

**WWDG-CD
Utica, NY**

**ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST
4th Quarter Ending
December 31, 2020**

It has been determined that the following issues of concern were addressed through programming directed to Utica and Central New York:

- 1. Community event information**
- 2. Culture**
- 3. Education**
- 4. Public Safety and Health**

Program Title: Your Community Connection (locally produced)

Schedule: Sunday 6:00 am – 6:30 am

Dates: 10/1/2020 – 12/31/2020

Program Description: Your Community Connection keeps viewers informed of current and future scheduled events happening within the viewing area and also includes weather, traffic, and community and cultural events as well as information on upcoming courses for self-improvement and education.

Topics:

10/4/2020: CNY Cat Coalition – Guest: Courtney Armbruster, Exec. Dir. – Discussed that The CNY Cat Coalition was founded in 2002 and is one of Central New York’s largest cat rescue/adoption and spay/neuter promoters. Their mission is to change the lives for homeless and at-risk cats and they are a 100% volunteer organization comprising dozens of foster homes and hundreds of active volunteers who help manage all of their life-saving programs. Last year, they found new adoptive homes for nearly 800 homeless cats and facilitated spay/neuter surgeries for approximately 2,200 cats which prevented thousands of unwanted kittens. 2020 has been a very good year for adoptions. To date, they've found new homes for more than 525 homeless cats and are optimistic for 2021 to be their biggest adoption year ever.

The CNY Cat Coalition primary activities are: providing low-cost spay/neuter services for low-income households, rescuing and fostering cats in volunteer foster homes, adopting homeless animals into new forever families, conducting trap-neuter-release (TNR) programs to control the feral cat population, and promoting responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of cats.
Their website is: www.cnycatcoalition.org.

10/11/2020: Handbags for a Higher Purpose – Guest: Lauren Burchill: Founder - Fashion Institute grad Lauren Burchill gave us an update on her passion for fashion and care for the community to help a local homeless outreach group. She has reached out with the idea to provide gently used handbags and purses filled with products for homeless women. Her idea has skyrocketed providing hygienic and beauty products to homeless women. Gently used handbags, toiletries, beauty items, may be donated by contacting Lauren via her facebook: Handbags for a Higher Purpose. Once a bag is donated, Lauren says it only costs \$5 to \$10 to complete the bag. Ms. Burchill says the simple effort and low cost is making a major impact. Monetary donations can be made at Venmo account: @handbagshigherpurpose

10/18/2020: Boys & Girls Clubs of Syracuse & ACR Health – Guest: Tracy DiGenova, Director of Marketing and Fund Development Boys & Girls Clubs of Syracuse 315-579-8111 and Maureen Harrington O'Neill 627 W. Genesee St, Syracuse, NY (315) 475-2430 MONeill@ACRHealth.org. ACR Health and the Boys and Girls Club of Syracuse have teamed up for an event: “Beyond Candy” Food Donation Drive during this Halloween season. Each was asked each to talk about their respective organizations and what they offer to the community. ACR Health is a non-profit, community-based organization providing a broad scope of support services to individuals with chronic diseases including HIV/AIDS, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, asthma, substance use disorders, and serious mental illness. The Boys and Girls Club of Syracuse helps enable all young people, especially those who need the most direction to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. They discussed the “Beyond Candy” event including how to contribute, monetary donations, and getting involved. Both were asked to speak briefly about some of the other fundraising events held throughout the year, and how they have adapted to the changes because of the pandemic. Their social media site is: <https://www.facebook.com/BGCSyracuse> and Tracy can be emailed at Tdigenova@bgcsyracuse.org

10/25/2020: Boys & Girls Clubs of Syracuse and ACR Health (repeat of 10/18/20)

**11/1/2020: Syracuse Stage - Guest: Robert Hupp, Artistic Director
Syracuse Stage is Central New York’s premier professional theatre. It was founded in 1974 and Syracuse Stage has produced more than 300 plays in its 44 seasons**

including a number of world, American, and East Coast premieres. Other than in the this past year due to the pandemic, each season 65,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays and bold interpretations of classics and musicals featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Syracuse Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. Syracuse Stage has recently announced plans for adjustments to the 2020/2021 season in order to address the continuing impact of the Covid-19 virus. Three previously announced plays will be replaced in the six show season. All plays and events will be available to subscribers and patrons through online access. The new season line-up is as follows: “Talley’s Folly,” “Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley,” “Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992,” “Yoga Play,” “Our Town” and “salt/city/blues.” The season will run through June 2021. The plays will be available in a video on demand format similar to the theater’s production of “Amadeus” last March. Exact dates for the virtual access of each show will be announced. An integral part of the reimagined season is a focus on the Central New York community. A new series of free (online) conversations and performances called “Syracuse Stories” will complement plays in the season in an exploration of issues particular to Central New York as well as addressing broader concerns that impact the region.

Their website is: www.syracusestage.org

11/8/2020: Syracuse Stage – Guest: Robert Hupp – Artistic Director (repeat of 11/1/2020).

11/15/2020: Guest: Tucker Harris, MD 4000 Medical Center Dr., Fayetteville, NY - Dr. Tucker Harris has primarily specialized in Otolaryngology for over 15 years. With allergy season up and running during the coronavirus pandemic, many are wondering how to tell the difference between allergy symptoms and coronavirus. Allergists can offer advice on how to tell which one might be affecting you and Dr. Harris discussed some of the differences between COVID 19 and allergies. He stated the main difference is a fever, as you do not get a fever with allergies. COVID 19 comes on quickly within a 24 period and will be a quick onset. There could also be a sudden loss of sense of smell and taste. Symptoms may overlap making it difficult to diagnose. You can have itchiness with allergies and not with COVID 19. Asthma can overlap with COVID 19. The best way to test for allergies is to go to an allergist. If you are unsure about if you have coronavirus or allergies, ask your doctor. Also, anyone exhibiting coronavirus symptoms should self-quarantine immediately and alert those they have been in contact with within the last two weeks.

11/22/2020: Syracuse Salvation Army – Guest: Major David Dean Major Dean of the Syracuse Salvation Army spoke about the history of the Salvation Army, its beginnings and the Red Kettle Campaign for the upcoming holidays and locations around Central New York. The main headquarters are at

677 S. Salina St. in Syracuse. There is never any charge for shelters or rehabilitation centers. Major Dean mentioned the importance of the Salvation Army and that it is committed to serving all families and children, including those with disabilities, by offering enrichment services that help children develop, learn and achieve success. The Salvation Army has been providing life changing services to residents of Onondaga County. Major Dean spoke of innovative programs that help more than 38,000 people each year, including children, families, youth, adults and seniors to encourage and empower those in need to reach their full potential and services and are designed to meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Their website is: syracusenysalvationarmy.org

11/29/2020: Mental Health Services Syracuse – Guest: Geoffrey Hopkins, M.D. Dr. Hopkins talked about the mental health challenges children are facing due to COVID-19 and what he’s been seeing at St. Joseph's hospital. Dr. Hopkins is concerned as there is a sense of sadness because they can't go to school, see friends and their teachers, and they get a sense of loneliness because they really can't socialize in person the way it's necessary. When children are young, there is some confusion because they're not sure what's going to be happening to them in the future. That gives them even a little bit more anxiety. Dr. Hopkins says parents have to be careful about how they react to validate that their children are having these feelings, but at the same time to model handling difficult situations without becoming emotionally dysregulated. It is then necessary to develop a sense of regularity in terms of scheduling and activities for children at home. Being outdoors with your family is one of the most important things. It's important to be safe, because even though kids don't get too sick, they can get sick as well and pass that sickness to others. Their website is: <https://www.sjhsyr.org/provider/geoffrey-hopkins-md-psychiatry>

12/6/2020: JCC of Syracuse, Guest: William Wallak, Marketing Director The JCC is open to the public at 5655 Thompson Road in DeWitt, NY. Will talked how they have adjusted programs and events for the new COVID world and how they had to cancel their biggest fundraiser of the year, usually held in early June due to public gathering restrictions. Many new health and safety protocols are now in place for all onsite programs and services including: the Club J All Day Program which has onsite space at the JCC for school-age children to do remote learning with supervision. Their fitness center is available for in-person workouts, use of an indoor track and use of their indoor basketball court all by appointment only. Some other events happening: the Jews and Superheroes Zoom event 12/6/2020 which is the first virtual event JCC is offering! It will feature comics industry veteran Danny Fingeroth. Also, Light Up the JCC drive-through Chanukah celebration Dec. 12th which is free, safe, and socially distanced holiday fun. Danny Fingeroth joined in on the conversation to talk about the virtual fundraising event “A Marvelous Life: The Amazing Story of Stan Lee.” Their website is: <https://jccsyr.org>.

12/13/2020: Syracuse Symphoria – Guest: Ronnie Leigh (vocalist, entertainer, keyboardist, vocal coach) info@ronnieleigh.com (315-243-7238)
Ronnie talked about his affiliation with the Syracuse Symphoria and its preparation for the upcoming virtual Pops holiday show. He spoke about his history as a musician and his giving back to the community as part of the Syracuse Symphoria fund raising event. Also, he discussed donations and being a member of the Symphoria. Celebrate the Season with guest vocalist Ronnie Leigh and Principal Pops Conductor Sean O’Loughlin! Their websites is: www.experiencesymphoria.org.

12/20/2020: Food Bank of Central New York, Guest: Lynn Hy, Chief Development Officer. Lynn gave an update on CNY Food Bank during the pandemic and talked about new virtual events to benefit the CNY Food Bank. Lynn mentioned the importance of monetary and nonperishable food donations. Hunger is a very serious problem New York today. An estimated one in eight Americans relies on emergency food assistance. Among the thousands of people who depend on charitable food programs in central and northern New York are children 18 and younger, some of whom are without health insurance. Also, many people have been unemployed for more than two years, are below the federal poverty line and earn less than \$12,000/yr. Lynn urges those that need the services to reach out, no one is turned away. Their website is: www.foodbankny.org.

12/27/2020: GiGi’s Playhouse Syracuse – Down Syndrome Achievement Center – Guest: Heather Rodriguez, Marketing Manager. It was discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic quickly changed how schools and learning support groups operated. For GiGi’s Playhouse, located inside Driver’s Village in Cicero, the change needed to happen fast and smoothly for the Central NY community it serves. Heather said that that children and teens count on GiGi’s for social engagements, but also for learning support in math and literacy. She says people can find out what’s happening virtually and in person by visiting the online calendar. They welcome volunteers who are committed to the families and participants. Heather mentioned many of the new virtual offerings for children and teens. She spoke about Generation G: a daily promise to always act with acceptance and generosity. The goal is to have one million people to promise and post that they will be accepting, generous and kind. It’s not OK to allow another person to be bullied, degraded or made to feel inferior. Corporations, schools, and the like can all get involved and show that we are all better than what the world is looking like today. Their website is: <https://gigisplayhouse.org/syracuse>