

2023-08-11

HARD NEWS ON FRIDAY

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable
- III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST
- IV SATURDAY HISTORY CALL – NOTES, REFERENCE MATERIALS

I B B S RADIO - ACCESS TO THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS <https://bbsradio.com/>

DAY	B B S Station	TIME	PROGRAM	CONFERENCE CALL	HOSTS
Thursday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	A Night at the Round Table	None	Panel Members Guests Callers welcome.
Friday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	Friday Night Hard News	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara Callers welcome.
Saturday	#2	1:30 pm PT/ 4:30 Eastern	History of our Galactic World & NESARA aka The True History	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara callers welcome.

NOTE: 2nd CONFERENCE CALL # for both Friday, Saturday 605-313-5166
Pin Code: 353 863#

ADDITIONAL HELP FOR LISTENERS

B B S LISTENER TOOLS

B B S RADIO STATION 1
A Night at the Roundtable
Friday Night Hard News

B B S RADIO STATION 2
Saturday History Call

LISTEN ON LINE

CLICK ON **AUDIO ICON**

CLICK ON **AUDIO ICON**



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[NO code needed]

1-804-220-6484
[No code needed]

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B B S ARCHIVES

- go to www.bbsradio.com
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the required program;
- scroll down to heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING.**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on required date.

II ACCESS TO OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY Rainbow Roundtable

NAME OF CALL / HOST	WEEKDAY / TIME	ACCESS POINT	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call Grand Goddess Lillie	Wednesday 6:00 – 7:30 MST	Telephone Only	1-605-472-5406 PIN 402-493#
Abundance Call Caroline Oceana Ryan	Every 2nd Wednesday 5:45 PM PT/ 8:45 PM ET	Telephone ZOOM	

**To be notified: email <https://www.ascensiontimes.com/the-abundance-group>
Scroll down to the sign-up sheet and enter the requested info.**

Ascension Call Cheryl Croci	Every Sunday, Monday 9 – 10:30 EST	Telephone Only	1-425-436-6260 PIN 9467 441# Call Cheryl for # in your area
Ashtar Legacy Calls Fran Pearre	Every 2nd, 4th Tuesday 5 th Tuesday – no call 9:00 – 10:00 pm EST	Telephone VOIP/ H D via Skype	1-717-908-1834 PIN 980 339# Call is free; LD charges are not 1-717-908-1834 PIN #980 339# https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/ Click on VOIP button and enter info as requested

To access past ALC calls, go to [Ashtar Legacy Teleconferences \(ashtarontheroad.com\)](http://ashtarontheroad.com)

III ARCHIVES: provided by B B S RADIO RAINBOW ROUNDTABLE

ARCHIVES: B B S

- Go to www.bbsradio.com
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the desired program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on desired date.

ARCHIVES: Rainbow Roundtable

- Go to <https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/>
- **WRITTEN**
 - Go to "Archives" tab: See NOTES on RHS
- **AUDIO**
 - Go to "Archives" tab: See AUDIO on LHS:
Included are both BBS podcast + Conference Call Links

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Rainbird

B. Mayan Calendar / Record of Days: Rainbird

- Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave – the birth wave - began
- to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PODCAST TO HEAR THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION OF EACH DATE

Also note: This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar! It's a Record of Days.
www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.

PORTAL DAYS = extra dimensionality

11th Friday 8 OC White Galactic Dog Artist

About unconditional love, healing the pain of the past. Embrace gift of connection with spirit. Awareness of dreams, our past lives. Let go of fears unwise use of anger.

12th Saturday 9 CHUEN Blue Solar Monkey Artist

About balancing work, play. Embrace gift of spontaneity. Let go of jadedness, resistance to compassion

13th Sunday 10 EB Yellow Planetary Human Healing

PORTAL DAY. Working with enlightenment of human kind, activating cosmic consciousness. Gift of abundance, contact with other dimensions

14th Monday 11 BEN Red Spectral Skywalker Warrior

Focus, striving to illumination. Clarity. Gift of bending dimension; let go of any belief of aloneness

15th Tuesday 12 IX White Crystal Magician Visionary

Complex stability, working for the illumination for others, clarity of mind and purpose. Gift of integrity and working on accordance with Divine Will

16th Wednesday 13 MEN Blue Cosmic Eagle Visionary

End of the wave of Akbal. Work with commitment to service re-connect with Source. Gift of independence – let go of any idea of separateness

17th Thursday 1 CIB Yellow Magnetic Warrior Warrior

Anniversary of Harmonic Convergence – a new wave of the Warrior. Tuning into our journey, bringing gift of right action. Access cosmic consciousness. Let go of hesitation. The next 13 days: about modelling our divinity

18th Friday 2 CABAN Red Lunar Earth Healing

PORTAL DAY. About being keepers of the earth, being aware of earth energy – gift of access to planetary harmony – we work with the balancing point,

C. Housekeeping:

- We are asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**
- Re **T & R:** Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the scenes of the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.
- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage** www.rainbowroundtable.net

B B S RADIO:

- The radio programs are supported by us, the listeners.
- The THREE radio programs cost \$300 each week.
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

B B S RADIO

B B S RADIO
58 N Marshside Place
Spring, TX 77389

Please put **"Attention Don"** on the envelope
And note inside: "for Thursday,
Friday AND Saturday calls"

- All BBS archives can be accessed FOR FREE by everyone.
- NB: TO BE FOUND AT www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives
 - **AUDIO ARCHIVES** (BBS Radio Podcasts plus Conference Calls) **and**
 - **PROGRAM NOTES** (downloadable and printable **PDFs**)

OTHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net

Rama has a pride of Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = up to 13 in total

Financial Requirements

WEEKLY
B B S RADIO/week

\$277.11 All past program costs are caught up -
THANKS TO ALL!!
Three programs each week

PERSONAL
Gas, food, etc
Bills
Miscellaneous/Other

\$200.00
\$210.00 bills
Also **\$1,200 Personal loan for the car**
Caroline set up a GoFundMe a/c
Need \$ for legal documents re: car
And \$ to repay loan borrowed to help pay for the car
See the link on
rainbowroundtable.net

MONTHLY
Rent - \$1,150 / mo
Total

\$1,150

CONTACT INFO

- Please notify Rama when sending something koran999@comcast.net
- Mailing address for checks, money orders, etc
Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

THANKS TO ALL FOR THEIR HELP . . .

- Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!
**** [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) ****
 - Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM
 - They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account: choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: NUGEN COIN: <https://www.nugencoin.com/tarram>

To help Marshall and support him by signing up under his name:
<https://www.nugencoin.com/marnor>

TO GET HELP, Call Carolyn [Rainbird] or Micah

Carolyn's E-mail: lightenergync@gmail.com

Micah's E-mail: thegreenalchemist@gmail.com

CALL THEM FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION/ISSUES RELATED TO NUGEN COINS

Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-august-11-2023>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-631-359-9353 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 1.

TO LISTEN TO CALLS ON THE PHONE: 1-631-359-9353

The name of the Go Fund Me a/c: HELPRAMAPAYFORCARREPA

They are under orders by Rama's boss (former President Obama's security chief, known as the King of Swords) to live entirely by donations from the Light community.

**Your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.
Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity! Namaste.**

RAMA, TARA [R,T]

R, T: The biggest thing happening: a kangaroo court system which requires a better court system !

- What is happening on the planet is unprecedented
- the constitution was set up with the help of the Ascended Masters, and the 14th Amendment is under attack-
- L M Nada is here to help things out

T: they are going after Drumpf and it will be done using the law!

- There will be no more republican party when this is over: it has turned into a facist party and will be evaporated

R: we are part of the galactic neighbourhood – and all kinds of folks are in the other 26 galaxies

- Earth is ascending and that is the biggest story: nothing will stop the process either: – as we step into our mastery, that is how peace happens Blaze the Violet Fire ! !

T: Reference to the 14th Amendment – she reads it

Amendment 14, Section 3 - also includes who can run for office of any kind

R: heard about the Federalist Society

T: there is a case for disqualifying Trump for any office in gov't

T: Hawaii is on fire!

R: the dark side using technology – a directed energy weapon

T: Vinayak is about 40 miles away from the capital town -

R: the name of that town is connected with the name of a goddess – it's the name of one of the ancient goddesses who works with Pele

T: this has brought in lots of galactic assistance - 69 passed over; and over 1000 people missing . . .

RB: has heard the direct energy weapons are directed from satellites -

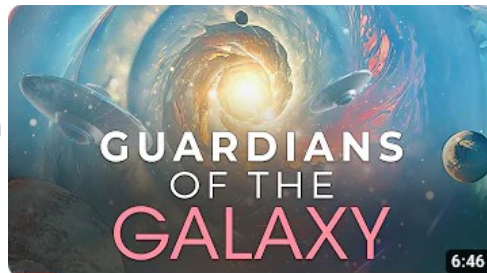
T: This is why it's called an intergalactic war crime!

- A banyon tree that is 150 years – one in Palenque that is 6000 years old – the spirit of Krishna was released from that tree on Harmonic Convergence between Aug 15 – 16

Audio: 2023-08-11 Rise of the Galactic Federation and their Multiversal Mission

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EL0L_HLThWM&t=3s&ab_channel=AuroraRay

As the light continues to grow and expand, it causes an increase in your vibration and an acceleration of the consciousness. Once the light has filled earth completely, the rest of the cosmos will be revealed to you. This will usher in a new way for humanity to learn about its purpose as well as a new way for you to explore the entire universe!



CONFERENCE CALL

R: the energies are tremendous – and the biggest story is our ascension

it is happy in spite of the crazy stuff

- The Dark Side is doing all they can to distract folks
- Not funny what they did in Lahinda, capital city of all the Hawaiian islands

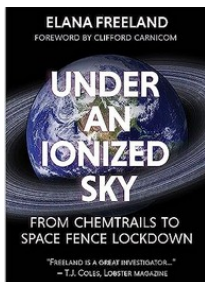
P: all will be restored!

T: the people of Hawaii are committed and will re-build -

- to remain in the power of Love and re-build – that is the role of all of us

R: says he's not glowing, due to the chem trails !

- bring up the lady who wrote a book called – The Space Fence – about the particles in the chemtrails



Under an Ionized Sky: From Chemtrails to Space Fence Lockdown Paperback
– Illustrated, March 16 2018

Caller: thinking of the tree in Hawaii – planted in 1873 by William Oliver Smith -

- The Banyon tree is not indigenous to Hawaii - the original was from India
- It was planted as a memorial to the protestant mission that was built there
Smith helped with the takeover of the islands from the people living there
- The tree is charred but not burnt down - the people have hung buckets of water in the tree to support its growth

T: fire intentionally set – sounds like the intent was to get rid of the indigenous people
Tourism is already upsetting the balance of the way people live . . .

Caller: he planted the tree for the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the protestant
Smith was president of the American Board of Commissioners for foreign Missionaries

Caller: looked up: Hawaiians and tree planted

<https://hawaiiocanproject.com/a-brief-history-of-the-lahaina-banyan-tree/>

Car: has been on the call since the start, has been asked twice if he wants to continue with the call – has anyone else had that experience? ? ?

- What is happening in Niger – any more news?
- The palace guards asked the pres to step down; he refused and is being held captive in the palace. The army is one of 11 military forces trained by the US and have been behind coups in those countries where those forces have come from
- they have uranium in Niger
- Wagner has been active in the area; identified as having done atrocities there
- Over 1000 US military forces in Niger – an important drone location

T: an article 6 years ago US being in about 65 countries around the world

P: Now there are US troops, facilities in almost every country in the world

Car: Haiti on brink of collapse – as usual

- Bolivia – someone running for president has been assassinated – running on a no corruption platform
 - Bolivia is strategically located between Peru and Colombia – Bolivia is the road between those 2 countries where the drug runners operated
- all the Walmarts str sold out of folding chairs – a ref to the brawl in Montgomery, Alabama
 - Montgomery is on a river and was a big transit point for slave trade 150 years ago
 - social media completely halted over this story!
 - there's a party boat which travels the river and docks in Montgomery to drop off and pick up passengers/partiers
 - a local person had his boat where the party boat docked and was nowhere to be found so the party boat could not dock
 - the co-captain of the party boat could not find or rouse the owner of the local boat; decided he'd move it – and then the owner showed up and the fight began – slowly at first then turned into a brawl between various factions ! ! !
 - the 16 year old who worked on the party boat jumped into the water to help out the co-captain – the beginning of the brawl!

Look up - "Montgomery brawl" – the whole thing was racist – the chair has become a symbol of the situation: someone grabbed a folding chair and hit people over the head, knocking them out

- now there are memes of people with folding chairs

Car: on Justice Thomas of the Supreme Court – the # of billionaires supporting him has increased a 2nd report added either 34 or 38 NEW names to the original list

Car: conference for all religions to meet – the organization is there to foster toleration

<https://parliamentofreligions.org/parliament/2023-chicago/>

Car: ESPN network - dedicated to sports gambling – it's legal in 38 states - discussion

Car to RB: what are the 2 simplest things she wishes most people would start doing!

RB: stop eating! She is learning from Keshe that we are addicted to the matter state
20% of the nutrition comes from what we eat; the 80% from plasma

NB: a good bye greeting from a listener referred to the group as "Looney Toon Nation" - might be an appropriate moniker ! ! !

B B S RADIO

AVE SACHE

AUDIO:

2023-08-11

Era of Peace

Patricia Cota-Robles



<https://rumble.com/v34jk2q-vlog-334-our-ascension-is-moving-forward-at-full-speed.html>

11:58

AUDIO: KRYON - 3 months ago message he is not aware of – info from other side of veil is what we might not expect – tonight is a revelation, further than ever into the differences between the old and the new energies

HOW ADDICTIVE THE OLD ENERGY IS



MOTHER / ALCYONE

[M/A]

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! In the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame.

Greetings, Children of Ra!

We are in quite amazing times! Like Patti was speaking about: this 7-7-7: all the Light pouring in; things are shifting radically; the old timeline is kaputt!

- And things are playing themselves out to their end; it's part of the conclusion

This is the greatest time to be here, where we get to see this shift and BE the shift! Be the change we want to see in the world. It is a most unique moment with each one of our destinies – it's not small at all! Quite big!

- And still and yet, things may seem like nothing has changed – everything has changed!

- It begins in here (the heart) and it's pouring out like Patti said: Quantum Light speed.
- And the uptick in the winding and gnashing of teeth is because the Light has penetrated the darkness. Not so much on when your crimes against the universe come to the light of day!
- It's what is necessary for closure, accountability, how healing can happen, and it is a real struggle at the moment, with the current ways of what this is called as a GOB

T: Government

M/A: Yes. It's not necessarily what - how the rest of the Universe works.

- When She came here long ago, there were ones that knew how deep it was gonna get, and now, as this saying goes, gotta deal with your own stuff; there is no judge, jury, executioner:
- It is what we create in our own consciousness that we are judged by our own actions within the eyes of the universe

How it plays out in this dimensional shift, is how we have a different point of view as it is called.

- When we see things in a different light, it brings in more awareness [of] how to solve the issues at hand that may not be in alignment with the universe.
- This particular time that we're all in: Since all time is now, this moment here as we approach anniversary of Harmonic Convergence: the energies that are pouring in right now - it is a very precarious moment, yet it is the most auspicious moment to be here

T: a caller - John - asks what the question is for Mother

Caller: has a question for Mother: John McGrady - curious to get Her opinion on AI, what's happening with AI, what you think of it and where it's all heading

M/A: What She can say about the AI currently that folks are messing with: it is not coming from the Office of the Christ; it is coming from the old matrix, and it is not in Divine Creation

- There are ? issues happening on this planet with the AI; it is about control, not about enlightenment. Why would you want . . .

JM: Will it ever help people or is it just a way to rip labour away from human beings?

M/A: There are ways in which to . . . Let's say, what AI currently is doing is offering glimpses of how things could be - yet it's a jaded view because who ultimately programs the AI? - the Dark Side. Simple; it has not been by the hand of Creator Source

JM: Would you ever allow a company to take an AI Mother and an AI Tara to be able to do a show long after you've gone so people could still hear from you?

M/A: That would not work because it's not coming from the creative realm of infinite possibilities, probabilities

T: Already there are many enlightened ones all over the

M/A: What is happening in terms of the Hollywood strikes and the writers: the idea that the machine, the AI, can override people's lives and create celluloid images that have nothing to do with Life: yet they were created in some sort of consciousness that it is not the spark of creativity from that particular actor or actress

T: What the actors (who are) striking really want -

M/A: what the news is is that the multi national corporations that run the FCC and how things are put together - the music industry - all of it is connected with the dark matrix, the old timeline, that has to fall away, and ultimately people have their own autonomy to create whatever they wish, yet when it does not fall in alignment with the Laws of Creation, there is a flaw there.

JM: the reason he asks – as a fan of the show, has been wanting to come on – he has a small AI program he created and has fed some of the show audio into that program and has some evidence of that AI Mother and an AI show - he wonders if they would be curious to hear it played

M/A: No, not going to go there

JM: he plays (it anyway): tells Tara that the one speaking is her
Tells Mother that this is mother AI

He thinks it sounds pretty good

JM: they can do it/ play it long after you are gone

T: It's not appropriate - all kinds of people as waking up now

Thank you for the suggestion - thank you very much; will continue the show now

M/A: what She can say is that folks can do whatever they want to do with their creativity on this planet –which is a good thing, yet what's happening in this particular moment (is that) AI is not being used in the right way and it's like what Gregg Bradin talks about: you want to transfer your soul matrix into an android body, live forever and play with what we just heard ? It doesn't quite work the same way!

There are technologies on the ships – the amino acid computers are sentient, self-aware; they are - imbued with the energies of the Office of the Christ, Creator Source, not created for anything less than perfection

- Interesting interplay about what is happening here. It is this how we evolve as this Circle of Life

- like we heard in the song last night at the Roundtable – we came here with the gifts abilities we all have imbued by All That Is – each one of us is unique and we add to the collective of All That Is

- There are energies that are going on that have to play themselves out and that is the Circle of Light Some have come full circle: it is up to their own life force what to do with those energies, as it is not serving the whole or the Office of the Christ in the betterment of all of creation – what does it serve?

It's – a very unique time - She puts it that way - to be here: how we take our awareness (and) use it for the enlightenment of ourselves. It is this most unique moment to be here, to be aware of what's happening

- There is a spark of divinity in all life; whether it comes from a machine or living force, it is all part of The Force – it's what our consciousness chooses to do with it: THAT is the key.

- Is it serving all of humanity or is it serving something else? That's the choice that we've got to make here in **the journey of the heart and no one can make that decision for anyone.**

- That is the greatest journey there is – it's about ascension: how we get there.

She'd better be on her way – got a lot more to go

T: things will be moving even more swiftly, as per Jack Smith [prosecutor handling the Trump file]

M/A: it is, yes!

T: the power of the positive thought

M/A: Indeed - all we are saying is give peace a change.

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One!

Kodoish, Kodoish, Kodoish Adonai `Tsebayoth
ilياهو ilياهو ilياهو

Holy holy holy is the Lord God of Hosts
Illumine Illumine Illumine

Yod Hey Vod Hey
YHWH

Yod Hey Vod Hey of the Living Everlasting Light
The Revealed Name to our Father universe of the
Living God behind all Creator Gods

M/A: Use your gifts wisely; remember who you are! ! !

Rama Returns:

T: a question comes from Jackson from NJ:

She listens for a bit and then says we're complete for tonight; come another time - she cuts off the caller

To Rama: where did you go?

R: Remembers being on LM Athena's ship - quite a conference going on about the present state of affairs. We are in a great shift and we have the power to change this. All of the beings of incredible light: souls who have been around for a long time to be here - to raise things up

T: old souls?

R: he got that the galactic folks are about to introduce themselves - a whole nother way of being!

T: any message for the Now moment of the channeling from Mother

R: could say "stay in the High Heart because we are in most intense times; they are quite precarious; it's about using love rather than adversarial tactics"

T: the time is so very short - in a period for the first time where age reversal is possible; about higher wisdom coming through and that extends our telemeres in our conscious awareness of our physical life - so life does not get old in the same way - no longer a linear pattern but cosmic consciousness, Universality

R: Continue to Blaze the Violet Fire - take responsibility for changing the world for the better.

DEMOCRACY NOW

2023-08-11 Headlines August 11, 2023

<https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/headlines>

2023-08-11 We're Not Going to Die This Way": Father Describes Jumping into Ocean with 5 Kids to Escape Maui Fire

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/maui_fires_natural_disaster_hawaii

2023-08-11 "We're Living the Climate Emergency": Native Hawaiian Kaniela Ing on Fires, Colonialism & Banyan Tree

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/maui_fires

2023-08-11 As Fires Destroy Native Hawaiian Archive in Maui, Mutual Aid Efforts Are Launched to Help Lahaina

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/noelani_ahia_maui_wildfires

2023-08-11 "Unprecedented": Fire Expert Says Climate & Native Vegetation Changes Fueled Explosive Maui

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/hawaii_maui_clay_trauernicht_tropical_fires

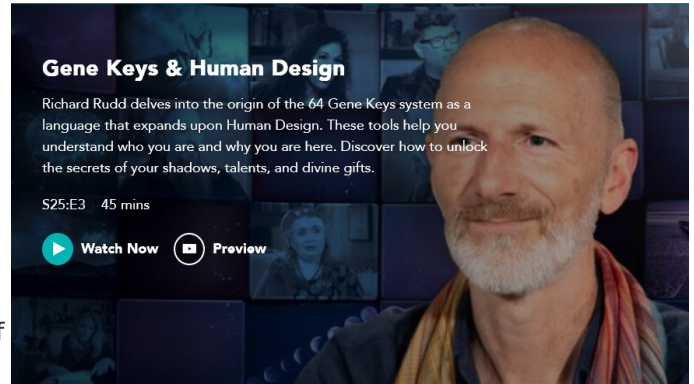
2023-08-11 [Open Minds with Regina Meredith](#) Gene Keys & Human Design

[https://www.gaia.com/share/cII570ry5000z0193gm1rhmt0?language\[\]=en&utm_source=share](https://www.gaia.com/share/cII570ry5000z0193gm1rhmt0?language[]=en&utm_source=share)

S 25: Ep 3 45 mins

What are the greatest challenges keeping you from discovering your own genius? Richard Rudd delves into the origin of the 64 Gene Keys system as a language that expands upon Human Design. These tools can better help you understand who you are and why you are here. Discover how you can unlock the secrets of your shadows, your talents, and your divine gifts.

A teacher, mystic and award-winning poet, and author of the Gene Keys. In his twenties, he experienced a life changing state of spiritual illumination over 3 days and nights. Today he continues to expand the wisdom that he was gifted while teaching all around the world.



Instructor/Host: Regina Meredith Featuring: Richard Rudd Audio Languages: English Subtitles: English

CLOSING: RAINBIRD

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2023-08-11 Headlines August 11, 2023

<https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/headlines>

Maui Wildfire Death Toll Rises to 55 as Residents Survey Unfathomable Devastation

Aug 11, 2023



In Hawaii, the death toll from the historic Maui wildfires has reached at least 55 people and decimated the town of Lahaina, once the epicenter of the Kingdom of Hawaii. One of the more than 1,700 structures that were destroyed is the Na 'Aikane o Maui Cultural Center. Earlier today, Hawaii Governor Josh Green described the sheer scale of the disaster.

Gov. Josh Green: "What we saw was likely the largest natural disaster in Hawaii state history. ... We are seeing loss of life here. As you know, the number has been rising, and we will continue to see loss of life. ... We also have seen many hundreds of homes destroyed, and that's going to take a great deal of time to recover from. But that's why we come together. ... But we talked to an old gentleman who hadn't seen anything like this ever in his life, a wildfire that took a whole city. His neighbors have all lost their homes. His home was intact, but he was in tears. This is a gentleman that doesn't cry easily."

Some residents questioned why Hawaii's emergency warning system didn't go off as blazes raged closer and closer to their homes. President Biden has declared a major disaster as the Hawaiian tragedy has shone a spotlight on the urgency of the unfolding climate catastrophe, as well as the ongoing exploitation and occupation of the islands by the U.S. After headlines, we'll spend the hour on the Maui wildfires.

ECOWAS Says Use of Force Is Possible in Niger Coup Response as Bloc Activates "Standby Force"

Aug 11, 2023



Tensions are running high in West Africa after the regional bloc ECOWAS ordered the activation of a "standby force" for possible intervention in Niger in response to the

July 26 military coup. This is Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, speaking from yesterday's emergency ECOWAS summit in Abuja.

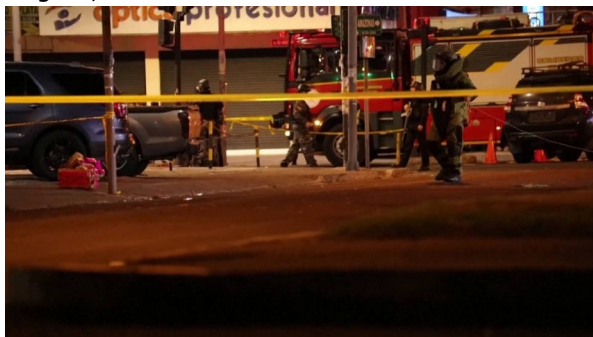
President Bola Tinubu: "And you will see from the communiqué of this extraordinary summit that no option is taken off the table, including the use of force as the last resort. ... We remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting Niger in their journey towards peaceful and democratic stability in the country."

The Associated Press reports the Nigerien military coup leaders threatened to kill deposed President Mohamed Bazoum if any military action was attempted to restore his rule.

Meanwhile, The Intercept is reporting the U.S. has trained at least five members of the new ruling junta in Niger. The U.S. has since "paused" security assistance to Niger's military. African officers trained by the U.S. military have now taken part in 11 coups in West Africa since 2008, including in Burkina Faso and Mali.

One Dead, Six Arrested over Assassination of Ecuadorian Presidential Candidate Fernando Villavicencio

Aug 11, 2023



In Ecuador, one suspect is dead and six others have been arrested in connection with the assassination of Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio. Officials said all suspects in custody are Colombian and alleged members of a drug trafficking group. Ecuador is now under a nationwide state of emergency while authorities continue to search for the possible mastermind behind Villavicencio's assassination. This is Ecuadorian Defense Minister Luis Lara.

Luis Lara: "The Armed Forces have begun the immediate deployment of their troops throughout the national territory so that there will be an Armed Forces presence in every city, in every town. They will remain there until the conclusion of the electoral process. Citizens have the guarantee that the Armed Forces will provide the necessary security for the polls. The vote of Ecuadorians will be the best response to the mafias and their allies."

Villavicencio's murder has thrown Ecuador into further disarray after President Guillermo Lasso dissolved the opposition-led National Assembly in May, blocking efforts by lawmakers to impeach him over accusations of corruption and embezzlement. Meanwhile, Ecuador's snap elections are still scheduled for next Sunday, August 20, though several presidential and other candidates have suspended their campaigns.

23 Rohingya Refugees Drown, Dozens Missing After Shipwreck

Aug 11, 2023



In Burma, at least 23 Rohingya refugees are dead after their boat sank as they attempted to reach Malaysia. Over two dozen others are still missing. Thousands of Rohingya Muslims have taken on the perilous trek to Malaysia or Indonesia after fleeing genocide and persecution in Burma.

Americans Jailed in Iran Transferred to House Arrest on Way to Possible Release

Aug 11, 2023



Five U.S. citizens imprisoned in Iran have been transferred to house arrest in what is reportedly a first step toward being released. Their freedom would come in exchange for Iranian prisoners in the U.S. and for Tehran gaining access to \$6 billion in frozen oil revenue to go toward humanitarian needs. The dual-citizen prisoners were jailed in Iran on unsubstantiated spying charges. The move comes after over two years of negotiations, according to The New York Times. This is Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaking Thursday.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken: “So, this is a positive step, but I don’t want to get ahead of its conclusion, because there’s more work to be done to actually bring them home. My belief is that this is the beginning of the end of their nightmare and the nightmare that their families have experienced.”

Blinken said any exchange will not include sanctions relief for Iran.

SCOTUS Blocks Purdue Pharma Settlement Deal That Would Protect Sackler Family from Civil Liability

Aug 11, 2023



The Supreme Court has temporarily blocked a sweeping settlement deal for OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma that would shield the Sackler family from civil lawsuits in exchange for paying out \$6 billion to thousands of plaintiffs, including state and local governments, that have been devastated by the opioid epidemic. The Justice Department challenged the settlement, which extends bankruptcy protections against liability for Sackler family members, in what the U.S. solicitor general called an “abuse of the bankruptcy system.” Opioid overdoses have killed over half a million people in the U.S. over the past two decades, according to the CDC, including prescription and illicit drugs.

Louisiana Gov. Orders Pardon Board to Review Clemency Requests for 56 Death Row Prisoners

Aug 11, 2023



The Louisiana Pardon Board has begun scheduling clemency hearings for the state’s death row prisoners one day after Governor John Bel Edwards ordered the move. This comes after the board last month refused to set hearings for 56 death row prisoners who filed a mass petition to commute their sentences before Democratic Governor Edwards leaves office next year. Edwards opposes the death penalty.

Trump and Mar-a-Lago Aide Plead Not Guilty; DOJ Requests January Start Date for 2020 Election Trial

Aug 11, 2023



In a Fort Pierce, Florida, court, Donald Trump and his aide and co-defendant Walt Nauta pleaded not guilty Thursday to three additional charges in the case around Trump’s mishandling of classified documents. Trump did not appear at the courthouse in person. The charges

came as part of an updated indictment accusing Trump and two aides of trying to delete security footage at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

In other Trump news, federal prosecutors proposed a start date of January 2, 2024, for the trial related to Trump's bid to overturn the 2020 elections.

Mexico Demands Texas Remove Floating Barrier of Buoys with Saw Blades in Rio Grande

Aug 11, 2023



Mexican officials are demanding Texas remove its border buoys from the Rio Grande, saying the floating barrier, aimed at blocking asylum seekers from reaching the United States, was installed on Mexico's side of the river. Between the buoys there are circular saw blades. Dozens of asylum seekers, including children, have been severely injured. Last week the bodies of two asylum seekers were found in the Rio Grande, one of them trapped in the buoy barrier. Mexico's Foreign Secretary Alicia Bárcena spoke Thursday after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington, D.C.

Alicia Bárcena: "On the buoy issue in Texas, we are deeply concerned about the issue, but thankful because the U.S. Justice Department has filed a lawsuit against the Texas government. And this helps us very much, because we are talking about a delicate situation on our border, in our rivers, in the Rio Bravo, in the Rio Grande, but most of the buoys are on the Mexican side."

Democrats Ramp Up Calls for Justice Clarence Thomas to Step Down After New Corruption Revelations

Aug 11, 2023



Democrats have renewed their calls for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to resign, following yet another bombshell report from ProPublica detailing even more lavish gifts from right-wing billionaires, including "38 destination vacations." California Congressman Ted Lieu said Thomas had "brought shame upon himself and the United States Supreme Court. ... No government official, elected or unelected, could ethically or legally accept gifts of that scale. He should resign immediately."

Jess Search, Documentary Champion Driven by Film’s Transformative Power, Dies at 54

Aug 11, 2023

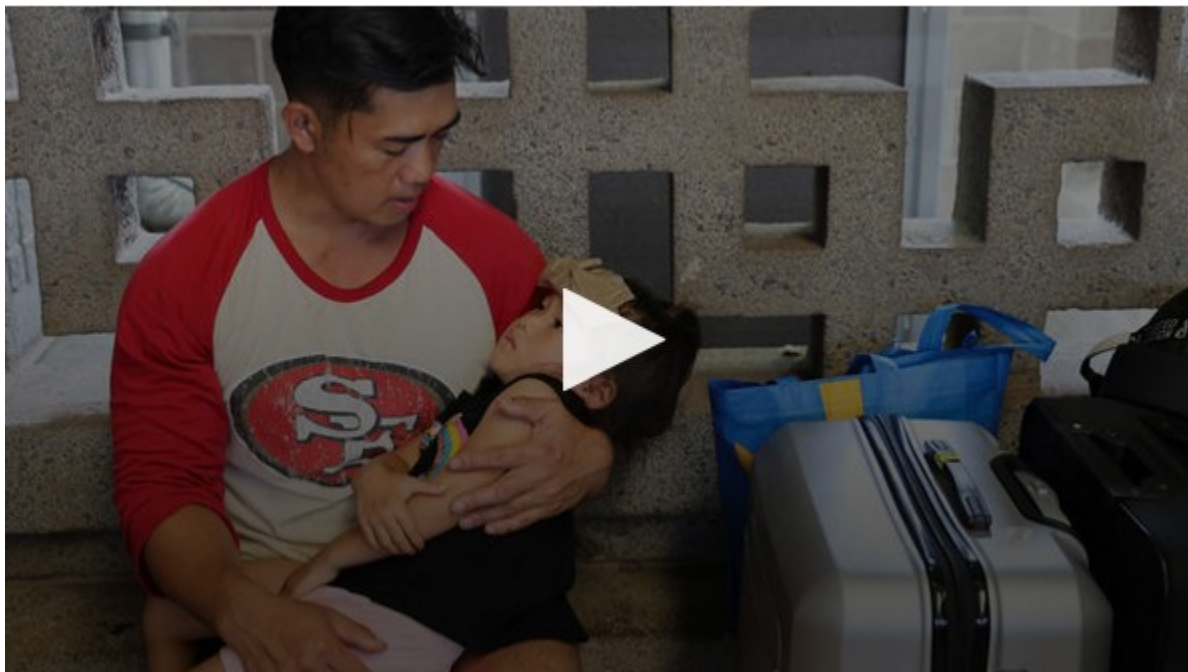


Jess Search, award-winning producer and co-founder of Doc Society, has died at 54 after a battle with brain cancer. The visionary filmmaker was a champion of documentary film, which she believed had the power to change the world, often telling others, “If you are going to move people to act, first you have to move them.” During her 18 years at Doc Society, formerly BritDoc, the organization supported such films as Laura Poitras’s Oscar-winning “Citizenfour” about NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden. More recently, Jess Search was an executive producer on the acclaimed “While We Watched” by director Vinay Shukla, about journalist Ravish Kumar, who took on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Oscar-winning filmmaker Lucy Walker was one of many who paid tribute to Search, saying, “She championed so many underdogs — because she loved them. She knew their potential because she’d once been the underdog.” Jess Search is survived by her wife, filmmaker Beadie Finzi, and their two children. “

2023-08-11 We’re Not Going to Die This Way’’: Father Describes Jumping into Ocean with 5 Kids to Escape Maui Fire

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/maui_fires_natural_disaster_hawaii



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Guests

- [Vixay Phonxaylinkham](#) survivor of Maui wildfires.

Image Credit: Reuters

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From Maui, we hear from a survivor of Hawaii's historic wildfires, which have taken at least 55 lives to date. Vixay Phonxaylinkham, a resident of California, was on vacation with his wife and five children when they had to jump into the ocean to escape the raging fires and floated on a piece of wood for hours. "We stuck together. We held on. We're not going to die this way. We're here. We're alive," said Phonxaylinkham.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: We turn now to the Hawaiian island of Maui, where a devastating hurricane-fueled wildfire has killed at least 55 people. The catastrophic fire destroyed the historic town of Lahaina and left thousands of people homeless in what's being described as the worst natural disaster in Hawaii's history. On Thursday, President Biden issued a major disaster declaration for the state, freeing up federal funds. CNN [reports](#) the fire in Maui is now the second deadliest blaze in the United States in a century, trailing only the 2018 Camp Fire in California, which killed 85 people. And the death toll in Maui is expected to rise as search crews reach areas destroyed by the fast-moving fires. Hospitals are overwhelmed with burn patients. Power and cell service remains out for much of the area. Authorities say the fire destroyed all the buildings in the historic section of Lahaina, which once served as the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Hawaii's Governor Josh Green says it looks like a bomb went off in the town.

Later in the show, we'll speak to two Native Hawaiian activists in Maui, but we begin with a horrifying account from a man from Fresno, California, named Vixay Phonxaylinkham, who survived the fire by racing into the ocean with his wife and five children. The family was visiting Lahaina for dinner when they got trapped by the fire.

VIXAY PHONXAYLINKHAM: And we tried to make our way back, but we couldn't. We got stuck. We tried to come back. We ended up in Front Street, my family and I, and it was just black smoke coming above us. And traffic was stuck. We were there by the seawall, by Bubba Gump, I believe. And it got really real when we saw the flames. And I had to think fast. We had to get out. We left our vehicle. And myself and my wife and our five kids, we all got in the ocean.

We found a floating board that we hung onto. And we were out there floating. It was just so surreal. And everything was burning around, explosions, cars blowing up, like, embers just flying. Just, we couldn't breathe, when the — we couldn't breathe. There was no air. It was just the carbon monoxide. And we held on as best as we could, my wife and my kids. My older ones helped with the younger ones. And we tried to stick all together, the waves just trying to take us out to the ocean. We had to come back.

There were some locals that helped us, too, that were with us. They're really great people. These people are amazing. And we were out for three hours, and we hung onto the seawall as best as we could, until we found a little cove area, where we were about for an hour with — two of the locals were with us and my family. And I found some sheet metal to cover them, because

there was just still fire all around us, and the embers were flying out. We covered them and covered myself as best as I could.

At about 9:30 p.m., the fire came and rescued us. And we walked through the town, the little quarter they made. And everything was just burned down. Everything was destroyed. And yeah, we were at the shelter for that night.

The fight-or-flight instinct, survival, my adrenaline was rushing. It was just — I had to calm down. I worked in the ER for 15 years. It kind of helped. You've got to take a deep breath. You've got to do this. We did it. My kids were amazing. They were really good, to the point where my daughter, my little girl, was like, "Daddy, are you OK, Daddy?" My other ones wanted to — "We will be — we can go be OK." They got us, and they're really tired and exhausted and so forth. Just the ocean almost swept my kids away a few times. But yeah, we stuck together. We held on. And we're not going to die this way, no. And we're here. We're alive.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Vixay Phonxaylinkham, who survived the fire in Maui by racing into the ocean with his wife and five children. When we come back, we'll speak to two Native Hawaiian activists in Maui about the catastrophic fire. Stay with us.

2023-08-11 “We’re Living the Climate Emergency”: Native Hawaiian Kaniela Ing on Fires, Colonialism & Banyan Tree

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/maui_fires



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- [Kaniela Ing](#)
former member of the Hawaii House of Representatives representing Maui, currently national director of the Green New Deal Network.

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We speak with Kaniela Ing, national director of the Green New Deal Network and seventh-generation Kanaka Maoli, Native Hawaiian, about the impact of this week’s devastating wildfires and their relationship to climate change. The catastrophic fires have destroyed nearly all buildings in the historic section of Lahaina, which once served as the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom. What is now being described as the worst natural disaster in Hawaii’s history was created by conditions such as dry vegetation, hurricane-level winds and

developers redirecting water and building over wetlands, which are directly related to the climate crisis. “Anyone in power who denies climate change, to me, are the arsonists here,” says Ing. “We’re living the climate emergency.”

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org. I’m Amy Goodman.

We continue to look at the catastrophic wildfires in Maui. We turn to Kaniela Ing, who is the national director of the Green New Deal Network. Ing is a seventh-generation Native Hawaiian from Maui. I spoke to him on Thursday night, asking him to talk about what’s happened to Maui and the historical significance of Lahaina Town.

KANIELA ING: Sure. First off, thank you for having me and centering this issue. I will preface by saying that I’ve been really busy, but when I’m not doing these interviews, I just tend to, like, break down. These are really somber times. I was born and raised in Maui. I’m Kānaka Maoli, Native Hawaiian, come from seven generations. And our island is on fire. Our most historic town was set ablaze by wildfires. Hundreds of people have been evacuated and hospitalized. The death toll is climbing, and people are searching for loved ones right now.

So, Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis, Tim Scott, Joe Manchin, oil companies and anyone in power who denies climate change, to me, are the arsonists here. And we’re living the climate emergency.

So, it is sad times right now. It’s heartening to see the community come together and, you know, deliver goods to the families in need. Fundraising has been incredible for the direct relief. But what I am wondering, personally, is, once the recovery efforts start to unfold and the cameras are gone, who’s going to be left more powerful or less powerful? Are people still going to be paying attention when the recovery work is going to last for years? And is that going to make community members stronger, or is it going to make the people who have mismanaged the land and water and created the conditions for these fires to happen even more powerful? And that’s what we’re focused on at Green New Deal Network right now.

AMY GOODMAN: Kaniela, can you talk about specifically the friends, the family, what has happened to those that have been devastated by the fires, particularly in Lahaina? Can you tell us some of those escape stories, some of what has taken place with the fires so suddenly wiping out this historic city? And then talk about the historic nature of Lahaina as the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom and what that means.

KANIELA ING: We’re a tropical island here on Maui. We’re not supposed to have wildfires. This came as a shock to everyone. There’s not enough firefighters here. We can’t ship them over from the next state. We’re an island. So, everyone right now is feeling a bit overwhelmed. As it occurred, we saw community members jumping into the ocean with nowhere else to go, just floating and watching their homes being reduced into ashes. The death toll went from six to 36 all of a sudden, and there are still firefighters, Red Cross members out there searching for our loved ones. It was — it was apocalyptic. The scene was something that, you know, you would only see in a movie. But the reality is, like, this is becoming quite the norm now, and it will become more so in the future.

Lahaina Town is actually — it’s often characterized as a tourist town, but the people who live there — which should be the focus — tend to be some of the most rooted Native Hawaiians that I’ve ever met. They’re the types of — their families, from generations ago, created aquaculture, which, like, the West is only kind of learning about now. You know, I used to work with them to, like, figure out better ways that NOAA could manage, like, fisheries. They’re really the keepers of

the ancestral knowledge. And, you know, some of their — yeah, like, most of the folks that evacuated are, like, Kānaka Maoli or other immigrant folks. And my heart goes out to those families.

AMY GOODMAN: When you say it's a tourist town, that's because it's historic. So, talk about what that means. Give us a history lesson about Hawaii and about Maui, and how it relates to the mainland United States, even how it became a part of the United States.

KANIELA ING: Sure. So, Lahaina Town was a thriving center of Hawaii. It was like the heart of Hawaii before not just statehood, but before Hawaii was even a territory of the United States. So, if you start from one end of Front Street and walk to the other, it's like a Disneyland ride through the colonial timeline of capitalism in Hawaii, starting from royalty, going to whaling, sandalwood, sugar and pineapple, tourism to luxury.

And to me, the fire is a tragic symbol of this trajectory's terminal point, like where it all ends up if you continue down this mode of extraction as a way to live. But it's also like the — it also contains the most deep and durable relics of our history of resistance: the museums, the architecture, the infrastructure, the banyan tree — the oldest and largest in the United States, which has burned, 150 years old this year. Like, it includes all that, but also just the fact of how slow it was to develop is a testament to the people-powered, usually Native-led resistance that each industry faced along the way.

AMY GOODMAN: You refer to the raging wildfires as a result of colonial greed. Explain.

KANIELA ING: Yeah. So there's two facets to this. First is climate change. The National Weather Service says the cause of this fire was a downed power line, and the spread because of hurricane-force winds. And the spread was caused by dry vegetation and low humidity. Those are all functions of climate change. This isn't disputable. This isn't political. It, unfortunately, has become politicized, but it's a matter of fact. Climate pollution, corporate polluters that set a blanket of pollution in the air that is overheating our planet contributed — caused the conditions that led to this fire.

In addition, there is mismanagement of land. The original "Big Five" oligarchy in Hawaii, missionary families that took over our economy and government, they continue on today as some of our largest political donors and landowners and corporations. They've been grabbing land and diverting water away from this area for a very long time now, for generations. And Lahaina was actually a wetland. You could take a — like, Waiola Church, you could have boats circulating the church back in the day. But, you know, because they needed water for their corporate ventures, like golf courses and hotels and monocropping, that has ended. So the natural form of Lahaina would have never caught on fire. These disasters are anything but natural.

So, yes, colonial greed and the fact that they caused the pollution that warmed our planet and set hurricanes like this to become the norm, and the gross mismanagement of our land and water, which the Green New Deal actually is about returning both — you know, both mitigating climate change, building resilience, but also returning the stewardship of land and water to the people.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about the dry land right now? I mean, you have Hurricane Dora hundreds of miles away. The wind was intense, but the drought that existed, that relationship to climate change?

KANIELA ING: Yeah, that's right. So, growing up on this island, we saw maybe one or two fires, and they were very contained, when things got to this drought factor. It's never been anything close to this. This shocked even — even like the climate scientists that I've worked with over the years were shocked by this fire.

And a lot of it has to do with these dry conditions. Growing up, my dad would drive us to church, and he would point out to the sugarcane, and he'd say, "When you're my age, all this sugarcane will be gone." And I was like, you know, "OK, sure." It's such a central part of Maui. But he was right. The sugar is gone. And the reason why is because one of these Big Five oligarchical corporations that I spoke of knew that the sugar wasn't profitable, but they continued monocropping most of the island in order to get some tax breaks for agriculture.

Now, I grew up in a community where it would rain cane ash on us, and it was like fun. I didn't realize we were all getting asthma. It's an environmental justice community. But, you know, there were people that fought against the cane burning. And the corporation ended up blaming the activists for the sugar shutting down, pitting the union workers against the community. The result now is just like a fallow, really dry land across the whole central valley of our island. And really, if community members and union members were to unite and had been organized years ago, we could have had a much different future. And that's still something that I think we should continue working to build, is that labor and environmental unity.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about the April survey of homeless people, unhoused people? I think it was something like 704 unhoused people in Maui County, among them 244 suffering from mental health disabilities. The unhoused crisis among Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and what do you know about Native Hawaiians who were unhoused and how the wildfires have affected them?

KANIELA ING: Yeah. I think there's a certain perception of Native Hawaiians who are unsheltered that's not — that does not fit with reality. Some of the unsheltered Hawaiian communities that continue today were occupations of land that was getting seized. And they were like, "Look, we don't want to cooperate with this, with this new extractive economy that y'all created, so we're going to live by ourselves in our own community on this beach. We're going to govern ourselves." And they're quite organized, and they're living in a way that's subsistent and in harmony with nature. Now, it's not to be glamorized. A lot of these folks face some really dire conditions not being a part of this capitalist system. But a lot of them are doing it based on really strong and sensible beliefs.

Now, when a climate crisis hits, when a disaster hits, it's going to impact these people first and worst, no doubt. And we need to make sure that both relief and recovery efforts, in the longer term, are prioritizing the low-income and Indigenous people that are some — some are still unaccounted for. Some don't even have IDs. And, you know, they need to be front of mind with everything we do, from, you know, day zero, when the disaster breaks, to years out, when we're recovering.

AMY GOODMAN: The wildfires occurred on the same day that President Biden said in an interview that he had "practically" declared a climate emergency, but he has not actually formally done that. What would that mean?

KANIELA ING: Yeah. I've just been frantically trying to make sure that my loved ones are OK. But I also work on climate. This is my job. And as soon as I start thinking about that statement from President Biden, I just get so incensed. This is a climate emergency. There's no practical — "practically" he declared it. You either believe it or not. And I think as bad as Republicans have been by denying climate, Democrats are just as culpable by not doing enough. Scientists say that we need to be investing at least \$1 trillion a year in the clean energy transition. We need to end and phase out, deny all new fossil fuel permits, and really empower the communities that build back ourselves democratically. That's the solution for it.

And President Biden announced his second term, but he hasn't told us how he's going to finish the job. He needs to lay out that vision, what we've been demanding from a Green New Deal, if he wants communities that got him elected to come out, that base of climate voters, that happen to be predominantly Black, Indigenous and low-income people. But we need something forward-looking to come out, because right now, like, I'm not even thinking about voting, right?

Like, nobody in Lahaina is thinking about whether or not they support Biden. Like, give us something. You know, at least let us be seen.

So, you know, I think that's that sense of urgency. Even me, who is in this climate work full time and see these events unfold elsewhere, until it hits you at home and it's people you know, grocery stores you shop at, schools your kids go to, your church actually being burned down, you're not going to understand the urgency. Like, it is shocking. And we're not talking 10 years from now. We're having — these things are happening right now. It could happen to your home tomorrow. That's the urgency we're dealing with, and we need to act accordingly. So, no "practically" speaking. Like, we need to move now and do everything we can.

AMY GOODMAN: And can you tell us more about the importance of Indigenous wisdom and practices in addressing the climate catastrophe?

KANIELA ING: Sure, yeah. So, going into Lahaina, the people that actually lived there for generations are the keepers of some of the most profound Indigenous knowledge that I have ever met. They understood subsistence fishery, how native plants were buffers against, like, you know, disasters, how to create regenerative agricultural practices. And it's that view of the world where, you know, our success isn't determined by how much we hoard, but rather how much we produce for others and share, and where, like, our economy is not based on how well the rich are doing, but how many people, how many of us, can actually thrive. Like, it's that — it's not just Indigenous knowledge, but it's that value system that really needs to be reestablished.

So, you know, I think over the years, especially in my line of work, there's been more resources for Indigenous folks to lead frontline fights against bad projects. But the intervention that really needs to happen is Indigenous leaders also need to be resourced to build the good. They need to be the purveyors of and architects of the new green and, like, community-rooted world that's still possible, even in these dire times.

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, would you like to leave us with some images that you have been living through over these last few days, like the banyan tree, where you show us — when you put out on social media the before and after the wildfires, but other images or stories of people's bravery in trying to preserve what you have known for so long?

KANIELA ING: Yeah, I mean, as we're speaking, there's people that still haven't found their loved ones. A lot of the friends I grew up with — like, I come from a lower-income neighborhood — they're firefighters. I ran into one on the way here, and I'm just like, "Hey, y'all are doing a great job." And he was just sweating and, like, started crying and, you know, barely — looked like he hasn't slept in days.

Hotels are letting residents in, without cost, to sleep. Multiple businesses are just letting people drop off goods, and they're shipping it three to four times a day. They're leaving their doors open 24 hours. So, there is that sense of, you know, this is an island; we're all in this together. And that sense of mutual aid and solidarity is really carrying us through, and it's been quite remarkable to witness. But, you know, don't want to leave you with some toxic positivity either. Like, these are hard times, and unless we take urgent action now, it'll only get worse.

AMY GOODMAN: And what, do you feel, is the most important thing that President Biden, the federal government, people should be pushing for right now?

KANIELA ING: Well, right now we need direct aid. But there needs to be a longer focus on recovery, that these — that we can't rebuild the community in a few weeks. It's going to take years. And we need to do it intentionally, not just making sure — not just bringing us back to the *status quo*, because the *status quo* is what led us here, but making sure that we have more democratic and community-controlled institutions that come out of this.

Unfortunately, the groups that are best poised to deploy direct aid, because of their institutional connections, are also the most likely to enable disaster capitalists from exploiting the situation. So, we need to create — we need to understand that, you know, as we're, like, trying — as people want to help, that they're resourcing groups that have an eye towards community organizations, to the organizers that will actually be there once the cameras leave, and will be rebuilding from the ground up over the course of the long run.

AMY GOODMAN: And one more time, can you tell us why the banyan tree is so important?

KANIELA ING: Yeah. I mean, the banyan tree is so iconic. There's like 16 trunks. It's the largest in the United States. It just turned 150 years old in April. And the images of it being completely toasted is heartbreaking. Now, I have hope, because trees have deep roots, especially of that age, that it will continue on. And, you know, that's the vision in my mind, right? Like, as we rebuild as a community, as we realize the vision of a Green New Deal nationally and globally, the banyan tree also regrows its leaves and is a positive symbol for what's to come.

AMY GOODMAN: Kaniela Ing, the national director of the Green New Deal Network, seventh-generation Native Hawaiian, speaking to us from Maui. And I especially thank my little pup Zazu for staying quiet during that interview, which makes me think about all of the fauna and the flora destroyed, as well, on Maui and, of course, most importantly, the people.

Coming up, we speak to another Native Hawaiian activist and a fire scientist at the University of Hawaii. Back in 20 seconds.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: "Sugar Man" by Rodriguez. Sixto Rodriguez, the subject of the 2012 Oscar-winning documentary *Searching for Sugar Man*, passed away this week at the age of 81 in his home in Detroit.

2023-08-11 As Fires Destroy Native Hawaiian Archive in Maui, Mutual Aid Efforts Are Launched to Help Lahaina

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/noelani_ahia_maui_wildfires

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In Lahaina, the area in west Maui that is of historical importance to Indigenous people, entire neighborhoods were wiped out by this week's historic wildfires, including the Na 'Aikane o Maui Cultural Center, which had a massive archive that was lost to the flames. We are joined by Noelani Ahia, a Kanaka Maoli activist, who describes the community's reaction to the destruction of Indigenous cultural documents, art and artifacts. "In the blink of an eye, it was burned to the ground, and all of those things were lost," says Ahia. She also describes mutual aid efforts now underway and notes, "The people on the ground know what the community needs."

Transcript

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AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, as we get an update now on the impacts of the wildfire on Lahaina, the area in west Maui that's of historical importance to Indigenous people, entire neighborhoods wiped out by the wildfire, including the Na 'Aikane o Maui Cultural Center, which had a massive archive lost to the flames. The head of the center said, quote, "The place is burnt [down] to the ground."

We're joined now on Maui by Noelani Ahia, a Kānaka Maoli activist, longtime organizer in Lahaina Town. She's also the co-founder of the organization Mauna Medic Healers Hui and is involved in mutual aid efforts as the community responds to the devastation.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!*, Noelani. It is an honor to have you with us. Can you describe, from your vantage point, where you are, and especially the cultural center — is the center of Lahaina — in terms of what has been lost at the center and, overall, in the town?

NOELANI AHIA: Yes. Thank you so much, Amy. It's so good to be here.

Na 'Aikane o Maui Cultural Center was founded about 20 years ago in historic Lahaina Town, and it happens to sit adjacent to a very sacred area of Maui called Moku'ula and Mokuhinia. And this is a traditional place, what we would call a *wahi pana*, or a sacred place, dating back to the 1500s, where one of our former kings, who presided over the islands with peace, lived, and his sacred family was birthed there. And we have stories that carry us down today that connect us back to that place, that reroot us.

And this island, Moku'ula, was in the middle of a wetland. It was lush and beautiful and green. Because of settler colonialism and because of the impositions of the settler government, it was covered over a long time ago, and there's baseball fields now on it and tennis courts. And the Na 'Aikane o Maui Cultural Center has been working to get the access in order to restore Moku'ula and to clean it up and make sure it's a place of reverence again. And the folks at Na 'Aikane have been working for decades on all kinds of issues, protecting burials, protecting land right issues and just generally being there for the community, to provide classes and workshops and cultural practice and cultural protocol.

And that building also housed a collection of artifacts, as well as historical documents, old maps — just priceless things that are all lost in the blink of an eye. It was burned to the ground, and all of those things are lost. It also had a collection from an esteemed *kūpuna*, esteemed elder, named Sam Ka'ai, whose collection was being housed there. And for this *kūpuna*, this elder, this was his life's work. He's 85 now, and this was 50 years' worth of carvings that he himself did of collecting items from all over the South Pacific when he traveled on the *Hōkūle'a*, a double-hulled canoe voyaging project back in the '80s. And I had the — I had the burden, you could say, of telling him yesterday that his collection was gone. And it was devastating. It was devastating. This is this man's life work. And he created all of these things not for himself, but for future generations to understand how brilliant our Kānaka Maoli people are and how ingenious we were, because so much of that history and that culture was lost to us after the overthrow and

with the new government and the wave of people that came in and took over lands. Particularly, we're talking about, you know, the plantations and the oligarchy that Kaniela was talking about. So many Hawaiians were dispossessed from their land, and we lost so much of our culture, including our language. And so, when a *kūpuna*, when an elder, like this dedicates his life to retrieving and retracing and remembering those pieces of ourselves that allowed us to live here on this isolated island — how to make tools, how to make rope, how to make the instruments that feed us — all of these things that allowed us to have life and survive here, all of those things that he dedicated his life to are now a memory.

But I will say, he told me yesterday morning that he woke up having a dream about seeds. And what he said was he saw us planting seeds back in the ash. He saw us putting back our traditional — our traditional plants, our traditional medicines, our *kalo* plant, our taro, which is very sacred to us. We're ancestrally connected to the *kalo*. He saw us putting those things back in the ground so that new life can come again. And for somebody of his age, who's closer to moving into the next realm than many of us, for him to still be thinking about the next generation and still be thinking about what the future could be in Lahaina, for me, is the measure of what it means to be Indigenous and what it means to be genealogically connected to this land.

AMY GOODMAN: Noelani Ahia, it is so painful to talk to you right now at this moment with the destruction that your island has undergone. If you could talk about the mutual aid efforts? You know, first of all, in the rest of the corporate media, we hear almost no Native voices, no Native Hawaiians, and why it's so important to hear your voices. And then, what is happening on the ground? You know, there's a big debate now: Like, why weren't people alerted earlier? Where was the early alert system? Why were people just looking out the window or smelling the smoke and seeing the fire right in front of them? And how important that is. But also, it's just described, Lahaina, as a great tourist destination. How tourism has affected the whole environment, if you could speak about that, as well?

NOELANI AHIA: Absolutely. Thank you so much. You know, it's very disturbing for us, as Kānaka Maoli, to see the headlines and talk about — you know, see Lahaina as this tourist town, as if that's all it is, because, for us, it's so much more. And the tourism is part of the commodification of our culture. It's part of the erasure of our culture. That narrative literally just takes us out of the picture. And, you know, without Hawaiians, there would be no Hawaii. Everybody loves *aloha*, but they forget about the people that breathe *aloha* into the world, the root and the source of *aloha*, and that's the Kānaka Maoli people.

The overtourism, the overdevelopment, the dispossession of Kānaka Maoli from our lands, the monocropping, as Kaniela Ing was talking about, those are all things that contributed to the conditions that created this. And, you know, as we live on an island, there's only so much space, and there's only so much room, and there's only so much resources. And for over 130 years, our water has been diverted to go to those sugar plantations and pineapple fields.

So, what used to be a lush, verdant Lahaina — in fact, I'll tell you a little something, that the Lahaina is not an old name. One of the older names for Lahaina is Malu'ulu o Lele, and it means "land of the flying breadfruit," because Lahaina used to be covered in breadfruit, which is a staple for the Hawaiian diet. It's incredibly nutritious. It's being studied the world over to help with food sovereignty in underprivileged areas. It's just an amazing, rich, rich, historical plant for us. And Lahaina was covered with *ulu* until the sugar plantations came in and chopped it all down. And they permanently changed our ecosystem, that one act, that on top of the diversion of water for the plantations.

What's happening now that the plantations have shut down is unscrupulous developers are diverting the water and banking it for real estate. And it's not real estate for the Kānaka Maoli or the local people. It's for foreign investors. It's for gentlemen's estate farms that have giant swimming pools. It's for — excuse me — really inappropriate use of one of our most sacred resources. In fact, the name for water in Hawaii is *wai*, and the name for wealth in Hawaii is *wai wai*, which means if you have water, you have life. But our water has been taken away from us. And it's left us in this dry, barren, almost unrecognizable — it would be unrecognizable to our ancestors, this condition that we're currently living under, the settler government.

So, you combine the dispossession with the overtourism, with the overdevelopment, and you have this trifecta for disaster. And that's what we're seeing today. It's absolute disaster. It's absolute devastation for our people.

AMY GOODMAN: And, Noelani, we only have a minute, and then we're going to go to a fire scientist at the University of Hawaii. But the mutual aid efforts on the ground, those grassroots —

NOELANI AHIA: Oh, yes. Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: — efforts that are saving everyone?

NOELANI AHIA: Thank you. The mutual aid group in Maui has mobilized. We're working with them. We've got medics, food distribution. We're working on organizing housing for people.

But one of the issues that we're having is we're being prevented access. And it's really, really disappointing, because the people on the ground know what the community needs. The people on the ground self-organize and are able to move fast, quickly and get the needs of the people where they need to go. But, unfortunately, I have to say, there has been some blocking of those efforts. And it's always done under the guise of safety. But when our people are in Lahaina and they're suffering because they don't have any food and they don't have any water and we're not allowed to get them resources, it's really, really challenging.

So we're finding some unique ways to get resources to people. Folks have been taking boats around from the other side of the island in order to get resources in. And we've been using whatever methods we can to get the needs of the people met. But it's a beautiful effort. The people on the ground are so strong and so resilient and so ready to jump in to help one another. We say, "*Aloha kekahi i kekahi.*" That means "Love going out, love coming back." And one of my good friends said today, "Your disaster emergency kit must include community." Community is first. And that's really what it's about, is taking care of each other.

AMY GOODMAN: Noelani Ahia, I want to thank you so much for being with us, and all the very best, Kānaka Maoli activist, longtime organizer in Lahaina, co-founder of the organization Mauna Medic Healers Hui.

2023-08-11 "Unprecedented": Fire Expert Says Climate & Native Vegetation Changes Fueled Explosive Maui Wildfires

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/11/hawaii_maui_clay_trauernicht_tropical_fires



We speak to a fire scientist about how the climate emergency fueled this week’s historic wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui. “This is something that is absolutely unprecedented,” says Clay Trauernicht, a professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where he focuses on wildland fire management in Hawaii and the Pacific. He explains how colonial landscape changes to the islands — prioritizing monocrop agriculture and land use for tourism — paired with the worsening atmospheric effects of climate change have set the conditions that sparked the devastating wildfires and allowed them to rage indiscriminately.

Transcript

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AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org. We go now from Maui to end today’s show looking at how the deadly wildfires that spread through Maui came after weeks of worsening drought conditions as the climate emergency fuels deadly fires across the globe. The U.S. Drought Monitor [reports](#) nearly 16% of Maui County is now facing a severe drought, and an additional 20% is facing moderate drought.

We’re joined in Honolulu by Clay Trauernicht, professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where he focuses on wildland fire management in Hawaii and the Pacific.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!*, Clay Trauernicht. It’s great to have you with us. Put these two issues together — you have the hurricane, hundreds of miles away, creates hurricane winds that fuel these wildfires — and how this is connected to climate change.

CLAY TRAUERNICHT: Yeah. Thanks for having me. And I’d just like to say how much I appreciate you highlighting the voices of your prior guests to kind of round out the perspective on this incident.

But in terms of these — the climate or weather events that we’ve seen, we had the combination of the storm passing to the south, this high-pressure system that really ramped up winds and lowered relative humidity over the course of a couple days. And what’s really important to understand is that those really rapid changes in weather can have huge effects on fire danger.

But the reason that they’re having the effects they are is because of the landscape-scale changes that your prior guests were mentioning. And that’s the change in the vegetation surrounding the community in Lahaina, as well as the community Upcountry Maui, which is experiencing similar fires, and which are still burning right now. And these are changes that have affected most of the island in the state, in the sense that these change in land use over the past couple decades, the decline in agricultural production, has really resulted in the dramatic expansion of these non-native tropical grasses. And this really creates this vulnerability that we’re seeing right now and, you know, the really explosive growth in fire that we saw over the past couple days.

AMY GOODMAN: Were you surprised by the scale of this disaster, and now this debate over where were the early warning — you know, so many deaths, and there are probably a number more — how it could have been dealt with in a different way? I mean, you have the governor saying this is the worst natural disaster in Hawaii’s history.

CLAY TRAUERNICHT: Yeah, I think we’re clearly grappling with the human toll. This is something that’s absolutely unprecedented. And I don’t think — I mean, just the loss and hearing these stories of your prior guests, I mean, this is going to — it’s still sinking in for all of us just how dramatic this is and just what the impact that this has had on the people, like, first of all, first and foremost.

As far as the unprecedented nature of these fires, unfortunately, this is something we’ve been seeing over the past decade, at least. And we can look back to 2019, where 21 homes were lost in West Maui due to

similar fires. The same year, we had about 20,000 acres burned through central Maui. 2018, we actually had a near pass of another hurricane system that coincided with large-scale fires on Oahu, on the west side of Oahu. And in each of these incidents, what we're seeing, I think as your first guest mentioned, is our — the firefighters we have on the ground, those are the resources we have. They were spread incredibly thin over this past week. They're doing everything that they can.

And as far as what we can do — and by "we," I mean the response agencies that we work with, the nonprofits, Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization — I have to give them credit, too. But we're trying to get the word out and identify the actions that communities and land managers can take prior to these fires, and so that we can reduce risk, create safer conditions and sort of relieve the burden, which at this point really falls onto our emergency responders.

Another element or dimension to this change in land use or the limited management we see on these lands, these tropical grasslands that cover the state — there's about a million acres — is that as those operations have kind of removed from the landscape, you lose a lot of the knowledge that was there from the workers who knew where the roads were, were maintaining the roads, maintaining water access. So, again, all of this burden falls on our firefighters, and we're asking them to do really heavy lifting. And up until this incident, we also have to say they've done a commendable job of really protecting our communities. As you said, this is the worst we've ever seen. And all of the fires that we have seen over the past couple decades, since agriculture has been declining, our firefighters are typically very successful at protecting homes, infrastructure and human lives.

AMY GOODMAN: Professor Trauernicht, President Biden has pledged disaster relief, immediate assistance to those affected. But what would it mean if he actually outright declared not just a state emergency in Hawaii, a national climate emergency, a national state of emergency?

CLAY TRAUERNICHT: It's a difficult question for Hawaii. We struggle here having long-term funding in place. And part of that reason, as far as the relationship with the federal government — and again, I can only really speak to the fire realm, fire management realm — is that we don't have these large tracts of federal land. And that's usually the mechanism through which we know national forests, Bureau of Land Management — these are the mechanisms, at least in the continental U.S., that funding kind of comes in for this kind of work.

And what we're talking about for a disaster like this, to prevent the next one, is to support these efforts on the ground that are actually altering the condition of those fuels. And there are lots of examples, lots of people working on this, ranging from working with ranchers to do targeted grazing, doing fuel break networks to give firefighters a fighting chance, reimplementing traditional agriculture — there's examples of folks restoring taro, *lo'i* wetland taro, to actually act as fire breaks — all the way through to reforestation, where we're converting these fuels into something else, something less likely to burn.

And I think our job, what we've been working on, the folks doing fire prevention work for a number of years now, is just: How do we scale this up? And so, that's really what we need to be thinking about with assistance from the federal government, is: How we can implement these actions and the knowledge that people already have? How can we do that at larger scales, coordinate across bigger spaces?

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Professor —

CLAY TRAUERNICHT: And this is something that needs to happen statewide.

AMY GOODMAN: Professor Clay Trauernicht, we thank you so much for being with us, from the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. That does it for our show. I'm Amy Goodman. Thanks so much for joining us