

WBGO (88.3 FM) ASCERTAINMENT: ISSUE-RESPONSE PROGRAMMING FROM WBGO

For the Period: April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020

TOPICS ADDRESSED

Arts and Culture

Business and Economy

Health Care

Crime

Education

Environment

Government and State Agencies

Politics

Technology

Race and Ethnicity

Arts and Culture

Playing Through the Changes: June 19 Virtual Benefit Supports Jazz House Kids Relief Fund

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/playing-through-changes-june-19-virtual-benefit-supports-jazz-house-kids-relief-fund>

"Playing Through The Changes" is a one night only virtual benefit to support the Jazz House Kids Relief Fund. It's set for this Friday, June 19 at 7:30pm ET on the [Jazz House website](#) as well as the nonprofit organization's YouTube and Facebook page.

The President and CEO of Jazz House Kids, which has helped nearly 50-thousand young musicians and a NEA recipient, is singer Melissa Walker. She spoke to WBGO News Director Doug Doyle about the event.

Herb Alpert: "Jazz is All About Freedom and Points the Way"

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/herb-alpert-jazz-all-about-freedom-and-points-way>

Iconic trumpeter, A&M Records co-founder, painter, sculptor, philanthropist and past recipient of WBGO's Champions of Jazz Gala Award continues to give back during the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking to WBGO's News Director Doug Doyle from his California home, Alpert talked about jazz, his foundation, the renovation of the Harlem School of the Arts and the 26th annual Herb Alpert Award in the Arts recipients.

Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation Launches Emergency Fund For Jazz Musicians

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/louis-armstrong-educational-foundation-launches-emergency-fund-jazz-musicians>

The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation has created the Louis Armstrong Emergency Fund for Jazz Musicians to provide much needed support to vocalists and instrumentalists in the New York metropolitan area.

Business and Economy

'The back end of the frontline': How N.J.'s 'death care' workers are coping with COVID-19

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/back-end-frontline-how-nj-s-death-care-workers-are-coping-covid-19>

Jeff Dodgson organizes so many burials now he sometimes doesn't realize an acquaintance has died until he is preparing their final resting place.

"People I've known from working here for so long, people I would see a couple times a year, or people I would plant flowers for," said Dodgson, foreman of the Glendale Cemetery in Bloomfield. "I'm out marking a grave, and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, this was Mrs. So-and-So.'"

Owner of Moonshine Supper Club Feeds Frontline Workers Looks To Reopen As COVID19 Ravages Business

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/owner-moonshine-supper-club-feeds-frontline-workers-looks-reopen-covid19-ravages-business>

Restaurants and restaurant owners and employees across New Jersey have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, with many being forced to lay off employees and shut their doors, only to survive on pick up and delivery orders since the shut down began back in March, but some have managed to adapt and have even answered the call to feed those in need and those on the frontline.

SportsJam with Doug Doyle: Strat-O-Matic President Adam Richman

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/sportsjam-doug-doyle-strat-o-matic-president-adam-richman>

Strat-O-Matic began as a company in 1961, when Hal Richman, a Bucknell University mathematics student, began selling an early version of his baseball tabletop game out of his basement.

Next February, Strat-O-Matic celebrates it's 60th anniversary as the multi-platform leaders in sports simulation games for professional baseball, football, basketball, hockey and college football.

Hal's son Adam Richman is the President of Strat-O-Matic and is the latest guest on *SportsJam with Doug Doyle*.

Health Care

Founder of the Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green's Loving Passion

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/founder-ora-lee-smith-cancer-research-foundation-dr-hadiyah-nicole-greens-loving-passion>

Cancer affects many of us as about 8.8 million people die from cancer each year. Our family, friends, colleagues or even ourselves, with the best care, can be subjected to harsh side effects, lengthy treatment durations, prohibitive costs and limited accessibility. Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green, founder of the Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation, believes there's a better way.

Prudential and Mars Provide Operation Gratitude Jumbo Care Packages for Healthcare Workers

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/prudential-and-mars-provide-operation-gratitude-jumbo-care-packages-healthcare-workers>

It's another way of saying thank you to our frontline health care workers.

Jumbo Care Packages --- the work of the nonprofit Operation Gratitude as well as Newark's own Prudential and Mars Wrigley --- have made their way to hospitals in Newark as well as the police and fire departments.

Inside are snacks, candy, coffee, and handwritten thank you letters from Prudential employees and others. Are they helping?

The Terrible Toll on First Responders in NYC

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/terrible-toll-first-responders-nyc>

Here in our region, with the rate of COVID19 hospitalizations on the decline, officials have started the process of determining just how to restart the economy. But the pandemic has taken a terrible toll on first responders and their families.

Mayor Bill de Blasio recently briefed reporters on one way the city was trying to help these families cope.

Crime

Newark Today: June 18 Special Broadcast On Race Policing and Reform

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/newark-today-june-18-special-broadcast-race-policing-and-reform>

This month's edition of Newark Today was an in-depth discussion on race, policing and police reform in New Jersey's largest city.

Summit Interfaith Council's Virtual Protest and Rally Against Police Brutality Set for Sunday

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/summit-interfaith-councils-virtual-protest-and-rally-against-police-brutality-set-sunday>

This Sunday, June 14 at 4:30pm, The Summit Interfaith Council is sponsoring a virtual protest and rally with an in-person funeral procession through the streets of Summit to call attention to police brutality and extra-judicial killing of black and brown bodies.

The Rev. Vernon Williams of Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, who is also the Vice President of the Summit Interfaith Council, spoke with WBGO News Director Doug Doyle about Sunday's event.

Mass Protest Over the Death of George Floyd Sparks National Debate on Police Accountability

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/mass-protest-over-death-george-floyd-sparks-national-debate-police-accountability>

There's no doubt that George Floyd's brutal death in police custody last month has ignited a mass protest movement on a scale not seen since the 1960s. But it remains to be seen just what kind of change will come to pass.

WBGO contributor Bob Hennelly, who is also a reporter with the City Hall reporter for the *Chief Leader*, has been covering the issue of race and policing for the last 30 years. Hennelly spoke with WBGO News Director Doug Doyle.

DOYLE: In the Floyd case the officers were fired, arrested and charged.

Looters Clean Out a Fur Businesses in Chelsea

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/looters-clean-out-fur-businesses-chelsea>

This week there was widespread looting in New York City. In the Chelsea section of Manhattan, where WBGO's Jon Kalish resides, looters cleaned out a fur business.

Residents of the block responded by throwing bottles from the rooftops and recording videos of the looters with their arms full of fur coats.

Jon reports on what happened.

Education

Eduscape CEO Alex Urrea's Online Learning Advice for Teachers and Parents

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/eduscape-ceo-alex-urreas-online-learning-advice-teachers-and-parents>

Alex Urrea, CEO of Eduscape, has been leading educational companies for more than 20 years. Urrea says passion is to reach as many learners as possible by leveraging technology to personalize the learning process and give teachers and students an active voice in their education.

Urrea spoke to WBGO News Director Doug Doyle about how Eduscape, based in Montvale, New Jersey is working with schools and parents during the coronavirus pandemic.

Newark Trust For Education's Take on Online Learning and the May 12th School Board Elections

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/newark-trust-educations-take-online-learning-and-may-12th-school-board-elections>

The Newark Trust For Education is an independent non-profit dedicated to coordinating and focusing ideas, people, and resources on the efficient and effective delivery of a quality public education to all children in Newark; and to creating broad and shared accountability for student success across multiple stakeholders.

SportsJam with Doug Doyle: Student Player Founder Zach Segal

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/sportsjam-doug-doyle-student-player-founder-zach-segal>

While College athletics are on hold right now because of the coronavirus pandemic, some major decisions are still looming when it comes to paying college athletes for their name, image and likeness.

California and Colorado have already passed laws that take effect January 2023 that essentially create an open market for student athletes to be able to benefit from their name, image and likeness. New Jersey and New York are strongly considering similar possibilities.

Environment

Nonprofits are Continuing to Tackle Food Waste and Hunger throughout the Pandemic

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/nonprofits-are-continuing-tackle-food-waste-and-hunger-throughout-pandemic>

The FDA currently estimates that 30 to 40 per cent of all food supply in America is wasted, making it the largest category of material that is sent to landfills. Organizations like Table to Table are on a mission to stop the waste.

“We pick up from about 150 different donors, the food is distributed to about 250 partner agencies, and last year we picked up enough food for 23 Million meals. It’s an insane amount and if you think that most of it would have just been thrown away, that is the part that is just baffling.”

Jersey Shore Survived Sandy and Shark Attacks. The Coronavirus Threat is "On Another Level"

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/jersey-shore-survived-sandy-and-shark-attacks-coronavirus-threat-another-level>

In his 13 years working as a bartender at Harrah’s casino in Atlantic City, Jason McKnight has just about seen it all.

“Shakeups and downturns and expansion of gaming in other states and the list goes on,” he said. “I mean, you name it, we’ve done it.”

But in his estimation, nothing compares to the threat COVID-19 poses to the iconic resort town.

“This one’s on another level,” he said. “We don’t know if people are going to just flock back in like nothing happened, or if people are going to be very scared and very wary to be around that many people.”

The Newark Water Coalition Working Through the Coronavirus Pandemic

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/newark-water-coalition-working-through-coronavirus-pandemic>

The story of water in Newark continues to evolve.

Given the current focus on public health, clean water has become all the more invaluable.

“You don’t know - this bottle of water, and we know the phrase ‘water is life’, It could really save someone’s life. It could really make the difference in someone’s day.”

That was Anthony Diaz, one of the co-founders of the Newark Water Coalition.

Government and State Agencies

A Congressional Effort to Aid COVID Essential Workers and their Families

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/congressional-effort-aid-covid-essential-workers-and-their-families-0>

As states across the nation open up their economies, we are just beginning to get a sense of the toll on the families of essential workers, like nurses and firefighters, who either died in the pandemic or maybe permanently disabled from their bout with COVID19.

It should come as no surprise that the members of Congress from our region that led the charge for the passage of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund are teaming up to introduce the Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act.

Coronavirus Update: Activists Slam Turnpike Toll Hike, and Murphy Names Restart Team

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/coronavirus-update-activists-slam-turnpike-toll-hike-and-murphy-names-restart-team>

New Jersey reported 2,887 new coronavirus cases Tuesday, bringing the state's total to 113,856.

Another 402 people died of complications from COVID-19. The state has now lost 6,442 residents total to the pandemic.

'Epitome of foolishness': N.J. Turnpike Authority slammed over toll hike plan

New Jersey officials faced sharp criticism Tuesday over a plan to raise tolls on the Turnpike and Garden State Parkway in the middle of a pandemic. The money would fund \$24 billion worth of highway widening and other projects.

N.J. prepares to 'beg' for federal bailout as financial disaster looms

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/nj-prepares-beg-federal-bailout-financial-disaster-looms>

Should the coronavirus pandemic devastate state revenues across the country, as is widely expected, New Jersey will be among the states most dependent on federal aid to keep itself running.

That precarious position — relying on a president and Congress who have been willing to let New Jersey bleed money in the past — is the product of decades of poor financial planning and spending instead of saving.

Politics

June 2020 "Ask Governor Murphy" Focuses on Protests Surrounding the Death of George Floyd

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/june-2020-ask-governor-murphy-focuses-protests-surrounding-death-george-floyd>

The latest edition of *Ask Governor Murphy* on June 4 focused on how New Jersey is handling the protests surrounding the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the latest restrictions in New Jersey concerning the coronavirus.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, practicing social distancing, joined the show from his home.

The show was hosted by WNYC's Nancy Solomon.

Mayor Ras Baraka Joins Thousands in Newark Protest

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/mayor-ras-baraka-joins-thousands-newark-protest>

As protests erupted across the country this weekend, thousands descended on the city of Newark to express their outrage over the murder of an unarmed black man at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. Among them was the city's own Mayor, Ras Baraka.

New Jersey U.S. Senator Cory Booker talks to WBGO about Coronavirus & Latest Efforts in Washington

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/new-jersey-us-senator-cory-booker-talks-wbgo-about-coronavirus-latest-efforts-washington>

New Jersey U.S. Senator and former Newark Mayor Cory Booker says during the coronavirus outbreak he's been hunkered down in his Newark home except for the times he's joined Governor Phil Murphy at various events.

Concerns and Optimism from Former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/concerns-and-optimism-former-us-secretary-homeland-security-jeh-johnson>

Former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson remembers how the Obama administration faced challenges during the Ebola virus outbreak in 2014. Johnson, who served in that position from 2013 to 2017, says he understands how difficult it is to handle a threat like the coronavirus pandemic.

Johnson — partner in the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison, and a member of the WBGO Board of Trustees — emphasizes that he's learned a great deal from that experience in Washington, D.C. He spoke with WBGO News Director Doug Doyle.

Technology

Nextdoor Is Helping People Cope with the COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/nextdoor-helping-people-cope-covid-19-pandemic>

It has become apparent how social media have played a crucial role in helping people cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of the social media sharing has taken place on a national or international basis. But one social media network has been working in a hyper-local way.

WBGO's Jon Kalish has the story of Nextdoor.

Jesuit Priest Brings High Tech Skills to the Vatican

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/jesuit-priest-brings-high-tech-skills-vatican>

Father Robert Ballecer is a Jesuit priest from California known for his high tech skills. He's been living and working in the Vatican since 2018, setting up video studios and helping with social media projects.

WBGO's Jon Kalish spoke with him earlier this week to find out what's the latest digital projects he's working on.

Click above to hear their conversation.

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How Iconic Writer Dick DeBartolo Transitioned into the Giz-Wiz

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/how-iconic-writer-dick-debartolo-transitioned-giz-wiz>

Dick DeBartolo is a cultural icon. He's best known as a writer for *Mad* magazine, which he first contributed to in 1961. The following year he was hired as a writer on The Match Game, a popular TV game show.

58 years later DeBartolo is still in broadcasting, but not as a writer, as an on-air guest talking about gadgets.

His popular podcast is called [Giz-Wiz](#).

WBGO's Jon Kalish caught up with him recently to talk about the popular podcast and why he's enjoying it so much.

Click above to hear Jon's feature.

Race and Ethnicity

Commentary: "If Racism Benefits The White Population, Why Would They Want To Unlearn It?"

<https://www.wbgo.org/post/commentary-if-racism-benefits-white-population-why-would-they-want-unlearn-it>

I have to say, I went against my better judgement and I watched the video of the murder of George Floyd and it paralyzed me. I could do nothing for 2 days. Trying to understand how someone could take sadistic pleasure in seeing the life slip away from another human being while that person begged for his life to be spared.

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