

## Exposing the Seamy Underside of the "War on Terror"

by Shumaisa Khan

**S**ince September 11, 2001, WBAI has covered every step in the domestic "war on terror," as well as counterattacks by those seeking to preserve constitutional rights. The assault on civil liberties, particularly those of Arab and Muslim immigrants, marks one of the most salient examples of government excess in our time.

Deepa Fernandes, anchor of the nationally syndicated **Free Speech Radio News** and cohost (with Biju Matthew) of WBAI's **Global Movements, Urban Struggles**, was one of the first to cover the impact of post-9/11 policies. Fernandes describes her experience reporting on the secret mass detentions. "The Justice Department was very successful in making people believe that what they were doing was justified," she says. "The biggest surprise for me was that no one was covering this. I also reported for BBC and other [non-U.S.] radio, but no [domestic] stations outside of Pacifica and its affiliates were interested." **Global Movements, Urban Struggles**, Fernandes notes, will continue covering these issues, including offering shout-outs for detainees.

A variety of other WBAI programs, including **Asia Pacific Forum, Rise Up Radio, Building Bridges, Wakeup Call**, and **Democracy Now!**, have hosted a gamut of guests ranging from legal and national security experts to immigrants rights and civil liberties advocates. (One of **Wakeup Call's** own producers, Farouk Abdel-Muhti, a Palestinian activist, has now been in immigration detention for nearly two years—many believe because of his work to bring Palestinian voices to the airways—and is fighting for his freedom.) The **WBAI Evening News** has also provided frequent, in-depth coverage of these issues. Steven Watt, an attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, observes, "WBAI provides time for analysis, unlike the sound-bite oriented corporate media." Watt, who represents seven former detainees in a class-action lawsuit against Attorney General John Ashcroft, FBI Director Robert Mueller, and correctional officers at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC), says, "WBAI gets out to the progressive network in a very effective way." He only laments that the audience is not broader.

In reports for **Free Speech Radio News**, Jackson Allers has followed the story of mass detentions from the national to the local level. Allers arrived at WBAI last summer, when the Justice Department's Inspector General released a report documenting cases of physical, verbal, and psychological abuse of detainees, predominantly at the MDC. Allers spoke to Yassir Ibrahim, an Egyptian immigrant represented by Watt. Ibrahim was arrested for a visa violation and held for eight months at the MDC, where he suffered abuse from prison guards before being deported to Egypt. "I've been through this terrible experience and there's no way I would land a foot over there [the U.S.] again," Ibrahim told Allers in an interview from Egypt. "I think someone is stealing the freedom from the American people."

The flip side of long-term detention is rapid-fire deportation, another common phenomenon. Allers recalled one case he covered, in which Juan Diego Jimenez, a Dominican teen signed up in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, went in to pick up his naturalization certificate, and was deported back to the Dominican Republic within 18 hours. "The immigration crackdown under the auspices of 'national security' is a unilateral move against immigrants as a whole," Allers says. "The abuse of detainees didn't start after 9/11," he continues. "It's been going on for a particular profile of Arab, Muslims, and South Asians since the '93 bombing of the World Trade Center, but also against many others from Latin America and elsewhere. It's a pattern that's been documented by human rights groups."

Allers is working with several attorneys to launch a new WBAI program that will cover civil liberties and immigrants rights issues. The show will enlarge the station's efforts to provide insight into a complex issue whose reach extends to the coffers of the prison-industrial complex. On a special **Democracy Now!** program last September, Amy Goodman explored the lucrative business of immigrant detentions, for which county jails charge \$75 to \$100 per day to the Department of Homeland Security, a boon compared to the average of \$35 that jails spend on regular inmates.

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### FIRST ELECTED STATION BOARD!

The voters have spoken and a new WBAI Local Station Board has begun its work. Details and who's who on page 6



Marianna Tapia (right) at Federal Plaza press conference by Families for Freedom demanding return of her deported teenaged cousin Juan Diego Jimenez. Photo credit: Families for Freedom

### JON COHEN

WBAI Local Advisory Board Member  
1963-2003

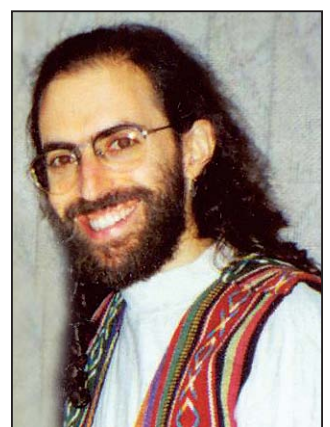


Photo courtesy of Jon Cohen family

Jon Cohen, a WBAI Local Advisory Board member for his last three years, died October 13 of leukemia at age 40. Jon was a longtime leader of the War Resisters League, and worked professionally in the movement to end violence against women. On the WBAI board, he worked first to reclaim Pacifica from the corporatists, then (unsuccessfully) for bylaws ensuring inclusion of the disenfranchised in leadership. Jon was a gentle spirit, advocating civil discourse and true listening. His health struggle led him to both practice and preach holistic healing, for which he became an inspiring role model. —Bob Lederer

For more on Jon Cohen's life, go to [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org) (right column)



Protest by Families for Freedom at U.S. Supreme Court as it considers mandatory detention case. Photo credit: Families for Freedom

# WBAI FOLIO 99.5 FM

IN NEW YORK CITY  
PACIFICA RADIO  
Your Peace and Justice Community Radio Station  
Spring 2004  
www.wbai.org

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We welcome comments, suggestions, letters, and volunteers. Write us at [editor@wbai.org](mailto:editor@wbai.org) or at the address below.

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New York, NY 10005

Subways: 2, 3, 4, 5, J, M to Wall St.  
Station is wheelchair-accessible  
Building requires picture I.D. for entry

**Switchboard:** 212-209-2800 (M-F 9-5, closed 1-2)

**On-air line:** 212-209-2900

**Fax line:** 212-747-1648

(For complete list of WBAI staff, go to [www.wbai.org/about/staff.php](http://www.wbai.org/about/staff.php))

WBAI has been part of the Pacifica Radio Network since 1960. Other Pacifica stations: WPFW (Washington, D.C.), KPFT (Houston), KPFA (Berkeley), and KPFK (Los Angeles). There are also more than 30 Pacifica affiliate stations around the country.

**Pacifica Foundation** (founded 1946):  
[www.pacifica.org](http://www.pacifica.org) • 510-849-2590

**Pacifica Radio Archives:**  
[www.pacificaarchives.org](http://www.pacificaarchives.org) • 800-735-0230

## Brecht Forum and WBAI Collaboration

The *WBAI Folio* is the program guide and magazine of your Peace and Justice Radio Station, and is mailed to all listener-sponsors. If you're not one already, please join (see p. 8)! The *Folio* is published quarterly, and is printed and mailed with the *Brecht Forum Schedule of Events* as both a means of economy and additional out-reach. (Contact the Brecht Forum at 212-242-4201.) Each institution remains separate and in full control of its operating and editorial policies. No mailing lists have been transferred. This collaboration is one of several WBAI initiatives to pool efforts among progressive educational and media institutions. We invite your feedback.

## Folios Available Online

The two preceding issues of the *Folio* are available online in both Webpage and PDF formats, and this edition will be soon, at [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org).

# BRIGHT FUTURE for WBAI and Pacifica

by Don Rojas, General Manager

**A** bright new day has dawned at WBAI and Pacifica following the recent elections to the new Local Station Board and to the Pacifica National Board.

This historic development in media democracy has laid the basis for greater involvement of listeners and staff in determining the future growth of our station and network. I am confident that working in unison with the new board, the station's management and staff will successfully address the many challenges that confront WBAI in the months ahead.

Chief among those challenges is the long-term financial stability of the station, followed by the need to broaden the membership base, strive towards the goal of one million listeners, and improve the quality of our programming.

In recent months, we've made some progress on the fiscal front thanks to a tremendous outpouring of effort by our producers, including a successful Winter Fund Drive (\$1 million-plus pledged), as well as several belt-tightening measures we've taken to keep costs in check. Our listeners have responded magnificently to our appeals, once again proving how much they value WBAI as one of the few independent alternatives to corporate media hegemony. Indeed, 3,000 new members have joined the station since last November, bringing our current paid membership to 22,528.

But we're not out of the woods yet. We hope you can recruit ten new members from your family, friends, and colleagues. We welcome any creative ideas for off-air fundraising.

I'm pleased to note that in the area of programming, we have also made strides in recent weeks. WBAI and Pacifica offered extensive, penetrating coverage of the crisis in Haiti, including a **Democracy Now!** exclusive on the kidnapping of President Aristide that was widely reported and earned angry Bush administration denials, as well as daily on-the-ground updates from our courageous **Wakeup Call** and **Free Speech Radio News** correspondents, Deepa Fernandes and Cody Emanuel. Our station's coverage of this story and of the Democratic Party primaries have confirmed the significant role of progressive journalism in providing high-quality reportage and analysis of the critical issues of our time. We have also introduced a new Latino public affairs program in Spanish, and are developing one in English, as well as working to improve our new weekday top-of-the-hour headline newscasts.

The station's website ([www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org)) continues to grow in importance as WBAI moves inexorably into the multi-media era. In the past three months alone, website traffic has



Leyla Mei, producer and engineer with the Asia Pacific Forum collective. Photo credit: Ursula Liang

increased by 50 percent as thousands of visitors return regularly to read news and commentaries, participate in online polls and surveys, purchase myriad premiums in the shopping area, or listen to the station's programming over the Web. In coming months, site visitors will also be able to access audio archives of their favorite programs, listen to specially programmed streams of public affairs and arts content, and view WBAI-produced video documentaries.

Initiating strategic partnerships with other progressive organizations is a high priority at WBAI. In February, we co-sponsored the NYC Grassroots Media Conference at New School University (with the NYC Independent Media Center and other groups), which has laid plans for ongoing projects (see [www.nycgrassrootsmedia.org](http://www.nycgrassrootsmedia.org)). We will soon work with the Manhattan Neighborhood Network (public access television) to establish a digital video studio at the station capable of broadcasting a weekly WBAI television program on MNN and streaming other video programs over the Web. We have also collaborated on a range of public forums with prestigious New York institutions like the Graduate Center of the City University, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the Society for Ethical Culture. We intend to expand such partnerships and collaborations throughout the year.

We've weathered the storms of financial crisis and we've avoided a shipwreck. Now with the wind at our back, WBAI is poised to sail towards exciting new horizons. We invite all our *Folio* readers to get on board and journey with us.

Write me with your suggestions at [drojas@wbai.org](mailto:drojas@wbai.org).

## "War on Terror" Underside

*Continued from front cover...*

Last year, Aarti Shahani, an immigrants rights activist with the New York-based Families for Freedom, discussed on several WBAI programs, the Supreme Court's egregious 5-4 decision last April to uphold mandatory detention of entire classes of immigrants (in this case, green-card holders convicted of even low-level offenses). For the first time since the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans, the Court allowed the government to indefinitely incarcerate individuals solely based on their membership in such classes, even if they pose no threat. Decisions like this, Shahani said, help make jailed immigrants the fastest-growing segment of the prison population. "Immigrants are feeding a prison industry that is looking for inmates to get money from the Department of Homeland Security," she explains.

Shahani exudes enthusiasm for WBAI: "We're very reliant on WBAI for coverage of our organizing work, activities, and information dissemination. We always get follow-up calls from people interested in getting involved with these issues. The station is also instrumental in reaching people in jail, and working-class and disenfranchised people."



Harun Ur Rasheed (left), a disabled Bangladeshi immigrant, saying goodbye before deportation. Photo credit: Families for Freedom

On *Asia Pacific Forum* last November, Sam Quiah, an organizer with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), addressed the Bush administration's discriminatory Special Registration program. This initiative required men and boys over 16 from 25 predominantly Muslim countries to register at immigration offices, threatening penalties for those who didn't. The government failed to inform potential registrants that they might be arrested, detained, or deported—yet many were. Some 13,000 of the 80,000+ registrants ended up in deportation proceedings. AALDEF's survey of 200 clients found that 80% of threatened deportations were for visa overstays, and none were for any alleged terrorist involvement. The program was suspended last November under pressure from immigrant advocacy groups.

"Detainees often listen to WBAI and get information from the station," Quiah notes. "The station has a reputation of really talking about issues that affect immigrants, going beyond the usual coverage. WBAI offers a different point of view—one that is pro-immigrant."

More info: Families For Freedom, (212) 898-4121; Immigrant Defense Project, (212) 898-4132; Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants, (212) 254-2591; Committee for the Release of Farouk Abdel-Muhti, (212) 674-9499, [www.freefarouk.org](http://www.freefarouk.org), and [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org).

Shumaisa Kahn, the daughter of Pakistani immigrants, is a young graduate of the WBAI news training program and a freelance reporter at the station. She also has a master's degree in international health.

# REPORTS TO THE LISTENER

## NEWS

Jose Santiago, News Director

In the coming weeks and months, you can expect to hear the News Department more involved than ever in special election coverage. Our new headline news service should be expanding and we will have more reports from community correspondents throughout our listening area.

On the technological side, the News Department is celebrating the recent installation of digital editing software on almost all of our computers and the arrival of brand new mini-disc recorders that have been assigned to reporters. The upgrades improve our ability to cover news events in our region.

As a department head and veteran WBAI staff member, I want to urge listeners to become more involved with and, as Bernard White says, pay close attention to the work of WBAI's newly elected Local Station Board. While much has been said about the differences among the various "slates" represented on the board, the best thing that could happen for the WBAI community is that board members come together, quickly identify key issues facing the station, and move boldly to carry out their mandate, particularly in the area of finances.

I am most concerned about the flow of locally raised funds to national projects—particularly unproven national projects. While there is a clear need for putting meat on the skeleton that is the Pacifica national network, we should be wary of attempting to rebuild the network at the expense of local programming. I'm reminded of comments of several former members of the Young Lords Organization (a '60s Puerto Rican liberation group) who, to this day, feel that its decline began when individuals who penetrated their leadership influenced the collective to shut down local offices and redirect the organization's energies toward a broader national and international agenda. A well-funded local station is a relevant local station. Strong links make a strong chain.

## OUTREACH

Bok-keem Nyerere, Outreach Coordinator

The Outreach office aims to take the station to the listener community and bring the listeners to the station. Part of that role is developing and filtering volunteer efforts to keep the station effective and participatory. Those who can lend their time and skills—whether writing, editing, computer graphics, marketing, advertising, clerical work, or just a willingness to help—will make a valuable contribution. Sign up online at [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org) (click on "Support WBAI") or call the number below.

On your own, you can help build the Million Listener Campaign by doing four simple things: • pledge to WBAI and honor that pledge • ask a friend to pledge to WBAI • introduce a friend to program(s) they might find interesting • pass out copies of this *Folio* or WBAI flyers at your next group event.

We encourage those who work with schools, groups, clubs, or religious institutions that support peace and social justice to contact us about bringing speakers to your organization. The Outreach office can be reached at (212) 209-2869, [outreach@wbai.org](mailto:outreach@wbai.org), or c/o WBAI, 120 Wall St., 10th. Fl., New York, NY 10005.

### Visit [wbai.org](http://wbai.org) Every Day

Our website, [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org), not only streams WBAI's signal 24/7, but also allows you to pledge and request premiums. Visit daily for program listings, world/national/local news and commentaries, action alerts, community events (submit your own!), news about WBAI/Pacifica, an interactive forum, and more. Fill out the online listener survey on programming. And subscribe to our free weekly e-newsletter with a digest of programs and events. To send submissions or volunteer for editorial or photo work, write: [editor@wbai.org](mailto:editor@wbai.org).

## ARTS

Janet Coleman, Interim Arts Director

For spring, some seeds planted last year are about to blossom for the Arts Department. WBAI will air a special Annual PEN Prison Writing Project Awards ceremony and poetry reading (see p. 8) and several panels of the PEN Immigrant Writers of Color, hosted by Trinidadian author and scholar Elizabeth Nunez.

Following his spectacular hour of political and historical commentary in February (not his first appearance on WBAI's airwaves), more Sunday 11 a.m. visits from Gore Vidal are in the works. Reno, the great comedian, and Malachy McCourt, the charming raconteur, will also return to that spot from time to time.

We're looking forward to the annual "Live From the OBIE Awards" and the live centennial Bloomsday reading of James Joyce's *Ulysses* (see p. 5 for more on both).

Union Signal, the wonderful radio theatre production team led by Jeff Sweet and Doug Bost, has presented several hilarious short radio plays in the Tuesday Arts Magazine slot, and is teamed with playwright/actress Betty Shamieh for an adaptation of her play, "Chocolate in Heat: Growing Up Arab in America," to air later this year.

Other projects in development: the KGB Bar Poetry Series; the Gospel version of Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*, composed by Dierdre Murray; a production of Miguel Pinero's classic play about prison, "Short Eyes;" and a high school students' improvisational theatre group.

Already in full flower is the rest of the Arts Department and its wonderful producers all over the dial.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Kathy Davis, Public Affairs Director

Here at WBAI we are happy to celebrate the success of our winter fund drive. It is with the deepest gratitude that we thank all of you for your support, both financial and spiritual.

You can now listen to two new additions to the weekly schedule: **Haiti: The Struggle Continues** (Sat., 3-4 p.m.) and **La Voz Latina** (Sat., 4-5 p.m.), our first Spanish-language Latino public affairs program (both in interim time slots for now). A new Latino English-language public affairs program will be launched soon, and we are developing a program on civil liberties. All are very pertinent to the politics of our times. Also, Robert Knight has returned to prime time with the broadcast of **Primary Sources**, a periodic series on the national elections (see p. 7). And in coming months you will hear more from the new Local Station Board. Check [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org) daily for the latest listings.

Of the Public Affairs Department's many responsibilities, none is more important than serving the needs of our listeners and members. Toward this end, I am forming the Public Affairs Community Volunteer Corps. Please consider volunteering to respond to calls and letters from listeners, or as a trainee to produce and record public service announcements. Call (212) 209-2826 between 10 a.m. and noon, or email [pad@wbai.org](mailto:pad@wbai.org).

## Get Well Soon

We at the *Folio* send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to **GRANDPA AL LEWIS**, host of **Al Lewis Live** (Saturdays, noon-1:30 p.m.); and former General Manager (and current Pacifica Director of Administration) **VALERIE VAN ISLER**.

### Monthly Report to the Listener

On-air updates by management and department heads, with listener call-ins. For times, stay tuned or go to [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org).

# WBAI Program Schedule

For printable  
8-1/2 x 11 version,  
go to [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>6:00 AM</b>	<b>WAKEUP CALL</b> Deepa Fernandes and Bernard White (Mon.-Thurs.), Mario Murillo (Fri.), and others				
<b>7:00 AM</b>	In-depth coverage of local, national, and international news; social and cultural issues and events Focus on human rights, peace, and social, economic, and racial justice For a list of regularly scheduled segments, go to <a href="http://www.wbai.org">www.wbai.org</a>				
<b>8:00 AM</b>	From 6:25-6:30 daily, <b>COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD</b> (repeats at 4:55 p.m.); to submit items, go to <a href="http://www.wbai.org">www.wbai.org</a> News headlines at 6:30, 7:00, and 8:00, with <b>Leslie George</b> (Mon.-Thurs.) and <b>Dred Scott Keyes</b> (Fri.)				
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>DEMOCRACY NOW!</b> Amy Goodman, Juan Gonzalez For archived programs and list of cable-TV broadcast times, go to <a href="http://www.democracynow.org">www.democracynow.org</a> Hard-hitting coverage of war and peace, government policies, and struggles for justice				
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALS</b> <b>JOY OF RESISTANCE (feminism)</b> <b>AIN'T THAT GOOD NEWS</b>	<b>GLOBAL MOVEMENTS, URBAN STRUGGLES</b> Deepa Fernandes and Biju Mathew	<b>CITY WATCH</b> Deena Kolbert and Bill DiFazio Watchdog on NYC social, economic, political, cultural issues	<b>FIRST VOICES INDIGENOUS RADIO</b> Tiokasin Ghosthorse Indigenous thinking	<b>COUNTERSPIN</b> Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) <b>YOU AND YOUR MONEY</b> Susan Lee
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>OUT-FM</b> Out-FM Collective Progressive lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, two-spirit news, culture, and activism	<b>ECO-LOGIC</b> David Occhiuto/ Ken Gale (alternating)	<b>CREATE YOUR HEALTHY HOME</b> May Dooley and Jim Richardson	<b>GLOBAL MEDICINE REVIEW</b> Kamau Kokayi, M.D. Holistic health paradigms, global healing traditions, and cultural and community perspectives
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>NATURAL LIVING</b> Gary Null Investigative reports and interviews on medicine, health, environment, politics	<b>CHRISTMAS COUP COMEDY PLAYERS</b> <b>THE LARGEST MINORITY (disabled)</b> <b>REEL WORLD</b>	<b>NATURAL LIVING</b> Gary Null Investigative reports and interviews on medicine, health, environment, politics	<b>RISE UP RADIO</b> Free Radio Youth Collective Youth-produced social justice radio	
<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>HEALTH ACTION</b> Health Action Collective Corporate threats to health, activism, access issues, integrative healing	<b>POSITIVE MIND</b> Armand DiMele Teaching strategies for fusing feelings and knowledge	<b>HEALTH STYLES</b> Diana Mason and Barbara Glickstein Personal health and health policy		
<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>CAT RADIO CAFE</b> Janet Coleman and David Dozer Salon of politics and art	<b>ARTS MAGAZINE</b> Prairie Miller, Peggy Dominique, and Joe Hurley Film, culture currents, art gigs	<b>LIGHT SHOW</b> Frederick Geobold Folk songs, tales of struggle, poetry, wrestling	<b>PERSPECTIVE</b> Louis Reyes Rivera Cultural workers with a message	<b>ARTS PROGRAMMING</b>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>TALKBACK</b> Hugh Hamilton Interactive news-talk program with interviews and listener call-ins				<b>CALDWELL CHRONICLES</b> Earl Caldwell Reflections and call-ins on justice issues
<b>4:00 PM</b>					
<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>EXPERT WITNESS</b> Mike Levine	<b>CUBA IN FOCUS</b> Sally O'Brien and Gail Walker	<b>TAKING AIM</b> Ralph Schoenman and Mya Shone Meticulous documentation and political analysis of war and repression	<b>EXPLORATIONS</b> Michio Kaku An hour of information on science, technology, and politics	<b>BEHIND THE NEWS</b> Doug Henwood Economics and politics, city to world
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>WBAI EVENING NEWS</b> Jose Santiago (Director), Andrea Sears (Editor), Ginger Otis, Eric Williams, Sally O'Brien (Sunday Co-editor), Barbara Day (Sunday Co-editor), and John Hess Local, national, and international news stories, with in-depth progressive coverage of tri-state area.				
	<b>FREE SPEECH RADIO NEWS</b> Deepa Fernandes (host), Randi Zimmerman, Nell Abram, Kata Mester, Simba Rousseau, and Monica Lopez Global and national news and analysis in the service of peace and social justice. For archived programs, go to <a href="http://www.fsrn.org">www.fsrn.org</a>				
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>BUILDING BRIDGES: YOUR COMMUNITY AND LABOR REPORT</b> Mimi Rosenberg and Ken Nash	<b>TAHRIR</b> Barbara Nimri Aziz Voices of the Arab/Muslim Community	<b>OFF THE HOOK</b> Emanuel Goldstein Hacker news	<b>EDUCATION AT THE CROSSROADS</b> Basir Mchawi Understanding "classes"... for the masses	<b>GLOBAL BEAT EXPERIENCE</b> Imhotep Gary Byrd Message in the music: discs and discussions of African-American sounds and issues
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>HOUSING NOTEBOOK</b> Scott Sommer Tenants' rights, call-ins	<b>ASIA PACIFIC FORUM</b> Asia Pacific Forum Collective Progressive Asian and Asian American politics and culture	<b>PERSONAL COMPUTER SHOW</b> Joe King and Hank Kee Ask the experts	<b>WHERE WE LIVE</b> Sally O'Brien and Rosa Clemente Political prisoners, police repression	
<b>9:00 PM</b>	<b>HOME FRIES</b> Fred Herschkowitz Music, comedy, call-ins	<b>JAZZ SAMPLER</b> Bill Ferrar	<b>GLOBAL BLACK EXPERIENCE</b> Imhotep Gary Byrd Politics, music, and call-ins	<b>AFRIKALEIDOSCOPE</b> Elombe Brath African world politics and culture	
<b>10:00 PM</b>				<b>HEART OF MIND</b> Kathy Davis Self-evolution, spiritual activism	<b>SISTER FROM ANOTHER PLANET</b> Andrea Clarke Progressive soul music
<b>11:00 PM</b>	<b>WBAI EVENING NEWS (Rebroadcast)</b> <b>FREE SPEECH RADIO NEWS (Rebroadcast)</b>				
<b>12:00 AM</b>	<b>NIGHTSHIFT</b> Mike Sargent Ultra-free-form call-ins and music	<b>MOORISH ORTHODOX RADIO CRUSADE</b> Bill Weinberg and Ann-Marie Hendrickson Anarchism for the Global City	<b>EARTHWATCH: Transterrestrial Radio with Robert Knight</b>	<b>RADIO UNNAMEABLE</b> Bob Fass The original free-form radio: musings and music, call-ins and conversation	<b>CREATIVE UNITY COLLECTIVE</b>
<b>1:00 AM</b>		<b>WEAPONRY</b> Tom Wisker Military technology, history and policy	<b>UNDER THE LEARNING TREE</b> Kamau Khalfani News/issues of concern to Jersey/the world		<b>MIDNIGHT RAVERS</b> Terry Wilson, Sir W. Henry Eccleston, Sharon Gordon, Shawn Rhodes, & Nate Walker
<b>2:00 AM</b>	<b>PERSON TO PERSON</b> Toni Short Dialogues on the human condition	<b>ROCK EM' SOCK EM' RADIO</b> Vick the Bruiser	<b>PUNK AND HARDCORE</b> Susan Brown	<b>IN THE MOMENT</b> Ibrahim Gonzalez Eclectic sounds, live performances, and interviews	<b>LABBRISH</b> Habte Salassie Reggae music
<b>3:00 AM</b>					
<b>4:00 AM</b>	<b>MASS BACKWARDS</b> Max Schmid Music, current radio drama, Jean Shepherd shows		<b>BURN BABY BURN—CLAPPERS</b> Lister Hewan-Lowe		
<b>5:00 AM</b>					<b>HOOR OF THE WOLF</b> Jim Freund Science fiction/fantasy

**99.5 FM**  
**Details:**  
[www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org)

**BLACK BOXES:**  
 Programs air alternate weeks (except Cuba in Focus, last week); three-way splits are 1st, 2d, & 3d weeks, respectively

# Spring Specials

For latest updates, check [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org)

	Saturday	Sunday
6:00 AM	<b>HOUR OF THE WOLF</b> Jim Freund Science fiction/fantasy	<b>THROUGH THE OPERA GLASS</b> Tony Coggi, Regina Fiorito Sokol, and Manya Recorded opera and interviews with artists
7:00 AM	<b>AS I PLEASE</b> Simon Loekle Literary commentary and readings	<b>HERE OF A SUNDAY MORNING</b> Chris Whent Early music
8:00 AM	<b>ANY SATURDAY</b> David Rothenberg Music, politics, arts, theater, sports, social commentary (plus special offers on theater tickets—call in!)	
9:00 AM	<b>ON THE COUNT</b> Eddie Ellis and Ayo Harrington Criminal justice and prison policy, advocacy, and activism	
10:00 AM	<b>ON THE COUNT</b> Eddie Ellis and Ayo Harrington Criminal justice and prison policy, advocacy, and activism	<b>SPECIAL ARTS PROGRAMMING</b>
11:00 AM	<b>ON THE COUNT</b> Eddie Ellis and Ayo Harrington Criminal justice and prison policy, advocacy, and activism	
12:00 PM	<b>AL LEWIS LIVE</b> "Grandpa" Al Lewis Outspoken political commentary —Get angry about something!	<b>BEYOND THE PALE</b> Esther Kaplan and Marilyn Kleinberg Neimark Progressive Jewish politics and culture
1:00 PM	<b>RADIO FREE EIREANN</b> John McDonagh and Sandy Boyer Irish and human rights issues	<b>WALDEN'S POND</b> Shelton Walden Animals, health and environmental issues
2:00 PM	<b>RADIO FREE EIREANN</b> John McDonagh and Sandy Boyer Irish and human rights issues	<b>RITMO CON ACHE</b> Ibrahim Gonzalez (guest host) Latin jazz, Afro-Cuban beats
3:00 PM	<b>HAITI: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES</b> Haiti Collective (interim time) News and progressive analysis about Haiti and Haitians here	
4:00 PM	<b>LA VOZ LATINA (en español)</b> Collectivo Latino (interim time) Issues affecting Latino community and Latin America	<b>NEW WORLD GALLERY</b> Chico Alvarez Latin jazz
5:00 PM	<b>ALL MIXED UP</b> Peter Bochan A nonlinear sonic tapestry of music, art, and current events	
6:00 PM		<b>WBAI EVENING NEWS</b> <b>EQUAL TIME FOR FREETHOUGHT</b> Barry F. Seldman
7:00 PM	<b>LIQUID SOUND LOUNGE</b> Jeannie Hopper Soul-infused grooves of all persuasions representing independent artists	<b>GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO</b> Max Schmid Radio drama and old-time radio shows
8:00 PM		
9:00 PM	<b>MORNING DEW</b> Lance Neal Deadhead wakeup call	<b>EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN</b> David Kenney Pop and jazz standards, show tunes, cabaret, and interviews
10:00 PM		
11:00 PM		<b>LA NUEVA ALTERNATIVA</b> Gonzalo Aburto and Ruben Lopez Rock and roll en Español
12:00 AM	<b>UNDERGROUND RAILROAD</b> Jay Smooth Hip-hop politics and culture	
1:00 AM		<b>CARRIER WAVE</b> Sidney Smith
2:00 AM	<b>SOUL CENTRAL STATION</b> Tony Ryan R&B, soul, funk, and blues	<b>BACK OF THE BOOK</b> R. Paul Martin and Pickles of the North Free-form live radio
3:00 AM		<b>NOMMO RADIO</b> Dedicated to radio theatre and theatrical radio
4:00 AM		
5:00 AM	<b>COSMIK DEBRIS</b> Rocky	

## PEN CLUB AWARDS FOR PRISONER WRITING

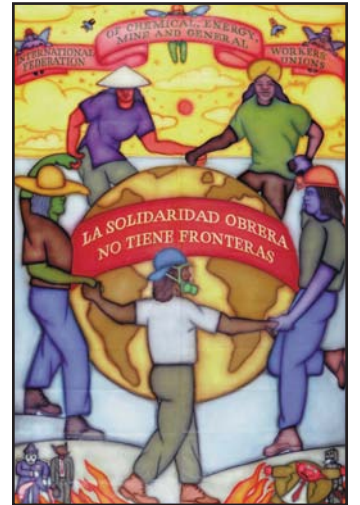
(Thursday, March 25, 7:00-9:00 p.m.—See article on page 8.)

## MAY DAY: RACING TO THE BOTTOM

(Saturday, May 1, 1:30-5:00 p.m.)

The recent limited economic recovery in the U.S. is still a jobless recovery, especially for Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific, and NYC workers in general. But it's not only the quantity, it's the quality of jobs that's frightening, with the low-wage jobs sector growing, while health care, overtime, and social security are under attack from the Bush administration. The race to the bottom used to be a term that applied to workers in the "developing countries." But after years of sustained attacks on the working class, it is applicable to the underdevelopment of the U.S. working class. So welcome to the new world economy and the race to the bottom coming home to roost.

With the union movement shrinking and the Democrats capable of only limited reforms, the real hope is building bridges between the human, civil, immigrants rights, peace, and labor movements around the world for a massive movement for social change. That's what **Building Bridges: Your Community & Labor Report** will be advocating with our guests, to resist the Race to the Bottom around the world.



Art credit: Mike Alewitz, Labor Art & Mural Project

## SPRING FUND DRIVE (May 12-29)

## 49th ANNUAL OBIE AWARDS LIVE

(Monday, May 17, 7 p.m.-midnight)

This event, which honors off-Broadway theater, airs exclusively on WBAI live from NYC's Webster Hall. WBAI brings you the winners, speeches, musical acts, and more. Hosted by Janet Coleman and David Dozer (**Cat Radio Café**) and friends, with Fred Herschkowitz and others at the home mikes. Spectacular theater premiums will be offered.

## 50th ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION (mid-May—date TBA)

## BLOOMSDAY, LIVE FROM SYMPHONY SPACE

(Wednesday, June 16)

Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the fictional events portrayed in James Joyce's modern masterpiece *Ulysses*. WBAI presents exclusive live coverage of Symphony Space's annual Bloomsday event, with serial readings by distinguished New York actors. Hosted by Isaiah Sheffer and Larry Josephson.

## LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL/TRANSGENDERED PRIDE DAY (Sunday, June 27, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.)

Join WBAI's **OUT-FM** and KPFA/Berkeley's Full Circle Youth collectives for a multiracial and multicultural look at Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Pride Marches globally.

## WBAI's New Beat: Headline News

Since last December, WBAI listeners may have noticed a new weekday feature: five-minute reports of breaking news just before the top of each hour, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Combined with the headlines on **Wakeup Call** (6:30, 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.) and **Democracy Now!** (9:00 a.m.), news updates are now the pulse of the broadcast day, culminating with the WBAI Evening News at 6:00 p.m. and **Free Speech Radio News (FSRN)** at 6:30 p.m.

"We're really trying to promote the **Evening News** and **FSRN** throughout the day," says Dred Scott Keyes. "We're not 1010 WINS or CBS radio," explains Gail Walker. "We tap alternative news sources—international, national, and local—as well as WBAI producers and community activists."

"When we have a breaking community news story, or know that we can get community voices out, it's amazing," says Ama Christabel Nsiah-Buadi. "WBAI listeners keep us informed of what is happening in their communities so we can let the world know!"

Email: [headlinenews@wbai.org](mailto:headlinenews@wbai.org)

—Steffie Brooks

# New Local Station Board Elected at WBAI



WBAI's elected board makes its debut (partial view). Photo credit: Alley Ernst

by Chris Anderson and John Tarleton

**W**BAI's new Local Station Board (LSB) met for the first time February 19 following landmark listener elections in which none of four competing slates won an outright majority (see chart).

The Justice & Unity slate, which centered its campaign on the need for more diversity throughout the Pacifica network, earned eight seats. Advocates for more internal democracy at WBAI running on the List-Prog slate amassed six seats and the People's Radio slate won three. Supporters of WBAI health programmer Gary Null picked up two seats, and independents garnered a total of five seats.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## WBAI LOCAL STATION BOARD MEMBERS

(in descending order of vote totals)

LISTENER MEMBERS	ELECTED POST	TERM	SLATE (if any)	BACKGROUND	CONTACT INFO	PERSONAL STATEMENT
<b>Father Lawrence Lucas</b>		3 years	Justice and Unity	Author, lecturer, Black liberation theologian	(212) 862-4380, x63; fatherlucas@justiceunity.org	I am grateful to those who voted for me. I hope to work to keep WBAI and Pacifica on course and truly inclusive.
<b>Michael Tarif Warren</b>		3 years	Justice and Unity	Activist attorney for political prisoners and victims of police brutality	(718) 230-9790; tarifwarren@aol.com	To provide input which brings about effectiveness, representation and communication to communities of color and those that are disenfranchised.
<b>Ray Laforest</b>	Pacifica National Board member	3 years	Justice and Unity	Labor and Haitian community organizer, former iPNB board member	(212) 591-2111 (voicemail); raylaforest@hotmail.com	I will work to make WBAI a financially sound, transparent institution, dedicated to peace, justice, and inclusion of all communities.
<b>Paul DeRienzo</b>		3 years	Independent	Former producer of Gary Null's Natural Living program	pderienzo@garynull.com	No statement submitted.
<b>Steve Brown</b>		3 years	List-Prog	Longtime non-profit consultant	(212) 724-6334; sbrown13@nyc.rr.com	I want New Yorkers to wake up each day believing the road to saving the world runs through 99.5 FM.
<b>Paul Surovell</b>	LSB Treasurer	3 years	People's Radio	Teacher of inner-city youth, West Bronx; United Federation of Teachers delegate	(973) 763-9493; paul4sure@aol.com	I'll represent the needs and concerns of listeners, especially those from New Jersey. Listeners can call 24 hours a day.
<b>Carolyn Birden</b>		3 years	List-Prog	ESL teacher, parent, activist	cmcb007@earthlink.net	Newly created listener-members should demand transparency and accountability from the Board, in the station, and on the air.
<b>Miguel Maldonado</b>	Pacifica National Board member	3 years	List-Prog	Labor organizer, former chair of WBAI Local Advisory Board	chefimiguel66@hotmail.com	No statement submitted.
<b>Mariana Gaston</b>	LSB Vice Chair	3 years	Justice and Unity	Administrator/mediator in dual-language school in Sunset Park, Brooklyn	savila2@aol.com	I am committed to supporting a Pacifica Network that reflects the progressive initiatives of our increasingly diverse communities.
<b>Patty Heffley</b>	LSB Secretary	1 year	List-Prog	Longtime WBAI and media activist, media-maker	(212) 929-7097; patty@inch.com	I'm committed to setting new standards for effective communication between the listeners & WBAI/Pacifica. Listeners must feel included to participate.
<b>Kathy Goldman</b>		1 year	Independent	Anti-hunger/poverty activist; founder of Community Food Resource Center	(212) 866-6147; goldman.k@att.net	Develop WBAI focus on NYC and listening-area politics, arts/culture, organizing, listener involvement, etc. Bring humor to WBAI!
<b>Berthold Riemers</b>	LSB Chair	1 year	List-Prog	Longtime WBAI and media activist	breimers@hipusa.com	My role is to serve the interests of all constituencies with a vision easily translated into a realistic growth strategy.
<b>Zara Khan</b>		1 year	Justice and Unity	Organizer with SLAM (Student Liberation Action Movement) at Hunter College	(212) 650-3825; zkhan@justiceunity.org	I will work diligently to add new faces to the WBAI family—those of young people and womyn of color.
<b>Alex Steinberg</b>		1 year	List-Prog	Non-affiliated scholar and media activist	(718) 871-5489; alexthe@earthlink.net	My priority will be to widen listener and volunteer input, to elevate the level of political and cultural discourse.
<b>Luanne Pennesi</b>		1 year	Independent	Registered nurse, longtime WBAI activist	(973) 962-0246; whnn@aol.com	I'm impassioned about returning WBAI to its original philosophy of programming and reorganizing its infrastructure to best serve the listenership.
<b>Robert (Bob) Owens</b>		1 year	People's Radio	Longtime WBAI activist; employee at popular East Village bookstore	(917) 806-2681; robobzz202@yahoo.com	I appreciate the vote of confidence in being elected to the Board and hope I can live up to expectations.
<b>Alice Shields</b>	Pacifica National Board member	1 year	People's Radio	Composer; Fundraising Director, Columbia University Computer Music Center	(212) 666-1394; afshields@earthlink.net	I will do my best to help WBAI to grow and to celebrate all our diverse cultural traditions.
<b>Yvonne Liu</b>		1 year	Justice and Unity	Youth organizer with NYCsummer.org, Brecht Forum, & Anarchist People of Color	(212) 340-9462 (voicemail); yvonne@riseup.net	I will agitate for the voices of the underrepresented at WBAI including women, Latinos, youth, and the Indigenous.
STAFF MEMBERS	ELECTED POST	TERM	SLATE (if any)	BACKGROUND	CONTACT INFO	PERSONAL STATEMENT
<b>Bob Lederer</b>		3 years	Justice and Unity	Health Action co-producer; Editor of wbai.org/Folio; anti-racist/gay activist	(212) 209-2954; bob@healthaction.info	I look forward to cooperative work on inclusion of disenfranchised groups, vigorous fundraising, budgetary scrutiny, and fair personnel policies.
<b>Tiokasin Ghosthorse</b>		3 years	Justice and Unity	Producer of First Voices Indigenous Radio	(212) 209-2979; firstvoices@wbai.org	The opulent proselytize democracy with jingoism and entitlement. The empowered are prompt with the realities of struggling against the oppressor.
<b>Shawn Rhodes</b>		3 years	Independent	WBAI arts producer since 1994	(212) 209-2957; popstarshawn@yahoo.com	I intend to improve communications between all interested parties—the National Board, the Local Board, the staff, and the listeners.
<b>R. Paul Martin</b>		1 year	Independent	At WBAI for 22 years. A founder and Chief Steward of the former WBAI Union	rpm@glib.com	WBAI is in trouble; it needs to be saved. Staff must be treated fairly and equally. Secret of life is fulfillment.
<b>Roger Manning</b>	Pacifica National Board member	1 year	Independent	Design and maintenance person for wbai.org since Feb. 2003; editor of wbai.net	rogermanning995@yahoo.com	Greater organization, accountability and process are key. Board decisions must support WBAI/Pacifica's well-being above other interests or ambitions.
<b>Cerene Roberts</b>		1 year	Independent	Freelance producer; adult educator; origin: Africa via the Caribbean	(212) 209-2920; cerene_ls@yaho.com	Making WBAI a model of challenging, respectful dialogue on the issues affecting our lives and for practicing what we preach.

### MORE TO COME Couldn't get enough of WBAI's first listener election? There's another one this fall. (Didn't get a ballot? See page 7)

Under Pacifica's new by-laws, the three staff delegates and the nine listener delegates who were in the upper half of winning vote-getters received three-year terms, while the three staff delegates and nine listener delegates in the lower half won one-year terms. This will allow for a staggered board in which elections will be two years on, one year off. Nominations for the next round of elections will be open from July 25 to Sept. 25. Ballots will be mailed Oct. 15 and must be returned by Nov. 15.

*Continued from page 6...*

Under new Pacifica bylaws, 18 seats were assigned to listener representatives and six to members of the station's paid and unpaid staff. The new board is 50% people of color and 37.5% women.

"This is a truly historic day for WBAI and Pacifica and media democracy," declared General Manager Don Rojas at the Feb. 19 meeting. Rojas, a nonvoting ex officio LSB member, urged members of competing slates to set aside their differences and work for the greater good of the station. "We must put the election battle behind us," Rojas said. "The voters have spoken."

The listener elections marked the latest chapter in a long battle to bring greater transparency and democracy to Pacifica. Throughout much of the 1990s, the network was engulfed in a bitter power struggle between corporate centrists who had hijacked the Pacifica National Board and left-leaning grassroots activists.

In December 2001, a negotiated settlement to listener lawsuits created an interim national board to revise Pacifica's bylaws and supervise elections for local boards for each of the network's five stations. The local boards in turn were mandated to elect members for a new national board.

From last November through January, candidates campaigned in on-air forums and community meetings across the tri-state area. While disagreeing about many issues confronting the station, including affirmative action procedures for board elections and financial transparency at the station, all four slates put forward longtime community activists, committed WBAI supporters, and advocates of various progressive causes. Voting ended February 5, and official results were announced February 11.

With 19,200 paid members, 3,292 votes were cast in the WBAI listener elections—a 17% participation rate. On the staff side, 102 (54%) of the 189 eligible staff cast ballots.

The new bylaws authorize Local Station Boards to review and approve the annual budget for the local station, as well as screen and select a pool of candidates for the position of General Manager and Program Director at each radio station. Local Station Boards also have the power to remove a local General Manager, although that decision must be made with the concurrence of the Pacifica Foundation Executive Director.

The February 19 board meeting was held on a brightly lit stage at the Theatre for a New City in Manhattan's Lower East Side. A standing-room-only audience watched the LSB choose Roger Manning (independent) as the staff delegate to the new national board and Ray Laforest (Justice & Unity), Alice Shields (Peoples Radio), and Miguel Maldonado (List-Prog) as listener delegates.

The new board then chose Berthold Reimers (List-Prog) as Chair, Mariana Gaston (Justice & Unity) as Vice Chair, Paul Surovell (People's Radio) as Treasurer, and Patty Heffley (List-Prog) as Secretary.

In one of the evening's more dramatic events, listener board member Vicente "Panama" Alba (Justice & Unity) resigned his seat, an act that automatically elevated runner-up Yvonne Liu, a young Asian American progressive activist (also Justice & Unity), to the board. Alba, a longtime Latino activist, said, "For this Board to start on the right foot, it needs the voices of more women, more young people, more Latinos and Asians....I step down and leave Mariana Gaston, Yvonne Liu, Zara Khan, and other folks who I know will stand by the rights of the Latino community."

Leslie Cagan, outgoing chair of the interim Pacifica National Board, praised the election workers and noted that the high turnout reflected renewed confidence in Pacifica and its peace and justice mission. "In an age in which media giants are becoming ever bigger and less responsive to local needs, Pacifica is renewing its commitment to the communities we serve," Cagan said. "The implementation of our new bylaws opens the door for a reinvigorated network."

Full election results, and updates on the Local Station Board, can be viewed at [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org), under "WBAI/Pacifica News" (right column).

Chris Anderson and John Tarleton have covered WBAI and the Pacifica crisis for the New York City Independent Media Center ([www.nyc.indymedia.org](http://www.nyc.indymedia.org)) since the fall of 2000.

# WBAI and Pacifica Launch Presidential Election Coverage

by Steffie Brooks

"The 2004 presidential election is arguably the most important since 1932 or maybe even 1860," says Pacifica Executive Director Dan Coughlin. "The next four years could see the dismantling of the Bill of Rights and the institutionalization of endless war as official U.S. imperial policy. Covering the elections is not just an opportunity but an imperative."

Meetings early this year between Coughlin and Pacifica station managers mapped out an approach to comprehensive but affordable national election programming that relies on decentralized production and increased distribution among Pacifica's five member stations and 45 affiliates, as well as a range of alternative media outlets. "Our three goals are to impact the national political debate, increase Pacifica's profile, and generate new revenues," Coughlin says.

Among Pacifica's partners will be Democracy Now!, Free Speech Radio News, Free Speech TV (satellite channel 9415 on the Dish Network), and the Independent Media Centers (IMCs or Indymedia). (Since the first IMC formed in Seattle to cover the 1999 anti-WTO protests, Indymedia has grown into a global network of 100-plus locals that employ audio, video, print, computer streaming, and live communication to cover and advocate for social justice issues and movements.) A division of labor between the diverse media organizations is still a work in progress, and Pacifica will need to raise additional funds along the way, Coughlin says.

## PRIMARY SOURCES

WBAI launched its own election coverage in January with the return to prime time of the distinctive voice of Robert Knight as anchor and executive producer of Primary Sources, a series of election specials slated to run through the summer. "The program intends to be more analytic than exhortatory, with event-driven spot news, along with knowledgeable participants in the political process who can clearly enunciate the consequences of policy, platforms, and polls," Knight says. Past programs have featured interviews and analysis as well as on-the-scene reports from the South Carolina and New Mexico primaries in February and Super Tuesday, the 10-state electoral grab-bag on March 2.

WBAI General Manager Don Rojas initiated Primary Sources with a \$10,000 grant from an anonymous listener-donor. Knight is emphatic that complete editorial freedom rests with him and his expanding core team from the WBAI News Department, Free Speech Radio News, and Pacifica affiliate stations. The program will soon be available for distribution via satellite and Internet, Knight says.

## THE 10-10-10 PROJECT

In the 10 weeks leading up to the general elections, the Pacifica network plans to broadcast 10 town hall meetings in 10 battlefront states on critical issues ignored or buried by the embedded media. Pacifica's affiliate stations, spread throughout the country in rural and suburban as well as urban areas (see [www.pacifica.org/stations/affiliates](http://www.pacifica.org/stations/affiliates)), will spearhead the 10-10-10 project.

"I have the best job at Pacifica; sometimes I think I'm the only one having fun," says Pacifica Affiliates Director Ursula Ruedenberg. "The affiliates are out in front in so many ways and have so much to contribute." Ruedenberg says there are already five town

hall meetings in the works—in Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, New Mexico, and Washington State—and a possible sixth in Florida.

## TWO, THREE, MANY CONVENTIONS

Pacifica plans live coverage both inside and on the streets for three party conventions—the Greens (June 23-28 in Milwaukee), the Democrats (July 26-29 in Boston), and the Republicans (Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in New York City), says Coughlin. Plans have also been made to cover the Unity Journalists of Color 2004 Convention (August 4-8 in Washington, D.C.) and the National Hip-Hop Political Convention, a gathering to adopt "a political agenda for the hip-hop generation" (June 16-19 in Newark; see [www.hiphopconvention.org](http://www.hiphopconvention.org)). As always, WBAI's coverage will include daily text updates on [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org), with links to stories on [www.nyc.indymedia.org](http://www.nyc.indymedia.org). Specially programmed audio streams will also be available on the WBAI site, according to Rojas.

Of course, the GOP conclave right here is attracting the most activist attention nationwide. "We expect there to be a historical mobilization of hundreds of thousands from all over the country to repudiate Bush in the media capital of the world and in Ground Zero City," says John Tarleton of NYC Indymedia ([www.nyc.indymedia.org](http://www.nyc.indymedia.org)). "The Republicans are trying once again to hijack the imagery of the city, the diversity of the city," he adds. "It is critically important that we bring the stories of the disenfranchised these last four years to the forefront."

Indymedia has already launched its campaign to do just that, "New York Summer: 100 Days of Democracy in Action" ([www.nycsummer.org](http://www.nycsummer.org)). New York Summer will use a series of forums and events throughout the city to weave the stories of rank-and-file residents into a coherent message: "Your policies are bad for our city and we are going to put an end to them. We have a better city to build." WBAI and Democracy Now!, as well as Counter Convention ([www.counterconvention.org](http://www.counterconvention.org)) and RNC Not Welcome ([www.rncnotwelcome.org](http://www.rncnotwelcome.org)), are listed supporters of New York Summer.

WBAI management and several departments and programmers have begun discussions with other media organizations on pooling resources for hard-hitting reporting of the next eight months of political debate and activity in the tri-state area. Says Indymedia's Tarleton: "Communications theorists tell us that whichever side people hear first is the one they tend to believe, so we need to be out front proactively showing what's going on at the grass roots."

Steffie Brooks is a member of the [wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org) editorial team and of *The Joy of Resistance*, a multicultural feminist program collective.



## NEVER GOT A BALLOT?

Help us update our voter rolls for the next Local Station Board election. If you didn't receive a ballot for the last election, and you had either donated \$25 or more or volunteered three or more hours in the year before November 21, 2003, drop a note to: Membership, WBAI, 120 Wall St., 10th Fl., New York, NY 10005. Include your name, address, phone number, email address (if any), and membership number (if known). Sorry, no acknowledgements are possible.

Note: To qualify for a ballot in the next election, you must have met the same donation or volunteer requirements as above in the year preceding August 31, 2004, or receive a hardship waiver (terms to be announced).

# SUPPORT WBAI!

In these lean economic times, WBAI needs your support more than ever. Becoming a member (by donating \$25 or more) not only gives you the certainty that you are helping to preserve this priceless, independent, progressive radio station—it also entitles you, for the next year, to:

- The right to vote (and run) in Local Station Board elections
- Quarterly mailings of this Folio
- Discounts at area cultural institutions, stores, and restaurants.

## PLEDGE OPTIONS

(You can pledge any time with major credit cards through our secure online website at [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org), by mail using the form below. Installment plans are also available.)

- Annual membership (\$25 basic rate, recommended for seniors/students/low-income people; \$50, recommended for all others)
- Generic premiums: carry the WBAI message to your community with a t-shirt, cap, mug, and/or tote bag (\$65 for any one; \$150 for all four)
- Special premiums developed by our award-winning producers (various pledge levels). Go to [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org) (top left, "Premiums Online") for a current list of available premiums
- Special offers of theater tickets. For latest list, listen to **Any Saturday** with David Rothenberg (Sat., 8:30-10:30 a.m.)
- **Remember WBAI in your will.** Call (212) 209-2827 for details on making a bequest.

Any donation, large or small, is always welcome. Only with your help can we continue to sustain your Peace and Justice Radio Station.

[Clip and return]

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

- \$25.00 Basic Membership**  
(Recommended for seniors/  
students/low-income people)
- \$50.00 General Membership**  
(Recommended for all others)
- \$100.00 Friend of Peace  
and Justice Radio**
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other**

Make checks payable to WBAI/Pacifica

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MASTERCARD/AMEX # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE (MONTH/YEAR) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form to:**  
**WBAI, Church St. Station, P.O. Box 11445,**  
**New York, NY 10277-2071**

# Writers With Conviction(s)

by Bell Gale Chevigny

**W**BAI has long been concerned with men and women incarcerated in this country, and so has the Prison Writing Program (PWP) sponsored by PEN, the international writers association dedicated to freedom of expression.

On Thursday, March 25, activist and WBAI producer Ayo Harrington will host a special edition of **On the Count!** featuring live coverage of the 2004 PEN Prison Writing Awards Ceremony. The broadcast will be cosponsored by The Riverside Church Prison Ministry (coordinated by Eddie Ellis, host of **On the Count!**). This year's 35 winners from 12 states will be announced and well-known writers will read from the winning poems, plays, stories, and memoirs.

Since the 1971 Attica prison rebellion, members of PEN have made the prison writing program a moral imperative, believing that we needed to know what prisoners alone can tell us. PEN members began to read and teach behind bars. "To say what you mean, to put in words what you perceive as truth, to impose form on the formless," says former PWP chair Kathrin Perutz, "this is the way to reconstruct a life, to restore one's sense of meaning, of responsibility to oneself and to others. But the others, at least some others, must be listening."

The American Center of PEN here in New York has offered a literary competition every year since 1973 to men and women imprisoned across the nation. The winners are eloquent on the importance of this lifeline. "I write because I can't fly," says Jackie Ruzas, a poet and fiction writer now incarcerated in Attica. "Writing is my way of sledge-hammering these walls," poet Alejo Daoud Rodriguez puts it from Sing-Sing.

"All of us who went to prison were lied to, and poetry is the only thing that didn't lie," says Jimmy Baca, the renowned poet, memoirist, and film-maker who was first recognized by the PWP. "Writing enabled me to rise from a victim of a barbarous civilization to a man in control of his life."

After their release, many writers continue to write and dedicate themselves to help those left inside. Eric Waters became a poet, dramatist, and essayist in Wallkill Correctional Facility. "I started writing because I learned that if one doesn't tell his or her story, others will," he said. Now Waters works at the Osborne Association, coordinating re-entry and family services. Susan Rosenberg, prize-winning poet, story-writer, essayist, and former political prisoner, says, "Writing forces me to remain conscious of the suffering around me and to resist getting numb to it. I write to keep my heart open, to keep pumping fresh blood." Now Rosenberg and Waters are PWP members, helping select winning stories and poems. Both will be among the readers performing on March 25.

WBAI has supported the PWP since 1993, when



Program Director Bernard White was invited by PWP's then-chair Fielding Dawson to read from winning manuscripts at the award ceremony. For the next few years, Fielding incorporated his burning interest in prisoners into **Wakeup Call**. He read letters and writings from prisoners and interviewed criminal lawyers and prison teachers on "Breaking Down the Walls," eroding the barrier between listeners outside and inside.

In 1999, when **Wakeup Call** producer Rosalie Hoffman learned that PWP prize-winning poet Jessie Wise was going to be executed by the state of Missouri, she made sure that WBAI broadcast the details of his case. WBAI listeners then joined PWP's strenuous, if unsuccessful, campaign for clemency. PEN continues to support PWP prize-winners on death row and to publish their works on its website: [www.pen.org](http://www.pen.org).

In the '60s and '70s, prison literature commanded a large audience, but by 2000, with at least six times more people incarcerated than in 1970, inside stories were rarely heard. This irony exposes our shocking reluctance to know what we allow to be done in our name. U.S. citizens, representing 4% of the world's population, now account for 25% of the world's prisoners. With a nation of two million souls imprisoned in our midst, the U.S. has become the world's largest jailer.

*Doing Time: 25 Years of Prison Writing* (Arcade), an anthology of PEN prize-winners' work, was compiled in 1999. Mumia Abu-Jamal's praise graces the cover. "As remarkable, as poignant, as mind-shattering as any other literature produced in the world," writes perhaps the most famous prison writer,

"these are the voices of the people of the cage." Copies of the book will be available at the event.

Continuing a decade-long tradition, Joan Moossy hosted hour-long WBAI specials in 2000 and 2001, highlighting PWP winning readings. Last year, Sally O'Brien hosted a reading and discussion with former winners on **Where We Live**.

Says Janet Coleman, WBAI Interim Arts Director, "The PEN Prison Writing Project embodies the core tenets of WBAI: celebrating artistic expression, literary discipline, words as tools of liberation, grace under pressure, and the triumph of the human spirit." *Bell Gale Chevigny is chair of the PEN Prison Writing Program and editor of Doing Time. Ayo Harrington, On the Count! producer, contributed to this article.*



Eric Waters, many-time winner of PEN Prison Writing Awards, (for poetry, drama, and nonfiction), who will perform at the March 25 event. Photo credit: Bev Grant.

## PEN PRISON WRITING AWARDS: When & Where

**ON AIR:** Live, Thurs., Mar. 25, 7-9 p.m.; rebroadcast excerpts in weeks to follow during **On the Count!**, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon (the time New York prisoners are locked down and able to tune in!).

**IN PERSON:** Same day, 6:30 p.m. at The Riverside Church, 91 Claremont Ave. (at 120th St.). Free, with limited seating. Reservations (required)/information: (212) 334-1660 x117.