



**Attachment A Issues Programs List**  
**Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station WSRQ & WSRQ-FM**  
**July - September 2020**

**Placed in the Public File October 1, 2020**

**Program Notes for Public File**

**Section I. Issues**

- History and Politics
- International Issues
- Climate
- Human Rights
- Crime
- Politics
- Medicine/Health Issues

**Section II. Responsive Programs**

**Alternative Radio 2029 Q2 Program Notes**

All programs below have aired 0600 on the dates listed below and are 60 minutes in duration.

**Air Date: 27 September 2020:** Legal battles for gender equality didn't begin with the Women's Movement of the 1960s. But it laid the groundwork for the historic 1972 Supreme Court decision that made gender discrimination unconstitutional. That case was successfully argued by then-38-year old Brooklyn-born attorney Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It set precedent for another ruling a few years later that men should also be eligible for their wives' survivor benefits. She won five out of the six gender discrimination cases she argued before the Supreme Court.

**Air Date: 20 September 2020:** What is fascism? Michael Parenti, author and historian says, "Fascism historically has been used to secure the interests of large capitalist interests against the demands of popular democracy. Then and now, fascism has made irrational mass appeals in order to secure the rational ends of class domination." Fascism flourishes in times of economic insecurity and cultural backlash. Opportunistic politicians offer up a platter of racism, xenophobia and hyper-nationalism. They stoke fear and resentment using simplistic slogans such as "Drain the Swamp" and "Build the Wall." In the U.S. today, there is a whiff fascism in the air. Witness the march of white supremacists with torches held high in Charlottesville chanting "Blood and Soil," an old Nazi slogan and "Jews Will Not Replace Us." The president called them "very fine people."

**Air Date: 13 September 2020:** The world is at a crossroads. The COVID-19 pandemic, with hundreds of thousands dead across the globe and counting, has triggered a disastrous economic situation for millions. At some point, we will be in a post-pandemic world. What will it look like? More of the same old same old? Or can we imagine a different world? Where the planet and its people are nurtured and protected and there are no longer huge concentrations of wealth and



grotesque inequalities. Can pressure from the streets break the iron grip of capitalism and create lasting structural change and a green new deal? Yanis Varoufakis says, “We can do it.”

**Air Date: 6 September 2020:** Remember the popular TV series – *The X-Files*? FBI special agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully doggedly investigate unexplained, mind-bending cases known as “X-Files.” The show’s signature line was, “The Truth is Out There.” We probably need Mulder and Scully back on the job examining recent comments from the current president about “thugs wearing black uniforms” boarding planes. “They are people controlling the streets. People that you’ve never heard of. People who are,” the president said, “in the dark shadows.” Whoa. Dark shadows? What’s going on here? Seems like something out of the discredited QAnon or InfoWars conspiracy websites has somehow gotten into the president’s head. The deep state is behind all his woes. Maybe the famous FDR line: “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself” should be amended to the only thing we have to fear is everything.

**Air Date: 30 August 2020:** Talk about an odd couple. The 45<sup>th</sup> president and the Christian right. For the president, renowned for his wayward ways, the support from some of the mega-churches and their high priests form a key part of his base. According to a Pew poll, over 80% of white evangelicals said they will vote for the current occupant of the Oval Office. The Christian right looks the other way when confronted with the facts. For them, it’s all about opposing same-sex marriage and abortion, funding religious-based schools, ensuring right-wing judges are appointed, and embracing nationalism, militarism and imperialism. There is enough hypocrisy to fill many bookshelves. Just see Jerry Falwell, Jr. Sometimes it’s hard to keep the faith.

**Air Date: 23 August 2020:** Representative John Lewis of Georgia, an icon of the struggle for civil rights, social justice and equality died in mid-July. He was called the “conscience of the Congress.” His passing evoked memories of the March on Washington and the bridge in Selma. And attention on the struggles today: the new Jim Crow, the Black Lives Matter movement and the widespread demonstrations protesting the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. In the tradition of his mentor Dr. King, John Lewis was dedicated to civil disobedience and non-violence. His words inspire us to engagement and peaceful resistance. When he gave the commencement address to Boston University graduates in 2018, he said, “My philosophy is simple. When you see something that is not fair, not right, not just, then you have a moral obligation to say something; to do something, stand up, speak out.”

**Air Date: 16 August 2020:** The great African American sociologist W. E. B. Du Bois in his 1903 classic book, *The Souls of Black Folk*, wrote, “The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.” Well, here we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the color line and racial injustice remain front and center. Some white people have acknowledged racism as a major issue. Others when challenged are defensive and uncomfortable. The murder of George Floyd brought out multi-racial demonstrations against police violence and racial injustice. Monuments, statues and other symbols of oppression are toppled and Confederate flags are lowered. These are the first steps in a reckoning that is long overdue.

**Air Date: 9 August 2020:** A famous Russian revolutionary once said, “There are *decades* where nothing happens; and there are weeks where *decades* happen.” The pandemic certainly feels that



way. We are in limbo. The uncertainty is bewildering. What can we expect? What must we do? There are no clear answers. Dr. Stephen Bezruchka presents a novel view of the novel virus. What if we are a cancer on this planet? The human species fits the definition of a cancer. We have practiced cancer denial and are paying the price with the world's largest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. We need to honor and respect Gaia, our beloved and besieged planet. The recent global protests present the opportunity to collectively treat the human species cancer and hope for a remission. We need a new perspective on our life on Earth. Let the healing begin.

**Air Date: 2 August 2020:** Many of us are aware of the spurious deals between government, sometimes called state actors and the drug trade. There are long-running TV series like *Narco*, based in Colombia, and *El Chapo* based in Mexico. There are major books about CIA involvement in drug trafficking in the 1980s to fund U.S. interventions in Central America, as well as in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan. Alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, opium, amphetamine and cocaine lace through the history of human conflict. Each of these addictive substances has fueled our larger addiction to war itself.

**Air Date: 26 July 2020:** The news about the pandemic goes from bad to worse. The term another grim milestone in the number of infections and deaths has become almost commonplace. But at some point, hopefully not too far away, the crisis will pass. Where will we be? The world will surely be different. There is so much uncertainty. Kim Stanley Robinson, the well-known science fiction writer, says, "The future isn't cast into one inevitable course. On the contrary, we could cause the sixth great mass extinction event in Earth's history, or we could create a prosperous civilization, sustainable over the long haul. Either is possible starting from now."

**Air Date: 19 July 2020:** For more than a year the public was complaining about the drinking water in Flint, Michigan. The water was so pungent and foamy that one priest had stopped using it for baptisms. The state's Department of Environmental Quality, confidently announced, "Anyone who is concerned about lead in the drinking water in Flint can relax." Flint is a majority African-American city. In nearby Detroit, 85% black, schools are heavily infested with rats, roaches and mold. Might those conditions affect the health of an overwhelmingly black student population? In Baltimore, another largely black city, the levels of lead poisoning among children is three times the national rate. Racism is a big part of the social determinants of health. It's past time we acknowledge that and do something about it.

**Air Date: 12 July 2020:** The great African American sociologist W. E. B. Du Bois in his 1903 classic book, *The Souls of Black Folk*, wrote, "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line." Well, here we are in the 21st century and the color line and racial injustice remain front and center. Some white people have acknowledged racism as a major issue. Others when challenged are defensive and uncomfortable. The murder of George Floyd brought out multi-racial demonstrations against police violence and racial injustice. Monuments, statues and other symbols of oppression are toppled and Confederate flags are lowered. These are the first steps in a reckoning that is long overdue.

**Air Date: 5 July 2020:** White privilege. What's that? White people have choices and advantages simply because of the color of their skin. Many whites are unaware of it. Peggy McIntosh, a noted women's



studies scholar in her classic essay “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Backpack,” wrote: “I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group. I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets that I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was “meant” to remain oblivious. White privilege is like an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, maps, passports, codebooks, visas, clothes, tools and blank checks.”



**Air Date: 28 June 2020:**

**Attachment A Issues Programs List  
Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station WSRQ  
April - June 2020**

**Placed in the Public File October 1, 2020**

**Program Notes for Public File**

**Section I. Issues**

- History and Politics
- International Issues
- Climate
- Human Rights
- Crime
- Politics
- Medicine/Health Issues

**Section II. Responsive Programs**

**Alternative Radio 2020 Q3 Program Notes**

All programs below have aired 0600 on the dates listed below and are 60 minutes in duration.

**Air Date: 5 July 2020:** Is it starry-eyed to think about not just regime change but something much larger: system change? The systemic failures of the current crisis and the calamitous fissures it has exposed has raised the question of the efficacy of reform, half-measures and tinkering around the edges. When under duress, the system is agile enough to make some concessions while crucially leaving the fundamental structures of power intact. From the outside systems can look invincible and impregnable. Just tell that to Louis the XVI in 1789 or the Czar in 1917 or the Shah of Iran in 1979 or Hosni Mubarak in 2011. The noted writer, Ursula LeGuin reminds us, "We live in capitalism. Its power seems inescapable. So did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings."

**Local Community Events:** Local community announcements regarding events sponsored by regional entities are aired and are encouraged by management and discussed by on-air personalities. These include, but are not limited to:

- LECOM Events;
- Miscellaneous community events in the greater Sarasota, Florida area.1-4

**AirDate: 21 June 2020:** The five biggest corporations in the world by market value are Google, Apple, Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. Their head honchos the Zuckerbergs, Gates and Bezos make the Vanderbilts, Morgans and Carnegies of the Gilded Age look like pikers. These "masters of



mankind” as Adam Smith called them, love to pay lip service to competition. But you know what? They want absolute domination and control. Monopoly is not a board game for them, it is the essence of their very being. And they rely on state power to secure their position. The big five capitalist firms dominate the means of work and social interaction. Collectively, these technopolies represent a tremendous concentration of power both economic and political which do not bode well for the needs of a democratic society. Their amassing of our data is threatening. What can be done?

**Air Date: 14 June 2020:** What will tomorrow bring in the age of COVID-19? There is so much uncertainty. Arundhati Roy sees an opportunity. She writes, “Whatever it is, coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.”

**Air Date: 7 June 2020:** It should be abundantly clear that part of the president’s m.o., almost an article of faith, is never accept responsibility when things go wrong. It’s always someone else’s fault: Pelosi, the media, the WHO, Obama, China, immigrants. And if you criticize the leader expect retaliation. Just ask Rick Bright, a top government scientist who was removed from his job he says because he opposed the president’s touting of hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial drug, as a coronavirus treatment. He has filed a whistleblower complaint. The president has called him “a disgruntled employee.” These are Rick Bright’s words of warning, “Our window of opportunity is closing. If we fail to develop a nationally coordinated response, based in science, I fear the pandemic will get far worse and be prolonged, causing unprecedented illness and fatalities. Without clear planning 2020 will be the darkest winter in modern history.”

**Air Date: 31 May 2020:** After 40 years the economic doctrine of neoliberalism has reached a dead end. But not for everyone. The 500 richest people in the world, all of whom are billionaires, gained a combined \$1.2 trillion in wealth in 2019. Advocates of neoliberalism preach a kind of economic fundamentalism, i.e., markets rule, tax cuts for the rich, deregulation, privatization and austerity. As Ganesh Sitaraman in *The Nation* magazine reports, “Neoliberal policies created gaping inequality, unleashing the economically powerful to reshape politics, markets, and society to serve their own interests. Neoliberalism’s radical individualism sapped society of community and solidarity, leaving people lonely and isolated, ultimately pushing us to retreat into tribal identities. We can now see,” Sitaraman concludes, “that its results were disastrous.” What needs to happen? It’s time for a new social contract.

**Air Date: 24 May 2020:** The Declaration of Independence declared equality as an American ideal, but it took a century to even partially realize that goal. One of the key periods of U.S. history is Reconstruction. They were the years following the Civil War. The era began with promises of egalitarianism. The 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments to the Constitution were revolutionary. They abolished slavery, guaranteed all persons due process and equal protection of the law, and gave black



men the right to vote. In a few short years, those juridical gains were rolled back with Jim Crow and KKK terror. Today, the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment which clearly states, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens of the United States,” is being contested. The Reconstruction amendments have been undermined and weakened. Voter suppression, mass incarceration, and prison slave labor are all features of the world’s oldest democracy.

**Air Date: 10 May 2020:** The term corporation is not in the Constitution, yet this entity has emerged over the years as the most dominant force in society. Although never oppressed like women and minorities, corporations have fought to win equal rights under the Constitution. Today, they have nearly all the same rights as ordinary people. Corporations have waged a persistent campaign to expand their power and to strike down regulation. They have systematically pursued and won legal privileges through the courts, especially the Supreme Court. Most notoriously, the Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United decision paved the way for unlimited, anonymous money to be spent in elections. The idea that corporations are persons and money is free speech strike at the heart of equality. Justice John Paul Stevens in his Citizens United dissent said, “A democracy cannot function effectively... (if citizens believe) laws are being bought and sold.”

**Air Date: 3 May 2020:** What kind of bizarre twilight zone world are we in? The coronavirus pandemic is a global altering moment. It has exposed huge fissures of vulnerability. The dead from COVID-19 in the U.S. now exceeds Vietnam War levels. The health crisis has triggered an economic crisis. Tens of millions have lost their jobs in the largest mass unemployment since the Great Depression. The bread lines of the 1930s have turned into car lines as people wait for hours to get some free food. The lack of preparation, the shortages of tests and medical equipment plus all the dissembling has been mind-boggling. “I don’t take any responsibility at all,” intones the president. What will emerge from this pandemic emergency? A more equitable decent society living in harmony with the Earth or more rapacious destructive capitalism? The choice is clear.

**Air Date: 26 April 2020:** The conflict over Palestine is a century-long war involving a settler-colonial movement—Zionism—which succeeded in forming a national entity—The State of Israel. The term settler colonialism may not be well known but it accurately describes what has happened to multiple regions of the world from Ireland to Canada and from New Zealand to Palestine where indigenous populations have been subjugated and displaced. In the case of Palestine, the Zionist movement was supported by superpowers, first Britain and then the U.S. President Truman was told by State Department diplomats that an overtly pro-Zionist policy would harm U.S. interests in the Middle East. To them, Truman said, “I am sorry gentlemen, but I have to answer to hundreds of thousands who are anxious for the success of Zionism. I do not have hundreds of thousands of Arabs among my constituents.”

**Air Date: 19 April 2020:** Today, fear stalks the globe. The grim reaper is taking a heavy toll. The coronavirus pandemic has led to many thousands of deaths and tremendous economic dislocation. In this



climate of fear, authoritarian regimes from Saudi Arabia to Hungary, from Russia to Turkey, from Iran to the Philippines use the crisis as a pretext to curtail civil liberties, expand police power and surveillance, silence their opponents, settle old scores, muzzle the press and jail dissidents. The pattern repeats in different shapes and forms among tyrants and would-be tyrants. Indian prime minister Modi has thrown journalists critical of his rule in jail. Kashmir remains under military control. In Washington, the U.S. president has declared “ultimate authority. I call the shots.” How can people in democratic societies effectively respond to the current crisis?

**Air Date: 12 April 2020:** CIA skullduggery is legendary from overthrowing governments to germ warfare to assassinations but its MK-Ultra program may be at the top of the list. MK-Ultra was the code name for the top-secret CIA project in which the Agency conducted hundreds of clandestine experiments, often on unwitting people, to assess the potential use of LSD and other drugs for mind control and psychological torture. MK-ULTRA, was essentially a continuation of experiments that began in Japanese and German concentration camps. Not only was it roughly based on those experiments, but the CIA actually hired the war criminals to share their “research” as to what techniques were effective and what were not. It’s a dark page in U.S. history. The godfather of the whole operation was the largely unknown Sydney Gottlieb. He was sometimes called the CIA’s “poisoner in chief.”

**Air Date: 5 April 2020:** The COVID-19 coronavirus disease pandemic has cast in deadly high relief that the United States, the richest country on Earth has a dysfunctional health care system. One should not even call it a system. “It’s unimaginable,” a CNN anchor commented upon seeing footage of hospital tents in New York’s Central Park and a refrigerator truck loading up corpses in Brooklyn. The reports of shortages of everything from testing kits to ventilators to masks to gloves to hospital beds boggle the mind. Where was the preparation? And now where is the coordination? States and countries are competing against one another. Viruses do not recognize borders. Collective global action is the only way forward. Universal medical protocols must be in place. An international public health infrastructure is urgently needed or the next pandemic will make this one look like a picnic.

**Local Community Events:** Local community announcements regarding events sponsored by regional entities are aired and are encouraged by management and discussed by on-air personalities. These include, but are not limited to:

- LECOM Events;
- Miscellaneous community events in the greater Sarasota, Florida area.1-4