

Issues Programs List
WECI 91.5 Radio Station
April 1 - June 30, 2021
Placed in Public File July 10, 2021

Section I: Issues

WECI has identified the following issues as significant and relevant to the local communities and listening audience:

Climate/Environmental Issues
COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health
Economics
Education/Science
Politics
Social Justice

Section II: Responsive Programming

Issue: Climate/Environmental Issues

Friday, April 23, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 32 minutes

Democracy Now!: Biden Vows to Cut Emissions, But U.S. Continues to Subsidize Fossil Fuels Amid Climate Crisis

The White House convened a virtual summit on the climate crisis this week, with 40 leaders representing the world's major economies pledging cuts to greenhouse gas emissions. President Joe Biden said the U.S. would cut its emissions by at least 50% below 2005 levels by the end of the decade — nearly double the target set by the Obama administration six years ago.

Saturday, May 22, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: Distorted Democracy and the "Zero-Sum Game"

Heather McGhee, Political Strategist and Author, Rebecca Willis, Researcher and Author, and Greg Dalton, Founder and Host, Climate One, on how the politicalization of climate issues has created a zero-sum game: when each side acts as if winning on one side results in losers on the other, even when potential solutions might benefit everyone.

Friday, June 11, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 24 minutes

Democracy Now!: "Our House Is on Fire": Activists Urge G7 to Immediately Address Climate, Vaccine Apartheid and Poverty

As world leaders gather for the first in-person G7 summit in two years, talks are set to focus heavily on ending the pandemic and the climate crisis, and climate activists are calling on them for more immediate action. “It’s not just one crisis,” says Asad Rehman, executive director of War on Want and spokesperson for the COP26 Climate Coalition. “What we’ve seen is simply rich countries doing too little too late and not taking up their responsibility, and unfortunately this G7 has not changed that at all.”

Issue: COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 47 minutes

Democracy Now!: Pandemic Profiteers: Hospitals Sued Patients over Medical Debt While getting Billions in Relief Aid

Democracy Now! looks at pandemic profiteering in the medical system as a new report by Kaiser Health News reveals some of the nation’s richest hospitals recorded hundreds of millions of dollars in surplus over the past year after accepting federal healthcare bailout grants. This comes as hospitals in New York have sued thousands of patients during the pandemic, and Northwell — which is run by a close ally of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo — has faced intense criticism for practices like billing patients at its Lenox Hill Hospital over \$3,000 for COVID tests — more than 30 times the typical cost.

Saturday, April 10, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: One Year Later: COVID Tracking Project and the Power Of Data

Alexi Madrigal, Staff Writer, The Atlantic; Founder, The COVID Tracking Project, in conversation with DJ Patil, Ph.D., Chief Data Scientist; Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; Member, Commonwealth Club Board of Governors

Thursday, May 6, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 26 minutes

Democracy Now!: “Monumental Moment”: U.S. Backs Waiving COVID Vaccine Patent Rights After Months of Blocking Talks

The Biden administration has announced it now supports temporarily waiving the intellectual property rights for COVID vaccines, in what the World Trade Organization is calling a “monumental moment.” India and South Africa first proposed the waiver in October, but the United States and other wealthy nations blocked the WTO from even opening negotiations on the proposal. Supporters say the waiver is critically needed to increase the rate of vaccine production for the Global South as COVID-19 rapidly spreads in India, Latin America and other regions where few vaccines are available.

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: Delta Variant Linked to COVID Surges Amid Slow U.S. Vaccination Rates as Global Inequity Persists

The White House says it will miss its goal of getting 70% of adults at least partially vaccinated by July 4. Vaccinations are available for anyone age 12 and up in the U.S., but just 45% of people in the U.S. are fully vaccinated, and only 16 states have fully vaccinated more than half of their populations. Epidemiologist Dr. Ali Khan says despite more than 150 million people in the U.S. now being vaccinated against the coronavirus, the highly contagious Delta variant is quickly becoming a concern.

Issue: Economics

Friday, May 21, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: Rev. William Barber Calls for a “Third Reconstruction” to Lift 140 Million People Out of Poverty

Reverend William Barber, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign and president of Repairers of the Breach, says the United States needs a “Third Reconstruction” aimed at lifting 140 million poor and low-income people out of poverty. Barber worked with Congressmembers Barbara Lee and Pramila Jayapal to unveil a congressional resolution for a Third Reconstruction this week, which includes measures to expand voting rights, implement immigration reform, raise the minimum wage, establish a federal jobs program and more.

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 28 minutes

Democracy Now!: Leaked IRS Files: Billionaires Bezos, Musk, Bloomberg, Buffett Avoided Taxes as Wealth Soared

A major exposé by ProPublica has revealed how U.S. billionaires pay little in income tax compared to their massive wealth, or sometimes even nothing. Private tax records of some of the country’s top billionaires show that between 2014 and 2018 the wealthiest 25 Americans saw their collective wealth jump by more than \$400 billion, but they paid just over \$13 billion in federal income taxes — amounting to a tax rate of just 3.4%.

Issue: Education/Science

Saturday, April 17, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: The Genome Odyssey and the Future of Humans

Dr. Euan Ashley, Professor of Medicine and Genetics, Stanford University; Author, *The Genome Odyssey*, in conversation with Anne Wojcicki, CEO and Co-Founder, 23andMe on expanding the boundaries of our genetic medical capabilities.

Saturday, May 1, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: The Disordered Cosmos and the God Equation

Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physics and Core Faculty Member in Women’s Studies, University of New Hampshire; Author, *The Disordered Cosmos: A Journey*

Into Dark Matter, Spacetime, and Dreams Deferred, and Michio Kaku, Professor of Theoretical Physics, City College of New York; Author, *The God Equation: The Quest for a Theory of Everything*, on the wonders and mysteries of the cosmos.

Saturday, June 5, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: The Science of Change

Katy Milkman, James G. Dinan Professor, The Wharton School; Author, *How to Change: The Science of Getting from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be*, in conversation with Charles Duhigg, Contributor, *The New Yorker*; Author, *Smarter Faster Better: The Transformative Power of Real Productivity*, on how habits and behaviors prevent positive change.

Issue: Politics

Friday, April 16, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: Biden Sanctions Russia for Cyber Espionage While Remaining Silent over Israeli Cyberattack on Iran

The United States has imposed new sanctions on Russia and expelled 10 Russian diplomats after the Biden administration accused Moscow of being involved in major cyberattacks. The Treasury Department claimed Russia interfered in the 2020 election and was behind the SolarWinds hack, which compromised the computer systems of nine U.S. government agencies and scores of private companies. The sanctions target 32 Russian entities and individuals and bar U.S. banks from purchasing Russian government debt. Russia vowed to retaliate against the new sanctions and accused the Biden administration of degrading bilateral relations.

Saturday, April 24, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: How Rights Went Wrong and A Republican Supreme Court

Jamal Greene, Dwight Professor of Law, Columbia Law School; Author, *How Rights Went Wrong: Why Our Obsession with Rights Is Tearing America Apart*, with Judge Ladoris Hazzard Cordell, (Ret.), Member, Commonwealth Club Board of Governors -- Moderator, on how historical missteps falsely led Americans to believe that awarding rights to one group means denying rights to another.

Thursday, June 3, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: "The Second": Carol Anderson on the racist Roots of the Constitutional Right to Bear Arms

Do African Americans have Second Amendment rights? That's the question Emory University professor Carol Anderson set out to answer in her new book, *"The Second,"* which looks at the constitutional right to bear arms and its uneven application throughout U.S. history. She says she was prompted to write the book after the 2016 police killing of Philando Castile, who was fatally shot during a traffic stop after he told the officer he had a legal firearm. Anderson says the

Second Amendment was always intended to be a means of arming white people to control the Black population.

Saturday, June 12, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: Out of Many, One Portraits of America's Immigrants

President George W. Bush, Author, *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants*, in conversation with Kori Schake, Director of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute, on how the real stories of immigrants get lost in the political debates on immigrant issues.

Monday, June 14, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: 50 Years After Pentagon Papers, Ellsberg Reveals U.S. Weighed 1958 Nuclear Strike on China over Taiwan

As President Biden meets with leaders of NATO countries, where he is expected to continue stepping up rhetoric against China and Russia ahead of his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin this Wednesday in Geneva, *Democracy Now!* speaks with famed Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg about why he recently released another classified document showing that U.S. military planners in 1958 pushed for nuclear strikes on China to protect Taiwan from an invasion by communist forces. The top-secret study revealed the U.S. military pressed then-President Dwight Eisenhower to prepare a nuclear first strike against mainland China during the Taiwan Strait crisis of 1958.

Thursday, June 17, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 44 minutes

Biden and Putin Agree to Begin Work on Arms Control and Cybersecurity in Effort to Avoid New Cold War

U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in Geneva Wednesday for a three-hour summit and agreed to set up working groups to deal with nuclear arms control, as well as cyberattacks. The sides also agreed to send ambassadors back to their posts, restoring "normal diplomatic relations of a kind which exist between most countries on the face of the Earth," says Anatol Lieven, senior fellow for Russia and Europe at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

Issue: Social Justice

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 47 minutes

Democracy Now!: Do Prisons Keep Us Safe? Author Victoria Law Busts Myths About Mass Incarceration in New Book

As the first anniversary of the police killing of George Floyd approaches, *Democracy Now!* speaks with author and journalist Victoria Law, who says despite the mass movement to fight systemic racism sparked by Floyd's death, persistent myths about policing, incarceration and the criminal justice system still hinder reform.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 39 minutes

Democracy Now!: Afghanistan: Biden Vows to End Nation's Longest War by 9/11 After Decades of Bloodshed and Destruction

The Biden administration has unveiled plans to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan by September 11, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The War in Afghanistan has killed more than 100,000 Afghan civilians and over 2,300 U.S. servicemembers and has cost the U.S. trillions of dollars. The announcement comes just a week before the scheduled start of a new round of peace talks in Istanbul between the Taliban and the U.S.-backed Afghan government, but the Taliban said it would boycott the talks because Biden is going back on a deal made by President Trump to have all U.S. troops out by May 1.

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 52 minutes

Democracy Now!: Mass Shooting at Indianapolis FedEx Warehouse "Follows Pattern of Violence Against Sikhs" Nationwide

As the Sikh community in Indianapolis and across the United States is in mourning after a gunman killed eight people at a FedEx facility last week, where four of the victims are Sikh, Democracy Now! speaks with Simran Jeet Singh, scholar, activist and senior fellow for the Sikh Coalition, which is calling for a full investigation into the possibility of racial or ethnic hatred as a factor in the killings in Indianapolis. A majority of the workers at the warehouse are Sikh, and while authorities have not shared evidence Brandon Hole was targeting Sikh workers when he attacked the FedEx facility, police revealed Monday they previously found evidence that Hole had browsed white supremacist websites. The mass shooting took place as more than 15 states across the U.S., including Indiana, mark April as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month.

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: Ivy League Secret Exposed: Classes Used Bones of Black Children Killed in 1985 MOVE Police Bombing

Outrage is growing in Philadelphia after explosive revelations that the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University have been in possession of remains thought to belong to two children who were among 11 people killed in the 1985 police bombing of the Philadelphia home of the radical, Black liberation and anti-police-brutality group MOVE. Democracy Now! shows an excerpt of a training video — now removed from the internet — by an anthropologist at the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University who has been using the bones of at least one of the young bombing victims for the past 36 years — without the knowledge or consent of the families — and gets response from a MOVE family member.

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: "Exterminate All the Brutes": Filmmaker Raoul Peck Explores Colonialism and Origins of White Supremacy

A new four-part documentary series, “Exterminate All the Brutes,” delves deeply into the legacy of European colonialism from the Americas to Africa. It has been described as an unflinching narrative of genocide and exploitation, beginning with the colonizing of Indigenous land that is now called the United States. The documentary series seeks to counter “the type of lies, the type of propaganda, the type of abuse, that we have been subject to all of these years,” says director and Haitian-born filmmaker Raoul Peck. “We have the means to tell the real story, and that’s exactly what I decided to do,” Peck says. “Everything is on the table, has been on the table for a long time, except that it was in little bits everywhere. ... We lost the wider perspective.”

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 48 minutes

Democracy Now!: “Mass Supervision”: How Restrictive Probation and Parole Systems Land People Behind Bars for Decades

In Pennsylvania, more than half of incarcerated people are jailed due to probation violations. Democracy Now! speaks with formerly incarcerated activist LaTonya Myers, who says probation and parole, rather than being a stepping stone to freedom, act as a “streamline to mass incarceration,” with punitive rules landing people back behind bars for minor violations. Myers helps people arrested navigate the bail review system as support coordinator with the Philadelphia Community Bail Fund and is featured in the new PBS documentary series “Philly D.A.”

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: George Floyd’s Murder Was “Clarion Call” to Defund Police. What’s Changed in Year Since His Death?

George Floyd’s murder on May 25, 2020, sparked a global uprising against systemic racism and police brutality and put the spotlight on decades-long movements dedicated to abolition and criminal justice reform. Memorial events and marches are celebrating George Floyd’s life and commemorate the first anniversary of his murder, and President Joe Biden is hosting some of his family at the White House as negotiations continue in Congress over legislation that bears his name, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. Monifa Bandele, who sits on the steering committee for Communities United for Police Reform and is an organizer with the Movement for Black Lives, says the racial justice uprising that followed Floyd’s death served as a “clarion call” to defund police and reinvest those resources.

Saturday, June 19, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: Reckoning with Slavery’s History

Clint Smith, Staff Writer, the Atlantic; Author, *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*, and Brittany Packnett Cunningham, Contributor, NBC News and MSNBC-Moderator, on understanding the tragic issue of slavery and its ongoing historical prevalence.