

“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 WWW.rainbowroundtable.net**
- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST**
- IV HARD NEWS**

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com; click on “64K Listen”

*** Thursday: A Night at the Round Table Hosts: Panel Members**
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

*** Friday: Friday Night Hard News Hosts: Tara & Rama**
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: Access Code: 353 863#

*** Saturday: History of our Galactic World & NESARA Hosts: Tara & Rama**
1:30 pm Pacific / 4:30 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-720 716 7301 – Access Code: 353 863#
Call to interact / ask questions:

Canada & US: STATION 2 1- 888-429-5471
Direct 1- 323-744-4841

B CALL-TO-LISTEN ONLY 1-804-220-6484

C Skype: BBSradio2

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- Go to *BBSRadio.com*; in first column, LHS, **FIND TALK SHOW**
- Enter *Friday Hard News*, press the GO button. You’ll be taken directly to **Hard News on Friday**; click on “**Archives**” which takes you to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
- You can listen directly or download the program to your own computer.
- To listen directly, click on the arrow on the black bar.
- To download, go to **Episode MP3 link**. Then **right click** on the name **'hardnewsonfriday including the date'** and the drop down menu appears. Click on **'save link as'**

E Archives, written and audio, also exist on the rainbowroundtable website:
www.rainbowroundtable.net - look under the “Archives” tab for **written notes which include links to the entire podcast**, and **links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY RainbowRoundtable.net

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls

By telephone only: 1-425-436-6260; PIN 9467 441#
B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: *Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls*
9:00 – 10:30 pm EST Host: Fran

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtarteleconferences.html>

To access **by Phone:** • 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400#
• Call is free [except for long distance charges]

via HD Conferencing:

• 712-770-4160; **PIN** # 980339 [always the same]

<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

via Skype Click on the **VOIP** button and enter what they ask for:

<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST *The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call*
By telephone only: 1-712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay# [good for 1 wk] 1-712-432-0990 PIN 66238#

D Every 2nd Wednesday *The Abundance Call - [Caroline Oceana Ryan](#)*
5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern

60-minute conference call with the Collective,
a group of Angelic and Galactic beings, channeled by
[Caroline Oceana Ryan](#)

To be notified: email AscensionTimes@gmail.com with the message "YES to Abundance!"

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

A. Opening Meditation: Cheryl Croci [in Rainbird's absence]

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 began: that is the birth wave
- **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.

29th Fri – 7 IMIX – Red Resonant Dragon – Artist Aspect – ALSO A PORTAL DAY. Working with Creation, trust in the Universe, clarity of mind. Let go of any illusion of lack of support –
• a portal day with Mother energy, beginning energy! ! !

30th Sat – 8 IK – White Galactic Wind – New moon, solar eclipse! Wind is the voice of Spirit, and the higher octave we aspire to~ the solar eclipse is a reset

May 1st Sun - 9 AKBAL – Blue Solar Night – May 1st / May Day. A sacred high holy holiday of the midpoint between equinox and summer solstice on this day. Beltane + May pole - 1st day of summer in Celtic calendar- St Germain's Day and we bring in this energy with our work with Cheryl.

We work with our abundance: so much growth going on

2nd Mon - 10 KAN – Yellow Planetary Seed – get the seeds planted, put flowers everywhere – 10 is manifestation – work with all 'seeds' in our lives!

3rd Tues – 11 CHICCHAN – Red Spectral Serpent – 11 is letting go of what no longer serves! Time to work with that energy

4th Wed – 12 CIMI.- White Crystal World Bridger – Cinco De Mayo - 12 crystal clarity, complex stability – great for integration of everything – and we are the linker of worlds, bringing earth to heaven.

5th Thur – 13 MANIK – Red Cosmic Moon - completing wave of Men, the Eagle. The babies being born in the deer families – Cosmic tone: promise of change into a new wave

6th Fri – 1 LAMAT – Yellow Magnetic Stargate – moving through space with the skywalkers and beginning life with them

This aligns with the astrology and wherever we are, we can be more as we align with the energies! It's powerful and we're coming into more powerful energies on the 21st

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.

For even more information, SEE ALSO [the Law of Time.org](http://theLawofTime.org)

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: RainBird

- 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.**

BBS: 804-220-6484 PEOPLE CAN NOW PHONE IN TO LISTEN TO THE CALLS!!

- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
- The radio program costs \$300 per week. **\$380.00 by MONDAY.**
THANKS FOR ALL THE SUPPORT! !! Help us catch up a bit more . . .
- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Friday Hard News Call & Paypal** button
- BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

- **B B S RADIO** [Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope]
58 N Marshside PI [Note inside that it's for T & R calls
Spring, TX 77389 & the Thursday call, as well]

- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone**; there are archives on www.rainbowroundtable.net. All are **free to access.**

T & R: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind 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
FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net
Rama has a pride of 9 Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = 13 in total

BASICS:	Food (Paschats; humans);	Gas for car	\$ 380 FOR THIS WEEK
	BILLS:		\$ 400
	Extra:	---	
	RENT:	\$ 1,150	\$ has arrived
	BBS Radio:		\$ 380 by Monday

- **Please notify T & R when sending something:** koran999@comcast.net

**EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH**

- **Rama's mailing address** for cheques, money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

• **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: click on the word CHANGE; choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: Rama and Tara are being helped by this account: they get their supplements there.
The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram> a/c # 7000

- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**

Also, check out the heading called **READ MORE** for the good information it has

FOR THE 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 **build the matrix** by working together: Carolyn Jones aka Rainbird is seeing to this aspect of the project:

<https://www.nugencoin.com/carjon>

TO GET HELP, Call Carolyn[Rainbird] or Micah

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

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

PLEASE CALL EITHER OF THEM FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION OR OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO NUGEN COINS

D. Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-april-29-2022>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-804-220-6484 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 2.

RAMA, TARA – HARD NEWS

R,T – Greetings to all – it's the end of Ramadan, and the coming of a partial solar eclipse

T reads Rama's report for today:

Rama: I called the two professors today: Professor Nicodemus and Professor Steve. It was 12.21 early this afternoon. They both said: "This partial eclipse at 1:28 pm Saturday EDT [8:28 MDT] - this solar eclipse is eclipsing the Khazarian mafia which is global in its expanse

[T: the "Khazarian Mafia" are not just from Russia: that name has come to be applied to the global mafia – if you don't comply, they kill you or clone you - THAT mafia}

- The energies coming in from Sol continue to go higher

[R: Schumann Resonance – big white areas = really high and the 13 families are out of options]

[T: For the first time in the history of the US on a major news outlet - BBC World News – they reported that the US is broke! We know the US has \$30 Trillion of debt – That this news is public – a good sign for those who know about the corruption]

Nicodemus, Steve: to stay in our high hearts; the Resurrection flame is pouring in

[T: we can resurrect ourselves from old thought forms and behavior patters – Praise, Respect, Thank and Love the feelings that come up – and let them go; also keep nature in your consciousness]

[T: talks about not eating meat , dairy – have nothing in our pineal gland to mitigate their effects]

Nic, Ste: Mother is still licking her red paws! [In the vision Rama saw of her sitting in his passenger seat, Her paws were red - a metaphor for the blood in the water – the metaphor is extended to 500,000 beings to be taken off the planet, the ones who agreed to profit over all else

[R: in addition, I now see her giving a bath to 4 of her paschat cubs – the vision faded into view and then out – so Mother is helping her other Paschat warriors to be cleaned of the old paradigm]

Nic, Ste: the Dark Ones want a false flag, and Mother is in no mood for this!

T: there are whole communities in Pakistan without one drop of water: people dying of thirst. The lack of water – fracking uses obscene amount of water and cannot be used for drinking; it's buried and is lost to humanity

- if we work with Living Light, Living Love and forgive our shortcomings and dissolve these energies into love, this situation is rectifiable

Oracle Report: April 28th

<https://fccdl.in/n6FULdTPC9>

CONFERENCE CALL

<https://fccdl.in/n6FULdTPC9>

Discussion of **droughts around the US** – more on west coast than in NE US

Caller: discussion of seeing dragons in visions; meaning of colours

T: ending is so close; still looks like Mordor

- the partial eclipse – there's an entrance of 5th dimensional light on the planet – it's partial as the other stuff is not completely gone – the energy of the partial eclipse will not be going away! ! !
- Has anyone seen a map of where the eclipse is going to be visible?

RGM: will be visible mostly in South America, not North America

Rainbird: next eclipse in the US will be in 2024

RGM: already feeling the energy

- asking for the beginning of the show . . .
- review of Rama's discussion with the two professors – they found the tunnels that go under Los Alamos – they walked from Los Alamos to Santa Fe
Can escape from the 6th level below Los Alamos – and go to Santa Fe – about 25 miles

RGM: the mining operations take big equipment down below – and leave it there if it cannot be repaired

T: the Anastazi Indians walked the underground tunnels / trade route to Santa Fe – there is also water sources below which are referred to as PENOTES; stalagmites and stalactites are there too -

Callers: talk about pelunking in caves – or pulunking {?}

Discussion of T writing a book of her adventures . . .

CALLED THE number from Micah about ordering NUGENCOIN

M: just got a message from a customer

- **extended the 50% bonus and price increase to May 15 because of the demand and the issues with the numbers on the website – coins still at 32**
- a new option: pay pal and some kind of transfer service
- go to NUGEN Banner – go to NUGEN community – to nugen website – indicated which will get a 10% bonus on all coins – this is 50%

callerZ: speaks of one app – ZELLE – ZELLE the app has been around for a time

Aria: NO: Conscious Vitality is not going down – their merchant wouldn't release funds to them so employees didn't get paid at the regular times - couldn't afford a webmaster and gives some examples of weirdness resulting from absence of same

- Now looking for work again

DON'T TOUCH A DIME OF THE MONEY UNTIL WE GET OUR TRUST ACCOUNTS SET UP . . .

T: the man speaking on the conf call we listened to on Tuesday: had the names wrong for the title of the NESARA act; he also spoke of gesara later in the call – not on the right track – this is related to dinars, dongs and zimbabwes

Lianara is going to find some other trusts for us to access – said the trust indenture was OK from that group; nevertheless will look for some other trusts and pass on names to Rama

Lianara also told Rama – there will be 50 trust indentures to choose from - [not 200!]

Caller D: What happened to the rainbow money?

T: won't happen until NESARA IS ENACTED – and they have to try the others first

T: genx coin will be good as it works within NESARA law – divine government

CallerD: concerned about those who might not be able to invest

T: doesn't expect it to be long – they keep telling Rama they'll be seeing him soon!

- Important at the moment: give praise, respect, thank and love for the feelings that come up
 - we have 2000 years of applying attention to detail – minute detail!
- USE PRAISE, RESPECT, THANK AND LOVE – AND WE DO GET CRABBY AND WILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME TO GET CRABBIER AS WE MOVE TO BRING DIVINE GOV'T TO THE LAND
- The root chakra of Gaia is on the floor of the ocean in the South Pacific between New Zealand and Australia – when we work on ourselves, can include the one for Gaia as well
 - The crown Chakra in in the Arctic Circle

Caller: walked into a bank and asked the teller if she knew of the rainbow bills – teller was aware but didn't know when they would out for the public

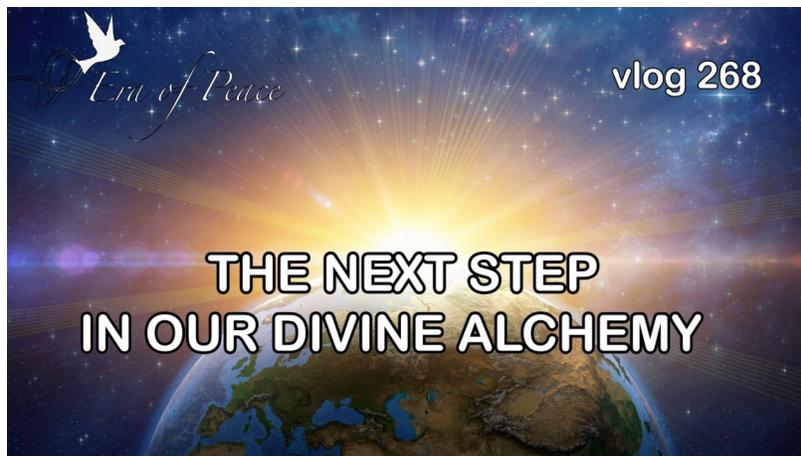
- asking about Jennifer Lee – still alive
- asking about Marietta – her physical health is good – has had 2 hip replacements – now walking again told MR about NUGEN and to sign up – don't have to sign up anyone else

Closing greetings to all

B B S RADIO

AUDIO: **THE BIGGER PICTURE** by Patricia Cota-Robles www.eraofpeace.org

VLOG 268 **THE NEXT STEP IN OUR DIVINE ALCHEMY**



AUDIO: **Ascended Masters Broadcasts**

Beloved Mother Akasha provides us a Message to assist us during these challenging storms in the world. Message ends on Divine Timing.

<https://instantteleseminar.com/Events/129466731> **1:21:13**

To listen by phone, dial test 206-402-0103 and enter ID: 129-466-731#.

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 most auspicious times, even though it may still seem like we are walking through the road to Mordor. It is **very** intense with the energies – stay in the High Heart, is what She can say. It is The End Game - this is why we have been seeing what's happening.

T: gonna see the White House Correspondents dinner tomorrow – oughta be interesting!

M/A: And what else could go wrong?

T: those were interesting times when Barack – who had a sense of humour – doesn't see sense of humour with Joe Biden - Uncle Donald was sitting in the audience April 20th, 2011 when Barack took the house down!

- What's gonna happen here?

M/A: As She has been saying for many eons of time: they will play out their final end game of the old timeline; want to threaten the Forces of Light with ancient war weapons. The Captain has said: NO NUKES! And they are tossing that word around like a tennis ball

- And She can say: send the highest vibrations we know about to this situation at hand.
- It is in these moments when the sun aligns with the moon, and eclipses are taking place: portals open wide. There are many portals opening at this time. Even though . . .

T: the Dome of the Rock 250,000 people there a couple of days ago – didn't end too well?

M/A: Let's say- it is at the point like She was saying: the portals are opening everywhere. They [galactics] are all here and in these moments, they [the dark ones] want to create their final stand – it's based on sand. It's not stable.

- The energies coming in are about the light that is transforming us and all of these situations.
- Eclipses are magical portals to what needs to be brought through at this time – there is an upgrade going on in all the fibres of our beingness, She could say. Still wanna play out the old story – it's done. That's what She's gotta say!

T: all kind of separation issues at the moment and we're at the darkest hour yet – how is this gonna work out?

M/A: She'll say because She has come from our future, which is their past: we make it with flying colours!

T: gonna be a muddle/puddle for a little while

M/A: Yes, there needs to be the being brought up from the depths of hell – all the old stories -13,000 years plus of mind control; trying to make a race of androids slaves to take on the Light -

T: They're making mashed potatoes out of the Q Anon bunch in Philadelphia - the candidate for Gov – we're up to our crown chakra with this stuff – would love to find a way to get along?

M/A: it is about loving each other, whether we have fur or fins or tails or horns or hooves - whatever it takes -

T: What it takes an education in divine gov't

M/A: and understanding, inner standing - the words His Holiness is letting us know - almost every day: as we can find the wherewithall within us to be kind and loving in the most heinous of situations, and we're watching it as We speak -.

- War is never the answer, and let's say both sides are a bit to account for – it is not the way. Yet what's happening is the exposure, like the two professors said today: the global crimes families are at their end. Cannot control a planet who's on a path to ascension with old stuff that is based on lack where there are a few that take all the riches and the rest live in the dungeons. That's over: she comes to level the playing field; that's why this one saw us giving a bath, as it were

T: Elon Musk finally did buy Twitter and someone called in to Thom Hartmann Show to say she was permanently banned from Twitter and with no recourse; it was a life-line for her so she could communicate with others

- to shut down the freedom of speech is the whole idea; there is no recourse when they do something like that

M/A: They cannot control the spirit of Freedom's holy flame that is paving the way for this planet to ascend. It is completely unfolding that the big issue here is about the # 1 issue that's been going on since Her wayward children showed up and played like gods: they were Extra Terrestrial visitors yet had no business playing like gods.

T: asks who Mother is talking about

M/A: Enki and Enlil: Jehovah and Lucifer

- The original story – if there is only one thing that She says we might consider [around] the idea of this word SIN – it is when there is one who is getting in the way of another who is going home, and nobody is going to stand in the way of Goddess Gaia ascending or the rest of us as well.
- It's this great convergence that is happening where all the planets are lining up with the eclipse: it is about the higher wisdom about what Venus is: think about it: no war! It is about the wisdom of the heart!
- This is why Mother Athena shows up with The Dove – it's been talked about: no goddesses of war! It's about peace.

T: R played a movie in 2017 – *The Fifth Element* – a NYC cab driver, Bruce Willis, tries to save 2259 earth from an on-rushing life force – like waiting for 2259 to show up! ! !

M/A: not waiting any longer. It is in these moments of what's transfiguring that the Power of Love overcomes the Love of Power. Right now, it is in our best interest to send more love to the situations at hand. There is a way out of this situation . . .

T: and it's going in here! [High Heart]

M/A: It is, and that is taking place as our sun sun is giving a lifting hand, by raising up the vibrations to such an extent - better stay in the heart as we can stay in the energies: anything else is gonna be a little touchy

T: heard talk that Biden is going to lop off \$50,000 of student debt of anyone who has debt

M/A: would be a nice idea if it were true

T: the Repubs will try to stop him from doing it

- and there was a conversation about Goldwater who ran in 1960 - and in 1962 he set it up for the Republicans to make a bee line for the Fascist state - 60 years of planning this fascist state!

M/A: Goldwater knew a lot about Roswell and what happened; you could say he was rubbing elbows with the cigarette-smoking man and the other shadowy characters

- It's from *X Files* – he represented Illuminati, the Men In Black, who show up and people disappear.
- This is over; this is why She is here with a few friends – and they don't like it a bit. Won't talk about that story! And we are in your skies everywhere and the anomalies are happening as the energies get raised up: folks seeing all kinds of craft and beings yet we won't hear of it on there (the TV)
- gotta send more love - has to be on Her way

T: the news are saying this is going to be a long war in Ukraine

M/A: What is long?

T: talking about next year and still doing it

- knows that Mr Keshe said that Ukraine is Mother Russia's land – **M/A:** and it is

T: and now Biden is calling for \$33 Billion to go over there in the form of weapons and whatever else is need to fight that "war"; and that he's thinking about taking the frozen funds of the Russian oligarchs and using it and there was \$38 Billion of THAT money! Who's putting that extra \$5 billion in their pockets?

- and if this is not a false flag event, what is it? and what about 9/11? Joe Biden ordered so the oligarchs in the US would make money?

M/A: the greed is unprecedented

T: never satisfied when you're on that path!

M/A: that's why the dark side consumes you – it's a cycle, a black hole where light gets sucked in and they quite simply want to have a date with the Void; She shall fulfill their wish

T: but you promised no violence

M/A: That is correct

T: talking to R – the idea that they would become little specks in the cosmos and have to witness everything with full consciousness and learn their lessons by being nothing but a small speck in the cosmos!

M/A: what she can say about that: as energy that is out of its space time continuum – called evil – is taken to the Void and becomes dark matter, and it is used to make new universes: it is a quantum physics level event.

- It is simply the exchange of matter and anti-matter; anti- matter is from the other side of the universe we don't see, and matter/anti matter mixes between universes.
- That is a bit of . . . let's say: as we learn more about what anti-matter is on the other side of a black hole, there is an entrance to a parallel system of universe; yet from the vantage point of where we are on one side of the black hole, we can't see the other side where we come out.
- It has to do with how we move through space/time. Not sure if that answers the question, yet it is about being everywhere at once and nowhere at all

T: the greatest suffering would be to be trapped in time while we are all moving forward into no time
That would be pretty painful

M/A: yes, and at this particular space/time moment, her old wayward children want a time line that ends not with ascension, but with absolute control, and that is not happening, yet they are working quite hard to make it happen, and it is an undoing of their own making, to put it simply. And how you deal with that situation is like what His Holiness says 'Send kindness, love, and compassion'. They've made their bed; let them be in it. Enshallah!

- Better be on Her way: miles to go before She sleeps

T: let us follow the Yellow Brick Road: love, truth, peace, freedom, justice, and beauty for all it can be – in that order. And the first law of love is BE CALM!

- Thanks Mother for her good vibrations

M/A: and thanks her.

Both: Sounds; Light language – Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One; kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish; sabbeoth; sabbeoth; sabbeoth

Rama Returns: went to sit on The Dove, with Lady Master Athena. Great group of folks there; lots of people sitting in the arboretum - filled with folks – and talk was about what is happening here: we are showing up now

T: Can they stop the gun energies?

R: He senses from being there with this room of people – 2-3,000 in the arboretum – it was about the contingency forces that are here: there are legions upon legions, upon legions - ET Masters, angels

- He thinks it's right now . . . he can see the fairy dust being spread out and that's the gold dust coming in from the Sun! Gotta just embrace it and be in that moment and we will feel it – no words: words go by the wayside as all we went to experience

T: wants something to give hope – people dying for lack of water

R: All he can say is THEY ARE ALL HERE: BLAZE THE VIOLET FIRE! ! !

DEMOCRACY NOW

2022-04-29 Headlines

Watch Headlines <https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/29/headlines>

2022-04-29 Ukraine Accuses Russia of Firing Missiles Over 3 Nuclear Power Plants, Raising Fear of a New Disaster

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/29/zaporizhzhia_ukraine_nuclear_risk

2022-04-29 "We Created the Pandemicene": Ed Yong on How the Climate Crisis Could Spark the Next Pandemic

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/29/ed_yong_pandemicene

2022-04-29 "The Wobblies": Iconic Film on the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Is Re-released for May Day

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/29/the_wobblies_documentary_iww_history

AUDIO: SCOTT RITTER – PART 2 WE HEARD PART 1 LAST WEEK

AUDIO: Scott Ritter: A Conversation About Ukraine **Part 1**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fNrnWxXhP0> **0:00 / 58:00**

This is the first part of an interview of Scott Ritter hosted by Margaret Flowers and Joe Lombardo of the United National AntiWar Coalition. The interview was recorded on April 6th and will be broadcast in two parts.

Scott Ritter was the UN weapons inspector who, during the Iraq War told the truth that we found no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. He became outspoken about this, which undercut the main reason the US used to invade and occupy Iraq.

As with the Iraq War, Scott Ritter is outspoken about the present war in Ukraine, in which we are again hearing US lies about the reasons for, and the events happening in the Ukraine War. His vast experience and knowledge working in the military and with various international agencies helps expose the truth about what is happening in Ukraine.

Thanks to the United National AntiWar Coalition to see the original version of this talk or donate, go to: www.unacpeace.org



Part 2 Scott Ritter: A Conversation About Ukraine 0:14 / 58:00

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQSTHvD2z1c>

Premiered April 14, 2022
unacpeace.org

Closing: Rainbird

No Music tonight – they overran the time limit! !



INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2022-04-29 Headlines

Watch Headlines <https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/29/headlines>

Russia Bombs Kyiv as U.N. Secretary-General Meets Ukrainian President

Apr 29, 2022



A pair of cruise missiles slammed into a residential high-rise in Kyiv Thursday, injuring 10 people in Russia's first strikes on Ukraine's capital city in nearly two weeks. The attack came just hours after United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres toured parts of Kyiv devastated by Russia's invasion, and just minutes after he'd wrapped up a joint news conference with Ukrainian President truly safe.

Secretary-General António Guterres: "Today Ukraine is an epicenter of unbearable heartache and pain. I witnessed that today very vividly today around Kyiv, the senseless loss of life, the massive destruction, the unacceptable violations of human rights and the laws of war. It is vital that the International Criminal Court and other U.N. mechanisms conduct their work, so that there can be real accountability."

European Energy Companies Agree to Pay for Russian Gas in Rubles

Apr 29, 2022



The German and Austrian energy companies Uniper and OMV say they've agreed to Russia's demands that purchasers of Russian oil and gas open accounts in a Russian bank and pay in rubles. The Italian energy giant Eni is also reportedly in talks to make ruble payments for Russian gas. Earlier this week, the EU accused Russia of "blackmail" after it shut off gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria, which had refused to pay in rubles. The Russian state-controlled firm Gazprom continues to supply Europe with about 40% of the natural gas it consumes.

NATO Chief Says Allies Are Prepared to Support Ukraine "For Months and Years"



NATO said Thursday it's ready to support Ukraine's military in its fight against Russia for years, if necessary. The military alliance's secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, spoke from the 2022 NATO Youth Summit in Brussels on Thursday.

Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg: "There is absolutely the possibility that this war will drag on and last for months and years. ... NATO allies are preparing to provide support over a long period of time."

Biden Asks Congress for Additional \$33 Billion for Weapons and Aid to Ukraine

Apr 29, 2022



In Washington, D.C., President Biden has asked Congress for an additional \$33 billion in economic and military assistance to Ukraine. His request came as Congress voted overwhelmingly to revive the Lend-Lease Act that the U.S. used to arm its allies during World War II. Biden's latest request includes \$20 billion to purchase new weapons, including anti-tank and anti-air systems, helicopters, drones, grenade launchers and millions of rounds of ammunition. Speaking from the White House, Biden rejected charges that the U.S. is using Ukraine to wage a "proxy war" against Russia.

President Joe Biden: "We're not attacking Russia; we're helping Ukraine defend itself against Russian aggression. And just as Putin chose to launch this brutal invasion, he could make the choice to end this brutal invasion. Russia is the aggressor, no if, ands or buts about it."

CodePink's Medea Benjamin noted Biden's call for \$33 billion for Ukraine is over half the entire budget of the State Department and USAID. Benjamin called Biden's request "a down payment on World War III" and added, "We need diplomacy, not billions more in weapons!"

U.N. Warns Humans Have Degraded 40% of Earth's Land

Apr 29, 2022



The United Nations warns human activity has damaged and degraded up to 40% of the world's land, reducing the fertility of soil and stripping it of native trees, vegetation and biodiversity. The report by the U.N.'s Convention to Combat Desertification finds most of the damage is caused by food production, risking the ability of nations to continue feeding Earth's growing population.

Climate Crisis Threatens Largest Mass Extinction of Marine Mammals in 66 Million Years

Apr 29, 2022



A new study in the journal Science finds the climate crisis poses the largest risk to marine animals since an asteroid impact wiped out the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. The study found about a third of all the animals in the ocean could vanish within three centuries unless humanity takes dramatic steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With strong action to halt the climate crisis, the study found, up to 70% of extinctions could be prevented.

Study Finds Climate Change Drives Animal Migration, Threatening New Viral Outbreaks

Apr 29, 2022



A report in the journal Nature finds the climate crisis and urban sprawl are driving wild mammals to relocate to new habitats, where they risk spreading novel viruses into the human population. Researchers say the change is already underway, with thousands of new opportunities for viruses to spill over into new species, including humans.

Protesters Demand Pfizer End Pandemic Profiteering and Share Vaccine Technologies

Apr 29, 2022



Image Credit: Jess Hurd via Global Justice Now

In London, advocates for a “people’s vaccine” rallied outside Pfizer’s U.K. headquarters Thursday, demanding the drugmaker end pandemic profiteering and share its vaccine technology with the Global South. Activists carried signs reading “Pharma greed kills” and “Pfizer has blood on its hands,” as they delivered wheelbarrows full of fake cash to the entrance of the building. Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most lucrative pharmaceutical products in history, earning the company some \$37 billion last year alone — or over

\$1,000 a second. In a statement, the group Global Justice Now responded, "This is scandalous when more than 8 in 10 people in low-income countries still haven't had a Covid-19 vaccine."

WHO Warns of Rising Measles Cases After Pandemic Disrupted Vaccinations of Children

Apr 29, 2022



The World Health Organization warns cases of measles rose nearly 80% in the first two months of this year, after millions of children missed out on routine vaccinations due to the coronavirus pandemic. Measles cases are skyrocketing in Afghanistan, where the Taliban government says at least 16,000 children have been infected so far this year, leading to at least 130 deaths.

Iran Put 333 People to Death in 2021, a 25% Rise in Capital Punishment

Apr 29, 2022



Human rights groups are sounding the alarm over a surge of executions in Iran. In 2021, at least 333 people were put to death, a rise of 25% from the previous year, according to the Norway-based Iran Human Rights and France's Together Against the Death Penalty. About a third of those executions were for drug-related offenses. Groups say many of these cases lacked sufficient evidence or relied heavily on confessions obtained through torture.

Oklahoma GOP Approves 6-Week Abortion Ban with \$10,000 Bounty for Reporting Violators

Apr 29, 2022



The Oklahoma Legislature has approved another Republican-led bill banning abortions after just six weeks of pregnancy. The measure now goes to Republican Governor Kevin Stitt, who is expected to sign it. The bill is modeled on Texas's anti-abortion law that took effect in September. It allows any state resident to sue doctors who perform abortions or anyone who "aids or abets" an abortion — with rewards of at least \$10,000 for those who are successful. This comes less than two weeks after Governor Stitt signed into law a total ban on abortion in Oklahoma that makes the procedure a felony punishable with up to 10 years in prison and a

\$100,000 fine. Oklahoma state Senator Carri Hicks was among minority Democrats who objected to the legislation.

Sen. Carri Hicks: "Forbes ranks Oklahoma number 51 out of 50 states for quality of life for women. We don't have any further to fall, and yet we are trying to prove how much worse we can make things for women through these types of legislation."

Georgia Gov. Kemp Signs Bills Banning Books, Classroom Discussion of Race, and Trans Athletes

Apr 29, 2022



Image Credit: Twitter: @TeamKempGA

Georgia Republican Governor Brian Kemp has signed a raft of bills overhauling public education in the state, including one banning books deemed to be "offensive" from school libraries. Another bill bars classroom discussion of so-called divisive concepts pertaining to race. The Protect Students First Act also empowers an athletic oversight committee to exclude transgender children from playing high school sports. In a statement, Human Rights Campaign wrote, "Self-serving politicians, catering to an extreme portion of their party's base, are showing that they're willing to harm vulnerable kids who just want to play with their friends."

Meanwhile, Governor Kemp has signed a bill instituting a flat rate for state income taxes that will disproportionately benefit wealthy Georgians.

19 of Most Profitable U.S. Corporations Pay Little or No Income Tax

Apr 29, 2022



A new analysis of Fortune 100 investor filings shows that 19 of the most profitable corporations in the United States are paying little or no federal income tax. The Center for American Progress found AT&T and Dow Inc. paid zero federal income taxes last year — despite nearly \$30 billion in earnings, AT&T reported a tax refund of \$1.2 billion. Meanwhile, Amazon, ExxonMobil, Verizon, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and others paid extremely low tax rates.

In related news, shares of Meta — the parent company of Facebook and Instagram — rose by over 17% Thursday, making founder Mark Zuckerberg nearly \$11 billion wealthier in just one day.

Biden Rules Out Canceling \$50,000 of Debt Per Student Borrower

Apr 29, 2022



President Biden on Thursday confirmed he is looking into taking executive action to cancel an unspecified amount of federal student debt in the coming weeks.

President Joe Biden: “I am considering dealing with some debt reduction. I am not considering \$50,000 debt reduction. But I’m in the process of taking a hard look at whether or not there are going to — there will be additional debt forgiveness.”

In response, the Debt Collective demanded the White House cancel more student loan debt, writing in a statement, “For millions of borrowers, many of whom owe six figures, \$10,000 or \$50,000 of relief barely provides a dent in the amount of debt they hold. ... If Biden were to cancel \$10,000 for all 45 million borrowers we’d still have a massive student debt crisis on our hands.” Some Democrats and progressive lawmakers have also been pressuring Biden to cancel at least \$50,000 in student debt — if not more. This is Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer speaking Thursday.

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer: “I again call on the president to take action, which he can do on his own, and hit the financial reset button for millions and millions of Americans. President Biden has done the right thing by continuing the moratorium on student loan payments. His actions have saved millions from financial ruin during the COVID crisis. But borrowers don’t just need their debts paused; they need them erased.”

FDA Proposes Ban on Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars

Apr 29, 2022



Image Credit: Lucas Jackson/Reuters

The Food and Drug Administration has published its plan to prohibit the sale and manufacture of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. Menthol cigarettes are even more addictive — and deadly — than regular cigarettes. The FDA estimates a ban could save 633,000 lives by 2050, with the benefits felt most in the African American community, which for years was targeted by Big Tobacco’s ad campaigns promoting menthol brands such as Newport and Kool. A 2018 survey found 85% of Black smokers prefer menthol cigarettes.

2022-04-29 Ukraine Accuses Russia of Firing Missiles Over 3 Nuclear Power Plants, Raising Fear of a New Disaster

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/29/zaporizhzhia_ukraine_nuclear_risk

Topics [Nuclear Power](#)

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deputy director of the Ukrainian NGO Ecoaction, where his focus is on energy and nuclear energy.

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Image Credit: 3AEC

Nuclear watchdogs are expressing alarm over safety conditions at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which has been under Russian control since early March after a fight that led to a fire near one of the plant's reactors. It is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and located in the largest city in southeastern Ukraine still under Ukrainian control. The Ukrainian government accused Russia of



launching two missiles that flew over the plant earlier this week, and says Russian missiles have also flown near two other nuclear power plants in the country. Ukrainian energy expert Olexi Pasyuk, deputy director of the group Ecoaction, notes that Russian forces likely already disturbed radioactive materials at the Chernobyl zone, scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986. "Zaporizhzhia, where you have reactors in operation and they continue to work now, is a far more dangerous situation," says Pasyuk.

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is expressing alarm over safety issues at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine. Russian forces seized the plant in early March after a fight that led to a fire near one of the plant's reactors. This week the Ukrainian government accused Russia of launching two cruise missiles that flew at low altitudes over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Ukraine says Russian missiles have also flown over two other nuclear power plants in Ukraine.

The IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi described the situation at the plant as a "red light blinking" issue. Zaporizhzhia is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe, and it's located in the largest city in southeastern Ukraine still under Ukrainian control. During a news briefing Thursday in Vienna, Grossi addressed the reports of Russian missiles flying over nuclear power plants.

RAFAEL GROSSI: Any such development, if confirmed, would be extremely serious. I have been saying from the first day of this crisis that the physical integrity of nuclear facilities is an absolute must. And, of course, a missile going astray, or something like this, could have significant — a very significant impact. But we need to go back to Zaporizhzhia. It's extremely important. In Zaporizhzhia, you have tens of thousands of nuclear material, plutonium, enriched

uranium. And we have to be verifying that. So, it's still the open question that we have at the moment.

AMY GOODMAN: IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, speaking Thursday after returning from a trip to Ukraine, where he visited the Chernobyl nuclear power station on Monday, on the 36th anniversary of the plant's meltdown. Russia seized Chernobyl in late February and occupied the highly contaminated area until late March. Grossi vowed to help Ukraine repair damage caused during Russia's occupation. He praised workers at the plant for helping to prevent what could have been another nuclear disaster.

RAFAEL GROSSI: In this case, what we had was a nuclear safety situation that was not normal, that could have developed into an accident. I think the first credit must go to the operators, to these people here, because they carried on their work in spite of all the difficulties, in spite of the stress, in spite of the fact that they could not be working normally. They continued working as if nothing had happened, so they kept the situation stable, so to speak.

AMY GOODMAN: The 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster was the worst nuclear meltdown in world history.

We're joined now by Olexi Pasyuk. He is deputy director of the Ukrainian NGO Ecoaction, where his focus is on energy and nuclear energy, joining us from Ukraine.

Olexi, thanks for being with us once again. Can you talk about this week, I mean, the significance of the 36th anniversary of Chernobyl, with the IAEA director coming to mark that, and at the same time, a few days later, these reports that Russian missiles flew very low down over the largest nuclear power complex in Europe at Zaporizhzhia?

OLEXI PASYUK: Indeed. I mean, Chernobyl is exactly a place which demonstrates what the nuclear industry accident could be, right? It's huge areas of land which continue to be polluted with radioactive materials. Back in '86, it was a huge impact for people who lived there. You had hundreds of thousands who had to flee. And it was an amazing cost, because, basically, it's still Soviet Union, which started to deal with the accident — it's only recently we finally got safe containment of a destroyed reactor, which international community paid over \$2 billion.

So, yes, and, of course, this is particularly kind of a great demonstration of the risk when Russians are coming. Russian army came and occupied Chernobyl power plant. I mean, that's the site where we don't have operating nuclear reactors, so it's less of the risk of the accident of that scale, but we have spent nuclear fuel there, which could also be destroyed and have a release of radioactive materials in the air.

But, of course, Zaporizhzhia, where you have reactors in operation and they continue to work now, is far more dangerous situation also because it was directly attacked. You know, I have to remind that this concern was in place back from 2014, when the war started in Ukraine, in eastern Ukraine, and it was just a couple of hundred kilometers away. And there was already then a discussion: What if missile basically goes the wrong way and attack reactors themselves or the nuclear spent storage facility, and we will have a release? But what happened is that, actually, we just had an attack when the site was shelled by Russian tanks. And it was a very serious accident, because there are different scenarios of what can go wrong at the nuclear power plant, and you don't necessarily need to be directly hitting a reactor or storage to cause problem, because these are the systems where you constantly have to cool down the fuel, and if you have an interruption in the electricity supply and cooling systems stop operating, you start getting into this accident of fuel melting.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you comment on — despite the fact of the risks, there are reports that European nations are embracing the possibility investing in more nuclear energy to be less reliant on gas and oil. What would this mean? And also, what does it mean for Ukraine? What message do you have for them?

OLEXI PASYUK: Well, indeed, there are a few of these discussions, but I think there are different voices on that. For example, in Europe, with all the gas crisis, nuclear is being considered as one of the answers, not so much about building new reactors, because it's long and very expensive, but also there is also an option to extend lifetime of existing reactors, like — and particularly Germany was looking into these options not to

close reactors which they're supposed to close. And they come up with the kind of assessment that it will not make sense, that the risks associated with nuclear is far bigger than benefits, particularly, for example, in this story with natural gas. The issue is that gas, to a large degree, is used for industry and for heating, while that would not be simply compensated by electricity. It's a far more complicated issue.

But I think it's interesting that now we have this demonstration of, you know, a rather theoretical story. It was always theoretical. What happens if there is a military attack on nuclear? And it was never properly considered. It was always seen as something not very realistic. But now everywhere it should be considered as the kind of setting up a nuclear bowling pole of a kind, let's say, which can become attacked and have destruction. You know, it brings me back to my school time, when we have the big independence movement in late '80s in Ukraine, still as a part of the Soviet Union. And I was handed, you know, these leaflets on the streets of Kyiv, where there were a map of Ukraine with the reactors being shown. And the article basically was saying, "Look, Soviet Union, Russia have planted these nuclear bombs on our territory." And, of course, it was this post-Chernobyl moment where the whole anti-nuclear movement was very much connected to independence. But now we're basically getting the proofs that it's very real, it's very practical, and that nuclear brings so many security issues that — yeah, that it isn't worth it.

I also would point out on the political leverage that Russia is getting with nuclear technology. We currently have in European Union a number of countries which operate Soviet-designed reactors and which are dependent on Russian fuel. So, it's similar to gas, you know? We constantly were talking about these gas wars between Ukraine-Russia, Europe-Russia. It was happening for the last couple of decades, when they would just cut on supply, but —

AMY GOODMAN: Well, let me ask you something, on that issue —

OLEXI PASYUK: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: — of Soviet reactors, Russian reactors. The U.S. and Europe are imposing a number of sanctions on Russian oil and gas. Interestingly, the U.S. is not imposing sanctions on Russian uranium, which it imports. Can you comment on this? Do you think it should be included in the sanctions list?

OLEXI PASYUK: Yes, it certainly should be. I think it's — you know, this war is very important. As West don't want to directly intervene militarily, it should use these economic tools. And Rosatom, this nuclear Russian company, this is exactly one of the tools which, as I just was saying, Russia is using as political tool internationally. And it should be basically under sanctions, as well.

There are some of the steps which are happening. For example, in Germany, there are some common joint companies which are reviewing their agreements with Russia. But most of the companies don't. And I think this is also a moment which expose how much different countries, including U.S., are dependent on Russian nuclear industry.

So, yes, I definitely would say that all kind of sanctions on Russian energy supply, and nuclear, in particular, should be implemented. Unfortunately, it's complicated. I think it's problem that we don't realize the scale. For example — for example, what happened in last week, that despite there is a ban on the plane flying to Russia from Europe, there was a special agreement to have one plane coming from Russia to Slovakia to bring nuclear fuel. So, I mean, that shows the scale of this kind of dependence and importance of that.

AMY GOODMAN: And you have this incredible irony that, of course, President Zelensky is really pushing hard for sanctions to be imposed by European countries and the U.S. on Russia oil and gas, but you've got the pipelines of Russia going through Ukraine to Europe, and Ukraine is not cutting those off. I think 30% of the fuel that goes through there — 30% of Europe's fuel that goes through there is through Ukraine.

OLEXI PASYUK: Yeah, but because, I mean, it would be probably wrong politically for Ukraine now dictate Europe whether it buys it or not. It asks, right? So, of course, it's important to maintain there, especially in the situation when the way out is really defeating Russia on the ground, which Ukraine is struggling to do. And it brings us back to the situation in Zaporizhzhia, you know? The reality is that we cannot guarantee

nuclear safety in Ukraine unless the war is over. And we have to remember that Russian army is still staying at Zaporizhzhia power plant, which is still operating. And the issue is, we don't know how it will be over, because now it's a kind of a situation of some kind of unclear stability, when we don't know what is happening on the station, but there is not active combat is happening. But at certain moment, Russian troops will need to retreat, and we don't know how it will be happening and what will be happening then.

AMY GOODMAN: Olexi, we want to thank you so much for being with us. Olexi Pasyuk, deputy director of the Ukrainian NGO Ecoaction, focusing on energy, and particularly nuclear energy. Please be safe. Speaking to us from western Ukraine.

Next up, we go to the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Atlantic* journalist Ed Yong about the — what does he call it? — the “Pandemicene,” how the climate emergency could spark the next pandemic. Stay with us.

2022-04-29 “We Created the Pandemicene”: Ed Yong on How the Climate Crisis Could Spark the Next Pandemic

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/29/ed_yong_pandemicene

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Guests [Ed Yong](#) **Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer at *The Atlantic*.**

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- ["We Created the 'Pandemicene'"](#)
- ["Climate change increases cross-species viral transmission risk"](#)

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Climate change is forcing animal migrations at an unprecedented scale, bringing many previously disconnected species into close contact and dramatically raising the likelihood of viruses leaping into new hosts and sparking future pandemics. That's according to a new study in the journal *Nature*, which predicts that climate-driven disruptions to Earth's ecosystems will create thousands of cross-species viral transmissions in the coming decades. We speak with *The Atlantic*'s Ed Yong, who says this new era can be thought of as the “Pandemicene,” a time defined by the power of viruses over humanity and the wider world. “In a warming world, we'll get lots of these spillover events in which viruses find new hosts, mostly transferring between animal to animal but increasing the odds that they will eventually then spill over into us,” says Yong.

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

As the U.S. COVID death toll approaches 1 million, we turn now to look at how the climate emergency could spark the next pandemic. A new [study](#) published in *Nature* shows the climate crisis and urban sprawl is forcing many wild mammals to relocate to new habitats where they interact with new species, including humans, leading to more viruses spilling over from one species to another. The researchers say this shuffling of viruses in mammals has already started and will increase as the Earth continues to warm.

We're joined now by the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ed Yong. He writes about the study in his new [piece](#) for *The Atlantic* headlined "We Created the 'Pandemicene.'"

Welcome back, Ed, to *Democracy Now!* Why don't you start off by just explaining: What do you mean by the Pandemicene? This is a terrifying article.

ED YONG: Yeah, so, the idea is actually pretty straightforward and intuitive. As the world warms, the world's animals are being forced to relocate into new habitats to track their preferred environmental conditions. As they do this, species that never before coexisted will suddenly find themselves close neighbors. And that gives the viruses that those species carry opportunities to hop into new hosts. So, in a warming world, we'll get lots of these spillover events in which viruses find new hosts, mostly transferring between animal to animal but increasing the odds that they will eventually then spill over into us.

This new study, led by Colin Carlson and Greg Albery, shows that the extent of these events is huge and that they — crucially, that they have already been going on in a very substantial way and in a way that is going to be very difficult for us to address. So, we're used to talking about the Anthropocene, this era of the planet's history where it's dominated by human influence. We are also then living through the Pandemicene, this era where our lives are going to be repeatedly affected by new and reemergent diseases that will come more frequently because of the climatic changes that we have also unleashed upon the world.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you explain the simulation that the scientists of this study created to show the potential hot spots of future viral sharing, as they put it?

ED YONG: So, what they did was to look at maps of where some 3,000 mammal species are now and where they're likely going to be in warmer worlds under various conditions of projected warming. And then they will take different pairs of mammals and look at where those ranges overlap in ways that they currently don't, and then predict how often those overlaps will lead to the kinds of spillovers that I've talked about. It's a huge effort. No study like this has been attempted before, and it took them three years, over the course of the current pandemic, to do it.

But the results are very stark and quite grim. So, for example, it turned out that the hot spots for future spillovers are going to lay in the tropics, areas that are diverse in species and tend to be quite mountainous, so a lot of tropical Africa and Southeast Asia. They're going to proportionately happen in areas that are basically in humanity's backyard, areas that are going to be heavily settled by people, that are already sites of human cities, or will be in the near-term future.

And I think the most worrying part of this is that the simulation showed that these trends have already been going on and that even if all greenhouse emissions — even if all carbon emissions cease today, that this is a train that, once set in motion, cannot be halted, that we have already started this, and it's already underway in this world that has warmed by 1.2 degrees. Of course, there are many other great reasons to try and mitigate climate change as much as possible, but the Pandemicene, once released, cannot be easily unbottled, which means that we are now in a position where we have to expect more of what we're currently going through and try and prepare for it and adapt for it.

AMY GOODMAN: So, Ed, if you can use the example of Ebola and talk about bats and how they are affected by climate change, and what it means for just Ebola?

ED YONG: So, bats are very good at — so, bats fly, obviously, and that allows them to travel over much longer distances than other mammals, which means that they are particular drivers for the kinds of spillover effects linked to climate change that I've talked about. No one really knows the exact reservoir species for

Ebola in the wild, but it's likely to be a bat, and there's 13 possible species. Those species in the future are going to travel, and they're going to create lots and lots of opportunities for their viruses to spill over into a lot of other mammals.

And what that means for Ebola, which is currently a problem mostly for western Africa and a little bit for the east, is that it's likely going to be a problem for other parts of the continent, too. It might well become a problem that — a significant problem that eastern Africa also needs to worry about. And, you know, this is — this is Ebola. It's one disease. This is likely going to be the case for every animal-borne virus that bothers us, including the many tens of thousands that we haven't even discovered yet. This is a global problem. It is a problem not just driven particularly by bats, but not just of bats. It's going to be in hot spots in places like Africa and Southeast Asia, but not just there. It's a planetary problem. We really have rewired the network of animals and viruses in a very dramatic way and in a way that's going to be to our detriment.

The way I think about this is, you know, for a virus — for a new virus to spill over into humans, a lot of things need to line up, all of which are quite unlikely. The viruses need to find intermediate hosts. Those intermediate hosts need to be near people. The viruses need to be compatible enough to affect us. All of these have quite low odds, so it's like playing Russian roulette with a gun that has a million chambers in it. But because we've altered the climate, because we've warmed the world, we have effectively loaded bullets into more of those chambers, and we're now starting to pull the trigger more frequently. We do that enough, we're going to get shot.

AMY GOODMAN: So, what added to the terror in your piece, I mean, these guys, the scientists who did the *Nature* study, assumed the changes they simulated will occur in the later half of this century, but instead their simulations suggested — and they did it over and over — we could be living through the peak era of spillovers right now. So, talk more about that, and specifically about COVID.

ED YONG: Right. So, it's very hard to take any particular virus, like SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID, and say this is a climate-related thing. It's very hard to take the present and then backtrack into the past. But what the simulation shows is that these kind of events are just going to be more likely. So, whether or not climate was the thing that — whether or not climate influenced the emergence of COVID as a disease, it's going to influence the emergence of many similar kinds of events now and in the future.

And as we said, these events have been going on. The risk has been growing beneath our noses, which means that we're now in a situation where we simply have to deal with it. The moment for averting this was a few decades ago. What we have to — what we're forced to do now is to cope with the consequences.

And that means a few things. We can do predictive and preventive work. There are things that we — we can try and better understand and predict which kinds of viruses are going to spill over into us. We can prepare vaccines ahead of time. We can set up surveillance systems in the kind of future hot spots that this study identified. But no amount of that is going to mean that we — no amount of that will negate the risk of pandemics fully. We must expect new diseases to hit us, and hit us in the imminent future. The fact that we're going through one society-upending crisis that we all want to get past right now doesn't give us a pass. We could start the next pandemic tomorrow, or it could have happened already.

And that means that we need to prepare in ways that we seem to be loath to do. We need to shore up our public health infrastructure. We need to make sure that our healthcare system is ready. We need social safety nets, so that the most marginalized and vulnerable people don't get disproportionately hit by whatever comes next, as they have by every epidemic in the recent past. We need to do all those things. And we need — if we are blessed enough to get a lull from COVID, we need to use that time to prepare for future onslaughts of other epidemics, because what this study makes very abundantly clear is that those will happen. People have always predicted that we're going to live through an age of more and more epidemics and outbreaks. This study confirms that that is true. And I think what it absolutely does is show that many of the greatest existential threats to our world right now, like climate change, the rise of new diseases and the sixth mass extinction of wildlife, are really all facets of the same problem. And we need to think of that in that same interconnected way.

AMY GOODMAN: Ed Yong, we want to thank you for being with us, Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer at *The Atlantic*. We will link to your [piece](#), "We Created the 'Pandemicene.'"

Coming up, *The Wobblies*. May Day is Sunday. We'll look at a classic film that tells the story of the IWW, the Industrial Workers of the World. Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: "There Is Power in a Union," written by Joe Hill, from the 1979 documentary *The Wobblies*. Among the voices you just heard in that musical break, Alice Gerrard, Joe Glazer and Mike Seeger, the half-brother of Pete Seeger.

2022-04-29 "The Wobblies": Iconic Film on the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Is Released for May Day

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/29/the_wobblies_documentary_iww_history

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Academy Award-winning filmmaker and co-director of *The Wobblies*.

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The landmark 1979 labor documentary, "The Wobblies," has been restored and rereleased for May Day, International Workers' Day. The film details the history of the Industrial Workers of the World — a radical union whose members are also known as Wobblies — and their inclusive fight to organize "unskilled" workers, secure fair wages and enshrine the eight-hour workday in the early 20th century before they were targeted and repressed by the FBI during World War I. It features interviews with former Wobblies still alive in the 1970s. Deborah Shaffer, who co-directed the film with Stewart Bird, says the IWW "was founded in 1905 out of necessity" because no existing unions represented so-called unskilled labor. "The workers had no representation at all, and they were being expected to work seven days a week, 12-hour days, no breaks, no meals, underpaid, overworked," she says. "Conditions were terrible and intolerable." The high-definition rerelease of "The Wobblies" comes after the Library of Congress added it to the National Film Registry in 2021.

Transcript

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AMY GOODMAN: "There Is Power in a Union," written by Joe Hill, from the 1979 documentary *The Wobblies*. Among the voices you just heard in that musical break, Alice Gerrard, Joe Glazer and Mike Seeger, the half-brother of Pete Seeger.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

This Sunday, much of the world will celebrate May Day, International Workers' Day, amidst a wave of union organizing in the United States that includes scores of Starbucks stores and the newly formed Amazon Labor Union. We end today's show with a film that tells the story of the first union for all workers. *The Wobblies* is a documentary that came out in 1979 and has just been restored and entered into the Library of Congress's National Film Registry.

PROSECUTOR: What's your name?

SAM SCARLETT: Sam Scarlett.

PROSECUTOR: What's your religion?

SAM SCARLETT: The IWW.

PROSECUTOR: That ain't no religion!

SAM SCARLETT: It's the only I got.

PROSECUTOR: Are you a citizen?

WOBBLY 1: No, I am an industrial worker of the world!

JACK MILLER: The one who is a working man could not be denied membership for any reason, as long as he was an actual wage worker. Race, creed, color, any — for any reason.

VIOLET MILLER: Sex.

JACK MILLER: Sex, whatever.

IRMA LOMBARDI: Industrial Workers of the World. "Work, good wages and respect." That's what they wanted for the workers, to be people, not nobody.

ROGER BALDWIN: In the grain fields, we harvested every major grain that grew in North America — wheat, oats, barley, rye.

WOBBLY 2: The heat was 110 to 112 to 114 degrees temperature out in the sun. And you could look across the plains and see a freight train from miles away.

AMY GOODMAN: *The Wobblies*, featuring oral histories with elderly former members of the IWW, who were in their eighties and nineties in the 1970s. It's narrated by the late Roger Baldwin, one of the founders of the American Civil Liberties Union, who died in 1981. This is another clip.

ROGER BALDWIN: But unskilled labor had almost no representation whatever. The AF of L didn't take in unskilled workers. And they had no voice to speak for them. It was these conditions that were largely responsible for the founding of the Industrial Workers of the World.

PREAMBLE: The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

ROGER BALDWIN: I remember reading of the founding convention of the Industrial Workers of the World, which took place in Chicago in 1905 and headed by men who were already well known to newspaper readers — “Big Bill” Haywood, for instance, of Western Federation of Miners, and Eugene V. Debs, candidate for president on the Socialist Party ticket, and Mother Jones and many others.

“BIG BILL” HAYWOOD: Fellow workers, this is a Continental Congress of the working class. I don’t give a snap of my fingers whether skilled workers join this union or not. We don’t need them. There are 35 million workers in this country that aren’t organized yet. What we want to establish at this time is an organization that will open wide its doors to every man or woman that earns his livelihood by brain or muscle.

AMY GOODMAN: The words of IWW leader “Big Bill” Haywood in the film *The Wobblies*.

For more, we’re joined by the Academy Award-winning filmmaker Deborah Shaffer, who co-directed this remarkable documentary with Stewart Bird in 1979. It’s just been restored and screens nationwide on May Day, this Sunday, online at the end of May.

Deborah, welcome to *Democracy Now!* It’s an astounding film. Tell us the story of the Wobblies.

DEBORAH SHAFFER: Well, the Wobblies themselves was a union, as you heard in the clip, that was founded in 1905 out of necessity, really. The workers at that time, unskilled workers, had no unions. There was no such thing. There was an — the AF of L existed, but they only admitted and organized skilled workers, mostly white, mostly male — you know, bricklayers, masons, people with highly skilled jobs. So the masses of industrial workers — remember, this was the early days of industrialization in the United States. The textile mills were booming. The lumber mills were booming. The cotton gins were booming. The workers had no representation at all. And they were being expected to work seven days a week, 12-hour days, no breaks, no meals, underpaid, overworked. Children were working. You know, conditions were terrible and intolerable.

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to go back to your film. In this clip, we hear from Black longshoreman James Fair after, well, one of the founders of the ACLU, Roger Baldwin.

ROGER BALDWIN: In the ports of the Atlantic and of the Gulf Coast, Black and white workers were organized in the same unions, which the AF of L and the established unions did not permit.

JAMES FAIR: Well, we were on the farm, and conditions were just bad. My parents heard of Pennsylvania, and, so to speak, why, you could make up money out of the street. And they decided, you know, to come North. Getting jobs, as far as the Negroes or Blacks is concerned, was pretty rough. And the IWW was the only thing that was accepting Negro or Black workers, you know, without — you know, I mean, freely. We had Fletcher. He was a Negro. And we had one Nef. He was white, but he was a very dedicated union man, both of these men. We would have our pep talks and whatnot. And Fletcher, after he’d make a speech or something or another, “Solidarity, all for one, and one for all.”

We were given the roughest jobs, of course. They would have a rough job or even on deck, and if a white came along, why, I didn’t have no job. I’d have to go back to something else. The work was so rough. We had to use hand trucks, and two men would load that truck with freight, and we’d have to truck it over very rough floors to the side of the ship to be loaded. We worked 10 hours. People were getting hurt one after another, just going to the hospital. We had no medical or safety rules or anything like that.

When the contract ran out, we’d go in for a contract. Nothing doing. We had to go out on strike. The results of that, while we were on strike, people were transported from different parts of the country to break strikes. Some would be having, you know, guns, as same as they were the law. And there would be these vans going down. They would be escorted by police escorts on

motorcycles. And a striker would have as much chance before the strikebreakers as a rabbit would have before a gunner.

AMY GOODMAN: Black longshoreman James Fair. I want to go to another clip of *The Wobblies*. The IWW was creative with its tactics. In this clip, we hear from migratory workers Joe Murphy and Jack Miller.

ROGER BALDWIN: Another one of the IWW tactics was sabotage, which was anything from slowing down on the job to threatening violence, which they didn't practice, as a matter of fact. But it took a scared employer into thinking they did.

JOE MURPHY: *If Freedom's road seems rough and hard,
And strewn with rocks and thorns,
Just put your wooden shoes on, pard,
And you won't hurt your corns.
To organize and teach, no doubt,
Is very good — that's true,
But still you cannot get along without
The Good Old Wooden Shoe.*

The wooden shoe is a symbol of the sabot. The sabot was the French. And a French worker, when he wanted to rest, he'd throw his sabot in the machinery and would break it down. And that's where the word "sabotage" came from.

JACK MILLER: Now, if you want to know what sabotage really means, it don't mean as the French used the word "sabot," throw a wooden shoe into the machine. Nor does it mean burning down sawmills, for what is the reason — what would be the sense in burning down your source of employment?

INTERVIEWER: What did sabotage mean?

JACK MILLER: The conscious withdrawal of efficiency.

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, that's another clip from *The Wobblies*. It is amazing, Deborah Shaffer, that you found these workers, now in their — at the time — I mean, now many of them are dead, of course — in their eighties and nineties. Had a hard time finding coal miners — right? — because they were mostly all dead.

DEBORAH SHAFFER: Yeah, I think our most — finding James Fair, the longshoreman from Philadelphia, was our most challenging. Remember, we made this film in the late '70s. There was no internet. We couldn't put out a call through social media. We actually created a leaflet that we had people hand out on the docks in Philadelphia, a physical, like, color-printed paper leaflet, saying, "Was your grandfather a Wobbly?" Because we knew that there were — there had to be still Black workers living in Chicago — in Philadelphia who had been part of the union. And we eventually found James through, I think, a church that he was a member of, a minister knew and led us to him.

And so, the search for the people was — we weren't sure, when we started, how many people we would find. We knew we had a few in the area around New York. And we just didn't know if we'd find, you know, 10 or 20 still alive, I mean, in 1977. The union had been founded in 1905. So, we were — you know, people, as you said, were already very elderly. They're all gone. I mean, everybody.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to go back to another clip. I mean, this film is so good. The archival footage is unbelievable, as well. In this clip, it's what? 1917, and World War I had begun. We hear from Roger Baldwin, yep, the founder of the American Civil Liberties Union and narrator of this, and *Wobblies* Jack Miller, Nels Peterson and Tom Scribner. It begins with the words of then-American Federation of Labor President Sam Gompers.

SAMUEL GOMPERS: This is the people's war, labor's war. The final outcome will be determined in the factories, the shops, the mines, the farms, the production and transportation agencies of the various countries. The workers have a part in this war equal with our fighting boys.

ROGER BALDWIN: The American Federation of Labor, which, of course, was the established union and are patriotic, engaged in an agreement with the government not to strike during war. The IWW would not subscribe to that. War production required immense quantities of timber, and the IWW really controlled the great timber areas of the Northwest, therefore attracting the government's attention, particularly when the IWW engaged in strikes against the conditions under which logging was done.

TOM SCRIBNER: The general strike developed in the summer of 1917, and it spread up and down the Pacific Coast. And it was led by the IWW.

JACK MILLER: In the summer of 1917, the woods were almost solidly organized. The lumberjack, the most individualistic worker that you can think of, the big man idea, Paul Bunyan complex. Now the solidarity was such, not one logger remained in the camps wherever we could get in communication with that camp to tell them that a strike was on.

NELS PETERSON: They tried every way to break up the strike. They sent soldiers in there, soldiers that had never had an ax in their hand. They didn't know — they'd get lost if they walked around a big stump.

ROGER BALDWIN: They organized the Spruce Division. That's the way they used the Army as strikebreakers.

NELS PETERSON: They called them the Loyal Legion of Loggers. We called them the lousy long-legged loggers — wave the flag with one hand and rob you with the other.

AMY GOODMAN: Another clip of *The Wobblies*. The director, Deborah Shaffer, is with us. There is so much to talk about. But if you could talk about what happened to them in World War I, the Palmer Raids, and their relationship with the more establishment AFL?

DEBORAH SHAFFER: Well, the AFL wanted absolutely nothing to do with the IWW, of course. They saw them as a threat, although I have to say that later — skip over to the end of it, what you're asking me about — the IWW really was the precursor to the CIO. Many, many IWW organizers went on to become organizers for the CIO, the Congress of Industrial Unions, which did represent unskilled workers and was organized in the '30s.

The Wobblies were put out of business by the federal government. There's just no other way to put it. I learned how — in the process of making the film, how really deep and dreadful the repression from the government was, similar to — like, lately we've seen there was a film a couple of years ago about the murder of Fred Hampton, which had been organized by the FBI. And this was a very similar attack on the IWW organized by, you mentioned, A. Mitchell Palmer, who was the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the time. His eager beaver young assistant was J. Edgar Hoover. And they arrested people right and left. They deported any immigrant workers. Anybody who didn't have their citizenship papers were just put on boats and deported out of the U.S., never to be allowed to return. A hundred and one members, and mostly leadership people, all across the country were arrested in 1917 during the war. They were arrested and charged with sedition, put in jail. In the end, it was a sham trial. And they were —

AMY GOODMAN: We have 15 seconds.

DEBORAH SHAFFER: They were charged with — they were given 20 years in prison for having organized the IWW. I just want to say I find, shockingly, the film is more relevant now than it was when we released it in '79. That's what surprises me.

AMY GOODMAN: And it's being put into the Library of Congress's National Film Registry, which is incredible, soon to be available to everyone, opening on May Day, which is Sunday. That does it for today's show. Deborah Shaffer, I want to thank you for being with us, co-director with Stewart Bird of the 1979 documentary *The Wobblies*, that's just being released once again. This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org. Happy May Day, everyone! I'm Amy Goodman. Stay safe.