

American Archive

OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Greetings from the AAPB!

This month, we celebrated Public Television Day, and with over 100,000 programs, episodes, documentaries, and raw footage interviews available to stream for free in the Online Reading Room, there is no better place to marvel at the rich heritage of American public broadcasting.

Join us in this month's newsletter as we honor the past, embrace the present, and envision the future of public broadcasting.

AAPB Collections: New & Notable



[A Word on Words Collection](#)

In celebration of National Library Day, enjoy captivating conversations about books with renowned figures like [Al Gore](#), [Janet Leigh](#), [Robert K. Massie](#), [Rep. John Lewis](#), and This collection offers a treasure trove of more than 900 episodes that feature insightful discussions on literature and the lives of prominent authors.

Immerse yourself in the world of literature with this remarkable collection spanning from 1972 to 2013, and produced by Nashville Public Television.

And if novels and biographies aren't for you, fear not! Check out [this interview with Julia Child](#) as she speaks about her cookbook, "The Way to Cook."

[Time Out for Jazz Collection](#)

Did you know that April is National Jazz Month? And what better way to celebrate than by exploring jazz and its key musicians as curated by jazz aficionado and presenter Charlie Plank.

Plank sadly passed away in 2016. Last year his family generously contributed to the archive this [collection of episodes](#) that aired between 1979-1994. We're proud to make 31 of these episodes available through our Online Reading Room so that Plank's selections can long continue to be heard and enjoyed.

P.S. Looking for even more jazz? Find programs by other renowned jazz scholars and lovers through the collection's "Other Resources" menu that includes: [Friday Night Jazz with Reuben Jackson](#), [The Evolution of Jazz](#), and [Jazz Anthology with Father O'Connor](#).

Dig Deeper with the AAPB



Have you seen [Bella!](#), the award-winning new documentary profiling the career of trailblazer, activist, and congresswoman Bella Azbug?

Azbug was a leader in the women's movement, a founder

We can honestly say we nearly fell off our seats upon seeing the multi-talented, superstar Beyoncé and the AAPB mentioned in the same sentence over email one Friday morning.

This month, *American Masters* debuted a [new documentary](#) exploring the intellectual evolution and political legacy of William F. Buckley, Jr. Known as one of the foremost public intellectuals in American history, Buckley played a pivotal role in galvanizing the modern

of the National Women's Political Caucus, and a founder of the Commission for Women's Equality of the American Jewish Congress among other notable roles. Additionally, Azbug is credited for the slogan, "This woman's place is in the House—the House of Representatives," which she used during her first congressional campaign and it lives on today.

To uncover more of the powerful story of Azbug's life, watch her in action in [this episode of *Woman from 1974*](#). Azbug discusses her experience breaking into the political arena and the need for representation at all levels.

In case you haven't seen it, this [CNN article unpacks the American symbolism in Beyoncé's latest album, *Cowboy Carter*](#).

The article observes how fans were quick to link Beyoncé's creative decisions to the AAPB record of this remarkable 1975 conversation between literary legends James Baldwin and Maya Angelou on what it means to be Black and American.

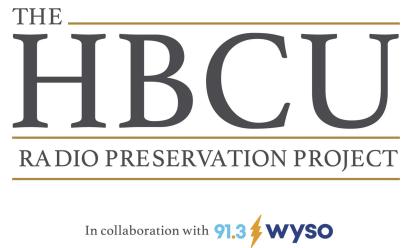
[Watch the full conversation in the archive!](#)

conservative movement through his writings, commentary, and activism.

All 1,505 episodes of Buckley's iconic program, [Firing Line \(1971-1999\)](#), can be found in the archive through links to digitized recordings or transcripts at The Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University. This groundbreaking show epitomized respectful debate, featuring interviews with a diverse range of guests, including [Ronald Reagan](#), [Groucho Marx](#), [Margaret Thatcher](#), [Muhammad Ali](#), and [Mother Teresa](#).

In the Industry

Introducing the HBCU Radio Preservation Project



The American Archive of Public Broadcasting is proud to announce its role in the [HBCU Radio Preservation Project](#), in collaboration with WYSO Public Radio and the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). The project is dedicated to honoring and preserving the vibrant history and recordings of all 29 Historically Black College and University radio stations.

"This is sacred work," says Jocelyn Robinson, the project's founding director and the director of radio preservation and archives at WYSO. "And now we can help every HBCU station save precious primary recordings and other historical source materials that document the diversity of the Black experience."

Once the items have been digitized, a collection of reformatted historical HBCU radio material will be available at the American Archive of Public Broadcasting along with an oral history collection that will be housed at Jackson State University's [Margaret Walker Center](#). Read more in [the project's Spring Newsletter!](#)

Additionally, be sure to check out WYSO's brand new podcast to put the Archive to work in: ["Rediscovered Radio: Women's Voices, Women's Music in the WYSO Archives."](#)

The Creator of KTWU's *Sunflower Journeys* Receives Honor



The AAPB recently added to its collection seven seasons of KTWU's (Topeka, KS) beloved local series [Sunflower Journeys](#). This month, Dave Kendall, the show's creator was [honored as the 2024 Friend of the Flint Hills](#) by the [Flint Hills Discovery Center \(FHDC\) Foundation](#)!

Dave's dedication to storytelling and environmental awareness shines through in his captivating interview with the AAPB, where he discusses the origins and impact of *Sunflower Journeys* and reflects upon the importance of public broadcasting in educating and informing the public.

[Read the exclusive interview](#) and join us in congratulating Dave on this well-deserved recognition! Many thanks to KMUW for aiding in the preservation of KTWU's collection.

Preservation Perspectives

From Radio Reel to Digital Appeal: Preserving *Micrologus*



In 1980, Dr. Ross W. Duffin launched *Micrologus*, a syndicated public radio show that introduced the history of early music to millions of listeners. The series, which focused on early music between the 13th and 18th centuries, explored early composers, performers, instruments, and musical traditions in each episode.

Years later once the program had gone off the air, the original reels were found to be disintegrating, thus sparking a mission to digitize the program for posterity.

"The project took on special significance for me, not only to seek closure but to highlight and expand the accessibility of musical scholarship from a campus where arts and humanities are easily overshadowed by larger

STEM disciplines," said Jacey Kepich, Research and Engagement Librarian at Case Western Reserve.

Today, you can explore the wonderful world of early music in the archive with over 100 30-minute episodes through the [Micrologus with Ross W. Duffin Collection](#).

To learn more about what it took to digitize, restore, and make accessible this beloved program, check out her [presentation](#) and [recent blog post](#).

In Memoriam



This month, we mourn the loss of journalism legend, **Robert MacNeil**, who passed away at the age of 93.

Alongside Jim Lehrer, MacNeil co-founded *The Robert MacNeil Report* in 1975, following their 1973 coverage of the Senate Watergate Hearings on public television. That show evolved the next year into *The MacNeil/Lehrer Report*, expanded in 1983 to *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*, in 1995 became *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, and finally, *The PBS NewsHour* beginning in 2009.

MacNeil co-anchored the series for 20 years and helped guide millions through extraordinary times with his intelligent, passionate, and humane storytelling. His contributions to the field were immeasurable, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

MacNeil's description of his and Lehrer's intent to provide "a place where the news is allowed to *breathe*, where we can calmly, intelligently look at what has happened, what it means and why it is important" has resonated deeply with the AAPB staff. MacNeil and Lehrer are heroes to us as we have grown to appreciate the enormous value to our lives of institutions that serve the public in vital ways as the *NewsHour* does and to become more grateful than ever for the efforts of those who have built and maintained those institutions.

MacNeil's impact lives on in the archive where nearly 15,000 episodes of the *PBS NewsHour* and its predecessor programs are preserved in the [PBS NewsHour Collection](#).

#FoundintheAAPB

Bandstand Days



Are you a fan of the musical *Hairspray*? [Bandstand Days](#) presents the story of the real Philadelphia high-schoolers who were "regulars" on the hit TV show *American Bandstand*, one of the teen dance shows that defined 1950s and 1960s American youth culture. Former "regulars" (now in their 50s) tell the behind-the-scenes drama, reality of fame at a young age, and difficulty of juggling school with TV appearances.

- Miranda Villesvik, AAPB Digitization Project Manager

Tag us on social with the hashtag #FoundintheAAPB or email us with a note about what the program you found means to you for a chance to be featured in the next edition of the newsletter!

Ideas for future AAPB collections or exhibits? Questions about how to digitize your station's items with the AAPB? Email us at aapb_notifications@wgbh.org!

The [American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#), a collaboration between the Library of Congress and GBH Archives, coordinates a national effort to digitally preserve and make accessible significant historical content created by public media over the past seven decades.

