

Vajra Kilgour
521 W. 122nd St., #33
New York, NY 10027

**SAVING WBAI:
STAFF ELECTION
INFORMATION**

**Producers and their elected reps
deserve consultation and inclusion for:**

Hiring * facility and technical infrastructure development * audience building * contingency planning * innovative off-air fundraising * relocation to affordable quarters * program creation and fair reviews * noticed preemptions * incorporation into live events * new program outlets and webstreams * future expansion such as HD radio channels * and more ...

Ballot due *back* by December 18, 2012

ENDORSED BY:

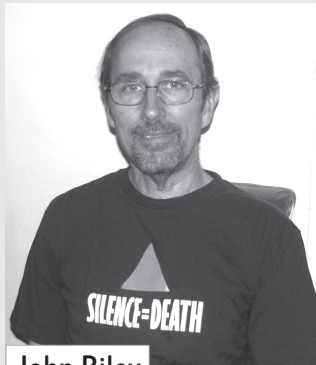
Majid Ali
Aniruddha Das
Eddie Ellis
Sharan Harper
Kim Ives
Mimi Rosenberg
Scott Sommer
Daniel Vila



Vajra Kilgour

Vajra, a lifelong antiwar and antiracism activist, is a vice chair of the Metropolitan Council on Housing and associate producer of Housing Notebook on WBAI.

She was active in the struggle to return Pacifica to its mission after the 2000 Christmas coup at WBAI. She was also chair of the Local Station Board from 2005 to 2008 and served on the Management Evaluation and Management Search Committees.



John Riley

John has been a decades-long activist in numerous peace and justice movements. Active in ACT UP for 20 years, he has fought drug company greed and is an award-winning cofounder of Health GAP, which has spurred massive global expansion of AIDS treatment access. From 2000 to 2001, he helped coordinate the movement that defeated the WBAI/Pacifica coup. Since 2002, he has produced LGBT programs with the Out-FM collective. In 2007 he chaired the WBAI Management Search Committee.

Dear Colleague,

We all know WBAI is in trouble. Please don't sit out this election. When you cast your vote, please consider its impact on our work. The two of us are running for the Local Station Board as staff candidates because we're deeply concerned about the station's direction and want to be part of the solution.

Financial and Leadership Crisis

WBAI was once the Pacifica network's beacon; now, it's become a burden, with an unaffordable \$380K/year rent and no viable plan to move when our 15-year lease expires in December. In light of the studio's location in an area prone to flooding and blackouts, staying on Wall Street is an unsound move both financially and logistically. Driven by WBAI's chronic deficit, fundraising has become largely a series of preemptions for incessantly repeated offers of consumable products and overhyped cures – with pitching planned for one of every 3 days this fiscal year. To help reduce dependence on pledge drives, we'll push management to work with staff to organize higher-yield off-air fundraisers, like awards dinners and concerts. While a development director can work on some of this kind of fundraising, staff input and help are also key. We will also push the board itself to fundraise, instead of continually attempting to control the station.

The network's problems aren't only financial, though; the political struggle over its direction has led to serious instability. Nationally, the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer have been let go. Locally, except for Houston, every station has had one or more new or interim GMs or PDs in recent years. We need competence and stability throughout the network.

Staff Consultation in the Storm

We both believe that the lack of invited or even allowed involvement by both paid and unpaid staff has undermined finding solutions to the station's problems. The recent flooding of 120 Wall Street highlighted management's go-it-alone approach.

Instead of adequate contingency plans to continue broadcasting if the building couldn't be used, we got improvisations and last-minute options for keeping the station on the air when it was needed most. After Irene, another disaster was predictable, and management's response showed little regard for the value of consultation with unpaid staff. Indeed, staff as a whole were not asked to come together to help solve storm-generated problems such as the limited hours at Gary Null's studio. WBAI's nonfunctioning status during this crisis means listeners will likely depend on us less and less – or even not at all – in future disasters.

Staff Rights and Respect

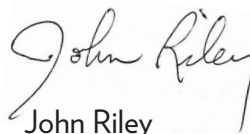
We are concerned about the lack of respect for unpaid staff and the abrogation of the unpaid staff union contract, as well as the increasingly precarious state of affairs for paid staff. The staff-based Program Council and staff search committees for openings must be restored. We also will advocate for more staff input on equipment acquisition and policies, such as who gets passwords to Workspeed. There's enough expertise among us all to help lead the station to a better-functioning state.

Despite WBAI's current travails, we are optimistic that with a more participatory approach, we can turn things around together.

So we ask that you vote for the two of us, ranking Vajra as your first choice and John as your second. We value your feedback: Vajra Kilgour <vajra.wbai@gmail.com>; John Riley <jr273@columbia.edu>.



Vajra Kilgour



John Riley

You can read
our full-length
candidate statements
and questionnaire
answers at
elections.pacifica.org.