

American Archive

OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Greetings from the AAPB!

It may be the season of witches and all things that go bump in the night, but we're far too excited about American Archives Month to be spooked! With #AskAnArchivistDay, archive "hashtag parties" hosted by the National Archives, and plenty of great programs to share, join us in celebrating the importance of archives and the wonderful world of media preservation this month.

The AAPB Celebrates American Archives Month

Every October, we take the season's slower pace as an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of media preservation, digitization, and accessibility—highlighting the wealth of resources available to the American public through the AAPB. As part of the celebration, we also joined Reddit, Mastodon, and other platforms for #AskAnArchivistDay, inviting communities to learn more about our work and what it means to be an archivist preserving public broadcasting history. This year, our team at the AAPB fielded some fantastic questions. [Check out the AMA on Reddit](#) and feel free to send us any additional questions through direct messages!

We encourage you to celebrate with us by exploring the rich resources available and sharing your favorite archive moments with us on social media!

AAPB Collections: New & Notable



[KVZK Collection](#)

What better time to explore KVZK, American Samoa's public broadcast station, than during the month of the station's 60th anniversary? On October 5, 1964, KVZK made history by launching the first television service in American Samoa, becoming the South Pacific's first educational broadcaster.

In celebration of this milestone, the AAPB is thrilled to introduce the new [KVZK Collection](#), featuring over 6,000 television programs and raw footage dating back to the 1960s that capture the vibrant culture, politics, and history of American Samoa. This bilingual collection presents a rich tapestry of Samoan life, from traditional music and dance performances to community events and holiday celebrations. We hope you join us in discovering more about this extraordinary culture!

[Native Narratives Exhibit](#)

As we honor Indigenous People's Day, check out our exhibit [Native Narratives: The Representation of Native Americans in Public Broadcasting](#). The exhibit explores how Native peoples and cultures have been portrayed in public broadcasting—often through harmful stereotypes—while also showcasing the rise of Native-created media. These authentic portrayals counter simplistic narratives and reclaim Indigenous identities, emphasizing the importance of Native voices in shaping their own stories.

The exhibit is divided into five sections, including [\(Mis\)Representations of Native Americans](#), [Termination, Relocation, and Restoration](#), [The American Indian Movement](#), [Native Americans in Contemporary News Media](#), and [Visual Sovereignty: Native-Created Public Media](#). Throughout the featured programs and commentary, the exhibit highlights how Native producers have worked to preserve cultural identities and offer more accurate portrayals of Native communities in public media.



[Peabody Awards Collection](#)

Looking for the some of the most acclaimed programs in the AAPB during Archives Month? The [Peabody Awards Collection](#) has you covered. Featuring more than 1,200 ready-to-access programs, this collection spotlights content that earned the prestigious Peabody Award, celebrating excellence in storytelling across television, radio, and online media. With categories ranging from education and children’s programming to news and documentaries, the collection includes programs submitted by creators to showcase their finest work.

Highlights include [Local Color](#) (1990), an Oregon Public Broadcasting documentary from 1990 on civil rights advocates in Oregon; and [ZOOM](#), the beloved children’s educational TV show from GBH.

For more information about these programs, be sure to check out our exhibit [Exploring Public Media in the Peabody Awards Collection](#).

Dig Deeper with the AAPB

Celebrating a Century of Jimmy Carter with the AAPB

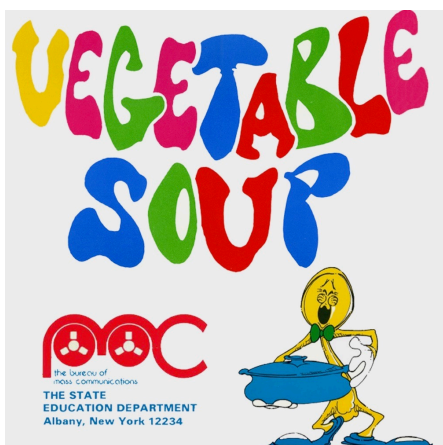
President Jimmy Carter turned 100 this month, celebrating a century of life and leadership. To honor his legacy, relive key moments from his political career with thousands of programs from before, during, and after his presidency. Highlights include his [1981 farewell address](#), a [candid hour-long interview with Bill Moyers](#) during his 1976 campaign, and a [reflective interview](#) recorded for the PBS documentary series [War and Peace in the Nuclear Age](#).

A Haunting and Historical Way to Spend All Hallows’ Eve

Would you have fallen for Orson Welles’ “War of the Worlds” radio broadcast that sent some listeners into a panic on October 30, 1938? There’s only one way to find out! [Listen to the complete broadcast](#), courtesy of GBH, and experience H. G. Wells’ classic novel in a thrilling new way.

In the Industry

Exploring the Legacy of *Vegetable Soup* and Educational Television

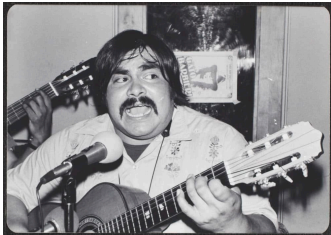


This fall, Jeffrey Reznick, Ph.D., Senior Historian at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, and author of “Toward a Civil Society: Bernarr Cooper and the Bureau of Mass Communications of the New York State Education Department,” was featured in [New York Archives Magazine \(Fall 2024\)](#) for his discussion on Cooper’s profound influence on educational television.

In the article, [Reznick delves into Cooper’s leadership in producing *Vegetable Soup*](#)—a groundbreaking 1970s children’s series aimed at promoting racial tolerance. Cooper’s efforts resulted in over 1,500 educational programs that were widely distributed to schools and libraries.

We invite you to read Dr. Reznick’s [previous New York Archives Magazine article about Vegetable Soup](#), and explore the AAPB’s [Vegetable Soup Collection](#) to discover how this visionary program fostered critical social changes.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with “Singing Our Way to Freedom”



As Hispanic Heritage Month comes to a close, we’re excited to share that [PBS stations nationwide are rebroadcasting *Singing Our Way to Freedom*](#). This powerful documentary [chronicles the life of Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez](#), from his early days as a farmworker to becoming César Chávez’s favorite musician and a champion for social justice. Chunky’s journey is an inspiring story of growth and activism.

“His arc from marginalized farm kid to charismatic social activist shows how one person can mobilize people to change the world,” reads the program’s description.

[Directed by Paul Espinosa](#), the film is available for streaming on PBS Passport. We’re also thrilled to announce that Paul will be preserving his films with the AAPB. Be sure to explore additional content, including clips that didn’t make it into the film.

The AAPB Connects with the Industry

We had a busy fall here at the AAPB! Our team worked diligently to spread the word about the importance of preservation at several major conferences, including the [International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives \(IASA\) Conference](#), the [Grassroots Radio Conference](#), and the [NETA Annual Conference](#).

“Nonprofit and community media play a critical role in American society. They provide information, give voice to minority viewpoints, and shape the public’s understanding of key issues. By preserving this programming, stations ensure future generations recognize the value of community radio in upholding American democracy,” wrote Michelle Kelley, PhD, Media Historian and Curator at AAPB, for the Grassroots Radio Conference.

Through presentations and workshops, our team shared insights on preserving and providing access to public broadcasting content, while connecting with archival professionals and public media stations in our ongoing efforts to preserve and make accessible America’s rich broadcast history.

In the Press

- [Professor’s Film Chosen for Library of Congress Archive](#) (SUNY Brockport)
- [Archiving Our Legacy: Community Radio and the Future of Public Broadcasting](#) (National Federation of Community Broadcasters)
- [WUWM content heads to the Library of Congress](#) (UWM Report)

#FoundintheAAPB

This month, we asked our team at the AAPB about their favorite programs in the archive!

Dancing Disco



What’s more quintessentially public media than taking a singular cultural moment in music and dance and making it instructional? Since the moment I watched GBH’s [Dancing Disco](#), the program has haunted me with dreams of flashing lights and gold lamé. GBH studios are transformed into a bustling disco club. Instructor Randy Deats, surrounded by dancers in the shiniest late 70s club fashion, walks viewers through all the movements needed to make a splash on the stage.

In a dance break that spiritually fits in right into our TikTok era, Mademoiselle magazine fashion editor Diane Smith explains, with all seriousness, the fashion principles of disco, from junk jewelry to glitter socks. Then, we’re shown numbers by accomplished dancers whose swaggering moves might inspire a viewer to try all the more to join the disco movement.

Dancing Disco approaches this joyful moment in culture with an almost academic gravitas, hoping that a viewer with no experience might step into a club with confidence! It’s a beautiful snapshot in time from disco’s heyday, and absolutely true to public media’s mission to educate and entertain.

- Emily Balk, External Communications Manager, GBH

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@wggb.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.



