

Quarterly List of WGBH-TV Programming Providing the Most Significant Treatment of Community Issues

WGBH 2

January to March 2018

I. Education/Schools/Youth

Stories from the Stage, L 02/10/18, 11:30pm, 30 min.

“School days: Student tales” – Cecelia Viverios battles a baffling learning disability. Anna Kamens reluctantly welcomes a fourth-grade newcomer who struggles socially. Furquann Syed, teased for his name and Muslim heritage, finds that violent solutions have a down side.

PBS Newshour, N 01/02/18, 6pm, 60 min.

The new tax law’s education-related changes include allowing parents to use up to \$10,000 from their tax-free 529 college savings account to help pay for private or religious schools for any grade. Alyson Klein of Education Week and Anya Kamenetz of NPR explore this and other changes.

Greater Boston, L 03/14/18, 7pm, 30 min.

“Students March To Beacon Hill To Demand Gun Reform On Parkland Anniversary.” Today marked a nationwide school walkout, in which students across the country demonstrated to mark the one month anniversary of the Parkland, Florida shooting that killed 17 people. Here in Massachusetts, many students were not in school because of the snow day, but they gathered at the State House regardless to let their voices be heard. Jim Braude was joined by two of the student organizers — Eloise Botka, a junior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and Laura Luiza Cabral Gouveia, a sophomore at Somerville High.

II. Housing/Urban Development

Greater Boston, L 01/18/18, 7pm, 30 min.

“In Back Bay, Some Say 'No, Thanks' To Natural Gas Pipeline.” Back Bay resident Jackie Royce described the route of a new natural gas pipeline extension that National Grid plans to build through her neighborhood and the South End. "This was not a good idea, to commit us to fossil fuel infrastructure when the city has climate goals, and obviously things are happening around here," Royce said. That's a reference to the intense winter storm that hit Boston earlier this month. At the Massachusetts Sierra Club, that

same storm was the first thing chapter director Emily Norton cited to explain her belief that expanding Boston's natural-gas infrastructure is a mistake. While the opponents have been vocal, some in the neighborhood believe the city made the right call. A spokeswoman for Boston Mayor Marty Walsh reiterated the city's commitment to its climate-change goals, and said a new initiative will allow more input on the energy building's use. But she declined to say whether Walsh backs the pipeline extension.

PBS Newshour, N 02/15/18, 6pm, 60 min

Ten years since the economic recession, lending has returned for many Americans. Yet the gap between white and black homeownership is wider now than it was in 1960, with signs of modern-day redlining showing up across the country. Special correspondent Aaron Glantz reports as part of a year-long investigation by Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting.

Greater Boston, L 02/13/18, 7pm, 30 min.

President Donald Trump has unveiled his long-awaited infrastructure plan which proposes turning \$200 billion in federal dollars into at least \$1.5 trillion by leveraging local and state money, plus funds from the private sector, to invest in infrastructure projects. The plan would also streamline the permitting process for federal projects. Rebuilding the country's roads and bridges was always viewed as an issue Democrats could get behind, but it seems they may need some convincing on this plan. Rosabeth Moss Kanter, a Harvard Business School professor and author of "Move: How to Rebuild and Reinvent American's Infrastructure," and Lylah Alphonse, managing news editor at U.S. News and World Report, joined Jim Braude to discuss if there is a way for both parties to get to yes.

III. Public Safety/Crime/Justice

PBS Newshour, N 01/17/18, 6pm, 60 min.

People with developmental disabilities become victims of sexual assault at a rate seven times higher than those without disabilities, according to a Justice Department figured uncovered by a year-long NPR investigation. Judy Woodruff sits down with NPR's Joseph Shapiro and Nancy Thaler from the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs to discuss why the problem has received little attention.

PBS Newshour, N 01/10/18, 6pm, 60 min.

Federal immigration agents showed up at nearly 100 7-11 convenience stores to make arrests and check employee immigration statuses. Officials say it was the largest such operation since President Trump took office last year -- and "the first of many."

PBS Newshour, N 02/21/18, 6pm, 60 min.

As dozens of survivors from the Florida school shooting lobbied the Republican-led Florida legislature for tougher gun control, thousands across the country heeded a call to walk out of classes, massing at Florida's state capitol, as well as the U.S. Capitol and White House, where President Trump held a listening session with shooting survivors and family members. William Brangham reports.

IV. Needs of Special Interest Groups

Independent Lens, N 02/19/18 9pm, 90 min.

“Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities” – A documentary and interactive project that explores the pivotal role historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played in American history, culture, and national identity. Today, over half of all African American professionals are graduates of HBCUs. More than 50% of the nation's African American public school teachers and 70% of African American dentists earned degrees at HBCUs. The film brings to a broad national audience for the first time the story of HBCUs and the power of higher education to transform lives and advance civil rights and equality in the face of intolerance and injustice.

Jewish Journey, N 03/18/18 8:30pm, 90 min.

“America” – A film that tells the three part story of I) Jewish life in the old country, II) the reasons behind leaving their respective homes and journeying to the US and III) both the establishment of communities and the great accomplishments made in the US.

PBS Newshour, N 01/01/18, 6pm, 60 min.

As of Monday, openly transgender people are allowed to serve in the U.S. military, despite President Donald Trump tweeting last July that he would “not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity.” We take a second look at a report on what the shift in military policy could mean for supporters and critics alike.

V. Employment/Unemployment/Poverty

PBS Newshour, N 01/18/18, 6pm, 60 min.

Unemployment is down, the GDP is growing at over 3 percent, the stock market hits record highs nearly every day and President Trump says it's a function of his policies. Does he deserve the credit? Economics correspondent Paul Solman reports.

Frontline, N 01/17/18, 1am, 60 min.

“Rape on the night shift” – Investigate the abuse of immigrant women working in the janitorial industry. The film examines allegations of abuse across the janitorial industry, and how companies fall short in dealing with the problem.

PBS Newshour, N 02/02/18, 6pm, 60 min.

The job market and the economy are growing stronger and at a healthy pace, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen told PBS NewsHour’s Judy Woodruff Friday as she wrapped up her four-year term on a momentous economic day.

VI. Environment/Ecology

PBS Newshour, N 01/10/18, 6pm, 60 min.

An epic nor'easter, a full moon high tide and a rising sea all conspired to swallow up Boston with an icy cold winter flood. What has been a somewhat rare event is believed in the coming years to become much more common due to the effects of climate change. Science correspondent Miles O’Brien reports on how Boston is preparing and whether it will be sufficient.

Greater Boston, L 03/07/18, 7pm, 30 min.

As Storms Intensify, A Climate-Change Standoff Continues On Beacon Hill. It’s becoming increasingly clear that responding to climate change will require big new solutions — especially in coastal states like Massachusetts, where once-in-a-generation storms suddenly seem to be happening once every few weeks. The challenge, of course, is reaching an agreement on what those solutions should be. On Beacon Hill there’s a long-running legislative standoff over just that. It’s been four months since the Massachusetts Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 2196, which would create a comprehensive state plan to respond to climate change. Now, that bill is sitting in the Ways and Means Committee of the Massachusetts House, awaiting further action.

Aurora - Fire in the Sky, N 01/03/18, 10pm, 60 min.

Examine legends about the origins and meaning of the aurora, the colorful glow that often brightens the night sky in Earth’s polar regions.

VII. Medical and Mental Health/Social Services

Greater Boston, L 01/10/18, 7pm, 30 min.

“Competing Hospitals Join Forces To Close Racial Gap In Breast Cancer Survival Rates.” Patient navigators, hospital workers who help patients overcome obstacles that could get in the way of treatment, are a proven way to make sure at-risk patients get treatment. Boston hospitals all offer some version of this service, but many patients switch hospitals during their care and navigators lose track of them. That’s about to change. Normally competitors, the city’s hospitals are launching a five-year test of cooperation. Patient navigators from Boston Medical Center, Mass General Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Tufts Medical Center, Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute will create a city-wide registry. It’s designed to track 1,100 women at risk of missing breast cancer treatments. The goal is to make sure there’s always a point person helping the patient navigate not just the healthcare system, but also life challenges.

Greater Boston, L 03/21/18, 7pm, 30 min.

After President Donald Trump unveiled his opioid plan in New Hampshire, Attorney General Jeff Sessions released a memo making official one of the president’s more controversial plans: seeking the death penalty for drug dealers. In the same speech, Trump also promised to increase access to drug treatment centers by lifting a current Medicaid limit, said his border wall will help cut down on drug trafficking, and called out Boston’s and Lawrence’s sanctuary city policies for worsening the crisis. Jim Braude was joined by Michael Botticelli, the former White House Drug Czar under Barack Obama now executive director of the Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center, to discuss.

PBS Newshour, N 01/16/18, 6pm, 60 min.

This year's flu outbreak is the most widespread the Centers for Disease Control has ever seen. Doctor visits are climbing and pediatric deaths from the illness are up as well. What makes it so severe? Dr. Amber Robins of Georgetown University joins John Yang to discuss the flu vaccine and other tips for prevention.

VIII. Economy/Business

Greater Boston, L 01/30/18, 7pm, 30 min.

“Considering Massachusetts As A 'Sanctuary State' For Pot.” Massachusetts would become a so-called sanctuary state for marijuana under a new proposal filed on Beacon

Hill, but the idea could be a hard sell for some. In an appearance on Boston Public Radio Monday, Gov. Charlie Baker said that he plans to meet with Lelling next month to discuss the issue of drug enforcement policy. When asked for his opinion on making Massachusetts a “sanctuary state” for marijuana, Baker said he hadn’t seen the legislation yet and noted his concern about a blossoming black market. Massachusetts is one of six states that have legalized recreational and medical marijuana, with retail sales expected to begin in the summer.

PBS Newshour, N 02/12/18, 6pm, 60 min.

Stocks plunged on Friday over fears that the Federal Reserve will accelerate interest rate hikes. The sell-off was driven by news that the economy added a net of 200,000 jobs in January, with wages rising at the fastest pace in more than eight years. Judy Woodruff gets analysis from Liz Ann Sonders, chief investment strategist of Charles Schwab.

Greater Boston, L 03/21/18, 7pm, 30 min.

As Society Becomes Increasingly Cashless, Is Massachusetts Ready?

There is no federal statute mandating that businesses must accept currency. But under Massachusetts law, retail establishments have to take cash. This leaves businesses like restaurants wondering if they qualify as a retail establishment, which is defined as any business that sells either a service or tangible personal property. While many would argue a restaurant provides a service, WGBH legal analyst and Northeastern University law professor Daniel Medwed said this definition could use some clarification. "It may be somewhat ambiguous whether a restaurant qualifies," he said. "I think it’s incumbent upon the Legislature to give us some guidance here so that we all know whether restaurants must abide by these regulations in the era of the cashless economy. It’s up to the Legislature to handle this and create a uniform interpretation of 'retail establishment.'” As a younger generation pays for stuff without ever opening a physical wallet — using apps like Venmo and Apple Pay — it’s easy to see that going cashless is where we are heading. But Attorney General Maura Healey said until banking changes, it’s out of the question here in the Bay State.

IX. Family/Morality/Religion

PBS Newshour, N 01/23/18, 6pm, 60 min.

Pope Francis came under fire during a trip to Chile for defending a bishop accused of directly witnessing and covering up sexual abuse by another church figure, dating back to the 1980s. While the pope apologized for his wording, he stands by the bishop. Lisa Desjardins talks with Anne Barrett Doyle of BishopAccountability.org about what the pontiff’s words mean to victims and other Catholics.

PBS Newshour, N 02/21/18, 6pm, 60 min.

Billy Graham, one of the most significant American evangelical voices and religious leaders of the past century, died Wednesday at the age of 99. Graham carried his message of peace and equality to millions around the world and on TV, while ministering to world leaders and acting as confidant to U.S. presidents. Hari Sreenivasan discusses Graham's legacy with Randall Balmer of Dartmouth College.

Independent Lens, N 01/02/18, 1:30am, 90 min.

"The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin" – Meet the frank and funny creator of the groundbreaking *Tales of the City* and follow his evolution from a conservative son of the Old South to a gay rights pioneer whose work has inspired millions. With Laura Linney, Olympia Dukakis and Ian McKellen.

END REPORT