WPKN Newsletter February 17, 2020

89.5 FM Bridgeport, New Haven – wpkn.org

Music, Culture, Arts and Entertainment

True Blues, a musical fundraiser, February 17th and 18th from 7am to 10pm.

Pianist Frederic Chiu joins Richard Epstein on Sometimes Classical. Frederic is an internationally-known concert pianist who is especially known for his interpretations of composers such as Ravel, Prokofiev, Chopin, and Liszt. He has recently released an album of transcriptions of Beethoven's 5th and 7th symphonies. He also works closely with Yamaha pianos to develop and promote the Disklavier, that is like the piano roll for the 21st century. Richard also will be joined by a special guest whose last appearance on his show was over 20 years ago. Wednesday, February 18 at 2:00 PM.

News and Public Affairs

This week's guests on Counterpoint, hosted by Scott Harris:
1) Jason Stanley is the Jacob Urowksky Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. He is the author of five books, including How Propaganda Works, winner of the Prose Award in Philosophy from the Association of American Publishers, and How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them, called by historian Jan T. Gross a "must-read for all of us who take seriously our responsibility as citizens." Professor Stanley will discuss his views on Donald Trump's post-impeachment acquittal behavior, i.e. revenge firings and apparent interference in Roger Stone's DOJ sentencing recommendation. He'll also explore the role of mass protests in this critical moment for democracy and the status of institutions that are in place to provide checks and balances on presidential abuse of power.
2) Alex Lawson, Executive Director of Social Security Works, examines President Trump's proposed budget that would cut Medicare by $850 billion, cut Medicaid by $920 billion and cut Social Security by $30 billion over the next decade -- and discusses the work his group is doing to educate the public on this threat posed by the Trump regime.
3) Victor Wallis, professor of Liberal Arts at the Berklee College of Music, was the managing editor of Socialism and Democracy for twenty years and has been writing on ecological issues since the early 1990s. He's the author of, "Red-Green Revolution: The Politics and Technology of Ecosocialism," and Democracy Denied: Five Lectures on U.S. Politics." Prof. Wallis will discuss the media's interpretation of the word socialism, as it applies to Bernie Sanders' self-described, "Democratic Socialism," in the context of the current Democratic presidential primary campaign. He'll also examine the history of the cold war stigma applied to the term socialism, compared with how the rest of the world views the word today.
4) Paul Kirchberg, Executive Director of the Connecticut chapter of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) talks about the progress of the campaign advocating the legalization of recreational marijuana in Connecticut, the proposal to coordinate laws in adjacent states New York and Rhode Island -- and NORML's Scorecard on CT Governor Ned Lamont's action on this issue. Monday, February 17 at 8:00 PM and in the WPKN archive.

Writer's Voice with Francesca Rheannon: Why do Americans vote at a lower rate than voters in any other advanced country? Maybe because that's the way our election system intends it. And can we get real democracy in the U.S.? We talk with political scientist Patrick Barrett about his article, "Can We Change the Political System? Strategic Lessons of the Bernie Sanders Campaign." Then we re-air our 2008 interview with muckraking reporter Greg Palast about his book "Steal Back This Vote." We talk about how voters are being disenfranchised by voter purging and other voter suppression methods. Monday, February 17 at 10:00 PM.

Sustainable East End: Host Francesca Rheannon talks with organic farming pioneer Scott Chaskey about recent organic farming meetings around the globe and "rematriation" the saving and returning of seeds to their place of origin. Sustainable East End programs are heard on the third Wednesday each month. Wednesday, February 12 at 7:30 PM and archived.

WPKN Events

WPKN'S Environmental Film Series continues on Monday, February 17 with "How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change." Traveling to 12 countries on six continents, the film acknowledges that it may be too late to stop some of the worst consequences and asks, what is it that climate change can't destroy? What is so deep within us that no calamity can take it away? Doors: 7 PM / Show: 7:30 PM. $12.00 At the Bijou Theatre, 275 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT, 06605.

WPKN'S Music On Film series continues on Thursday, February 20 with "Amazing Grace." Brilliantly capturing a remarkable performer near the peak of her prodigious power, Amazing Grace is a thrilling must-watch documentary for Aretha Franklin fans. Doors: 6:30 PM / Film: 7:00 PM. $12.00 At the Bijou Theatre, 275 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT, 06605.