

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

For the Period: April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

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

NJPAC hosts free, virtual poetry workshop and reading series in collaboration with City Verses

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-04-03/njpac-hosts-free-virtual-poetry-workshop-and-reading-series-in-collaboration-with-city-verses>

The **New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)** celebrates National Poetry Month with a free, virtual Newark-focused poetry workshop and reading series titled: **"The Forest of Bricks: What We Call Home."**

As part of City Verses, a jazz poetry initiative in partnership with Rutgers-Newark University and the Spring 2022 Virtual Reading and Poetry Workshop Series.

Newark poets **Dimitri Reyes** and **Queen Mother Imakhu** joined WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle to talk about the special events throughout the month of April.

National Black Theatre in Harlem is breaking ground on a new building and continuing the legacy of founder Dr. Barbara Ann Teer

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-06-25/national-black-theatre-in-harlem-is-breaking-ground-on-a-new-building-and-continuing-the-legacy-of-founder-dr-barbara-ann-teer>

These are exciting times for the **National Black Theatre** in Harlem.

NBT was founded in 1968 by the late Dr. Barbara Ann Teer, a fiercely committed dancer, actor, writer and artist activist. Dr. Ann Teer advocated for Black Theatres to be set up in Black communities and demanded that Black people support them. She wanted spaces where Black creatives, whether a playwright, poet, actor, or director could find a supportive environment in which to develop stories about who Black people really were and are, not the one dimensional characters created by White writers.

After Dr. Teer's passing in July of 2008, her daughter **Sade Lythcott**, took over NBT with the idea of preserving her mother's legacy. She has been masterful in her approach, even as the organization prepares to break ground on a new building on the corner of 125th Street and 5th Avenue, and is in an itinerant period - NBT under the guidance of Sade and Artistic Director **Jonathan McCrory** continues to bring great theater to New York stages in partnerships with organizations like The Public with whom they are currently co-producing *FAT HAM* the James Ijames Pulitzer Prize-winning play and with the New York Theater Workshop on *DREAMING ZENZILE*, the musical based on the life of Miriam Makeba and written by singer Somi Kakoma.

Sade Lythcott and Jonathan McCrory joined *WBGO Journal* host and News Director Doug Doyle to talk about the bright future ahead for NBT.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Returns to NJPAC Mother's Day Weekend and Celebrates Artistic Director Robert Battle's 10th Anniversary

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-05-06/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater-returns-to-njpac-mothers-day-weekend-and-celebrates-artistic-director-robert-battles-10th-anniversary>

The **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** returns to **NJPAC** in Newark for its annual Mother's Day weekend performances.

Artistic Director Robert Battle is celebrating his tenth anniversary with the world-famous dance company.

Battle joins WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle to talk about the performances and some of his favorite items in his home.

Business and Economy

Lisa Durden's upcoming documentary "Blind Divas" follows Krystle Allen and Naquela Wright-Prevoye, two Black women entrepreneurs, determined to challenge the stigmas and stereotypes about the blindness community

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-06-25/lisa-durdens-upcoming-documentary-blind-divas-follows-krystle-allen-and-naquela-wright-prevoye-two-black-women-entrepreneurs-determined-to-challenge-the-stigmas-and-stereotypes-about-the-blindness-community>

Lisa Durden, an award-winning director/producer and media personality leads the production of '***Blind Divas***,' a documentary following **Krystle Allen** and **Naquela Wright-Prevoye**, two blind, Black women entrepreneurs, determined to challenge the stigmas and stereotypes about the blindness community. This is not just a story about two determined women who are everyday champions in the blindness community, it's also a story of triumph.

Durden, Allen and Wright-Prevoye joined WBGO Journal host and News Director Doug Doyle to talk about the project and what ahead.

Durden says this film will pull back the curtain of curiosity about the abilities of women with vision loss, as we document their national 'Finding Miss Blind Diva Tour;' Hosted by Eyes Like Mine Inc. and the Greater Vision Foundation, The Miss Blind Diva Empowerment Pageant is honoring marvelous moms with disabilities. Join them for an afternoon of empowerment, entertainment, giveaways, and more.

Poor People's Campaign 21st Century Revival in DC. Thousands of young activists, who were not alive when Dr. King initiated the first one, answer the call.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-06-26/poor-peoples-campaign-21st-century-revival-in-dc-thousands-of-young-activists-who-were-not-alive-when-dr-king-initiated-the-first-one-answer-the-call>

DOUG DOYLE: We have heard a lot about the push for more unions lately. That was certainly highlighted last Saturday. Union activists, their families and supporters, including busloads from New Jersey came by the thousands to the nation's capital to participate in the [Poor People's Campaign's](#) call for a moral march on Washington. WBGO's Bob Hennelly has this reporters notebook.

HENNELLY: More than a half century after [Dr. Martin Luther King](#) called for the first Poor People's Campaign and March Rev. Dr. William Barber, the campaign's co-chair welcomed the large crowd that amassed just outside the nation's Capitol building, where back on Jan. 6, 2021 a violent insurrection raged.

BARBER: *"A hundred thousand people are on these streets and on the way. Buses are on the way. Millions have joined us on line. Pamela is not here. She died because of poverty and the denial of healthcare and COVID. But today we are joined by these young people who promised that no matter what happens to us, they will not let this movement go."*

HENNELLY: For five hours march attendees heard speakers address the unmet needs of the nation's 140 million low wealth and low wage people, roughly 43 percent of the population, including 52 percent of the country's children. Dozens of union activists, environmental advocates, and social justice activists took their turn addressing the large crowd that extended for blocks.

Tumult in America's Workforce this Workers' Memorial Day. WBGO'S Bob Hennelly speaks with Doug Doyle

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-05-01/tumult-in-americas-workforce-this-workers-memorial-day-wbgos-bob-hennelly-speaks-with-doug-doyle>

DOYLE: This past Thursday April 28 was [Workers' Memorial Day](#), which was established to honor those workers who over the previous year lost their lives due to injuries they suffered of diseases they contracted while they were on the job. This year's commemoration comes more than two years into the COVID pandemic that has claimed the lives of one million Americans,

including thousands of essential workers who died as a result of an on the job exposure to the killer virus. It also comes at a time when a record number of Americans are quitting their jobs. With us now to help make some sense out of these trends is WBGO's Bob Hennelly.

Bob, Thanks for joining us on the WBGO Journal. It seems everywhere you look there are help wanted signs. What's going on?

HENNELLY: *Well, labor demographers are calling it the "Great Resignation". Last year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 47 million Americans quit their job. And the data we have seen in this year show we are on pace to break that record with roughly million people opting to leave their current situation a month. To give you a sense of the scale of this consider that the entire enrollment of the AFL-CIO nationally is 12.5 million workers.*

Health Care

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in Manhattan presents a new exhibit on Jews and Cannabis

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-05-17/yivo-institute-for-jewish-research-in-manhattan-presents-a-new-exhibit-on-jews-and-cannabis>

A new exhibit on **Jews and Cannabis** is up at at the **YIVO Institute for Jewish Research** in Manhattan. A standing room only crowd turned out on the opening night, among them WBGO's **Jon Kalish** who filed this feature for the WBGO Journal.

Mentioned in the Bible and discussed in numerous traditional texts, cannabis has long been a part of Jewish life. For millennia, Jews have been buying, selling, and using cannabis for religious and medicinal purposes and as an intoxicant. The opening of YIVO's latest exhibit, ***Am Yisrael High: The Story of Jews and Cannabis***, featured a panel discussion moderated by **Eddy Portnoy**, who will provide a brief overview of the relationship between Jews

and cannabis. He then moderated a discussion with **Ed Rosenthal**, **Adriana Kertzer**, **Rabbi/Dr. Yosef Glassman**, and **Madison Margolin**. Their discussion considered the many connections of the Jews to cannabis – religious and spiritual, historical, scientific, and more.

Union County Woman Is One of the Longest US Survivors With a Type of Heart Pump

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-06-14/union-county-woman-is-one-of-the-longest-us-survivors-with-a-type-of-heart-pump>

The device, called a Left Ventricular Assist Device, takes the place of a damaged part of the heart.

A woman from Union County is one of the longest living patients in the US with a type of heart pump.

It's called a left ventricular assist device, designed to do what that part of the heart cannot.

42-year old Mayra Rodriguez has lived with hers for 14 years. She is the longest-living New Jersey resident with this device.

Margarita Camacho of Newark Beth Israel is the doctor who implanted the device in Rodriguez 14 years ago.

Hochul Signs Abortion Bills Into Law In NY

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-06-13/hochul-signs-abortion-bills-into-law-in-ny>

There's now new abortion laws in New York State with the possibility of the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.

Governor Kathy Hochul signed a package of bills Monday that largely helps out of state residents with abortions. Quadira Coles is the policy manager at Girl For General Equity.

"We are laying down the foundation to ensuring New York is a safe haven for anyone who wants an abortion and for anyone who wants to provide that care."

The bills give legal protection for abortion providers in New York and bans New York authorities from cooperating with law enforcement in other states that are investigating abortion services. Another bill allows for providers and patient addresses to be confidential.

Crime

Dead End: A New Jersey Political Murder Mystery podcast explores what really happened to a prominent couple in 2014

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-05-14/dead-end-a-new-jersey-political-murder-mystery-podcast-explores-what-really-happened-to-a-prominent-couple-in-2014>

Dead End: A New Jersey Political Murder Mystery podcast from WNYC studios is hosted and produced by **Nancy Solomon**.

Solomon investigates the 2014 brutal killings of a prominent New Jersey couple, John and Joyce Sheridan. Their eldest son Mark spent more than two years trying to find out what really happened to his parents in their Skillman home. His wife eventually convinced him to end that quest for the truth.

Now many years later, Nancy Solomon "reopens" the case in this seven-part podcast series which features the likes of former New Jersey Governor

Christie Whitman and famous forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Baden and many others.

Dead End is a story of crime and corruption at the highest levels of society in the Garden State.

WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle talks to Solomon about why she wanted to take an in-depth look into the murders and why it is still relevant today.

Bill Being Introduced To Make Gun Seizure Stats Public In NYC

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-06-15/bill-being-introduced-to-make-gun-seizure-stats-public-in-nyc>

A bill is expected to be introduced in the New York City council Thursday that requires more public details on illegal gun seizures in New York City.

Councilman Shaun Abreu's bill will require the NYPD to make gun seizure data public. Abreu says that includes location and if the gun was used in a crime. Also, information on dealers and out of state trafficking.

"There's a lot of obvious information but then there is some information that isn't accounted for like the ghost guns, and I think the dealer piece here will be really important because if we know the dealers that are involved with guns and crime, that could have a huge impact."

Abreu is hoping the data will help law enforcement and lawmakers in the battle against gun violence. Since Mayor Eric Adams took office in January, the NYPD has seized about three thousand guns off New York City streets.

Speed, red-light cameras could reduce racial disparity in police stops, study says

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-07-14/speed-red-light-cameras-could-reduce-racial-disparity-in-police-stops-study-says>

During the first six months of 2021, New Jersey State Police conducted more than 232,000 traffic stops, according to a [State Police traffic stop database](#).

State Police traffic stops in New Jersey involving Black drivers constituted 23% of stops, despite Black people making up only 12% of the population.

Moreover, the database reported that 43% of arrests made during traffic stops involved Black drivers.

New research suggests implementing traffic cameras may help reduce this disparity, and make roads safer in general.

A Rutgers University study released in June found that national support for automated traffic cameras increased when participants viewed camera implementation through the lens of racial justice.

Kelcie Ralph, a safety researcher whose work identifies traffic misconceptions and solutions to traffic safety issues, authored the report.

Education

'Our children deserve better': Supporters rally for desegregation of New Jersey schools

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-04-03/our-children-deserve-better-supporters-rally-for-desegregation-of-new-jersey-schools>

As a New Jersey state judge is deliberating, supporters of a lawsuit accusing the state of perpetuating segregated schools held a lunchtime rally in Trenton on Thursday.

The dozens who attended represented a cross-section of youth, faith, social justice, and civil rights groups who want state leaders to demolish, what a University of California Los Angeles study determined to be, the home of some of the most segregated schools in the country.

Some speakers who were educated in the Garden State recalled the lengths their families took to send them to a better school district.

Cultivating Tomorrow's Leaders: Meet Growing4ward's Carlos Walton

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-05-01/cultivating-tomorrows-leaders-meet-growing4wards-carlos-walton>

According to The Postsecondary National Policy Institute, between 2009 and 2019, the number of Black undergraduates who enrolled right after high school decreased from 2.5 million students to 2.1 million. History has shown that a college degree doesn't guarantee success in life but people with higher education are less likely to live below the poverty line. Carlos Walton, founder and executive director of youth development initiative Growing4ward Incorporated, is providing a platform to keep young adults focused on higher learning and breaking the generational curse of poverty.

Parents Can Go To Summer School to Learn How to Work for Better New Jersey Schools

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-06-02/parents-can-go-to-summer-school-to-learn-how-to-work-for-better-new-jersey-schools>

The nonprofit JerseyCAN is offering a free online course in how the education system works and advocacy tools that can be used to improve schools

The pandemic and the home schooling that went with it forced more parental involvement with schools.

Now parents will have a chance to go to summer school in July and August, to a free online program run by the nonprofit JerseyCAN that will teach them

how to better advocate for better schools. Janellen Duffy is the group's senior policy advisor.

"We're gonna do basically like an Education 101 to start, we're gonna talk about what the education landscape in New Jersey looks like, how we look at quality of schools, what are the measures that are looked at," she said.

Duffy said those who have signed up so far have expressed a number of concerns.

Environment

NYC Preparing For Above Normal Hurricane Season

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-05-24/nyc-preparing-for-above-normal-hurricane-season>

New Yorkers are urged to prepare for what experts predict will be an above normal hurricane season.

Nearly a decade after Superstorm Sandy hit and less than a year after Ida New York City is launching a Know Your Zone Awareness ad campaign that will be important during threats of severe weather. FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell says over three million people live in one of the city's six evacuation zones.

"Better understand what your unique risk is going to be and put that plan in place for if you have to evacuate. Where are you going to go? How are you going to communicate with your family and loved ones? What are you going to take with you."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is forecasting between 14 to 21 named storms. That would be above normal for the seventh year in a row.

NY State Releases Guide For Buildings To Reduce Carbon Emissions

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-04-21/ny-state-releases-guide-for-buildings-to-reduce-carbon-emissions>

New York State is releasing a guide on how commercial building owners can reduce their carbon footprint to help the state meet its clean energy goals.

Head of Empire State Realty Trust Anthony Malcolm says the newly formed Empire Building Playbook is a step by step guide to low carbon retrofits. He's hoping high rise building owners in New York City will use it to get away from fossil fuels and reduce energy consumption.

"All electrification is not the answer. We must consume less energy to convert to a reliable renewably powered grid. The risks of grid collapse due to excessive demand in the middle of winter are too great."

The playbook includes lessons on developing a profitable investment in energy and carbon reducing technologies.

New Rooftop Farm On Staten Island To Absorb Storm Water

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-04-19/new-rooftop-farm-on-staten-island-to-absorb-storm-water>

There's a new rooftop farm that is opening on Staten Island that will grow organic food and help alleviate flooding.

The roof of the Nicotra Group's Corporate Commons Three building is comprised of perennial wildflowers and organic vegetables. It's designed to absorb three and a half million gallons of rainfall annually. Staten Island

Councilman James Gennaro says this will take pressure off the area drainage system.

“This is a win, win, win. We get to capture storm water. We get to grow healthy food. We get to support not for profit organizations.”

The rooftop farm is paid for by a 670-thousand dollar green infrastructure grant. The Adams Administration is looking to build more roof top farms on other buildings including schools.

Government and State Agencies

Pallone Updates Veterans on Help From Washington as Memorial Day Approaches

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-05-27/pallone-updates-veterans-on-help-from-washington-as-memorial-day-approaches>

New Jersey Congressman Frank Pallone held a pre-Memorial Day roundtable with veterans to talk about what lawmakers are doing to help those who've served.

Pallone sponsored a bill which has passed the House and is aimed at helping homeless vets and those who need financial help.

“The goal of the bill is to take a look at the financial and credit counseling services that are offered through the supportive service for veterans families program and to obviously get veterans into housing,” he said.

Be Ready, a PAC to Elect More Black Women in New Jersey, Takes Off

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-05-06/be-ready-a-pac-to-elect-more-black-women-in-new-jersey-takes-off>

The group also aims to advance an agenda important to Black women, which includes education, health care, and closing the wealth gap.

It's called Be Ready, New Jersey's first Political Action Committee dedicated to getting Black women elected and addressing the issues that are important to them.

Executive director Shennell McCloud said a poll run by the group's sister organization Project Ready, a nonprofit focused on education and voter turnout, revealed what those issues are.

"The wealth gap, how wealth can limit the opportunity and potential of black women, education, whether or not students are receiving a quality education given all that's happened amid Covid, and health care," she said.

McCloud said she sees this as a building year for the group to forge ties with among others Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, the first woman of color to serve in a statewide elected office in New Jersey, and all Black women who want to get involved.

NJ Transit buses will return to Philly in June

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-05-03/nj-transit-buses-will-return-to-philly-in-june>

Some NJ Transit riders will no longer need to transfer buses in Camden if they want to continue to Philadelphia.

During an agency board meeting on Friday, Mike Kilcoyne, general manager of bus operations, announced that five routes – 313, 315, 317, 408, 409 – will

now stop at 10th and Market Streets in Center City, one block from the Greyhound terminal, starting June 25.

NJ Transit officials [pulled their buses from the terminal](#) due to safety concerns for customers after the bus company reconfigured the terminal. The five routes have been terminating at the Walter Rand Transportation Center for more than a month since then.

Politics

Hochul Signs Voter Rights Act

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-06-20/hochul-signs-voter-rights-act>

Voting rights are being expanded in New York State.

Governor Kathy Hochul signed a voting rights bill into law today that tries to prevent voter suppression, expands language assistance beyond the federal voting requirements and ensures barriers to accessing the polls are removed. Fulvia Vargas-De Leon with the Latino Justice organization says this is a win for those who don't speak English.

Incumbents win in N.J. Congressional primary races

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-06-08/incumbents-win-in-n-j-congressional-primary-races>

New Jersey's primary election yielded no surprises, [including low turnout](#). Most of the action, limited as it was, involved congressional districts in North Jersey.

In South Jersey, all three incumbents faced challengers, though they prevailed as expected.

Democratic incumbent Donald Norcross held off his progressive challenger Mario DeSantis, a teacher. On the Republican side, Claire Gustafson – a businesswoman and former Collingswood School Board member – will go on to face Norcross in the general election for the 1st Congressional District, which covers all of Camden County, half of Gloucester County, and a couple of small pockets in Burlington County.

It will be a rematch for Gustafson, who challenged him in 2020.

The 2nd Congressional District covers all of Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties, plus parts of Ocean County and the other half of Gloucester County.

The next "Ask Governor Murphy" on June 8th at 7pm covers a number of issues.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-06-07/listen-here-for-next-ask-governor-murphy-program-at-7pm-on-wednesday-june-8>

The next edition of *Ask Governor Murphy* streams live at 7pm on the WBGO website (here) on June 8. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and host Nancy Solomon will be taking your phone calls at 973-297-0941.

The number to call is 973-297-0941 Wednesday night at 7pm (June 8), or on social media with #askgovmurphy.

Technology

The next edition of Newark Today is on Thursday, June 16 at 8pm

<https://www.wbgo.org/newark-today/2022-06-15/watch-here-for-the-next-edition-of-newark-today-on-thursday-june-16-at-8pm>

On the next ***Newark Today*** (Thursday, June 16 at 8pm), host Michael Hill will be joined by Mayor Ras Baraka to talk about all the latest around New Jersey's largest city. We'll also be joined by NJPAC CEO and President John Schreiber about the Lionsgate deal and how it affects Newark's film and television production industry job picture. They'll discuss how technology in the film industry has put Newark in the forefront of motion picture business.

Union County Woman Is One of the Longest US Survivors With a Type of Heart Pump

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42-year old Mayra Rodriguez has lived with hers for 14 years. She is the longest-living New Jersey resident with this device.

Margarita Camacho of Newark Beth Israel is the doctor who implanted the device in Rodriguez 14 years ago.

Redesign Process Underway For Penn Station

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-06-09/redesign-process-underway-for-penn-station>

The redesign process is underway for the modernization of Penn Station. New York State is now accepting bids for the overhaul.

A revamped Penn Station is expected to be all one level, with bright natural light, a high ceiling, numerous retail stores and easier to navigate. There will be an increase in the number of stairs and escalators leading to train platforms. Governor Murphy says NJ Transit riders heading into Penn could use an upgrade.

“Deserve a Penn Station that is inviting and comfortable. Deserve better than the continually cramped and constantly muggy halls and claustrophobic low slum ceilings.”

Murphy joined New York Governor Kathy Hochul today to announce that officials are now taking bids for the massive overhaul of Penn.

Race and Ethnicity

The Legacy of Photographer Chester Higgins

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-04-03/the-legacy-of-photographer-chester-higgins>

The African-American photographer **Chester Higgins** has made close to 50 trips to Africa since the early 1970's. For much of that time he worked at the *New York Times*. But Higgins, now 75, hasn't stopped documenting the continent's history and culture.

Higgins recently received a lifetime achievement award from a group of veteran NYC journalists.

WBGO's Jon Kalish reports on the legacy of Chester Higgins.

Commentator Mildred Antenor: Ketanji Brown Jackson's Confirmation Hearings Brought Back Painful Memories

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-04-17/commentator-mildred-antenor-ketanji-brown-jacksons-confirmation-hearings-brought-back-painful-memories>

It was one of his most debatable campaign promises and he came through with it. In February of this year, President Biden nominated Judge **Ketanji Brown Jackson** to be the 116th Associate Justice of the United States supreme court, the first time that an African American woman holds the position of supreme court justice.

And finally ----- the Supreme Court is slowly but surely beginning to look like what America looks like --- an ethnically and racially diverse nation of rainbow colors. Of course we haven't reached it yet, for example we don't have a native American or Asian American justice. But, I firmly believe that will happen. We've already started that conversation, we can't go back now.

And I must say that this nomination is not a gift to Justice Jackson. She earned it. She graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and served as supervising editor of the Harvard Law Review. She also served as vice chair and commissioner on the United States sentencing commission. And there are a myriad of other professional posts of hers that I could mention but, it's too long to point out in this commentary. Needless to say the woman has credentials. But that's not what this opinion piece is about.

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