

PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (January-June, 2010)

Episode #268 (June 26-28)

Segment 1 -- "From a Silk Cocoon"

This film tells Dr. Satsuki Ina's family's story of the tragic outcome resulting from the wartime hysteria and racial profiling that occurred during WW II in the name of "military necessity." The film is followed by a panel and Q & A that includes Dr. Ina, Harry Wang, MD (President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento Chapter) and Basim Elkarra, Executive Director of the Council on Islamic Relations. "From a Silk Cocoon" received a Northern California Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Historical/Cultural Programming.

Segment 2 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"

Thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by sectarian violence and have had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced person's camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice, trying to find a way to survive and provide for his family in the difficult circumstances in which they now find themselves.

Episode #267 (June 19-21)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Lavender farmer Dana Illo and her partner Catherine Johnson will infect you with enthusiasm. They've turned their initial response to resource declines from "it's horrible and overwhelming" into "we can create new ways of doing." Dana is bringing Dragon Dreaming to her community. This organizing model starts by having a group totally buy into a specific dream, like being locally food self-sufficient. Then in every cycle of implementation, members Dream, Plan, Do and -- just as importantly -- Celebrate! Why not have fun while we build community and security?

Segment 2 -- "Reaching Out to Our Veterans and Their Families"

Dr. Judith Broder, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, and Zohreh Whitaker, whose son was in Iraq, share their experiences of the effect of war and working with returning veterans and their families, at an event in Sacramento sponsored by Therapists for Social Responsibility. Recorded by a Media Edge crew at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento.

Segment 3 -- "A Question of Balance"

We often hear of "the destruction on both sides" caused by the 2006 war in Lebanon. Without minimizing the loss of any innocent lives or justifying "collateral damage," is that destruction comparable? The three segments in this program look at the destruction in both Lebanon and Israel. (From the "Nothing is Safe" series by Deep Dish TV.)

Episode #266 (June 12-14)

Segment 1 -- "Big Bucks, Big Pharma"

This video pulls back the curtain on the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical industry to expose the insidious ways that illness is used, manipulated, and in some instances created, for capital gain. Focusing on the industry's marketing practices, media scholars and health professionals help viewers understand the ways in which direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical advertising glamorizes and normalizes the use of prescription medication, and works in tandem with promotion to doctors. Combined, these industry practices shape how both patients and doctors understand and relate to disease and treatment. Ultimately, "Big Bucks, Big Pharma" challenges us to ask important questions about the consequences of relying on a for-profit industry for our health and well-being.

Segment 2 -- "The Mean World Syndrome"

For years, debates have raged among scholars, politicians, and concerned parents about the effects of media violence on viewers. Too often these debates have descended into simplistic battles between those who claim that media messages directly cause violence and those who argue that activists exaggerate the impact of media exposure altogether. "The Mean World Syndrome," based on the groundbreaking work of media scholar George Gerbner, urges us to think about media effects in more nuanced ways. Ranging from Hollywood movies and prime-time dramas to reality programming and the local news, the film examines how media violence forms a pervasive cultural environment that cultivates in heavy viewers, especially, a heightened state of insecurity, exaggerated perceptions of risk and danger, and a fear-driven propensity for hard-line political solutions to social problems.

Episode #265 (June 5-7)

Segment 1 -- "A Community Debate -- Achieving a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine: Is the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) Campaign a Help or Hindrance?"

Recorded in Davis, California on March 7, 2010 by a Media Edge crew, this debate was sponsored by the Davis Peace Coalition and features:

(1) Omar Barghouti, an independent Palestinian researcher, commentator, human rights activist, founding member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) and of the Palestinian Civil Society Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. Barghouti holds bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Columbia University, NY.

(2) Zeev Maoz, a UC Davis professor of political science, and director of the International Relations Program. Maoz is a scholar of Middle East politics and an expert on the Israeli security establishment. He serves as a distinguished fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, and is a past director of academic programs at Tel Aviv University, the University of Haifa and the Israeli Defense Forces' National Defense College.

Segment 2 -- "Entering the Booth"

From Access Sacramento's "A Place Called Sacramento" Film Festival: Walk in Midtown and you are surrounded by stories in need of telling -- let's listen. The spirit of neighborhood camaraderie is captured in this film, a project of Sacramento City College faculty member Travis Silcox and students.

Episode #264 (May 29 - 31)

Segment 1 -- "PSR 2010 Scholarship Essay Contest Finals"

This year's Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew on May 2 at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from a field of 148 entries from greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, based on a Native American saying: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." At this event, nine finalists read their essays. The authors of the top three essays earned \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, and the other six each earned a \$750 scholarship.

Segment 2 -- "Make a Better World"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blended with the music of Maria Muldaur.

Segment 3 -- "It Takes a Village"

After being devastated by a cyclone in 1991, the community of Chakaria in Bangladesh tries a new approach to community health care.

Episode #263 (May 22 - 24)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Nevada County, California locals Jim Wray and Loraine Webb demonstrate the how and why of packaging bulk foods with nitrogen. They're using equipment available for community members to use at minimal cost. Jim demonstrates packaging: make plastic bags using a heat sealer, fill with foodstuffs, suck out the oxygen with a small vacuum, then replace the air with nitrogen and seal. Loraine, organizer of The Neighborhood Readiness Project, has arranged with several locally-owned grocery stores to sell 25 pound bags of grains, beans and other bulk foods at just above cost. Loraine's vision is our having food caches in every neighborhood in the county, so that, if the trucks stop rolling in an emergency, we'll have food for ourselves AND to share with our neighbors.

Segment 2 -- "Hiwar"

Iraqi artists and writers wanted a cultural centre in Baghdad for years. After the war with Iran, the 1991 Gulf War and ongoing sanctions, they could not wait for peace. So the Hiwar Centre was opened in 1992 and is being rebuilt.

Segment 3 -- "Fourth World War"

While our airwaves are crowded with talk of a new world war, narrated by generals and filmed from the noses of bombs, the human story of global conflict remains untold. "Fourth World War" brings together the images and voices of the war on the ground. It is a story of a war without end and of those who resist, produced through a global network of independent media and activist groups.

Episode #262 (May 15 - 17)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"The next twenty years will be totally unlike the last twenty. We'll face the greatest economic and physical challenges ever seen by our country, if not humanity." So opens Chris Martenson's much-viewed online Crash Course illuminating the relationship between economy, energy and the environment. Starting with the power of exponential growth, he tidily sums up our economic problems: Too Much Debt. Chris discusses the implications if we continue the status quo, and ways to prepare. He believes that "if we manage the transition elegantly we can actually improve things."

Segment 2 -- "Legacy of Torture: The War Against The Black Liberation Movement"

This video documents the torture of activists John Bowman, Hank Jones and Harold Taylor by New Orleans police in 1973, and the assassinations, police brutality, and abuse suffered by the Black community during the 1960s and 1970s.

Segment 3 -- "Generation M"

Despite the achievements of the women's movement over the past four decades, misogyny remains a persistent force in American culture. In this important documentary, Thomas Keith, professor of philosophy at California State University-Long Beach, looks specifically at misogyny and sexism in mainstream American media, exploring how negative definitions of femininity and hateful attitudes toward women get constructed and perpetuated at the very heart of our popular culture.

Episode #261 (May 8-10)

Segment 1 -- "Wild Versus Wall"

The Sierra Club border film, "Wild Versus Wall," details the unique and diverse natural areas along the southern borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and explains how they have been and will be affected by current and planned federal border policy and infrastructure, as well as the danger to our rights and safety imposed by sweeping new powers granted to the Department of Homeland Security.

Segment 2 -- "Living In Palestine: Witness to Occupation"

Sacramento activists Patricia Daugherty and Maggie Coulter share their experiences and photographs from eight months in the Middle East, including six months in the West Bank and visits to Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Recorded earlier this year at the Newman Center in Sacramento by a Media Edge production team.

Segment 3 -- "Other Voices"

Alternative voices emerge in Israel and Palestine that bypass hatred and engage in direct peace-making activities -- like rebuilding a demolished Palestinian home in a refugee camp.

Segment 4 -- "HAITI: The Untold Story"

Since the Haitian earthquake, much attention has been given to humanitarian relief efforts, however, nobody seems to want to talk about Haiti's history and how it became the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Media Edge producer, Michael Stavros tells the Untold Story.

Episode #260 (May 1-3)

Segment 1 -- "Amy Goodman -- Breaking the Sound Barrier"

In an especially poignant talk during a visit to Sacramento on November 21, 2009, "Democracy Now!" host Amy Goodman weaves moving stories about her mother (who passed away in October 2009) with the themes of her new book, "Breaking the Sound Barrier." The video recording of this event was a joint production of Media Edge and Access Sacramento.

Segment 2 -- "Abuse of Power"

This Common Cause panel discussion with legal scholars explores the problems created by an unchecked executive branch and a compliant Congress during the Bush years. The panel was held at George Washington University on June 10, 2008, and was recorded by Media Edge producer Steve Kolb, now based in Washington, DC. This program is the first in a series of Common Cause events to engage scholars and activists to identify specific ways to restore the checks and balances set forth in our Constitution and restore America's image in the eyes of the rest of the world.

Episode #259 (April 24-26)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

The ecovillage movement is gaining a lot of traction and in some surprising forms, says Diana Leafe Christian, the author of *Finding Community: How to join an Ecovillage or Intentional Community*. Drawing from ecovillages worldwide, she describes many examples of these "human-scaled, full-featured settlements." Ecovillages aim to integrate human activities harmlessly into the natural world and be sustainable indefinitely. To succeed, they need to have multiple centers of initiative (e.g., business enterprises), and support healthy human development (like cooperation and having fun).

Segment 2 -- "An Evening of Music and Comedy: Dave Lippman"

On January 16, 2010, satirical songwriter and comedian Dave Lippman brought his "viciously funny" show to the California Stage in Sacramento. A Media Edge crew was there to record this hilarious performance of "Wild Bill Bailout, the Bard of the Bankers." Audiences have enjoyed the post-corporate comic stylings of Lippman, an anti-war troubadour who afflicts the complacent, takes the air out of the windbags of the week, de-distorts history, and updates worn-out songs with parody and thrust.

Segment 3 -- "The School of the Americas"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, about the notorious US military academy at Fort Benning, Georgia and a major protest there in 2005. Graduates of this school have perpetrated many of the worst human rights violations in recent Latin American history.

Segment 4 -- "Documentary Film Course"

Ahmed Kamal documents the lives of his fellow students at the Independent Film & Television College in Baghdad as they try to get into classes, find the subjects for the films they want to make and deal with the difficulties of trying to film in Iraq at the moment. In the end the college has to close down when two people are abducted from the building and an explosion in the street below shatters all its windows.

Episode #258 (April 17-19)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Tour the century-old organic Chaffin Family Orchards where even the animals are "farm hands." Visit chickens in their egg-mobile, scratching for bugs and pooping fertilizer in the heirloom stone-fruit orchards. Goats chomp off low branches from the olive trees, so no fuel or human labor is needed. This certified predator-friendly enterprise includes 200 acres of olive trees plus various fruit and nut trees; sheep, goats, broiler and egg-laying chickens. They distribute only locally through fruit and meat CSAs (community-supported agriculture), growers markets and a farmstand, providing fresh foods that burst with flavor and nuance.

Segment 2 -- "Eating Mercifully"

This short film from the Humane Society of the United States explores Christian perspectives on factory farming. A growing number of Christians are changing their diet and consumer purchases because the way animals are treated in factory farms is inconsistent with their beliefs. Some are demanding better treatment of farm animals, while some are simply leaving animals off their plates altogether.

Segment 3 -- "Getting Out"

This documentary shows the impact that the Rehabilitation Through the Arts program has had on former prisoners trying to reestablish their lives. Filmed inside the walls of the notorious "Sing Sing" prison in New York, this video documents the 15-year incarceration and subsequent release of two inmates. It also highlights the difficulties many former prisoners experience trying to reestablish life outside of prison walls. This documentary was created by David Bagnall and George Stoney. Known as "the father of public access" by video activists across the US, the 93-year-old Stoney is also known for his other documentaries, including "All My Babies" in 1953 (which was recently inducted into the National Film Registry) and "The Weavers: Wasn't That a Time."

Episode #257 (April 10-12)

Segment 1 -- "HAITI: The Untold Story"

Since the Haitian earthquake, much attention has been given to humanitarian relief efforts, however, nobody seems to want to talk about Haiti's history and how it became the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Media Edge producer, Michael Stavros tells the Untold Story.

Segment 2 -- "Jerusalem...The East Side Story"

A feature-length documentary about Israel's policy to gain supremacy over the City of Jerusalem and its inhabitants. It also touches on the future of the city: Jerusalem is the key to peace; without Jerusalem, there is no peace.

Segment 3 -- "The Children of Ibdaa - To Create Something Out of Nothing"

The lives of several adolescents in a Palestinian children's dance troupe from a West Bank refugee camp. They use their performance to express the history, struggle, and aspirations of their people.

Segment 4 -- "Omar Is My Friend"

A student at Baghdad University works as a taxi driver to support his wife and four daughters. As he negotiates his clapped out taxi around checkpoints, tanks and traffic jams, he talks about work, lack of petrol, electricity, having daughters in a male-dominated society, his personal aspirations and those of his society.

Episode #256 (April 3-5)

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- (2) Zeev Maoz, a UC Davis professor of political science, and director of the International Relations Program. Maoz is a scholar of Middle East politics and an expert on the Israeli security establishment. He serves as a distinguished fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, and is a past director of academic programs at Tel Aviv University, the University of Haifa and the Israeli Defense Forces' National Defense College.

Segment 2 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"

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Episode #255 (March 27-29)

Segment 1 -- "Leading to War"

How does a government lead its people to war? How does it communicate to its citizens – and to the wider world – the reasons and rationale for initiating military conflict? What rhetorical devices and techniques are employed? And how is a nation brought to support the profound decision to wage war against another nation? These are the questions that LEADING TO WAR seeks to explore. This film is comprised entirely of archival news footage – without commentary, without voiceover – presented chronologically from President Bush's State of the Union address in January, 2002 (the "axis of evil" speech), and continuing up to the announcement of formal U.S. military action in Iraq on March 19, 2003.

Segment 2 -- "Steadfastness"

Democracy Now! reporter Ana Nogueira traveled to Lebanon during and after the 2006 war. Her reports document Israeli's massive use of cluster bombs, the immense ecological destruction and the war's toll of civilian casualties.

Segment 3 -- "SHADA"

A photographic journey with Haiti's Forgotten Children by Sacramento area photographer and activist Leisa Faulkner.

Episode #254 (March 20-21)

Segment 1 -- "Against the Wall"

Shachaf Polakow, an Israeli activist and member of Anarchists Against The Wall, has worked intensively for nearly five years demonstrating and preparing for direct actions in the West Bank against the occupation, the construction of The Wall, and the Israeli "apartheid" policy. Polakow narrated his multi-media presentation about the current situation to a Sacramento audience. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 2 -- "Fighting For Our Homes"

Eight million people are at risk of losing their homes because Wall Street abandoned responsible lending practices to gain short-term profits. As this Brave New Foundation documentary reveals, the housing crisis is not just a problem for families facing foreclosure - it's a problem for every homeowner in America. As long as foreclosures persist, home values will keep going down, and everyone loses.

Segment 3 -- "Outlawed"

The harrowing stories of Khaled El-Masri and Binyam Mohamed, two survivors of extraordinary rendition, secret detention, and torture by the U.S. government.

Episode #253 (March 13-15)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Former truck driver Bill Wilson tells an insightful story about the energy packed in a gallon of gas -- which we won't always have in cheap abundance. Now a permaculture educator, he sees permaculture as a viable, realistic way to use nature to provide the abundance we really need -- harvesting sunlight, food, wind, water and more. Can you guess what the magic stuff is that we all can't live without? (No, it's not oil.) In his classes, Bill not only passes on a bounty of practical, common sense ideas, he also inspires people to experience being alive on the planet, finding their connectedness with life, their passion and ways to make a world that works for everybody.

Segment 2 -- "A Really Inconvenient Truth"

Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" woke the world up to the dangers of global warming. But, argues Joel Kovel, while we should be grateful to Gore for sounding the alarm, we also need to go far beyond his reading of the causes of this crisis and of what needs to be done about it.

Segment 3 -- "Leaving Out the Inner City"

What different neighborhoods are like, how they got the way they are, and what we can do to create equality.

Episode #252 (March 6-8)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Rather than follow the customary American dream, Tammy and Logan sold their home and car, and moved to a bikeable/walkable neighborhood in Sacramento, California. After reading Derrick Jensen's writings, this couple used Your Money or Your Life as a means to get out of debt and, they feel, regain their lives and their future. While they recount the psychological challenges of facing a future of declining resources, the catalyst that continues to move them forward is a dream of living in an affordable tiny house within a supportive community.

Segment 2 -- "Live From Tent City: The Last 21 Days"

On April 1, 2009, Emmy award-winning filmmaker Costa Mantis moved into Sacramento's "tent city" to live with homeless people there. Now, for the first time, you can hear their stories and understand that - there but for the grace of God go I.

Segment 3 -- "Struggle"

This documentary, set primarily in Ohio, examines several conditions that lead to George W. Bush's victory in the 2004 Presidential election. This film places the audience right in the action with a unique "street level" perspective on the struggle to protest publicly or vote democratically in this society.

Episode #251 (February 27-March 1)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Taped in late 2005 before Peak Moment began, this conversation feels eerily prescient about the effects of the 2008 financial collapse. William Stewart reflects on the shadow side of the fossil fuel bonanza, which enabled hyper-individualism and mobility that have shredded our connections to community and place, along with increased violence and dysfunction. Likening our oil-dependent culture to an addict who must first bottom out, he suggests there may be a silken lining after collapse: the possibility of more communal and connected ways of life.

Segment 2 -- "The July War"

A powerful look at the 2006 Lebanon War (the July War) and its devastating impact on Lebanon's people, economy, and environment. This film, by Brandon Jourdan and Francesca Caporali, examines the reasons behind the war and its impact on all parties involved. (From the "Nothing is Safe" series by Deep Dish TV.)

Segment 3 -- "Leaving"

Threatened with kidnap and facing escalating and horrific violence in their neighborhood, a Mandaean family from Baghdad reaches the difficult decision to leave their home of more than 30 years and go to live in Damascus. The film documents the painful process of selling all their goods and dividing up their house so it can be rented out and finally it records their dangerous road trip to the Syrian border and their arrival to their new, temporary home.

Episode #250 (February 20-22)

Segment 1 -- "Amy Goodman -- Breaking the Sound Barrier"

In an especially poignant talk during a visit to Sacramento on November 21, 2009, "Democracy Now!" host Amy Goodman weaves moving stories about her mother (who passed away in October 2009) with the themes of her new book, "Breaking the Sound Barrier." The video recording of this event was a joint production of Media Edge and Access Sacramento.

Segment 2 -- "Rethink Afghanistan"

At a time when the United States faces a damaged reputation abroad and an economic catastrophe at home, expanding the war in Afghanistan without debating a comprehensive exit strategy is a serious mistake. This version of "Rethink Afghanistan" is a recently expanded, full-length documentary focusing on the key issues surrounding this war.

Episode #249 (February 13-15)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

William Stewart reflects on the shadow side of the fossil fuel bonanza, which enabled hyper-individualism and mobility that have shredded our connections to community and place, along with increased violence and dysfunction. Likening our oil-dependent culture to an addict who must first bottom out, he suggests there may be a silken lining after collapse: the possibility of more communal and connected ways of life.

Segment 2 -- "An Evening of Music and Comedy: Dave Lippman"

On January 16, satirical songwriter and comedian Dave Lippman brought his "viciously funny" show to the California Stage in Sacramento. A Media Edge crew was there to record this hilarious performance of "Wild Bill Bailout, the Bard of the Bankers." Audiences have enjoyed the post-corporate comic stylings of Lippman, an anti-war troubadour who afflicts the complacent, takes the air out of the windbags of the week, de-distorts history, and updates worn-out songs with parody and thrust.

Segment 3 -- "A Candle for the Shabandar Cafe"

Founded in 1917, the Shabandar Cafe in Al Mutanabbi Street in the heart of the old centre of Baghdad, was a cultural landmark, where generations of Iraqis came to discuss and debate literature and politics - a living repository of Iraqi intellectual history and one of the last places where people could gather to exchange ideas. Director Emad Ali had shot most of his film by the end of 2006, but in March 2007, a massive car bomb destroyed the Shabandar Cafe, all the bookshops on Al Mutanabbi Street and killed and wounded scores of people. Days later, Baghdad's poets and artists held a wake in the ruins of the street they loved so much and Emad took a small camera and went back to film. As he was leaving he was attacked, his camera stolen and he was shot in the legs and chest, and his own story is an epilogue to his film about the Shabandar Cafe and Mutanabbi Street - before and after they were destroyed.

Episode #248 (February 6-8)

Segment 1 -- "Militainment, Inc." (Part 2)

Militainment, Inc. offers a fascinating, disturbing, and timely glimpse into the militarization of American popular culture, examining how U.S. news coverage has come to resemble Hollywood film, video games, and "reality television" in its glamorization of war. Mobilizing an astonishing range of media examples - from news anchors' idolatry of military machinery to the impact of government propaganda on war reporting - the film asks: How has war taken its place in the culture as an entertainment spectacle? And how does presenting war as entertainment affect the ability of citizens to evaluate the necessity and real human costs of military action?

Segment 2 -- "SHADA"

A photographic journey with Haiti's Forgotten Children by Sacramento area photographer and activist Leisa Faulkner.

Segment 3 -- "Baghdad Days"

Hiba Bassem, a young woman from Kirkuk, returns to Baghdad after the war, to finish her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts. The film is a diary of her year as she tries to find a place to live, looks for work, graduates from college, deals with family problems and struggles to come to terms with her position as a woman on her own. This film won a New Horizon silver award at the Al Jazeera International Film Festival in Doha (2006) and a golden award at the Rotterdam Arab Film Festival (2006).

Episode 247 (Jan. 30 - Feb. 1)

Segment 1: "Militainment, Inc." (Part 1)

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Segment 2: "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors"

This film offers a sobering critique of our perceived recent history, of our present global circumstances, and our shared future in light of imminent, under-reported and mis-represented energy production constraints. Through a series of candid, informed and articulate interviews, "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors" argues that the bizarre events surrounding the 9/11 attacks, and the equally bizarre prosecution of the so-called "war on terror", can be more credibly understood in the wider context of an imminent and critical divergence between available global oil supply and global oil demand.

Segment 3: "Citizens Arrest Warrant"

For years, American health insurance companies have been more concerned about corporate greed than patient need. Insurance executives have lined their pockets with millions of dollars, while premium costs have skyrocketed three times faster than wages and four times faster than general inflation. On October 5, 2009, Sacramento citizens came together to demand real reform - quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans, with the choice of a strong public option - and an end to the insurance industry's harmful, abusive practices, calling for the arrest of Wellpoint CEO, Angela Braly, a key player in the health insurance industry.

Episode #246 (January 23-35)

Segment 1 -- "Break the Siege on Gaza"

Although the war on Gaza ended, its residents continue to suffer the aftermaths and ongoing siege. Member of the British Parliament George Galloway was recently in Gaza, and shared his experience and thoughts with a large Sacramento audience on May 22, 2009. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 2 -- "Yes We Can, Can"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blending inspirational images with the music of Maria Muldaur.

Segment 3 -- "Generation M"

Despite the achievements of the women's movement over the past four decades, misogyny remains a persistent force in American culture. In this important documentary, Thomas Keith, professor of philosophy at California State University-Long Beach, looks specifically at misogyny and sexism in mainstream American media, exploring how negative definitions of femininity and hateful attitudes toward women get constructed and perpetuated at the very heart of our popular culture.

Episode #245 (January 16-18)

Segment 1 -- "The Hollywood Librarian"

Using the context of American movies, this film holds surprises for people who think they know what librarians do. American film contains hundreds of examples of librarians and libraries on screen -- some positive, some negative, some laughable and some dead wrong. Dozens of interviews of real librarians are interwoven with movie clips of cinematic librarians and serve as transitions between the themes of censorship, intellectual freedom, children and librarians, pay equity and funding issues, and the value of reading.

Segment 2 -- "Make a Better World"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blended with the music of Maria Muldaur.

Segment 3 -- "Let the Show Begin"

This film documents a 5 day international short film festival held in Baghdad in extremely difficult circumstances in September 2005. The young organizers of the event are determined to do something constructive and to assert a sense of creativity in a situation where daily violence traumatizes and paralyzes people.

Episode #244 (January 9-11)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Kris Holstrom's off-grid permaculture farm at 9000 feet high is living proof that food can be grown nearly anywhere. Managing with a very short growing season and water constraints, she and her interns have created magic. Tour the sun-warmed, insulated greenhouse where greens are grown year-round. It's home to a waterfall and pond with fish, trellises for grapes and seedlings, artwork for the soul, and mushrooms growing from straw. The outside garden offers herbs, berries, greens and prayer flags. Kris sees herself as a steward of the land, and delights in sharing it with kids and interns in a spirit of love and reciprocity.

Segment 2 -- "Dr. Nabil"

A gentle and committed surgeon, with literary talents, works at a small understaffed Baghdad hospital, which suffers from lack of equipment and medicines. While many other doctors have been killed or have fled the country in fear of their lives, Dr. Nabil has decided to stay. He worries, though, about the effect that the atmosphere of violence and brutality is having on his young son.

Segment 3 -- "August Peace Event 2009"

"No more Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis" on the 64th Annual Day of Rememberance and Action. This annual event -- sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility -- featured the story of Sadako, presentation of origami cranes, essays read by PSR essay finalists Monika Robbins and Ryan Suleiman, music, and more.

Episode #243 (January 2-4)**Segment 1 -- "First Lesson in Peace"**

The Jewish-Arab conflict through the eyes of a six-year-old girl.

Segment 2 -- "Reel Bad Arabs"

This devastating tour of the American cinematic landscape reveals an astonishing and persistent pattern of slanderous Arab stereotyping. Reel Bad Arabs exposes a long love affair with Arab villainy and buffoonery in American films.

Segment 3 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"

Thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by sectarian violence and have had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced person's camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice, trying to find a way to survive and provide for his family in the difficult circumstances in which they now find themselves.