



May 2, 2013

To the KPFT Community:

It is with both a sense of great accomplishment, but also sadness that I announce the time has come for me to step away from the mic and from The New Capital Show. I don't make this decision lightly. KPFT and the show have been vital parts of my life for the past decade. Since I began New Capital Show, many good things have happened to me, including becoming a father, a financial advisor, and a conservation landowner. It is no coincidence that these wonderful things have occurred while I have hosted the show.

But I have reached a point where I am exceedingly busy in my business, non-profit, and family lives. I have also been feeling less energized about doing the show than I used to, which concerns me because I never want to do anything unless I can give it my best effort.

Importantly, many of the issues that New Capital Show began with ten years ago are now widely recognized and discussed. From the costs of energy, to the costs of pollution, to the costs of subsidies, the American public is now far more aware of the critical role that honest costs play in a sound economy. Ten years ago these ideas were hardly ever discussed in the mainstream. Now you can read about them almost every day. I therefore consider that New Capital Show's mission has been successful and joined by others. I am pleased to have been a part of that larger effort. And I know that our younger generations have healthy and promising outlooks, and I am heartened and excited by that.

This step that I am taking does not mean that I will not be involved with KPFT. Far from it. Late last year I was elected to KPFT's Local Station Board and I am focused on how to contribute solutions to both KPFT's and Pacifica's long term challenges. I have concluded *that* is the best way right now for me to make a positive contribution to the station. I will also continue to support the station financially, and I would be happy if asked to substitute if needed for other shows. And I will of course lend my ears, listening to the wonderful and important sounds that daily issue forth from 90.1 FM.

There is no way that I can adequately thank everyone who has supported me over the years at KPFT and in the community, but I'll try. KPFT's staff has been unfailingly kind and considerate of me. General Manager Duane Bradley and Program Director Ernesto Aguilar have consistently supported me, lending advice, guidance, and expertise. Robin Lewis, the entire development staff, and our generous volunteers have always selflessly helped me in my fundraising efforts. Our technical staff has always patiently assisted in helping me sound as best as possible. Our general staff has always greeted me with a smile and hello. My fellow programmers have set examples for me in how to do radio the right way, Ray Hill, Geoff Berg, Hitaji, Otis Maclay and Mark Bebawi, Wally James, Glenn Urbach, Amy Goodman, Sonali Kolhatkar, Nuri Nuri, Liana Lopez, Larry Winters, Roark, Jack Valinski, Pat Greer and Cath Conlon, George Reiter and John McNamara, Generasian Radio, and so many more I cannot possibly find the time to name them all, you are the heart of KPFT and I have been humbled and honored to share the booth with you. And to all of those who have worked directly on the show, Scooter in the early days, Afshar, Laura, and now my engineer and friend Doyle Odom. I also want to thank those who lent generously of their time as volunteers on New Capital Show, Teb Lokey Steven Rightman, Michael Mendenhall who is no longer with us, and others. And especially thanks to my family, my dear wife Hannah, who in the early days took listener calls at 10 pm on Monday nights, and my children Abby and August, who have supported me with pride and who have loved coming to the station to see me in the booth.

And most importantly, thanks to you our listeners. You have been the indispensable ingredient, the critical mass, the very reason I have done the show. If I have had any success in this endeavor, it is due to you more than to any others. You have been patient, open-hearted, and open-minded with me from the beginning, from the time I first sat in front of the mic as a green and nervous radio novice, to the present, when I am able to sit down in the booth and talk to you with the confidence that comes from years of practice and support. It is you who have allowed me to grow in this job. Your time and your energy have humbled me and taught me about the power to make change together. I will never forget you or this chapter in my life.

Changes in life can be, and often are, sad. And I would not be truthful with you if I said I was not feeling sadness about this decision. But that is always how it is with difficult decisions. By their very nature, by being difficult, they present conflicting emotions. I worry that I will miss the tremendous platform afforded by a seat behind the KPFT mic. I worry that I will lose relevance as a voice, as a person striving to make positive change in the world. That I will fade into obscurity and irrelevance. But there comes a time when you have to put aside fear and make the tough decision.

I have regrets too. I regret that I didn't have time to write monologues in the past few years because of my busy schedule. I regret that I couldn't attend to websites and social media as much as I needed to. I regret that I couldn't schedule guests as much as I would have liked. I regret that I couldn't lead more recycling and other activism in recent years. But on the whole, I'm pleased with the job I've done, and I hope you are too. Nor do I think I'm done in radio or public activism. I think I just need a break, to get some space

to see what's next on my horizon. It's not out of the question that I'll be back some day, in some way, if you'll have me.

Easy decisions are just that, easy. We make them and we don't think twice. New Capital Show, at its root, has been a show about hard, tough decisions. About whether we give up certain comforts now and invest for greater returns later. About whether we transform an economic system that often accounts poorly for its costs, so that we can achieve greatness. About whether we throw off our lethargy, and activate our empathy for other beings, places, and times. It is therefore entirely appropriate that I have struggled to reach this decision.

I hope that we will stay in touch, and I will keep my email and Facebook accounts open so that we may. If I can ever help you as you strive to help others, I hope you will offer me the opportunity to do so.

New Capital Show's last regular show will probably be May 30, the week after our upcoming fund drive ends. After that, someone and something else will take over this time slot, and Ernesto and I have been working on that. I can't wait to hear it, and I'm sure you can't either.

In the meantime, if New Capital Show has been helpful and meaningful to you, no matter how great or small, the best way that you can say thanks is to support KPFT's upcoming fund drive, and especially support me during the drive. You can even start today by making a pre-drive pledge at kpft.org and select the Donate Now menu option.

I'm Leo Gold. This is the New Capital Show.