, charismatic, liberationist, revolutionary, militant Christian.

Episode 682 (June 2-8)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant proclaimed April as Confederate Heritage Month. Mississippi has the last state banner featuring confederate iconography, and the movement to change it is an important part of the greater movement to take down Confederate symbols in America.

"What if Gentrification was about Healing Communities Instead of Displacing Them?"

Liz Ogbu is an architect who works on spatial justice: the idea that justice has a geography and that the equitable distribution of resources and services is a human right. In San Francisco, she's questioning the all too familiar story of gentrification: that poor people will be pushed out by development and progress.

"The Monopolization of America"

Robert Reich takes a take an in-depth look at antitrust laws in the United States and explains how corporate giants have come to dominate the American economy and politics.

"Humanity's True Purpose"

Is humanity nothing more than a cancer on the planet, consuming its host until it is gone, guaranteeing its own destruction in the process? A quick glance at the effects of our behavior might lead us to say yes. But looks can be deceiving.

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

Dr. Ira Helfand, co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, spoke about the realities of the nuclear threat that we face. He was the keynote speaker at the PSR's annual dinner in Sacramento on October 23, 2016.

Episode 681 (May 26 – June 1)

“Black Victims of Police Violence are Victims of Gun Violence”

We have a major problem with media coverage of gun violence: it rarely includes widespread police violence against people of color.

“The Laura Flanders Show”

Money for the arts. Where does it come from? Where does it go? Every day there's another multi-million dollar art auction. Art is the preserve of the very rich. But what about the rest of us? Arts and creativity are important ingredients of life, but are we doing all we can to support the artists in our communities?.

“What if We Ended the Injustice of Bail?”

Every night, more than 450,000 people in the U.S. are in jail because they don't have enough money for bail. The sums in question are often around \$500: easy for some to pay, impossible for others. This has real human consequences — people lose jobs, homes and lives, and it drives racial disparities in the legal system.

“Javier Bardem in the Antarctic with Greenpeace”

Actor Javier Bardem is on a mission to protect the Antarctic. He met with EU officials about the urgent need to take action this year and showed them this film. Join him on a journey through the Antarctic Ocean, and find out we all have the chance to protect it.

“Class in Session”

Robert Reich invites you to join his class on wealth and inequality in America. Topics of these first 3 classes: “How to Ignite Social Change,” “Understand Your Split Brain,” and “What Should Be the Purpose of Corporations?”

Episode 680 (May 19-25)

“Our Fight for Disability Rights -- And Why We're Not Done Yet”

Four decades ago, Judith Heumann helped to lead a groundbreaking protest, in which disabled-rights activists occupied a federal building for almost a month, demanding greater accessibility for all. In this talk, Heumann tells the stories behind the protest — and reminds us that, 40 years on, there's still work left to do.

“The Laura Flanders Show”

Laura talks to SEIU International President, Mary Kay Henry and labor journalist Sarah Jaffe about worker wins, challenges, and some new models for organizing. Then, a conversation with Palak Shah and Michelle Miller on a new online platforms that's helping labor activists cooperate and win.

“White Supremacy and the Second Amendment”

The sanctity of the Second Amendment for all Americans is a myth. It is a myth today and it has been a myth from the beginning. No matter what your position on guns is, the Second Amendment stems from an ideology that is rooted in the belief that white people have the right to control others with their weapons.

“A Brief History of U.S. Intervention in Iraq over the Past Half Century”

To understand Iraq's current reality, we must confront not just 15 years of U.S. policy, but a history that spans the administrations of 11 U.S. presidents. In this history — a history you never hear discussed on cable news — the main victims are, as they've always been: ordinary Iraqis.

“My Descent into America's Neo-Nazi movement -- And How I Got Out”

At 14, Christian Picciolini went from naïve teenager to white supremacist — and soon, the leader of the first neo-Nazi skinhead gang in the United States. How was he radicalized, and how did he ultimately get out of the movement? In this talk, Picciolini shares the surprising and counterintuitive solution to hate in all forms.

Episode 678 (May 12-18)

“Sentencing Reform Drug Addiction”

This video explores an alternative solution to arresting people struggling with drug addiction: The Post-Prison Education Program (PPEP), a successful treatment model based in Seattle that breaks the intergenerational cycle of addiction and crime through education and intensive post-release support.

“The Laura Flanders Show”

What's in store for Puerto Rico? The conversation seems to be shifting to the social crises that are emerging -- but basic supplies, services and medical care are still nowhere in sight for many. And let's not forget that some people are pushing to privatize everything from education to the power grid.

“The Battle for Paradise -- Naomi Klein Reports from Puerto Rico”

Naomi Klein visits Puerto Rico six months after Hurricane Maria to see how the government and investors are taking advantage of the disaster — and how teachers, farmers, community organizers and others are working towards their own vision of the island's future.

“How a Team of Chefs Fed Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria”

After Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, chef José Andrés traveled to the devastated island with a simple idea: to feed the hungry. Millions of meals served later, Andrés shares the remarkable story of creating the world's biggest restaurant — and the power of letting people in need know that somebody cares about them.

“Mental Health Experts on Donald Trump”

Leading mental health experts speak out on the world's most dangerous man.

Donald Trump has incited his followers to violence, brags about his sexual assaults, and is unable to respond calmly to any criticism.

We need a nonpartisan expert panel to assess Trump's mental fitness.

Episode 678 (May 5-11)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Monopoly capitalism may be on its last legs! This week, economist Michael Hudson joins us to say his predictions on the Trump budget have come true and seem to suggest, more than ever, that capitalism is not only a disservice to the people, but it's also unsuccessful.

"The Con Mannity Show"

In this parody of a well-known U.S. propaganda channel, Robert Reich plays “Rox News” host Con Mannity, an old-school conservative who believes in reducing the deficit, states' rights, free trade, and standing up to the Russians. But lately everything seems upside down.

"The Power of Prosecutors"

Prosecutors have used their power to pack jails and prisons. But as this series of short videos reveals, prosecutors also have the power to dismantle this machine — even without changing a single law.

"Why I Choose Humanism Over Faith"

Leo Igwe doesn't believe in divine intervention. He believes in the power of human beings to cure disease, preserve the planet and turn situations of poverty into prosperity. Igwe shares how humanism can free Africans from damaging superstitions and give them the power to rebuild the continent.

"Everyone's Channel"

This documentary takes a look at the early history of community television in the U.S. It provides an overview of the people, ideas, and technological developments that helped make public access TV a reality.

Episode 677 (April 28 – May 4)

"Immigrant Stories: Doctors and Nurses"

This video expose how inhumane immigration policies are forcing people to choose between medical care or deportation. The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act would strengthen current guidelines, expand the list of sensitive locations, and prohibit enforcement activity within 1,000 feet of any sensitive location.

"Dakota 38"

The story of a dream-inspired journey by Jim Miller, a Native spiritual leader who led a 330-mile horseback ride to Mankato, Minnesota, where 38 of his Dakota ancestors were hanged in the largest mass execution in U.S. history.

"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 676 (April 21-27)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

In these two episodes, Laura and her guests address these topics:

"Healthcare isn't Big Business or Big Philanthropy" and "U.S. Democrats & Europe's Left."

"Trump's Brand is Ayn Rand"

Robert Reich explains why Ayn Rand's ideas have destroyed the common good.

"Environmental Racism in the South"

Of the 9 million people living near a hazardous waste site, 56% are people of color. This is a direct result of decades of public policy and decisions made by people in power.

Residents of these communities are fighting back.

"The 6 Ways Millennials Are Changing America"

Robert Reich explains how the next generation will fundamentally change America.

"The United States of ALEC"

Bill Moyers' report on the most influential corporate-funded political force that most of America has never heard of -- ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Episode 675 (April 14-20)

"A Focus on Black History Every Month"

The very existence of "Black History Month" suggests that, for 28 days in February, we should think about Black History, so that we can comfortably forget about it for the next 11 months of the year. But that's a dangerous and sometimes fatal mistake, because forgetting or ignoring history can cause chaos.

"The Human Stories behind Mass Incarceration"

The U. S. locks up more people than any other country in the world, says documentarian Eve Abrams, and 1-4% of those in prison are likely innocent. That's 87,000 brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers - predominantly African American - unnecessarily separated from their families, their lives and dreams put on hold.

"To Solve the World's Biggest Problems, Invest in Women and Girls"

As CEO of the Global Fund for Women, Musimbi Kanyoro works to support women and their ideas. She introduces us to the Maragoli concept of "isirika" - a pragmatic way of life that embraces the mutual responsibility to care for one another - something she sees women practicing all over the world.

"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 674 (April 7-13)

"The Laura Flanders Show" (two episodes, 26.5 minutes each)

1. "Some of us have too much of this world's goods... and we are thereby separated too widely from each other," wrote Eleanor Roosevelt, the subject of Blanche Wiesen Cook's three-volume biography. Laura speaks to Cook about Eleanor - the First Lady of the World - and why her work still resonates. Plus, a documentary by filmmaker Ross Watne on Arthurdale, the experimental, government-funded community Roosevelt championed in Depression-era West Virginia.

2. Women's Leadership on the Screen, in the Streets and on the World Stage.

In this episode, we speak with New Zealand's former prime minister, Helen Clark and filmmaker Gaylene Preston regarding their documentary, "My Year With Helen," about Clark's foiled bid to become the UN's first female Secretary General. Then we stop by the Athena Film Festival to find out why representation remains so important to leadership behind and in front of the camera.

"How Shocking Events Can Spark Positive Change"

Things are pretty shocking out there right now — record-breaking storms, deadly terror attacks, thousands of migrants disappearing beneath the waves and openly supremacist movements rising. Are we responding with the urgency that these overlapping crises demand from us? Journalist and activist Naomi Klein studies how governments use large-scale shocks to push societies backward. She shares a few propositions from "The Leap" — a manifesto she wrote alongside indigenous elders, climate change activists, union leaders and others from different backgrounds — which envisions a world after we've already made the transition to a clean economy and a much fairer society. "The shocking events that fill us with dread today can transform us, and they can transform the world for the better," Klein says. "But first we need to picture the world that we're fighting for. And we have to dream it up together."

"Trump's Stock Buyback Bamboozle"

Robert Reich explains that Trump's corporate tax are going to stock buybacks -- enriching executives and major investors but leaving most workers behind.

"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.

"What We Can Do About the Culture of Hate"

We're all against hate, right? We agree it's a problem — their problem, not our problem, that is. But as Sally Kohn discovered, we all hate — some of us in subtle ways, others in obvious ones. As she confronts a hard story from her own life, she shares ideas on how we can recognize, challenge and heal from hatred in our institutions and in ourselves.

Episode 673 (March 31 – April 6)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Laura talks with young activists Jessica Campbell of the Rural Organizing Project and Lou Murrey of the Stay Together Appalachia. They share tips on combating the right in rural communities. Then, Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi share their high school project - a crowdsourced racial literacy curriculum.

"Your 3 Choices When It Comes to Trump"

Robert Reich explains your 3 choices in the age of Trump.

"A Funny Look at the Unintended Consequences of Technology"

Technology should work for us, but what happens when it doesn't? Comedian Chuck Nice explores the unintended consequences of technological advancement and human interaction — with hilarious results.

"Rise Up Vs. Trickle Down Economics"

Robert Reich explains why the only real way to build the economy is through rise up economics. Investments in American workers -- in their health care, job training, and education -- is the key to economic growth, not tax cuts for the rich and corporations. Our latest video explains why we must put an end to trickle down nonsense.

"Who Receives More Government Help, Stanford or UC Berkeley?"

Robert Reich examines higher education in America, and how they are funded.

"The Real Story About ICE"

Officials of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are rounding up immigrants and immigrant rights activists, and terrorizing communities across America. None of this should be considered normal.

"Who Is To Blame For The Earth's Destruction?"

The situation that we are lodged in is partly economic, partly infrastructural, and partly the habits that we grew up with - habits of competition, scarcity, judgment, and struggle. As we become aware of these influences, we are able to overcome them.

"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.

Episode 672 (March 24-30)

"Who Should Get Into the USA?"

Robert Reich looks at the facts behind the immigration debate.

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Laura talks politics, culture, and economics with Tarso Luís Ramos, executive director of Political Research Associates, and Sarah Ludwig, co-founder of the New Economy Project. Plus, Laura's weekly commentary with a few cheers for the cities who divest (in this new "fossil fuel moment").

"How to Resolve Racially Stressful Situations"

If we hope to heal the racial tensions that threaten to tear the fabric of society apart, we're going to need the skills to openly express ourselves in racially stressful situations. Through racial literacy — the ability to read, recast and resolve these situations — psychologist Howard C. Stevenson helps children and parents reduce and manage stress and trauma. In this inspiring, quietly awesome talk, learn more about how this approach to decoding racial threat can help youth build confidence and stand up for themselves in productive ways.

"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.

Episode 671 (March 17-23)

"New Jersey's Money Bail Overhaul: A Success Story"

A success story – New Jersey's historic money bail reform! New Jersey's new pretrial justice system provides hope and best practices for states working to end mass incarceration.

On January 1, 2017, New Jersey essentially ended its money bail system. The state's pretrial incarceration rate has since dropped nearly 20%.

"New Jersey's Money Bail Overhaul: A Success Story" tells the story of Tyler, who was arrested and given probation following an altercation with a relative. The court decided against prison time, and thanks to New Jersey's system Tyler didn't have to sit in jail for months to learn his fate.

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Power politics and the politics of power - this time on the show, we talk with New York City's Chief Resilience Officer, Daniel Zarrilli, on the decision to divest from fossil fuels and Clara Vondrich of Divest/Invest, one of the activist groups that helped make it happen. Also, author, journalist, Christian Parenti believes that we don't demand enough of government but extreme weather will force our behavior to change.

"Can Trump Fire Mueller?"

Robert Reich looks at how Trump might try to get rid of Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

"How Protest Is Redefining Democracy around the World"

The democratic process is messy, complicated and often inefficient — but across Africa, activists are redefining democracy by putting protest at its center. In an illuminating talk, political scientist Zachariah Mampilly gives us a primer on the current wave of protests reshaping countries like Tunisia, Malawi and Zimbabwe — and explains how this form of political dissension expands our political imaginations beyond what we're told is possible.

"A Tale of Two Cities"

A Tale of Two Cities tells the story of citizens from two very different Michigan communities—picturesque, small town Ewart and gritty, industrial Flint— that have found their futures inextricably linked by a threat to the one thing that all life requires: water. In our third short documentary, we explore the growing threat of water privatization and what happens when government runs a critical function, like providing clean drinking water, as if it were a business.

"From Danger to Dignity"

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

Episode 670 (March 10-16)

"How to Ignite Social Change"

Robert Reich invites you to join his class on wealth and inequality in America. The topic for the first lecture is the three elements of social change.

"Understand Your Split Brain"

In his second class in this series, Robert Reich examines the competing values that inform Americans' views of the economy.

"What Should Be the Purpose of Corporations?"

Robert Reich examines the role of corporations in America, and how the decisions of corporate executives impact the rest of the economy.

"Another Year. Another Fight"

Last year, you stood up. You took action. You fought for the country you want to live in. These fights aren't over, and we're ready to do it all again with you this year.

"Black Life at the Intersection of Birth and Death"

"It is the artist's job to unearth stories that people try to bury with shovels of complacency and time," says poet and freedom fighter Mwende "FreeQuency" Katwiwa. Performing her poem "The Joys of Motherhood," Katwiwa explores the experience of Black mothers in America and discusses the impact of the Movement for Black Lives — because, she says, it's impossible to separate the two.

"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.

"The Story of Cosmetics"

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

Episode 669 (March 3-9)

"Mental Health Experts on Donald Trump"

Leading mental health experts speak out on the world's most dangerous man.

Donald Trump has incited his followers to violence, brags about his sexual assaults, and is unable to respond calmly to any criticism.

We need a nonpartisan expert panel to assess Trump's mental fitness.

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Climate change can go one of two ways, bring us together or drive us apart, and cities will lead the way. Architect, author and planner Carl Anthony joins Laura in conversation with Ashley Dawson, author of "Extreme Cities," to discuss the best and worst ways to respond to climate change.

"The Thrilling Potential for Off-Grid Solar Energy"

An energy revolution is happening in villages and towns across Africa.

Off-grid solar energy is becoming a viable alternative to traditional electricity systems.

Every household can be a proud producer as well as consumer of energy.

That's the democracy of energy.

"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.

"Cure to Loneliness"

We are not involved in each other's stories anymore. We don't depend on each other in the way that people did for most of human history, when your well-being depended on the health and talents of people around you. That is where our civilization has taken us ... and we're pretty lonely here.

Episode 668 (February 24 – March 2)

"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 will include 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 theologically evangelical, liberal, conservative, charismatic, liberationist, revolutionary, militant Christian.

Episode 667 (February 17-23)

Segment 1 -- "Trump's 20 Worst Broken Promises"

Robert Reich explains Trump broken promises to his voters.

Segment 2 -- "The Muslim Ban -- One Year Later"

It's been a year since Trump enacted his misguided and discriminatory Muslim Ban. It was wrong then and it's wrong now

Segment 3 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

What difference does it make when some people are left out of the picture, like when police don't keep data on queer women? Activist attorney Andrea Ritchie returns with her book, *Invisible No More*.

And 2 generations of picture makers talk about mothers, sons and radical art.

Segment 4 -- "Virginia's Newly Elected Delegates Bring Women's Issues to the Forefront"

After Trump's election in 2016 women around the country came together to push back against regressive policies from the Trump Administration. Virginia's newly elected women delegates are now leading the charge in making their voices heard in government.

Segment 5 -- "How to Put the Power of Law in People's Hands"

What can you do when the wheels of justice don't turn fast enough? Or when they don't turn at all? Vivek Maru is working to transform the relationship between people and law, turning law from an abstraction or threat into something that everyone can understand, use and shape. Instead of relying solely on lawyers, Maru started a global network of community paralegals, or barefoot lawyers, who serve in their own communities and break the law down into simple terms to help people find solutions. Learn more about how this innovative approach to using the law is helping socially excluded people claim their rights. "A little bit of legal empowerment can go a long way," Maru says.

Segment 6 -- "How We Can Lower Drug Prices (When Big Pharma Pulls the Strings)"

Robert Reich explains why prescription drug prices are so high in the United States, and how we can make them more affordable.

Segment 7 -- "This is Crazy: Criminalizing Mental Health"

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

Segment 8 -- "The Next Big Fight Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid"

Robert Reich explains why we need to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Segment 9 -- "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 10 -- "Democracy -- by Langston Hughes"

As we celebrate the success of the Women's March in 2017 and 2018, we celebrate progressive women of color who show up to the hard fights time and time again to make progress happen.

Episode 666 (February 10-16)

Segment 1 -- "You Can't Have Infinite Growth on a Finite Planet"

The earth is full. It's full of us. Full of our stuff. Full of our waste. Full of our demands. Our economy is now bigger than its host, our planet.

What this means is our economy is unsustainable. When things aren't sustainable, they stop. Economic growth will stop because of the end of cheap resources. It will stop because of the growing demand of us on all the systems of the earth. It is based a crazy idea. The crazy idea being that we're going to have infinite growth on a finite planet. The earth doesn't care what we need. Mother Nature doesn't negotiate. She just sets rules and describes consequences. We tend to look at the world not as an integrated system that it is, but as a series of individual issues. We see the occupy protest. We see spiraling debt crises. We see growing inequality. We see money's influence on politics.

But we mistakenly see each of these issues as individual problems to be solved. In fact, it's the system in the painful process of breaking down. We can choose this moment of crisis to ask and answer the big questions of society's evolution. Like, what do we want to be when we grow up? When we move past this bumbling adolescence, will we think there are no limits and suffer delusions of immorality? Well, it's time to grow up. To do wiser. To be calmer. To be more considered. Like generations before us, we'll be growing up in war. Not a war between civilizations, but a war for civilization. This could be our finest hour.

Segment 2 -- "Three Thoughtful Ways to Conserve Water"

According to the UN, nearly one in three people worldwide live in a country facing a water crisis, and less than five percent of the world lives in a country that has more water today than it did 20 years ago. Lana Mazahreh grew up in Jordan, a state that has experienced absolute water scarcity since 1973, where she learned how to conserve water as soon as she was old enough to learn how to write her name. In this practical talk, she shares three lessons from water-poor countries on how to save water and address what's fast becoming a global crisis.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "Immigrants For Sale"

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

Segment 5 -- "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 665 (February 3-9)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

2018 brought us #TimesUp, but the history of collaboration between grassroots activists and Hollywood celebrities was already very long. Laura talks to Eve Ensler, who will be returning to Broadway with a new play titled "In The Body of the World," about why our bodies must be connected to our politics. Then, an interview with Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin, of the hit show 'Grace and Frankie,' alongside Saru Jayaraman, president of Restaurant Opportunities Center United. Laura speaks to them in Detroit during the summer of 2017 after they went to canvas door to door for a ballot initiative that seeks not only to win a single fair minimum wage, but to help build a broad progressive agenda in Michigan statewide.

Segment 2 -- "Kidnapped by the Palm Oil Industry"

Villagers in Suka Jaya in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia have had their land stolen out from under them by a company that sells palm oil to the global marketplace, and is financed by global banks and investors. These are their testimonies.

Segment 3 -- "The Power of Citizen Video to Create Undeniable Truths"

Could smartphones and cameras be our most powerful weapons for social justice? Through her organization Witness, Yvette Alberdingk Thijm is developing strategies and technologies to help activists use video to protect and defend human rights. She shares stories of the growing power of distant witnesses — and a call to use the powerful tools at our disposal to capture incidents of injustice.

Segment 4 -- "How to Talk About the Muslim Ban"

How we speak out against the Muslim Ban should be just as important as standing up against it in the first place. Here's why.

Segment 5 -- "Redefining Investment"

Investment has been all about maximizing financial return at any cost, even if that cost is environmental pollution, human dignity, or our moral compass. Tim Jackson counters that the role of investment must be reconceived to instead create conditions for people to flourish.

Segment 6 -- "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.

Episode 664 (January 27 - February 2)

Segment 1 -- "The Big Picture: How We Got Into This Mess, And How We to Get Out of It"

Robert Reich looks at the rise of Big Money in politics, the decline of our democracy, and Trump's election.

Segment 2 -- "Sentencing Reform - The Power of Fear"

It's time to end mass incarceration. Locking up more and more people for longer and longer doesn't make us safer.

The U.S. imprisons more people than any other nation. Over 2.3 million adults are currently in U.S. prisons and jails. The incarceration rate in the U.S. has shot up 500% over the past four decades. Yet studies show that locking up more and more people for longer and longer won't make us safer.

Fear-mongering politicians and sensational, stereotyping media coverage has driven bad policies that lock up greater numbers of people. Poor people of color are overwhelmingly and disproportionately targeted.

"Sentencing Reform: - The Power of Fear" is the first film in a new series on sentencing reform. The forthcoming series will highlight the symptoms of mass incarceration and present real, fact-based alternatives.

This episode explores the scope and source of mass incarceration.

Segment 3 -- "The Internet's Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz"

This feature film follows the story of programming prodigy and information activist Aaron Swartz. From Swartz's help in the development of the basic internet protocol RSS to his co-founding of Reddit, his fingerprints are all over the internet. But it was Swartz's groundbreaking work in social justice and political organizing combined with his aggressive approach to information access that ensnared him in a two-year legal nightmare. It was a battle that ended with the taking of his own life at the age of 26.

Aaron's story touched a nerve with people far beyond the online communities in which he was a celebrity. This film is a personal story about what we lose when we are tone deaf about technology and its relationship to our civil liberties. not just a cybersecurity problem — it's a civil rights problem.

Episode 663 (January 20-26)

Segment 1 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

Can sanctuary exist in a state that still insists on broken windows policing? Ravi Ragbir and Sara Gozalo of The New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City describe pushing back state pressure and creating real sanctuary, communally, through partnering -- not policing.

Segment 2 -- "Our Treatment of HIV Has Advanced. Why Hasn't the Stigma Changed?"

The treatment of HIV has significantly advanced over the past three decades — why hasn't our perception of people with the disease advanced along with it? After being diagnosed with HIV, Arik Hartmann chose to live transparently, being open about his status, in an effort to educate people.

In this candid, personal talk, he shares what it's like to live with HIV — and calls on us to dismiss our misconceptions about the disease.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "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.

Episode 662 (January 13-19)

Segment 1 -- "Why Tax Breaks For the Rich Don't Create Jobs"

It's time to end the "trickle-down" myth.

Segment 2 -- "Courage Is Contagious"

When artist Damon Davis went to join the protests in Ferguson, Missouri, after police killed Michael Brown in 2014, he found not only anger but also a sense of love for self and community. His documentary "Whose Streets?" tells the story of the protests from the perspective of the activists who showed up to challenge those who use power to spread fear and hate.

Segment 3 -- "Warrantless Surveillance Ensnares Physics Professor"

Do we want to live in a world where academics fear surveillance and prosecution simply because they communicate with colleagues abroad? The chilling effect on academic collaboration and freedom of expression, both protected by the First Amendment, are clear.

Segment 4 -- "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 661 (January 6-12)

Segment 1 -- "One Word Defined 2017: Resist"

In the wake of Donald Trump becoming the U.S. president, people around the world poured into the streets to resist.

Segment 2 -- "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 3 -- "Bringing Jaguars back to the U.S. Southwest"

Thousands of jaguars used to roam the U.S. Southwest, but over the past two centuries, jaguars have been eliminated from more than half of their range. Defenders of Wildlife wants to do everything we can to bring these elusive, endangered big cats home.

Segment 4 -- "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 5 -- "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 660 (December 30, 2017 to January 5, 2018)

Segment 1 -- "16 Women and Donald Trump"

16 women have come forward to report being sexually harassed or assaulted by Donald Trump. Seeing their stories together is incredibly powerful, and damning. It's time to hold him to account.

Segment 2 -- "The Laura Flanders Show"

This show comes from Whitakers, North Carolina and the annual gathering of the Southern Movement Assemblies -- a living experiment in popular democracy and local self-governance. Plantation politics, monopoly capitalism, incarceration instead of peace: a lot of the worst of the American experience has its roots in the US South, but so does much of the best, from slave revolts, to abolition, to organized labor and civil rights. If the country goes as the South goes, what grassroots progressives do here matters.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "How to Transform Apocalypse Fatigue into Action on Global Warming"

The biggest obstacle to dealing with climate disruptions lies between your ears, says psychologist and economist Per Espen Stokes. He's spent years studying the defenses we use to avoid thinking about the demise of our planet — and figuring out a new way of talking about global warming that keeps us from shutting down. Step away from the doomsday narratives and learn how to make caring for the earth feel personable, do-able and empowering with this fun, informative talk.

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 Gayl and Thomas Tamm and award-winning journalists like David Carr, Lucy Dalglish, Glenn Greenwald, Seymour Hersh, Michael Isikoff, Bill Keller, Eric Lipton, Jane Mayer, Dana Priest, Tom Vanden Brook and Sharon Weinberger.