

**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/ Station 2*; scroll down; click on **Current Program Archives**
 - Scroll down to **Hard News on Friday with Tara and Rama**, and click on **"More Archives"**
 - Click on those words and you will be taken to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
 - You can download the program to your own computer or listen directly.

- The **2013 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 info above re Sun, Monday calls]

Housekeeping: **Rainbird** **Thank you!**

- BBS:**
- A listener-supported radio program; we can access program archives on BBS
 - We need **\$ 290** for this week. **Many thanks** for the contributions for last week.
 - Needs everyone of us to donate something, would like to hear from all on the call.
 - What we hear and learn feeds our minds and our souls!
 - Go to [BBS.com/Radio 2](http://BBS.com/Radio2); find the listing for Friday Night Hard News; find the **Paypal** button
 - BBS appreciates getting cheques through the mail – no fees taken off by Paypal
 - **NO COST TO ACCESS THE ARCHIVES** for any of the T & R PROGRAMS, or the one for Thursday night: Stargate Round Table, hosted by MariettaRobert
 - Re: archives of the other programs on BBS: the money we pay to listen to someone else's archives is put towards our BBS bill!

 - The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
BBS Network, Inc.
5167 Toyon Lane
Paradise, CA 95969

 - Sending a check to BBS means all of your check is received; using Paypal incurs a fee.
- T & R:**
- They also need food & gas money this week
 - Can donate via the Paypal button on the website: www.2013RainbowRoundTable.ning.com

 - **Please notify them if you're sending something:** koran999@comcast.net

 - 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 book a session with Mother, as well!**
- MR:**
- Please remember to support MariettaRobert's show, too

Happy Spring Equinox!

Hard News:

R: The energies from the equinox keep getting stronger and stronger as we move beyond Mar 21

Camp Loveway: Guests: David Icke, Whoopi Goldberg, Demi Moore

Began with where is the plane? In a safe place!

- Many facets to the stories about who's who:
- David Icke spoke of the Archons: beginning with the story of when we decided to play: Diversity in Love was the point of the game – yet the seeds of the dark side were there because of the learning experience that was possible: some decided to play on the dark side as we were in a polar universe
 - Lucifer, Jehovah, Lilith, the Jinn, 1/3rd of the angels & the archons: they created false religions
False icons, false ideas, the differences between cultures

Question: what happens as we go from one transfiguration to another, and death has been given a bad meaning?

Whoopi: in the African cultures, when you die, there is a great party, to celebrate a home-coming!

Demi Moore: talked of a movie she played in, when she killed someone and the energy came out of the body; they talked of how soldiers are de-programmed to feel anything and to like killing – a drug

that is more powerful than anything

- We need compassion as we have done all these things
 - Right now, a dangerous game being played out in Crimea, Ukraine, US; only about the banksters & finance
 - They were bringing up the intensity of frequencies due to solar flares – we can do the most by sending Mother's wayward children so much love to help break up the matrix.
 - Saw a kid on **Abby Martin**: he believed the lies of 9/11 – join the military and get those who hit us!
 - generations of our children have been programmed with this lie, and David Icke spoke of this and that the soldiers are coming back talking of the stargates, what they saw in Baghdad, the hanging Gardens of Babylon
 - Talked of David and Goliath: David was as black as Congressman John Lewis: Goliath was a 25'tall Annunaki man who was half human, half annunaki; the stories in bible are misrepresentations created by the Archons
- David:** People have been programmed for generations with false concepts of who mother/father god is; there are 520 missing years: cut out was the original story where we came from Nibiru and other systems; we are all universal consciousnesses having human experiences in a holographic program that seems like 3D and is quickly moving into 5D and other realms
- There are holes in the matrix everywhere if you know where to look, and the 13 families are really disconcerted about this – which is the reason for their distractions of epic proportions
- As you go from one dimension to another, you do not need to die – it is about transforming and transfiguring the energies
 - David Icke, Whoopi and Demi are now 100% vegan – nothing with a face! It is about the higher energies, higher frequencies – at that level, we interact with the divas, the fairies, the plant forms which are just forms of Mother/Father god – David spoke to talking to an English ivy which reached over and stroked him: it would not touch those with him who were meat-eaters.
 - This says plants are awake and know who is OK: yes, vegans eat plants but the relationship is symbiotic: we give them oxygen and they give us carbon dioxide:
 - The story about climate change: they have been retro-fitting the planet to turn it into a reptilian refuge; it is about the geo-engineering
 - Next week on **Camp Loveway**: the criminality of re-districting + other topics

T: Demi Moore played in “Ghosts” and Patrick Swayze was her partner: there is no death as they talked about – archons created all the religions and the bottom line of each of them is the incorporation of hell & damnation; the justification of punishing us if we did not do what they wanted is a program **AND AS OF THIS EQUINOX, IT IS GONE!** Anything we are holding on regarding any religion is about creating fear and fascination,

- They are creating fear and “what if”

R: there is a Bach Flower remedy for “what if” that comes from the essence of aspen trees which heals those feelings we have inside of trepidation.

T: this is **the TAIL END OF THE LUCIFERIAN REBELLION** & and the head honchos of the rebellion are the archons: Christine Lagarde is an archon and head of IMF: literally putting all kinds of countries into hell and damnation with IOUs.

R: ads on all the buses in Santa Fe, there is an 800# that says if you are a victim of human trafficking or sexual abuse, call the # for help

T: many things going on that are not publicized so a situation is not exacerbated. There have been and are many stories about people like Sai Baba who was called a pedophile: the stories come from the same source: these ones!

R: David Icke talked of the evolution of divine compassion; as we love these ancient ones who are creator gods as we are, these ones are frozen in place by the fear that we will do to them what they have done to us; yet they are being moved too because of the energies coming in – we all are getting closer and closer to the centre of the Milky Way galaxy, everything comes into focus and balance and being about our mother's business.

Reading: Collapse and Systemic Failure at All Levels Coming to U.S.- Dmitry Orlov [SEE BELOW]

- Does not read the entire thing: **THERE WILL BE NO NUKES!!**

T's notes from MHP this am: Once we get past the Kabuki theatre, there is an economic inter-dependence between US and Russia, and to the US companies operating in Russia

- US exports to Russia: machinery, vehicles, airplanes
- Russia to US: crude oil, iron, steel, platinum
- Companies operating in Russia: Exxon Mobil, Boeing, Chevron, John Deere, General Motors, Pepsico, Mars, Kraft Food, Gargyl inc, General Electrics, Caterpillar inc, Ford Motors
- Influence over Ukraine matters more to the Russians than to anyone over here.

Borders are really financial arrangements for purposes of “slavery” - controlling people

Audio: 3 min: about the Republican revolution

- Formed in 1854 in Wisconsin to fight slavery; 1861 was the beginning of the Civil War

Audio: various subjects including women's rights **Melissa Harris-Perry, 3/22/14**

A letter to Franklin Graham, who agrees with Putin on LGBT rights

03/22/14 04:20 PM—Updated 03/23/14 03:16 PM

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By [Jonathan Capehart](#)

(Quick note of caution for viewers: the story I am about to tell includes offensive language. I am using it only because it is relevant to the story itself.)

Westboro Baptist Church founder Fred Phelps died this week. Phelps was strident in expressing his anti-gay views. So strident that he and his family picketed funerals, particularly military funerals, with messages like “God hates fags.”

Phelps and his followers were decidedly fringe and extreme. But their sentiment—the overall antagonism toward the LGBT community—is not foreign to the mainstream. And that was brought home in a recent column written by the evangelist Franklin Graham, in which he said that Russian President Vladimir Putin [is right](#) on gay and lesbian issues.

Putin’s laws banning the expression of homosexuality, however loosely defined? Right. His laws banning advocacy for equal treatment? Right. His laws that have stoked a climate of fear among LGBT Russians? Right.

Right.

And that’s why my letter this week is to Franklin Graham, the son of famed evangelist Billy Graham and president and CEO of the family ministry.

Dear Mr. Graham,

[Here’s what you wrote](#) in your monthly column in the March issue of *Decision* magazine.

“In my opinion, Putin is right on these issues. Obviously, he may be wrong about many things, but he has taken a stand to protect his nation’s children from the damaging effects of any gay and lesbian agenda.”

Yes, “taken a stand” by making it a crime to promote so-called homosexual propaganda to minors—

that can mean just telling a young person that same-sex couples are equal to opposite sex couples. Nope. Can't say that in Putin's Russia. Because he's taking a stand!

According to Human Rights Watch, the law passed last year has coincided with an increase in discrimination—including psychological abuse and physical violence against LGBT Russians. State-run media outlets have called LGBT Russians “perverts” and one leading talk show host said the hearts of gay organ donors should be burned or buried rather than used to continue someone's life. (That man, by the way, [has been appointed](#) by the Kremlin to head the new Russian state-run media conglomerate.)

This is the law that you, Franklin Graham, say Putin has “right.” You also said:

“Our president and his attorney general have turned their backs on God and His standards, and many in the Congress are following the administration's lead. This is shameful. The world used to look to America for moral leadership. But those days are long gone.”

Mr. Graham, you are the son of Billy Graham—America's preacher! Spiritual advisor to every U.S. nonpartisan—note. And even though he opposes same-sex marriage, he has never called for oppression of—or violence against—gays and lesbians.

In fact, in 1997, during a revival in San Francisco, [your father said](#),

“What I want to preach about in San Francisco is the love of God ... People need to know that God loves them no matter what their ethnic background or sexual orientation.”

And yet you accuse our president of turning his back on God—of abandoning the nation's children to the “gay and lesbian agenda.” Now let's be clear about what we're talking about here—about what, exactly is on that agenda. It's things like guaranteeing that we be able to work and make a living, without being fired for who we love or for how our families look.

That we can enjoy the modicum of economic security for our families that comes with being married. That we can raise our children without the fear that they could be taken away by an intolerant government. And that we can walk down the street without being humiliated, beaten bloody, or killed just because of who we are.

That is our agenda. It is a human agenda. And, quite frankly, it's the American dream. That you found it so critical to protect children from that that you embraced Putin is breathtakingly offensive.

Sincerely,
Jonathan

Audio: MHP – March 22

Audio: MHP 03/22/14

Are student athletes unfairly compensated?

Dave Zirin, sports editor for The Nation, speaks to Jonathan Capehart about the recent class action lawsuit filed against the NCAA and five richest conferences alleging that compensation for players has been unlawfully capped at the value of an athletic scholarship.

Audio: MHP 03/22/14

Harvard Lampoon shapes future of comedy

Alexis Wilkinson, the president of Harvard University's humor magazine “The Lampoon,” joins Jonathan Capehart to talk about the ways she's breaking barriers toward change.

Audio: Abby Martin a series of her articles on economic issues from the last week [put together by her]
T: the media is doing a good job of what is about to crack!

Reading: Ending the “passionate Attachment”

[SEE BELOW]

- T reminds us that the amounts of money Israel receives is DOUBLE what is spoken of.

Audio: 500 Nations [today's section begins with the Plymouth Thanksgiving of Dec 1621 – not sure whether it is in Part 1 or Part 2. Part of this YouTube was played a few weeks ago.]

Part 1 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Dr_Qqja4RY

Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bn2YQCXrLsA>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXX_zD5qohl

500 Nations... Story of the Native Americans ~ 10 Lost Tribes of Israel

Caller: presenting his growing understanding of what is happening on the planet, and what T & R are working towards

Music: A poem of Rumi

Astrology: Richard

Sat: Mercury conjunct Neptune; Moon in Sag = kinda spacey!

Sun: Moon goes into Capricorn

Mon: moon conjuncts Pluto

Wed: Mercury moves further into Pisces, trines Jupiter; Moon in Aquarius

Thurs: moon conjunct Venus, then moves into Pisces

Fri: Moon conjuncts Neptune at 6:30 am, conjuncts Mercury in the evening

Sat: Moon is void of course all day in Pisces

Audio: March 18, 2014 Pele Report, Astrology Forecast

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=WH1NtnwskgQ

[click here for the Equinox astrology chart](#)

*All I need do is love it all,
Winter, spring, summer, or fall,
Whether the tide rises or falls,
All I need do is love it all.*

[Pele Report mp3 only](#)

Happy Aries Equinox! Instead of “coming out of the dream of Pisces unity” into the fiery heat of Aries, let’s bring the dream of unity that we all collectively share into reality THROUGH and WITH the fiery, initiative of Aries! Ram on! Sorry to say I’m slightly overwhelmed like so many these days... I usually sleep, dream and meditate to get the weekly mantra but life is a blitz these days! Anyway, hope you enjoy..... music by Noah at www.ghostlights.ca

Audio: Carl Boudreau <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DH5Kxqyli5A>

- April has been heralded as an important month, with its two eclipses and another one of those Grand Crosses in cardinal signs, and I discuss that.

- I think it is probably more important because it marks the official roll out of the New Paradigm and the promise it brings.

- This video is somewhat speculative and, after I present my case, I leave it to the viewers to decide if the New Paradigm is a real thing and if it functions as advertised.

[A couple of settings on my videocam were bogus, hence the "irregularities" in the intro and outro.]

Reading: The Oracle Report [Saturday, March 22 - Sunday, March 23, 2014](#) [SEE BELOW]

Conf Call: no notes

BBS

Opening: a Rumi selection

T: finishes the reading about poverty consciousness and transmuting it: Quan Yin

Audio: Democracy Now **Are Any Plastics Safe? Industry Tries to Hide Scary New Evidence on BPA-Free Bottles, Containers** [SEE BELOW]

Audio: Breaking the Set March 22, 2014
<http://rt.com/shows/breaking-set-summary/police-sex-prostitutes-us-1529/> **Jamie Dunmore**

On this episode of Breaking the Set, Abby Martin remarks on how environmental activists have focused on the Keystone XL pipeline, whilst ignoring the many other pipelines traversing the US and Canada, many of which rival Keystone in output capacity. Abby calls out several instances of police abuse, from 300 arrests in Montreal, to Police defending sex with prostitutes in Hawaii. Abby then features spoken word artist, Jamie Dunmore, who performs his poem 'My Call for Humanity'. Abby also goes over a disturbing new report by the US Department of Education, which shows how black students at public schools are suspended or expelled at a rate three times higher than white students. BTS wraps up the show with an interview with comedian and host of Lee Camp's Moment of Clarity web series, Lee Camp, going over several mind-blowing technologies, including remote control cockroaches and a real invisibility cloak.

Breaking the Set: about the meat recall in San Francisco; effects on human health

Breaking the Set: Jesse Ventura and his new show called "Off the Grid"

Breaking the Set: Discussion with Ben McLeish

Audio: **Vice:** ice melting on Greenland & other extreme weather events, climate change – all caused by mankind; there are no winners and losers with sea level rise

Audio: a Bioneers speaker: the question is "Are our small steps enough in the face of global destruction?"

Audio: Max Keiser Episode 578 March 21, 2014

http://img.rt.com/files/episode/23/fe/10/00/kr2203_480p.mp4?event=download

In this episode of the Keiser Report, Max Keiser and Stacy Herbert discuss bingo lingo and Fedspeak. When the markets tumbled after Janet Yellen said, "six months," perhaps she should have said "Chopping Sticks" instead? They also discuss qualitative guidance and productivity gains. In the second half, Max interviews Egon von Greyerz of Matterhorn Asset Management in Switzerland about wealth preservation and gold.

R: you heard it from the man: the gold is not there; St Germain has it and he decides when it gets distributed.

Reading: The Cosmic Story~ Virgo Full Moon 2014

[SEE BELOW]

Reading: When Rocks Cry Out, Ch 39

Closing: Rainbird

Music: The Canadian Tenors

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2014, Mar 19 **Collapse and Systemic Failure at All Levels Coming to U.S.- Dmitry Orlov**



By Greg Hunter's USAWatchdog.com

Dmitry Orlov is a Russian blogger who writes about the parallel between the U.S and the USSR. Orlov lived through the financial collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990's, and he thinks the U.S. is on the same trajectory. Orlov contends, "The trajectory is defined by this sort of incompetent militarism where more and more money results in bigger and bigger military fiascos around the world and less and less of actual foreign policy that can be pursued or articulated. There are massive levels of corruption. The amount of money that is being stolen by the U.S. Government and its various appropriations processes is now in the trillions of dollars a year. Runaway debt, the United States now has a level of debt that is un-repayable. **All we're waiting for is interest rates to go across the magic threshold of 3% and the entire budget of the country explodes. There are also all types of other tendencies that point in the direction of collapse and systemic failure at all levels.**"

So, how close are we to collapse or system failure? Orlov contends, "I am pretty sure that anyone who makes a prediction when the collapse will happen is wrong. Nobody can say when it will happen. It's the same as saying a bridge that is structurally deficient; you don't know when a truck is going to fall through into the river below. . . . You can be chronically sick for a long time, and then one day, you go into a coma or your heart stops. You cannot predict what day that will happen. Orlov does say, "**The United States right now, from my point of view and the point of view from observers from around the world, is on suicide watch. It's a country that is going to self-destruct at some point in the near future.**"

On the Ukraine crisis, Orlov thinks, "The Crimea referendum was the first legal way to find out what the people wanted to do. The turnout was remarkable, and they voted overwhelmingly to rejoin Russia, to become part of Russia once again. The interesting thing here is it was not just the Russians that voted to join Russia but the Ukrainians in Crimea, which makes a sizable part of the population voted to join Russia. . . Ukraine is composed of sort of a no man's land in the West and then Russian territories in the East. . . .If that trend holds, you are basically left with this insolvent nugget of nothingness, and it will be up to the international community to decide what to do with these people. They are right now marching around Kiev with baseball bats and going into government offices and beating up members of local government and installing their own members. They are basically running amok. They don't even have the support of the

Ukrainian military at this point. So, it will be a mop-up operation against these neo-fascists that are running amok.” Orlov goes on to say, **“In Washington, in the Obama Administration and in the Kerry State Department, we have absolutely breathtaking levels of incompetence.** These people really don’t know what they’re doing and are dangerous at any speed; and everywhere else, we have this follow the incompetent leader thing taking place, and it’s really, really frightening because the **incompetents are leading the world to a really dangerous place.”**

Orlov goes on to say, “What are these people doing trash talking the Russians? What would these people do without Russia? How would they get out of earth’s orbit and visit the international space station? Who would negotiate international deals with Syria and Iran because all they can do is blunder and lose face.” Russia doesn’t need the United States for anything. The United States is the most dispensable country on earth.”

On possible war between Ukraine and Russia, Orlov contends, “They are not going to fight because the Ukraine military is part of the Russian military. There really isn’t any opposition. The Ukrainian military will decide what to do in a few days, and then they will inform the Russians, and after that, maybe they will inform their own government. Maybe they will just go into the government offices and just round them up. Last I heard, 60% of Ukrainian military accepted Russian passports already. The remaining parts are being shipped out to the mainland. That is happening peacefully. So, there isn’t going to be any fight. The really important point is the Ukrainian military all over Ukraine does not support the government in Kiev. They are withholding support, and what they really want is to join the Russian military. . . . The best thing Russia can do is sit back and relax and let this work out. I don’t think the government in Kiev has any legs.”

Join Greg Hunter as he goes One-on-One with [Dmitry Orlov of ClubOrlov.com](http://www.cluborlov.com) coming from Central America.

(There is much more in the video interview.)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCO5nZgvtbY&feature=player_embedded

After the Interview:

Dmitry Orlov is currently working on a new book that will be out later this year. Orlov says, “The new book is about communities and what makes them resistant to adverse events such as financial collapse.” Orlov adds, “The U.S., as a whole, is not resistant to shocks, but some parts of America are.” You can find Dmitry Orlov at [ClubOrlov.com](http://www.cluborlov.com).

Related Posts:

- [Weekly News Wrap-Up 3.7.14](#)
- [Ukraine-Desperation to Save the U.S. Dollar-Dr. Jim Willie](#)
- [U.S. Definitely Wants War in Ukraine-Paul Craig Roberts](#)
- [Weekly News Wrap-Up 12.13.13](#)
- [Russian Dollar Dump Could Crash Financial System-John...](#)

<http://usawatchdog.com/collapse-and-systemic-failure-at-all-levels-coming-to-us-dmitry-orlov/>

2014, Mar 15 **Ending the “Passionate Attachment”**

Allies in the Medieval-Modern Struggle

by Harry Clark

In his farewell address in 1796, George Washington warned the nation he had served as its first president against a “passionate attachment” or “inveterate hatred” toward any nation. Some Americans were impassioned about revolutionary France. Within a few years, agents of foreign minister Talleyrand would boast to American diplomats of French power within the United States, and demand large bribes and loans to advance relations. The correspondence was eventually published in the US, in the XYZ Affair, which embarrassed France and the French party in the US, and incited US opinion against France. The rupture was not permanent, and relations eventually resumed on dispassionate terms, to the benefit of both countries.

Since the 1992 publication of [*The Passionate Attachment: America’s Involvement With Israel, 1947 to the Present*](#), by George W. Ball, undersecretary of state for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, and his son Douglas B. Ball, Washington’s prescient term has become ubiquitous to describe the US-Israel relationship. No agents of Israel have ever been embarrassed by boasting of Israel’s power in the US, or by demanding loans and aid. The protestations of American diplomats at Israel’s aggrandizement and damage to US interests have embarrassed them, not the pro-Israel party, which has gone from strength to strength until quite recently.

This has produced a loose establishment diaspora of US diplomats, military and intelligence officers, politicians, academics and journalists critical of the US-Israel relationship, in Washington and elsewhere. On March 7 a quorum of these and other critics gathered in Washington, for a “[National Summit to Reassess the U.S.-Israel ‘Special Relationship’](#).” The event was organized by the [Council for the National Interest](#), [If Americans Knew](#), [Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy](#), and [Washington Report on Middle East Affairs](#). There was a full day of six panels with a total of 25 speakers. Despite the full program moderators kept the event on schedule. The ballroom of the National Press Club was filled, and the event was broadcast live on [C-Span](#). Video of each panel and separate audio for each speaker, and near-complete transcripts, are at the [IRMEP program page](#). The proceedings survey Israel’s influence and its damage to the US.

How does the Israel lobby influence Congress?

The first speaker on this first panel was former Congressman Paul Findley, at 92 the grand old man of Arabophile politicians, the handful honest and courageous enough to oppose what the US and Israel do in the Middle East. Findley’s advocacy for Palestine cost him the seat he held in Congress for 22 years, but he regretted not doing more, said he should have made it “the cause of the day.” He called for President Obama to issue an executive order, bypassing Congress, suspending aid to Israel until it recognized Palestinian sovereignty over the territories occupied in the 1967 war, and negotiated a two-state solution, which would require all Israeli officials to leave, and for any remaining Israelis to live as foreign nationals. He extolled the benefits to Palestinians, to the US standing in the region, and not least to Israel.

Janet McMahon of *Washington Report* discussed the work of pro-Israel political action committees. They hide behind innocuous names, and bundle contributions from individuals, which typically are many times the PAC contribution. Pro-Israel PACs have in the past followed AIPAC’s instructions on which candidates

to donate to. AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the main congressional Israel lobby, is not a PAC and does not donate. Such advice is illegal and has been investigated but never prosecuted. Pro-Israel PACs should have ranked sixth in donations to Congress in the 2012 election cycle, as compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics, but were not even in the top ten. 58% of pro-Israel PAC donations go to Democrats.

Former Representative Cynthia McKinney of Georgia delivered a taped message, recounting the pressure she and Representative Earl Hilliard of Alabama faced as members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which contributed to their election defeats. She had advocated enforcement of US law against weapons sales to human rights violators such as Israel and other positions.

Delinda Hanley of *Washington Report* discussed US aid to Israel, which is the major recipient of US foreign assistance, despite a GDP per capita at the level of the European Union and high rankings in UN socioeconomic indexes. Direct aid totals over \$3.1 billion annually, totaling \$134 billion since 1949, plus \$19 billion in loan guarantees. Tax-deductible contributions subsidize Israeli institutions and Zionist propaganda. Economist Thomas Stauffer estimates \$1.6 trillion in direct and indirect costs of Israel to the US for the period 1973-2003. Israel continues to enjoy US largesse even as public needs for infrastructure and social purposes in the US rise.

Do Israel and its lobby exercise too much influence on U.S. decisions to wage war in the Middle East?

Historian Stephen Sniegoski, author of [*The Transparent Cabal: The Neoconservative Agenda, War in the Middle East, and the National Interest of Israel*](#), surveyed the rise of the neoconservatives in US politics and their influence on the Iraq war. This began in the 1970s, with the rightward migration of Jewish former liberals, who rose in the Reagan Administration in the 1980s. During the Clinton Administration they founded the Project for a New American Century and plotted the invasion of Iraq, and then served in the George W. Bush Administration. The 9/11 attacks provided the opening to advocate the invasion of Iraq, and to overcome resistance within the government. While the neocons include gentile radical nationalists, the movement is mainly a Jewish ascendancy in conservative politics.

Retired US Air Force Colonel Karen Kwiatowski recounted her experience in the Near East and South Asia office in the Pentagon, which hatched the Office for Special Plans, the center of Iraq war planning in the Department of Defense. NESA, in the office of the Secretary of Defense, was headed by Navy Captain William Ludy, a lowly rank for such a position, but Ludy had neoconservative connections. He told his analysts to rely solely on OSP and ignore other sources within the government. OSP was headed by neoconservative appointee Douglas Feith, and tailored intelligence to support the war. Visiting Israeli officials were very familiar with it.

Historian Gareth Porter discussed the findings of his recent book, [*Manufactured Crisis. The Untold Story of the Iran Nuclear Scare*](#), and the current negotiations over Iran's nuclear power program. Israel has used the threat of war on Iran to manipulate the US and the EU over Iran sanctions and negotiations; the US is to do any fighting. The neoconservatives had intended regime change in Iraq to lead to Lebanon, Syria and Iran but Iraq backfired. The US has tried to manipulate the International Atomic Energy Agency against Iran. Israel has fabricated evidence on an Iranian nuclear program and fed it to the US through an Iranian anti-regime terrorist group, and German intelligence. The US has just re-introduced this discredited evidence in the current negotiations, raising doubts about US sincerity in reaching an agreement with Iran.

Retired Army Brigadier General James David served in the Middle East from 1967-69, among many other assignments. He emphasized the hypocrisy of ceaseless US calls for freedom and democracy, except in Palestine, where the US calls for the opposite. He also criticized Israel's ceaseless imprecations of Palestinian and Arab threats, when it holds overwhelming power and commits heinous atrocities. He praised the boycott-divestment-sanctions movement, and the internet, noting that he found the Israeli Haaretz more informative and reliable than US media.

Does the “special relationship” transcend rule of law?

Grant Smith, of IRMEP, surveyed the history of the “Israel lobby” since the 1940s. Smith has written half a dozen books based on documents unearthed with the Freedom of Information Act. He described a pattern of systematic illegality, beginning with arms procurement and smuggling, nuclear fuel procurement and smuggling, evasion of foreign agent registration and lobbying laws, and extensive industrial and political espionage. All this has been detected by US law enforcement and intelligence agencies, but investigations have been quashed and prosecutions thwarted or limited to minor figures, through Zionist influence. Smith concluded that US law is essentially unenforceable against the Israel lobby.

Ernest A. Gallo, retired US Navy and CIA communications technician, is president of the Liberty Veterans Association. He was on board the electronic intelligence ship USS *Liberty* when it was repeatedly attacked and nearly sunk by Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats in the eastern Mediterranean during the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war. 34 crewmen were killed and 174 were wounded. He described the official cover-up, including the Navy's superficial investigation, orders to the crewmen's families to keep silent, the surreptitious awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor to the captain, and the failure of Congress to investigate, as it normally does any peacetime attack on a US naval ship. An unofficial investigation in 2003 by retired senior officers and diplomats found that Israel knew that the ship was American, called the attack an act of war against the United States, and said that it was covered up for fear of embarrassing Israel and confronting its lobby.

Mark Perry, an author on military, intelligence and foreign affairs, in addressing the topic of national security reporting, emphasized the terms “national interest” and “skin in the game.” He defined “national interest” as ideological, in terms of free trade, markets, and elections, and as economic, noting that 89,000 jobs in Texas depend on US relations with Qatar. He noted that the Central Command was formed in 1983 to protect US shipping, not to confront Iran. He cited the military's emphasis on “skin in the game” in assessing allies, and noted that the skin in any war with Iran would be American. He cited the congressional testimony of then Central Command head General David Petraeus that failing to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict was the primary obstacle to obtaining respect and satisfying US interests in the Middle East.

The Jonathan Pollard case may be the exception that proves Smith's rule. Retired Navy intelligence captain and attorney for military, intelligence and law enforcement, M.E. “Spike” Bowman worked on almost every espionage investigation from 1979 to 2009. He called Pollard one of the four worst espionage cases in that period. Israel wanted not secret but specific top secret and SCI documents (sensitive compartmented information) and had from a different source a Defense Intelligence Agency catalog of documents. By his own admission Pollard provided 360 cubic feet of material. Then Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger wanted the death penalty but it was not legally possible. Pollard is eligible for parole but will not seek it because he wants clemency so he can go to Israel immediately.

History: How did the “special relationship” come to be?

Harvard scholar Stephen Walt outlined what had changed and what had not since the 2007 publication, with co-author John Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago, of their celebrated book [*The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*](#). He recalled their basic argument that the unprecedented generosity of the special relationship, with its possible Cold War strategic value now a strategic detriment, and any moral case offset by Israel's own oppression and aggression, could only be explained by the Israel lobby. Since then discussion has widened in the media; the Lobby was unable to have Syria bombed and Iran further sanctioned; the charge of anti-Semitism is losing its power. On the other hand, President Obama's first term bid for a settlement freeze and two-state solution failed utterly; there was a craven response to Israel's Cast Lead attack on Gaza; elements of the Lobby intervened publicly and radically in the 2012 elections; aid still flows unconditionally; settlements grow and grow; the two-state solution may be dead; the Lobby continues to receive great deference; establishment insider discourse is still closed, though outsiders may comment. "Reports of the Lobby's demise are greatly exaggerated"; change does not happen overnight, and a "broad tent" of opponents is needed.

Geoffrey Wawro, a military historian at the University of North Texas, offered a broad survey of the US-Israel relationship. President Wilson initially opposed the Balfour Declaration, but was swayed by its popularity with Jewish voters. President Truman's diplomatic advisers were thwarted by his aides, and the Palestine portfolio brought into the White House and domestic politics. Such pressure plagued Eisenhower in 1956, even as Israel withdrew from Gaza and Sinai, turned Kennedy's independent policy into the first arms sales, and led Johnson not to call for withdrawal after June 1967, disregarding the US ambassador's 1965 warning that Israel had to be restrained, and pressured if it made further conquests. Nixon and Kissinger declined to extract concessions from Israel during the 1973 war and greatly increased US aid afterward. Obama has failed at every attempt to address issue; Israel might agree to a settlement to blunt the BDS movement, and as prerequisite to Sunni Arab coalition against Iran.

Ohio State international law professor John Quigley discussed the impact of the special relationship on US international legal views. Despite legislation requiring that the US embassy be moved to Jerusalem, successive presidents have not done it. Otherwise, President Johnson initially opposed but then assented to Israel's June, 1967 attack, which the Bush Administration used as "pre-emptive" precedent to justify invading Iraq in 2003. The US has claimed that Palestinian statehood can arise only from Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, but the legal criterion is recognition by the world community. The Carter Administration found Israel's settlements illegal, which has dwindled to John Kerry finding them "illegitimate." Ambiguous statehood status has been used to prevent the Palestinian Authority from seeking redress at the International Criminal Court. The right of return of refugees has been recognized but put off pending recognition of Israel by the Arab states, even though Egypt and Jordan do now.

Alison Weir of CNI and *If Americans Knew* recounted her involvement in the Palestine question, following the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa intifada in 2000. In traveling to Palestine and researching, she found a wide disparity between actual events and US media reports, and an overwhelming disparity of Israeli power and Palestinian suffering. In studying the Zionist movement in the US, she found its first influence in advocating US entry into World War I, in order to induce Britain to issue the Balfour Declaration supporting Zionism in Palestine. She noted the opposition of the US diplomatic and military establishments to Zionism, and the comprehensive Zionist mobilization to overcome it. She also noted Zionist manipulation of Jewish opinion, to overcome its non- and anti-Zionist tendency. Weir noted the lionization of journalist Dorothy Thompson for her criticism of Nazism, and her demonization when she objected to Zionism's destruction of Palestine. All this is documented in mainstream sources cited in her book, *Against Our Better Judgment*.

Has the lobby captured political parties and news media?

Journalist Jeffrey Blankfort quoted anti-Zionist author Lenni Brenner's statement that "the Left is the rear-guard of the Israel lobby." Blankfort cited Noam Chomsky for setting parameters of criticism, and influential activist Phyllis Bennis for enforcing them in groups like US Campaign to End the Occupation. Chomsky holds that Israel is a US strategic asset, and that US has opposed a settlement with the Palestinians for its own reasons, both of which are "demonstrably false." These parameters have influenced all US critics of Israel. Blankfort cited the left media, notably Amy Goodman of Democracy Now, for failing to report on Israel's influence. When the Mearsheimer-Walt book *The Israel Lobby* appeared, Goodman did not interview the authors, but Noam Chomsky. For such reasons the US Palestine solidarity movement has been a total failure, according to Blankfort.

Alan C. Brownfeld, of the American Council for Judaism, noted that the classical Reform view of Jews as a religious minority, not a nationality, was at one time held by most American Jews. Zionism became a majority view because of Nazism and the Judeocide, and Zionism has had very negative effects on Jewish life; it is subversive of liberalism. Synagogues fly Israeli flags, and Jews are urged to make *aliyah*. Judaism has become idolatry, substituting Israel for God. American Jews support secularism and pluralism in the US, and obscurantist established religion and fanatical chauvinism in Israel. The American Jewish press reads as if written for an ex-patriate community. Brownfeld feels his views represents a "silent majority" of American Jews. Campus Hillel foundations are resisting official Zionist guidelines in their programming. Zionism is in retreat.

Justin Raimondo of *Antiwar.com* noted the historic opposition of American conservatism to Zionism and its sympathy toward the Arabs. In the 1940s and 1950s, conservative publisher Regnery issued a stream of titles in that vein, which was shared by flagship journal *National Review*. He contrasted this with the sympathy of the left, in the views of Henry Wallace, the USSR's support for partition and provision of arms through Czechoslovakia. The Cold War and Stalinist anti-Semitism changed the Soviet orientation, and the June, 1967 war earned criticism from the Left. The neoconservatives, Jewish former leftists, oriented the right toward Israel. The neocons were reinforced by the dispensationalist Christian Zionists, in whose eschatology Israel and the Jews are central. Raimondo finds this component of the Israel lobby the most important, but they and the neocons contend with libertarian anti-interventionism on the right.

Scott McConnell, founder of *American Conservative* and a former neoconservative, pointed to events at *National Review* to illustrate the neoconservative takeover of the right. William F. Buckley let neoconservatives dictate his treatment of editor Joseph Sobran and columnist Pat Buchanan when they were accused of anti-Semitism. McConnell found the accusations somewhat justified in Sobran's case, and cited Buckley's convoluted absolution of Buchanan; their arguments about Israel's influence in the US and on US policies, and the consequences, were buried. Sobran eventually left as editor, while Buchanan was marginalized on the right. The neoconservatives effectively supervised discussion of Israel and related matters in *National Review*, the largest publication on the right, and young conservatives got the message.

Philip Weiss, co-editor of the *Mondoweiss* blog, cited examples of continuing Israel lobby hegemony in the media, including CNN's featuring of former Israeli ambassador Michael Oren as new commentator; the triumphant book tour of Israeli author Ari Shavit, arranged by four senior Jewish American journalists, including David Remnick and Jeffrey Goldberg of the *New Yorker*, Leon Wieseltier, and Thomas Friedman; and acknowledgment by *New York Times* Jerusalem correspondent Jodi Rudoren of her Jewish background and familiarity with the "American Jewish and Israeli story", which she has not transcended. Weiss noted positive changes also, including Friedman's frank recognition of the Israel lobby, and the fair *New York Times* review of John Judis's book [Genesis](#), about Zionist influence on President Truman and earlier. Weiss's journalistic instincts

sense a wealth of hidden stories about Zionism to be written, which will eventually lead to high noon for the Israel lobby.

Is Israel really a U.S. ally?

Paul Pillar, 28-year veteran of the CIA and National Intelligence Officer for the Near East and South Asia, argued that alliance is based on broad congruence of interests and mutual benefits. He found that Israel's ethnocracy is foreign to the US; that the US and Israel share some adversaries, but deal with them in different ways; that the occupation and blockade of the West Bank and Gaza are not a US interest; US aid to Israel, \$234 billion in current dollars, has opportunity costs. Israel does little for the US that the US would not do for itself. Israel is not a regional military asset; Palestine is the chief grievance of terrorist suspects under interrogation; Israel is the chief source of extremism and terrorism directed against the US. If Israel were afraid of Iran it would support negotiations; denouncing Iran distracts from the occupation, and prevents Iran from becoming a western partner. US should disregard labels and look at interests in the case of each country.

Ray McGovern oversaw national intelligence estimates and the presidential daily briefing in 27 years at the CIA. He argued that "alliance" meant a mutual defense treaty, which the US does not have with Israel. The US offered such an alliance after the 1973 war, but Israel refused, because it preferred not to define its borders, and because an alliance would limit its freedom of action. McGovern noted the British Downing Street memo citing the CIA director's statement that "intelligence is being fixed around the policy" of invading Iraq. He noted strong Israeli influence on the Bush Administration; the charges of anti-Semitism to his suggestion that Israel wanted to dominate the region; and that Israel's assassination of Sheik Yassin in Gaza prompted the assault on US Blackwater mercenaries in Fallujah, in occupied Iraq, leading to US atrocities against the city

Philip Giraldi, a veteran of military intelligence and CIA counterterrorism, argued that not only is Israel no ally, but it is no friend, and influences policy in ways that are detrimental to the US and to itself. US officials close to the Israeli government were behind the Iraq war and the phony intelligence that justified it. Israel and its US partisans are trying to create a false *casus belli* and force the US into war on Iran. Congress is attempting to effectively delegate the decision to Israel. Israel's actions are *sui generis*; its lavish aid is dispensed on terms favorable to it and costly to the US; it interferes in US elections; its government officials rebuke and mock US officials from the president down; its officials give alarmist briefings to Congress; it brazenly conducts espionage against the US government, including a murky operation before 9/11, and against US industry, and sells its products to anyone; 125 investigations into Israeli espionage have been stopped due to political pressure.

Michael Scheuer was scheduled to speak but did not. He headed and later advised the CIA's Osama bin Laden unit, among many assignments. While still at the CIA he published two anonymous books, on bin Laden, and on the US "war on terror." He has argued that US patronage of Israel was a major grievance of bin Laden, and that the Iraq invasion, which he attributed chiefly to the influence of the Israel lobby, was a huge gift to al-Qaeda. His appearance would have brought the discussion of whether Israel is a US ally to a negative crescendo.

Observations

The packed schedule and brisk moderation left little time for discussion, though overall there were few differences among the panelists, and in the allotted time few arose with the audience.

Justin Raimondo's claim that evangelical Christian Zionists are the most powerful component of the Israel lobby was not echoed by other panelists. Mearsheimer and Walt called the Christian Zionists an "important junior partner" in their book, while emphasizing that Jewish organizations were the most important component. The [Christ at the Checkpoint](#) conference of evangelicals, held biannually in Bethlehem since 2010, was denounced vehemently by the Israeli government this year. Porter Speakman's 2010 film [With God on Our Side](#) is another sign that evangelical support for Israel is diminishing by the day.

Ray McGovern offered the acronym “O.I.L.”, “oil, Israel and logistics” (bases) to explain the invasion of Iraq, and opined that “no one in this room would argue that Iraq would have been invaded if it had had no oil resources.” No other panelist seconded this. Mearsheimer and Walt found “logical and empirical difficulties” with this claim, and noted that the flow of oil was not endangered, that Saddam Hussein had been prevented from selling it by sanctions, which the oil companies were eager to end. Stephen Sniegowski has [written](#) of “‘War for Oil’—the Notion That Will Not Die.”

Scott McConnell argued that by the 1970s Nixon and Kissinger had accepted Israel as a strategic asset in the Cold War. Mearsheimer and Walt acknowledged the argument, but also noted that US support for Israel’s aggression had pushed the Arabs into Soviet arms, prevented a settlement, and fueled anti-Americanism in the region.

One questioner complained about the “religious dogma of the Holocaust taught in public schools which cannot be questioned,” and made some flaky comments about Jewish persecution of Germany at the 1919 Versailles peace conference and in the anti-Nazi boycott. Jeff Blankfort described the school curriculum in California, where he had worked as a teacher. He noted that the schools teach “weeks of Anne Frank” and Elie Wiesel’s *Night* because material is provided by Jewish organizations, and that was only in English. History teachers are required to teach more about the Holocaust (omitting such facts as the ideological and practical affinity of Nazism and Zionism) than about the genocide of the American Indians, or about slavery.

Philip Weiss then stated that “we should not be problematizing the education of the Holocaust” even if AIPAC and the ADL set the curriculum. He stated that “the West incurred a debt toward the Jews from the Holocaust and the Palestinians paid for that,” as if the creation of Israel were compensation for the Holocaust. He also stated that “one of the great discoveries of the past few years is that the West owes Palestinians a debt also,” as if the Jews, or Zionism and its supporters, do not, a point the conference was called to establish. Neither Brownfeld nor Weiss affirmed the exploitation of the Holocaust on behalf of Zionism and Israel, which has been attested by writers such as Norman Finkelstein and Peter Novick.

Next year’s summit might note the Zionization of US domestic law enforcement after 9/11, with hundreds of police delegations traveling to Israel for training and effectively, ideological conditioning. It might also note the damage to civil liberties and growth of Islamophobia from 9/11. These are domestic costs of the “special relationship.”

There was a patriotic tone to some presentations, and most of the speakers emphasized American interests. This is an observation, not a complaint. The American system of government expresses the democratic sovereignty of the American people, however corrupted and attenuated that principle is. Israel’s influence is fundamentally a usurpation of our sovereignty as US citizens. Veterans of the national security establishment, and democrats left, right and center can agree on that. They may or may not be allies in the class struggle, but they are allies in the medieval-modern struggle which Zionism has joined. As Stephen Walt noted, we need a “broad tent.”

Harry Clark’s article “The End of Modern Jewish History,” which expands on US-Israel matters, will appear in [Left Curve](#), No. 38, April 2014. He can be reached at his website [The Question of Palestine](#). [Read other articles by Harry](#).

This article was posted on Saturday, March 15th, 2014 at 3:48pm and is filed under ["Aid", 9-11, Espionage/"Intelligence"](#), [Iran](#), [Israel/Palestine](#), [Middle East](#), [Oil, Gas, Coal, Pipelines](#), [The Lobby](#), [Zionism](#).

<http://www.oraclereport.com/blog/2014/3/22/saturday-march-22-sunday-march-23-2014>

Disseminating Moon Phase: share, communicate, feedback, messages

Third Quarter Moon Phase (Sunday 9:47 pm ET/ Monday 1:47 am UT): revise, realign

Moon in Sagittarius

We remain in the Disseminating phase of the Moon through most of the weekend. The Moon will pass through the sign of Sagittarius - the Archer, the Seeker. Since the New Moon in Pisces on March 1, we've been climbing a narrow path seeking illumination. The energy of the Moon traveling through Sagittarius this weekend enhances our journey.

Mercury, the Messenger, will make a conjunction with Neptune, the Revealer, throughout the weekend. This will considerably amplify the energy for illumination. This energy is absolutely fabulous. It helps us see where things did not work and it helps us let go of things, particularly perceived failures. The energy brings renewed connection and dedication to things that are in line with what is in our highest and best interests.

On Saturday, our powers of objectivity are sharper. Boundaries and limits come into play. We bring things into bounds. The energy also provides a sense of structure or framework to things. As you sense your own energy coming together in a new form, take things slowly. The tendency is to rush forward and overdo things when the Sun moves into Aries. If you develop a headache, this is a sign that you may be processing and doing things too fast. Set a good pace.

Saturday's energetic signature also tends to bring out control issues and bossiness. It's easy to get overwhelmed by details and feeling burdened by responsibility. Be aware. People who are demonstrating this need something to lighten their load. Fun is missing. The universe is giving everyone a permission slip for fun this weekend. Pass it along.

On Sunday, the energy shifts to focus on relationships, including the relationship we have with our self. Any dramatic events or issues that develop are sourced in imbalance, particularly where one thing or person is overly dependent. Aries energy is often accused of selfishness. The Black Moon's placement in Leo also enhances this theme. So we take in any messages (illumination) about what needs to be brought into balance. All of this is in preparation for the upcoming new year March 30. Take steps to rectify anything that shows up as needing attention and redress.

Sunday's energy is also brings themes of guardianship and protection. This is the energy of dogs, who are creatures worthy of emulation all the time, but particularly this weekend. Let's make it a dog's life and follow the trail.

2014, March 4 **Are Any Plastics Safe? Industry Tries to Hide Scary New Evidence on BPA-Free Bottles, Containers**

Guests [Mariah Blake](#), staff reporter with *Mother Jones* magazine. Her new investigation is "The Scary New Evidence on BPA-Free Plastics: And the Big Tobacco-Style Campaign to Bury It."

A new exposé by *Mother Jones* magazine may shock anyone who drinks out of plastic bottles, gives their children plastic sippy cups, eats out of plastic containers, or stores food with plastic wrap. For years, public campaigns have been waged against plastic containing bisphenol-A (BPA), a controversial plastic additive, due to concerns about adverse human health effects caused by the exposure to synthetic estrogen. But a new investigation by *Mother Jones* reporter Mariah Blake has revealed that chemicals used to replace BPA may be just as dangerous to your health, if not more. Plastic products being advertised as BPA-free — and sold by companies such as Evenflo, Nalgene and Tupperware — are still releasing synthetic estrogen. The *Mother Jones* piece also reveals how the plastics industry has used a "Big Tobacco-style campaign" to bury the disturbing scientific evidence about the products you use every day. Blake joins us to discuss her findings.

Transcript

AMY GOODMAN: "Are any plastics safe?" That's the title—that's the question of a new [exposé](#) by *Mother Jones* that may shock anyone who drinks out of plastic bottles, gives their children plastic sippy cups or eats out of plastic containers. For years, public campaigns have been waged against plastic containing BPA, Bisphenol-A, a controversial plastic additive. But a new investigation by *Mother Jones* magazine has revealed that chemicals used to replace BPA may be just as, if not more, dangerous to your health than their cousin compound.

BPA is still widely used in everything from the lining of soup cans to printed receipts, even though studies show it mimics the behavior of estrogen in the human body, and have linked it to breast cancer, diabetes, obesity and heart disease. Just last week, a study estimated the use of BPA in food and beverage containers is responsible for some \$3 billion a year in healthcare costs. But because BPA can hamper brain and organ development in young children, it's been banned in bottles and sippy cups since 2012. Now new studies show the plastic products being advertised as BPA-free, and sold by companies such as Evenflo and Nalgene, Tupperware, are still releasing synthetic estrogen.

The *Mother Jones* report goes on to look at how the plastics industry has used a Big Tobacco-style campaign to bury the disturbing evidence about the products you use every day.

We're joined in Washington, D.C., now by Mariah Blake, staff reporter with *Mother Jones* magazine.

Mariah, welcome to *Democracy Now!* Just lay out what you have found.

MARIAH BLAKE: Well, essentially, there is relatively new research showing that the vast majority of plastics, at least commercially available plastics that are used for food packaging, contain BPA-like chemicals, so chemicals that are what they call estrogenic. And the—

AMY GOODMAN: And explain what BPA is.

MARIAH BLAKE: So BPA is a chemical that mimics the hormone estrogen. And estrogen plays—we all have estrogen in our bodies. It plays an essential role in various bodily functions and is also very important in human development, so the development of our brain, the development of our organs. However, too

much or too little of this hormone, basically, especially during early childhood or prenatally, can set you up for disease later on in life. So, exposure—what the research shows is that exposure in the womb can then lead to breast cancer, diabetes, increased aggression, really sort of a staggering list of health problems later on in life.

AMY GOODMAN: And so, talk about what has happened since BPA has been banned.

MARIAH BLAKE: So, yes, and many people will recall that in 2008 the dangers of BPA became very widely known. There was a scare. Major retailers pulled BPA from their shelves. Customers began demanding BPA-free products, especially for children. And many manufacturers began introducing products that were BPA-free. And all of us who have children have these BPA-free products in our home, most likely. One of the—so—and in many cases, it turns out that the chemicals that were used to replace BPA, or the plastics contained chemicals that were, you know, similar to BPA—at any rate, many of these chemicals had not been tested to see whether they had similar properties to BPA, whether they mimicked estrogen, in essence. And it turns out that many of them do. So, the implication is that they could have similar effects on human health.

AMY GOODMAN: You begin your piece by telling us the story of Michael Green and his daughter.

MARIAH BLAKE: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: Talk about that experience.

MARIAH BLAKE: So, Michael Green is—he had a two-year-old daughter. He's somebody who works in the environmental health field. And he had heard—he had seen research suggesting that BPA-free plastics may have posed some of the same problems to human health. And—but he told me this very moving story about himself and his two-year-old daughter. Somebody else in the family had given his two-year-old daughter this pink plastic sippy cup with a picture of a princess on it, which she just loved. And every night at dinner time, they would have this battle of the wills over this pink plastic sippy cup: He wanted to give her the stainless steel sippy cup; she wanted the pink plastic sippy cup. And in the interest of maintaining peace in the household, occasionally he gave in and gave her this pink plastic sippy cup. But the decision really weighed on him. And I think that those of us who have children—I have a three-year-old son—can relate to this situation, where sometimes you do the expedient thing in the interest of peace, but you wonder if it's the best thing for your child. And in this case, he decided that he would try to answer that question. And he runs this environment health organization, and he collected sippy cups from Wal-Mart and Toys"R"Us—Babies"R"Us, I'm sorry—and he sent them to an independent lab in Texas to be tested. And he found out that in fact roughly a third of them did contain estrogen-like chemicals.

AMY GOODMAN: And that pink sippy cup?

MARIAH BLAKE: His daughter's sippy cup was leaching estrogenic chemicals. So his fears were founded.

AMY GOODMAN: And what can that do to her?

MARIAH BLAKE: This is the big question. We know a lot about BPA. BPA is one of the most studied chemicals on the planet. And we know that these chemicals generally are associated with a range of negative health effects. But the specific effect of any given chemical varies slightly from chemical to chemical, and we actually don't know what chemical is leaching out of that sippy cup. So it's impossible to know. I mean, there's a very high correlation with breast cancer, for example, with all of these estrogenic chemicals, and with certain developmental problems. But other specific diseases vary from chemical to

chemical. So, Michael Green, the way he describes it is an unplanned science experiment that we're doing on our families all of the time.

AMY GOODMAN: We're going to break and then come back to this discussion and talk about Big Tobacco, what Big Plastic has learned from Big Tobacco. We are talking to Mariah Blake, a staff reporter with *Mother Jones*. Her [story](#) is in the new issue of the magazine. It's called "The Scary New Evidence on BPA-Free Plastics: And the Big Tobacco-Style Campaign to Bury It." Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman. We are with Mariah Blake, staff reporter for *Mother Jones* magazine. "The Scary New Evidence on BPA-Free Plastics: And the Big Tobacco-Style Campaign to Bury It" is her new [piece](#). What is the campaign to bury the information, Mariah Blake?

MARIAH BLAKE: Well, there are multiple facets to the campaign, but the primary—the primary objective is to cast doubt on the scientific evidence linking these chemicals to human health problems. So—and there are various ways this is done. In the case of BPA, for example, the industry funded studies, which were biased studies that found that this—that the chemical was not harmful to health. And there's a sort of network there. They published them in certain journals that, in many cases, had links to the tobacco industry. They relied on scientists that, in many cases, had helped to discredit the science linking smoking and secondhand smoke to disease. So, in many ways, this is—they didn't only borrow strategies and tactics from Big Tobacco; they are actually relying on the same cadre of experts that Big Tobacco relied on to bury—to bury the truth about smoking.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to turn to a video made by the plastics industry featuring the vice president of Eastman's specialty plastics division, Lucian Boldea, speaking in the video made by the company. A pregnant woman is one of the people shown buying plastic products as Boldea speaks.

LUCIAN BOLDEA: We understand that there are concerns about plastic materials that are used in consumer products that consumers use every day. Those products include water bottles, baby bottles and food storage containers. We can see how available information about plastic materials can be confusing and how it can be difficult for consumers to tell what is really safe. We want you, the consumer, to know the facts behind our clear, tough material named Tritan. Consumers can feel confident that the material used in the product is free of estrogenic activity.

Consumers should have high expectations of the products that they use, and no one is tougher on our products than the researchers and engineers at Eastman Chemical. Most importantly, we have used reputable, independent, third-party laboratories that have used well-recognized scientific methods to prove that Tritan is free of estrogenic activity. Numerous regulatory agencies around the world have independently reviewed our data and have approved the product for use in food contact applications. Some of the world's most recognized brands trust Tritan as their ingredient.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Lucian Boldea, who is president of Eastman Chemical's specialty plastics division. Can you respond to this, Mariah Blake?

MARIAH BLAKE: Well, the Eastman product, called Tritan, which is the product that Boldea is speaking about in this video, is actually one of the primary focuses of my investigation. A number of independent scientists have tested this product and found that it is actually more estrogenic than polycarbonate, which is

the plastic that contains BPA. And Eastman Chemical, according to internal documents which were released as part of a lawsuit, has taken pains to suppress the evidence showing that its products—or that this product, in particular, is in fact estrogenic.

AMY GOODMAN: So how is it the EPA isn't regulating this?

MARIAH BLAKE: Well, and this is one of the most surprising things to me when I read this—when I was reporting the story. So, there are about 80,000 chemicals in circulation in the United States. Virtually none of those chemicals has been tested for safety, or a very, very small fraction of those chemicals has been tested for safety. In general, chemicals are presumed safe until proven otherwise under the U.S. regulatory system. So, when a chemical like BPA is removed from a production line, the industry will substitute another chemical that is untested, and we really, in many cases, just don't know the health effects of that chemical. So, it's largely an unregulated realm.

AMY GOODMAN: Tell us about George Bittner.

MARIAH BLAKE: OK. George Bittner is a neuroscientist at the University of Texas, and he has launched an independent lab called CertiChem—it also has a sister company called PlastiPure—and it tests products for estrogenic activity. And he—working with a prominent Georgetown professor, he and his staff tested, I think it was, 455 commercially available plastics that are on the market and published a paper in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, which is the premier NIH journal, which found that virtually all commercially available plastics have estrogenic activity. And among the plastics he tested were Tritan products, several Tritan products. And this publication, this finding, prompted a pretty big backlash from the industry. So he ended up being targeted by the industry as a result and, in fact, was sued by Eastman, which is—many of the documents that formed the basis of my story were released as a result of that lawsuit.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to read from a memo that Eastman's senior chemist, Emmett O'Brien, wrote after customers began asking about George Bittner's tests that showed that Tritan may still be estrogenic. O'Brien describes a meeting with Whole Foods executives who were considering replacing their polycarbonate bulk food bins with ones made from Tritan. He wrote, quote, "We called Bittner a mad scientist. They didn't know his name actually. They asked twice, by two independent people, what we thought of them. I hemmed and hawed (ducked and dodged) saying I prefer not to comment, but we joked and pushed and flat out said the guy was 'shady' — with this non-stereotypical crowd it was a good term." O'Brien added, "They asked if they could do their own tests — I mentioned the cost is very high and they were quick to chime in that the tests take very long." Can you respond to that, Mariah Blake?

MARIAH BLAKE: I think you chose the most telling possible quote. So this was effective—this was the strategy they used. Firstly, they worked to discredit Bittner, and they did this through a campaign of personal character assassination and by calling his business practices into question. And secondly, they worked to discredit the science. So, one of the things that Eastman did was they claimed that the test that Bittner is using, which relies on a specialized line of breast cancer cells, had been rejected by the EPA, when in fact it hadn't. The EPA is considering using this very line of breast cancer cells for its own screening program for what they call endocrine-disrupting chemicals. BPA is one of those.

So, the other thing they did was they commissioned their own research, so they paid labs to perform research which found that Tritan was not estrogenic. And—but if you look at—if you look at the research closely, you'll see that it is—the studies are essentially designed in a way that guarantee that estrogenic

activity will not be found. So, for instance, they use a type of rat; it's called a Charles River Sprague Dawley rat. This rat is known to be insensitive to estrogen, so it can withstand doses, according to one Japanese study, a hundred times higher than a human female can withstand, with—and show absolutely no effect. They also used doses that are below what is known as the no-observable-effect level, so the doses that are known not to cause an effect. And they then published their own study in a scientific journal, which is—has numerous tobacco industry ties, finding that Tritan was in fact not estrogenic. So, that is essentially how they responded to the finding that their product contained these chemicals that are potentially harmful to human health: They attempted to cover it up.

AMY GOODMAN: Your report cites some leaked minutes from a 2009 meeting of the BPA Joint Trade Association, whose members include the American Chemical—the American Chemistry Council, Coca-Cola, Del Monte. During the meeting, they explored messaging strategies that included using what they called, quote, "fear tactics." For example, "Do you want to have access to baby food anymore?" The attendees agreed that the "holy grail" spokesperson was a, quote, "pregnant young mother who would be willing to speak around the country about the benefits of BPA." Mariah?

MARIAH BLAKE: Yes, and this is one of the most disturbing things I discovered during the course of reporting this, is that in their efforts to portray plastics as safe, they oftentimes target the groups who are most vulnerable to the effects of these chemicals. So, prenatal exposure and exposure during early childhood is potentially the most harmful, and oftentimes the marketing of these products targets pregnant women, targets families with children. And also, Eastman, for example, in their efforts to portray their products as safe, also targeted these specific groups.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about Nalgene bottles, Evenflo—is it Evenflo?—Tupperware, Rubbermaid, CamelBack?

MARIAH BLAKE: Yes, all of these companies produce at least some products that are made with Tritan, so—and they're not alone. There are hundreds, probably, of companies that use this. This is the only plastic on the market that markets itself as being free of all estrogenic activity, so many companies that cater to consumers who are concerned about their health and many of the high-end consumer brands have started using this plastic. I think the thing to keep in mind is that Eastman misrepresented their product to their customers, as well. So these brands are not necessarily to blame for this. They have been told by Eastman that Eastman produced—performed independent, third-party testing and found no evidence of estrogenic activity. And so, in many cases, it appears that these companies are trying to do the best thing for their customers, but they were not given—they were not given accurate information about the plastic that they use in their products.

AMY GOODMAN: Last week, NPR did a [report](#), "Maybe That BPA In Your Canned Food Isn't So Bad After All." Can you talk about that?

MARIAH BLAKE: Yes. So, this is based on a recent study that was performed by FDA scientists. This is a \$30 million taxpayer-funded study. And the FDA used many of the same tactics that the industry uses. For instance, they used the Charles River Sprague Dawley rat. The other thing about this study is that the lab appears to have been contaminated. So the control group of rats—these are the rats that are supposed to not be exposed to BPA, so that you can—you have some sort of a baseline to measure the animals that have been exposed to this chemical—they were somehow accidentally exposed to BPA. I have been talking to scientists about this and am planning to write about this later this week. And the academic scientists I have been speaking to say that this essentially—this raises very serious questions about the

validity of the findings, and it's unclear whether any conclusions can be drawn based on this study.

AMY GOODMAN: What most shocked you in all your research, Mariah?

MARIAH BLAKE: Boy, that's a good question, because there were a lot of—a lot of shocking things I discovered. I would say there's a couple things. One, the fact that so few of the chemicals that are in the products we use every day have been tested for safety. So, as I said, there are 80,000 chemicals that are in commercial use in the United States; only a tiny fraction of those have been tested for safety.

Two, how easy it is for the industry to bias that safety testing in their favor. I had—obviously, many of us know about Big Tobacco and the way they were able to essentially buy science saying their products were safe. But I was not aware that that was happening on such a grand scale today. And it really is. You know, plastics—as I worked on the story, it became evident to me that plastics—that this is not the only industry—the plastics and chemical industry are not the—is not the only one that is using these tactics. These tactics are fairly widespread.

And I guess, on a micro level, one of the things that surprised me most, in Bittner's testing, he looked at various types of commercially available plastics, and one of the types of plastic that was most frequently estrogenic was the corn-based plastic, so the plastic that is biodegradable, that you often find in restaurants—health food restaurants, health food stores, that this is potentially one of the most harmful types of plastic.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain that again.

MARIAH BLAKE: So, Bittner looked at various kinds of plastic, Bittner and his colleagues, when they tested plastics. There's a variety of different kinds of plastic—polyurethane, PET-P, polycarbonate—all these different kinds of plastic. So he broke it down by types of plastic. He tested a number of samples of each one. And he—in the final paper, they showed which ones—what percentage of each type of plastic tested positive in their tests. And there is a type of plastic that is—frequently you'll find it in Whole Foods, you'll find it in health food stores. It is corn-based, and it is marketed as biodegradable. Oftentimes there are forks made out of this, for example, in health food restaurants. I believe the statistic was 95 percent of samples made out of this kind of plastic tested positive for estrogenic activity.

AMY GOODMAN: So what are you going to do with your three-year-old? What have you decided to use?

MARIAH BLAKE: Well, what I've already done is removed all plastic from my home. So, I have switched to natural materials. We use glass or stainless steel for our Tupperware, for our sippy cups, for everything that we possibly can. Plastic is unavoidable, so we still buy food packaged in plastic, because there is no alternative. But we try to minimize it.

AMY GOODMAN: Saran Wrap?

MARIAH BLAKE: Saran Wrap, actually, in Bittner's tests, I believe it was somewhere around 99 to 100 percent of plastic wraps tested positive for estrogenic activity.

AMY GOODMAN: And where does the EPA come down when you question them about when they're going to be regulating some of this, in the way that they regulated BPA?

MARIAH BLAKE: Well, the EPA still does not regulate BPA. The FDA—the FDA banned BPA in sippy cups and bottles at the request of the industry. So—and they still—the agency still insists that BPA is safe. So the industry asked the FDA to ban it, because they wanted to reassure parents that their products are safe.

There has been no meaningful regulation of any of these chemicals, with the exception of phthalates. And in the case of the EPA, they have a program which was supposed to screen these 80,000 chemicals for what's called endocrine disruption. So, endocrine-disrupting chemicals are chemicals that mimic hormones, like BPA. And they—this was supposed to be at least partially done by 2000. They still haven't fully vetted a single chemical. So the industry has managed to throw stumbling blocks in their path. And delay is the name of the game, essentially, sowing doubt and delay. So—

AMY GOODMAN: And how much does the plastic in water bottles and juices leach into the water and the juices?

MARIAH BLAKE: PET or PETE, which is most commonly used for water bottles, is—I believe 75 percent of samples in Bittner's study leached estrogenic activity. There is another study performed by a scientist in Germany which also found that this particular type of product was estrogenic. So, it seems, based on the available evidence, that many or most of these bottles leach estrogen.

AMY GOODMAN: And the longer the bottle of water you buy sits, is the water becoming increasingly contaminated?

MARIAH BLAKE: Well, there are certain factors that increase the risk of these chemicals being released. So, exposure to UV rays, heat, if they're put in a dishwasher, these are the things that are known to increase—increase the risks that these chemicals leach out of plastics. So, with reusable plastics, in particular, this is a concern. If you boil them, if you put them in your dishwasher, if you leave them in your car, that causes plastics to break down, and it's more likely that estrogenic chemicals will leak into whatever those containers contain.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Mariah Blake, we want to thank you for your research, staff reporter with *Mother Jones* magazine. Her [story](#) is just out in the new issue; it's called "The Scary New Evidence on BPA-Free Plastics: And the Big Tobacco-Style Campaign to Bury It." We'll link to it at democracynow.org. You can also follow her on [Twitter](#). Later today, she'll be doing a Twitter chat with readers.

This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. When we come back, we're going to try to reach Medea Benjamin, who has just been deported from Egypt to Turkey. Stay with us.

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/3/4/are_any_plastics_safe_industry_tries

2014, Mar 11

The Cosmic Story~ Virgo Full Moon 2014

"What if our religion was each other
"If our practice was our life
"If prayer, our words.
"What if the temple was the earth
"If forests were our church
"If holy water - the rivers, lakes, and oceans
"What if meditation was our relationships
"If the Teacher was life
"If wisdom was self-knowledge
"If love was the center of our being"
~ Ganga White ~

We're still swimming in the dreamy waters of Pisces, so flip over onto your back and let the moonlight bathe and sooth you, body and soul. That's when Spirit's voice comes clear.



Moonlight on the Ocean by [Keenan Adams, USFWS](#)

Perhaps you've been lost in the dark watery depths amidst strangely glowing nightmare creatures or swimming fast and free with a pod of dolphins or breaching with a family of whales. Perhaps you've gotten stuck in stagnate seas of weeds and grass or finally been tumbled to distant shores. If you've flowed with Pisces' watery energies, you might feel like your life is dissolving into a new unity of spirit; if you've struggled against the tides you might find yourself lost at sea. But wherever you find yourself on Full Moon night, take this magical moonlight into your heart. Listen to and look at what's there.

The Virgo Full Moon tells us, "You belong to yourself. As much as you are part of a whole, you are also a unique drop in the ocean of consciousness. What do you want to do with your drop? What does your drop want to do with you?"

We are all here on Earth for the specific reason that's encoded within our soul, just as our physical body is encoded by our DNA. Each of us has a destiny--each destiny is unique and yet part of the whole. Are you rebirthing the archetype of the Mother, because our society needs nurturing, love and comfort; are you transforming the archetypal image of Father into the wise guide, the caring protector and the truthful judge? Our world certainly needs more of these people. Do you find yourself incarnating the archetypal energy of the Warrior, the Healer, the Artist, the Bard, the Leader, the Priestess or Priest? How about the conscious Merchant, the courageous Scout? Uranus in Aries opens us to these archetypal identities just as we are challenged to re-

create the society that Pluto in Capricorn is tearing down. If we are truly one universe, then our instructions are clear--be your unique Self. Who do you want to be?



Virgo by [Anonymous](#)

Virgo is the sign of the Virgin, the one who knows seeks self-knowledge, to know oneself, both light and shadows. Our Christian era has re-defined *Virgin* to only mean its physical sexual aspect; in ancient times, a *virgin* was a woman who belonged to no man, who was a woman in her own right. *She belonged to herself!* Each of us, man and woman, can reclaim our feminine virginal energy--*we can belong to ourselves*. On this Virgo Full Moon night, we can see who we're meant to be if we're willing to acknowledge who we really are.

Virgo's shadow can distort our need to know ourselves into the need to control things to attain the ideal of perfection--someone else's idea of perfection! Virgo's real purpose is to help us know and accept who we really are. Virgo's analytical mind measures and aligns; Virgo's magic understands how everything fits together to make it work. Virgo's greatest gift is discernment, knowing *this from that*. This helps us master a talent, and understand how it can be of service to others.

On Full Moon night, the Piscean ocean will send out a drop of its womblike waters to each of us, filtered through the Virgo Moon. The drop of our Piscean longing and dreams. Who do you see? Do you see yourself?

Virgo Full Moon

The Virgo Full Moon occurs on Sunday March 16th at 10:08pm PDT/ 7:08pm EDT/ 5:08pm GMT.

This Virgo Full Moon gets support from Saturn retrograde in Scorpio, just as the Full Moon acceptance of Self gives support to Saturn's deep emotional restructuring. Saturn in Scorpio has been hard on us because looking at our darker feelings is hard. Saturn in Scorpio puts the squeeze on us through our unresolved fears, wounds, betrayals or obsessions.

Scorpio is the sign of death and rebirth, a death and rebirth of our emotional body. Our feeling nature, our heart, is where we get our passion and love of life; it is also the place where our complexes and behaviors are molded. Scorpio is the container of all our emotional wounds; an alchemical container of transformation.

Saturn is the taskmaster and Saturn's truth is that we learn more from pain than from pleasure. Saturn teaches us to survive, because Saturn is the energy that grounds us here. Saturn in Scorpio can give us the discipline and focus to treat each other as we'd like to be treated. Self-respect is key to accepting ourselves, both the Light and the Dark. Self-respect gives us the courage to look in the dark and discover the treasures hidden behind the pain that keeps us in the dark.

Now that Saturn is retrograde, we get to look into Scorpio's realm--we get to look inside ourselves and

understand our fears, bind our wounds with meaning, forgive our betrayers and let go of our obsessions. We get to *re-structure* our emotional complexes and behaviors when it comes to relating with others. So let go of your fears and insecurities, take a new emotional stand and *act as if it's really you* until you feel it and it becomes a new way of being for you. Understanding and accepting yourself is the first step.

The Lunar Nodes have changed signs, moving from Scorpio backwards into Libra. The Moon's Nodes are points in space where the planes of the Sun, Moon and Earth line up--the points in space where eclipses occur. They move counter-clockwise in the sky, from 30° to 0° of a sign. They focus our collective attention on what needs to be released and what needs to be learned. For the past year and a half, we have learned to release old values (Taurus) that make us complacent and learn more about how to work with others and their values to achieve results.

Now our lessons involve the balance between ourselves and others, between Aries and Libra. The Aries South Nodes indicates lessons around selfishness, arrogance and frustration and the need for self-sacrifice to accommodate the needs of others. The Libra North Node demands that we learn the lessons of cooperation and balance, of a healthy respect for self and others, and of the need to balance masculine and feminine energies to create a new whole.

With a true sense of ourselves, we can step into new emotional behavior patterns with others, where we see each other's truths and acknowledge our own. With Mars retrograding in Libra until May 19-20 and not leaving Libra until the end of July, it is the time to practice our people skills. Courtesy and respect are always in order with Libra's love of grace and charm. Venus and Mars are still ruling the nodal positions, with Libra's Venus calling us to harmony and peace over Mars in Aries shouts for war. Since Mars is staying in Venus' house for a while, I'm sure she can convince him to change his ways! The *destined* push toward Libra from the nodal axis will help her. Not that Aphrodite in full splendor needs much help if we honor her!

Neptune and Chiron in Pisces are pulled into the energy of the Pluto/Uranus square through Jupiter in Cancer. With these planets in Pisces, one of the things I feel going on in the collective unconscious is that our imaginations are being healed. And perhaps we are relating to them in a different way. Our media (owned by only 5 companies!!!) overcomes and impresses our imaginations with their symbols and images, shaping our beliefs to their specifications. But when we engage the imagination through inner journeys, active imagination and creative visualization, we work with the imagination to learn something new about ourselves and the world. We open ourselves to possibilities and bring those back into our outer reality through our creativity and innovation, our love and caring. Jupiter is in Cancer, opening our hearts to the possibilities waiting to be birthed.

Tied into the Piscean energies, Jupiter channels and engenders Spirit within us. Listen within to your heart's desire.

Perhaps if you get up while it's still dark out, you'll see Venus in Aquarius shining brightly as the Morning Star. At the Full Moon, Venus inspires Uranus to activate our highest ideals when we imagine who we are meant to be. Venus's relationship with Jupiter can give us a broad, generous and gracious outlook when considering the needs of ourselves and others. Since Aphrodite/Venus was born out of the Piscean collective unconscious, it is only right that we embrace her gifts of Love, Beauty and Wisdom as we work to give shape to our destiny.

The Cosmic Story is heating up, preparing for a week of intense energies in April. I'll write more about that in the Aries New Moon newsletter.

SOMETIMES

Sometimes
if you move carefully
through the forest

breathing
like the ones
in the old stories

who could cross
a shimmering bed of dry leaves
without a sound,

you come
to a place
whose only task

is to trouble you
with tiny
but frightening requests
conceived out of nowhere
but in this place
beginning to lead everywhere.

Requests to stop what
you are doing right now,
and

to stop what you
are becoming
while you do it,

questions
that can make
or unmake
a life,

questions
that have patiently
waited for you,

questions
that have no right
to go away.

~ David Whyte ~
(Everything is Waiting for You)

Wishing you Peace, Love and Wisdom,

Cathy

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http://www.opednews.com/articles/1/The-Cosmic-Story-Virgo-Fu-by-Cathy-Lynn-Pagano-Balance_Change_Consciousness_Cooperation-140311-112.html