

Dear Virginia,

How many years . . .



Thanks to Dan Rather who publishes *Steady* for sharing "Blowin' in the Wind" sung by Peter, Paul and Mary at the Civil Rights March, August 28, 1963, and a short interview with Peter Yarrow.

Here are notable lines from the song: [Listen.](#)

How many years can some people exist
Before they're allowed to be free?
Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head
And pretend that he just doesn't see?

How many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'til he knows
That too many people have died?

Here are excerpts from Peter Yarrow's [short interview.](#)

"And so it still inspires. [referring to the experience of the March]. It still leads those of us who have stood the test of time, who are committed with our whole hearts to achieving equity, justice, freedom, fairness, who want not just our country, but the whole world to embrace what it was that we all felt we were saying that day.

"What America's genius is, that we can change and it can come from the people. But we have to stand up for what we believe in as we did then, and it takes courage. In today's world, we have enormous challenges that can be met if we have the courage to do what we did in the civil rights movement. It's about our lives right now."



**Stories, insights
and action for a
world that works
for all of us**

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love
looks like in public.*

Jim Hightower

~ ~ ~

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~ ~ ~



"If your eyes are clear and open right now you can see it, can't you? This is a pivot point moment for all of us."

The following is an excerpt from "[The Beautiful Mess](#)," a post by John Pavlovitz, that I find about as clear as any piece I've read about the urgency of stopping the coup taking place in America. I especially like his list of causes we can engage in.

"These are historic days and they will be recorded, and they will tell the story of this country, as either the time good people crossed lines of political party, faith tradition, and racial divide, and course-corrected us out of abject disaster—or the days we all stopped fighting and fully surrendered to the darkness for good. They will be marked as the moments we succumbed to a thousand small assaults on democracy that together proved fatal—or when we decided to stop the bleeding altogether."

"I don't know what matters enough to move you from complacency, indecision, selfishness, or apathy:

the human rights atrocities,
the perversions of Christianity,
the pillaging of the environment,
the Constitutional violations,
the cries of migrant children,
the Supreme Court hijacking,
the dismantling of healthcare,
the school shootings that go ignored,
the LGBTQ teenagers being harassed,
the assaults on women's autonomy over their bodies,
the malice of our public servants,
the twisting of truth,
the Nazis marching in our streets,
the dumbing down of our discourse.

Is it love or equality or compassion or diversity or humanity?

I don't know what is worth doing something right now to you—but *you* do."

[Read the full article here.](#)



Action Sites for Democracy and Our Planet

We are in the midst of a coup and a Constitutional crisis. Donald Trump, Elon Musk and their minions are dismantling our government and sabotaging our democracy before our eyes. They are alienating our allies and endangering lives around the world and in the US. If we want our democracy

to prevail it's up to us. Be informed, join with activist groups, protest, call your representatives, donate. ACT NOW!

Stand up for our democracy, our freedoms, our dignity, our values.

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy. Always encouraging.

[Today's Edition Newsletter by Robert Hubbell](#): Reflections on and summary of today's news.

[Letters from an American, by Heather Cox Richardson](#): Commentary on current news.

[The Status Kuo, by Jay Kuo](#): Commentary and analysis of today's news.

[Hopium Chronicles, by Simon Rosenberg](#): Another excellent pro-democracy newsletter.

[Indivisible](#): A pro-democracy organization with activist groups all over the country.

[Democracy Forward](#): A coalition of lawyers fighting for democracy.

[Steady, by Dan Rather](#): Excellent commentary on current affairs.

Climate Action: Every Action Counts!

[Climate Action Now!](#): Subscribe and get an action to do every day, plus climate hope.

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

An old saying: We can all be the someone who is doing something.

All Kinds of Good News



California Bans Polystyrene Containers

As of January 1st, California officially banned the use of most polystyrene foam food containers. This move, part of the state's broader fight against plastic pollution, targets items like clamshell containers and cups, commonly (and incorrectly) referred to as "Styrofoam." Conservationists are hailing the decision as a monumental step in limiting waste and curbing environmental damage. [Read more.](#)



A Magical Transformation

An open sewer in Seoul, South Korea in the 1930s became an elevated highway in the 1960s, Cheonggyecheon Stream was converted into a pedestrian recreational area 20 years ago. Now a major tourist attraction and cultural corridor, it also cools the surrounding neighborhoods, reduces air pollution, and helps control monsoon floods. Wildlife, including 666 plant and animal species, has returned. The project marked a paradigm shift from vehicle-centric transportation policies to human-centered urban planning. [Read and see more.](#)



Conservation and Climate News

The Biden Administration leaves a record-breaking conservation legacy. In one term, Biden protected 674 million acres of lands and waters, more than any president in history. His administration established 15 national monuments, six wildlife refuges, and three marine sanctuaries while withdrawing 625 million acres of coastlines from oil and gas leasing and centering Indigenous communities in conservation efforts. [Read the article.](#)

The National Forest Foundation has made huge strides in reforestation. In the past year, the organization has planted over 8 million trees — of 25 different species — and reforested over 21,000 acres of land. That's equivalent to 198,000 NBA basketball courts. [Read here.](#)

A bipartisan coalition of 24 U.S. governors pledged to continue the country's work toward achieving Paris Agreement goals. Representing nearly 60% of the U.S. economy and 55% of the nation's population, alliance members pledged to reduce collective greenhouse gas emissions by 26% below 2005 levels by 2025, a target it is on track to achieve. [Read here.](#)

The Nature Conservancy makes the same pledge. [Here's the article.](#)



“There is no alternative to persevering, and that does not require you to feel good. You can keep walking whether it’s sunny or raining. Take care of yourself and remember that taking care of something else is an important part of taking care of yourself, because you are interwoven with the ten trillion things in this single garment of destiny that has been stained and torn, but is still being woven and

mended and washed.” —Rebecca Solnit

You might like her article ["Fighting for justice doesn't have to be a big dramatic act. It can be small."](#) She also explains what gives her hope now.

"Blue Skies"



The link to these beautiful, happy versions of "Blue Skies," by Irvin Berlin, came just at the right time when we'd endured several gray, cold gloomy days here. [Here is Willie Nelson and Kenny Rogers.](#) And another memorable version here by [Ella Fitzgerald.](#) Thanks to Dan Rathers for these links.

*May your month of February be filled
with love and good cheer.*

Virginia / Gibi



Continue to fan the flames of your renewal by checking out the dozens of positive stories in the US in [Extra! Extra!](#), the weekly post by Jessica Craven, It's worth subscribing to!

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