

# History in Motion

**American Archive**  
OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING

## Greetings from the AAPB!

April is here, and with it comes a chance to celebrate the art, history, and culture that shape our world. This month, we're diving into the sounds of jazz and the power of poetry while reflecting on the importance of public television in connecting us all. From the revamped [Say Brother/Basic Black Collection](#) to ways you can get involved during National Volunteer Week, we've got plenty to explore. Join us as we honor the stories, people, and moments that continue to inspire and shape our culture.

## New & Notable



### [Say Brother/Basic Black Collection](#)

We're thrilled to introduce the revamped *Say Brother/Basic Black Collection*, featuring nearly one thousand episodes, interviews, and segments from GBH's groundbreaking public affairs series produced by, for, and about the Black community. Launched in 1968, just months after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Say Brother* gave voice to Black perspectives during a pivotal era of protest and change. Renamed *Basic Black* in



### [The Evolution of Jazz Special Collection](#)

This Jazz Appreciation Month, explore the sounds, stories, and cultural roots of America's original art form with *The Evolution of Jazz*. Produced, written, and hosted by Nathan "Nat" Hentoff, a jazz historian, author, music critic, and civil liberties advocate, this groundbreaking 1950s radio series brings jazz history to life.

1998 to reflect a more inclusive vision, the program carried that legacy into the 21st century.

Now, as *Basic Black* transitions into the digital-first series *GBH News Rooted*, explore the program's history and how, no matter the name, it addressed issues affecting communities of color and celebrated Black culture.

The series highlights influential jazz artists and key moments in jazz history, with recordings that bring the genre's evolution to life. Topics include icons like Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington, the rhythms of West Africa to New Orleans, and the stylistic evolution from Ragtime to Dave Brubeck.

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## Dig Deeper

**April 3, 1968**

The night before his assassination, **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** delivered his powerful "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech, reflecting on his life and legacy.

[Listen](#)

**April 4, 1928**

Author, playwright, and activist **Maya Angelou** was born on this day. In a 1973 episode of *Bill Moyers Journal*, she shares her powerful perspective on race and culture in America.

[Watch](#)

**April 5, 1968**

Boston **Mayor Kevin White** joined **James Brown** for a concert just 24 hours after MLK Jr.'s assassination. The live concert, broadcast on GBH, became one of the most iconic moments in the station's history.

[Watch](#)

**April 11, 1967**

The Senate Subcommittee on Communications held a pivotal hearing that laid the groundwork for the Public Broadcasting Act and led to the creation of PBS and NPR.

[Watch](#)

**April 15, 1947**

**Jackie Robinson** made history as the first African American to play Major League Baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Explore his groundbreaking legacy in this 1987 episode of GBH's *Ten O'Clock News*.

[Watch](#)

**April 17, 1900**

**Flag Day in American Samoa** celebrates culture, community, and the raising of the American flag over Tutuila Island. Explore historic broadcasts from KVZK, the island's public television station.

[Watch](#)

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## In the Industry



**FIX IT+**





## Celebrate National Volunteer Week Celebrating Public Television and the Power of Preservation

Looking for a way to get involved this National Volunteer Week? With [Fix-It+](#), you can help the American Archive of Public Broadcasting improve computer-generated transcripts for thousands of historic public broadcasting programs, all on your own schedule.

Accurate transcripts are essential for making content accessible, improving searchability, and enriching metadata. Whether you correct one program or one hundred, your contributions directly support AAPB's mission to preserve and share historically significant public radio and television programming.

This month, we celebrate Public Television Day and Preservation Week by recognizing the essential role public media plays in preserving our shared history. From the pivotal [1967 Senate hearings](#) that led to the creation of PBS and NPR to beloved programs like *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, *American Experience*, and *NewsHour*, public broadcasting has informed, inspired, and connected communities for generations. Watch [Fred Rogers' heartfelt testimony before Congress](#), where he made a powerful case for the value of children's programming and helped secure critical funding. Explore the moments and stories that shaped the nation and see how archives like the AAPB are working to ensure that legacy lives on.



### Help Save American Samoa's Media Heritage

April 17 marks Flag Day in American Samoa, a celebration of culture, community, and the anniversary of the American flag being raised over Tutuila Island in 1900. As we honor this history, we're reminded of the importance of preserving for future generations the stories that have shaped island life.

More than 6,000 historic tapes from KVZK, American Samoa's public broadcasting station, are at risk of being lost forever. These recordings capture decades of island life, including local news, graduations, cultural festivals, religious ceremonies, and more, told in both Samoan and English.

Produced primarily between the 1980s and early 2000s, this collection is an invaluable record of community life, language, and tradition. But without funding for storage or digitization, they are at risk of being destroyed.

[Donate now](#) to help us preserve and digitize this important history before it's too late. To see what has already been preserved, [explore the American Samoa KVZK Collection](#).

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## AAPB Staff Feature

Simmons University MLIS student Gabrielle Keen came to the AAPB hoping to learn more about the digital side of archiving. What she didn't expect was to reframe her entire perspective on artificial intelligence in the field by utilizing AI tools to generate information from archival materials that would otherwise go unseen and unindexed.

*"I am less fearful of the possibility that robots will take our jobs and more hopeful that programs like the CLAMS project will strengthen our abilities as archivists to help not only our userbases but each other as well."*

In her blog post, Gabrielle reflects on her hands-on experience with AI tools like CLAMS and how WALL-E (yes, the Pixar movie!) shaped her early views on automation. [Read her full reflection "Be Not Afr\(AI\)d: A GBH Intern's Perspective on the Future of AI in Archives."](#)

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## In Case You Missed It

- [Women's History Month: The passion of the late jazz promoter Phoebe Jacobs](#) (WBGO)
- [Project focuses on preserving HBCU radio stations' recordings](#) (Blue Ridge Public Radio)
- [The Pacifica Foundation Charts a Bold Path Forward Amidst 21st Century Challenges](#) (KPFA)
- [How Emerging Adults Have Historically Responded To Culture Wars](#) (Forbes)
- [GBH Launches a Year of Programs and Events in Honor of America's 250th Anniversary](#) (GBH)
- [GBH News Rooted: Showing the Full Spectrum of Black Life](#) (GBH)

Share the Newsletter with a Friend!

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Ideas for future AAPB collections or exhibits? Questions about how to digitize your station's items with the AAPB? Recommendations for the next edition of the newsletter?

Get in Touch

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



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