

## Robert Gold Candidate Statement

I have been a WBAI listener and supporter for the past twenty years. I worked for NYC as a social worker for thirty years and have been retired for the last eleven years. Since I retired I have devoted much of my time to Latin American solidarity movements. In recent years I have been involved with School of the Americas Watch, the Colombia Support Network, Cuba Solidarity NY, and the Bolivarian Circle of NY. WBAI has been an invaluable resource for the promotion of my activism.

When the, "Christmas Coup", took place I was one of many listeners who demonstrated outside of 120 Wall St. and attended many meetings to reclaim station. I was overjoyed when programs like, "Wake Up Call", featuring Bernard White, Amy Goodman and Robert Knight, were restored to the air. I was very happy after that to see the growth of, "Democracy Now", and the way it has grown nationally. I have also been happy to see the development of new programs reaching out to the Haitian and Latin American communities, as well as the development of feminist programming. I think that the new, "Law and Disorder", program is vitally important in understanding the current political situation.

However, in recent years I have been perplexed over why the station has had so many financial problems, and the need for so many fundraisers. The station has appeared to be in a perpetual state of financial crisis, and whenever I attended a Local Station Board meeting there seemed to be so much divisiveness that nothing was ever done to resolve the crisis. There have been allegations of fiscal irresponsibility that I never saw fully addressed. I would like to become a member of the local board so that I could play a positive role in helping to resolve the funding problems of the station and provide the listeners a more transparent account of the problems facing the station and their solutions.

One of the ways I would like to improve the financial problem at WBAI would be to make better use of the Pacifica Archives. I would like to see a daily program on the air to make use of the vast storage of interviews that have been done over the years, and make them available to listeners on a regular basis at a reasonable cost. Another suggestion I would make would be to have people maintain monthly sustainer memberships which would bring in a steady source of revenue. This is done at the Brecht Forum very successfully, and I see no reason why it can't be done at WBAI. We need to develop innovative plans to make sure that WBAI survives. These are very tough times for progressives and we need to assure that the station survives all of the reactionary pressures that we are facing.