

WMBR 88.1 FM
QUARTERLY ISSUES & COMMUNITY ASCERTAINMENT
1st QUARTER / January 1 – March 31, 2015

The following is a list, of issues, the management, of WMBR Radio, has determined to be of significant importance, to the citizens of Cambridge and the Greater Boston Area of Massachusetts. Each issue was treated through the station's most significant issue-responsive programming and community activities, during the reporting period.

ARMS CONTROL

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein & David Goodman
TOPIC: Nuclear Disarmament
AIRED: Sunday, January 11th
DURATION: 60 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

We discussed the efforts of the United States to undermine nuclear disarmament. Joe Gerson of the AFSC described the stonewalling he saw at the recent meetings in Vienna and the efforts of the world's smaller states to rein in new moves by the US, Russia, and China for more nuclearized militaries.

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein & David Goodman
GUESTS: Harvey Wasserman/Antinuclear activist
TOPIC: Nuclear Energy
AIRED: Sunday, March 15th
DURATION: 30 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

Mr. Wasserman, who is also an alternative power advocate, discussed conditions regarding nukes and alternative power and noted the rise in thyroid cancers in Japan and high levels of Cesium after Fukushima. He also noted the resistance of power companies to efforts to move to alternatives in the US and elsewhere and noted the risks of certain systems when inappropriately applied, e.g., geothermal in Hawaii.

ART and CULTURE

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein & David Goodman
GUESTS: Mary Curtin/Bread and Puppet Band
TOPIC: Bread and Puppet Theater
AIRED: Sunday, January 18th
DURATION: 20 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

Ms. Curtin talked about the long history of the Bread and Puppet theater. She noted the accessibility of the new B&P show "Captain Boycott" and discussed the up-coming shows.

ECOLOGY

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein & David Goodman
GUESTS: Graham Forbes of Greenpeace
TOPIC: Sustainability of Tuna Fishing
AIRED: Sunday, March 29th
DURATION: 25 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

Mr. Forbes discussed issues of sustainability vis a vis tuna fishing and talked about the species depleting effects of mass fishing and the power of three Asian-based corporations. He also noted the differences between European and US markets for tuna.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein & David Goodman
GUESTS: Dirk Kroijt/Professor Emeritus at Utrecht University
TOPIC: Cuba and Latin America, Past and Present
AIRED: Sunday, October 19th
DURATION: 50 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

We talked with Professor Kroijt about Cuba and Latin America. He argued for the slow and tentative nature of changes in the Cuban economy even after purportedly welcoming entrepreneurship. He also noted the economic nature (masked as politics) of much of the Cuban outmigration today.

HOUSING

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein
GUEST: Grace Ross/Massachusetts Against Predatory Lending (MaAPL)
TOPIC: Foreclosure and Predatory Lending
AIRED: Sunday, January 11th
DURATION: 25 minutes

Ms. Ross of the (MaAPL) discussed the increases in foreclosure in Massachusetts and the turning back of legislation that would have limited owners' rights to fight illegal foreclosures. She noted the role of rental investors in the buying up of properties and the effect this has on whole neighborhoods

INCARCERATION/PRISONS

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein
GUEST: Maya Shenwar
TOPIC: Prisons
AIRED: Sunday, January 18th
DURATION: 40 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

Ms. Shenwar discussed prisons and prison culture and argued in support of a radical shift in prison policy to different forms of social justice and a policy that released the non-violent prisoners who are not guilty of injuring others. She is in favor of a community based policy of rehabilitation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

PROGRAM: What's Left
HOST: Linda Pinkow
GUEST: Jason Friedman and Geoff Carens/Local Labor Activists
TOPIC: Alleged Police Brutality at Harvard Square Protest
AIRED: Friday, January 23rd
DURATION: 25 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

Mr. Freedman and Mr. Carens, were picketing with other union members in front of Insomnia Cookies in Harvard Square last fall, when Freedman was arrested and injured by police and was facing charges.

RACE RELATIONS/DISCRIMINATION

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOST: Marc Stein & David Goodman
TOPIC: Direct Action Shutdown of Interstate 93, in Boston, Massachusetts
AIRED: Sunday, January 18th
DURATION: 25 minutes

Mr. Goodman did a special report on the shutdown of I-93 in the context of the direct action of Black Lives Matter. This noted the response by the state and, through interviews with activists, sought to clarify organization around issues of race.

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOST: Marc Stein & David Goodman
TOPIC: Race and the Martin Luther King, Jr. March, in Boston, Massachusetts
AIRED: Sunday, January 24th
DURATION: 30 minutes

We discussed resistance, based on complex identities and how folks are coming out to challenge the issue of class and race.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOST: Marc Stein & David Goodman
TOPIC: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (T)
AIRED: Sunday, February 8th
DURATION: 35 minutes

Mr. Goodman presented an extensive report on MBTA equipment problems in terms of car reliance on direct current vs. alternating current motors and their relationship to T debt. He pointed to the importance of Debt Swaps in increasing T problems and explained these arcane financial instruments. Goodman also noted the impact of current Governor Baker's cuts on T problems and the potential for continuing and even worsening the situation on the T. We also discussed alternate funding possibilities.

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

PROGRAM: What's Left
HOST: Linda Pinkow
GUEST: Jeremy Thompson/Haley House – Transitional Employment Program
TOPIC: Employment Program for former incarcerated Boston citizens
AIRED: Friday, February 6th
DURATION: 25 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

Mr. Thompson, of Haley House, in Dudley Square, Roxbury, talked about services this program provides. The TEP gives support for men and women transitioning back to the community from incarceration, and teaches a variety of job skills needed in the working world. Its goals are to create stability, strengthen relationships, and encourage positive action.

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOST: Marc Stein and David Goodman
TOPIC: Labor, Civil Rights and Contemporary Social Justice
AIRED: Sunday, March 1st
DURATION: 30 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

We aired a speech by civil rights icon and non-violence theorist James Lawson. Only program and station to do so. Recorded at Harvard Law School by Dave Goodman. Lawson's talk sponsored by AFSCME and Harvard Trade Union Program.

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein & David Goodman
GUESTS: Pat Scanlon/Smedley Butler Brigade/Boston Veterans for Peace
TOPIC: Fairness and Inclusion – Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade
AIRED: Sunday, March 8th
DURATION: 40 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

Mr. Scanlon, the coordinator, of the Butler Brigade of Boston Veterans for Peace, spoke about the efforts to convince the Allied War Vets Council of South Boston and City of Boston administration to allow GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Queer) groups and Peace groups to march in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Controversy over exclusion of groups is more than 20 years old and continues to spark heated debate.

PROGRAM: Radio With A View
HOSTS: Marc Stein & David Goodman
GUESTS: Steve Kurkjian/author
TOPIC: The Isabella Stewart Gardner Robbery
Aired: Sunday, March 29th
DURATION: 60 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

Mr. Kurkjian discussed his new book, "Master Thieves," about the Gardner Museum heist of 1990. He suggested an alternate theory of the robbery from that being presented by the FBI and discussed the manner in which the FBI froze out local and state law enforcement in the case.