

**Quarterly Program Topic Report**  
**WTTW PBS Programming**

**1st Quarter 2024**  
**January, February, March**

**As the program schedule for WTTW-PBS is planned, special consideration is given to a variety of special interests in the Chicagoland area. During January, February, and March, the following issues were covered in a variety of programming.**

American History / Biography

Arts / Culture

Business / Industry / Economy

Crime / Legal Issues / Law Enforcement

Environment / Nature / Natural Disasters

Health / Health Care

American Politics / Government

Science / Technology

War / Veterans / National Security

**The programming listed below represents ongoing series that continually touch upon the previously mentioned topics.**

Amanpour & Company (Weeknights)

American Masters

American Experience

BBC World News & BBC World News America (Weeknights)

Chicago Tonight (Weeknights)

Frontline

Independent Lens

Nature

NOVA

PBS NewsHour (Weeknights)

POV

Pritzker Military Presents

Washington Week (Weekly)

## American History / Biography

### **John Lewis – Get in the Way (120) minutes**

**Aired Monday, January 15, 2024 at 9:00pm**

Follow the journey of civil rights hero, congressman and human rights champion John Lewis. At the Selma March, Lewis came face-to-face with club-wielding troopers and exemplified non-violence. Now 76, he is considered the conscience of Congress.

### **American Masters “How It Feels To Be Free” (120) minutes**

**Aired Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 8:00pm**

Explore the lives and trailblazing careers of iconic African American entertainers Lena Horne, Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Diahann Carroll, Cicely Tyson and Pam Grier, who changed American culture through their films, fashion, music and politics.

### **Chicago Stories “Jane Addams: Together We Rise” (60) minutes**

**Aired Monday, March 11, 2024 at 8:00pm**

Jane Addams was inspired by a settlement house in London’s impoverished East End to create Chicago’s Hull House. Chicago Stories profiles this Nobel Peace Prize-winning activist and the cadre of women who joined her in her quest to enrich the lives of thousands of immigrants. Audio-narrated descriptions of key visual elements are available.

## Arts / Culture

### **Secrets of the Dead – Van Gogh’s Ear (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 9:00pm**

The night when Vincent van Gogh cut his own ear defines his turbulent life and art. Generations have theorized about what really happened on December 23, 1888, in the French town of Arles, but no one has been clear on the details-until now.

### **Gospel “Take the Message Everywhere” (120) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 8:00pm**

In GOSPEL's hour 3, gospel family dynasties dominate the charts while other children of the church use their musical prowess to influence soul music. Black pastors also distinguish their sound with prophetic voices and sermonettes. Gospel's Platinum Age reflected a new generation embracing secular rhythms

to modernize the gospel sound. GOSPEL's hour 4 explores the movement that brought songs about faith to millions at clubs, on cable TV and on urban radio.

**American Masters “Mae West” (90) minutes**

**Aired on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 8:30pm**

Dive into the life and career of groundbreaking writer, performer and subversive star Mae West. Over a career spanning eight decades, she broke boundaries and possessed creative and economic powers unheard of for a female entertainer in the 1930s.

**Business / Industry / Economy**

**Chicago Stories: Candy Capital (60) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, January 29, 2024 at 8:00pm**

At the time of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, the area boasted more than 100 candy companies run by enterprising immigrants whose products included such familiar products as Baby Ruth, Tootsie Roll, Lemonheads, and Juicy Fruit gum. This film explores how the city became known as “the candy capital of the world.” Audio-narrated descriptions of key visual elements are available.

**Chicago Stories: Rise & Fall of the Mail Order Giants (60) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 8:00pm**

In an age before online commerce, two Chicago mail order giants were responsible for making goods and services accessible to all. Chicago Stories traces the histories of Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward, and explores how they influenced the multitudes of retailers who came after them. Audio-narrated descriptions of key visual elements are available.

**American Experience “Riveted: The History of Jeans” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 8:00pm**

Discover the fascinating story of this iconic American garment. From their roots in slavery to the Wild West, hippies, high fashion and hip-hop, jeans are the fabric on which the history of American ideology and politics are writ large.

## **Crime / Legal Issues / Law Enforcement**

**PBS NewsHour “Episode 133” (10) minutes (segment)**

**Aired on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6:00pm**

The Jan. 6 investigation is the largest FBI operation in history. More than 1200 people have been charged and over 900 convicted. But it has stretched the bureau’s resources and has often had to rely on the work of citizen investigators who came to be known as 'sedition hunters.' Judy Woodruff spoke with one of these anonymous sleuths as part of her series, America at a Crossroads.

**PBS NewsHour “Episode 162” (9) minutes (segment)**

**Aired on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00pm**

El Salvador’s President Nayib Bukele was re-elected for a second term in a landslide win. Bukele has overseen a vast and brutal crackdown on gangs, transforming the nation from one of the deadliest to one of the safest in Latin America. But that peace has come at a cost with thousands of innocent people jailed. Amna Nawaz and producer Teresa Cebrian Aranda visited the country for this report.

**Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March (60) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 9:00pm**

Explore the fight against Asian American hate following the March 2021 mass shootings at three spas in Atlanta. Examine how this critical moment of racial reckoning sheds light on the struggles, triumphs and achievements of AAPI communities.

## **Environment / Nature / Natural Disasters**

**Nature “Big Little Journeys: Bloodlines” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7:00pm**

In Madagascar, a match-stick sized chameleon goes on an epic journey to find a mate and lay eggs before it's too late. A water vole in the Scottish Highlands swims a lake, climbs a waterfall and scales a mountain to find a place to raise her pups.

### **Nature “Flyways” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 7:00pm**

Shorebirds fly thousands of miles each year along ancient and largely unknown migratory routes called Flyways. Follow conservationists and scientists who are racing against the clock to understand and save these shorebirds.

### **NOVA “Arctic Sinkholes” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 9:00pm**

Scientists investigate colossal explosions in Siberia and other evidence that rapidly melting soil in the Arctic is releasing vast amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. What are the implications for our climate future?

## **Health / Health Care**

### **Secrets of the Dead “Van Gogh’s Ear” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 9:00pm**

The night when Vincent van Gogh cut his own ear defines his turbulent life and art. Generations have theorized about what really happened on December 23, 1888, in the French town of Arles, but no one has been clear on the details-until now.

### **Independent Lens “Sister Una Lived a Good Death” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 10:00pm**

Following a cancer diagnosis, a wisecracking Catholic nun chooses to live as she's dying. In this touching end-of-life documentary, the self-proclaimed "leader of the misfits" plans her funeral in her last nine months to live.

### **The Invisible Shield “The Old Playbook” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 9:00pm**

Discover how public health has doubled life expectancy, but the system is now in jeopardy. When the world has to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, the public health sector revisits the past to create solutions.

## American Politics / Government

### **A Citizen's Guide to Preserving Democracy (60) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 9:00pm**

A Citizen's Guide to Preserving Democracy is based on Dr. Richard Haass' best-selling book "The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens." Through interviews and real-life examples, Hari Sreenivasan and Dr. Haass explore how Americans are working towards strengthening democracy and renewing the spirit of a more informed and engaged citizenry.

### **PBS NewsHour Special Report "State of the Union Address" (120) minutes**

**Aired on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 8:00pm**

Live coverage of President Biden's State of the Union address.

## Science / Technology

### **NOVA "Ultimate Space Telescope" (60) Minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 8:00pm**

Explore the dramatic story of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope-the most ambitious observatory ever launched-through a series of high-stakes milestones, from its conception to completion.

### **NOVA "Easter Island Origins" (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 8:00pm**

The giant stone heads of Easter Island have inspired theories for centuries. Now, new research reveals intriguing evidence of the origins and inspirations of the ancient Rapanui people who created the iconic monoliths.

### **NOVA "AI Revolution" (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 8:00pm**

A.I. tools like ChatGPT seem to think, speak, and create like humans. But what are they really doing? From cancer cures to Terminator-style takeovers, leading experts explore what A.I. can - and can't - do today, and what lies ahead.

## **War / Veterans / National Security**

### **Pritzker Military Presents “Fly Girls Revolt” (60)**

**Aired on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 10:00am**

Stories of trailblazing women who fought for the right to fly in the military with author Col. Eileen A. Bjorkman.

### **Pritzker Military Presents “Ghosts of Honolulu” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 10:00am**

Authors Mark Harmon (NCIS) and Leon Carroll, Jr. (former NCIS Special Agent) discuss their new book on the true story of Douglas Wada, the only Japanese American agent in naval intelligence, and Takeo Yoshikawa, a Japanese spy.