

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

For the Period: October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

TOPICS ADDRESSED

Arts and Culture

Business and Economy

Health Care

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Education

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Government and State Agencies

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Technology

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Arts and Culture

Celeste A. Bateman's New Documentary "Gone Too Soon: The Life, Legacy and Loss of Newark's Cultural Icons"

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-11-18/celeste-a-batemans-new-documentary-gone-too-soon-the-life-legacy-and-loss-of-newarks-cultural-icons>

Gone Too Soon: The Life, Legacy and Loss of Newark's Cultural Icons is a documentary project that examines the lives as well as the artistic, cultural and educational contributions of several of Newark's cultural icons.

The featured in the doc are **Cephas Bowles**, former WBGO President and CEO, Poet/Playwright/Activist **Amiri Baraka**, Poets **Breya "Blkbrry Mollassez" Knight** and **Halim Suliman**; Actor/Director/Arts Administrator **Rodney Gilbert**, Historians **Dr. Clement Alexander Price**, **Charles Cummings** and **Dr. Robert Curvin**, Artists **Russell Murray** and **Jerry Gant** and theater producer **Kabu Okai-Davies**.

The 90-minute documentary is the work of arts advocate, filmmaker and licensed booking agent Celeste A. Bateman from Newark.

Tony Award and Daytime Emmy Award winner Lillias White explores the life, struggles and music of legendary singer Sarah Vaughan with a special concert at NJPAC

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-11-05/tony-award-and-daytime-emmy-award-winner-lillias-white-explores-the-life-struggles-and-music-of-legendary-singer-sarah-vaughan-with-a-special-concert-at-njpac-on-november-12>

As part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival, Tony Award and Daytime Emmy Award winner **Lillias White** will bring her talents to the New Jersey Performing Art Center (NJPAC) for "**Divine Sass: Lillias White Sings Sarah Vaughan Live on Stage**" on November 12 at 7:30pm.

WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle chats with Lillias about her special tribute to Sarah Vaughn, her amazing career that continues on with *Chicago The Musical* on Broadway and a new album, her love of jazz, and even a conversation about her loving pets.

American Ballet Theatre's "ZigZag" celebrates the music and artwork of Tony Bennett

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-28/american-ballet-theatres-zigzag-celebrates-the-music-and-artwork-of-tony-bennett>

The World Premiere of the **American Ballet Theatre Company** of ***ZigZag*** celebrates the legendary career of **Tony Bennett**, using both his songs and his visual artwork to highlight the authentic humanity of his vocal performances.

ZigZag, choreographed by Jessica Lang and set to 11 recorded songs sung by Tony Bennett, had its World Premiere at the ABT's 2021 Fall Gala on Tuesday, October 26.

Prior to the Gala, one of ABT's Principal Dancers, Calvin Royal III joined WBGO's Doug Doyle to chat about the show, returning to the stage and his amazing career.

Business and Economy

Prudential Emerging Visionaries awards program focuses on celebrating young people

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-12/prudential-emerging-visionaries-awards-program-focuses-on-celebrating-young-people-who-bringing-fresh-perspectives-and-new-solutions-to-pressing-financial-and-societal-challenges-in-their-communities>

After 26 years, Prudential's Spirit of Community Awards will officially be known as "**Prudential Emerging Visionaries**." The campaign has a refined mission: to celebrate young people ages 14-18 bringing fresh perspectives and new solutions to pressing financial and societal challenges in their communities. The program now puts a spotlight on financial wellness as a foundation on which to build a solid future, championing projects that will help people improve their financial well-being and create thriving communities.

Prudential Financial's Director of Inclusive Solutions Heather Cestaro says the program builds on the legacy and momentum of the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, the country's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service.

Coronavirus Pandemic prompts a unique breed of Wedding Caterers who Cook on a Open Fire in front of their Wedding Guests

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-11/coronavirus-pandemic-prompts-a-unique-breed-of-wedding-caterers-who-cook-on-a-open-fire-in-front-of-their-wedding-guests>

The coronavirus pandemic has been a roller coaster ride for wedding caterers. For many, the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2020 wedding season was lost. This year business is booming.

WBGO's Jon Kalish reports on a unique breed of caterers that cook on open fire in front of the wedding guests.

Newark Moonlight Cinema owners Ayana and Siree Morris are creating a new Drive-In Experience on the land that the James M. Baxter Terrace Housing Project once stood.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-02/newark-moonlight-cinema-owners-ayana-and-siree-morris-are-creating-a-new-drive-in-experience-on-the-land-that-the-james-m-baxter-terrace-housing-project-once-stood>

The pandemic of 2020 was the catalyst for innovation in so many industries. Newark Moonlight Cinema, the first drive in theater in Newark since the late 80's, has added a twist to one of favorite americas past times. The owners, Ayana and Siree Morris, are providing a one of kind experience for movies goers.

(Ayana)"You know, when we were doing Black Panther I made sure the whole staff.. I told them that I was no longer Newark Moonlight, it was Wakanda. So they all had to dress the part."

Mr. Morris, a developer & civil engineer, shared his thoughts on understanding what makes your business distinct and why Moonlight has been able to connect with the community so well.

Health Care

Grassroot Soccer co-founder and Survivor African winner Ethan Zohn helps to teach at-risk youth about HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-12-05/grassroot-soccer-co-founder-and-survivor-african-winner-ethan-zohn-helps-to-teach-at-risk-youth-about-hiv-aids-awareness-and-prevention>

Ethan Zohn's passion for advocacy, social enterprise, global health and self-empowerment took shape in 2002, when he used a significant portion of 1-million dollar winnings from **CBS' *SURVIVOR: Africa*** to co-found **Grassroot Soccer**, a first-of-its-kind non-governmental organization (NGO) that uses the sport of soccer to teach at-risk youth self-reliance and critical life skills, such as HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

It was the realization of an idea that first came to light while Zohn was playing professional soccer for Highlanders FC in Zimbabwe.

Since Grassroot Soccer's inception, the international organization has scaled up to 60 countries worldwide, impacted and graduated more than 13-million lives, and worked with scores of public and private-sector partners.

Ethan Zohn, who is also a cancer survivor, media celebrity, former professional goalkeeper and former FDU assistant soccer coach, joined *SportsJam with Doug Doyle* to talk about his incredible journey that's far from over.

NYC Health Commissioner Urges Caution For Holiday Gatherings

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-12-23/nyc-health-commissioner-urges-caution-for-holiday-gatherings>

This is one of the busiest travel days in the year but New York City's top doctor thinks some people need to stay put for the holidays. Health Commissioner Dr. Dave Chokshi says those who have gotten vaccinated against coronavirus and the booster shot and are not in a high risk category should feel safe traveling. However, with coronavirus cases surging, he thinks its best for those who have not gotten the shot to stay in New York City.

"If you are unvaccinated, you should not travel. That is for your safety as well as the safety of others whom you will be in contact with."

Meanwhile, the city is hoping to ease long wait times at coronavirus testing sites. more are now up and running including several federally run ones. Thousands of at home test kits are being handed out as well at testing sites to those waiting in long lines.

NYC Hits Record COVID Case Numbers But Hospitals Remain Strong

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-12-22/nyc-hits-record-covid-case-numbers-but-hospitals-remain-strong>

Coronavirus cases continue to surge in New York City but the hospital situation is pretty good. Latest daily figures show nearly 11 thousand cases, an all time high. However, head of the city's public hospital system Dr. Mitchell Katz says most are not ending up in the hospital.

"Cases, huge increase, ICU tiny increase, people in the middle needing hospitalization, mild increase."

He says it appears omicron is more mild for vaccinated folks but not enough data is in for the unvaccinated. Meanwhile, the city's public hospitals are now banning most visitors because of the coronavirus surge. There are a few exceptions including women giving birth.

Crime

Two Men Convicted of Killing Malcolm X Will Be Exonerated After Decades

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-11-29/two-men-convicted-of-killing-malcolm-x-will-be-exonerated-after-decades>

WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle chats with reporter Bob Hennelly about the latest in the Malcolm X murder case.

DOYLE: Earlier this month, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance asked a state court to exonerate two of the three men convicted decades ago for the murder in 1965 of civil rights visionary Malcolm X at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem. In his remarks in court Vance apologized to the wrongfully convicted men and their families. He also referenced what he called "unacceptable violations of the law and

the public trust” by both the FBI and the NYPD that were the cause for the miscarriage of justice over all these years.

With us now to discuss these significant developments is the Chief Leader’s City Hall reporter Bob Hennelly.

The Long March For Justice

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-11/the-long-march-for-justice>

Larry Hamm, the chairman of the People's Organization for Progress leads "**The Long March For Justice**". The march is a nine-day 67-mile trek from Montclair To Trenton for Police Accountability, Social Justice, And Economic Progress.

The march started on Friday in Montclair at the intersection of Church Street and Bloomfield Avenue, in Montclair, New Jersey and ends end at 1pm on, Saturday, October 16th, at the State House in Trenton.

Hamm spoke with WBGO's Doug Doyle prior to embarking on the walk.

Advocacy groups press N.J. lawmakers to take action on police reform

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-12-29/advocacy-groups-press-n-j-lawmakers-to-take-action-on-police-reform>

Social justice advocacy groups in New Jersey are renewing their calls for the state to pass meaningful police reform, arguing state lawmakers haven't done enough to hold police accountable for excessive use of force and officer misconduct.

Groups like the [ACLU of New Jersey](#) said state lawmakers have been all talk and little action since the days following the [murder of George Floyd](#), a Black man killed by former police officer Derek Chauvin in Minnesota in 2020.

“Days, weeks, and months after the murder of George Floyd, we saw lawmakers at every level, from the bottom to the top of the state, talk about needing reform, and those words [have] just melted away,” said Amol Sinha, executive director of the ACLU-NJ.

Education

Chalkbeat Newark senior reporter Patrick Wall checks the Coronavirus Relief funds in the state's largest school district

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-11-29/chalkbeat-newark-reporter-patrick-wall-checks-the-coronavirus-relief-funds-in-the-states-largest-school-district>

ChalkBeat is a non-profit, nonpartisan news organization committed to covering education.

Patrick Wall, senior reporter for Chalkbeat Newark, chats with WBGO Journal host and News Director Doug Doyle about some of his latest articles focuses on the challenges facing the state's largest school district.

NYC Ramps Up In School Testing Following Break

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-12-28/nyc-ramps-up-in-school-testing-following-break>

New York City is incorporating more coronavirus testing as part of a new plan to keep schools safe when students return from winter break January 3rd. Despite the surge in coronavirus cases, Health Commissioner Dr. Dave Chokshi says schools are one of the safest places to be. He says the city plans on doubling the random weekly tests it conducts on students and staff.

“We will distribute rapid test kits at a mass scale, both around cases identified in classrooms as well as to staff and we will encourage wide testing of students and staff ahead of the first day of school.”

When a positive case pops up, every student in that classroom will get sent home with rapid COVID test kit. If the test is negative and there are no symptoms that student can return the next day.

Eric Adams Names David Banks As Next NYC Schools Chancellor

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-12-09/eric-adams-names-david-banks-as-next-nyc-schools-chancellor>

New York City Mayor Elect Eric Adams has picked a chancellor to head the nation’s largest school system. The next chancellor, David Banks plans on expanding early

childhood education programs and emphasizes career technical education for high schoolers.

“We are not properly preparing our young people to take their place in the 21st century economy. There are great opportunities out here. The CTE pathways, this is not your grandfather’s CTE. These are high tech jobs.”

Both Mayor elect Eric Adams and Banks are promising big changes. Adams calls the current system dysfunctional. Banks will be dealing with scores of children who suffered learning loss during the pandemic. The longtime educator founded Eagle Academy, a network of all boys schools.

Environment

Styrofoam Now Banned In NY State

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-01-02/styrofoam-now-banned-in-ny-state>

Styrofoam products are now banned throughout New York State. The new law went into effect over the weekend with the start of a new year.

Styrofoam is already banned in New York City and other areas of the state but the new law now covers the entire state. Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos says this means no more sales or use of Styrofoam coffee cups, food containers and packing peanuts.

“This is meant to really improve the environment, reduce the amount of plastic and Styrofoam waste that gets into the marine landscape and into our parks.”

Businesses caught using Styrofoam face fines but Seggos says the focus first will be on education before enforcement. Businesses can apply for a hardship waiver because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Farmers Can Battle Climate Change By Getting Carbon Out of the Air and Into the Soil, Rutgers Study Says

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-12-11/farmers-can-battle-climate-change-by-getting-carbon-out-of-the-air-and-into-the-soil-rutgers-study-says>

Soil in New Jersey farmlands has been robbed of carbon and other organic matter that keeps it healthy, researchers say
There's a lot farmers can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change.

Researchers at Rutgers looked into what can be done. Marjorie Kaplan runs the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center there.

"This study was to look at what the landscape is for how farmers can take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and store it in soil and plants," said Kaplan, one of the authors.

The report identified a number of practices farmers can undertake to put more carbon back into the soil.

Infrastructure Bill Means a Green Light for Gateway

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-11-09/infrastructure-bill-means-a-green-light-for-gateway>

The project will mean thousands of jobs for construction workers and better train service from Newark to New York City.

President Biden's infrastructure bill will send more than 12 billion dollars to New Jersey, for the long-delayed Gateway Project among other things.

The project will double train capacity into New York City along the Northeast Corridor rail line between Newark and Manhattan.

Greg Lavee is the business manager for the union that is training workers for Gateway. He said the project will help not only train riders but the environment.

Government and State Agencies

Robert Hennelly's "Stuck Nation" asks can the United States Change Course on Our History of Choosing Profits Over People?

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-18/robert-hennellys-stuck-nation-asks-can-the-united-states-change-course-on-our-history-of-choosing-profits-over-people>

Award-winning print and broadcast journalist Robert (Bob) Hennelly has been covering news stories in New Jersey and New York City before he got a drivers license. Now he's out with his first book ***Stuck Nation: Can the United States change course on our history of choosing profits over people?***

Hennelly is the City Hall reporter for the *Chief Leader* and a regular contributor to the WBGO Journal, *Inside NJ* and *Salon*, and has also started his own show on WBAI.

Bob spoke to WBGO Journal host and News Director Doug Doyle about the book that details how the U.S. is struggling with a deeply troubled capitalist system and offers solutions.

New York City municipal employees who don't get vaccinated could face suspension without pay on Friday

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-28/new-york-city-municipal-employees-who-dont-get-vaccinated-could-face-suspension-with-pay-on-friday>

This past week the de Blasio administration began imposing a vaccine mandate for ALL New York City civil servants. As of this weekend, municipal employees who have not submitted proof that they have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine will be suspended without pay.

WBGO News Director Doug Doyle chats with regular *WBGO Journal* contributor Bob Hennelly, City Hall reporter for the *Chief Leader*, which covers the city's public unions. Hennelly analyzes how these significant developments impact everyone.

N.J.'s new congressional map adopted as advocates question transparency of the process
<https://www.wbgo.org/2021-12-23/n-j-s-new-congressional-map-adopted-as-advocates-question-transparency-of-the-process>

A New Jersey commission has adopted the state's [new congressional district map](#), about one month ahead of a Jan. 18 deadline. The map will take effect for the 2022 midterm election and features changes that will impact some incumbents next year.

[The process](#) has drawn backlash from Republican and progressive groups alike, who criticized what they said is a lack of transparency and public input, especially in the final stages.

The Congressional Redistricting Commission, made up of six Democrats, six Republicans, and an independent chairperson, voted Wednesday morning along party lines on two maps — one drawn by Democrats and the other drawn by Republicans.

Politics

"State of Affairs with Steve Adubato" goes in-depth in a one-hour Public Broadcasting special on the Race for New Jersey Governor
<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-01/state-of-affairs-with-steve-adubato-goes-in-depth-in-a-one-hour-public-broadcasting-special-on-the-race-for-new-jersey-governor>

With one debate down and one more to go, voters get a chance this weekend to hear more about the race for New Jersey Governor on public broadcasting's *State of Affairs with Steve Adubato*.

Adubato is the Emmy Award-winning anchor on *State of Affairs*, author of *Lessons in Leadership* and the host of WBGO's Saturday morning program "One on One."

The one-hour special, which airs on NJ PBS, News 12 New Jersey and Thirteen, will include two 30-minute individual interviews with Governor Phil Murphy and Republic nominee Jack Ciattarelli (Check your local listings for dates and start times).

Aduvato joined *WBGO Journal* host Doug Doyle to talk about the race and preview the special.

New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver joins host Michael Hill on the next edition of Newark Today

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-12-15/new-jersey-lieutenant-governor-sheila-oliver-joins-host-michael-hill-on-the-next-edition-of-newark-today>

On the next *Newark Today*, host Michael Hill will be joined by Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver for a one-on-one conversation on the heels of last month's election. Lieutenant Governor Oliver and Governor Phil Murphy prepare to be sworn in for a second term in January,

This is a special end-of-the-year broadcast. We will be taking calls LIVE at 973-297-0914.

Newark Today is Thursday, December 16 at 8pm on 88.3 FM and wbgo.org. You can also catch the show streaming on the Newark Today facebook page.

Technology

How the Belfast method became a 'musical chairs on a worldwide level'

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-11-22/how-the-belfast-method-became-a-musical-chairs-on-a-worldwide-level>

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a huge increase in the use of Zoom and other video conferencing software. It has also accelerated major advances in remote video production. A group of professional media producers has developed a technique that enables people from all over the world to serve on the same video production crew.

WBGO's Jon Kalish has the story of the Belfast method.

Trenton approves \$10 million overhaul of its emergency radio system

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-11-17/trenton-approves-10-million-overhaul-of-its-emergency-radio-system>

With a month and a half to spare before a court order expires, New Jersey's capital city has approved a plan to overhaul its emergency radio system, which officials say has been unreliable.

Trenton City Council on Monday approved spending \$10.1 million in American Rescue Plan funding to replace its 911 phone system and to move radio communications from the city's police, fire, public and water works to state police frequencies. Mayor Reed Gusciora said moving to those "superior" frequencies will make sure first responders are able to communicate on the scenes of emergencies.

Race and Ethnicity

The Long March For Justice

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-10-11/the-long-march-for-justice>

Larry Hamm, the chairman of the People's Organization for Progress leads "**The Long March For Justice**". The march is a nine-day 67-mile trek from Montclair To Trenton for Police Accountability, Social Justice, And Economic Progress.

The march started on Friday in Montclair at the intersection of Church Street and Bloomfield Avenue, in Montclair, New Jersey and ends end at 1pm on,Saturday, October 16th, at the State House in Trenton.

Hamm spoke with WBGO's Doug Doyle prior to embarking on the walk.

Third National Black Political Convention to be held at NJIT in the spring of 2022

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-12-01/third-national-black-political-convention-to-be-held-at-njit-in-the-spring-of-2022>

Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka and Mayor Chokwe Lumumba of Jackson, Mississippi, along with numerous other black educators, activists, and community leaders, gathered at NJIT today (Tuesday December 1) to announce that the Third National Black Political Convention will be held in the city of Newark in the spring of 2022.

Mayor Baraka, whose father the late activist and poet Amiri Baraka organized the original Black Political convention back in 1972, says the goal is to create an agenda for fundamental change in the lives of Black people across the country.

Edward Durr, GOP novice who unseated Sweeney, responds to backlash over Islamophobic tweet
<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-11-05/edward-durr-gop-novice-who-unseated-sweeney-responds-to-backlash-over-islamophobic-tweet>

Edward Durr, the Republican newcomer from Gloucester County who ousted New Jersey's longtime Senate President Stephen Sweeney in Tuesday's general election, has responded to backlash over an anti-Islamic tweet he sent two years ago.

After the Islamophobic and xenophobic tweet was resurfaced Thursday afternoon by WNYC, the Council on American-Islamic Rights (CAIR), a civil rights organization that advocates for Muslims, and the group Muslim Advocates called on Durr to resign, according to the [Washington Post](#).