

## Public Interest Report

*April 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016*

### ARTS:

#### **Bringing Musical Theater Center Stage**

6/8/2016      1:00 PM      49 minutes

"Hamilton," the wildly popular musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda, will likely win several Tony Awards this weekend for changing the form of musical theater from what most of us perceive it to be. He uses rap lyrics that challenge what we think we know about the founding of our nation.

A lot of us were first exposed to musical theater with teachers or parents who love the traditions of musical theater: soaring show tunes, a little camp, lots of sentimentality, and actors who break into song during an otherwise serious moment. Big soaring productions like "Showboat" and "Phantom of the Opera" are beloved classics that we want to stay.

But there's room for a fresh infusion of ideas that experiment with traditional forms of music and set and costuming and narrative that may resonate more deeply with today's America.

### POLITICS:

#### **The Wheelhouse: Profiles in Courage, Budgets, and Politicians**

4/6/2016      9:00 AM      49 minutes

This week, Governor Dannel Malloy was announced as the winner of the 2016 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for his response to the Syrian refugee crisis. It adds to Malloy's national popularity, despite the political struggles in Hartford.

### ENVIRONMENT:

#### **The Birds and Bees of Pollination**

5/27/2016      9:00 AM      49 minutes

If you're allergic to it, you might be cursing pollen in between sneezes right now. But the process of pollination is essential to plant, animal, and human life. All sorts of insects and animals can be pollinators including bats, bees, moths, butterflies, birds, and even lemurs! This hour, we take a deep dive into the world of pollination, the animals that make it happen, and the plants that benefit.

Also, a new study of Monarch butterflies populations questions the perception that a lack of milkweed is to blame. If that's the case, what is impacting this iconic butterfly?

## HEALTH:

### **Health Equity: Gail Christopher on Why Place Matters**

5/9/2016 9:00 AM 49 minutes

Dr. Gail Christopher has been a crusader for better health outcomes in America, championing an idea that “place matters,” finding that the way people live in some communities puts them at a much higher risk for disease.

We sit down to talk to her about her ideas for a healthier America. It's part of our Health Equity and Access Reporting project, in partnership with the Connecticut Health Foundation.

## GOVERNMENT:

### ***Where We Live: Is There a Better Way to Vote?***

4/26/2016 9:00 AM 49 minutes

As presidential candidates crisscross the United States, they have to learn how to win in open primaries, closed primaries, and caucuses. If they want their party's nomination, they need support from average voters and the more high-profile superdelegates. Candidates also must navigate the unique and varying rules of each state's contest. We haven't even gotten to the general election and the electoral college rules!

There has to be a better system, right? This hour, we ponder what that better system might look like. Maybe a nationwide standard for federal primaries? Maybe Iowa and New Hampshire shouldn't always be the first states to vote in the nation?

## HISTORY:

### ***Benedict Arnold: Unscrupulous Traitor or Unsung Hero?***

6/16/2016 1:00 PM 49 minutes

When you "pull a Benedict Arnold," you sell out your side to join the stronger side of a situation out of fear, not honor. Needless to say, that's not a compliment.

More than 230 years after America secured independence from Britain, this skilled warrior and confidante of George Washington is remembered as a traitor and coward for defecting to the British side. But it's not that easy.

The Revolution was a chaotic time. Some say America was in its first Civil War, when dangers greater than the British threatened our fledgling government. Congress was in constant battle with the military and feelings ran high over whether power should reside in the states or the federal government.

And it took a toll on the men who fought this bloody and protracted war. Leadership was often ineffective, greed was rampant, and militias fought without pay, few provisions, and little training.

Family farms were looted and destroyed, the economy collapsed, and the Native Americans usually fought for the British.

Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country, fighting against friends and former comrades. He was impetuous and quick to anger. He also fought valiantly for the Revolution, often turning the tide toward America in decisive battles. Yet, he got little respect, less pay, and was a target of a politicized Congress.

#### SCIENCE/TECH:

##### ***Sea Change: Transforming Attitudes and Ethics Towards Marine Life***

6/15/2016 1:00 PM 49 minutes

Animal rights have come a long way over the last century, providing, of course, we're not talking about fish. While other vertebrates have slowly been recognized as social, feeling, even sentient beings, fish remain good for three things: owning, catching and eating.

But recent scientific discoveries are starting to change the way fish are regarded: Some recognize human faces, use tools, care for their young, and even like to be pet. This hour, we talk about the surprising new research on fish and hear why we ought to change our attitudes towards, as author Jonathan Balcombe puts it, "our underwater cousins."

#### EDUCATION:

##### ***For Special Education Services, Laws and Practices Evolve***

5/20/2016 9:00 AM 49 minutes

A few years ago, a public outcry forced schools to re-examine their use of seclusion and restraints among students. This hour, we have a conversation with the Office of the Child Advocate about the use of restraints and seclusion in schools. We also hear from a parent of a developmentally disabled student about the challenges she faces in her child's public school education.

#### RACE:

##### ***Beyond Black and White: Asian Americans Discuss Race, Politics, and Stereotyping***

5/17/2016 9:00 AM 49 minutes

America's Asian population is growing faster than any other racial group in the country. According to the White House, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will account for nearly ten percent of all U.S. residents by the year 2050. So why, then, don't we hear more about them in our communities?

This hour: Asians in the news, in politics, and in pop culture. We learn about the challenges and opportunities facing Asian Americans in Connecticut. We also talk to a journalist about the Asian stereotyping that goes on in schools, in workplaces -- and even in Hollywood.