By Rick Dulock

In our September report, 91.9 KVCR provided details on program schedule changes coming in October. But in order to provide the best possible information for our loyal listeners while documenting the evolution of public radio in the Inland Empire, we interviewed two impressive hosts whose voices have graced our airwaves. Both are directly connected to October program changes.

*Only A Game* has been public radio’s only weekly hour dedicated to sports, and it’s been on the air for 27 years. A short description of the show on the program website says OAG is “great stories and storytelling which explores the human side of sports.” I’ve always thought about *Only A Game* as a public radio restaurant with sports on the menu. Two years ago, after a quarter-century as the host, Bill Littlefield retired. Only Karen Given, the show’s Executive Director, knew enough about the intricacies of the show to fill his shoes. She carried the production on her shoulders for its final two years, and did it well! Production of *Only A Game* ended this year with a final airing on September 26. KVCR’s Lillian Vasquez interviewed Karen in late September as she prepared the final episode of the show. In the interview, we learned about Karen’s years-long transition from Technical Director to Executive Director and finally, the program host. And we found out that Karen’s radio career did not begin at WBUR in Boston where OAG is produced, but right here in Southern California! A KVCR News Feature containing part of the Karen Given interview was shared with listeners prior to *Only A Game*’s final airing.

*On Point* was a two-hour weekday program offered through NPR, but produced at WBUR in Boston. KVCR has carried the program for well over a decade. And although the original host, Tom Ashbrook left the program after allegations of impropriety, the show never lost its audience. An extensive search identified Meghna Chakrabarti as the perfect host and *On Point* continues to be carried nationwide by more than 290 public radio stations. An announcement from WBUR in August indicated a retooling of the show, from a two-hour call-in to a single hour with no calls. Shortly after that announcement, KVCR dropped the second hour of *On Point* (10-11 AM) in order to carry *Forum*, California’s daily call-in show from KQED. Now with Meghna in the host position, *On Point* continues the civil conversation about today’s most important topics every weekday from 9-10 AM on KVCR. Listeners will meet this accomplished public radio professional, learn about her career, her off-duty assignments, and about the changes to this long-running program in an extensive interview on a future episode of *Lifestyles with Lillian Vasquez*.
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Local literary nonprofit the Inlandia Institute and the Riverside Art Museum have teamed up for Suicide Prevention Month, presenting an online juried exhibition around suicide prevention in September.

Development Board Submits Report On Economic Equity, Climate Resilience

This report was submitted to the California Workforce Development Board about climate change and climate resilience. KVCR spoke with the author of the report, who gave some insights into its implications for the Inland Empire.

Healthcare Workers Rally For More PPE, Passage of SB 275

Workers rallied in 11 cities across California to call for more personal protective equipment, or PPE, as well as the passage of SB 275, which would ensure healthcare providers in the state have a stockpile of PPE for future emergencies. One of the rallies was in Riverside, and KVCR was there.

“Pathways to Employment” Program Funding - The Riverside County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to approve 4 million dollars for the Pathways to Employment program, designed to provide job training to lift participants out of poverty.

Contact Tracing in the IE - Through COVID-19 contact tracing, Riverside County is now reaching close to one hundred percent of infected people and San Bernardino County, nearly seventy percent.

Pedestrian Safety Operation in Redlands - The Redlands Police Department conducts a pedestrian safety enforcement operation to educate both drivers and pedestrians on traffic laws.

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September Television Pledge Drive
Our TV production staff produced a series of “Television Pledge Spots” which helped KVCR to exceed our monetary goal for the September television pledge drive. These spots were shot in the KVCR television studio on the campus of San Bernardino Valley College, while observing “best practices” for production during these unprecedented times. One of the items we included in this drive was the KVCR TV masks. We also pushed our “Text to Give” campaign.

Inside California Education – An award-winning public affairs series from Sacramento that reports on community-led initiatives, *Inside California Education* takes a look at the challenges and opportunities facing the Golden State’s public schools. **Wednesdays at 6:00pm**

Seat at the Table – A series hosted by intelligent, outspoken, unapologetic African-American women. Accomplished women in their own right, hosts bring their unique perspectives through candid conversations about family, careers, health, finance, beauty, relationships and more. **Thursdays at 11:00pm**

The Latino Vote: Dispatches From the Battleground – Get an inside look at the high-stakes effort to get out the Latino vote in this year’s election. Political candidates are focused on maximizing turnout and support from Latinos, poised to be the largest non-white voting bloc in 2020. **October 15 at 8:00pm**

American Experience: Freedom Riders – In 1961, segregation seemed to have an overwhelming grip on American society. Many states violently enforced the policy until an integrated band of college students decided, en masse, to risk everything and buy a ticket on a Greyhound bus bound for the Deep South. They called themselves the Freedom Riders. One of the first Freedom Riders was future Congressman, John Lewis. **October 22 at 8:00pm**

The Book Makers – This program profiles an eclectic group of people who have dedicated their lives to answering the question: what should books become in the digital age? **October 23 at 9:00pm**

Dismantling Democracy – Narrated by political commentator Tara Setmayer, this three-part series examines democratic structures in the United States and around the world. **Thursdays at 7:00pm starting October 29**

Driving While Black – Discover how the advent of the automobile brought new freedoms and new perils for African Americans on the road in this deep look into the dynamics of race, space and mobility in America over time. **October 29 at 8:00pm**

Promos - (Inside Jargon for Promotional Clips)
As part of our standard workflow KVCR’s Tim Stytle (our only current producer/editor for KVCR-TV) worked with his colleagues in Programming & Traffic to localize the promotional material provided by the producers of the shows aired on KVCR-TV. When the national producer has not provided a promo, Tim often times has to create one from scratch. All this to keep our viewers informed of the programs coming up.

**TV Pledge Drive Exceeds Goal**
Having recently completed our September pledge drive, we are happy to report that we exceeded our goal. The goal set for the drive was $90,000 and we raised just over $93,000 with a few more pledges still trickling in. Last year’s fall pledge drive raised $77,000. Our June and March pledge drives this year were also significantly up from last year’s numbers. Overall, we’re receiving more contributions and support from our viewers throughout the Southern California region.

The top three performing shows were: *History of Christianity*, *Independent Lens - Won’t You Be My Neighbor*, and: *Fever - Music of Peggy Lee*. 
91.9 KVCR Receives Grant to Produce Four-Part Radio Series: Wellness for Times of Uncertainty

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office is committed to Transforming Lives Through Education. Understanding that many have suffered significant trauma as a result of the pandemic and social unrest, the Wellness For Times of Uncertainty series is intended to provide resources and information in support of urgent mental health topics. As professional educators, they know the scientific link between stress, the brain and learning. KVCR’s reporters, Benjamin Purper, Megan Jamerson, and Shareen Award produced this 4-part radio series. All stories and links to resources may be found at kvcrnews.org/wellness. We hope this series is helpful in a collective recovery to build a stronger future.

Diagnosis Of Last Resort: Understanding Bipolar II - A relatively rare but debilitating mental disorder. KVCR spoke with author, and Loma Linda University Health psychiatrist, and a researcher who studies bipolar for this story.

Feeling Grief During the COVID-19 Pandemic Is Both Complicated and Normal - Megan Jamerson reported that for most of us when we think of grief, bereavement or the traditional grief that involves mourning the death of a loved one comes to mind. But we actually grieve every kind of loss. Dr. Veronica Kelley, Director of San Bernardino County’s Department of Behavioral Health says grief is defined as deep sorrow, trouble or annoyance and today grief is hitting us on multiple levels.

Youth Suicide Trends in a Digital World
Suicide rates are on the rise among young people. And now during the pandemic, young people may not have access to the support system they once did and it’s taking a toll on their emotional and mental well-being. Shareen Awad spoke with Wendy McClung, mental health teacher at Redlands East Valley High School. They discussed rising suicide rates among teens, risk factors, and how we can help support our youth.

Renowned Psychiatrist On How To Address And Prevent Teen Suicide - For the final story in this series, Benjamin Purper spoke with pediatrician and author of “Raising Global Teens” Anisha Abraham. She addressed the growing concern of teen suicide as adolescents begin an unprecedented fall term. Experts fear the worst as young adults prepare to face unknown challenges returning to school may bring. Issues range from coping with varying curricula, stressing over grades, and continued social isolation from friends and trusted teachers.

Full KVCR Staff Come “Together” After 7 Months

After months of operating KVCR under COVID-19 conditions, our staff had a virtually staff meeting. It was great to reconnect with staff members “in person.” Although we have held small department meetings, seeing all the gang was fun and energizing. “More to come” said interim GM, Alfredo Cruz.
RESERVES SHOULD BE AIDING THE COUNTRY’S DEVELOPMENT. BUT INSTEAD, IT’S BEING USED AS A SLUSH FUND FOR GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST CALCULATIONS, 9% OF THE COUNTRY’S GDP IS SIPHONED OFF. EVEN THE US AMBASSADOR ADMITS THAT OIL REVENUES ARE NOT GOING TO “THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE.” ANGOLANS ARE SETHING WITH RESENTMENT. IN THE ANGOLAN ENCLAVE OF CABINDA, THIS DISCONTENT HAS FUELED A SEPARATIST MOVEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN FIGHTING FOR YEARS. WITH MORE AND MORE ANGOLANS ASKING AWKWARD QUESTIONS, THERE’S A RISK THE COUNTRY WILL COLLAPSE INTO ANARCHY AGAIN IF THE CORRUPTION PROBLEM ISN’T ADDRESSED.

October 14 at 9:00pm

Fighting for West Papuan Independence – In July, 1998, the people of Biak say the Indonesian military brutally killed 150 people after a small group of protestors had dared to raise the Free West Papua flag. The government acknowledges only 1 death. Today the Biak massacre has become a driving force of resistance just as the Dili massacre did for East Timor. But the independence movement in this resource-rich land has a tough battle ahead. 

October 21 at 9:00pm

Pygmies: Short on Land – Short in stature, and now short of land, the pygmies of central Africa are facing an uncertain future. With loggers, conservationists and the lure of ‘progress’ closing in, can the pygmies find a place in the modern world?

October 28 at 9:00pm

Jeffrey Veregge is an award-winning Native American artist. Bringing his heritage into his work, he creates some absolutely incredible pieces that tie into the world of pop culture that we know and love.