

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

Episode 702 (October 20-26)

"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 701 (October 13-19)

"Last Hours"

"Last Hours" was written by Thom Hartmann and co-produced by Leonardo DiCaprio's father, George. This short documentary leaps far ahead of immediate issues of oceans rising to take away coastland. Frequent extreme weather events are happening in unusual places, causing record breaking destruction. Hurricanes, tornados, ice, hail and snow storms, floods, droughts, wildfires all over the planet are happening nearly every week.

The film examines situations like the melting of the Arctic Ice Sheet. In July 2013 it melted at the rate of the size of Kansas, every two days.

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

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

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

Episode 700 (October 6-12)

"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, 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 699 (September 29 - October 5)

"Benjamin Netanyahu is Fine with Anti-Semites – As Long as They Support Israel's Occupation"

Benjamin Netanyahu likes to accuse critics of Israel of being anti-Semites. But how does he explain his own ties to anti-Semitic leaders and evangelical preachers? Does defending Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands make you immune from the charge of anti-Jewish hatred?

"These Women Know What's at Stake if Kavanaugh is Confirmed to the Supreme Court"

We don't have to imagine a country without legal abortion; these women already know all too well the debilitating barriers that people face when trying to access abortion care, and what life was like 50 years ago when many women had no choice.

"Chicagoans Battle Manganese Dust Pollution"

Members of the Southeast Side Environmental Task Force are raising awareness about the dangers of manganese dust that have plagued their families and neighbors on Chicago's Southeast Side. Manganese, a heavy metal used in steelmaking, is known to negatively impact the brain function of children.

"How Urban Spaces Can Preserve History and Build Community"

Can public spaces both reclaim the past and embrace the future? Landscape architect Walter Hood shares the five simple concepts that guide his approach to creating spaces that illuminate shared memories and force us to look at one another in a different way.

"The Struggle Continues"

David Archambault II, tribal Chairman of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, spoke to a Sacramento audience on September 15. He traced the history of the struggle his ancestors had to endure, and how that struggle is very much alive today.

Episode 698 (September 22-28)

"Just Say No to Space Force"

How can we deal with health care needs, climate change, and growing poverty when Trump and his followers want to build "Pyramids to the Heavens?" Keep Space for Peace Week will be October 6-13 this year.

"Healing Trauma: Beyond Gangs and Prisons"

This short documentary follows the transformative stories of former gang members as they share their childhood mental and physical abuse, growing up in the gang lifestyle, and the hope they now have through the healing power of therapy.

"How Teachers Can Help Kids Find Their Political Voices"

Social justice belongs in our schools, says educator Sydney Chaffee. In a bold talk, she shows how teaching students to engage in activism helps them build important academic and life skills — and asks us to rethink how we can use education to help kids find their voices.

"Reclaiming Their Voice"

This film follows Native Americans in New Mexico taking a stand against injustice in the political process. Personal stories demonstrate how minority communities use their voting rights to participate more fully in elections.

"The Story of Stuff"

One of the most widely viewed environmental-themed short films of all time, "The Story of Stuff" has been shown in thousands of schools, houses of worship, community events and businesses around the world.

Episode 697 (September 15-21)

"The Roots of Racism in Charlottesville"

Nazis, violence, and the long history of white supremacy: Charlottesville and America one year later.

"Breathing While Black"

Is a deadly chemical killing off a predominantly black Louisiana town? This 77-year old thinks so. Now he's taking on a giant chemical plant to save his community.

"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.

"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.

Episode 696 (September 8-14)

"As Twitter Suspends Alex Jones, Should We Worry About Silicon Valley?"

Sam Biddle, Glenn Greenwald, and Briahna Joy debate how the left should consider free speech issues in the context of online platforms.

"Why the 'Wrong Side of the Tracks' Is Usually the East Side of Cities"

What do communities on the social, economic and environmental margins have in common? For one thing, they tend to be on the east sides of cities. Stephen DeBerry explains how environmental and man-made factors have led to disparity by design in cities from East Palo Alto to East Jerusalem — and how to fix it.

"Corporate Landlords: The Fight for Affordable Housing in California"

Moldy walls, leaky roofs, rising rents. That's what tenants of Stephen Schwarzman, Blackstone CEO, are living with. It's time to rise up for rent control.

"What You Need to Know about Housing Discrimination"

Housing is one of the most basic rights a person has, but too many people in America are discriminated against when they go to rent or buy a home. News coverage needs to highlight this ongoing crisis.

"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 695 (September 1-7)

"In Conversation: Elizabeth Warren and Robert Reich"

Robert Reich and Senator Elizabeth Warren discuss the progressive movement and how we can reclaim democracy.

"Boycotting Bigotry: Comedians Combat Trump's Corruption and Hate"

Comedians Negin Farsad and Dean Obeidallah launch their Boycott Bigotry campaign in Charlottesville, VA, taking to the streets and posting satirical ads that encourage people to boycott Trump properties. It makes no sense to support any bigoted president with our money, especially this one.

"A Family's Choice: Reunite Child with Detained Mother or Undocumented Father"

Jhoseline Amaya and her 8-year-old daughter Michelle reached the U.S. border, seeking asylum from El Salvador. But under Trump's "zero tolerance" policy, what this mother and daughter believed to be the end of their journey, in fact, marked the beginning of a new nightmare.

"Gun Violence in America: A Preventable Epidemic"

Joshua Sugarmann, the founder and executive director of the Violence Policy Center in Washington, D.C., spoke to a Sacramento audience last October.

Mr. Sugarmann asserted that the epidemic of Gun Violence in America can and must be solved.

Episode 694 (August 25-31)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

Laura hits the road this week to report on community stories throughout the country:

- entrepreneurship in St. Louis;
- electoral organizing in Uniontown, Alabama; and
- community wealth building on urban farms in the Detroit area.

"Robert Reich: 8 Short Videos"

- "Is Donald Trump a Traitor?"
- "We're Living a Constitutional Crisis"
- "6 Reasons for Hope in Trump Times"
- "The Roadblock to Common Sense Pension Reform"
- "The Biggest Threat to Our Democracy"
- "Why Right-to-Work is Wrong"
- "Trump and the Art of the No Deal"
- "10 Steps To Finding Common Ground"

"The Power of Diversity within Yourself"

Rebeca Hwang has spent a lifetime juggling identities -- Korean heritage, Argentinian upbringing, U.S. education. She had difficulty finding a place in the world to call home. But along with these challenges came a pivotal realization: that a diverse background is a distinct advantage in today's globalized world.

"Fighting the Bayou Bridge Pipeline"

Two years after Standing Rock, Big Oil is disrupting communities across Louisiana. But people here aren't going down without a fight.

"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.

Episode 693 (August 18-24)

"How to Prevent Future Trumps"

Robert Reich explains how we can stop the rise of more Trumps in the future.

"USDA Inspectors Complained About Chemicals Sprayed on Poultry -- They Were Ignored"

In 2008, Jessica Robertson was a full-time consumer safety inspector for the U.S.D.A. In the years that followed, she had three elbow surgeries and sustained a serious nerve injury in her neck. Stranger symptoms came later. Nothing happened when she and other workers at the plant raised concerns.

"The Symbols of Systemic Racism -- and How to Take Away Their Power"

Paul Rucker is unstitching the legacy of systemic racism in the United States. He collects artifacts connected to the history of slavery. "If we as a people collectively look at these objects and realize that they are part of our history, we can find a way to where they have no more power over us," Rucker says.

"Victims of Racial Profiling Speak Out"

Several victims of racial profiling incidents that involved questionable or downright racist calls to the police talk frankly about the reality of living while black. Here's what they had to say.

"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."

Episode 692 (August 11-17)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

In these two episodes, Laura and her guests address these topics: "Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party's Radical Rise," and "Decolonizing Wealth Through Indigenous Leadership."

"TED Talks: Lindsay Malloy and Bronwyn King"

In these two TED Talks, Lindsay Malloy and Bronwyn King discuss: "Why Teens Confess to Crimes They Didn't Commit," and "You May Be Accidentally Investing In Cigarette Companies."

"How It Feels to Watch Your Livelihood Get Pulverized"

Fisherman Madjuri first learned to fish when he was young. Now, he's a father trying to feed his own family on the beautiful Indonesian island of Karimun Jawa, but coal barges passing through the area are having an impact on his home and livelihood.

"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.

"Fukushima: Living with a Disaster"

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.

Episode 691 (August 4-10)

"The Laura Flanders Show"

In these three episodes, Laura and her guests address these topics: "Bodies, Borders, Resistance, Rebirth," "All Families Belong Together," and "Telling Stories of the Syrian Civil War."

"Gaza Farmers Struggle Between Economic Squeeze and Israeli Sniper Fire"

The Israeli blockade of Gaza means that Palestinians have no control over crossings in and out of the territory. Importing farming materials is expensive, while exporting produce is often impossible. Most produce grown in Gaza can only be sold locally, where prices are too low to sustain the agricultural industry.

"Tax the Rich -- An Animated Fairy Tale"

Narrated by Ed Asner, this video shows how we arrived at this moment of poorly funded public services and widening economic inequality. Things go downhill in a happy and prosperous land after the rich decide they don't want to pay taxes anymore. This land bears a startling resemblance to our land.

"This Is Power to the People"

This video tells the story of how the hierarchical structures of corporations and governments are being undermined by everyday people producing renewable energy and sharing it with each other. Could the result be a more sustainable world?

"A Wave of Renewable Energy Resistance is Taking Root"

The story of the Solar XL campaign takes you to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, where an oil pipeline would run half a mile outside its border. Solar XL is about more than standing up to one pipeline. It's about resisting with clean energy solutions that support communities and protect our climate.

Episode 690 (July 28 – August 3)

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

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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.