

**INFORMATION REGARDING CALLS PRESENTED AND/OR SUPPORTED BY
2013 RAINBOW ROUND TABLE**

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com ; click on Talk Radio Station #2; click on "64K Listen"

Thursday: 9 pm – 12:00 pm EST **Stargate Round Table** **Host: Marietta Robert**

Friday: 9 pm – 2 am EST **Friday Night Hard News** **Hosts: T & R**

Saturday: 4:30 pm – 2 am EST **History of our Galactic World & NESARA** **Hosts: T & R**

Friday, Saturday: From **10 – 11 pm EST**, for one hour, the call moves to the Conference Call Line [PIN below] and then returns to BBS Radio.

- Use the following phone numbers to ask questions or make comments during the radio show.

530 – 413 – 9537 [line 1]

530 – 763 – 1594 [line 2 & 3]

530 – 746 – 0341 [line 4]

- **BBS Toll Free # in Canada, US** 1 – 888-429-5471 This number picks up whichever line is available.

B Conference Call: 1-213 -342-3000

Thursday PIN #	87 87 87#
Friday PIN #	23 23 23#
Saturday PIN #	13 72 9#

C Skype: **BBSradio2**

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- To access the **FREE BBS archives** for any of these programs:
 - Go to *BBSRadio.com*; in the Left Hand Column, under MAIN MENU, scroll down to Current Program Archives;
 - when the new page comes up, scroll down to "The True History" [the picture of T & R is there] and, under that name, click on *More Archives*
 - This will take you to the page with the 2013 Rainbow Rose logo on it, and a listing of all audio archives with the latest one at the top
 - You can download the program to your own computer or listen directly.

- The **website also has an archive section:**

<http://2013rainbowroundtable.ning.com/> look under the "Archives" tab for written notes.

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST **Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls**
By telephone only: 1 – 213 - 342- 3000; PIN 9467441#

B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: **Ashtar on the Road**
9:30 – 11:00 pm EST Host is Fran; Susan Leland channels Ashtar & Mother Sekhmet
www.Ashtarontheroad.com
▪ Phone Number: 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 163731#
▪ Call is free [except for long distance charges]
▪ Can also listen to the call via Skype

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

Opening Meditation: **Cheryl Croci** [See p.1 for info on her Sunday, Monday calls]

- Begins by sharing information on Imbolc, the cross over point, the mid point between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox: Imbolc literally means “in the belly of the goddess” - also known as St Brigit's day, a sun goddess who presided over the crops, livestock, & nature.
- This celebration is about the divine light that is in all of us; the promise of warmer days ahead, growth.
 - clearing out the old in preparation for the new are other ways to celebrate this day.
 - Also considered Candlemas Day

Housekeeping: **Rainbird**

- BBS:**
- A listener-supported radio program; we can access program archives on BBS
 - We have so much gratitude for the contribution which has cleared the slate this week! .
- THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**
- Go to BBS Radio.com/station2; find the listing for History of Nesara Call & the Paypal button
 - NO COST TO ACCESS THE ARCHIVES for any of the T & R PROGRAMS
 - Re: archives of the other programs on BBS: the money we pay to listen to other people's archives is put towards our BBS bill!
- MR:**
- Please remember to support MariettaRobert's Thursday Stargate Roundtable as well!!!!

- You can also mail a cheque or money order to
BBS Network, Inc. (Attention:Don)
5167 Toyon Lane
Paradise, CA 95969 Please note on your cheque or MO that it is for
Tara and Rama, and MariettaRobert.

T & R: • **WE CAN GIFT T & R BY GIFTING BBS.**

- On the website: 2013RainbowRoundTable.ning.com
there is a donate button on the home page and on the Blog page
- Please notify them if you're sending something: koran999@comcast.net
They are in need of food and gas.
- Rama's mailing address for cheques, Money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
1704 B Llano St, # 249
Santa Fe, NM 87505
- phone contact is via MariettaRobert: 317-773-0061
or by e-mail: stargatemarietta@gmail.com
- Remember you can also have a session with Mother, as well!

Every little bit matters! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

CALL STARTS AT 5:25 PM DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Hard News:

- T:** hopefully, they have figured out what is going on with the computer: Skype has been glitch-y
it was quite a scene to talk in a 5D way to a computer
- The \$600 that came in paid for BBS this week and last week in full, and means some readings to be done
 - Asking that listeners will continue to contribute this week so we can be ahead a week!

R got to talk to Mr X, Tom the Ringtailed Cat, Harry Reid

- Harry said that the “powers that were” have done something to split us apart and have pretty

much succeeded by creating websites that are not giving true information, that are not giving true NESARA information, Faction 3 infor

- The problems are big about the light community being divided in these things; as we are still divided, then things are delayed.
- We need a solid group of people to carry on: NESARA will not succeed if people are not here post-NESARA to receive: The only ones who will receive from NESARA are those who will be able to bear the responsibility and actualized with discernment what is being taught here.
 - It is divine government and that is what is necessary: IT IS NOT ABOUT MONEY, AND NEVER WAS ABOUT MONEY. It will continue to be about money if we don't get the right group to be the leaders to the right service to change all that needs to be changed
- we have to be aware of what needs to be changed, and why and how the rigged government got to be doing what it does

R: Harry Reid said today: we have already reached critical mass, and beyond.

- The morphogenic field / the 100th monkey effect has kicked in & is expanding & expanding & expanding.
- There are so many stories that are based in fear: we are moving forward in such a magnificent way
 - Harry Reid is a master: has been doing TM for how many years – we are in the place where earth and her people are ascending; the small rebel band and their lifeforms that seemingly hold power are coming from the throat chakra which is about fear & the place of shallow breathing – not the place deep breathing where you do the prana Yanna and fully kick in the energy that moves the kundilini up all the chakras to the 9 stars above your head.
- they all made it plain to Rama who went wandering around Santa Fe:
 - the Souper Bowl put on by The Food Depot of Santa Fe: a place where various restaurants made vegetarian & vegan soups & stews to show people about changing their diets and stop eating anything with a face. T & R have gotten food from them before:
- Gov Suzanna Martinez; former gov Garry Johnson, Bill Richardson were at Souper Bowl
 - Gov. Suzanna Martinez [tied in with Tea Bag folks] was there and got a wake-up call today:
 - In New Mexico, 1 in 3 people go hungry every other day, including T & R!
- The people there said it was about serving one master, about Love;
 - these were 4 and 5 star restaurants, owned by some who are millionaires –
 - there is a place called Fenn Gallery, Mr Fenn is a millionaire lives there; he was helping out people who have no place to stay! Mr Fenn is helping homeless people get into empty homes so they didn't get vandalized – through the real estate agencies in town, getting people into really nice homes!
 - Mr 19.5* said bring up the wage to \$10.10, and it really needs to be \$37 an hour

Camp Loveway: talking about Candlemas/ Groundhog Day, and strange stories that have nothing to do with reality except the limited perspective of those who hate the black man in the white house, and why are people judged by the colour of their skin and not the colour of their heart cave?

- There are extremely irrational stories bordering on the psychotic about the Super Bowl
 - the focus is on love: “Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. “
 - Harry Reid left R with the image of the scene in Cocoon where the people from the retirement home got into the pool and were rejuvenated! Harry said hold that image in your heart: it will change space, time and space/time
 - Ron Howard created **Cocoon** and **Cocoon 2**; planning a 3rd one about Joe and the others on the planet Antarra and going to school there, sharing wisdom of earth with those people, visiting other planets to teach.
 - Harry Reid said Ron Howard is a magical dude: Happy Days, American Graffiti
 - Rama knew George Lucas when he was growing up – George Lucas gave more than half his money away; **has a foundation “edutopia.com”** - medicine, wholistic food, computers, teaching the kids about sacred geometry, the flower of life, circular structures

- Harry Reid said about Rama – what you do each and every day along with the others who anchor the call every week and every day are doing the greatest service to this planet, ever.
- Maharisi Institute says humanity has reached the critical mass and beyond; what you do by talking to the political talk show folks, Harry said he could wash Rama's feet!
 - What Harry is: more than he appears to be, more than just the majority leader
- Harry Reid, Tom the Cat and Mr X said that **Obama does not want TPP or an up or down vote**, so we have to get in his face
 - He needs people to push back He is being pressured by the multie national death merchants who are tied in with Blackwater, Bechtal, Raphiel, Darpa,
- **We need to shift everything that is not focussed on NESARA** – everyone can do \$5 a month!
 - What Harry was saying is that people are fooling themselves: they can see what we are doing every single day - **nothing takes a second seat to NESARA – critical that we show support in the physical for what this work is** – the sun shines on everyone and makes no choices, so we can be the sun and shine on NESARA for everyone's sake who is not there.
- **Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi are getting in Obama's face:**
 - they need 50% of 435 people to do the same – 218 people! Let's call for that!
 - **Bernie Sanders is going to vote against TPP.** Need blue dog Democrats and good Republicans to change

Audio: Pete Seeger the power of song – 1949
Pete Seeger was 30 at the time

[SEE BELOW]

Audio: Pete Seeger and Bruce Springsteen perform This Land is Your Land live at "We are one" Obama Inauguration
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnvCPQqQWds>

Audio: Pete Seeger: The Ghost of Tom Joad
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jVZHCUbS4U>

Astrology: Richard

Chart is pretty much the same: Venus went direct yesterday, and conjunct Pluto
There are 4 planets in Pisces: Moon conjunct Mercury, chiron

- **Sat** : Mercury goes retrograde: Moon goes into Aries
- **Sun / new year:** Moon in Aries – an alignment of multiple cycles
- **Mon:** moon gets into Aries and on Tuesday
Most of the week not too tricky:
- **Wed:** Moon in Taurus and trines earth signs
- **Thurs:** moon still in Taurus, Mercury goes Retrograde; moon opposite Saturn
- **Fri:** Moon goes into Gemini
- Fairly easy week! Still working lots of energy: with the new moon, there are new projects: figure out what you want to accomplish this month New Moon on Friday 14th
- Mercury goes Retrograde on the 6th, and conjuncts the sun on the 15th as it starts backing up
- Full moon on Valentine's day

Tom talks a lot about **Mars in Libra: it is important**

[January 28, 2014 Pele Report, Astrology Forecast](#)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNJ9t1pab6Q&feature=player_embedded

[click here for the New Moon astrology chart](#)

*I have lived from one extreme to the other,
Total freedom to completely smothered,
I see true love as transforming myself,
To be born anew, by listening to you.*

[click here for the English transcription of the Pele Report](#)

[click here for the Spanish translation of the Pele Report](#)

[Pele Report mp3 only](#)

Feeling the pressure? whether about freedom, love, or money, we've been in a cycle of hitting our limits with what partners are asking. The New Moon in Aquarius Thursday (and you may feel it coming sooner) is liberation from the tension and bursting forth into some new territory with all this! It is looking like a GREAT weekend to pull out all the stops, let it go, and celebrate! Pura Vida! Injoy.....

Music by Jeff Oster at <http://music.jeffoster.com/> and how about those goats by Lisa Anderson

RI: was describing as the Libra effect is what we are seeing in the world

Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes: the Year of the Horse ISBN 0-06-012521-7

Reading: 2014, Feb 1 [The Year Of The Wood Horse 2014](#)

[SEE BELOW]

Conference Call:

Caller: why is Obama going to the Vatican on Mar 27th

• To clean house! And tell the Pope where the bear sleeps in the woods! This is about cleaning house and making way for the return of the Christ

Caller: and all 24 Ascended masters are walking the earth as we speak **R:** they are!

Caller: about the Super Bowl – talk of a possible false flag – what about it?

R: Harry Reid said the small group of life forms that are not happy with the state of the union: there was a shooting at Michigan State today – they are not happy with certain things. They are judging a man by the colour of his skin, not by the content of his heart.

Caller: does not expect anything to happen: just relax and love! And about Chris Christie – he will be fitted for an orange jump suit! **Yes** – and that this is happening at the stadium in New Jersey – put 2 and 2 together.

Caller: What about Wolf Blitzer getting his walking papers soon? **R:** CNN is a brother station to Fox News.

Caller: expecting fire works everywhere soon. **R:** the one who created Fox News – it is GOP TV – Grand Old Pedophile tv; **T:** the ones who are putting out the fear-based article listed all the light worker websites – they believe there is going to be 3 days of darkness: it that happened there would be no one left on the planet because it would be thousands of degrees below zero.

Caller: about the activity on the moon: a possible showing of themselves soon? **T:** a triangular starship on the moon – it has shown itself already – larger than the Queen Mary or any aircraft carrier on the planet; not built by us! **T:** Wed, Feb 5th is Trayvon Martin's birthday – would be 18 this year. **R:** there is a story about MSNBC that Zimmerman is going to enter a boxing match!!!! Caller does not

go with this at all – only a distraction.

R: Justin Beiber is begging in a way to leave the planet as he is not happy with what he is doing: he needs to get his act together and go live in a 3rd world country - he's way too young!

Caller: brings up Jennifer Hudson – wondering if she could be the next Whitney Houston. **T:** does not know enough about them. **Caller:** she's been seen a lot lately. **T:** does she have the heart of Whitney?
• Caller wants to know if Whitney wants to return to the planet. **T:** she has a choice. **Caller** thinks she has the heart, and she is very knowledgeable about Clive Davis – and knows what is happening.

Caller: about the Grammy Awards: 50 same sex marriages took place at night - **R:** Bravo! Caller asks about the person conducting the marriages and if she had a license: if they belong to the church in Modesto, CA.

Caller from NC: wants to know the real story about what happened in Atlanta. **Rama** heard that there was a dangerous chemical in the snow; it is about weather modification and changing the climate, and creating distraction. Whatever the fake snow was, there were microscopic particles in it that were not necessarily programmed to the light; yet as we are moving up in octaves, even the nanites have to respond to the increasing energies. **T:** necessary to have knowledge of what they are up to, yet have to do it without being in fear. **R:** talks of a movie – who is to say what Artificial Intelligence is: we have such a limited perspective on this planet of what intelligence is and what form it comes in and whether it is in love. **R** has met such intelligences that can live in methane gas that would kill us. Even the nanites in the fake snow understand that they cannot continue in the darkness.

Caller: how could they administer the fake snow? Talks of the forecast for their area: there was no snow or ice predicted for Atlanta **T:** because it is done from the Space Station, just like Hurricane Sandy made an 80% angle – they can use the weather technology to do whatever they want.

Caller got about 2" in their area; 1-2' in the Ashville area – the snow was fine there, And none hit the east coast **T** yet they got it in Birmingham **R:** talks of the video he watched from Forbidden History and how people took a torch and tried to melt it and it would not melt. **Another caller;** it was really cold.

Rainbird: it was really strange snow: not really flakes, would not melt, would not make icicles from the roof – it snowed hard all day and they only got 1.5 inches – very odd: did not accumulate.

First Caller: was this a cover to snarl the traffic so other things could happen in Atlanta. **T:** the mayor did it on purpose too – did not call for intervention until it was too late **another caller:** it was not snow: it was rain – almost totally gone today: she was led to stay inside and not measure it – it was totally different. It did not start until the afternoon and continued: people were out for 8 – 14 hours instead of just a short time. For 3 days, the roads were just ice: the abandoned cars were being picked up by people who stole tow trucks and took them away, so no one knows where their cars are. Was really a scene.

T: the chemical in it was what created the ice. **Last caller:** yes, and it turned into ice immediately! When is it going to stop? **First caller:** she had the same guidance not to go outside because of the ice: when it is fresh snow, should be able to walk in it and not fall. **Caller:** there were shootings during the storm She gets Meals on Wheels and they did not deliver; fortunately, a neighbour brought her enough food to last until today – thankful for the help she has received and for the guidance and angels who take care of her. **T:** in spite of the condition she [the caller] has found herself in this life time, she has never given up. **Caller:** has never complained and has always believed there is something to be learned from whatever has happened to her – everything that happens is for a purpose. And that is the truth. **T:** this is where the power of the positive thought works every time.

Caller: not bothered by not having 2 nickels to rub together: as long as god is there, she is OK. And what she did get, she was thankful and wanted others to have the same. Always saw everyone as equal: what part of your body would you want to do without? And as Sister Rainbird has taught us: eat for others who might not have enough. **T:** now we have to eat for the people in Homs, Syria.

Caller: in North Carolina farms are being bought up to do fracking! It is being started: the land is being bought to do that. And last year the school changed curriculum: a whole semester in 8 weeks: and the kids put in those programs were ones who could not succeed in

T: reads about Rad-D-tox:

Rad-D-tox started out as Essence of Iodine, with the energetic imprint of 5 different types of iodine supplements within it. Because it was created at the time of the Fukushima tragedy Fred, our supplier of Liquid Manna, also added the energetic signature of the radioactive molecule that could damage the thyroid. Not long after, he went back and added the energetic imprints of 16 other types of known radiation so our entire body could be protected. People with high levels of radiation have had a high success rate in completely eliminating radiation from their body. Hence, Essence of Iodine morphed into Rad-D-tox. Same product – different names. Since it is the same product as Essence of Iodine, it can also be used to raise iodine levels in your body if you are deficient, but because it is an energetic essence, there is no danger of overdosing on iodine.

[Www.Globallight.net](http://www.Globallight.net)

1-888-236-2108

Audio: Democracy Now: 2014, Jan 28 "We Shall Overcome": Remembering Folk Icon, Activist Pete Seeger in His Own Words & Songs [SEE BELOW]

Audio: SOURCE?

This is a public discussion, hosted by the founder of www.grist.org with guests Eric Assadourian and Annie who created the video called "Stuff"

(1) Background on Grist.org

http://www.youtube.com/watchfeature=player_embedded&v=_ctK3Yu-OCU

Laugh now — or the planet gets it.

You know how some people make lemonade out of lemons? At Grist, we're making lemonade out of looming climate apocalypse.

It's more fun than it sounds, trust us!

Grist is a source of intelligent, irreverent environmental news and commentary that's been around since 1999, when the internet was made of rubber bands. We cover climate, energy, food, cities, politics, business, green living, and the occasional adorable baby animal. Each day, we use our Clarity-o-Meter to point our readers to the news that matters most, and to translate wonky issues into stories that make sense.

Our goal is to get people talking, thinking, and taking action. And it's working: We now reach a community of more than 2 million people a month. Sixty-five percent of them *do something* based on our content. Mainstream media quote us. Policymakers sit up and take notice. Even our parents take our calls now.

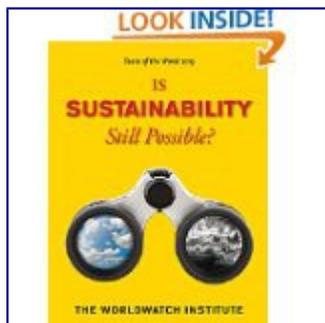
At Grist, we think the fate of the world and the people who live here is a pretty important topic. So we take our work seriously — but we don't take ourselves too seriously. Because of the many things this planet is running out of, sanctimonious tree-huggers ain't one of them.

Now go on and [check out our latest stories](#), or join the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Grist is based in the Emerald City of Seattle, in the Evergreen State of Washington (both green!), with contributors scattered the world 'round. We are a nonprofit organization funded by [foundations](#), [user contributions](#), and [advertising](#).

(2) **Eric Assadourian**

State of the World 2103: Is sustainability still possible?



State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible? by The Worldwatch Institute and Erik Assadourian (Apr 15, 2013)

(3) **Annie, creator of the “Stuff” Video – a long history of fighting toxic pollution**

Story of Stuff, Full Version; How Things Work, About Stuff

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLBE5QAYXp8>

<http://www.storyofstuff.com/>

Story of Stuff, Full Version; How Things Work, About Stuff

From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever.

©Tides Foundation & Funders Workgroup for Sustainable Production and Consumption

Summary: an engrossing discussion of working together to move towards sustainable future – the ways we need to prepare ourselves to the environmental transition :

eg. Chicago is already re-planting its street trees to those used further south in the the US, as that is the kind of climate that will exist in the city;

eg, the explosion of farmers markets: people looking to others to help each other, getting to know our neighbours, sharing things

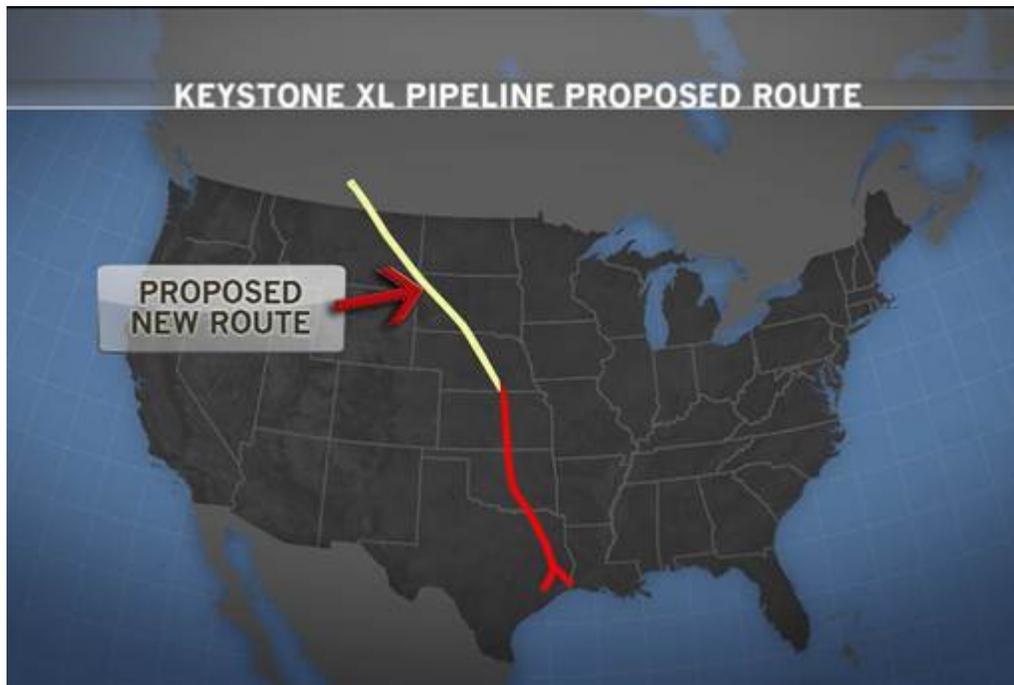
How do you talk to people about the idea that sustainability is not about a niche idea, but that it has a world-wide significant action?

Audio: Rachel Maddow [SEE BELOW FOR THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE AUDIO INCLUDED]

“The Rachel Maddow Show' for Friday, January 31st, 2014”

Audio: Chris Hayes on Addiction to oil/XL Pipeline Jan 31, 2014

<http://www.msnbc.com/all-in/watch/keystone-xl-time-to-end-the-addiction-132949571674>



Audio: Max Keiser [KR557] Keiser Report: Round Tripping Financial Crisis

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=cB4IH312siw

We discuss accounting fraud as the new opium for China and how it is that we keep roundtripping to financial crisis because every time we get to tomorrow we've already spent it yesterday. We also discuss raining the marmite of fraud on a ten foot tall Janet Yellen. In the second half, Max interviews **Mitch Feierstein** of PlanetPonzi.com about the unintended consequences of money printing, the China mirage where the GDP statistics are for 'reference purposes only' and about later this year when Greece will also 'roundtrip' its way to a 3% GDP growth mirage.

Read more at <http://www.maxkeiser.com/2014/02/kr557-keiser-report-round-tripping-financial-crisis/#hy2eAH07yfSY4Dv8.99>

Audio: Breaking the Set <http://rt.com/shows/breaking-set-summary/food-stamps-war-us-390/>

Food stamp hypocrites, whale wars break the set, State of the Union fail

Abby Martin remarks on the latest farm bill in congress, highlighting an \$8 billion cut to food stamps. Captain Paul Watson, founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, talks about the slaughter of marine mammals in places like Taiji, Japan, and what his foundation is doing to counter this rampant poaching. **President Obama's latest State of the Union address: breaking through the rhetoric and calling out his generic platitudes and empty promises.** Finally, journalist and Salon writer Natasha Lennard discusses the activist movement against Google employees in San Francisco and where the growing frustration from city residents is rooted.

Cathy McMorris speaks in favour of people and of women yet has voted 4x against bills that would help those people she says the Republicans

The person who offered the most incisive statement on the SOTU address is an actual socialist, and is heard speaking in this segment ; she is Sawanta, a council woman in Seattle and defeated a Democrat. She, as reported by Tara, gives \$5,000 of her salary to help people actively, and has lots of ideas. She wants to create group citizenry awareness.

Reading: When Rocks Cry Out, Ch 25: Autobiography of Moses the records of this were found on papyrus and on some stones; after Moses accidentally struck the Pharaoh and killed him, he went north – to anyone familiar with Mayan place names, the name of PETAN is amazing. PITHOM

Closing: Rainbird

Closing Music

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2014, Jan Pete Seeger Recalls the 1949 Peekskill Riot Where He And Paul Robeson Were Attacked

http://www.democracynow.org/blog/2014/1/31/video_pete_seeger_recalls_the_1949

Watch an exclusive excerpt from our 2004 interview with the legendary folk singer and activist Pete Seeger, who died Monday at the age of 94. We searched our archives and found Seeger's description of the Peekskill Riots of 1949, when he and the singer and actor Paul Robeson were attacked after they performed.

[Click here](#) to see all of our interviews with Pete Seeger over the years.

[Watch a related interview](#) with historian Will Kaufman, author of the book, *Woody Guthrie, American Radical*. He describes the singer's experience at the Peekskill riots, and sings one of Guthrie's songs about the incident.

PETE SEEGER: Well, Paul had sung for a wonderful Unitarian couple a small benefit concert for two years, and then they thought it could be a bigger concert, and they got a bigger place than their farm, just north of Peekskill. Well, a man came up from Washington. He said, "This man Robeson loves the Russians. He doesn't love America. And he's coming here to sing. I think you know what to do about it." And he went back to Washington. He didn't need to say anything more. In other words, whatever rough stuff they did, they wouldn't get any trouble from Washington about it. So the first concert did not take place. The people setting up the chairs were beaten, and the literature was all burned. It was a benefit for the Civil Rights Congress, which was a lefty outfit.

Well, Robeson got on the air, said, "It's America. I have a right to sing. I'm going to sing." And this time it got an even bigger place, because with all this free publicity, some 20,000 people showed up. And this time the police let people in. And we congratulated ourselves on how it's America, and they didn't break up the stage or anything. Two thousand union members, mostly Local 65 warehouse workers, stood all around, arm in arm, wouldn't let anybody in who didn't have a ticket. And I sang a couple songs. A man—ooh, what was his name? I can't remember his name. I can't remember anybody's name now; I'm going senile—played some beautiful classical piano, and then Robeson sang for an hour.

When finally our car got to go out, I saw some glass in the road, and I said to my family—I had two little babies, my wife and two friends and my father-in-law, who came along with us—he says, "I want to make sure that those babies are safe." And I saw a little glass. I said, "Uh-oh, be prepared to duck. Somebody may throw a stone." Well, it was the understatement of the century. Around the corner was a pile of stones, each about as big as a baseball, and a young man heaving them with all his force at every car that came by. And around the corner was another pile of stones and another young fella heaving them. There must have been 15 or 20 piles of stones before we got into Peekskill, and that was it.

There was a policeman standing about 50 feet beyond a stone thrower, and I stopped the car and tried to get the window down, but it was so splintered I could only get about an inch down. And I hollered, "Officer, aren't you going to do something?" And all he did was say, "Move on! Move on!" In other words, he knew all about it. And I found out later it had been planned by Ku Klux Klan members in the police department. That's what I was told by somebody who should know, because his father was deeply involved in it.

AMY GOODMAN: And people got seriously hurt.

PETE SEEGER: Well, one man lost his eyesight. Paul Jr. could have been lynched, because he has a white wife. And they were prepared to lynch him. And they almost lynched another black man who had a white woman with him. That's another story, but the interesting thing is Peekskill is a different place today. And it's been a long, hard struggle, but things have gradually changed. Who knows? Who knows? I say it's still America, and I don't think what happened in Germany will happen here, in spite of the control that some people have over so much of the media.

GUEST

[Pete Seeger](#), legendary folk singer, banjo player, storyteller and activist.

2014, Feb 1 [The Year Of The Wood Horse 2014](#)



<http://www.crystalwind.ca/chinese-zodiac/the-year-of-the-wood-horse-2014>

Off To The Races

Susan Levitt

The new Moon on January 30 at 11:20 pm PST (but listed as January 31 in many calendars) begins the year of the Wood Horse. Chinese New Year is a spring festival that begins on the second new Moon after Winter Solstice, with the Sun and Moon in Aquarius. This new Moon also starts the month of the Fire Tiger making energy very strong and lively as Horse year begins, a clear departure from the slower energy of the previous Water Snake year 2013.

The Wood Horse year is a time of fast victories, unexpected adventure, and surprising romance. It is an excellent year for travel, and the more far away and off the beaten path the better. Energy is high and production is rewarded. Decisive action, not procrastination, brings victory. But you have to act fast in a Horse year. If you are not 100% secure about a decision, then don't do it. Events move so fast in a Horse year that you don't want to gallop off in the wrong direction. Or call me 415.642.8019 or email susan@susanlevitt.com to schedule your tarot or astrology reading to gain clarity about life direction in Horse year.

In Chinese astrology, Horse year is considered a fortunate year that brings luck and good things. Magical Horse has supernatural powers, is heroic, strong, and can even fly! A white celestial cloud Horse is sacred to the Chinese Goddess Kwan Yin. Her white Horse flies through the heavens, bringing peace and blessings. Horse is a hero in China because important battle were won due to the power and strength of the Horse.

Horse's cycle is the seventh earthly branch in Chinese medicine and symbolizes June the fifth lunar month. June is the time of Gemini, Horse's western counterpart. In the summer month of June there is powerful yang chi, and yin chi starts to settle. The sun is brightest and the plants are strong, having reached maturity.

Global Horse

On a global scale, expect some world economies to become stronger while others experience economic chaos and collapse. Under Horse's strong influence there is no middle ground. (The time for middle-ground diplomacy and planning was last year in Water Snake 2013.) Anticipate extremes in stock markets, fluctuation of prices, and general chaos in all things financial. There will be wars, battles, and skirmishes all over the world.

Middle class economies are developing with emerging markets in many places including Egypt, Turkey, Brazil, and India. But there will also be protests for fair development, even wars. Peace can be restored in Wood Sheep year 2015 but Wood Horse 2014 will be a wild ride as the world changes, and changes fast.

Born In Horse Year



People born in Horse years (2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954, 1942, 1930, 1918, 1906) are bright, cheerful, popular, and fun loving. They find people and crowds exciting, and love parties. Horse's childish innocence, sunny disposition, and natural charm attract many friends. Horse is a highly intuitive animal, so people born in Horse year follow their hunches. Their keen judgment and natural intuition often help them make the right decisions throughout their life. Usually they don't need to struggle in order to succeed and obtain the fine things life has to offer.

Horses have a carefree nature and need ample room for self expression. When constrained by rules, proud Horse will rebel, refusing to be corralled or tamed. Horses will tell you exactly what is on their mind; they are frank and dislikes hidden agendas. So this is the time for issues to be out in the open, especially with family members. The time for secrecy was last year Snake 2013, not now in Horse year.

The best years for Horse to have abundance, to marry, have a child, or expect doors of opportunity to open are in Horse, Tiger, Sheep, and Dog years. Analytical Rat year is the least fortunate for Horse.

Ready Set Go

Who should be a player and take big risks this year? If you just do what you want like a Horse, you could end up broke at the end of this Horse year! The impulsive way of doing things in a Horse year is not the best year for everyone. For example the spontaneous energy of Horse year brings challenges to the thoughtful Rat who is Horse's opposite.

Fast action flows just right for you if you are compatible with Horse energy by having Horse, Tiger, Dog, or Sheep in your Chinese Four Pillars chart of animal year, month, day, and hour. For info about your Four Pillars chart, schedule an astrology reading with me. But if you do not have lucky animal signs in your Four Pillars birth chart, maybe for you this Horse year might be better to follow along with the herd and let others be the risk takers or whistle blowers. You might benefit by sitting in the sidelines and watch the Horse race in front of you, especially if you have Rat or Ox in your Four Pillars chart of animal year, month, day, and hour. For you, stay smart and thrifty, hang on to what you have, and not be a rebel like spirited Horse.

Keep in mind this year that Horse energy is free spirited, wild, willful, and independent. Horse has a refined instinct that acts fast, on the spot, unlike Horse's opposite the Rat who thinks and plans before acting. The time for pondering and planning was 2013 Snake year. Horse year is time to act fast, buy that home, launch that business, travel the world, make a big purchase, get a promotion at work, have a breakthrough – take a leap and fly. If it's right then there's nothing to think about; just follow instincts.



Horse Loves Freedom

Casual and outdoorsy Horse year is about freedom, returning to nature, and enjoying life and life's adventures. You won't always want to focus on work because it's easy to be distracted by fun, good times, and parties in sexy Horse year. Because Horse can be impulsive, act now and think later, avoid the mistakes of overspending, enabling others, and denying when there is a problem. Overspending is easy in a Horse year because if you feel you deserve something or want a reward, the impulse to buy is strong. Horses often buy

what they feel they deserve without realizing how their purchases effect their long-term planning because Horse rarely plans for the future.

Also in Horse year, it's easy to make a snap decision, especially business decisions that are not planned

but “just feel right.” Denial that there is a problem is another Horse trait. It’s easier to move on to the next adventure than face reality or clean up a mess. So don’t ignore details this year while being an optimist that things will all just work out on their own.

Horse doesn’t care about money and lives large, so in Horse year you might be tempted to overspend on entertainment, going out, fun festivities – anything to keep up with the Horse good times and spirit of live today. Horse year ends in triumph or tragedy, and more businesses will fail than succeed. So learn from what you see around you. You don’t have to act, but you do have to know. In the year of the Horse, you can let others lead the way then follow in the footsteps of their success – but you’ll have to act fast. The Horse, Tiger, Dog, or Sheep benefit the most from Horse’s strong and spirited actions.

Feng Shui For Wood Horse Year

There are five Taoist elements: Fire, Earth, Metal, Water, and Wood. 2014 is the year of the Wood Horse. Wood, like a plant, thrives and grows, just like you can grow and develop this year. The active yang element Wood mixed with Horse’s strong yang fiery energy keeps affairs out in the open and innocently honest.

The element Wood is represented by plants and greenery – so landscape this year! Add plants and foliage. If you own property, you increase the value of your home by adding lush and healthy landscaping. Observe your neighbor’s gardens to determine which plants grow well in your climate zone.

Focus on the entry to your home and place of work or business. Clean out your entry to welcome all the good luck that will come into your home and place of business in 2014. Clean out the front porch, entry hall, lobby, or whatever the entry is where you live. Make this area clean, well lit, and inviting. You don’t need to install a fish pond or fountain, just make it clean. Check the entry’s lighting fixtures, add a fresh coat of paint, and a new rug to welcome the Horse. Horse is no nonsense and does not want frills or anything fancy. Horse’s style is clean, utilitarian, and sporty.

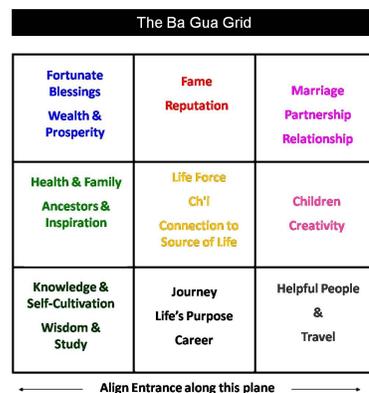
At work add green house plants with round leaves such as a lily (peace plant), jade tree, pothos, bamboo, or orchid with round leaves. If you do not have a green thumb, bring in fresh flowers on Monday or add silk flowers in lively colors. If you do add a fish tank, be sure you can commit to the work involved in maintaining a fountain. But a fountain in this Wood year is very fortunate because Water is the mother of Wood, meaning that water added to wood (plants) helps growth.

Ba-Gua Feng Shui

One of many styles of feng shui is to overlay a map of the eight trigrams, called ba-gua in Chinese. Ba-gua focus to create abundance for expressive Horse year emphasizes the Creativity/Children area to help have more fun and enjoy life in a free, childlike manner like the Horse.

Horse often succeeds after others intervene to offer guidance, so focus on the Helpful People & Travel corner is also important for Horse, especially during youth. Travel is important to Horse who loves to explore and see faraway places.

If you feel swept away at times during this Horse year, focus on the Knowledge & Self Cultivation corner. Take a break and rest before you head back into the action. The Fire Horse born in 1966 benefits greatly from developing the Knowledge corner.



Make sure that all area are clean and not cluttered. Events move so quickly that it is easy for clutter to pile up. Avoid all clutter in Horse year, or else you could experience chaos and confusion. Horse is not fancy, and is happy to live with less, go camping, and sleep on the floor like a good soldier.

So pare down and not over decorate or add more to your environment unless you are adding healthy plants. Next year Sheep 2015 is the time to decorate, be fancy, and treat yourself. But in Horse year stay strong, avoid any sort of big shopping spree, and work on being strong physically. If you are out of shape or “falling apart” then this is the year for you to get back in shape.

More Luck With Timing

In risk-taking fast-moving Horse year, people are impatient to regain their loses. Everyone want to make fast money and win big. But luck is with you most strongly if you were born in the year, month, day, or hour of the Horse, Tiger, Dog, or Sheep. Horse hours are 11 am – 1 pm. High noon is the most Horse moment.

And luck is with Horse’s best friends, the ready to pounce Tiger and the quick to respond rescuer Dog. Tiger hours are 3 AM – 5 AM. If born during Tiger hours 3 AM – 5 AM like nocturnal Tiger you are ready to go day or night. Time to be the leader and work independently.

Dog hours are 7 PM – 9 PM. Luck is with you if you were born during the hours of the Tiger or during the hours of the Dog. If you were born during Dog hours you honestly are in the right place at the right time in this Horse year. You’ll be able to keep up when others realize how fast the pace is in this Horse race year.

Horse succeeds when paired with a kind and sensitive Sheep. Sheep hours are 1 PM – 3 PM that are lucky for love, romance, and impulsive Horse passion! So opportunity can come you way in a Horse year if you were born during the hours of the Sheep.

In summation, you have a chance at wild good fortune and sudden gain in Horse year. But odds are much better if your birth year, birth month, birth day, or birth hour is Horse, Tiger, Dog, or Sheep. If these animals signs are not in your Four Pillars chart, then perhaps step aside and take a front-row seat to the Horse race. It will be all or nothing as life events move fast then are gone in a gallop.

Author SUSAN LEVITT is a professional tarot card reader, astrologer, and feng shui consultant in San Francisco, CA. She is the author of five books that are published in eight languages. Susan does consultations in San Francisco and by telephone.

Susan has over 40 years’ experience with tarot, astrology, and Chinese medicine. She’s been featured on CNN, was voted “Best Astrologer” by SF Weekly in San Francisco, and was interviewed on the television program Chicagoing.

To schedule your TAROT, ASTROLOGY, or FENG SHUI consultation please call Susan at 415.642.8019 in San Francisco or send an email to susan@susanlevitt.com.

2014, Jan 28 **"We Shall Overcome"~ Remembering Folk Icon, Activist Pete Seeger in His Own Words & Songs**



[Pete Seeger & Onondaga Leader Oren Lyons on Fracking, Indigenous Struggles and Hiroshima Bombing](#)



[Legendary Folk Singer & Activist Pete Seeger Turns 90, Thousands Turn Out for All-Star Tribute Featuring Bruce Springsteen, Joan Baez, Bernice Johnson Reagon and Dozens More](#)

The legendary folk singer and activist Pete Seeger died Monday at the age of 94. For nearly seven decades, Seeger was a musical and political icon who helped create the modern American folk music movement. We air highlights of two appearances by Seeger on Democracy Now!, including one of his last television interviews recorded just four months ago. Interspersed in the interviews, Seeger sings some of his classic songs, "We Shall Overcome," "If I Had a Hammer" and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone." He also talks about what has been described as his "defiant optimism." "Realize that little things lead to bigger things. That's what [the album] 'Seeds' is all about," Seeger said. "And there's a wonderful parable in the New Testament: The sower scatters seeds. Some seeds fall in the pathway and get stamped on, and they don't grow. Some fall on the rocks, and they don't grow. But some seeds fall on fallow ground, and they grow and multiply a thousandfold. Who knows where some good little thing that you've done may bring results years later that you never dreamed of."

Seeger led an illustrious musical career. In the 1940s, he performed in The Almanac Singers with Woody Guthrie. Then he formed The Weavers. In the 1950s, he was blacklisted after he opposed Senator Joseph McCarthy's political witch hunt and was almost jailed for refusing to answer questions before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Seeger became a prominent civil rights activist and helped popularize the anthem "We Shall Overcome." In the 1960s, he was a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and inspired generations of protest singers. He was later at the center of the environmental and anti-nuclear movements. With his wife Toshi, Pete helped found Clearwater, a group to clean up the Hudson River. Toshi died last year just weeks before their 70th wedding anniversary. In 2009, he and Bruce Springsteen performed Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at an inaugural concert for Barack Obama.

Transcript

PETE SEEGER: [singing] *If I had a hammer,
I'd hammer in the morning,
I'd hammer in the evening,
All over this land,
I'd hammer out danger,
I'd hammer out a warning,
I'd hammer out love between,
My brothers and my sisters,
All over this land.*

*If I had a bell,
If I had a bell,
Ring it in the morning,
I'd ring it in the morning
Ring it in the evening!
Ring it in the evening,
All over this land,
Ring out danger
Ring out danger,
Ring out a warning,
Ring out a warning,
Ring out love, ring out love between,
My brothers and my sisters,
All over this land.*

AMY GOODMAN: The legendary folk singer and activist Pete Seeger died Monday at the age of 94. For nearly seven decades, Pete Seeger was a musical and political icon who helped create the modern American folk music movement. In the 1940s, he performed in The Almanac Singers with Woody Guthrie. Then he formed The Weavers. In the '50s, he opposed Senator Joseph McCarthy's witch hunt and was almost jailed for refusing to answer questions before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Pete Seeger became a prominent civil rights activist and helped popularize the anthem, "We Shall Overcome." He was also a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and inspired a generation of protest singers. Later in his life, Pete was at the center of the environmental and anti-nuclear movements. With his wife Toshi, Pete Seeger helped found Clearwater, a group to clean up the Hudson River. Toshi Seeger died last year, just weeks before their 70th wedding anniversary. In 2009, Pete and Bruce Springsteen performed Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at an inaugural concert for Barack Obama, when he first became president.

Pete Seeger last joined us on *Democracy Now!* just [four months ago](#). We'll play highlights from that interview later, but first I want to turn to [Pete Seeger in 2004](#), when he joined us in our firehouse studio. I asked him about his parents and their philosophy of raising him.

PETE SEEGER: Well, my father said, "Let Peter enjoy himself. We'll see what happens." And I think he was curious, because he knew I liked music. My mother just left instruments all around the house. So I could bang on a piano or an organ or a marimba, on a squeezebox or a penny whistle or an auto-harp. And at age seven I was given a ukulele, and I've been into fretted instruments ever since then. In prep school I joined the jazz band. And then a few years later, my father took me to a square dance festival in the Southern Mountains, and I suddenly realized there was a wealth of music in my country that you never heard on the radio: old-time music, my brother called it—I think a better name than folk music—all over the place. Depending where you are, you hear different kinds of old-time music. And I still feel that I'd like to see people not forget the old songs at the same time they're making up new songs.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you remember any of the songs that you heard then?

PETE SEEGER: Oh, good gosh, yes.

AMY GOODMAN: That you'd like to play now?

PETE SEEGER: I can't play them. My fingers are froze up, and my voice, you hear, I can't really sing anymore. What I do these days, I get the audience singing with me. If I'm singing for children, needless to say, I say, "Kids, you all know this song. If you don't, you will in a minute. She'll be coming around the mountain, when she comes. Toot! Toot!" I'd say, "Can't you get the toot? Toot! Toot!" Well, pretty soon they're all doing it. "She'll be coming around the mountain, when she comes. Toot! Toot!" And the last verse, it's cumulative, so you repeat all the previous things. "She'll be wearing red pajamas, when she comes. Scratch! Scratch! She'll be wearing red pajamas, when she comes. Scratch! Scratch! Wearing red pajamas, she'll be wearing red pajamas, she'll be wearing red pajamas, when she comes. Scratch! Scratch! Hoink-shoo! Yum! Yum! Hi, Babe! Woe, back! Toot! Toot!" And even if the kids never heard the song before, they're doing it with me.

AMY GOODMAN: Pete, you traveled the South with Alan Lomax, and to a lot of people that may not be a familiar name.

PETE SEEGER: Alan Lomax was the son of a Texas fella who collected cowboy songs a hundred years ago. And that's how we know "Home on the Range" and other songs like it, "Whoopie Ti Yi Yo." And in 1908, he got President Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, to write a short forward for his book of cowboy songs.

Thirty years later, he had a son, and Alan was only 22 years old. His father got him installed as the curator of the Archive of American Folksong in the Library of Congress. And Alan in a few years did what most people would take a lifetime to do. With utmost self-confidence, he calls up the head of Columbia Radio and says, "You have a school of the air. Why don't you spend one year learning about American folk music? And the Columbia symphony can play the music, after you've heard some old person croak out the old ballad." And if he couldn't find an old person to do it, he got young me, age 19 and 20. And I still sing some of the songs I learned then.

*'Tis advertised in Boston, New York and Buffalo,
five hundred brave Americans, a wagging for to go,
singing, blow ye winds of the morning, blow ye winds, high ho!
Clear away your running gear, and blow, blow, blow.*

He interviewed the woman who collected that song when she was a teenager sailing on her father's whaling ship in the 19th century. Now, as an old woman, she came out with a beautiful book, *Songs of American Sailormen*. Joanna Colcord was her name, so he interviews her, has me sing a song, and then the symphony orchestra plays it.

Well, Alan got me started, and many others. He's the man who told Woody Guthrie, he says, "Woody Guthrie, your mission in life is to write songs. Don't let anything distract you. You're like the people who wrote the ballads of Robin Hood and the ballad of Jesse James. You keep writing ballads as long as you can." And Woody took it to heart. He wasn't a good husband. He was always running off. But he wrote songs, as you know.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you remember when you first met Woody Guthrie?

PETE SEEGER: Oh, yeah, I'll never forget it. It was a benefit concert for California agricultural workers on Broadway at midnight. Burl Ives was there, the Golden Gate Quartet, Josh White, Leadbelly, Margo Mayo Square Dance Group, with my wife dancing in it. I sang one song very amateurishly and retired in confusion to a smattering of polite applause.

But Woody took over and for 20 minutes entranced everybody, not just with singing, but storytelling. "I come from Oklahoma, you know? It's a rich state. You want some oil? Go down on the ground. Get you some hole. Get you more oil. If you want lead, we got lead in Oklahoma. Go down a hole and get you some lead. You want coal? We got coal in Oklahoma. Go down a hole, get you some coal. If you want food, clothes or groceries, just go in the hole and stay there." Then he'd sing a song.

AMY GOODMAN: When did you form The Weavers?

PETE SEEGER: That was after World War II. Lee Hays from Arkansas, and his roommate Millard Lampell and I had started a group called The Almanacs. And I wrote to Woody, I said, "Woody, we're singing for unions all around. Come out and join us. We're in Madison Square Garden singing for striking transport workers." And so Woody, once again, deserted his wife, came and joined us. But Woody used to say, "The Almanacs are the only group I know that rehearse on stage." We were very badly organized. And after World War II, Lee says, "Pete, do you think we could start a group that would actually rehearse?"

And we were fortunate to run into one of the world's greatest singers, Ronnie Gilbert. She was in her early twenties, beautiful alto voice, and a strong alto voice. I'd have to be two inches from the microphone. She could be two feet from the microphone, and she'd drown me out. She stood up to three strong-voiced men, and the four of us, however, were about to break up, when we did the unthinkable: We got a job at a nightclub.

Well, a little Greenwich Village place, it's still down there, the Village Vanguard. And the owner paid us—he didn't want me first. He said, "I can't pay for a quartet. I'll pay for you. I'll pay you \$200, like I did two years ago." I said, "Well, what if the all four of us were willing to come for \$200?" That was low pay, even then. And he had laughed. He said, "Well, if you're willing." And we got \$200 and free hamburgers, until a month later he came and saw the size of the hamburgers I was making. He said, "Let's make that \$250, but no more free hamburgers."

And we stayed there six months. Near the end of it, we met an extraordinary band leader, Gordon Jenkins, who loved our music and got us signed up with Decca, and we had a record called, "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena," and on the other side, the B-side—it was a record—"Irene," *good night*, which sprang to number one, and for three months stayed up there on top of the hit parade. It was the biggest seller since World War II, and—

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk more about "Irene"?

PETE SEEGER: Well, it was the song, the theme song of the great black singer, Leadbelly. He died in '49, and if he'd only lived another six months, he would have seen his song all over America. It was an old, old song. He'd simply changed and adapted it, added some verses and changed the melody, what my father called the "folk process," but which happens all through all kinds of music—in fact, all culture, you might say. Lawyers adapt old laws to suit new citizens. Cooks adapt old recipes to fit new stomachs.

Anyway, I learned this 12-string guitar from Leadbelly. A high string and a low string together, but played together to give a new tone. And the song I really would like to sing to you is—always have to do with it—I don't sing it anymore. I give the words to the audience, and they sing it. I says, "You know this song. To everything, turn, turn, turn, there is a season. Sing it." And the whole audience sings, "*Turn, turn, turn. There is a season. And a time. And a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, a time to die. Sing it. A time to be born, a time to plant, to reap. A time to plant, a time to kill, to heal. A time to kill, a time to laugh, to weep. A time to laugh, a time to*"—

You know, those words are 2,256 years old. I didn't know that at the time, but Julius Lester, an old friend of mine, he's a—I don't know if you know him—he's a black man who's officially a Jew. He became fascinated with the Bible. I asked him, "When was these words written?" He says, "Well, the man's name was Kohelet, meaning 'convoker,'" somebody who calls people together to speak to them. In the Greek translation, they called him Ecclesiastes, and he's still in the King James Version as this. And it's a type of poetry, which is Greek. The Greeks have a word for it, anaphora, A-N-A-P-H-O-R-A, and it means you start off a line with a word or a phrase. You don't have rhyme at the end of the line, but you do have—it becomes poetry by the way it's organized.

Well, I didn't realize I liked the words, but I realize now. Those are maybe some of the most fundamentally important words that anybody could learn. You see, you and I, we're all descended from killers, good killers. The ones who were not good killers didn't have descendants. But we're descended from good killers. For millions of years our ancestors were good killers. They say if they hadn't been, we wouldn't be here today. Now is a new period. In other words, it's a time, you might say, the human race needed to have good killers. Now, if we don't change our way of thinking, there will be no human race here, because science acts very irresponsibly—oh, any information is good. Ha, ha, ha. They don't realize that some information is very important, some, frankly, forget about until we solve some other problems. Einstein was the first person who said it: Everything has changed now, except our way of thinking. And we've got to find ways to change our way of thinking.

Sports can do it. Arts can do it. Cooking can do it. All sorts of good works can do it. Smiles can do it. And I'm of the opinion now that if the human race makes it—I say we've got a 50-50 chance—if the human race makes it, it'll be women working with children, these two very large oppressed classes in the human race. Children, doing what the grown-ups say they're supposed to do, and yet they're going to have to pay for our mistakes. They're going to have to clean up the environment, which had been filled with chemicals, the air being filled with chemicals, the water being filled with chemicals, the ocean being filled with chemicals. And they're going to have to clean it up. And I think it will be women working with kids that'll do this job. In millions of little ways, maybe done in your hometown. In my hometown, we're starting a project to put in a floating swimming pool in the Hudson, because now the Hudson is clean enough to swim in. Let's swim in it. And if it works in our little town, maybe other towns will do it. In fact, if this swimming pool idea—it's like a big netting in the water.

So, I confess I'm more optimistic now than I was 58 years ago, 59 years ago, when the atom bomb was dropped.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Pete Seeger in our firehouse studio with our tell-tale radio headphones in 2004. The legendary folk singer and activist died Monday at the age of 94. We'll go back to our interview with him in a minute.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: Pete Seeger and Bruce Springsteen and Tao Rodríguez-Seeger, Pete's grandson, singing

"This Land is Your Land" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial ahead of President Obama's inauguration in 2009. This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman. Today, a *Democracy Now!* special, remembering the life of Pete Seeger. The legendary folk singer and activist died Monday at the age of 94. We now return to our interview in 2004 in our firehouse studio. I asked Pete to talk about his time serving in the military during World War II.

PETE SEEGER: I first wanted to be a mechanic in the Air Force. I thought that would be an interesting thing. But then military intelligence got interested in my politics. My outfit went on to glory and death, and I stayed there in Kiesler Field, Mississippi, picking up cigarette butts for six months. Finally, they let me know, yes, they'd been investigating me, opening all my mail.

AMY GOODMAN: Pete Seeger, when you came back, they continued to investigate you.

PETE SEEGER: Well, I have assumed most of my life that if there wasn't a microphone under the bed, they were tapping the phone from time to time and opening my mail from time to time. Who knows?

AMY GOODMAN: But it was more than that, wasn't it?

PETE SEEGER: Well, sometimes they'd have picket lines out, but, you know, in a crazy way all it did was sell tickets. I remember one concert did not sell out. My manager said, "Pete, we should have gotten the Birches to picket you. Then it would have sold out."

AMY GOODMAN: I'm looking at a transcript of the House Un-American Activities Committee, August 18th, 1955, when they started off by saying—Mr. Taverner said, "When and where were you born, Mr. Seeger?" You actually answered that question.

PETE SEEGER: Well, I wish I had been more—spoken up more. I just did what my lawyer, a very nice guy—he says, "Don't try to antagonize them. Just don't answer these questions, because if you answer this kind of question, you're going to have to answer more questions. Just say you don't think it's legal." Well, I said, "I think I've got a right to my opinion, and you have the right to your opinion. Period."

And so, eventually I was sentenced to a year in jail, but my lawyer got me off on bail. I was only in jail for four hours, and I learned a folk song. They served us lunch, a slice of bread and a slice of bologna and an apple, and the man next to me was singing, "*If that judge believes what I say, I'll be leaving for home today.*" The man next to him says, "Not if he sees your record, you won't." But that's an old African melody, you know. It's in many, many African-American folk songs.

AMY GOODMAN: Now, you were sentenced to a year in jail?

PETE SEEGER: And a year later the appeals court acquitted me. Ironically—the contradictions of life still amaze me—the judge who acquitted me, the head judge—there were three judges—head one was Irving Kaufman, the man who sentenced the Rosenbergs to the chair 10 years earlier. But he acquitted me. He said, "We are not inclined to lightly disregard charges of unconstitutionality, even though they may be made by those unworthy of our respect."

However, I feel that—both my wife and I feel we're lucky to be alive and lucky to be on good terms with our neighbors, and in the little town where we live, people shout out, "Hi, Pete! Hi, Toshi!" And I'd like to—I wish I could live another 20 years just to see things that are happening, because I believe that women working with children will get men to wake up to what a foolish thing it is to

seek power and glory and money in your life. What a foolish thing. Here we are—

There's a politician in my hometown, a very nice guy. He used to be a shop steward for the union in the local factory, but for 20 years he represented our town in the county legislature. And he said, "Pete, if you don't grow, you die." One o'clock in the morning, I sat up in bed and thought of the next question. If that's true, if you don't grow, you die, doesn't it follow the quicker you grow, the sooner you die? Nobody is facing up to that question, but it's very definitely true. Now the first step in solving a problem is to admit there's a problem. Then we can argue about ways it could be solved.

I suppose one person will say, "Well, let a few people have trillions of dollars and the rest of the people obediently do the work, and the people in charge will see that everything is done right." On other hand, I think what was in the Declaration of Independence is true now just as it was then. Those great lines, they're written by Ben Franklin, you know, not Jefferson. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that when any government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it."

AMY GOODMAN: Pete Seeger, can you tell us about "We Shall Overcome"?

PETE SEEGER: I thought, in 1946, when I learned it from a white woman who taught in a union labor school, the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee, that the song had been made up in 1946 by tobacco workers, because they sang it there to strike through the winter of 1946 in Charleston, South Carolina, and they taught the song to Zilphia Horton, the teacher at the labor school. And she said, "Oh, it was my favorite song." And I printed it in our little magazine in New York, *People's Songs*, as "We Will Overcome" in 1947.

It was a friend of mine, Guy Carawan, who made it famous. He picked up my way of singing it, "We Shall Overcome," although Septima—there was another teacher there, Septima Clark, a black woman. She felt that "shall"—like me, she felt it opened up the mouth better than "will," so that's the way she sang it. Anyway, Guy Carawan in 1960 taught it to the young people at the founding convention of SNCC, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, SNCC for short. And a month later, it wasn't a song, it was *the* song, throughout the South.

Only two years ago, I get a letter from a professor in Pennsylvania, who uncovered an issue of the *United Mine Workers Journal* of February 1909, and a letter there on front page says, "Last year at our strike, we opened every meeting with a prayer, and singing that good old song, 'We Will Overcome.'" So it's probably a late 19th century union version of what was a well-known gospel song. *I'll overcome, I'll overcome, I'll overcome some day.*

AMY GOODMAN: You sang it for Martin Luther King?

PETE SEEGER: In 1957, I went down to Highlander. Zilphia was dead, and Myles Horton, her husband, said, "We can't have a celebration of 25 years with this school without music. Won't you come down and help lead some songs?" So I went down, and Dr. King and Reverend Abernathy came up from Alabama to say a few words, and I sang a few songs, and that was one of them. Ann Braden drove King to a speaking engagement in Kentucky the next day; and she remembers him sitting in the back seat, saying, "'We Shall Overcome.' That song really sticks with you, doesn't it?"

But he wasn't the song leader. It wasn't until another three years that Guy Carawan made it famous.

AMY GOODMAN: Even as you're singing songs like that, it has also often been seen as a tremendous threat to the establishment. In 1963, the Fire & Police Research Association of Los Angeles warned before one of your appearances, Pete Seeger, that folk music in youth gatherings were being used to brainwash and subvert vast segments of young people's groups.

PETE SEEGER: Oh, poor—I hope they've learned a little different now. That's 40 years ago, 41 years ago, but the establishment has always been concerned about music. I've quoted Plato for years, who wrote, "It's very important that the wrong kind of music not be allowed in the Republic." And I've also heard there's an old Arab proverb, "When the king puts the poet on his payroll, he cuts off the tongue of the poet."

During the 1930s, I was very conscious that radio stations played nice love songs and funny songs, but only by accident did a song like "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" get through. The other songs tended to be more like Bing Crosby's hit of 1933, I think. "*Wrap your troubles in dreams. Dream your troubles away.*" That's how we're going to lick the Depression?

AMY GOODMAN: We're talking to Pete Seeger, and on this allmusic.com bio of you, it says, "Pete Seeger's adherence to the sanctity of folk music came to a boiling point with the advent of folk rock, and it's long been rumored that he tried to pull the plug on Bob Dylan's very electrified set with the Paul Butterfield Blues Band in 1965." Is that true?

PETE SEEGER: No. It's true that I don't play electrified instruments. I don't know how to. On the other hand, I've played with people who play them beautifully, and I admire some of them. Howling Wolf was using electrified instruments at Newport just the day before Bob did. But I was furious that the sound was so distorted you could not understand a word that he was singing. He was singing a great song, "Maggie's Farm," a great song, but you couldn't understand it. And I ran over to the soundman, said, "Fix the sound so you can understand him." And they hollered back, "No, this is the way they want it!" I don't know who *they* was, but I was so mad I said, "Damn, if I had an axe, I'd cut the cable right now." I really was that mad. But I wasn't against Bob going electric.

As a matter of fact, some of Bob's songs are still my favorites. What an artist he is. What a great—I would say maybe he and Woody and Buffy Sainte-Marie and Joni Mitchell and Malvina Reynolds are the greatest songwriters of the 20th century, even though Irving Berlin made the most money. They wrote songs that were trying to help us understand where we are, what we've got to do. Still are writing them.

AMY GOODMAN: In 1967, you made your stand against the Vietnam War clear on the *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. Can you talk about that?

PETE SEEGER: Well, the Smothers Brothers were a big, big success on CBS television. And way back the year before, I think in the spring of '67, they said—CBS says, "Anything we can do for you? You're right at the top. What can we do to make you happier?" And they said, "Let us have Seeger on." And CBS said, "Well, we'll think about it." Finally, in October, they said, "OK, you can have him on." And I sang this song "*Waste deep in the big muddy, the big fool says to push on.*"

The tape was made in California, flown to New York. And in New York they scissored the song out. And now, the Smothers Brothers took to the print media and said, "CBS is censoring our best jokes.

They censored Seeger's best song." And they got some publicity. And during November, December and January, the arguments went on. Finally, in February—no, pardon me, late January, late January of '68, CBS said, "OK, OK, he can sing the song." On six hours' notice, I flew out to California.

I remember singing a batch of songs from American history, songs from the Revolution, like "*Come ye hither; redcoats, you mind what madness fills. In our forest there is danger, there's danger in our hills. Fall the rifles, the rifles in our hands shall prove no trifle.*" I think I mentioned the hit song of 1814. It was the hit song: "*Oh, say can you see.*" And the song of the Mexican War, "*Green grow the lilacs all sparkling with dew.*" A love song. That's why Yankees are called "gringos" in Mexico, from that song. And, of course, the Civil War, several good songs, not just "Battle Hymn of the Republic," but a batch of them. The Spanish-American War, Oscar Brown taught me this song. American soldiers in the Philippines, they were singing, "*Damn, damn, damn the Filipinos. Cross-eyed kakiack ladrones. And beneath the starry flag, civilize them with a crag, and go back to our own beloved home.*" I didn't sing that. But along come modern times. I sang "Waste Deep in the Big Muddy," and this time only a station in Detroit cut it out. But the rest of the country heard it, so seven million people heard it.

Who knows? Later that month, in late February, Lyndon Johnson decided not to run for re-election. The song would be probably just one more thing. I honestly believe that the future is going to be millions of little things saving us. I imagine a big seesaw, and at one end of this seesaw is on the ground with a basket half-full of big rocks in it. The other end of the seesaw is up in the air. It's got a basket one-quarter full of sand. And some of us got teaspoons, and we're trying to fill up sand. A lot of people are laughing at us, and they say, "Ah, people like you have been trying to do that for thousands of years, and it's leaking out as fast as you're putting it in." But we're saying, "We're getting more people with teaspoons all the time." And we think, "One of these years, you'll see that whole seesaw go zooop in the other direction." And people will say, "Gee, how did it happen so suddenly?" Us and all our little teaspoons. Now granted, we've got to keep putting it in, because if we don't keep putting teaspoons in, it will leak out, and the rocks will go back down again. Who knows?

AMY GOODMAN: Do you see those cracks, those places, today in mass media? I know you don't watch TV and all that, but, for example, you going on Smothers Brothers. Do you think that it is as constricted today?

PETE SEEGER: Not as constricted, no. There's all sorts of little things going on. I understand this program may be on some TV stations. I've got to find out where, when, so I can see it. You're right, I don't look at TV much, except to check on the weather for my skating rink. I'm a read-aholic and a magazine-aholic, I get 40 or 50 magazines a month. And I read music magazines, environmental magazines, union magazines, civil rights magazines. Who knows?

AMY GOODMAN: That's Pete Seeger in our firehouse studio in 2004. The legendary folk singer and activist died Monday at the age of 94. We continue remembering Pete in his own words and song.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: Pete Seeger, singing "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy" on the *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* in 1967. This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, as we remember the life of Pete Seeger, the legendary folk singer and activist. He died Monday at the age of 94. We return to our interview in 2004 in our firehouse studio. I asked Pete Seeger to talk about one of his most famous songs, "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"

PETE SEEGER: Well, I was sitting in an airplane on my way to sing at Oberlin College. I was

over Ohio, and—

AMY GOODMAN: What year?

PETE SEEGER: —half-dozing. Year, 1955. And all of a sudden, three lines, which I had read in a book, took form. In the book, it simply said, "Where are the flowers? The girls have plucked them. Where are the girls? They're all married. Where are the men? They're all in the army." It's an old Russian folk song. And the Don Cossacks—maybe it's a Ukrainian folk song. "Koloda Duda" is the original name, but I didn't know that. All I knew is I had read these three lines in the book *And Quiet Flows the Don* by a Soviet novelist. And all of a sudden, I had three verses. I didn't realize it at the time, I had swiped part of the verse from an old Irish song. I had been recording a lumberjack song from the Adirondacks: "*Johnson says he'll load more hay, says he'll load 10 times a day.*" You can really see, I slowed it down, and I pinned the words to the microphone that night and sang them.

And a few weeks later, I was walking down 48th Street, Manhattan, stopped in at Folkways Records, said, "I made up a new song." And then, Moe Asch propped a mic up in front of me and recorded it. And a few months later it was out on another LP. An Oberlin College student got the LP at a job at a summer camp, and the kids were fooling around with the verses: "*Where have all the counselors gone, broken curfew everyone.*" But by the end of the summer, he had made up the two extra verses we know. "Where have the soldiers gone, gone to graveyards. Where have the graveyards gone, covered with flowers."

And the kids took the song back to New York. Peter, Paul and Mary were singing in the Village, in Greenwich Village, and picked it up, started singing it. The Kingston Trio learned it from them. And about three years later, my manager says, "Pete, didn't you write a song called 'Where Have All the Flowers Gone?'" I said, "Yeah, about three years ago." He said, "Did you copyright it?" "No, I guess I never did." He said, "Well, you ought to. The Kingston Trio have recorded it."

Well, I got on the phone to Dave Guard. He was an old friend. He had started playing the banjo because he got my book, my bestseller. I mimeographed it first, but later printed it. It's printed 100,000 copies. *How to Play the Five-String Banjo*. He wrote me a year later. He says, "I've been putting that book to hard use. I and two others have a group we call The Kingston Trio." So I called him up. "Oh, Pete, we didn't know it was your song. We'll take our name off it." It was very nice of him, because technically, legally, I had, as they say, quote, "abandoned copyright." But they took their name off, and my manager copyrighted it. It pays my taxes these days, that song. It's been translated into dozens of other languages.

AMY GOODMAN: Pete, could you play "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"

PETE SEEGER: *Where* — ah, maybe I'll just sing the very, very last verse, because the contradictions of life still amaze me. You have to laugh, if you don't cry.

Where have all the graveyards gone?

Long time passing.

Where have all the graveyards gone?

Long time ago.

Where have all the graveyards gone?

Covered with flowers every one.

When will we ever learn?

When will we ever learn?

AMY GOODMAN: You still have your voice.

PETE SEEGER: It's in the cellar.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about getting older?

PETE SEEGER: Oh, it's no fun to lose your memory or your hearing or your eyesight, but from my shoulders on down I'm in better condition than most men my age. I can go skiing with the family, although I stick to the intermediate slopes. I don't try the double diamond.

AMY GOODMAN: Pete, you sit here listening with headphones on. You're a singer. Sound is very important. It's not as easy for you to hear things so clearly anymore. How has that affected you?

PETE SEEGER: Well, I'm singing to myself all the time, just humming or just in my brain. I'm not making any sound. But admittedly, I can't—unless I have earphones on, I can't really—even with what they call hearing aids, I can't really hear music. I don't listen to CDs. I don't listen to the radio. I don't listen to TV. And occasionally, when friends come around, I'll join in with them, but my fingers are slowing down. I hear records that I made years ago and say, "How did I ever play that so fast?"

On the other hand, these are exciting times. There's never been such as exciting times. And win, lose or draw, it's going to be very, very exciting. And I applaud what you are doing. I think what *Democracy Now!* is doing is just fantastic. This couldn't have been done half a century ago, could not have been done.

AMY GOODMAN: Why?

PETE SEEGER: Well, they didn't have the technology for it, I guess. So as I say, technology will save us if it doesn't wipe us out first.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, final words, Pete Seeger, as we wrap up this conversation—the role of music, culture and politics.

PETE SEEGER: They're all tangled up. Hooray for tangling!

AMY GOODMAN: Well, I want to thank you very much for being with us. And for someone who isn't so hopeful who is listening to this right now, trying to find their way, what would you say?

PETE SEEGER: Realize that little things lead to bigger things. That's what *Seeds* is all about. And there's a wonderful parable in the New Testament: The sower scatters seeds. Some seeds fall in the pathway and get stamped on, and they don't grow. Some fall on the rocks, and they don't grow. But some seeds fall on fallow ground, and they grow and multiply a thousandfold. Who knows where some good little thing that you've done may bring results years later that you never dreamed of.

AMY GOODMAN: Pete Seeger speaking in 2004 on *Democracy Now!*. *The legendary folk singer and activist died Monday at the age of 94. He [last appeared](#) hirosimabombing on Democracy Now! in August. He talked about one of his most famous songs.*

PETE SEEGER: The song, "If I Had a Hammer," went all sorts of places that I could never go, and I'm very glad.

[singing] *If I had a hammer,
I'd hammer in the morning,
I'd hammer in the evening,
All over this land,
I'd hammer out danger,
Hammer out a warning,
Hammer out love between,
All of my brothers,*

Oh, a woman said, "Make that 'My brothers and my sisters.'" Lee says, "It doesn't roll off the tongue so well. But she insisted. He said, "How about 'All of my siblings'?" She didn't think that was funny.

[singing] *All over this land.
If I had a song,*

Don't need to sing the whole song. You can sing it to yourself, whether you're driving a car or washing the dishes or just singing to your kids. We haven't mentioned children much on this program, but it may be children realizing that you can't live without love, you can't live without fun and laughter, you can't live without friends—and I say, "Long live teachers of children," because they can show children how they can save the world.

AMY GOODMAN: And we end with more Pete Seeger just [four months ago](#).

PETE SEEGER: *We shall overcome.
We shall overcome.
We shall overcome some day.
Oh, deep in my heart,
I know that I do believe,
We shall overcome...*

AMY GOODMAN: You've been listening to Pete Seeger in his own words and song. He died yesterday, Monday, at the age of 94. For a copy of today's show, go to our website at democracynow.org, and go there to watch all of our [Pete Seeger](#) shows, including his [90th birthday celebration](#) featuring Bruce Springsteen, Bernice Johnson Reagon and Joan Baez.

2014, Feb 1

[Bill Maher blasts NYC mayor Bill de Blasio for slut-shaming from the left](#)

by [BruinKid](#)

Last night, Bill Maher took New York City mayor Bill de Blasio (D) to task for his own version of slut-shaming.

And finally, New Rule: if polls show we now live in an America that can accept gay marriage and legal marijuana, it's time we knocked over the next social domino — Puritanism. Especially as it pertains to our elected leaders. Let's stop being a nation of grad school prudes about adult consensual sex, and accept that politicians aren't Boy Scouts. That's just a costume they wear on Grindr. *(audience laughter)*

Now for the last month, France has made headlines around the world because the boring guy they elected President last year turns out to be not so boring. President François Hollande never married the mother of his four children, who he broke up with a few years ago for a younger woman, who herself has now been dumped for an actress — **a move the French refer to as *Le Gingrich***. *(audience laughter and applause)*

But as always, the French just shrug and go back to eating snails. Overwhelmingly, they say it's none of their business, and hasn't changed their opinion of Hollande. Why is everyone in the Western world better about sex than America?

Last weekend, in the middle of his zany sex farce, President Hollande dropped in on a new European neighbor who just moved in to the palace down the street. A guy you might expect to be all holier than thou. But Pope Francis was totally cool about it.



Look at the two of them. It's like, "Duuuuude." "Duuuuude."

Now contrast that to New York City, where a woman named Lis Smith, who ran Mayor Bill

de Blasio's communications department in last year's campaign, was all set to take over the job she earned as his top spokesman, but then *didn't*, because the tabloids found out something about her. Was it that she lied on her résumé? Or accepted gifts from a lobbyist? Injected Alex Rodriguez with steroids? Nope. It's that she's dating Eliot Spitzer — America's vilest, horniest man. (*audience laughter*)

Which according to the *New York Post*, made her a "Ho! Ho! Ho!"



Because over there in Salem on the Hudson, apparently we're not just rooting out adulterers now, we're rooting out anyone who dates them. The *Post* righteously demanded that Mayor de Blasio dump her. And he did just that!

So I would like to ask, **what exactly is the sin here?** She's an adult in a consensual relationship with another adult, who's in the process of divorcing his spouse. **What business do we have, telling her who she can date?** This is the country that marries people off on reality shows!

You know, there's all this self-congratulation on the left these days for gay tolerance. **Acceptance of gays is the new having a black friend!** (*audience laughter and applause*) But when liberals say — and rightly so — that everyone should be allowed to love who they want, that doesn't include these two?

You know, Republicans are getting a lot of flak these days — as they should — for waging a war on women. But what's the excuse of the country's most progressive mayor — a man so liberal he married a black lesbian?

I think the guy who wrote *What's the Matter with Kansas?* really should write *What's the Matter with New York?* Cuz I don't get it. How can this strain of Puritanism endure in the same city that pioneered the kinky Halloween parade?

It was bad enough when New York went all Rick Santorum on Eliot Spitzer to begin with. He's only the guy who arguably did more to reform Wall Street than any other American. Yeah, his libido got the best of him, and he paid dearly for it. A brilliant man was reduced to a punch line, and banished from public life. But now, anybody he touches has to go?

This isn't even a sex scandal. **It's slut-shaming from the left.** I think Lis Smith should hire John Edwards as her lawyer, and sue the new administration for sex discrimination. And then Edwards, Spitzer, Anthony Weiner, and Bill Clinton should get together with the ghosts of JFK, LBJ, FDR, Thomas Jefferson, and Martin Luther King, and form a new party — the Perverts with Principles Party. (*wild audience cheering and applause*) **And then America should grow up!**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ew56qF3b6g8

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/02/01/1274202/-Bill-Maher-blasts-NYC-mayor-Bill-de-Blasio-for-slut-shaming-from-the-left?detail=email>

2014, Jan 31 'The Rachel Maddow Show' for Friday, January 31st, 2014

http://www.nbcnews.com/id/54260036/ns/msnbc-rachel_maddow_show/#.Uv0MXs65dR0

THE RACHEL MADDOW SHOW

January 31, 2014

Guests: Ted Mann, John Wisniewski, Mark Sokolich

RACHEL MADDOW, MSNBC HOST: Thank you, Chris, who needless to say -- yes.

HAYES: Has won numerous Super Bowls. Thank you.

MADDOW: Thank you and enjoy the rings.

Thanks to you at home as well for joining us this hour.

So, today, the Chris Christie bridge lane scandal seems to have broken -- hey, guys, how you doing? Over here. Sorry. Seems to have broken wide open.

There are actually three huge developments in this case today. One, the U.S. attorney in New Jersey, the federal prosecutor's office, appears to have taken a big new step in its investigation of potential abuse of power or other federal crimes committed in New Jersey. We learned today of new federal grand jury subpoenas today from federal prosecutors in New Jersey. We're going to be getting to that a little later on in the show tonight. That's one.

Also today, Chris Christie's campaign manager, the man who led his re-election campaign, who incidentally was the field director for the McCain/Palin campaign in 2008, who was tapped immediately before this scandal broke open to be the new head of the New Jersey Republican Party, the man who was widely expected to be Governor Christie's campaign manager if he runs for president in 2016. That man, Bill Stepien, today announced that he will invoke the Fifth Amendment and will fight having to respond to the subpoena that he received from the New Jersey legislature.

He had been due to hand over documents and BlackBerries and cell phones in response to that legally binding subpoena on Monday. This upcoming Monday. But today, Bill Stepien's lawyer said he will invoke the Fifth Amendment and he does not plan to comply.

That development is actually really important for what happens next here. And for the wider political impact here of what is happening to Chris Christie in this scandal. We're going to have much more on that coming up in just a moment.

But the news flash today that rocked the political world and suddenly made the whole country remember that there is something else going on in New Jersey right now besides the Super Bowl, that, of course, was this news flash from "The New York Times" just before 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time this afternoon.

Ex-Port Authority official says evidence exists that Christie knew about lane closings.

And it's not just any ex-Port Authority official who's saying this. It is the guy who actually carried out the closing down of those lanes on the George Washington Bridge, the access lanes from Fort Lee, New Jersey, on to the busiest bridge in the world. Closing down those lanes during the first week of school back in September didn't just create traffic trouble at those access lanes on to the bridge, shutting down those lanes gridlocked traffic across the entire town of Fort Lee, New Jersey -- on Monday, the first day of school and again on Tuesday and again on Wednesday and again on Thursday.

And they finally got called out and had the scheme broken up on Friday of that week. That week was a nightmare. People's commutes turned into four-hour-long oddities. It was manmade.

And we have learned since then the gridlocking of Fort Lee in September, that was the whole point of the exercise. Chris Christie's deputy chief of staff sent this e-mail, "Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee." To which that aforementioned ex-Port Authority official responded, "Got it." It's the guy who said "Got it" and seemed to spend the next few weeks orchestrating how to create those traffic problems in Fort Lee.

It's that guy, the "got it" guy who today alleged in a letter from his lawyer that Governor Chris Christie, himself, knew about this, knew about the lanes being shut down. And here's what's important about that for Governor Christie. Governor Christie is already in trouble, at least it looks like he's already in trouble for what he has said publicly about this scheme -- the scheme to use the George Washington bridge as a way to punish this town of Fort Lee.

It was Wednesday, January 8th, when the e-mails and text messages were first published that showed that the order to hurt Fort Lee by shutting down those lanes had come from Governor Christie's office, had come from his deputy chief of staff. That was also the day that we saw these heavily redacted text messages between someone who appears to be the same deputy chief of staff and David Wildstein.

They're talking about the gridlock they caused. Quote, "Is it wrong that I'm smiling?" "No, no, it's not wrong that you're smiling." The person responds to David Wildstein, "I feel badly about the kids. I guess." To which David Wildstein responds, "They are the children of Buono voters" -- meaning they're the children of people who vote Democratic. Do not feel bad they're gridlocked for hours in traffic and cannot get to school because of something we just did.

That all came out on Wednesday, January 8th. Wednesday, January 8th. The day after that, Governor Chris Christie gave a press conference responding to this issue, professing to be angry and sad and blindsided about this whole thing.

And you know what, the Beltway press really loved it, loved his press conference is so long. He's taking so many questions. He's doing great.

The scandal is terrible, but Chris Christie is doing so great. Look at his long press conference. The problem is, is that at that press conference, the Beltway press may have loved it, but substantively, the governor made claims at that press conference that have turned out not to be true.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE (R), NEW JERSEY: I am confident based upon my conversations with them that they had no prior knowledge nor involvement in this situation.

REPORTER: What about -- what about the cover-up piece of this?

CHRISTIE: That's your characterization, not mine. There's nobody on my staff who had any knowledge of this issue until after the issue was already done.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: That is not true. This is an e-mail that was sent on the fourth day of the bridge shutdown between top-level staffers and Governor Christie's office. It was sent from Christina Genovese Renna, who is the director of departmental relations for the state of New Jersey, to Bridget Anne Kelly, Governor Christie's deputy chief of staff. She's the one who ordered, "Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee."

During the shutdown of those lanes, while Fort Lee was still a traffic catastrophe, Christina Renna writes to Bridget Kelly, "Dear Bridget, this afternoon, Evan received a call from Mayor Sokolich, the mayor of Fort Lee. The mayor's extremely upset about the reduction of toll lanes from three to one. Not only is it causing horrendous traffic backups in town, but first responders are having a horrible time maneuvering in traffic because that backup was so severe. The mayor told Evan that he has no idea why Port Authority decided to do this, but there's a feeling in town there's government retribution for something. He simply can't understand why that would be the case however, because he's supportive of the governor. Evan told the fine mayor he was unaware the toll lanes were closed but could see when he could find out."

This was an e-mail during the bridge shutdown. It's to Bridget Kelly who worked in the governor's office and who we now know ordered the bridge shutdown. It's from Christina Renna, who also worked in the governor's office. It references a third person we also believe works in the governor's office, Evan J. Ridley, who was an aide to Governor Christie.

That e-mail is during the shutdown. It involves the person who ordered it, it's three people in the governor's office discussing the ongoing shutdown, the disaster it's causing, even the mayor's feelings that it's politically motivated to hurt Fort Lee. And that discussion is happening among the governor's top staffers during the shutdown. Not after.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CHRISTIE: There was nobody on my staff who had any knowledge of this issue until after the issue was already done.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: Not true. There's also e-mail involving the governor's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, and Bridget Kelly, again, during the bridge lane shutdown, during the catastrophe in Fort Lee that shows they not only knew it was going on, but they knew what a disaster it was and a real public safety problem as well, and that was during, not after, but during.

So, it is already a problem for Governor Chris Christie that he has said something not true. That he has said nobody on his staff -- no one had any knowledge of this issue while it was happening. He has been disproven on that point already and has not publicly addressed why he gave that broad exculpatory assurance about his staff when it just wasn't true.

Now, though, this new allegation hits closer to home. It is from David Wildstein, from the man who arranged the shutdown on the bridge.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOHN WISNIEWSKI (D), STATE ASSEMBLYMAN: Could you state and spell your last name for the record?

DAVID WILDSTEIN, FORMER PORT AUTHORITY OFFICIAL: David Wildstein. W- I-L-D-S-T-E-I-N.

WISNIEWSKI: And where do you currently reside?

WILDSTEIN: Montville, New Jersey.

WISNIEWSKI: OK. And are you currently employed?

WILDSTEIN: No.

WISNIEWSKI: And most recently, where were you employed?

WILDSTEIN: On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully assert my right to remain silent under the United States and New Jersey Constitutions.

On the advice of counsel, I, again, assert my right to remain silent.

On the advice of counsel, I assert my right to remain silent.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If the attorneys general for New Jersey, New York and United States were all to agree to clothe Mr. Wildstein with immunity, I think you'd find yourselves in a far different position with respect to information he can provide.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: That was David Wildstein pleading the Fifth when he was called before the New Jersey legislative committee that was investigating the shutdown of those bridge lanes.

At the end there, you also heard his lawyer saying that in if Mr. Wildstein could be cloaked in immunity, Mr.

Wildstein might have some very interesting information to provide.

Well, this time last week, because all news in this story breaks late in the day on a Friday, this time last week, we were reporting that David Wildstein had been cut off by the Port Authority in terms of his legal defense in this matter. Even though he was employed at the Port Authority while he engineered the bridge shutdown, the Port Authority said he was going to have to pay all his own legal bills for representing himself in this matter.

So, not only would David Wildstein be blamed for the whole problem and lose his job and potentially go to jail, but he'll have to personally foot the financial bill for his not inconsiderable legal defense along the way because the Port Authority was not going to help him with that.

And that detail, which sort of feels like a little detail in this whole thing, kind of feels like process, but that is what led to today's huge "New York Times" bombshell. When "The New York Times" was the first paper to get its hands on this letter from David Wildstein's lawyer. It's a letter to the general counsel of the Port Authority essentially appealing the Port Authority's decision to cut off David Wildstein and not help him with his defense.

Quote, "I would request that you kindly reconsider the Port Authority's decision to deny Mr. Wildstein payment of his legal fees and indemnification."

And why should the Port Authority do that? Why should the Port Authority not cut David Wildstein off and make him deal with this himself, ruin him as well as blame him? Why should the Port Authority not cut him off? Because according to David Wildstein and his lawyer, he did not act alone.

Look -- "It has come to light a person within the Christie administration communicated the Christie administration's order that certain lanes on the George Washington Bridge were to be closed. And evidence exists as well tying Governor Christie, himself, to having knowledge of the lane closures during the period when the lanes were closed, contrary to what the governor stated publicly in a two-hour press conference."

Mr. Wildstein contests the accuracy of various statements the governor made about him and can prove the inaccuracy of some. And so implicitly, don't you dare hang him out to dry alone. He didn't do this alone and he's not going to pay the price alone.

And although this is a letter that is addressed to the Port Authority general counsel, if you think about it, it's not really a surprise it also went to the front page of "The New York Times" because this is clearly meant as a much more public message. This is clearly meant as a public message that David Wildstein has a song to sing about this, and he would happily sing it if only someone would give him a reason to do so. Immunity.

Governor Christie, for his part, released this statement tonight, somewhat oddly claiming that Mr. Wildstein's accusation exonerates the governor. "Mr. Wildstein's lawyer confirms what the governor has said all along. He had absolutely no prior knowledge of the lane closures before they happened." Which is kind of an amazing thing. I mean, what David Wildstein said today is Chris Christie knew about this when it was happening. Didn't say anything about whether or not Chris Christie knew in advance.

By changing the subject, Governor Christie is trumpeting this accusation as if it is some kind of exoneration, when in fact it is an accusation and specifically an accusation that the governor lied. It's an accusation that the governor at that press conference, the big apology press conference that the Beltway press loved so much. It's an accusation from David Wildstein that the governor didn't just lie about his staff, which we know he did, but he also lied about himself.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CHRISTIE: I had no knowledge or involvement in this issue, in its planning or its execution. I knew nothing about this. I don't know what else to say except to tell them that I had no knowledge of this, of the planning, the execution or anything about it. And that I first found out about it after it was over.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: When the governor that day made similar assertions about his staff, those were not true. David Wildstein asserted today that Governor Christie was not telling the truth about himself there, either.

Now, Governor Christie denies that accusation. He says he definitely didn't know about it until afterwards and he says oddly that he is somehow exonerated by the accusation that he knew about it during. That would be amazing linguistic judo if the accusation does in fact turn out to exonerate him, right?

Will that prove true? Will either the governor's claims or David Wildstein's claims prove true? And how will it be proven? And how does this bombshell today change the investigation that's under way already?

The man leading the investigation in the New Jersey legislature John Wisniewski is going to join us, as is Ted Mann from "The Wall Street Journal."

We've got lots ahead. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)