

# PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (January-June, 2012)

## Episode 373 (June 30-July 2)

### Segment 1 -- "Daniel Ellsberg, PhD"

Daniel Ellsberg is a former United States military analyst who, while employed by the RAND Corporation, precipitated a national political controversy in 1971 when he released the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making in relation to the Vietnam War, to The New York Times and other newspapers. Ellsberg spoke in Sacramento last year about secrets, lies and ethics from the Viet Nam era through today's WikiLeaks publications. His presentation was recorded by Media Edge.

### Segment 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 65: Suheir Hammad recites her Baklava and other poems at the Palestine Festival of Literature in Nablus. She recites "Break me" for Mahmoud Darwich as a gift to Sleepless viewers. Meet Ashira's new baby dog Izis who joins her and her mom Wafa to the festival. In Gaza, Hasan Hijaza says flowers are the messengers of peace and love. Meet the flowers of Gaza that remain under siege and cannot fly out to Holland. Flower farmers used to export over 80 million flowers, but exports are now down to 14; they have combined losses of \$1,700,000.

### Segment 3 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"

Thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by sectarian violence and have had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced person's camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice, trying to find a way to survive and provide for his family in the difficult circumstances in which they now find themselves.

## Episode 372 (June 23-25)

### Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"Sharing really is going to save the world!" declares Janelle Orsi, author of "The Sharing Solution," noting that it's fun, doesn't require special skills -- and we can start now. She and Jennifer Kassin co-founded the Sustainable Economies Law Center to help people formalize collaborative structures like producer cooperatives, cohousing developments and tool lending libraries. They're working to reduce the hurdles to investing in locally-owned and locally-controlled enterprises.

### Segment 2 -- "COINTELPRO 101"

This film exposes illegal surveillance, disruption, removal, and other extreme tactics used by the US government in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. COINTELPRO refers to the official FBI COunter INTELigence PROgram carried out to surveil, imprison, and eliminate leaders of social justice movements and to disrupt, divide, and destroy the movements as well. Through interviews with activists who experienced these abuses first-hand and with rare historical footage, the film provides an educational introduction to a period of intense repression and draws relevant lessons for the present and future.

### Segment 3 -- "A Candle for the Shabandar Cafe"

Founded in 1917, the Shabandar Cafe in Al Mutanabbi Street in the heart of the old centre of Baghdad, was a cultural landmark, where generations of Iraqis came to discuss and debate literature and politics - a living repository of Iraqi intellectual history and one of the last places where people could gather to exchange ideas. Director Emad Ali had shot most of his film by the end of 2006, but in March 2007, a massive car bomb destroyed the Shabandar Cafe, all the bookshops on Al Mutanabbi Street and killed and wounded scores of people. Days later, Baghdad's poets and artists held a wake in the ruins of the street they loved so much and Emad took a small camera and went back to film. As he was leaving he was attacked, his camera stolen and he was shot in the legs and chest, and his own story is an epilogue to his film about the Shabandar Cafe and Mutanabbi Street - before and after they were destroyed.

## Episode 371 (June 16-18)

### Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 64: Meet the most notorious of racist settlers in Palestine. Welcome to the settlers' enclave in middle of Hebron, where Hani Abu Haikal has no right to lock his gate even though settlers dump their trash in his home. Why is Al Shuhada Street deserted? See the bars caging the Sharbat family, that refuses to leave their home, to protect them from the ongoing attacks. Settler graffiti on Palestinian homes: Death To the Arabs! See what the Israelis dub as the "sterile" street on which Palestinians cannot step; so they jump from one roof to the other to get to their homes.

In Gaza, Nagham takes you to the infamous Eretz Crossing, through which Palestinians have to walk over a kilometer through a wired cage to cross. Hear the parents who have to carry their sick children and luggage all that distance.

### Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

Janaia's mother Rowena grew up in a blue collar family during the 1930s. The kids helped their mom in her own pie delivery business while their dad did construction odd jobs. In this cash-only society, they lived on what they could pay for. She recalls losing her only pair of shoes and envying a school girl's daily peanut butter-and-jam sandwich. But she didn't feel deprived: people generously gave groceries and hand-me-down clothes. Kids entertained themselves with outdoor games, and later, from adventures emanating from the home-built radio. Her frugality, self-reliant attitude and do-it-yourself skills went on to enrich the family Janaia grew up in.

### Segment 3 -- "The Mean World Syndrome"

For years, debates have raged among scholars, politicians, and concerned parents about the effects of media violence on viewers. Too often these debates have descended into simplistic battles between those who claim that media messages directly cause violence and those who argue that activists exaggerate the impact of media exposure altogether. The Mean World Syndrome, based on the groundbreaking work of media scholar George Gerbner, urges us to think about media effects in more nuanced ways. Ranging from Hollywood movies and prime-time dramas to reality programming and the local news, the film examines how media violence forms a pervasive cultural environment that cultivates in heavy viewers, especially, a heightened state of insecurity, exaggerated perceptions of risk and danger, and a fear-driven propensity for hard-line political solutions to social problems.

## Episode 370 (June 9-11)

### Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 63: Join Ashira in Al Walaja Village where the Israeli separation wall is being built and will steal most of the land in the village. Watch the bulldozers at work. Check out the Bedouin Security protecting the constructions. Meet Mahmoud who despite his broken ribs from last week's protest takes Ashira around this village. Enter with Ashira into the Israeli settlement of Har Gilo where she meets Palestinian workers in the settlement and talks to settlers. During the filming sleepless crew was stopped 3 times by the Israeli security and got almost detained. In Gaza, Eman passes by Al Fakhoora School, the school that was bombed by the IOF with white phosphorous bombs. Meet Loay, the eleven year old kid who completely lost his sight when he got hit by a shrapnel of tank shell loaded with white phosphorous during the war on Gaza. Loay refuses to speak about this traumatic event. Join Loay and Eman riding on the donkey, and Loay reading and typing and learning how to use the blind stick.

### Segment 2 -- "Visions of Abolition"

This documentary is designed to expand knowledge about the history of the prison-industrial complex and the prison abolition movement in the United States.

## **Episode 369 (June 2-4)**

### **Segment 1 -- "PSR 2012 Scholarship Essay Contest Finals"**

This year's Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew on April 29 at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from entries submitted by greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, based on the words of the 20th century U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, "We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both." After the finalists read their essays, the authors of the top three essays earned \$3,000, \$2,500 and \$2,000 scholarships, and the other seven each earned a \$1,000 scholarship.

### **Segment 2 -- "Yes He Can! -- Hold Wall Street Accountable"**

California State Attorney General Kamala Harris is standing up against a proposed "sweetheart" deal that would let big banks avoid a full investigation for their role in the housing crisis. Earlier this year, people rallied in Sacramento to ask President Obama to join her and act immediately to investigate. Media Edge producer Michael Stavros was there, and prepared this report.

### **Segment 3 -- "Death and Taxes"**

Twenty-eight people offer their motivations for and methods of resisting the war machine with their tax money. This tightly paced film introduces viewers to war tax refusal and redirecting tax dollars to peace, with music by Sharon Jones and the DapKings, Antibalas, Rude Mechanical Orchestra, and First Strike Theatre's version of "Don't Pay Taxes" by Charlie King.

### **Segment 4 -- "The Poetry of Listening"**

A short documentary featuring Israeli and Palestinian poets and storytellers from Gaza to Tel Aviv.

## **Episode 368 (May 26-28)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 62: Diana visits the South Hebron Hills, where Susiya (an Israeli settlement) is located. Among these hills Diana meets a group of Israelis and foreigners from Ta'ayush Activists. They talk about how the settlers uprooted the Palestinians trees almost three times in the past two weeks. This group joins farmers near the Susiya settlement to harvest their remaining olives after several of their trees were cut down by settlers. Diana joins Ezra, who has been volunteering to help the Palestinians for ten years, on a tour and explains how these settlers have maintained a constant flow of economic destruction, violence, and harassment against the local Palestinians there while consistently trying to illegally expand and confiscate privately-owned land. When the farmers complain to the Israeli security forces who are in charge of the area, they do nothing, and refuse to interfere when they see Israeli settlers trespassing on Palestinian land. Ezra explains to Diana about how six years ago the residents of Khirbet Jawawis had to flee after successive harassments of settlers that later took their homes and caves. Listen to how Ezra and his group took legal actions against the settlers, and to what Ezra and Diana had to tell Jacob Talia, a settler whom the Israelis gave a piece of land that belongs to the Palestinians. In Gaza, Farah joins her friend Ban who works in a Cancer Aid Institute on a field visit. They visit a cancer patient who lives in a place where no human being can live.

### **Segment 2 -- "The Story of Stuff"**

With over 12 million on-line views, "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.

### **Segment 3 -- "An Evening of Music and Comedy: Dave Lippman"**

See satirical songwriter and comedian Dave Lippman's "viciously funny" show, performed at the California Stage in Sacramento. A Media Edge crew was there to record this hilarious performance of "Wild Bill Bailout, the Bard of the Bankers." Audiences have enjoyed the post-corporate comic stylings of Lippman, an anti-war troubadour who afflicts the complacent, takes the air out of the windbags of the week, de-distorts history, and updates worn-out songs with parody and thrust.

## **Episode 367 (May 19-21)**

### **Segment 1 -- "From a Silk Cocoon"**

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

### **Segment 2 -- "Tax Dollars at War"**

An excellent animated video, based on a radio interview about US military spending as a proportion of our national budget.

### **Segment 3 -- "The School of the Americas"**

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, about the notorious US military academy at Fort Benning, Georgia and a major protest there in 2005. Graduates of this school have perpetrated many of the worst human rights violations in recent Latin American history.

## **Episode 366 (May 12-14)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 61: Join Ashira and Yara for Friday prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. They get dressed in prayer dresses before entering the holy site. The women pray at the Dome of the Rock, and the men at Al Aqsa. After the prayer, learn about the significance of these sites to Muslims worldwide. On the way out, Ashira and Yara run into a demonstration against the occupation.

### **Segment 2 -- "Eyewitness Gaza"**

The aim of this movie is to show an accurate view of current life in Gaza, with necessary historical and political context to help an audience understand the unique position Gazans are in: under siege, trapped, constantly threatened by attacks from Israel and their own political factions, with little awareness or concern by a larger world. The central theme is youth, from infancy to young adulthood. How do people survive siege while marginalized by the world community? We explore this question in the context of the Arab Spring—the uprisings beginning in Tunisia in late 2010, including events in Palestine such as the Gaza Youth Break Out movement and recent manifestations of violent and nonviolent transformation. One central image or story is that of the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) very successful youth program, Popular Achievement.

### **Segment 3 -- "Baghdad Days"**

Hiba Bassem, a young woman from Kirkuk, returns to Baghdad after the war, to finish her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts. The film is a diary of her year as she tries to find a place to live, looks for work, graduates from college, deals with family problems and struggles to come to terms with her position as a woman on her own. This film won a New Horizon silver award at the Al Jazeera International Film Festival in Doha (2006) and a golden award at the Rotterdam Arab Film Festival (2006).

### **Segment 4 -- "Yes We Can, Can"**

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

## Episode 365 (May 5-7)

### Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 60: If you are in the door of your house, you are in the West Bank. A step outside the door, you are in Jerusalem; an illegal infiltrator that will be arrested! Join Ashira in Anata where Sami, his family and his house are West Bankers by the decision of Israel and by the same decision the only entrance to their home is in Jerusalem. They are legal as long as they remain at home and don't take a step outside. See how often Sami and his kid who is neither a West Banker nor a Jerusalemite and holds no ID infiltrate Jerusalem during this film. Down the road, Ashira gets a white rose from a kid who shows you how the Wall of Separation has stolen their land and check out the contrast between Shufat Refugee Camp on one hill and Besgat Ze'ev Settlement on another. Do you need an embroidered purse? Muneera's purses could be what you are looking for -- if you are in Gaza. Meet the hearing and speech impaired 17-year-old Muneera who gets \$100 a month for her embroidery. Muneera teaches you some basic sign language: Mother, Father, Brothers & Tree. Now you are set. When we get to Al Mustaqbal Association (The Future) we discover that Muneera is a teacher of embroidery.

### Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

"We are revitalizing an ancient form of transportation ... using just the power of the wind and the tides ... to move goods and people," says skipper Fulvio Casali. In their CSA (community supported agriculture), the Salish Sea Trading Cooperative uses nearly no petroleum to transport organic produce and other goods from the north Olympic Peninsula to northwest Seattle. By sea they use community volunteer sailboats, and by land an electric delivery truck. Come on board with cofounders Casali, Kathy Pelish, and Alex Tokar, who are patiently redeveloping the skills and infrastructure for the return of "a whole fleet of sailboats blanketing Puget Sound" in the post-petroleum era.

### Segment 3 -- "PSR 8th Annual Dinner: Dr. Victor Sidel"

Dr. Victor Sidel was the keynote speaker at the 8th Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility on October 2, 2011. The title of his presentation was "PSR: Fifty Years of Concern for the Devastating Health Consequences of War". Dr. Sidel inspired the 170 people who attended the event as he spoke about the health effects of war, his work for nuclear disarmament, and the 50-year history of Physicians of Social Responsibility. He encouraged everyone to continue their work for peace and justice.

### Segment 4 -- "SHADA"

A photographic journey with Haiti's Forgotten Children by Sacramento area photographer and activist Leisa Faulkner.

### Segment 5 -- "Other Voices"

Alternative voices emerge in Israel and Palestine that bypass hatred and engage in direct peace-making activities -- like rebuilding a demolished Palestinian home in a refugee camp.

## Episode 364 (April 28-30)

### Segment 1 -- "An Evening With Amy Goodman"

On January 13, 2012, Amy Goodman spoke to a capacity crowd of about 500 people at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento. She discussed the winds of change blowing across the globe, from Tahrir in Egypt to the Occupy Movement throughout the United States. Amy Goodman is a progressive broadcast journalist, syndicated columnist, investigative reporter and author. She is the principal host of Democracy Now!, an independent global news program broadcast daily on radio, television and the Internet. After graduating from Harvard in 1984 with a degree in anthropology, she spent 10 years as producer of the evening news show at WBAI, Pacifica Radio's station in New York City. Democracy Now!, which began in 1996, now airs on more than 225 stations across North America. Goodman has received dozens of awards for her work, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and the George Polk Award.

### **Segment 2 -- "It Takes a Village"**

After being devastated by a cyclone in 1991, the community of Chakaria in Bangladesh tries a new approach to community health care.

## **Episode 363 (April 21-23)**

### **Segment 1 -- "An Evening With Naomi Tutu"**

Naomi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, spoke in Sacramento in March at an event recorded by Media Edge. Tutu was educated in Swaziland, the US and England, and has divided her adult life between South Africa and the US. She has served as a development consultant in West Africa and a program coordinator for programs on Race and Gender and Gender-Based Violence in Education at the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. She has also taught at the Universities of Hartford and Connecticut and Brevard College. The challenges of growing black and female in apartheid South Africa has led to her present avocation as an activist for human rights. Those experiences taught how much we all lose when any of us is judged purely on physical attributes. During her Sacramento appearance, she blended her passion for human dignity with humor and personal stories.

### **Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"**

"We're a conduit and a packager of important cutting edge material that people need to do the work that they're engaged in." Judith Plant and the New Society Publishers team are social change agents bringing emerging ideas and authors to the forefront. They converse about the need for women's voices in social change; rootedness in place, and how their boots-on-the-ground, solution-oriented books are antidotes to fear. They deliberately go out to talk to their readers. Hearing what they want, then search for authors to address topics readers are asking for.

### **Segment 3 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 59: The Samaritan's Passover "is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when He struck the Egyptians but spared our houses," a Samaritan explains. Lambs will be sacrificed and roasted in the pits on Mount Gerizim. The sheep must be healthy and of a year in age and of the best. Samaritan youths wear special attire for this task. Their clothing is entirely of white: a white gown, white trousers, and a white girdle. Why? The altar is in a long ditch, not too deep, built of plain stone. Two hours before the sacrifice a fire is kindled beneath the pots. Within this oven they place wood and straw and light it. And then the sheep are rapidly stretched out upon the altar and slaughtered. They then take some of the blood of the sacrifices and smear it on the lintels of their dwellings and the brows of their children, the sheep are then placed on sharp-edged wooden poles which pierce them lengthwise, and then carried by the youths to the oven, which is by now red-hot. Who can and cannot eat of the meat and what are the rules and regulations according to Samaritan traditions? This Special Edition is dedicated to this event.

### **Segment 4 -- "Omar Is My Friend"**

A student at Baghdad University works as a taxi driver to support his wife and four daughters. As he negotiates his clapped out taxi around checkpoints, tanks and traffic jams, he talks about work, lack of petrol, electricity, having daughters in a male-dominated society, his personal aspirations and those of his society.

## **Episode 362 (April 14-16)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 58: Get down underground on a tour of the tunnels that run under the old town of Jerusalem where Israel takes groups of tourists to push its version of history. Despite the fact that no real proof has been found of the existence of Solomon's Temple, the Temple Mount, see a mock dummy of the temple placed in the tunnel and used by tour guides to push assumptions about where it used to be. We will take you all the way to where The Islamic Waqf (keepers of Al Aqsa Mosque Compound that includes the Dome of the Rock) has blocked Israeli excavations to protect the Holy Site from damage. They managed to do so after riots broke out in 1996 in which 90 Palestinians were killed in what became known as the "Tunnels Intifada"; the result of Israel's attempt to dig under the Aqsa compound. Soon after going into the tunnels, and after hearing what was being said, the Israeli

security prohibits the Sleepless Crew from using professional cameras and Ashira from talking! The crew then used a tourist video camera and completed the job in low resolution; Ashira never stopped talking! Please excuse the quality of video after we switch to an amateur camera.

### **Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"**

From their "Zero Mile Meal Eatery" to zoning and financing innovations, O.U.R. Ecovillage in BC, Canada has paved the way for many communities worldwide. For Brandy Gallagher, the story on the planet right now could be a shared ethos of caring: "Everyone is fed. Everyone is taken care of." Asserting that "No is just an uneducated Yes," Brandy shows how a village mindset can transform individuals, preserve land, reduce resource use, apply permaculture principles, change laws, and even the way money works.

### **Segment 3 -- "Getting Out"**

This documentary shows the impact that the Rehabilitation Through the Arts program has had on former prisoners trying to reestablish their lives. Filmed inside the walls of the notorious "Sing Sing" prison in New York, this video documents the 15-year incarceration and subsequent release of two inmates. It also highlights the difficulties many former prisoners experience trying to reestablish life outside of prison walls. This documentary was created by David Bagnall and George Stoney. Known as "the father of public access" by video activists across the US, the 95-year-old Stoney is also known for his other documentaries, including "All My Babies" in 1953 (which was recently inducted into the National Film Registry) and "The Weavers: Wasn't That a Time."

## **Episode 361 (April 7-9)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Tax Dollars at War"**

An excellent animated video, based on a radio interview about US military spending as a proportion of our national budget.

### **Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"**

Undriving -- Changing the Way We Think. Be the first in your group to get your Undriver License -- it's great fun! You pledge to reduce automobile use -- yours or others'. Seattle founder Julia Field's creative project is sparking imaginations and creativity by changing how people think about getting around -- be it skateboards, sailboats, or just plain skipping the trip! Undrivers of all ages are jumping on the bandwagon, changing assumptions, and telling their empowered stories.

### **Segment 3 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 57: A conference on what Israel is doing in Jerusalem and what to do about it is held at Al Quds University in Abu Deis. Ashira and Yara talk to Ahmed Qurei in charge of the Jerusalem file at the PLO, Ahmad Ruweidi in charge of the Jerusalem unit at the Presidency and Sari Nusseibeh, President of Al Quds University who tells the girls that his university was the first to protest against the wall and has managed to divert it away from its original path.

In Gaza, Eman shows you the Beach Refugee Camp through its narrow streets, dense population and takes you inside a home to show what the camp is like for its residents. A comprehensive tour -- including the panoramic view from the rooftop.

### **Segment 4 -- "Break the Siege on Gaza"**

Although the war on Gaza ended, its residents continue to suffer the aftermaths and ongoing siege. Member of the British Parliament George Galloway was in Gaza, and shared his experience and thoughts with a large Sacramento audience. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

### **Segment 5 -- "Hiwar"**

Iraqi artists and writers wanted a cultural centre in Baghdad for years. After the war with Iran, the 1991 Gulf War and ongoing sanctions, they could not wait for peace. So the Hiwar Centre was opened in 1992.

## **Episode 360 (March 31 - April 2)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 56: Jacob & Genevieve Rock fled the village of Ein Karem, next to Jerusalem, in 1948 when the militant Jewish groups started bombarding it. They ended up a mere few kilometers away in Bethlehem. Rock, who has a permit to enter Jerusalem, took Ala to show her his grandpa's house from his father's side and then from his mother's side. Meet the Israeli who remembers the Rocks because "she grew me up!" The abandoned mosque above The Virgin Mary's Fountain remains, next to the Monastery just like it was before this village was occupied and its inhabitants dispossessed. In Gaza: Fancy a smoke? Hamas just imposed a new tax on tobacco in Gaza and Nagham is on wanting to write a report on the outcome of the new tax. Mohammed used to smoke 5 Shishas a day when it used to cost 5 shekels at a cafe. Now that it ranges between 7 and 12 Shekels, he cut down to two or three Shishas a day.

### **Segment 2 -- "Not Just a Game"**

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

### **Segment 3 -- "Fighting For Our Homes"**

Millions of people are at risk of losing their homes because Wall Street abandoned responsible lending practices to gain short-term profits. As this Brave New Foundation documentary reveals, the housing crisis is not just a problem for families facing foreclosure - it's a problem for every homeowner in America. As long as foreclosures persist, home values will keep going down, and everyone loses.

## **Episode 359 (March 24-26)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Grounds for Resistance"**

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

### **Segment 2 -- "Jerusalem...The East Side Story"**

A feature-length documentary about Israel's policy to gain supremacy over the City of Jerusalem and its inhabitants. It also touches on the future of the city: Jerusalem is the key to peace; without Jerusalem, there is no peace.

## **Episode 358 (March 17-19)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 55: Join Ashira and Cultureshoc, Palestine's first Rock Rap Band, at Qalandia Checkpoint -- not for a concert but on a mission to bring some joy to the kids who work at the checkpoint to get a living. Meet the faces that you brush off on the checkpoint, hear their stories, and what they dream to become one day. See the joy on their faces when they go to a park for the first time in their lives. Can you imagine that these days there are children that have never seen a hamburger before? Listen to Cultureshoc's song dedicated to these children. Eman celebrates the birthday of her brother Ahmad with her family. Know more about Eman's parents, brothers and sisters, and see the yummy-looking dishes on the table, and the pastry baked by Eman's mother right next to the chocolate cake she bought for her brother. Also enjoy a recipe of a delicious dessert made by Rana, Eman's sister. If you suffer from a toothache, get the best advice about that from Eman's father (a dentist). Finally, see what Eman bought Ahmad on his birthday.

### **Segment 2 -- "PSR 2011 Scholarship Essay Contest Finals"**

Last year's Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from entries submitted by greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to a quote from President Dwight Eisenhower: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." After the finalists read their essays, the authors of the top three essays earned \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, and the other six each earned a \$750 scholarship.

### **Segment 3 -- "Leaving Out the Inner City"**

What different neighborhoods are like, how they got the way they are, and what we can do to create equality.

## **Episode 357 (March 10-12)**

### **Segment 1 -- "This Land Is Our Land"**

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

### **Segment 2 -- "Returning Fire"**

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

### **Segment 3 -- "Leaving"**

Threatened with kidnap and facing escalating and horrific violence in their neighborhood, a Mandaean family from Baghdad reaches the difficult decision to leave their home of more than 30 years and go to live in Damascus. The film documents the painful process of selling all their goods and dividing up their house so it can be rented out and finally it records their dangerous road trip to the Syrian border and their arrival to their new, temporary home.

## **Episode 356 (March 3-5)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 54: Join Eman and Nagham in their tour to a number of the most famous archaeological sites in the Gaza Strip. Accompanied by a tour guide, they visited Tal Zo'rob in Rafah where excavations are carried out, it is a hill located in the highest area in the Gaza Strip...See what they found there! Saint Hilarion Monastery is another important site they toured which has a great Christian significance, it dates back to 232 A.D. Saint Hilarion was the one who spread Christianity in Egypt. Check out the ruins left in the site in addition to the stories told about Saint Hilarion's life and the Monastery's function in history.

### **Segment 2 -- "Eyewitness Gaza"**

The aim of this movie is to show an accurate view of current life in Gaza, with necessary historical and political context to help an audience understand the unique position Gazans are in: under siege, trapped, constantly threatened by attacks from Israel and their own political factions, with little awareness or concern by a larger world. The central theme is youth, from infancy to young adulthood. How do people survive siege while marginalized by the world community? We explore this question in the context of the Arab Spring—the uprisings beginning in Tunisia in late 2010, including events in Palestine such as the Gaza Youth Break Out movement and recent manifestations of violent and nonviolent transformation. One central image or story is that of the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) very successful youth program, Popular Achievement.

### **Segment 3 -- "Eating Mercifully"**

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

### **Segment 4 -- "HAITI: The Untold Story"**

Since the Haitian earthquake, much attention has been given to humanitarian relief efforts, however, nobody seems to want to talk about Haiti's history and how it became the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Media Edge producer, Michael Stavros tells the Untold Story.

## **Episode 355 (February 25-27)**

### **Segment 1 -- "PSR 8th Annual Dinner: Dr. Victor Sidel"**

Dr. Victor Sidel was the keynote speaker at the 8th Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility on October 2, 2011. The title of his presentation was "PSR: Fifty Years of Concern for the Devastating Health Consequences of War". Dr. Sidel inspired the 170 people who attended the event as he spoke about the health effects of war, his work for nuclear disarmament, and the 50-year history of Physicians of Social Responsibility. He encouraged everyone to continue their work for peace and justice.

### **Segment 2 -- "Steadfastness"**

Democracy Now! reporter Ana Nogueira traveled to Lebanon during and after the 2006 war. Her reports document Israeli's massive use of cluster bombs, the immense ecological destruction and the war's toll of civilian casualties.

### **Segment 3 -- "The Story of Stuff"**

With over 12 million on-line views, "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.

### **Segment 4 -- "Yes He Can! -- Hold Wall Street Accountable"**

California State Attorney General Kamela Harris is standing up against a proposed "sweetheart" deal that would let big banks avoid a full investigation for their role in the housing crisis. On January 19, people rallied in Sacramento to ask President Obama to join her and act immediately to investigate. Media Edge producer Michael Stavros was there, and prepared this report.

## **Episode 354 (February 18-20)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 53: A previous episode of "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem" featured the film "Murder in an Israeli Prison." The exclusive footage of the film was used by Al Arabiya, CNN and Reuters just transmitted it to 600 television stations worldwide. Since then, we have been wondering what is taking officialdom so long to declare the reason of death. Ashira goes today to the Press conference that makes it official. Raed was killed with a blow to his spine causing damage to his spinal cord and internal bleeding. Asma wrote a book about Gazan woman in war and Naghah wanted to bring life to one of the stories, so Asma takes her to see Nawal and her family; victims of Israel's attacks on the civilians of Gaza in January 2009. Israel called it Operation Cast Lead; most of the world called it a Heinous Crime. How did Nawal have her baby in the middle of the attacks?

### **Segment 2 -- "Occupation 101"**

An award-winning, thought-provoking and powerful documentary film on the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The film presents a comprehensive analysis of the facts and hidden truths surrounding the never ending controversy and dispels many of its long-perceived myths and misconceptions. It also details life under Israeli military rule, the role of the United States in the conflict, and the major obstacles that stand in the way of a lasting and viable peace. The roots of the conflict are explained through first-hand on-the-ground experiences from leading Middle East scholars, peace activists, journalists, religious leaders and humanitarian workers.

## **Episode 353 (February 11-13)**

### **Segment 1 -- "An Evening with Amy Goodman"**

On January 13, 2012, Amy Goodman spoke to a capacity crowd of about 500 people at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento. She discussed the winds of change blowing across the globe, from Tahrir in Egypt to the Occupy Movement throughout the United States. Amy Goodman is a progressive broadcast journalist, syndicated columnist, investigative reporter and author. She is the principal host of Democracy Now!, an independent global news program broadcast daily on radio, television and the Internet. After graduating from Harvard in 1984 with a degree in anthropology, she spent 10 years as producer of the evening news show at WBAI, Pacifica Radio's station in New York City. Democracy Now!, which began in 1996, now airs on more than 225 stations across North America. Goodman has received dozens of awards for her work, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and the George Polk Award, as well as the 2008 Right Livelihood Award.

### **Segment 2 -- "Yes He Can! -- Hold Wall Street Accountable"**

California State Attorney General Kamela Harris is standing up against a proposed "sweetheart" deal that would let big banks avoid a full investigation for their role in the housing crisis. On January 19, people rallied in Sacramento to ask President Obama to join her and act immediately to investigate. Media Edge producer Michael Stavros was there, and prepared this report.

### **Segment 3 -- "Documentary Film Course"**

Ahmed Kamal documents the lives of his fellow students at the Independent Film & Television College in Baghdad as they try to get into classes, find the subjects for the films they want to make and deal with the difficulties of trying to film in Iraq at the moment. In the end the college has to close down when two people are abducted from the building and an explosion in the street below shatters all its windows.

### **Segment 4 -- "Guerrilla Warfare in the Information Age"**

Robert Sterling breaks down the nature of info-war.

## **Episode 352 (February 4-6)**

### **Segment 1 -- "The Hollywood Librarian"**

Using the context of American movies, this film holds surprises for people who think they know what librarians do. American film contains hundreds of examples of librarians and libraries on screen -- some positive, some negative, some laughable and some dead wrong. Dozens of interviews of real librarians are interwoven with movie clips of cinematic librarians and serve as transitions between the themes of censorship, intellectual freedom, children and librarians, pay equity and funding issues, and the value of reading.

### **Segment 2 -- "Wild Versus Wall"**

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

## **Episode 351 (January 28-30)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 51: Ashira joins her friend Bakriyeh on a tour to the Palestinian villages that were displaced in order to drive the Palestinians out of their homes and make way for Jewish immigrants in 1948. Today marks Israel's Independence Day, which is known to Palestinians as the Catastrophe; when the Palestine lost their country and Israel came to being. Why did Fidaa leave Spain and come back home? Why doesn't she believe in dialogue anymore? Listen to Sari on how neighbor turned on neighbor. What is the story of Abed who was born in Miska. Listen to what Sheikh Raed Salah has to say on the right of return. What happened at the village of Miska? Where are its people now? In Gaza, Eman pays a visit to her friend Umm Walid who lives in Beit Lahia. Meet the Palestinian farmer's women who harvest the land along with their husbands. The farms can't afford to hire workers so man and woman put hand in hand to make ends meet. Join Eman to help Hend pick her Zucchini's and listen to the farmers tell you about their experience being so close to the borders with Israel. Day 52: Diana is in Belin for the 5th Annual Popular Resistance Conference where locals and Internationals gather to coordinate and plan non-violent action against the occupation. Listen to what some participants have to say. Nagham in Gaza reads the writing on the wall, any wall, everywhere and about everything. Check out the Gazan communications machine. You can use it to make a political stance, express yourself, or place an ad.

### **Segment 2 -- "Grounds for Resistance"**

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

### **Segment 3 -- "Make a Better World"**

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

## **Episode 350 (January 21-23)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"**

This turbulent, troubled global economy is precisely what author Chris Martenson predicted in early 2010. He asserts that we can no longer look at the economy without factoring in the terminal decline of its master resource: oil. Martenson believes that, as "the generation that gets to deal with hitting up to resource limits," we first need a new cultural story to inspire appropriate action.

### **Segment 2 -- "Daniel Ellsberg, PhD"**

Daniel Ellsberg is a former United States military analyst who, while employed by the RAND Corporation, precipitated a national political controversy in 1971 when he released the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making in relation to the Vietnam War, to The New York Times and other newspapers. Ellsberg spoke in Sacramento on September 9, 2011 about secrets, lies and ethics from the Viet Nam era through today's WikiLeaks publications. His presentation was recorded by Media Edge.

### **Segment 3 -- "SHADA"**

A photographic journey with Haiti's Forgotten Children by Sacramento area photographer and activist Leisa Faulkner.

## **Episode 349 (January 14-16)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"**

Day 50: Join Yara in Aroura as she reports for Ajyal Radio station on the largest Musakhan dish (Palestine's National Dish) trying to break the Guinness Book of World Records. While talking to Ribhi on how Israel claims Palestinian dishes as their own, Yara discovers that he is the brother of Mashour Arouri who was killed 34 years ago and his body is still not delivered to his parents. At her request, he takes her to his parent's home to meet them. Mashour's parents only wish to bury their son in his village. Who is Mashour Arouri? Mashour's mom shows us her son's clothes that she has kept in place since his death.

In Gaza, Eman goes to the Corner Market (Souk Al Zawiya); a historical landmark, to buy groceries. People from all around the Gaza strip come to the Phoenix square. What does it symbolize? Check out the rich souk, and listen to Abu Ahmad, a cart merchant, singing about his goods and customers. Take a look at one of the oldest mosques in Gaza boasting several domes: Al Omari Mosque.

### **Segment 2 -- "The 800 Mile Wall"**

The 800 Mile Wall highlights the construction of the new 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 348 (January 7-9)

### Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"I have a ball preserving food with my friends!" And at the same time, author Kathy Harrison is making sure her kids can eat if storms knock out power or roads. She gives practical tips on storing food without getting overwhelmed. She looks at dehydrating, canning, and root cellaring; finding and preserving local food, and buying food at discount. For Kathy, preparedness is an empowering, community activity.

### Segment 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 49: Diana and Ashira are adamant to find out the truth about Raed Abu Hamad's death while in solitary confinement at Beersheba Prison. Diana heads to Raed's home and Ashira heads to the Israeli Forensic center where the autopsy is performed. Why did the parents and the PA's Ministry of Prisoners send a Palestinian doctor and lawyer to monitor the autopsy? So was it a suicide like the Israeli Prison Authorities claimed? What did the lawyer have to say? The Israeli ambulance takes the body of Raed close to his hometown where he is moved to a Palestinian ambulance. Why is the forensic doctor checking Raed's body again? After five years away, arriving in an Israeli black bag is not the way to return back home, so his brothers wrap him in a Palestinian flag. Join Ashira in the ambulance till they reach home where Diana and the family await. How is Raed received at home? The girls stay with him through the farewells at home, a procession of thousands that takes him to the cemetery, last prayers and until he is buried.

### Segment 3 -- "Death and Taxes"

Twenty-eight people offer their motivations for and methods of resisting the war machine with their tax money. This tightly paced film introduces viewers to war tax refusal and redirecting tax dollars to peace, with music by Sharon Jones and the DapKings, Antibalas, Rude Mechanical Orchestra, and First Strike Theatre's version of "Don't Pay Taxes" by Charlie King.

### Segment 4 -- "I Won't Drown on that Levee and You Ain't Gonna Break My Back"

After Hurricane Katrina, there was a botched evacuation of the Orleans Parish Prison, and racial tension and brutality that divided the population into survivors and looters along lines of race and class.

## Episode 347 (January 1-2)

### Segment 1 -- "A Community Debate -- Achieving a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine: Is the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) Campaign a Help or Hindrance?"

Recorded in Davis, California in 2010 by a Media Edge crew, this debate was sponsored by the Davis Peace Coalition and features:

- (1) Omar Barghouti, an independent Palestinian researcher, commentator, human rights activist, founding member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) and of the Palestinian Civil Society Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. Barghouti holds bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Columbia University, NY.
- (2) Zeev Maoz, a UC Davis professor of political science, and director of the International Relations Program. Maoz is a scholar of Middle East politics and an expert on the Israeli security establishment. He serves as a distinguished fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, and is a past director of academic programs at Tel Aviv University, the University of Haifa and the Israeli Defense Forces' National Defense College.

### Segment 2 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"

Thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by sectarian violence and have had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced person's camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice, trying to find a way to survive and provide for his family in the difficult circumstances in which they now find themselves.