

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

**2nd Quarter 2023**

**April, May, June**

**As the program schedule for WTTW-PBS is planned, special consideration is given to a variety of special interests in the Chicagoland area. During April, May, and June, 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**

### **American Experience “The Sun Queen” (120) minutes**

**Aired Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 8:00pm**

For nearly 50 years, chemical engineer and inventor Maria Telkes applied her prodigious intellect to harnessing the power of the sun. She designed and built the world's first successfully solar-heated modern residence and identified a promising new chemical that, for the first time, could store solar heat like a battery. And yet, along the way, she was undercut and thwarted by her boss and colleagues - all men - at MIT. Despite these obstacles, Telkes persevered and, upon her death in 1995, held more than 20 patents. She is now recognized as a visionary pioneer in the field of sustainable energy. An unexpected and largely forgotten heroine, Telkes was remarkable in her vision and tenacity - a scientist and a woman in every way ahead of her time. Her research and innovations from the 1930s through the '70s continue to shape how we power our lives today.

### **Newton Minow: An American Story (60) minutes**

**Aired Monday, May 15, 2023 at 8:00pm**

Meet a fierce advocate for the common good, former FCC chairman Newton Minow, who elevated television to higher standards and fought for civil rights while offering counsel to presidents, politicians, corporate leaders, academics and others.

### **American Experience “Ruby Ridge” (60) minutes**

**Aired Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 8:00pm**

Examine the 1992 FBI siege at Ruby Ridge that helped launch the modern militia movement through eyewitness accounts, including Randy Weaver's daughter and federal agents involved in the deadly confrontation.

## **Arts / Culture**

### **Great Performances “Now Hear This: Andy Akiho Found (His) Sound” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 8:00pm**

Experience the creation of music from this Japanese American composer with host Scott Yoo using "found" instruments. To develop a music video, the two visit New York City and explore the creative process with an interactive light show and more.

**American Masters “Nam June Paik: Moon is the Oldest TV” (120) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 8:00pm**

See the world through the eyes of Nam June Paik, the father of video art and coiner of the term "electronic superhighway." Experience the acclaimed artist's creative evolution, as Academy Award nominee Steven Yeun reads from Paik's own writings.

**Live from the Harris Theater: Adrian Dunn’s Emancipation (60) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, June 19, 2023 at 9:00pm**

In a thrilling live performance from Chicago’s Harris Theater for Music and Dance, acclaimed composer, conductor and singer Adrian Dunn’s EMANCIPATION fuses classical, gospel, hip hop and spirituals to explore the question: what does it mean to be Black and free in America in the 21st Century? EMANCIPATION celebrates the journeys of Black lives in America through genres created by Black Americans, performed powerfully by The Adrian Dunn Singers and Rize Orchestra.

**Business / Industry / Economy**

**PBS NewsHour “Episode 204” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6:00pm**

Inflation cooled last month to its lowest level in nearly two years. The price of groceries dropped three-tenths of a percent in March, marking the first decline in that index since September 2020. But core inflation, which does not include food and gas prices, remains high. Geoff Bennett discussed the new report with Gita Gopinath of the International Monetary Fund.

**Firing Line with Margaret Hoover (30) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 5:30am**

Join author, activist and political commentator Margaret Hoover for a public affairs talk show that delivers a civil and engaging contest of ideas among the brightest minds and freshest voices from across the political spectrum.

**Chicago Tonight “Developer Touts ‘Very Balanced’ Plan to Remake Hundreds of Acres of West Suburban Land, But Some Residents Still Skeptical” (5) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 5:30pm** (segment)

Hundreds of acres of vacant land in Sugar Grove has a developer looking to build housing, civic space, retail – and distribution warehouses. Some residents are uneasy the project would change the village’s small town feel.

**Crime / Legal Issues / Law Enforcement**

**Firing Line with Margaret Hoover” (30) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 5:30am**

Guest: Andrew Weissmann. Former federal prosecutor Andrew Weissmann discusses the 34 felony count indictment of former President and 2024 candidate Donald Trump. He discusses the prosecution's strengths and weaknesses and what to expect as Trump faces more criminal probes.

**Chicago Tonight “Johnson Taps Fred Waller, Former High-Ranking CPD Leader, to Serve as Interim Top Cop” (5) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 5:30pm** (segment)

Waller will be the third person to lead the Chicago Police Department in less than six months and will immediately be charged with managing the department during the Memorial Day weekend, which typically results an increase in crime and violence.

**Chicago Tonight “How Student ‘Peace Warriors’ Are Countering Violence on Chicago’s West Side” (5) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, June 19, 2023 at 5:30pm** (segment)

A group of students is countering violence on Chicago’s West Side by planting a peace garden and creating peace corners in classrooms in honor of Juneteenth. But this isn’t something out of

the ordinary for them. They're known as Peace Warriors — born out of North Lawndale College Prep almost 15 years ago.

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

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

**Aired on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 08:00pm**

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?

### **Wild Scandinavia “Life on the Edge” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:00pm**

Explore Scandinavia's wild and unpredictable coast, a place of haunting beauty and dangerous extremes. This journey begins around the Swedish Baltic Sea, which includes iconic fjords; home to eagles, otters, base jumpers, and orcas.

### **Nature “The Ocean’s Greatest Feast” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 7:00pm**

The story of South Africa's annual sardine migration is brought vividly to life on camera. Each summer, the sardine run sees billions of sardines spawning and traveling up the coast, providing a feast for an array of marine predators.

## **Health / Health Care**

### **Chicago Tonight “Hundreds of Thousands of Medicaid Recipients in Illinois at Risk of Losing Coverage” (4) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:30pm (segment)**

Emergency measures designed to ensure people didn't lose their health care during the COVID-19 pandemic are now being phased out. People must once again prove their eligibility for the government-backed insurance program.

**Independent Lens “Matter of Mind: My ALS” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 9:00pm**

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a neuromuscular disease with an average survival time of 2-5 years from diagnosis. In this intimate story, three people bravely face different paths as they live with the progressively debilitating illness.

**Below the Belt: The Last Health Taboo (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 9:00pm**

Through the lens of endometriosis, examine the widespread problems in our healthcare systems that disproportionately affect women. This film reveals how millions are silenced and how, by fighting back, they can improve healthcare for all women.

**American Politics / Government**

**Frontline “Clarence & Ginni Thomas: Politics, Power, and the Supreme Court” (120) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 8:00pm**

The power and influence of Clarence and Ginni Thomas on the Supreme Court and American politics. An investigation of the controversial rise of one of Washington's most powerful couples, and their role in reshaping the country's politics and law.

**Chicago Tonight “Illinois Ranks First in the Nation in Units of Local Government. How Much Is Too Much?” (8) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 5:30pm (segment)**

Illinois has more units of local government than any other state. That fact has some critics asking the question: how much is too much?

**Science / Technology**

**NOVA “Weathering the Future” (60) Minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 8:00pm (series)**

It's hard not to notice: our weather is changing. From longer, hotter heat waves, to more intense rainstorms, to megafires and multi-year droughts - the U.S. is experiencing the full range of impacts from a changing global climate. But people on the front lines of these destabilizing weather trends around the country are coming up with new ways to adapt to the many challenges they bring. The lessons they're learning today can help all of us adapt in the years ahead, as the planet gets warmer and our weather gets weirder.

**NOVA “Why Ships Crash” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 8:00pm (series)**

When the colossal Ever Given container ship crashed into the bank of the Suez Canal in March 2021, international supply chains ground to a halt. How could such a disaster happen? And can the investigation help prevent future accidents?

**NOVA “Back to the Moon” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 8:00pm (series)**

Fifty years after humans first set foot on the moon, new scientific discoveries are fueling excitement for a return to the lunar surface this time, perhaps, to stay. Join the scientists and engineers working to make life on the moon a reality.

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

**Frontline “America and the Taliban Part 1” (60) minutes**

**Aired on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 9:00pm**

How America's 20-year investment in Afghanistan culminated in Taliban victory. Drawing on decades of on the ground reporting, and interviews with Taliban and US officials, part one of an investigation of the missteps and consequences.

**Tuskegee Airmen: Return to Ramitelli (60) minutes**

**Aired on Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 6:00pm**

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN: RETURN TO RAMITELLI tells the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of Black military pilots who broke stereotypes and helped win World War II



with their daring fighter escorts of American bombers. Narrated by country music star Darius Rucker, the film returns to Ramitelli airfield in Italy to share the history of the air squadron that helped shift the tides of the war. The legacy-themed documentary features interviews with many original Tuskegee Airmen, family members, and historians - both Italian and American. It also follows the daughter of a Tuskegee Airman back to Italy to visit what remains of the base at Ramitelli and includes a visit to the cemetery at Nettuno, Italy, where several Tuskegee Airmen are buried. In addition, United States Air Force Chief of Staff General Charles Q. Brown reflects on the Airmen's legacy, both on his career and society today.

**Buffalo Soldiers: Fighting on Two Fronts (60) minutes**

**Aired on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 9:00pm (series)**

Explore the complex history of Black Americans who enlisted in the U. S. military as a path to citizenship, a livelihood, and greater respect, and how they fought in military conflicts abroad and civil rights struggles at home.