

TO LISTEN TO THIS CALL:

- GO TO BBS RADIO 2 & SCROLL DOWN THE SCHEDULE UNTIL YOU REACH SATURDAY.
- CLICK ON "HISTORY OF OUR GALACTIC WORLD & NESARA" & THE INFORMATION PAGE WILL COME UP.
- UNDERNEATH THE PICTURE OF THE GALAXY AND THE LOTUS, YOU WILL SEE A BLUE BOX WITH THE WORDS **PROGRAM ARCHIVES**.
- CLICK ON THAT BOX TO GET TO THE LISTING OF PROGRAM ARCHIVES: latest ones are at the top.
- YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE PROGRAM TO YOUR OWN COMPUTER OR LISTEN DIRECTLY.

Opening & Meditation: Cheryl Croci

Everyone is invited to Cheryl Croci's Sunday and Monday ascension and activation calls
• 8:45 pm EST/5:45 pm PST • 213-342-3000; PIN 9467441#

Housekeeping: Rainbird

- BBS:**
- A listener supported radio call - Grateful for all the donations from all of us!
 - **We owe \$ 623 for this week & the last 2 weeks. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**
Many people are sending small amounts - that works! Every small amount adds up.
 - Go to BBS radio.com; at top of home page, click on Station 2 where you will find the listing of the 3 calls we have every week. Click on either or both of Stargate Round Table, MariettaRobert's website, and 2013 Rainbow Round Table, T & R's site. Scroll down to find the Paypal button on either or both of the sites.
 - Website: <http://2013rainbowroundtable.ning.com> - scroll down on home page, close to blog page to find the donate button - can indicate whether it's for BBS or T&R

- T & R:**
- **Rent is paid up!**
 - Need \$ for a bill + \$ for food, gas
 - Can access the paypal account on home page of 2013 RainbowRose Roundtable
<http://2013rainbowroundtable.ning.com>

- **Can trade with T & R for readings by Mother Sekhmet**
- **Please let them know if you'd like a reading or when you are gifting:**

E-mail: koran999@comcast.net
 Mintaka9999@yahoo.com

Mail: Ram D Berkowitz
 1704 B Llano St, # 249
 Santa Fe, NM 87505

Or contact MariettaRobert at 317-773-0061

- The work we do together, the sharing we do - all of this is important: thank you all for sharing!
- As we assist T & R so they can focus on the work at hand, we are also assisting ourselves.

Phone Numbers: 530 - 413 - 9537 line 1

 530 - 763 - 1594 Lines 2 & 3

BBS Toll Free 888 - 429 - 5471 [Canada, US]

T: reminding all that we are conduits for the information which is coming through; as we give our physical, monetary support, it helps; they have been told by many sources that next week will be something else!

Ed Schultz' tv show: doing segments on the Republicans

Guest Bernie Sanders: in the process of rallying people across the country, he has heard people saying

- when the middle class is under assault, don't attack social programs!!!
- **social security has nothing to do with the deficit;** it is paid for by the pay roll tax - thing to do is lift the cap which is now at \$113,000; lift the cap and start at \$250,000 means Social Security will be strong for many years - **need to remind Barack Obama of his idea!**

Ed: There is **no appetite for this budget!**

BS: NO - it is bad public policy to be going after those already suffering

- At their rally, they had AARP and AFL-COA; every vet organization and disability group;
- **DO NOT BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACK OF THE ELDERLY AND THE SICK-** maybe Obama thinks he will be able to make a deal with the Republicans
- He needs to say loud and clear that he is standing with the middle class
- Has the vast majority of the people with them

ED S: **they won the election** - should be able to handle them

- the key is jobs and health and middle class families - why is he doing this?

BS: has done a good job on gay rights, gun control and in other social issues - but on economic issues which impact all in the country, about putting food on the table, can our kids go to college:

- he has not been strong and social security is one of those areas.
- Youth unemployment has taken off - don't want society to be an oligarchical society

T: the long history of Ariel Castro: the Cleveland monster and kidnapper
From Democracy Now

[SEE BELOW]

R: **Randi Rhodes** has been talking of events in Cleveland: time to gut the whole police dep't, start again

Camp Loveway: Joe Rogan talked about Bill Hicks and the journey we are all on; he spoke of this particular eclipse and the financial ramifications:

- These guys are broke, playing with a loaded deck of cards; the bottom will fall out and they will have to explain. They would initiate emergency powers - in terms of global economic markets, we are dangling by superman's hair
- Rama's comments: St Germain is the answer to the story. St G knows about the 800 metric tonnes of gold and maybe Hillary will be raked over the coals about it next week- really, John McCain is in love with Lindsay Graham! That is really the biggest story!

T: it is John and Lindsay who were making such a deal of Benghazi!

R: Joe Rogan said that Darryl Issa is up to his crown chakra in blood over this story; he is no saint and got into Congress because he played with hedge funds like all the rest; he got bought by Marduk, one of the Annunaki overlords who the 13 families have to answer to, who they describe as their "benevolent elders" who want to create a more peaceful society!!!

- this is the lie! The 13 families consider themselves the gate keepers: so said the man who wrote the book called **The Family** which has to do with the overlords who are filthy rich and dole out a pittance to their hedge fund managers who get a pretty penny! servants and others to do the hedge funds. As Joe said, when the underlings have to meet these Marduk and their minions, and the White Dragons who are really in charge here it's a story right out **Star Gate SG1**, these ones are like the evil Ra and Anubis, the worst side of Mother's people.

- Joe went on about the piece not told about the financial structures that tie in with the Old World

Order, loosely tied into Hollywood, psychedelics, and the Avengers and Stan Lee with the X Men; Joe said: Miss Hillary - you owe Stan Lee an apology for the money you stole from him. He gave her a campaign donation in 1995/6; has to do with the money she stole from Keatings Savings and Loan with her husband

- It's about the matrix which is coming unglued as we speak.

Ed Schultz: this is about one thing and one thing only: Secretary Clinton - the Repubs are seeking to smear Hillary; it is all an attempt to create something that will bring down Obama

- Cheney called the Benghazi a "failure of leadership" - they were always prepared ahead of time!!!
- House Republicans voted to cut back the security money for embassies around the world
- there is a lot of re-hashing of information

Guest: Laurence Wilkerson, former Chief of Staff for Colin Powell

- **principal reason for the hearings: to defame Hillary and the 2016 election**
- **also to cover what is happening in Iraq!** Time for the writer of the article to go to Walter Reed and see the results of the Bush Cheney war in Iraq [writer of article Ed referred to]

Ed asks about talking points: yes, they do change quickly - partly to continue upgrading the info, partly to get the info out to the public

- Wilkerson's chief concern: **the CIA was involved; this means there is a cover-up somewhere!**

Ed asks about Cheney's comments about being prepared:

- Wilkerson saw that Dick Clark and Colin Powell were the only ones concerned about Al Qaeda - all the others were only concerned about Iraq!

Ed: Does money make a difference?

- Yes, it does and congress has been penurious: the situations in various embassies have not been addressed!

T: WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO GET TO THE TRUTH???

T: Now there is another complex: the **Student Loan Complex** and Sally Mae making money off the students

- **Chris Hayes:** Sallie Mae is making a good living by itself; the colleges are also benefiting by hiking the cost of tuition, and by higher evaluations on their holdings in Sally Mae
- Tara reads the conversation between Chris Hayes, Ryan Grimm and Shahien Nasiripour **[SEE BELOW]**

Audio: Democracy Now: Trial of Efraim Rios Montt, former Guatemalan Dictator **[SEE BELOW]**

Audio: Democracy Now: With Father and Sister Imprisoned, Exiled Bahraini Activist Maryam Alkhwaja Condemns Ongoing Abuses **[SEE BELOW]**

T: [Richie Havens - Going Back To My Roots - YouTube](#)



www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3SDa4jBojc

Aug 4, 2010 - Uploaded by MisterZonkerHarris

Zippin' up my boots, goin' back to my roots To the place of my birth, back ... Richie Havens: Reflections

Audio: segment from Citizens Hearing on Disclosure: Dr Robert Woods & Dr Stephen Greer

- Begin with closing comments of several of the Congress members
- Darlene Hooley [Dem, OR] - started out as a sceptic; privilege to hear their testimony

Dr Robert Wood: started as an engineer in McDonald Douglas

Dr Stephen Greer:

- refers panel to Nick Pope's book on the Zero Point Energy
- when Tesla died, the info he had about having cars run on air was taken by the FBI - have refused to turn the info over
- In 1940s and late 30s, UFO sightings - there were Foo Fighters - thought it was a Nazi secret weapon the Foo fighters were inter dimensional bodies
- Wilber Smith document from 1951 - Canada -Edward Keller and others in the team studying Oct 1954: have intelligence that all this went deep black - we have not needed rockets, jets, or surfaced roads between cities!!!!!! Since October, 1954!!!!
- ET materielle - the Roswell event was a take down by an EMG beam - then there were trans dimensional physics that were beginning to be studied! And there
- Milky Way galaxy is 100 thousand light years across: could a space craft make that journey - why is the speed of light such a big problem?
- Rep. Woolsey's question to the panel:
 - Dr Wood: says **there is a truth embargo issue first of all** -
 - also need to emphasize the importance of creativity for creating the next set of equations
- Dr Greer: to protect people: issue supoenas, provide marshalls

PLEASE LISTEN TO THIS SEGMENT - WELL WORTH THE EFFORT.

Background on the issues that are quite complex

Music: from Playing for Change: Mothers can change the world.

Women's Right Advocate: Roshne here now in Nepal

**Audio: Astarius I invoke and dream away - Spirit Rap: Song of Ascension
Astarius.com**

Astrology: Richard

Thur: solar eclipse 20* of Taurus; conjunct

Fri: moon conjunct Venus;

Sat: sun conjunct Mercury today

- Heavy concentration of energies in Taurus: time of grounding energies, receiving downloads
 - Sun, Mercury Mars - Jupiter still in Gemini 20*; moon will conjunct Jupiter tomorrow
 - Moon is void of course in Gemini, after the conjunction
- Gemini - energy of Nixon: telepathic, electrical - good night for remembering OBEs

Monday: moon in Cancer early morning; moon is far enough into Cancer to trine Neptue, Venus will square

Neptune around 4 in the afternoon - so the wisdom component of Neptune with the beauty of ???

- challenging us to dream up a more beautiful situation
- Venus in Gemini: think about your relationship with you
- Mercury will be in Gemini on Wed, so we will get a thoughtful mental energy going in too

Tuesday: moon in Cancer all day; moon opposite Pluto Tues morning

Wednesday am: moon goes void of course for the last part of Cancer and goes into Gemini

Thurs, Fri - moon in Leo, trine to Uranus - could be a time of some kind of outbreak - emotional component

Saturday: VERY ACTIVE! Moon will be void of course in Leo; Moon opposes Neptune Sat afternoon; a mental moon this weekend, and will have a mental moon next weekend. - time for accurate thinking and finding out the truth!

- Have a new lunar cycle which started on Thursday: have new creative potentials
- 19th last day of sun in Taurus - will really have some power being added to this matrix as sun goes into Gemini
- Think about this: Venus goes into Gemini yesterday; Mercury goes into Gemini on 15/16 both coming out of Taurus when there were 4 in Taurus. Sun goes into Gemini on 21st - Pluto will be at 12* of Capricorn, and Uranus moves slowly and will be in 12*; on the 20th Mercury will be in the 12th * - we will have some action here:
- Mercury Venus Mars - could be considered personal planets; Jupiter is not such: maybe more about dark matter - also that **the universe is expanding at an ever increasing rate** - where does that energy come from?
 - The people in the program he watched were using the term "dark energy" to explain that. We don't know that the field is expanding because we are in the middle of it ourselves - the cells in our bodies are expanding, too though we are not aware of it.
- Gemini is about using your power of choice wisely: this is time to find the resolution of polarity which is one of the higher level lessons for incarnating - bringing together Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.
- Gemini is I THINK; it is also brothers and sisters, and twins
- the colours of Gemini is just about all of them! Versatile, flexible, sociable, curious
- Still have Pluto/Uranus square - is exact on the 20th
- Still have our supportive trine: Saturn and Neptune working together - Neptune at 6* Pisces

T: asks about Annie Rose' idea of massive explosion of information:

Ri agrees - Mercury and Sun as they get into Gemini: likely an explosion of information, yet only heaven can set the time of that event - these next 30 - 35 days - pick a day!

- Mercury conjunct Jupiter - on 27th, at the time that Moon conjuncts Pluto - good transformation time
- Venus conjuncts Jupiter on 28th - with 36 hours of Mercury doing the same

Ri: Mercury went into Gemini on 15th - will be travelling very fast and will only be in G for 16 days

- everything will be travelling fast as we get into Gemini:
- use the final week of Taurus to get your affairs in order, any loose ends could get us!

T: at 5* Sag - lunar eclipse!

Ri: Pretty close to a trine with Uranus - brings in the desire energy. Everything Sag wants to know more

T: how will this affect the US and its situation - from Fri to the 26th?

Ri: only 12 hours apart; he does a lot of wishful thinking these days

- consider on 21st when moon is in Libra - a double trine with Mercury and Libra; will also make a T square

with Pluto and Uranus

- Moon will also trine Jupiter and Neptune

T: How does this help, these 4 trines with the moon?

Ri: As we become more conscious and more telepathic, we are getting non-verbal signals; as we get air interactions, we are working on the mental plane where creative visualization takes place:

(1) create the idea/desire; (2) bring in the picture: creative visualization/using mental tools; (3) add the emotional layer/earth plane - adding power to thought; Step (4) is the birth of the manifestation.

This is the **primary creative process**.

T: on the 30th, a triple trine - another air trine because Moon is in Aquarius and all 3 will be in Gemini on the 30th: Mercury, Venus, Jupiter

Ri: just to kick it up a notch: Mars goes into Gemini on the 31st; after June 1 goes into Cancer - we will have 4 planets in Gemini for a couple of days; in early June, will be left with the end of the lunar cycle with Mercury leaving Gemini, for Cancer on 1st, Venus leaving Gemini and going into Cancer on the 3rd

- Sun, Mars and Jupiter are still left in Venus: expansion of Jupiter is feeding spiritual solar energy and Mars energy/our outward expression - into creation

T: Rama's people told him today the world's economy is hanging by less than a hair!

Ri: what better time for a welcome mat for the galactics?

T: Annie Rose also said: as US is a Cancer, there is a double whammy for a Cancer between the 2 eclipses

Ri: once you've learned something, cannot put it back into the box!

Reading: Elizabeth Peru - deltawaves.com.au [SERIES OF ARTICLES ON NEW MOON]

[SEE BELOW]

Reading: Cosmic Weather: New Moon in Taurus/Solar Eclipse~Clouds, Roots & Wonder [SEE BELOW]
Irma Kay Sawyer

Conference Call

finishes the piece she was reading before, listed above

www.facebook.com/elizabeth_peru <http://www.deltawave.com.au>

Caller: happy that Richard's opinion meshes with Annie's

T: now we need to pay attention: energy goes where thought flows; look up and get to know the stars like they are your next door neighbour **Caller:** asking if triple trines make the energies stronger

T: yes, on 21st, Moon trine Mercury at 7:33 am PDT; moon trine Venus at 12:24 pm PDT

Caller: have we ever had energies like this?

T: we are in a triple trine at this time and its 2014: Barbara Hand Clow says we are in a series of eclipses that won't end until 2015 - **this is the most important time for the earth**

R: it's why Joe Rogan said the entire economy is being held by Superman's hair

T: when she studied with the man from India, a Brahmin, she and others learned how to meditate and lift

people above their heads with no problem

T: Another double trine - just after midnight in CA: goes trine in Jupiter which means expansion, and we are expanding farther apart every 4 hours! If you reject expansion, and love, truth and beauty, the rejection causes spontaneous combustion in the heart.

- Then the moon goes into Neptune at 10:25 in the evening, a little less than 12 hours later - moon in Neptune is visionary, idealistic; if we are not grounded, it can be illusion, confusion, vagueness;
- It can be mediumistic - messages from other beings; imaginative; inspirational - so the expansion, vision, benevolence of Jupiter

- Triple trine is on May 30th; the week following 21st and 22nd - all three of these trines, the moon is in Aquarius at 10:21 in the morning; the

Caller2: did you hear about those who volunteered to go to Mars and were not allowed to come back?

R: said it was a private group, wanted to go to Mars to migrate: he has been to Mars to the inner part where the Ashtar Command has bases; it is wonderful and beautiful: some went there when Maldek went super nova and there was no water on the surface, so they went inside.

- The story he knows from Monka and Kortonn is about the secret gov't of earth and those playing with secret Mars and Earth programs that are not aligned with the Office of the Christ.
- Barack Obama survived the trip [in the Jump Chair] because of his genes; he comes from the Bantu people in Africa who are very telepathic - they are runners! He runs every morning for an hour!

Caller: Is this an experiment from the secret gov't? **R:** what he knows from those who have played with the looking glass technology and the Jump Chair is that neither are exactly in line with the O of the Christ.

Caller: thought they should have a choice about coming back

T: they have been having a slave labour camps all over Mars and people have been taken there since the time of Atlantis to be slaves - they have lived for thousands and thousands of years as slaves!

R: Andrew Assiago has an article about what Obama saw on the surface of Mars, not exactly human - Rama has not seen any of this stuff: not part of his cycle to see that

Caller2: should she put them in the Circle of Support? Does not sound right!

T: speak up about that on Sunday and Monday - good idea.

Caller got a telepathic message about this. **T:** today all the things coming up are very deeply emotional as we are at the end of all the suffering in Bahrain, Guatemala, and other places - this is the 39th year that T has been involved. **Everyone who came in this time came in to help heal this -**

Caller: what are the dates of the beginning and ending of the Guatemala events?

T: people know nothing of this; have never been taught how to handle this kind of information.

- Since 9/11 they are all millennial children - they will be here or will be back.

- Spiritual economics is the order of the day - **NESARA is not about money, but the ability to respond to what is needed to create the balance**

Caller2: the lightworkers are grounding the Taurus energies; as we go into Gemini energies, it's about bringing things forth

Caller3: asks T how she is: **T:** they watch so much, it brings up a lot of tears, but it is also so joyous

Caller3: when you mention 250,000 - what are you talking about? What happened?

T: go to **Democracy Now** and watch all of Friday's show: it is the trial in Guatemala - 250,000 Mayans were killed, and 250,000 Somalians died in the last 3 years from starvation; half of them 5.

Caller3: Are you saying approximately 1/8th of a million children crossed over in last 3 years?

T: Yes, and 1/4 million people in Guatemala

Caller3: who is prosecuting?

T: **International Criminal Court** but they are holding the trial in Guatemala - want to go further and prosecute the Commandant [current President of Guatemala] and then the Gov't of America for providing the guns etc etc - people need to look at this:

Caller2: Sextile Capricorn and Scorpio - Capricorn deals with gov't, Scorpio goes for all under the surface - cleans things out

T: B Hand Clow said that combination works together until end of 2015. We need to clean up our life style, do meditation, watch our diet and so on. All the things that are going on are forcing us to look: there is nothing to do but look, and the media is focussing in more and more and more: people like Amy Goodman and all the Whistleblowers.

T: speaks of our Bahraini sister who has a father and a sister both in prison in Bahrain - two millenials already in place, doing their job - and we [US] are aligning ourselves with the Bahraini royalty because we have our ships in their harbours!

- She is articulate and clear thinking: she has been doing this all her life because her parents and her sister have been working on this all her life and so she has learned.
- The children are making the difference all around the world.

Caller2: feels the timeline is crumbling as it is so ugly

Caller3: thank you for sharing

Caller4: you talked of Hillary being cloned several times: who is operating the clones?

T: the dark side is operating the clones; she was removed lawfully from the planet by the White Knights for what she did in Waco, Texas - she dressed 4 black ops as soldiers; they put nerve gas in the windows of the buildings and incapacitated all inside; then they went in with masks on and put bullets through the heads of the leaders; 6 men, then put white phosphorus in and set the building alight; the women and children were still alive, just unable to move and they burned to death!

Caller4: asks about reasons for cloning

T: the dark side does it to keep on living and extending their influence

- cloning has been on the planet since the Annunaki came here: Jimmy Carter was killed in 1977 by the dark side; he was a clone from the time he went into office. He only found out in 1999 that he was a clone; **he is JFK Sr's brother** - his father was the same man as JFK Sr's father

Back on BBS:

- Why are there still clones of Hillary still running around? The dark has killed and cloned; the white has also cloned people to keep them alive; Jimmy Carter wanted to do good, so the Light cloned him.
- Carter was killed by Bush Sr; the clone was put in by the White Knights. Bush Sr killed the clone of JFK

Sr and Jack will be back as he is alive and well.

- About Hillary: as the dark makes a move, the light does too;
- Things started in earnest on Oct 1, 1979 and the situation would not be visible until the end of the whole walk, the very end - and we are in those times - we will see the end!
 - The Iran hostage situation was created by Bush Sr so Carter would not be re-elected! Those of us who are awake and aware need to help our neighbours - not shoot those who are doing dark things, but think of them, treat them with praise, respect thanks and love
 - There is a Prime Directive about not intervening except in case of nuclear or psychic holocaust.
- Richard in the astrology spoke of Gemini on Monday May 24: Gemini is short trips, communication, it's SISTERS AND BROTHERS! So the energy of all on the planet is working to bring peace together -
- Mother even extended the time to give free will choice to as many people from the dark and the light who wanted to change their minds and come back to love.
 - This is why Faction 3 has no contact with F 2. F3 is in the 5th dimension, Ashtar Command; any interactions between them might take away the free will of those in F2 and the energy of free will must be maintained until the end
 - when Mother comes at the end of the dispensation, she levels the playing field and she is more merciful than she is just
- we have 250,000 Mayans who were killed in Guatemala - they are also people of colour
- we have the 250,000 in Somali that were let go of [ignored] by the international community
- We also talked about awareness: when we start talking about painful things, we are the perpetrators by virtue of the fact that the United States of Altea America represents Egypt: North, South and Central America is North, South and Central Egypt. **This is the first time on the planet where the entirety of the balance comes to fruition** - each of us have had many lifetimes as both sexes, all colours, all ethnicities, some have been here for billions of year, others for millions, others for thousands, others for very short times.
 - the ones called Holy Innocents did not have to live through this horrid experience: lived as angels, beings of light working from the other side - their purpose was to hold the light while we volunteered to limit our abilities - we started by co-creating the body in the 5th dimension;
 - it was in the time of Atlantis when the warlords from the 5th dimension usurped the powers of those living on the planet: one of them killed Ramtha's mother; because he was so very angry, he held a grudge - they were still in 5th dimension ; the warlords came in and used sidereal weapons and caused the 5th dimension to fail. Ramtha ascended but first his 3rd chakra was blown apart - he was taken to Hyperborea [5th] for healing, thanks to intervention by ???
- during Atlantis, we destroyed the great crystal that was the nerve centre of the crystal webs around the planet. The crystals are the size of greyhound buses!
- As a result, the earth suffered, people, animals - all forms of life on the planet. The xenon gas surrounding the planet had a hole blown in it due to the use of laser weapons: **our gifts came from this xenon gas**. In addition to the hole created in the atmosphere, the explosion blew 7 miles into the earth and cracked the 800 mile thick crust
 - We nearly went super - nova but for the angels; Isis and the Ashtar Command created the Belt of Isis - the sling that saved us at the time; it started at the moon, a field of energy to the Azores off Africa, came across to the island called Eluthra and anchored itself in Hawaii.
 - there are tons of dolphins and whales and octupii that hang around that energy: they are human

souls too - there are parts of the sea that are totally black, the light that is there is magnetic: this is the divine leila that we co-created with Mother.

- Also there is nothing unnatural about the ice caps going - yet we have gone over 400 ???
- we have created methane gas which is far worse than carbon dioxide: this is why the agri business is so damaging to the planet: pigs make more do-do than people, which contains 10x more methane gas; there is also the suffering, torture, mutilating of animals killed for food - the result of agri businesses
- The clones are here because we, the people, are the clean-up committee
 - with Capricorn in Scorpio; it's a 4 year period - the eclipses started in 2012 and go on until 2015 - read Barbara Hand Clow to learn what is happening. Astrotheology combines science and astrology - **THIS IS THE MOST POWERFUL ENERGY THE PLANET HAS EVER HAD POURED INTO IT.** Oct 1, 1979 to Oct 1, 2012 was 33 years; we are in 34th year and we are actualizing together what is going on now.
- The young woman from Bahrain can no longer go back to her own country - she is speaking, at 25, about what young people need to learn. A lot of the millenials are Holy Innocents; they come here as the heroes and beyond. This is what we mean when we say our children come before us, they are more advanced. Those of us who are old, old, old souls: we have more and more responsibility; we would not be here if we weren't willing es; we come with the heights of ascension and the lows of the degradation that's going on on the planet at the moment - which means we have learned about the midpoint, the Buddha, the balance which LM Ma'at, the name of Mother's future self.
- Lady Ma'at is the future of Mother: Mother always says she came from our future into her past to help us - Steve Greer nailed them for who they are - they killed his wife, his partner - they have tried more than once to kill him, and he is still here because the Ashtar Command and his own background [as a physicist and a physician] are helping him.
- Rana Mu is from 175 million years in the future; she came back in a form [body] voluntarily to give us a message: 175 million years in the future, one third of the MWG is missing; I came here to live with you and guide you and show you how the power of numbers is what will get the job done: the power of sitting together and discussing, each minute - T is grateful for the question from Caller 4!!!
 - The contributions to keep this conversation alive on BBS radio are so important - it is not just any radio station: the twins and Seth who keep the station going: there is no one who holds the power to change things by his or her self: **all the connections with purpose are required and they need to be supported.** There are no beggars, except divine ones. This goes back to the Hindu tradition in India; her teacher was born into the Brahmin class, they are teachers and call themselves Divine Beggars; they come & teach anyone who wants to learn; they ask for a donation in exchange.
- Yesu in the west and Buddha, who is the identical soul vibration, in the east: they talk about the middle way, being in the world, yet not of it; they receive what they need to sustain life so they can be in a limited venue and in this limited form [ie, on the planet in bodies - no longer in 5D or higher]; the Divine Beggar teaches only love and has learned how to teach only love or else he or she is not a teacher; that is why we are asking for contributions. We are ending a monetary system that has nothing to do with the entire story we have been talking about.
- So we could get really angry with the clones of Hillary that show up: yet we love her more: she has

divinity, humanity, free will choice every split second down to the last millisecond to ask Mother to come back to love: this Mother's Day is an important time - there are only Mothers Days from now on! The NESARA plan is to heal the mother in all of us! Not one more dead bodies, please and thank you!

- Let's get rid of blanket statements: "They think I'm crazy; I won't ask them!" The energies are changing. The young girl from Bahrain teaches about love - power comes from having the power of love. The power Barack Obama has is limited by the beings surrounding him: Congress, Supreme Court, many of them being Opus Dei who kill for the Pope. Knowledge of this is power and we combine that knowledge with love and we get love - faith, hope, love/charity - I AM THAT I AM! That is the original cause of our Being-ness at this time

BTW: The event at the clothing factory is heading toward 1200 people dead in Bangladesh.

- This period of time, the month of May, is both/and - the pain and the success; the seed struggling to grow. That is the divination of the co-creation of this form we co-created and lived in with Mother in the Lyran Constellation: we are all healed when one is healed, and we are all harmed when one is harmed - we could go to higher learning about the stars -
- Because Tara knew that the genealogy is passed on through the mother, they agreed that her last name would be given to the son: Micah Neru Hollis Green; his e-mail address is greenalchemist!
- When you do things with purpose, our children do come before us! The trauma so many children go through - when they die from starvation under the age of 5, they are sacrificing themselves - they are choosing parents they can help to awaken more

R: at this time, the Holy Innocents coming through right now are speaking truth to power

- Joe Rogan spoke of this on **Camp Loveway** - the daughter spoke of the quickening happening at such a deep level, and the elements are taking notice and saying "do you see me?" Remember the movie "Fifth Element".

• Cartoon physics is a reality now: we are awakening and a lot of it is just remembering where we were, and it is all coming back now. Tara says **Mr Obama cannot do anything without us** - this is the change the millenials are talking about: 18 - 26 year olds are moving the energies at quantum light speed. What R sees on late tv and Free Speech is amazing: how we are doing this together with these really advanced consciousnesses. We are experiencing the quantum field, and the field is experiencing us - as we think of it, it manifests - keep the thoughts pure, keep the tongue pure.

Reading: 2013, May 6

Wisdom of the Fairies by Fairy Bluebell

[SEE BELOW]

Audio: The Radiant Rose Academy:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=7FXiDfjrn9Q

Published on 30 Apr 2013

Beloved Jesus the Christ Emmanuel delivered a beautiful discourse in Syracuse New York in the event "Liberty - The 7th Golden Age " <http://www.akashaonline.com/downloads...> So important is this message/gift that the Great Divine Director has asked us to listen or read this message everyday to truly give it birth into our lives and become the great I AM that we all are. This is an extraordinary intervention in our lives and an amazing message from our Beloved King of Kings, the Ascended Jesus

Christ Emmanuel

Mother Akasha:

"There is another Path to embrace after your Awakening and one that, if you choose, can lift and raise you up and out of the limitation of human strife, raising you into the highest vibration of Light & Love, a path of Higher Consciousness. It is called "The Path of Becoming your True Self" on Earth, also known as "The Path of Resurrection". As you embrace this path, a great raising & expanding activity unfolds within your mind and your feelings, your consciousness, and ultimately your physical garments. You are awake, your Life calls upon you to rise now & become on Earth your True Glorious Self 'I AM' individualized of Mother/Father God.

It is a path in which there begins to be experienced by you the second birth, lightning flashes of sudden Light within your mind, great outpourings of Love within your being, all that prepares you in the centre of your consciousness to enter into The Secret Heart of your God Nature, and to pass through 'The Door of Everything' where you will drink of the Waters of Life, the greatest Love of all, The Mother's Love, the Love of the Heavenly Mother that individualizes as your Soul. When that Love begins to express through you it will reveal its Presence and it will nurture and fulfil all that your mind dares to conceive. Your Soul is the Sacred Womb of The Divine Mother of our Universe, Individualized, just as the Christ is the Individualized Mind of The Father."

Reading: Voices from our Ancestors on the subject of spiritual practice

Closing: Rainbird

Music:

FOLLOWING - PRINTED RESOURCES RELATED TO THE NOTES

2013, May 9 **Did Police Negligence & Suspect Ariel Castro's Unpunished Domestic Abuse Prolong Victims' Captivity?**

http://www.democracynow.org/2013/5/9/did_police_negligence_suspect_ariel_castros



[Behind the Cleveland Kidnappings, A Culture of "Toxic Masculinity" & Gender-Based Violence](#)

Guests [Eric Sandy](#), staff writer at the *Cleveland Scene*, a weekly newspaper.

Related ["The Long History of Ariel Castro, Cleveland Kidnapper and Monster."](#)
[Eric Sandy. \(Cleveland Scene\)](#)

Ariel Castro was arraigned in a Cleveland court today on charges of kidnapping three young women and holding them captive in his house for 10 years. All three women — Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michele Knight — had vanished in seemingly separate cases when they were between the ages of 14 and 21. Berry's six-year-old daughter, who was born in captivity, was also rescued. Officials said the three women were at times bound in chains or rope, and endured starvation, beatings and sexual assaults. Eric Sandy, a reporter at the weekly newspaper Cleveland Scene, joins us to discuss Castro's background, including the brutal abuse of his ex-wife for which he was never jailed.

Transcript

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: We begin today's show in Cleveland, where a former school bus driver named Ariel Castro is due in court today to face the charges he kidnapped three young women and held them captive in his house for 10 years. Their imprisonment came to an end on Monday when a 911 dispatch operator received this phone call.

AMANDA BERRY: Hello, police. Help me! I'm Amanda Berry.

911 DISPATCH OPERATOR: You need police, fire or ambulance?

AMANDA BERRY: I need police.

911 DISPATCH OPERATOR: OK, and what's going on there?

AMANDA BERRY: I've been kidnapped, and I've been missing for 10 years, and I'm—I'm here. I'm free now.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: That was the voice of Amanda Berry. She had been missing since 2003. Police soon rescued Gina DeJesus and Michele Knight inside the same Cleveland house. Berry's six-year-old daughter, who was born in captivity, was also rescued. All three women had vanished in seemingly separate cases when they were between the ages of 14 and 21. Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus have returned to their homes. Michele Knight is still in the hospital, where she was listed in good condition.

Officials said the three women were at times bound in chains or rope, and endured starvation, beatings and

sexual assaults. On Wednesday, authorities announced charges against their alleged captor, Ariel Castro. City of Cleveland prosecutor Victor Perez detailed the charges.

VICTOR PEREZ: Regarding this case, I just signed criminal complaints charging Ariel Castro with four counts of kidnapping and three counts of rape. These seven criminal complaints are first-degree felonies.

AMY GOODMAN: Ariel Castro had been initially arrested along with his two brothers, but on Wednesday authorities said the brothers will not face charges. Questions are now being raised about whether police negligence prolonged the victims' captivity. Several neighbors have said they had called police in recent years to report alarming activity. One neighbor, Israel Lugo, said he and his family called the police after seeing women chained naked in the backyard of the home.

ISRAEL LUGO: My niece seen a naked girl in the backyard. And that same day, four old ladies came from the business around the corner saying the same thing, that they seen four—that they'd seen three girls in the backyard with dog chains on them and with three guys back there abusing them, that they called the police, and them little old ladies sat there for two hours, and the police never showed up.

REPORTER: And what did your sister see?

ISRAEL LUGO: She said she heard and seen like a girl and a lady up in the window pounding on the window, asking for help. So I turned around, and I walked to the house. I didn't see nothing. I called the police. Twenty minutes later on, police come by. They pound on—no answer, and they leave, you know? It's like—it's just like [inaudible], you know what I'm saying? Do you think they did their job? No, I don't think they did their job.

AMY GOODMAN: The police say they have no records indicating any such calls were made.

For more on the story, we first go to Cleveland to Eric Sandy, a reporter at the *Cleveland Scene*, a weekly newspaper, who has written a number of articles now on the case.

Sandy, tell us what you know so far, the latest news, the story of what is known at this point and what isn't known.

ERIC SANDY: Exactly, and—

AMY GOODMAN: Eric, sorry.

ERIC SANDY: And good morning, Amy.

Basically, what we know is a lot of these headlines that you have recapped so far. The story began Monday evening when Amanda Berry tried to escape the home, and the door was still chained. So, thanks to the help of neighbors Angel Cordero and Charles Ramsey, she managed to get out and get a hold of a 911 call, and Charles Ramsey also called 911. Police arrived shortly thereafter and also rescued Gina DeJesus and Michele Knight from within the home. They were treated at Metro Health Medical Center, about 10 blocks away. Michele Knight remains in good condition in the hospital as of right now. Amanda and Gina are home safe as of yesterday afternoon, as is Amanda's daughter, six-year-old daughter, who was born in captivity.

So, since then, charges have been—charges are being formally made against Ariel Castro this hour. They were announced yesterday at around 5:00 p.m. And his brothers—no charges have been made against his brothers Pedro and Onil. They are appearing in local court this morning for unrelated misdemeanor charges for which they had an outstanding warrant.

So, as of the end of yesterday, some of the big news that came out was the search of Ariel Castro's home on Seymour Avenue has been completed. More than 200 items of evidence have been taken into FBI custody. That

includes, as far as we know, chains, various restraint devices, and, according to sources, at least some sort of letter from Ariel Castro that may include a bit of admission of what he's been doing.

So, going forward, a lot of those facts are known. The scope of the questions is being broadened to include police action over the past 10 years, police action this week, and basically the how of this matter. A lot of the what and the who, the when and the where, they've been answered. But the conversation has been ongoing since Monday evening and has been broadening since then.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: But, Eric, first go back to this issue of the two brothers, because all three of their disheveled pictures were broadcast around the world, and now suddenly the police said that—and neither of the other two brothers lived in the particular house. So do you have any indication why the police arrested them, as well, initially?

ERIC SANDY: The one word that sort of came out from the police department was "chaos." Just in the chaos of Monday evening's events, they managed to take Pedro and Onil into custody, as well. You're right: They lived a few blocks away; they did not live at 2207 Seymour Avenue. And according to questioning at this point, they had no idea what was going on at their brother Ariel's home. Again, they are appearing in court on unrelated misdemeanor charges stemming from outstanding warrants, but they apparently have no connection to this kidnapping case.

AMY GOODMAN: Eric Sandy, you wrote the [piece](#) "The Long History of Ariel Castro, Cleveland Kidnapper and Monster." What is known about this suspect, about the former bus driver?

ERIC SANDY: Right. Well, he was a former bus driver. He was most recently fired from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District last November for making an illegal U-turn. But going back a few years reveals a bit of a fractured family history and at least one run-in with police in 2004 as a bus driver. He left a child on a bus and left the bus for several hours. The county's Department of Child and Family Services showed up at his home. This is 2207 Seymour. This is 2004, and at least two women were being held at the home at that time, allegedly. And they knocked on the door, and there was no answer, and that was that. He was suspended, stemming from that incident, but that was really the one interaction with any semblance of—with law enforcement.

More privately, he—at one point, him and his wife separated. And they have a very contentious relationship. She actually died recently. And she lived with another man, Fernando Colon, her husband, and Ariel Castro's children lived with them. Basically, throughout the past 10 years, no one was really allowed in 2207 Seymour. Ariel made sure of that. Again, his children lived with their mother and their stepfather. And at one point, Fernando Colon, their stepfather, was a suspect in the disappearance of at least Gina DeJesus, and quite possibly the other two women, as well. He was cleared following a polygraph test and questioning. And according to our sources and according to Fernando, he pointed to Ariel Castro as a suspect. Now, the FBI has admitted that Fernando was a suspect in the kidnappings, but they have said that he did not point to Ariel Castro. And regardless, there was no follow-up into Ariel Castro as a suspect at that time. There were also many accusations of domestic violence against Ariel Castro from his ex-wife.

AMY GOODMAN: Now, this is extremely significant.

ERIC SANDY: Right.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about the brutality?

ERIC SANDY: Absolutely. Earlier in the past 10 years, there was one case that went to court involving him breaking her nose, breaking—dislocating a—

AMY GOODMAN: This is Ariel Castro breaking his ex-wife nose—his ex-wife's nose.

ERIC SANDY: This is Ariel—this is Ariel Castro breaking his ex-wife's nose, dislocating her shoulders, and at one point beating her so hard a blood clot formed on her brain. Again, this is a pretty indicative illustration of what that relationship was like and where the children came from, and sort of explains the family history a bit.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: But what was the—what was the result of those charges for him?

ERIC SANDY: Yeah, well, there was—there was no jail time. There was no—he was not taken into custody or arrested. He was—you know, they were separated from that point onward, really.

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, if she was a stranger on the street, right, he would have been charged with assault and gone to jail. But she's his wife, his ex-wife, and he doesn't go to jail. And now he is charged with what we see now. Now, wasn't he the main source of information that her husband abused their daughters, his daughters, and ended up having him sent to jail?

ERIC SANDY: He was a very significant source of information. And his daughters were alleging sexual impropriety during that time against Fernando Colon. And from what we've gathered, Ariel Castro did encourage them to go forward with this information. In a sense, he bought them gifts throughout the time, again, after being essentially not a very visible father figure in their life, and made sure that that court case against Fernando Colon went forward. He testified against Fernando, and the ex-wife and actually Ariel Castro's son, also named Ariel Castro, testified on Fernando's behalf. There were 27 counts filed against Fernando Colon. They were dropped to just four counts, and he ended up just doing three months of essentially being under watch by the county. He was never taken to jail, and thus there was less of an incentive to appeal. And that's how that ended.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And, Eric, what can you tell us about the history of the Cleveland Police Department—they're under a federal review, a Justice Department review, right now—and, generally speaking, the department's—criticisms of department activities in the past?

ERIC SANDY: Right. Especially in recent years, there is a very heavy amount of skepticism against the police department here in Cleveland. This most latest incident, again, there's a variety of stories surfacing right now alleging possible negligence. We are all looking into those stories.

But to go back into recent cases, most recently, on November 29th last year, dozens of policemen were involved in a police chase in downtown Cleveland that went into East Cleveland. It ended in a shootout. They were pursuing one vehicle with a driver and a passenger, and it ended in a shootout. A hundred thirty-seven bullets were fired. Both the driver and the passenger were killed, and they were found later to be unarmed—and thus the Department of Justice investigation.

Going back a few years, several other very high-profile instances sort of stirred up skepticism, and the most significant being the case of Anthony Sowell in 2011. He was convicted of multiple murders. He was essentially killing women and stashing their bodies in an Imperial Avenue home on the east side of town. Much like this case, although, again, in different circumstances, the case of Anthony Sowell was brought to light by neighbors. They sort of alerted police to various smells and sensory—sensory descriptions of the house. Again, with this week's news, it only came about once Amanda Berry tried to escape the house, and Charles Ramsey and Angel Cordero helped her, calling 911 at that point.

And so, those are some of the—it's a significant amount of background information here and a significant reason why a lot of charges are being conversationally leveled against the police department. That's sort of the backdrop we're working with here.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And how many women was Sowell convicted of killing?

ERIC SANDY: I don't know offhand, but multiple. He—this was a serial murderer. And it's—that came to light a few years ago.

AMY GOODMAN: Also, just the area that this house was, where the women were held in captivity—and, we understand, Amanda's child, as well—abandoned houses next door, commercial area behind it, and raises the question of how the Cleveland police deal with a poor area like this. But, Eric Sandy, we're going to keep you on, and we're going to continue with this discussion and bring someone else in to talk about rape culture. Eric Sandy is staff writer at the *Cleveland Scene*, a weekly newspaper. Stay with us.

FROM CHRIS HAYES' PROGRAM: ALL IN - Friday, May 10

http://www.democracynow.org/2013/5/9/did_police_negligence_suspect_ariel_castros **Is Sallie Mae in bed with your college? Making money off student debt** [Collier Meyerson @youngcollier](#)

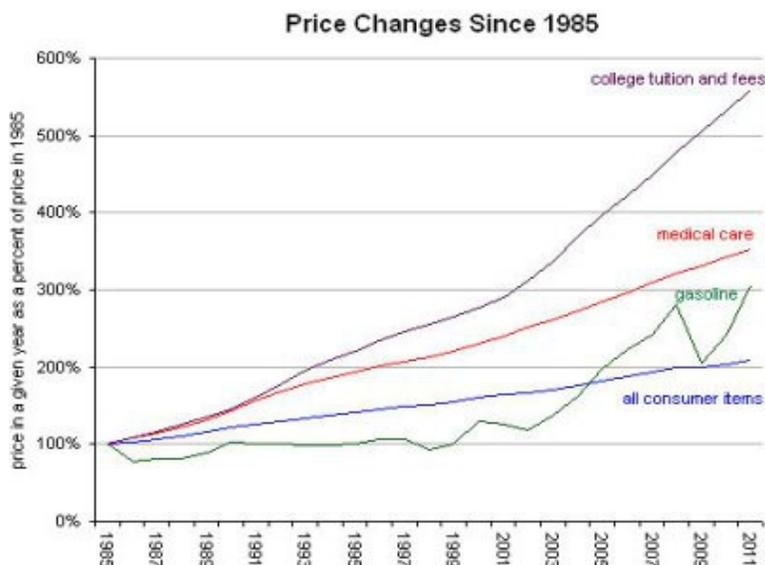
A report out on Thursday from [Huffington Post](#) details how the college loan debt collecting company, Sallie Mae, is making a fortune off private student loans, while colleges—which are charging a fortune in tuition—are making money off of Sallie Mae. You don't have to dig too deeply to see how troubling this is. As Huffington Post wrote:

“University endowments and teachers’ pension funds are among big investors in Sallie Mae, the private lender that has been generating enormous profits thanks to soaring student debt and the climbing cost of education. ... The previously unreported investments mean that education professionals are able to profit twice off the same student: first by hiking the cost of tuition, then through dividends and higher valuations on their holdings in Sallie Mae, the largest student lender and loan servicer in the country.”

The concept is quite simple: as college gets more expensive, [students incur more debt](#). And as students incur more debt, there is less opportunity for them to get out from under it. This is precisely why the relationship between Sallie Mae and institutions of higher learning are, as the article notes, “a conflict of interest.” And the affected party, America’s students (and parents), have very little clout in dealing with big banks and colleges admissions or financial aid offices. When you put together an enormously profitable company, like Sallie Mae, which generated a 21% return on equity last year, and allow colleges to invest in it, the student’s power is laughably dwarfed.

On Thursday’s *All In with Chris Hayes*, the reporters of the piece, Ryan Grim and Shahien Nasiripour, discussed their findings. Grim explained the genesis of the problem. “We place such a premium, such an emphasis on college, as we should in this country, that people are going to take the offer. It’s an offer you can’t refuse. When that’s the case, the lender is going to get as much as they can take—as much as they can conceivably get out of it.” We all want to go to college or to send our kids, and we’ll continue to go broke doing it. But when students sign on to years, if not decades, of debt, they aren’t aware that the place helping to strengthen their intellect is also helping to weaken them financially.

the tuition is too damn high (and other student loan scandals) [Collier Meyerson @youngcollier](#)



(Credit: New York Times)

Of the 20 million students who attend America's institutions of higher education each year, [about 12 million—60%—borrow money to cover the cost.](#)

Why are students essentially forced to incur this expense? The answer is quite simple. The cost of higher education in this country keeps escalating. The Department of Education (DOE) has a nifty calculator that generates lists of the least and most costly institutions. According the DOE's calculations, [Connecticut College wins the exorbitant cost contest, coming in at \\$43,990.](#) Across the nation, students are being saddled with college expenses that create an average of \$26,000 in student loans. So, how do we address this problem to lessen the blow?

Yesterday, Massachusetts Democrat Sen. Elizabeth Warren proposed a bill that would curtail excessive student loan costs by reducing interest rates to match what the federal reserve offers big banks. It turns out banks pay 0.75% and come July, students will have to pay a rate of 6.8%. [Why should banks get a lower interest rate than our nation's students?](#)

All In with Chris Hayes spent Thursday on a college loan blitz. Sen. Warren discussed the investment our government makes in banks instead of in its students. Then Ryan Grim and Shahien Nasiripour of Huffington Post talked about their shocking report on how [higher institutions and private lenders bond together](#) in a convenient marriage: Sallie Mae collects student debt, while colleges make money investing in Sallie Mae. The report raises serious questions about conflict of interest.

2013, May 9 **Sallie Mae Profit Boosts College Endowments And Pension Funds As Students Pay More** By Shahien Nasiripour and Ryan Grim

<http://drsundjataatwvsu.blogspot.ca/2013/05/sallie-mae-profit-boosts-college.html>



University endowments and teachers' pension funds are among big investors in Sallie Mae, the private lender that has been generating enormous profits thanks to soaring student debt and the climbing cost of education, a Huffington Post review of financial documents has revealed.

The previously unreported investments mean that education professionals are able to profit twice off the same student: first by hiking the cost of tuition, then through dividends and higher valuations on their holdings in Sallie Mae, the largest student lender and loan servicer in the country, which profits by charging relatively high interest rates on its loans and not refinancing high-rate loans after students graduate and get well-paying jobs.

Sallie Mae is a former government-sponsored enterprise that was fully privatized in 2004 and now trades publicly as SLM Corp.

"It's a conflict of interest," said Barmak Nassirian, a longtime higher education analyst who most recently served as associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers. "There is something inherently problematic about benefitting from the financing of the tuition you charge through investments in any lender."

On average, the annual cost of education at public schools has risen 57 percent since 2005 to nearly \$18,000, according to College Board figures Sallie Mae cites in its latest quarterly pitch to investors. Students at private schools are paying more than \$39,000, or nearly 44 percent more than they did in 2005.

The so-called "cost of attendance gap", or the difference between what a four-year degree will cost incoming freshmen versus the amount of government loan money available to them, has risen over the past 10 years by 59 percent to nearly \$152,000 for the typical student who started at a private school in 2011, Sallie Mae tells investors. For public school students, the gap has increased 90 percent to about \$69,000.

Sallie Mae loans, which are relatively more expensive now than they were before the financial crisis, help "bridge the funding gap," the company says.

The funds' investments in Sallie Mae come as Washington policymakers increasingly turn their attention to student debt burdens, weighing stimulative measures that could boost refinancings or increase loan modifications for distressed borrowers, in the face of increasing evidence that student debt is hurting the economy.

The highly profitable company -- it generated a 21 percent return on equity last year -- attributes its earnings in part to the lack of competition in a market in which borrowers' need for credit is only increasing.

"The margins here are really a function of alternative financing opportunities," John Remondi, Sallie Mae president and chief operating officer, told investors in January. "And if you think about our products, we're making loans to the parents and students, family education loans. Their alternatives are fairly limited."

Sallie Mae reported \$939 million in net income last year, its highest since 2006. The publicly-traded company, which enjoys a government guarantee on most of its \$174 billion in assets, has been profitable in eight of the last 10 years, generating a cumulative \$7.3 billion profit.

Its shares have risen 54 percent over the past year, outpacing the 19 percent gain in the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, America's benchmark equity gauge.

The endowments of Furman University, Harvard University, Mount Holyoke College, and University of Michigan all hold stakes in Sallie Mae through their investments in Highfields Capital Management, a hedge fund that manages more than \$11 billion and is the second-biggest Sallie Mae shareholder. As of the end of last year, Highfields owned nearly 40 million shares of Sallie Mae, or 8.6 percent of the company's common stock.

Highfield investors, according to securities filings, primarily consist of charitable foundations, endowments, pension plans, and governmental entities, among others. The hedge fund was founded by two top executives of the Harvard Management Co., the Ivy League university's investment arm, which kicked in \$500 million to launch the fund.

Pension funds for teachers and other school employees such as the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, State Teachers Retirement Board of Ohio, Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System, New Mexico Educational Retirement Board, Teacher Retirement System of Texas and California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS) also own significant chunks of Sallie Mae, as does asset manager TIAA-CREF, which oversees retirement funds for teachers, among others.

Highfields Capital declined to comment. The funds either declined to comment or said their ownership stakes were due to passive investments in index funds. Sallie Mae's shares form part of the S&P 500 and the Russell 3000 Index.

Still, the funds are enjoying bumper returns thanks to their passive investments, aided by borrowers who may be paying more than they would if the student loan market was functioning properly, policymakers have said.

"The issue becomes whether maximizing returns should be tempered by additional concerns and ethical considerations," Nassirian said of higher-education professionals who have holdings in Sallie Mae. "This form of 'double-dipping' can create a very dangerous loop, where you have incentives beyond what you claim in your public rhetoric -- namely to put students into deeper debt."

"This is a much more subtle and much less mechanistic dysfunction than we have seen in the past," he added.

In 2006 -- the last year Sallie Mae reported at least \$1 billion in profit and enjoyed a return on equity above 20 percent -- student borrowers who took out private Sallie Mae loans that were then securitized were borrowing at

interest rates that were about 4.4 to 5.0 percentage points above a benchmark borrowing rate for financial corporations known as the three-month commercial paper rate, according to a review of the company's bond documents.

For private loans that were securitized last year, students were paying interest rates about 6.8 to 7.5 percentage points above the benchmark corporate rate.

In all, over the last three years the margin enjoyed by Sallie Mae and its investors on private loans the company securitized on average has been about 2 percentage points higher than it was in 2006 relative to the overall corporate borrowing rate.

"Sallie Mae's private education loans are designed to help students graduate with less debt and pay off their loans faster than other private loan alternatives," said spokeswoman Patricia Nash Christel. "In fact, we've lowered our interest rates three times in the last four years, eliminated origination fees, added borrower-friendly safeguards, and created variable and fixed rate choices as well as in-school payment options to save families money."

However, the reduction in interest rates for students has not matched the decline in the cost of borrowing throughout the economy. In other words, students are not fully enjoying the benefits of today's low-interest rate environment, a source of frustration to some government officials.

Martha Holler, another Sallie Mae spokeswoman, disputed the use of commercial paper rates to measure the company's margins on private student loans. Holler said it would be more appropriate to use the company's self-reported funding costs specifically related to its private student loan originations, which in the form of long-term equity and debt is more expensive than commercial paper. By that measure, she argued, the company's margins have slightly decreased since 2006.

But such a measure would exclude the company's overall cost of funds, which enables the company to finance a wide range of assets more cheaply, boosting earnings. Sallie Mae's cost of funds is substantially lower now than it was in 2006, the year before the credit crunch is widely acknowledged to have started.

Sallie Mae's preferred measurement also neglects the relative interest rate paid by student borrowers, whose rates in a normally functioning competitive market would move in tandem with interest rates in the broader economy. The commercial paper rate measures the borrowing costs of financial corporations like Sallie Mae, and influences how they price loans offered to households.

In 2012, the company borrowed funds at an average interest rate of 1.45 percent. In 2006 it was 5.37 percent. Interest rates paid by its student borrowers on all of the company's loan products have not dropped by a corresponding amount, enabling the company as a whole to record a higher spread between its cost to borrow and what it earns off loans to students.

Sallie Mae's margins also benefit from its Utah-based bank, which since the beginning of 2006 has been responsible for originating and funding "virtually all" of its private student loans, according to the company's most recent annual report.

The bank relies on deposits to fund student loans. According to Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. data, the bank's cost of funds last year was 1.11 percent.

Sallie Mae's overall margins have increased to 1.78 percent, from 1.54 percent in 2006.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said in a report on student loan affordability this week that high

margins for private student lenders, such as those enjoyed by Sallie Mae, may be due to the lack of options for student borrowers.

“These excess credit spreads may be a symptom of insufficient competition,” the regulator said.

The company originated nearly half of all private student loans in the 2011-2012 academic year, according to a January investor presentation. In addition, it’s responsible for roughly half of all outstanding student loan securities.

Sallie Mae’s low borrowing costs also are aided in part by a borrowing agreement it has with the Federal Home Loan Bank in Des Moines, a government-sponsored entity originally created to provide cheap financing to home mortgage lenders.

As part of its 2010 agreement, Sallie Mae can post government-backed education loans as collateral for credit. At the end of last year, Sallie Mae was able to borrow as much as \$8.5 billion.

In the quarter ending March 31 of this year, Sallie Mae had borrowed \$2.1 billion with an average interest rate of 0.30 percent. Holler said there was “no connection” between the company’s Federal Home Loan Bank credit facility and private student loans.

The CFPB said it was “worth noting” that Sallie Mae enjoys the use of the government-backed credit facility “at favorable terms,” despite the fact that it “does not originate a noteworthy level of mortgages.”

The CFPB highlighted Sallie Mae in its report, noting the company’s “extraordinary gains” on a federal program designed to aid student borrowers and its apparent reliance on cheap government financing.

For example, the consumer bureau’s report pointed out that a 2008 law called the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act helped Sallie Mae achieve gains of \$284 million in the 2009 fiscal year and \$321 million in the 2010 fiscal year off sales of student loans to the Education Department.

The company defended its actions in a statement, saying, “Given the dire circumstances the markets were facing at the time, this intervention afforded 6 million students to access higher education at an extremely low cost to the Department of Education.”

The lack of competition for new loans means today’s borrowers are paying higher relative rates, and when they graduate there are fewer opportunities to refinance those loans into cheaper debt.

With increasing exceptions, a student borrower’s credit profile typically improves after graduation, as the borrower has secured a degree and likely a decent-paying job. In theory, an employed college graduate has a better credit score -- meaning he is less likely to default on his debts -- than when he originally took out his education-related loans.

Like a company that has become more profitable and is therefore less likely to default or homeowners who have gained equity in their home since first taking out their mortgage, experts reckon that borrowers with student loans should be able to refinance their high-rate debt as their credit profile improves.

But unlike borrowers with home mortgages, the CFPB has said that borrowers with student loans are unable to “take advantage of today’s historically low interest environment.”

Refinancings of high-rate student loans by Sallie Mae, the biggest student loan company, are scant. “There’s not a whole lot of refinancing activity in the private student loan space,” Remondi told investors in January.

Stephen Burd, a senior policy analyst focusing on education at the New America Foundation, a Washington policy group, said that Sallie Mae's status as an industry leader influences how the broader market operates and could help to explain why refinancings are so infrequent.

"Sallie Mae is the biggest player in this space and if they were doing refinancings, other companies would have to follow their lead to remain competitive," Burd said.

During U.S. Senate testimony last year, Remondi told lawmakers that students with Sallie Mae loans are benefiting without refinancings because most of the loans are co-signed by parents, and their interest rates generally are dictated by their parents' credit scores.

"So, to some extent, they're already gaining the benefit of the parental co-signing on that account based on the interest rate at that time," Remondi said.

"Very rarely do we see interest rates or more loan products being refinanced because the credit profile of the obligor has changed in such dramatic ways that change the overall interest rate structure," he added. "And I think because of those two reasons, you see a very limited marketplace for private education loan consolidation and refinancing activities."

In fact, in securities filings the company warns investors that if policymakers provide refinancing opportunities for student borrowers, it could negatively impact earnings, as high-rate debt is paid off and the company's servicing volumes shrink.

"The adoption and implementation of any such proposals, individually or in combination, could significantly increase our costs, affect our ability to service and collect loans, significantly alter whether or not we remain in certain businesses and the form in which we do so and materially and adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations," Sallie Mae warns investors of potential policy emanating from Washington.

The CFPB suggested this week that policymakers could stimulate refinancing activity by creating a program that would provide lenders such as Sallie Mae with cheap loans that would be secured by newly refinanced student loans as collateral. Such a program could resemble Sallie Mae's multi-billion dollar credit facility with the Federal Home Loan Bank in Des Moines, for example.

The lack of competition and the prevalence of high-rate loans is having a broader impact than on Sallie Mae's bottom line. It's depressing America's economy.

Millions of student borrowers are paying record relative interest rates on their government loans, according to a HuffPost review, frustrating efforts by the Fed to reduce borrowing costs for households and businesses.

The panel of senior U.S. regulators charged with safeguarding the financial system known as the Financial Stability Oversight Council recently warned that education loans may hamper economic growth and limit home purchases as overly indebted households and young workers cut back on consumption and borrowing. The panel joined the Federal Reserve's interest rate-setting panel, the Federal Open Market Committee; the Treasury Department's Office of Financial Research; the CFPB; and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in alerting about the possible danger student debt poses to either financial stability or the broader economy.

"The whole student loan problem is a problem that should be of deep concern to this body," cautioned CFPB director Richard Cordray during testimony last month before the Senate Banking Committee. "These are young people that we should care a great deal about."

Cordray's agency estimates that Americans owe \$1.1 trillion from loans used to finance higher education, exceeding credit card and car loans as the second-largest source of household debt behind home mortgages. About \$150 billion of their education borrowings are private, non-government guaranteed loans, roughly a quarter of which are owned by Sallie Mae, according to CFPB data and Sallie Mae's securities filings.

"They're the ones with the ambition, aspirations and dreams, and they're getting saddled with debt that they don't understand," Cordray said of student borrowers. "It's holding them back and it's making them unable to rise and succeed and become leaders in our society."

He added: "It's a significant problem and we're going to be doing everything that we can to address it at the bureau."

Some members of the Fed's rate-setting committee said in March that they viewed "the high level of student debt" as a risk to aggregate household spending over the next three years, posing a downside risk to economic growth, according to meeting minutes.

It was the first time the FOMC, which sets interest rates that affect trillions of dollars of loans and securities, had ever mentioned student loans as a possible risk to the economy, according to a review of past meeting minutes.

New York Fed researchers said last month that younger workers with student debt are less likely than their unburdened peers to have home mortgages or auto loans -- the first time that has been observed in at least 10 years and a worrying development for government officials who have long associated student debt with college education and better-paying jobs.

As policymakers search for solutions to the burgeoning problem of an indebted generation of college graduates, some lawmakers are zeroing in on mandating loan modification schemes or allowing more troubled student borrowers to discharge their unpayable debts in bankruptcy.

Sallie Mae says it supports allowing borrowers to discharge student debt through bankruptcy, subject to certain conditions. A company spokeswoman said that Sallie Mae has modified more than \$1 billion in private education loans since 2009 with interest rate reductions or extended repayment terms.

Sallie Mae has already engaged with lawmakers on the issue. Federal records show the company spent more than \$1.4 million lobbying members of Congress last quarter.

2013, May 10 **Despite Evidence of Massacres, Former Guatemalan Dictator Proclaims Innocence at Genocide Trial**

[Exclusive: Allan Nairn Exposes Role of U.S. and New Guatemalan President in Indigenous Massacres](#)

Guests: [Allan Nairn](#), investigative journalist who has been attending the Ríos Montt trial in Guatemala.

Related

2013, May 10 [Breaking~ Former U.S.-Backed Guatemalan Dictator Found Guilty of Genocide in Historic Trial](#)

UPDATE: 7:00 p.m. EDT Efraín Ríos Montt has been [found guilty of genocide](#) and sentenced to 80 years in prison.

A verdict is expected as early as today in the historic trial against U.S.-backed Guatemalan dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, the first head of state in the Americas to stand trial for genocide. He is charged with overseeing the slaughter of more than 1,700 people in Guatemala's Mayan region after he seized power in 1982. On Thursday, Ríos Montt testified for the first time during the trial. "I declare myself innocent," Ríos Montt said. "I never had the intention or the purpose to destroy any national ethnic group." During the trial, nearly 100 prosecution witnesses described massacres, torture and rape committed by state forces. "If Ríos Montt is convicted, the next question becomes: What about [current Guatemalan President Otto] Pérez Molina, and what about the U.S. sponsors who were providing the weapons, the money, the bombs, the bullets and the political support for the crimes for which Ríos Montt may today be convicted of genocide?" asks investigative journalist Allan Nairn from Guatemala City. In the 1980s, Nairn broke many stories about massacres in Guatemala and the U.S. backing of the dictatorship.

Transcript

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: We begin today's show in Guatemala. A verdict is expected as early as today in the historic trial against U.S.-backed Guatemalan dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, the first head of state in the Americas to stand trial for genocide. He is charged with overseeing the slaughter of more than 1,700 people in Guatemala's Mayan region after he seized power in 1982. On Thursday, Ríos Montt testified for the first time during the trial.

EFRAÍN RÍOS MONTT: [translated] I never authorized, I never signed, I never proposed, I never ordered that there be any attacks against a race, an ethnic group or any religion. I never did it. And with everything they've said, there has been no proof of evidence of my participation. I presented myself voluntarily to the public ministry to be tried. I didn't want anyone to say I committed genocide, because I have never done so, and I have never done it. I have never ordered it, and I never intended it. And I want that to be known. I have never done it.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Former Guatemalan dictator Efraín Ríos Montt speaking Thursday at his historic genocide trial. He ended his testimony with these words.

EFRAÍN RÍOS MONTT: [translated] I declare myself innocent. I never had the intention or the purpose to destroy any national ethnic group. As head of state, that was one thing. My work as head of state was to take the reins of the country that was on the edge. Guatemala had failed. And forgive me, Your Honor, the guerrillas were at the door of the presidential palace. Thank you, Your Honor.

AMY GOODMAN: During the trial, nearly a hundred prosecution witnesses described massacres, torture and rape committed by Guatemalan state forces.

We're joined now by investigative journalist Allan Nairn. He's in Guatemala City. He has been attending the trial. In the 1980s, Allan Nairn broke many stories about massacres in Guatemala and the U.S. backing of the dictatorships.

Allan Nairn, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* Describe the significance of Ríos Montt testifying yesterday and the trial overall.

ALLAN NAIRN: Well, first, it's important that the trial was able to go forward. Yesterday, it was still possible that it would be shut down at the last minute. But now, clearly, the political decision has been made to let it go forward, and the only thing that could stop it at this point would be an assassination. The judge in the case, when she leaves the courtroom, she wears a bulletproof vest. She's surrounded by security. Army associates have made death threats against judges, prosecutors and witnesses. But unless they carry through and pull the trigger sometime this morning, it looked like—it looks like there's going to be a verdict.

And if there is a verdict, and Ríos Montt and his co-defendant, General Rodríguez Sánchez, are convicted of genocide and/or crimes against humanity, it would be a—it would be a step into the—into the future. It would be, I think, in a sense, the beginning of another historical phase, because all over the world, not just in Guatemala but wherever you have guns and wherever you have power, those who have the most guns are allowed to get away with murder. There is no fear of prosecution for a Guatemalan dictator, for a U.S. president. They can do things that would get an ordinary person thrown in jail.

But actions like this, where survivors of the Mayan highland massacres campaigned for three decades, remembering their wives and their husbands who were slit open with machetes and shot in the face and thrown into ditches while they were still alive, the fact that they were able to campaign for decades, and even though their movement was crushed during the slaughters of the '80s, even though the army and the oligarchy to this day retain power in Guatemala, the people they crushed are on the verge of exacting some justice and may be getting a jail sentence against one of the main people responsible for the deaths of—I mean, nobody knows the exact death toll of all the slaughters. Ríos Montt in this case is being charged with just 1,700 murders, but the complete death toll over the years in Guatemala could amount to something like a quarter million. And no one has really been able to do this before. No one has been able to use their domestic courts to put a former leader on trial for genocide. This is the kind of move that would be unthinkable in the United States. You know, standing in the courtroom yesterday, I was trying to imagine what would the scene be like in the U.S. if, say, George W. Bush were called before a criminal court in Texas and put on trial for Iraq. It's hard to imagine, but here it's happening.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, Allan, I wanted to ask you about a key aspect of Ríos Montt's defense.

Now, obviously, he was making a statement, but he was not being subject to cross-examination at all. It was just his statement at the trial. But he appeared to basically be saying, "Look, these lower-level commanders may have done this, but I did not have any involvement, and I did not give the orders." Yet, in a [post](#) that you had this week, you went back over your direct interviews with Ríos Montt back in 1982, where you actually questioned him about what he knew about the killings going on. And I'm wondering if you could go over some of what he told you back then.

ALLAN NAIRN: Yeah, in May of '82, a couple months after he had seized power and sent the army sweeping through the northwest highlands, including the Ixil area, as the army was just wiping out one town after another, executing the civilians, I asked Ríos Montt about the civilian killings. And he said, "Look, for each one who is shooting," meaning for each guerrilla, "there are 10 working behind them," meaning there are 10 unarmed people working behind them. And then his adviser, Francisco Bianchi, said, "We have to kill Indians, the Ixil people, because they have sold out to subversion."

Years later, after Ríos Montt was ousted from power, I interviewed him again. And I asked him whether he thought that he should be put on trial for his role in the massacres and whether he should be executed, since he, Ríos Montt, is a big supporter of the death penalty. And when I asked him that, he suddenly leapt up to his feet and shouted. He said, "Yes, try me! Put me against the wall!" But, he said, that if he was going to be put on trial, the Americans should be put on trial with him. He specifically mentioned Ronald Reagan, who was one of his great sponsors.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, during his testimony, Ríos Montt spoke about his relationship with United States officials and suggested that they had a better sense of what was going on in Guatemala than he did at the time. This is a clip from that.

EFRAÍN RÍOS MONTT: [translated] I had the opportunity to go to some meetings. One nice one was with Mr. Reagan. We met. He invited me. And we were there in San Pedro Sula. And we were there, and we did not ask for arms. We did not ask for aid. And that was what was most sad. We were cut off in all ways. We did not have any international aid. Guatemala survived with the resources that Guatemalans had. There was no other way to survive. And this was important. The U.S. did not give any type of aid. Nor did we get loans, because we were nearly bankrupt. So we didn't have capital or work. And what affected us economically, the millions of dollars were fleeing the region for fear and lack of security, and there was no investment. The Central American market was reduced perhaps some 25 percent.

This is the big picture of the situation, and they could not see this. They could only what they were interested in: the region of Ixil. The Ixil area, we have seen it, feel it, and we did what we had to do. Now I tell you that it did not count with the support of the armed forces. They all got upset with me, because the ones who were about to retire did.

I had the good fortune of not having the friendship of the U.S. ambassador. And so, he would visit me constantly, Your Honor, so that we could have elections and that we could work in one way or the other. And we would say to His Eminence—oh, I don't think he was, quote, "Eminence"—we would say to His Excellence, regarding the reports that he had, because he had more reports than we had regarding the nationals—pardon me, no, not with nationals, but those who were paid with American money were involved in the subversion. They had better information than we had. That is a small thing.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Allan Nairn, what about this whole issue of what the Americans knew at the time of these killings?

ALLAN NAIRN: Well, everybody knew. These massacres were not secret. They were acts of state terrorism where a big part of the point was publicity. When the assassinations were done in the cities, they would often make a point of throwing the bodies in the streets to terrify onlookers. In the massacres in the countryside, the executions would—and torture interrogations would often be carried out in the village square with all the survivors looking on so they would get a lifelong lesson that they would never forget, as they saw their families and their loved ones being strangled and shot in the head. This was all over the newspapers in Guatemala. The Catholic Bishops' Conference in May of '82, that same month that I had the interview with Ríos Montt where he talked about 10 civilians for every guerrilla, and his aide said they had sold out to subversion, they had to be killed—the Catholic Bishops' Conference issued a pastoral letter saying, "Never in our history has it come to such grave extremes. These assassinations now fall into the category of genocide."

And the U.S. was in fact supporting Ríos Montt. The meeting between Reagan and Ríos Montt was very nice for Ríos Montt, because Reagan then came out publicly and said that Ríos Montt was a man of great integrity who was totally devoted to democracy and was getting a bum rap on human rights. Ríos Montt then said, "It's not that we have a policy of scorched earth, just a policy of scorched communists."

I think one of the interesting points about Ríos Montt's statement yesterday and those of the defense lawyers was that they were trying to save themselves, but they were—to do that, they were willing to indict the system. None of them tried to deny the fact that the mass killings took place, or even deny the fact that it was the army that did it. In fact, Ríos Montt's defense lawyer at one point referred to one of the prosecution documents, which was a military plan that was used by Ríos Montt describing how they would target various civilian groups. And the lawyer's point was: This plan was not directed at the Ixil people; this plan was written for the entire country. Well, yes, it was. The defense lawyer for Rodríguez Sánchez, the intelligence chief who is Ríos Montt's co-defendant, at one point he said, "Program of assassination, program of kidnappings—I'm not interested in those, because my client didn't have the power to order them." So he was not denying the fact that there was a program of assassination. He was not denying the fact that there was a program of kidnapping. He was just saying that his man wasn't responsible for them, even though he was the boss of the intelligence section.

AMY GOODMAN: As we wrap up, Allan, can you talk about what this means also for the current government in Guatemala? President Obama just met Pérez Molina last week in Costa Rica. You have Efraín Ríos Montt, in his defense, saying he couldn't be in charge, know what was happening on the ground; it was the people who were there, which, of course, goes to the current Guatemalan president, Pérez Molina, who was there on the ground at that time. You spoke to him in the highlands in Guatemala. You spoke to the current president, who was going by a different name at that time.

ALLAN NAIRN: Yes. Well, first of all, Ríos Montt knew everything that was happening. The reporting from the field back to the palace was very rigorous. There were only three, and at some points two, layers of authority between Ríos Montt and the killers, the killer commanders in the field who were going into the villages. Ríos Montt's field commander for the Ixil region based in Nebaj in September of 1982 was Otto Pérez Molina, the current president of Guatemala. The dozens and dozens of subordinates of Pérez Molina who I interviewed there at that time described how they were under orders to torture and kill civilians, and also how they made hourly radio reports back to headquarters. They wrote up a daily diary of operations. As one Subcommander Lieutenant Romeo Sierra put it, they were on a very—they were on a very short leash.

So, if Ríos Montt is found guilty of genocide, then the question becomes: Well, what about the man who was the field commander for the massacres that got Ríos Montt convicted of genocide? That man is now the president of Guatemala. Pérez Molina did everything he could to see to it that his name did not come up in this trial. That was the bargain under which the trial was allowed to go forward. He let it go forward very, very reluctantly. One witness, to everyone's surprise, a former military man, testified that Pérez Molina had ordered atrocities. I was due to testify in the trial but then was blocked at the last minute from testifying because there was fear that I would also mention Pérez Molina's role. But now, as this—if this trial concludes, and if Ríos Montt is convicted, the next question becomes: What about Pérez Molina? And, what about the U.S. sponsors who were providing the weapons, the money, the bombs, the bullets and the political support for the crimes for which Ríos Montt may today be convicted of genocide? Because Guatemalan criminal courts have the authority under international law to bring in U.S. defendants. U.S. criminal courts have that same authority. If there's a verdict today against Ríos Montt, that will be the challenge sitting on the—put to the American and the Guatemalan criminal courts: What's next? Will you now look at Pérez Molina? Will you now look at the Americans who made this genocide possible?

AMY GOODMAN: We have 30 seconds, Allan. We understand there's a list going around on the Internet made by people connected to the military, on Facebook, of traitors. They are—listed activists, NGOs, like the filmmaker Pam Yates and Kate Doyle, the National Security Archives and others?

ALLAN NAIRN: Yeah, this is the army, the retired army and the oligarchy. They have been putting these lists out for years. They threaten everybody. This is their way of acting. But so far, they have not been able to stop the case—

AMY GOODMAN: Rigoberta Menchú, as well. Rigoberta Menchú, as well, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who we saw sitting in the trial.

ALLAN NAIRN: So far, they haven't been able to stop the case. And the only way they could stop it now is if they follow through on their threats and try to kill the judge.

AMY GOODMAN: We want to thank very much, Allan, for being with us, investigative journalist Allan Nairn, speaking to us from Guatemala City.

This is *Democracy Now!* When we come back, we'll be talking about Bahrain. And then, is the FBI reading your email without warrants? Well, the answer may well be yes. Stay with us.

2013, May 10 **With Father and Sister Imprisoned, Exiled Bahraini Activist Maryam Alkhawaja Condemns Ongoing Abuses**

Guests

[Maryam Alkhawaja](#), acting president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and co-director of the Gulf Center for Human Rights. Her father, prominent human rights activist Abdulhadi Alkhawaja, and sister Zainab Alkhawaja are in prison in Bahrain.

Overview: The Bahraini government continues its crackdown on opposition protesters, with demonstrations repressed and scores of dissidents held behind bars. We're joined by Maryam Alkhawaja, a leading Bahraini human rights activist. Her family has been highly critical of the U.S.-backed monarchy, and they have paid a heavy price. Maryam's father, human rights attorney Abdulhadi Alkhawaja, is serving a life sentence in prison. He has already spent two years in jail. Her sister, Zainab Alkhawaja, is also imprisoned. A close friend of the family, Nabeel Rajab, is also in jail. Rajab had been the head of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. "There has hardly been any real accountability of the Bahraini government of the human rights violations that have been going on in Bahrain for more than two years now," says Alkhawaja, who is now the acting president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights.

Transcript

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

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: We turn now to Bahrain, where the government continues its crackdown on opposition protesters, with demonstrations repressed and scores of dissidents held behind bars. Some of those imprisoned are now being denied visits from their lawyers or families. At least 87 people have died at the hands of security forces since the 2011 uprising began. Thousands more have been injured.

Meanwhile, the U.S.-backed monarchy last month blocked the visit of U.N. Special Rapporteur Juan Méndez, who was seeking to assess conditions on the ground. The move came a little over a year after the regime also blocked a visit by Méndez and Amnesty International.

Bahrain is a key U.S. government ally, hosting the Navy's Fifth Fleet.

AMY GOODMAN: Our next guest, Maryam Alkhawaja, is a leading Bahraini human rights activist. Her family has been highly critical of the U.S.-backed monarchy. They have paid a heavy price. Maryam's father is the well-known human rights attorney Abdulhadi Alkhawaja. He's serving a life sentence in prison in Bahrain. He's already spent two years in jail. And Maryam's sister, Zainab, who we have often interviewed on *Democracy Now!*, is also in prison now. A close family friend of the Alkhawajas, Nabeel Rajab, is also in jail. Rajab had been the head of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. Our guest, Maryam Alkhawaja, is now the group's acting president.

Maryam, welcome to *Democracy Now!* But you don't live in Bahrain.

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: No, I don't. I'm in self-imposed exile in Copenhagen currently, for safety reasons.

AMY GOODMAN: What would happen if you went back?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Well, I did go back a few months ago, in January, for a very short trip, but I went on my Danish passport, and I chose the right timing to try and make sure that they wouldn't

arrest me. But that's not necessarily going to be the case if I decide to go back again. So I'm being very careful about the timing that I choose to go back, so as not to end up in prison like my colleagues and family.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And were you able to see your father and sister in jail at the time?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Yes, I was, and my uncle, as well. My sister was not in prison at the time, but my father and uncle were.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And how were, especially in terms of your father, the conditions for him?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Well, according to the last time I've seen him, which was in March 2011, of course he looked very different physically. I could see the marks on his face from where his jaw had been broken during torture. But—and then he also looked much thinner to me. But to my family, of course, he looked better than what they had seen during the time of his imprisonment in earlier visits that they had done.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Because he had been on hunger strike for awhile, hadn't he?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Yes, the longest hunger strike he went on was 110 days. And then he and my sister Zainab also had staged a hunger strike about a month or month and a half ago, as well.

AMY GOODMAN: What is happening with your sister right now?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Well, Zainab—just yesterday, they passed—they upheld another verdict against her, which gave her an extra three months. She had already been sentenced to three months and 22 days in two other cases.

AMY GOODMAN: For what?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: The first case was entering an illegal area, which is the—which was known as the Pearl Square, which is now more of a military barracks. And so she received 22 days for that. And then the other verdict, I believe, was the one on—I believe it was insulting or beating a police officer, where she received another verdict. And so, in total, she had three months and 22 days. And then yesterday they passed another verdict, which was about the sit-in at Abu Saiba Roundabout. There's a very clear video of her being beaten and dragged by handcuffs on the roundabout. And she received a three-month sentence on that one, as well.

AMY GOODMAN: So how much longer does she have to serve? And what is her response to these charges?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Well, so far, right now she has up until September being imprisoned. And, of course, it's very concerning because of the way she's being treated in prison. She hasn't been outside for more than two months now. She hasn't seen her three-year-old daughter or the rest of the family for more than two months now. And the other concern is that she has more prison—she might have more prison sentences made against her because of further court cases that she has coming up.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And what's the situation with the press in Bahrain now in terms of being able to get out any kind of information or news about what's going on with the continuing government repression?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Well, we've seen a systematic targeting of the press in Bahrain, whether it's international media or local media. Of course, with the local media, it's worse. It's come to the extent of where we've seen photojournalists actually killed. For example, there was a young man who was shot and killed for carrying a camera during a protest. But we've also seen cases where journalists

have been arrested and tortured. For example, Nazeha Saeed, who was last year—sorry, in 2011, arrested and tortured, and then filed a lawsuit against her torturers—she could identify five of them. Only one of them was actually brought to court, and then found innocent, despite the—there was very well-documented evidence that Nazeha’s statements about the torture that she had been subjected to were true. And, of course, she’s not the only journalist who has been subjected to this. We have Ahmed Radhi and other journalists, as well.

But then we’re also seeing a constant targeting of journalists in which, when they go to report on protests that are happening on the ground, they usually get briefly arrested, where, you know, by the time they’re released again, they’re not able to cover the protest because it’s finished. Nazeha, for example, has had her ID card, her press ID card, taken away. And other journalists also receive this kind of harassment during their coverage of protests on the ground.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And what about the role of the Obama administration and the U.S. government, which clearly has spoken out against abuses of governments against democracy now protesters—democracy protesters in Libya, in Egypt, in Syria? What’s been the role of the U.S. government in terms of Bahrain?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Well, I know President Obama in 2011 made that speech that everyone remembers, of course, where he said that anywhere where people come out to demand democracy and freedom, they’ll find a friend in the United States of America. But I think a lot of people, especially in places like Bahrain, believe there was a disclaimer that nobody really paid attention to, which is, if you’re from the Gulf, then our friend is the regime and not the people. And I think that’s the thing that we’ve seen so far, is that, even in the beginning, we saw statements, albeit they were not consistent and there was not much follow-up on these statements, but there has hardly been any real accountability for the Bahraini government due to the human rights violations that have been ongoing in Bahrain for more than two years now.

What we’ve been seeing is from—you know, all kinds of violations, like systematic torture, like extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests. We’re still seeing house raids at dawn happening in Bahrain right now. Our colleague, Naji Fateel, who is an administrative member of the Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights, was arrested—or, rather, abducted from his home. He had disappeared for three days. And now we have credible reports that he’s been subjected to severe torture, like electric shocks to the genital area or, you know, inducing drowning techniques, and things like this. And so, we’re seeing the exact—exact same things that we saw two years ago; but even more so, we’re seeing a deterioration of the human rights situation. And the lack of international accountability to the Bahraini government and this culture of having international impunity for governments like Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries really plays into the fact of why we’re seeing a continued deterioration to the human rights situation.

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to play a clip of your sister Zainab. We interviewed her a number of times. [This clip is from 2011](#). She was not in jail at the time.

ZAINAB ALKHAWAJA: My message to Obama is basically that he has to choose. He has to choose if his administration is really with human rights, democracy and freedom, as he claimed, and with change towards democracy, or is he more concerned about supporting his friends who are dictators in the Middle East?

AMY GOODMAN: That’s Zainab Alkhawaja. She is in jail right now. How old is your older sister Zainab?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: She's 29 years old.

AMY GOODMAN: And how old are you, Maryam?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Twenty-five.

AMY GOODMAN: The protests in Bahrain continued this year as Bahrain staged the annual Formula One Grand Prix auto race last month. Speaking to Al Jazeera, the minister for information, Sameera Rajab, accused terrorists of trying to tarnish Bahrain's image.

SAMEERA RAJAB: [translated] The images you get and the information you receive are from terrorists. How can you know if these villages are Shia or non-Shia? These pieces of information are coming from the terrorists, who are attempting to smear the image of Bahrain. There is no problem at all in terms of security; only a number of trained terrorists, trained by Hezbollah, who want to destabilize the country. The problem of Bahrain can easily be resolved at the negotiating table.

AMY GOODMAN: That's the Bahraini minister for information, Sameera Rajab, on Al Jazeera. Your response to that, Maryam?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Well, I mean, I think that's—I'm not going to go into the whole political issue of whether the opposition, you know, is terrorists or not and all of that, but I think it's always worth mentioning that Sameera Rajab is a public and outspoken supporter of Saddam Hussein. And for someone who continuously talks about terrorism, I think that's something that needs to be mentioned when talking about who Sameera Rajab is and the kind of viewpoint that she represents.

But I think, you know, speaking about human rights violations—even if, in her opinion, you know, the opposition doesn't have any grounds to stand on—as long as there are human rights violations happening in Bahrain, the government has a responsibility. They have a responsibility to stop the human rights violations, and they have a responsibility to hold those who commit these human rights violations accountable. Sameera Rajab needs to be held accountable for a lot of these statements that she's making that are either false or fabricated, and also, of course, add to the situation, the deteriorating situation of human rights in the country.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you just explain the origin of this conflict? And then explain the forces that are contributing, talking about outside forces, from Saudi Arabia—I mean, Bahrain is extremely important to the United States. The Fifth Fleet is there.

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Of course. I mean, the civil rights movement in Bahrain is one of the oldest in the region. It started back in the 1920s. And almost every single 10 years since the 1920s, we've seen some form of uprising happening in Bahrain. And despite that, the regime in Bahrain, the government in Bahrain, has been able to put down these protests almost every time they happened in the past. Of course, when people came out in 2011 demanding a new constitution, demanding that the king deliver on the promises that he made in 2001, they weren't demanding the stepping down of the entire monarchy. They were just demanding reforms. It was after the government decided to use excessive force, to start killing people on the streets, that the demand changed of the protesters on the streets. And so, this is a bit of the background of what's happening.

But I think the other thing that's very important is the role that is played from the outside forces. Bahrain is geopolitically very important. And I always like to call it the "inconvenient revolution." Where else in the Middle East and North Africa region have you seen a foreign military step into another country and help the government put down a popular uprising? You know, how would it be

ever acceptable in the international context, for example, to see France and Germany step into the U.K. to put up a popular uprising?

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And in this case, you're talking about Saudi Arabia's troops coming in.

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Of course, Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the form of the GCC, the Gulf Cooperation Council, troops. And not only that, to take this a step further, that the United States administration came out and justified the entrance of these troops into Bahrain to help the government, to me, you know, is something that I cannot even begin to fathom. How can, in an international context, we ever justify the presence of foreign troops in a country to put down a popular uprising? So, just looking at the geopolitical situation and seeing how the international response to the human rights situation in Bahrain has been, the lack of any kind of real accountability, really gets you to understand how geopolitics plays a role in Bahrain.

AMY GOODMAN: Isn't the former police chief of Philadelphia and Miami, John Timoney, now a consultant for the Bahraini regime?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Yes, according to what we know, John Timoney from the U.S. and John Yates from the U.K. have been brought on to bring about "police reform," quote-unquote, inside Bahrain. Now, what we've seen is, like I said, a deterioration to the human rights situation.

AMY GOODMAN: Has the repression been diminished during their consultancy?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Absolutely not. Absolutely not. What we've seen is the use of excessive force. Just past—last February, we saw two youth being killed by being shot directly by police forces. And we continue to see this. The methods used of excessive force, arbitrary arrests, house raids in the middle of night, targeting of children, continues almost on a daily basis in Bahrain.

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, what do you believe—you're here in the United States. So, we asked your sister Zainab in 2011, does she have a message for President Obama? The Navy's Fifth Fleet is there. What do you believe the U.S. can do?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: I believe that the United States—there's much that the United States can do. And I think the very least minimum is for them to uphold their position towards human rights. When you want to judge a country in their foreign policy on whether they're doing the right thing when it comes to human rights accountability internationally, you don't judge them on whether they're holding their enemies accountable; you judge them on whether they hold their allies accountable for human rights abuses. And when the United States fails to hold their allies, like Bahrain and like Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, accountable for human rights violations, this really harms the credibility of the United States' work in other countries when it comes to human rights abuses.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, we want to thank you, Maryam, very much for being with us. Maryam Alkhawaja is acting president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, co-director of the Gulf Center for Human Rights. Her father was the original head of this center, then Nabeel Rajab, who we've interviewed on *Democracy Now!* By the way, how is he?

MARYAM ALKHAWAJA: Nabeel Rajab is suffering from some health issues inside prison. Most of the political prisoners have—they don't have access to adequate medical care. And Nabeel Rajab already has a back problem. And so, he's been appealing to the government to allow him to receive adequate medical care while in prison, which has not been realized, unfortunately, for most of the political prisoners in Bahrain.

AMY GOODMAN: For our interviews with [Zainab](#), with [Nabeel Rajab](#) and [others](#), you can go to our website at democracynow.org. They are in prison now in Bahrain. Maryam, thanks for joining us.

This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. When we come back, is the FBI reading your email? Well, we'll find out. We'll speak with the ACLU. Stay with us.



Guests

[Ben Wizner](#), attorney at the ACLU and director of the Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project.

The American Civil Liberties Union has obtained documents revealing that the FBI and IRS may be reading emails and other electronic communications of U.S. citizens without obtaining a warrant. This comes just as reports have emerged that the Obama administration is considering approving an overhaul of government surveillance of the Internet. The New York Times reported the new rules would make it easier to wiretap users of web services such as instant messaging. "The FBI wants to be able to intercept every kind of possible communication," says attorney Ben Wizner, director of the ACLU's Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project. "The FBI basically wants to require all of these companies to rewrite their code in order to enable more government surveillance. ... And in order to accomplish that, they would make the whole Internet less secure."

Transcript

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: We turn now to the issue of government surveillance. The American Civil Liberties Union recently obtained documents revealing that the FBI and the IRS may be reading emails and other electronic communications of U.S. citizens without obtaining a warrant.

AMY GOODMAN: This comes as reports have emerged that the Obama administration is considering approving an overhaul of government surveillance of the Internet. *The New York Times* reported the new rules would make it easier to wiretap users of web services such as instant messaging.

Well, to talk more about this, we're joined by Ben Wizner, an attorney at the ACLU and director of the Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project.

We welcome you back to *Democracy Now!* What did you find out?

BEN WIZNER: I suppose we didn't find out anything that was all that shocking. A 1986 law called the Electronic Communications Privacy Act actually allows law enforcement to read emails that are stored for more than 180 days without a warrant. Now, of course, that law was enacted before there was a World Wide Web, before there was cloud storage of email, when in order to store an email that long you had to download it to your own computer. So it's an incredibly out-of-date law.

Now in 2010, a federal court said that it was unconstitutional for the FBI to obtain and read those emails without a warrant, which strikes us as absolutely correct. So we wanted to know: Is the FBI actually following this federal court decision? It's a federal court decision that covers four states, but it seems to state the law absolutely correctly. And so we filed FOIA requests with lots of government agencies. And what we learned is that some seem to be following this decision, and others don't. The FBI gave us a 2012 operations guideline that doesn't even mention that case and that says unequivocally that it can obtain stored email communications without a warrant, simply with a subpoena.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: The—but the IRS.

BEN WIZNER: Yeah.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Why are they being able to look through people's emails without a warrant?

BEN WIZNER: Well, they ought to be able to look through emails with a warrant. I mean, the IRS conducts criminal investigations, and perhaps they should conduct more criminal investigations, you know, given the way some people avoid tax laws in this country. But there's no reason why they should not be able to obtain a probable cause warrant from a judge. You know, it's ironic that we've been screaming about this for years and years, that there's a big movement to reform this law, but only when we released documents about the IRS did any Republicans on Capitol Hill take any notice of this at all.

So I think the prospects for reform, for overhauling that out-of-date law, and for providing real constitutional protection for emails—and there's no reason why your email should have different constitutional protections than a letter that you write. People expect, when they send a private email to someone else, that it is private, that it shouldn't be treated just as a kind of business record that the government can obtain without good reason.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you find, after the Boston Marathon bombing, that there is increased willingness to accept all kinds of surveillance? I mean, the use of face-recognition technology, the whole country then sees that the suspects are then arrested. How are you dealing with this?

BEN WIZNER: You know, it's very interesting, because I think that the Boston situation confirmed largely what we know about that kind of video surveillance. It doesn't prevent or deter serious attacks. It didn't in Boston, it didn't in London, it didn't in Madrid, and it didn't in Times Square. It can be useful in helping to figure out after the fact who did it, which is why we don't oppose camera systems at high-profile targets or events.

What we don't want is cameras to be so pervasive that they're pointed into our backyards or into bedroom windows, and for records to be stored primarily of innocent people going about their daily business. It's not just a Big Brother problem that we'll have this permanent database. It's a "little brother" problem. We saw, you know, the NYPD flying over a rooftop and videotaping a couple in an amorous moment, and somehow that was leaked to a news station, so we know about it. I imagine that kind of thing happens all the time.

But, yes, I mean, I do—I think that there is this belief that greater surveillance leads to greater security. And I think that at times the opposite is true. Trying to prevent terrorism is trying to find a needle in a haystack. There's just not a lot of terrorists. And the worst way to do that is to make the haystack so large that the needle can't be found. And the more information that gets swept up, stored, the harder it is for law enforcement, with their limited resources, to actually figure out what's going on.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And what about the efforts now in Congress and with the Obama administration

siding with the FBI in actually weakening safeguards against surveillance, especially of people's emails?

BEN WIZNER: Isn't it interesting, right, that the FBI agrees with us that the laws are out of date? We think it makes it too easy for them to conduct surveillance, and they think it makes it too difficult for them to conduct it. But what that story this week was, is that, you know, the FBI wants to be able to intercept every kind of possible communication. Now, if they get a warrant from a judge to listen to phone calls, they can go to a phone company, a switch can be flicked, and they can listen to those phone calls. But there's lots of ways that we communicate online right now—through emails, through chats and text messages, through peer to peer, through encrypted communications—where the technology simply doesn't exist for the FBI to get that information in real time. They can get it once it's stored, with a warrant. The FBI basically wants to require all of these companies to rewrite their code in order to enable more government surveillance, essentially to change the world in order to facilitate surveillance.

What's very interesting in that story, you saw that big businesses who this would affect are very much against it. And it's tempting to sort of sit back and eat popcorn and watch the telecoms and the FBI slug it out against each other, but the issues are too important. You know, our government wasn't created to make sure that law enforcement could spy on every single communication. People have always been able to walk out into a field and have a conversation not using a technology that could be wiretapped. And this would be a very, very dangerous proposal. I expect a pretty big fight.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And obviously, in the telecom battles, the telecoms would eventually cut a deal with the government and figure out a way to give the government some of what it wants while keeping their ability to keep making money.

BEN WIZNER: You know, they could be seeking leverage to make sure the government has to pay for all of the changes. No, we can't entrust our civil liberties to for-profit entities.

AMY GOODMAN: Last year, National Security Agency whistleblower William Binney [appeared](#) on *Democracy Now!*, and I asked him about President Obama's record on surveillance.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you believe all emails, the government has copies of, in the United States?

WILLIAM BINNEY: I would think—I believe they have most of them, yes.

AMY GOODMAN: And you're speaking from a position where you would know, considering your position in the National Security Agency.

WILLIAM BINNEY: Right. All they would have to do is put various Narus devices at various points along the network, at choke points or convergent points, where the network converges, and they could basically take down and have copies of most everything on the network.

AMY GOODMAN: And, of course, William Binney was at the National Security Agency—

BEN WIZNER: Right, [inaudible].

AMY GOODMAN: —which is several times larger than the CIA.

BEN WIZNER: That's right. And, you know, as we all know, and as you reported many times, they're

constructing a massive data facility in Utah. And many people believe that the purpose of that is essentially to create a surveillance time machine to intercept every communication that they can, even encrypted ones, with the understanding that even if they can't prevent attacks by building this haystack, as I said, they can at least connect the dots in hindsight by doing that.

But I will say that this new proposal adds a new level of danger, because it would require these companies to break encryption. There's many kinds of communication that human rights activists use, that journalists use, with end-to-end encryption, so that even the companies that are providing the services can't read the communication. The FBI considers this a "going dark" problem. They don't want us to be able to communicate with each other in that kind of encrypted way. And in order to accomplish that, they would make the whole Internet less secure, because in order to build in this kind of surveillance back door, you're essentially opening up all of these online platforms to cyber-attack from criminals, from hackers, from foreign governments. And some governments are even less benign than our own.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Ben Wizner, I want to thank you for being with us, attorney at the ACLU, director of the Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project.

And that does it for our broadcast. Juan, you're headed to [Philadelphia tonight](#).

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Yes, the final opening of the *Harvest of Empire* movie based on my book is going to be at the Riverview Plaza Stadium 17 tonight at—and I'm going to be speaking afterwards, after the 7:25 showing. And since Philadelphia was my home for many years—I started my journalism career there—I expect that, hopefully, that many of my former colleagues and friends, as well as those *Democracy Now!* listeners, will show up and be there tonight at 7:25.

AMY GOODMAN: And I really encourage people to go out to see *Harvest of Empire*.

2013, May 11 A SERIES OF ASTROLOGICAL READINGS ABOUT THE NEW MOON/SOLAR ECLIPSE

24HRS until NEW MOON SOLAR ECLIPSE:

Here we are on the precipice of great & radical change. Perhaps you have already been working daily for the past 2 weeks on ...being more spontaneous, less rigid & flexible. If so, then you will have a major breakthrough in your life over the next few days (particularly to do with the body). Right now, we can feel tightly squeezed. The pressure is on. The Moon is lining up directly in between the Sun & The Earth & we can feel the pull. My advice is to look after yourself, don't get into fights or arguments with those who are not handling this pressure well. Affirm that you want to work with the universe to live your best life & take the steps shown to you without hesitation. I'll write more on these energies next post xxx

<https://www.facebook.com/ElizabethSPeruh>http://www.deltawaves.com.au/aboutelizabeth_newsletter.html See More

New Moon/Solar Eclipse of May 9th/10th

Are you feeling it? On May 9th and 10th (depending on where in the world you live), we have a New Moon and Solar Eclipse. While the Lunar Eclipse brought to the surface hidden emotional dross and hidden beliefs, the Solar Eclipse will activate those beliefs that we are well aware of in order to release and transform them. As I have been hearing from lots of folks, the Lunar Eclipse has been quite intense for most and the Solar Eclipse intensifies that which we got in touch with during the Lunar Eclipse period. Each Eclipse builds in intensity, and we're not done yet, since there is another Eclipse at the end of the month. Eclipses help us get in touch with what we're either not releasing consciously or to get in touch with what we're not aware of in order to release and as well, they activate further downloads of Light, DNA activation and anything that our Souls require of us.

~ Kara Schallock

... www.soulsticerising.com

<http://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/solar/2013-may-10>

See More New Moon/Solar Eclipse of May 9th/10th

[MoonTempleOracle](#)

[Tuesday at 10:20am](#) ·

- **New Moon May 2013. Your life may or may not be written.**

Those of you who have been reading my columns know that I advocate incorporating a Lunar sense of time into your life. Incorporation meaning, "to bring into the body." For those of you who might be reading me for the first time, I will say that it is very freeing to live your life from New Moon to New Moon. For the New Moon, every month, is a chance to be reborn. All the stresses of your life, whether relational, professional or personal, can be released each New Moon.

Life on the Gregorian calendar is separated from this natural cycle, which influences all life forms here on Earth. In the Gregorian system, January 1st – or the first of any month, or any given Monday – is really an arbitrary point in time when viewed in an energetic sense. But for most of us in the Western world, these are our starting points.

I think there are people who would like to say that there is some kind of dark intentionality to the Gregorian system, that it's a Patriarchal construct designed to externalize us, to keep us from recognizing who we really are, inside. I have held that point of view, though now I hold that that sort of thinking gives my power away. Whether or not there is a "why" for the banality of Western Civ, as soon as I am aware of

that, that I am caught in its net, it is my responsibility to change my **life**. **Only** victims blame.

On Thursday, May 9th at 8:28 PM US Eastern Time, the Moon renews Herself in the 20th degree of the Sign of Taurus. As this New Moon is on one of its nodes, this is an Annular Solar eclipse, which is visible in totality across Australia and a broad swath of the Pacific Ocean. If you aren't sure what the Moon's nodes are, or how they play into eclipses, here's a good place to start learning about it: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon_node.

For me, the Lunar Cycle is something other than an astrological moment. It has something to say about the experience of Life Force energy that all living beings experience regardless of their ability to observe other beings. In other words, protozoans, leafy beings, insects, bears, fish – all of these are sensitive to the Lunar Cycle. And as I am committed to deepening my sense of energetic unity with all Life forms here, I practice – and am an advocate for – feeling this cycle.

Other astrologers are more into eclipses than I am, but I am “into” the nodes for sure. And astrologically speaking, this is an especially interesting New Moon in that it is part of an especially massive and narrow cluster of astrological energy. Mars is in 15 degrees of Taurus, the South node is in 17 degrees, Mercury is in 18 degrees, and the Sun, Moon, and Pallas are in 20 degrees of Taurus.

So, if we choose to be reborn on this New Moon, we are taking on a commitment to replay many themes from our past, in order to become so in touch with them that we can recognize them in action, in real time.

The Taurean impulse to experience life as fresh and wondrous and new is likely to be expressed in a very South Nodey, past life pattern sort of way at this time. The obstinacy and single-mindedness of Mars or Mercury in Taurus wants us to relive the ways in which we have created our loops. Pallas conjunct the South node in Taurus is an especially brittle sort of fear of diving into these loops.

Looking at this energetic cluster, I would say that, at this time, many of us are given to rejecting, in a very strong way, what we recognize as “old” in our lives – while at the same time being swamped by all sorts of old energies to fight against. The harder we struggle, the more difficult it gets.

Maybe you have found yourself swamped in old patterns? And maybe you have said “no” to them in such a way that you have created some backlash?

Another way to think of the Moon's cycle is to think of each New Moon as setting the tone for the whole waxing and waning cycle that follows. Something to note now, as we begin the next cycle, is that on May 20th Pluto and Uranus are forming the third of seven exact waxing squares, which to me express the great challenge and opportunity of our time. The outer planets are like shamans, they take us on these Hero journeys of our lives. And the waxing square is the densest part of the journey, when we tend to create the most karma. Which we do by resisting the life cycle.

So I see this New Moon as a particularly deep opportunity to think about things like the creation of karma – personal and collective. And as I choose not to be a victim, I can only ask myself how I can BE, in an energetic sense, true to who I am feeling myself to be. I can't say, “My life is like this because my partner is this or that...,” I can't say, “My life is like this because the government is this or that...”

So the starting point is to say, “My life is like this because I have chosen to be born.” There are so many methods to “rise above,” to transcend, to get back to the spirit plane from whence we came. But you know, if that's the point of it all, why bother being born? If transcendence is the point, I want my money back.

Rather, I choose to Descend, to come in here, into the experience of life-in-a-body, this incredible sense-organ, of which my mind is only a part. Thoughts are just feelings, really. They're just as subjective and (shall I say it?) irrational as Love itself. This is all just so juicy, so dramatic – can you play it out with a smile on your lips?

From John Sandbach's Chandra series of zodiac degree symbols, here is Taurus 20, where the Sun, Moon, and Pallas are combined to give us a New sense of the genius of this play we cast ourselves in. The symbol is, "A fork in the road with a blank signpost."

The karmic cycle is the ultimate map, once you learn to recognize it. So we can be grateful that there is a south node to help us see it. But, once we see (and accept as our creation) where we are, we suddenly have the option of taking off into new territory.

Whether the path you choose in this moment takes you forward into the unknown or loops you back into the familiar, may you choose to love yourself. You have given yourself, by being born, the opportunity to participate in Life. Gruesome, tragic, glorious, ecstatic. Tragi-comic.

May you humble yourself to this opportunity – enough to be willing to play your part.

Which only you can know.

What could be better than a blank signpost on a New Moon?

May She set you free!

With Love,
Jon

--

"If you meet your destiny half way, it will meet you all the way." Elias Lonsdale.

Thank you,
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Imagine two rooms. One is filled with incredible Light, and one is totally dark. There is a single door between them.

Watch what happens when you open the door. If you are standing in the room of Light, darkness does not suddenly pour in. It remains in the other room unto itself. If, however, you are standing in the dark room when the door opens, suddenly it is flooded with Light! The degree of darkness that existed before is now gone. Light has overcome the dark.

Dear ones, this is because Light is active, and dark is passive. The energy of enlightenment is an active beacon of light to the darkness of the old-energy on your planet. A very few light workers carrying their brilliance from place to place can actually change the energy balance of the Earth..!

Is it any wonder that we love you so..? ♥

~ KRYON, through Lee Carroll See More

Dawning Golden Crystal Age

One of the most exciting aspects about being on Earth right now is that there is a reordering or a retooling taking place in your DNA. Cosmic rays are coming onto the planet so that a change is being broadcast and a reordering is taking place inside the body. The scattered data that holds the history and awareness of the Living Library is now lining up.

The DNA is evolving. New helixes or strands are being formed as the light-encoded filaments are beginning to bundle themselves together. The scattered data is being pulled together in your body by electromagnetic energies from Prime Creator. We are here to watch this process in you, to assist you, and to evolve ourselves as well.

As this rebuilding or reordering comes together, you will create a more evolved nervous system that will allow much more data to move itself into your consciousness. You will awaken many brain cells that have been lying dormant, and you will come into use of your full physical body rather than the small percentage that you have been functioning with.

Every place on the planet is being affected by this change, this awareness. Those of you who are the Guardians of Light and who wish to completely change this present reality and bring different options in are anchoring the frequency. If it is not anchored and understood, it can create chaos. It will create chaos. This is why you must ground yourselves.

Chaos brings about a state of reorganization when utilized properly. Time is collapsing, and the energy is becoming larger and larger. You have come here to use that energy first. You will make pathways of consciousness as you pull the energy into your body that will assist others so that they may not have to go through what you go through.

Many people will suddenly begin to feel this energy without any preparation at all. You are all pulling light, which is data and information, onto the planet, and as you do this you create new pathways for consciousness to explore without even saving a word.

The new pathways of consciousness create new realities, new options, and new ways of living and being. That is why the collapse of your society is inevitable: It does not hold light; it does not hold the multidimensional possibilities; it holds you in limitation, and you are tired of that.

= The Pleiadians = by Barbara Marciniak See More

Dawning Golden Crystal Age

The Original Planners of earth set out to insert their own version of a plan to coincide with a time when the frequency of Earth would be altered, a time when the owners/controllers would perish if they could not change their own frequency. Emotions are a source of food.

There are those whose food source is love, and the Original Planners intend to alter the frequency of Earth to that of love. The current owners' food source is that of fear, anxiety, chaos, hunger, and despondency and all this negative energy must be removed.

Guess who is removing this food source? You are! As members of the Family of Light, you are renegades. You are systems busters, here to conquer your own fears and to show the rest of the planet that there is no reason to fear anything. You love to go in and cause trouble.

...

You are famous, your branch of the Family of Light. You are famous for going into systems of reality and altering the frequency, thus bringing information. It is not your task as members of the Family of Light to proselytize. You simply go into systems and act as receptacles; you receive the creative cosmic rays into

your bodies, the bodies that you occupy as humans.

= **The Pleiadians =** by Barbara Marciniak **See More**

[Dawning Golden Crystal Age](#)

The Puranas (Ancient scriptures of India) speak of 400,000 humanlike races of beings living on various planets and of 8,000,000 other life forms, including plants and lower animals. Out of the 400,000 humanlike forms, human beings as we know them are said to be among the least powerful.

2013, May 8 Cosmic Weather – New Moon in Taurus/Solar Eclipse~ Clouds, Roots & Wonder

▪ [Rev. Irma Kaye Sawyer](#)

When you stop judging, you can feel the beauty and perfection of everything around you. - Rajeev

Hello dear readers. The quote here by Rajeev really stood out to me as a good representation of all of the strong Taurus energy we currently find ourselves in. Taurus is exceptionally good at being still and quiet. Stopping the chatty, judging mind is one of the goals of meditation practice and this is a great boon to us in this area. As I wrote about in my Monthly Forecast, I feel that we have an exceptionally good opportunity at the moment, to reach our highest truths and also receive deeper levels of spiritual guidance as we quiet ourselves and **LISTEN**.

On May 8-9th, we will have the strongest influx of Taurus energy the entire month with the Sun, Moon, Venus, Mercury and Mars all in Taurus.

The Sabian Symbol for the New Moon is Taurus 20: Wind clouds and haste. This is a symbol of the transiency which characterizes life for the average individual, and of the instability which results from the disinclination of most people to give very much of themselves to their experience. Implicit in the negative symbolism is the divine aplomb of the ego, ever able to hold to its course through superficial excitement. There is a real spiritual lightness here as an outer mark of the soul's fundamental freedom. The keyword is **exaltation**. When positive, the degree is efficiency in controlling events at any point of transition or crisis, and when negative, a diffusion of self and waste of energy in an attempt to grasp the myriad facets of the unessential. – **Sabian Symbols** by Elsie Wheeler/Marc Edmund Jones

This symbol speaks to us of the insecurity and the instability that will surround us if we try to avoid any commitment and responsibility. At the same time, it is reminding us not to rush into any situation, but emphasizes the importance of staying calm and holding steady in the midst of temporary turmoil and change, represented by the winds and clouds. At its highest merit, it speaks of our ability to combine the myths, the legends, the mysteries and the sacred knowledge in order to stay centered in the face of sudden tribulations and trials. Applying this knowledge, it will instill in us the ability to recognize and to seize the moments and opportunities that are created by our wonderment and excitement. All eclipses speak to us of the sacred knowledge, myths, legends, and mysteries. This particular eclipse is asking to revive the magic and the wonderment of it all, to make it as real today as it was for those, long ago. This will be one of the keys that will secure us safely through the trials we will face in the coming year. As the saying goes, "one either uses it or loses it." – Lincoln's **This & That Astrology**

I thought the Cosmic Tune choice was interesting for this New Moon/Solar Eclipse as New Moons are normally times of new beginnings and "planting seeds," if you will. Weed and root pulling is more an activity normally attributed to the Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse, but somehow when looked at in combination with the Sabian Symbol and overall energies, it started to make some sense. Also keeping in mind that the Full

Moon/Lunar eclipse at the end of the month will be especially powerful as it also will be in the wake of another pass of the Uranus/Pluto square, which tends to bring re/evolutionary energies that are felt both personally and collectively. I feel we've got a bit of "preventative medicine" available to us with this New Moon, and we would be wise to utilize it.

I could be right. I could be wrong. I feel nice when I sing this song. And I don't mind, whatever happens is fine. – David Byrne

[Talking Heads – Pull up the Roots](#)

It's a fun and rather wacky song, full of seeming contradictions. How could someone be so cheerful pulling up the roots, right? He sounds like he's dancing while he's doing it. I think it's especially perfect that it was written and sung by David Byrne who's own Sun is in Taurus. He ought to know. .

Solar Eclipses can bring in changes from the outer world though opportunity, they can also present the necessity for personal decisions to be made. All eclipses are magical and powerful moments in time where energies become less scattered and highly focused.

Traditionally more psychic and emotional discomfort is associated with Lunar Eclipses, as they are more aligned with cutting ties and letting go; Solar Eclipses can also bring their own kind of discomfort; "a fire under the butt," so to speak. For those that fear or resist change, could be feeling edgier than most at this time. Keep in mind also that the effects of both Solar and Lunar eclipses can be felt for weeks, months and for some, even years.

We are also dealing with the push-pull dynamic of the current North Node in Scorpio and South Node in Taurus which can lull us into a sense of complacency, dullness and intractability. Beware of the tendency to keep taking the "Hard Way," just because it is a road well-traveled. Also, negative habits of mind or behavior that though we know aren't exactly good for us, we hold onto anyway.

*New Moon/Solar Eclipse Message: The gift of the solar eclipse/new moon is the gift of both luminosity and continuity, bringing the realization that *all* parts of your life are sacred and make up the whole that you are. Just as the sun shines its light on all equally and without discrimination, so does the truth of your being radiate presence and unconditional love. Even your doubts, fears and so forth can be blessed, accepted and in this way, integrated.* – **The Keepers**, 5.7.13

So the Sun comes and go, and sometimes the cold winds blow. The clouds can bring storms with them and make a mess. I feel that all of this strong Taurus energy in the midst of such powerful change (two eclipses this month,) is a powerful reminder of these wise words by the wonderful Pema Chodron, "You are the sky. Everything else is just the weather."

New Moon Mantra: *In my thoughts and in the space between them, in my breaths and in between them, when I still my mind I experience ever-new Joy. Light. Peace.*

Happy New Moon & Solar Eclipse friends.

NOTE: New Moon in Taurus is 5/9 at 5:28 pm PDT. Solar Eclipse is at 7:55 pm PDT.

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<http://irmaksawyer.com/brightstar/?p=2792>

Channelled through Natalie Glasson (Bluebell is Natalie's Fairy Guide)

I bring to you messages and vibrations of love from the fairy kingdom, our greetings are always with you as we send vibrations from our hearts each time you connect or observe nature. One of our main purposes is to amplify and encourage your connection with nature upon the Earth. When we see you connecting into the energies of nature it creates waves of bliss within our heart chakras because we know that you are connecting into the vibration of the Creator. We understand that when you gaze upon nature especially the plant kingdom you are seeing the mirror image of the beauty of the Creator which is within you.

Our greatest wish is for you to enhance your connection and experience of oneness with the Creator because it truly allows for the entire vibration of all to be elevated. The beauty of nature creates a perspective of beauty which opens up energy networks especially within your mind making it easier for you to observe the vibration of the Creator within your being. With your observation of nature and your connection into the network of the Creator vibrations within your being and within the structure of nature you are able to be simultaneously at one with yourself, the nature kingdom and the Creator, this is a very powerful point of anchoring and realisation. In truth you are connecting into all that is your reality. The Earth is a living pulsating vibration as are you, transmitting and constantly forming the vibration of the Creator. Within this most blissful connection you become one with all that is your reality and the Creator.

I wish to encourage you to achieve this when existing in nature of any form. First allow yourself to call upon Archangel Michael and Archangel Faith for complete and absolute protection of your energies and the sustaining of your pure and high vibration of light. Then bring the attention of your mind to your heart chakra acknowledging that within your heart chakra and entire being is the vibration of the Creator. Let this vibration build as a source of light within you with a powerful focus upon oneness.

As you become more connected with your own energies and truth allow yourself to observe either with your eyes open or closed the nature around you. If you have your eyes open you may gaze upon the beauty and perfection of nature. With your eyes closed you may observe nature energetically.

It is important to realise that you are viewing the vibration of the Creator that exists within nature. Take some time to focus on your breathing, with every breath that you inhale you are drawing the Creator light of nature into your entire being, with every breathe you exhale you are allowing your own Creator essence to expand into nature. Through this process you are dissolving all boundaries between you and nature, allowing yourself to connect into the energy network of nature while grounding your own energy network as one with nature. Light will begin to flow through you in an energetic pattern that emphasizes your oneness with nature, meaning that you will become a part of the nature energetic network of Creator light, akin to a powerful joining point in an energetic network.

This process in itself can be a deeply healing experience of oneness that can boost you in times when you may be experiencing loneliness, the need for support or to experience a deeper energetic connection with the Creator. I have shared this technique and experience with you because there is a greater service that we the fairy kingdom ask of you at this time. It is a time of embodiment upon the Earth, this signifies that the vibrations and the qualities of the Creator can truly be experienced and can manifest for all to observe and experience. For a long time nature has held many keys and energetic codes of the Creator to support further activation of each soul upon the Earth.

We wish to create a vibration of encouragement and welcome to invite all souls who are ready to enter back into nature and to connect in oneness with all that is nature, physically and energetically to do so in order to collect and activate valuable wisdom so that they may be of greater service within the ascension

process. A simple observation or acknowledgement of nature from those who are not ready to connect in oneness will allow for activations to occur within their being, energies that have been waiting to be stirred. It is those who wish to be of greater service that we ask that you become a pillar and transmitter of oneness within nature to allow for the vibration of oneness to be emanated to all.

The vibration of oneness is to recognise that you are connected to all beings and all aspects of the Creator, it is to realise your equality and to accept that love is eternally flowing; you have the opportunity and ability to receive and express love. The love that you receive and express can create a powerful surge in your spiritual growth. Oneness is to realise that when you connect into different aspect of the Creator not only do you recognise your own power but you boost the power of all other Creator aspects. Oneness doesn't require you to be present with physical manifestations and people constantly but asks you to recognise your eternal connection to the Creator and all aspects of the Creator infinitely.

When you allow yourself to connect into the energetic networks of nature you are recognising your oneness with all aspects of the Creator, amplifying and projecting this acknowledgement as inspiration across the world and the universe of the Creator. If we can encourage more souls to connect with nature in the way that we described, feeling into, recognizing and observing the energetic networks of nature then we will create powerful pillars of light and oneness upon the Earth. You will act as a powerful amplifier of the Creator's vibration as well as allowing healing to take place in areas of nature where the energetic network, which is the connection between all aspects of nature, may be damaged or contaminated.

It is important that your thoughts are pure as you connect into the energetic network of nature as that which you transmit will anchor deep into the Earth's vibrations. It is also important to realise that you are acting as the joint in the network that brings the universe of the Creator to the Earth. In truth you are the join that links the energetic network of the Earth and nature with the universe and inner planes of the Creator. You may discover that as soon as you part take in this process that energy from the inner planes of the Creator will flow through you, that your senses will be enhanced as well as your ability to connect with all that is the Creator.

There is a need for focus upon oneness while allowing all that is needed energetically from the Creator to flow through you into the energetic network of the Earth and nature kingdom in order to support a deep healing process. It is also appropriate to enjoy the experience of oneness as your enjoyment will be transmitted into nature, inspiring and encouraging others to take delight in a deeper connection with nature and therefore the Creator.

As the fairy kingdom we also have a special energetic vibration that we wish to transmit into nature in order for it to embed deep into the essence of Mother Earth. Upon a vibration of love we wish to transmit the fairy wisdom into the Earth for others to collect and use to serve ascension. It is now time for the fairy kingdom to awaken their knowledge and share it more thoroughly and openly with souls upon the Earth. Our wisdom is ancient and holds many treasures about connecting with the Earth, assisting the shift and ascension process of the Earth and returning to the heart of the Creator. Powerful healing and awakening tools and wisdom can be accessed within our vibration, it was once on the Earth that the wisdom of the fairies was valued and honoured because of its sacred and ancient understandings. It is now time to allow the wisdom of the fairies to flow with greater openness into the Earth and souls of many. Now is the time for many who are ready to collect the wisdom of the fairies to open themselves up to experiencing our light, sharing it with others. We no longer wish to keep our wisdom hidden but wish to integrate with you in order to aid the ascension of all.

We ask that if you feel guided to achieve our practice, that you call upon the fairy kingdom to channel their wisdom upon a wave of fairy love through your being into the energetic networks of your own being, the Earth and the nature kingdom. You may call upon my energies of Bluebell to oversee this process. Even if you do not feel able to achieve this practice of oneness which will aid in shifting the consciousness of humanity to be more accepting of oneness, we ask that you simply allow the fairies to anchor their energy

through your being in your quiet time, letting it flow to wherever it may be needed on the Earth and also within your being to impart sacred wisdom.

Now is the time of true awakening and embodiment, we believe it is time for you to once again embody the wisdom of the fairies to aid the ascension process of the Creator. We give our wisdom to you with our love and only ask that you receive it with respect for all that we are.

Our wisdom is with you upon a wave of love always,
Bluebell

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