THE PRESENT’S REPORT

BY ALEXANDRA KARACOSTAS

This fall features the year’s second exact Pluto/Uranus square, on September 19th. There will be further upheaval in the status quo as it continues to seek balance. We are invited to make creative changes that, in fact, are part of a larger solution we have yet to imagine. For OPA, this requires close and coordinated work by all of us, refinement of the organization’s business activities, and development of greater participation by our members. The payoff is OPA’s fulfillment in providing the very best professional skills and resources available!

Last year we launched the OPA Certification Program. We are very proud of this accomplishment. Since our last retreat in November 2011, the certification program was offered three more times, meeting with great success. We are offering it again starting November 2-5, 2012 in Calabasas, CA, near LA. Even if you are not committed to obtaining OPA’s certification, the process alone is rich, educational and deeply rewarding! The certification groups are small—three to five people, and fill up quickly. If you are interested, we encourage you to sign up soon. Furthermore, if there are astrologers in your area who would like to participate in this unique program, we can bring OPA to you! Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

OPA’s next retreat, once again in beautiful Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, is now the focus of our attention. Scheduled for March 21-24, 2013, we will include a celebration of International Astrology Day. OPA is offering ten diverse tracks led by some of the most qualified leaders in professional astrology. We feel confident that it will be our finest retreat yet. This is an opportunity to be part of a professional and personal experience that will enhance your life! See OPA’s website for detailed information, including schedule, tracks, accommodations, etc. www.opaastrology.com. Sign up soon and join us at the beach!

As for the OPA website, don’t forget about our monthly phone lecture series, available exclusively to members. See the website for the lecture schedule. Also, check out the OPA on-line web forum and contribute to the ongoing discussions. You will also find OPA’s audio download lectures, and lots of other good information.

We are always looking for material addressing the professional practice of astrology (articles, poetry, comics, food fun, etc.) for publication in this newsletter. We welcome your participation and creativity. Please send submissions to our editor, Twink Mckennay, at mrmckennay@att.net. Wishing you a colorful fall and bountiful harvest.

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An Interview with OPA’s First Russian Member

BY BOB MULLIGAN

Dmitriy Paramonov is the first OPA member in Russia. We now have two more astrologers in this country to join our ranks. After many conversations using a translator, Dmitriy and I conversed using Skype. He published a very comprehensive and beautiful Russian edition of The Career Astrologer. It was published using both Russian and English. This interview was carried on through email and I edited the words to

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is dedicated to promoting excellence for astrologers. Incorporated on October 4, 2000 at 1:45 pm EDT in Tallahassee, Florida, OPA provides members with tools to establish or improve their astrological practice. Membership is open to aspiring and current astrologers. Benefits include subscription to the Career Astrologer and E-news, free monthly talks by top-notch astrologers and members registration fees at OPA retreats and conferences. Annual dues are $60.00.

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An Interview with OPA’s First Russian Member

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make the grammar more understandable to the English reader.

How did you get interested in Astrology?

I did not know that I had the ability to do astrology. I thought that this science is not for me. An accidental situation presented itself to me and I began to study astrology. Still, I did not know that I would actually become an astrologer. I discovered the world of astrology by accident and never thought that I would become really involved with such an esoteric subject.

In 1995 I was approached by my friend with a request to support him in his training. He wanted to study astrology, but his natural modesty prevented him from coming to an unfamiliar group (his Sun is in the Cancer). He asked me to appear with him in class. We agreed to when to start classes, but my friend did not come ... He was frightened and did not come. He persuaded me to go again, saying that the next time he will really come. The next lessons he again did not come. On the third and fourth lessons, as you might imagine, he did not appear ... Well, by then I had taken a great interest in the study of astrology, that he himself had wanted to learn.

My professional practice as an astrologer began in 1997 when I registered as an entrepreneur and began to give private consultations on astrology. Later I worked in the Center Astrological Consulting’s, in the Center for Alternative Medicine “Aster +” and a number of other projects associated with the astrological counseling. This creative path allowed me to gain experience in written and oral consultation, learn the nuances of expressing myself in remote consultations. My astrological practice now operates in four Russian cities: Moscow, Sochi, Omsk and Izhevsk. Since my student years, and to this day, I am an active part in the life of the astrological community. I do organizing of learning, master classes, meetings and conferences.

I am interested not only in astrology, I examine the esoteric influence of sound to a person’s life, I study the transcendental influence of symbols, and I work with the ancient practices of prophecies. Since 1998, I began practicing of integral yoga, taking in the full scope of meditation techniques of expanded knowledge and uncover forms of creativity.

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Take a look at the Russian version of
The Career Astrologer @
astrolife.net/career_astrologer/career_astrologer_2012_01_rus.zip
I have developed a method of teaching astrology, which allows the student after 3 months to read a chart. Astrologers, who are working on this system, to identify key points in the horoscope are spending no more than 20 minutes in a reading. This effect is achieved by paying special attention to the philosophy of astrology and the ability to read nonverbal layers of information. I try to instill in students a love of reading charts, because it is as creative flight, in which astrologers not only read character traits, he begins to feel deeply, then he thinks through symbols, and finally he lives through them.

Are there many practicing astrologers in Russia?

There are a lot of people who study astrology in Russia; but professional astrologers, for which astrology is the main source of income, these astrologers are still a small group. Most of the astrologers in Russia work without registration of legal documents, believing that astrology cannot give a substantial financial gain, sufficient for a normal existence. Astrology is used mainly as an additional source of income, so people cannot devote enough time to astrology; they cannot be fully engaged in their careers and, therefore, the income of Russian astrologers a small. Such a person gets into a vicious circle. On the one hand, he is afraid that he will be left without means of livelihood and he works a job, which though not related to astrology, gives him a regular income. On the other hand, this person cannot earn a real astrological income because he is not devoting enough time to the development of his real career. In spite of this fact, the level of knowledge of such astrologers is sufficiently high: they are very inquisitive, read a lot of books on astrology, follow the events on the market of astrology, follow the book novelties and explore new techniques of interpretation of the horoscope; but since astrology is not their full-fledged profession, then they cannot be called professionals. There is more suitable definition of these astrologers as “highly qualified amateurs.” The number of customers for such astrologers is small, only 5 - 10 consultations per month, as this type of astrologer advises in a very narrow circle of their friends.

I do not blame these people. They understand that keeping full time business requires certain amount of personal risk. Therefore, people go often the path of least resistance. Most astrologers are of this group.

Much less often do I meet astrologers for which astrology is their profession; they are full time consultants. They realize that their careers depend on their ability to do business. They devote all their time to this work. Today, the benefit is great as there are lots of opportunities available for private consultations in Russia. You can open an office and you can conclude a partnership agreement with the center of psychology or beauty salon. The main issue for astrologers is to explore the market, find potential clients, and make steps toward these people. Many professional astrologers have arranged to work in the esoteric side of a company, conducting consulting for money.

There are professional astrologers who select for their professional income the realization of teaching or writing. This particular type of astrologer, to implement in these directions, must have certain qualities; so astrologers who can realize themselves as writers or teachers are very small.

There is another type of astrologer; the “hidden astrologers.” This type of astrologer does not conduct paid advice and
does not advertise his astrological skills; these people use astrology in other professions, and astrology for them is an addition to their main profession. For example, doctors who in their practice use cycles of the planets. Painters, poets, and musicians, (who in their creative work use esoteric insight, astrology being one of them) form another large group. Craftsmen who in their work account of the position of the planets, investigators, merchants, designers, and so on, compose another very large group using astrology. These people are not astrologers in the conventional sense, they are the “hidden astrologers,” but their level of knowledge of astrology, as a rule, is quite high. They do not have enough experience in consulting, but they are well aware of astrology in practice, testing the effect of planets on their lives.

Is it normal for a Russian citizen to ask for information from an astrologer?

In Russia, the astrologers are perceived well. Naturally, as in other countries, the church does not recognize astrology, so believers are wary of astrology. Russian people are friendly; they are open to new knowledge and respect people who have chosen a spiritual path in life. Therefore, the recognition of an astrologer by society depends on the astrologer. If an astrologer can not find a connection with a client he meets, he will be misunderstood and condemned by the people in this client’s circle of friends. Well, when astrologers are able to find common language with customers, if they meet the expectations of the client, if they can offer a service the client needs, then such astrologers do not have problems with clients. Such astrologers the people perceive as good. For me is very important when my friends speak with respect to other people, that I an astrologer. It shows their confidence in me, when they get to know me as a professional. I really cherish this attitude of my friends.

How much do Russian astrologers charge for a reading? Is it possible to earn a livelihood through giving readings?

Rigid pricing policy the Russian astrologers does not exist. Much depends on the region in which the astrologer works and on the individual qualities of the individual astrologer. Oral consultations with an astrologer will cost from 10 to 100 U.S. dollars. Written work costs from 50 to 300 U.S. dollars.

Of great importance is the city in which the astrologer lives. For example, in large city you must be earning at least U.S. $ 2,000 per month and for a small town it is enough to earn $ 1,000 per month. So astrologers in their practice actively use modern technology. The Internet allows consulting without leaving your home and to advise people anywhere in the world.

Do Russian astrologers have much contact with each other? Is there much of a sense of community?

Yes, the astrological community in Russia is very amicable. There are many astrological groups. We support each other, helping in difficult situations and we share our experience. We exchange books, spend time in small meetings to

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Russia is a very big country, so most of the astrological meetings occur over the Internet. We communicate a lot through social networks and online forums dedicated to astrological themes.

Here are the major components of the astrological community in Russia:

Graduate School of Classical Astrology (VSHKA)
www.astrolog.ru
Founded in 1991. VSHKA mission: research, training and provision of qualified services in the field of astrology, the astrological knowledge dissemination, popularization of astrology. VSHKA publishes educational and supportive literature on astrology. Also they conduct astrological studies, forums, and conferences. VSHKA combines astrological community in Russia to work together.

Moscow Academy of Astrology
www.astro-academia.ru

St. Petersburg Academy of Astrology (C-PbAA)
www.astroacademy.spb.ru
Founded 05.10.1989. C-PbAA specializes in predictive astrology. C-PbAA trains astrology, astrological organizes conferences and research activities.

School of Science of Astrology (SHNA)
astro-school.ru
Founded February 28, 1995. SHNA trains bachelors, masters, and doctors astrology. SHNA developing exclusive educational computer software and copyrights benefits for professional astrologers.

Institute of Practical Astrology (IPA)
www.ipasoft.ru
Established in 1995. IPA’s mission: to popularize astrology, research, development of computer programs on astrology.

League of Independent Astrologers (LNA)
astrol.ru
Established in 1992. LNA brings astrologers most different directions, holds conferences, provides training for astrology.

Astrological Society of Avestan (ASA)
www.asha-piter.ru
Created at 25/02/2003. Organizes training of astrology, is engaged in research work, conducting astrological conference.

The Union of Professional Astrologers (UPA)
www.astroprofi.org/ru
Created in 2007. The mission of UPA: Association of astrological organizations, the development of astrology, help professional astrologers, astrology, education, raising the level of professional astrologers.

Astrological Centre of Psychoanalysis (ACP)
www.ipasoft.ru/CAP
Center is engaged in consulting, development of astrological software, publishing literature.

Is the astrology practiced in Russia similar to the astrology practiced in the United States? Is there any indigenous tradition of astrology in Russia, or did it come primarily from western Europe and the Americas?

During the reign of the Communists in Russia, astrology was banned. Therefore, we don’t have our own astrological tradition. Knowledge of Russian astrologers is based on knowledge of other people’s astrology. The formation of modern astrology in Russia was greatly influenced by Western Europe, America, India and China.

I do not know fully the techniques that are methods used by American astrologers, but I think that the Russian astrologers in their practice do not differ from the American astrologers.

From your perspective, what trends to you see unfolding; where do you see astrology going next in your country?

For a long time astrology was banned in Russia. The communist authorities considered astrology as false doctrine. Astrologers were persecuted by the authorities, and all books on astrology were banned. Now everything is different. Today the authorities allow the study of all esoteric practices which includes astrology. In the 80s of last century, people had to hide their Hobbies, now astrology is considered normal. Astrological forecasts have become mandatory in newspapers, magazines, television and radio. Astrologers freely work in private practice, and the services astrologers are enjoyed by private firms. Getting a job working as an astrologer for a company in Russia has become competitive, it becomes more popular all the time, and future prospects look very good.

Today in Russia, esoteric thought has taken on new forms of influence; there is a fusion of science, philosophy, and religion with esoteric disciplines. If you have previously had a clear delineation of these areas you are in a good position. Along with economic and political changes our country is developing a different world outlook. Today astrology is not considered as paranormal science, many researchers see it as common sense.

It should be noted what kind of role is played by the OPA in the process of the formation of astrology in Russia. The Career Astrologer, which is now published in Russian, brings to people’s ideas of our organization, helping the reader to determine the formation of personal ideological base, to form the image of a professional astrologer. Articles published in the newsletter, find a ready response among Russian astrologers.

Yours sincerely,

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Counseling Clients with Multiple Planets in the 12th House

By Dvora Weil

When counseling clients with multiple planets in the 12th house here is what comes to my mind while exploring the chart with the client —

People with planets in the 12th house experience intense psychic activity connected to the collective unconscious (Pisces/Neptune). When I look at it from a psychological point of view I assume that from a young age, they invested a lot of energy in making sense and differentiate (unconsciously) from the collective unconsciousness so they can build a cohesive Ego self. That means: they worked harder than most people to separate what is theirs’ and what belongs to the other.

I find that clients are flooded with emotions and experience difficulties to process them. Their rational mind can’t make sense with all they feel intuitively. In many cases, as children, they had mystical experiences they learned not to share, as they were denied or dismissed. They had a rich active inner life they learnt to protect and until adult years they mostly repressed it, and some still do.

Planets in the 12 imply that the person is intuitive. Why? Because their psyche is porous to the outside world. They can sense other people’s feeling, pain and suffering, thus putting a massive pressure on their psyche which in turn creates accumulated guilt, anxiety and helplessness. Why anxiety? Because they don’t have an explanation for those feelings; Why guilt and helplessness?

Because in their minds their well being, depends on other peoples’ well being and they don’t see how they could alleviate other people’s sufferings.

A substantial relief comes when their experience is being explained, validated, normalized and explored with them. For example, they recognize it deeply when they are advised to watch out for becoming a martyr with the desire to rescue people who don’t want to be rescued, thus becoming co-dependent. They feel it in their bones when guided to do community work and to choose a spiritual path, if they have not already done so.

Since the 12th deals with dreams, they respond very well to dream work. I will recommend meditation and explain the importance of clearing their mind from outside noise (which is recommended for all of us but especially to 12th house people).

I would recommend initiating to spend time alone. It will rejuvenate their psyche.

To sum it up: Our role as astrologer/counselors is to first explore our clients’ experiences and to validate, and normalize those feelings for them. “Yes, it makes sense that you had a feeling of what was going to happen.” “Yes, you sense other people’s feelings, because your psyche is connected to the Universal Mind.” “No, you are not crazy.” Encouraging them to maintain solid boundaries is a good advice for 12th house people.
The Six People in Your Chart

BY JACK HOPKINS

When King Wen (1152–1056 BC) set out to write his commentary on the I Ching, he held Heaven, Earth and Humanity as his greatest gifts. The legacy he left behind was designed to be a guide living authentically, with great vitality and high social awareness. Each line of these ancient Chinese Hexagrams has been related to six different roles in society. In 20th century Astrology, Dane Rudhyar would refer to a six-fold division of the zodiac as a series of zyzygies or “modes of operation” and related these stages to traditional Indian Advaita Philosophy. Recognizing the six people in your chart links these ancient concepts with modern life with its relentless information overload, political and social unrest, but also to its underlining enormous potential and promise.

Two figures stand out as central to this scheme, the King or Father, absolute and commanding, and the Official or Mother, receptive, supportive and perfecting. Life is full of pitfalls that can easily derail the best of intentions to balance the two. Yet, knowing the differences and underlying harmony puts us in touch with that central still point where lessons become stepping stones and barriers become bridges.

It all starts with the sixth stage, which is the youngest child or the common people. Natural and youthful, what little social awareness there is takes a back seat to its enthusiasm and oblivious unconcern. It is a world of blacks and whites, where there are no precedents or assumptions. This person embodies the qualities of Aries and Taurus of Western Astrology and Rudhyar would relate it to Parashakti, the great or supreme power or force. Self-reliance and resilience are its virtues and a will-to-be its goal. It doesn’t take much imagination to see how this energy strongly figures into the American mindset of independence and unencumbered individuality. Its objectives are immediate and self-gratifying, pushing everything as far as it will go, only backing down when some other better opportunity presents itself. Experiences in this dimension form deep-seated impressions and inevitably set the stage for its unfolding in other stages.

The next step is that of the Official or Mother and lies in a position of power, protected by the figures around her. She is free to sense the world without competing with it, learning the special qualities of each experience while developing an awareness of her special uniqueness. She contains the power of creation by yielding to the forces she contains, not through conquest, but with compassion and acceptance. In return, she offers a way to replace the fear of not being able to survive with the confidence that we have everything we need to prosper and grow. She speaks in a language that is emotionally rich, distinguishing shades of meaning and nuance, taking it all in, listening from her heart. The signs of Gemini and Cancer and their place in your chart point to this energy. Rudhyar refers to “unfoldment” and relates it to Gnanashakti and the creation of a permanent identity or self. An inner willingness to venture out and engage distinguishes the Official as playing a pivotal role in the series of the other five symbols.

The third line completes the lower trigram of each I Ching symbol and represents a Lord or Middle Son or Daughter. It is volatile and unpredictable. Without discipline, it can easily spin out of control. Fire and Water best describe its dynamic nature, providing brightness and energy as well as emotional inspiration.

Western Astrology associates the signs of Leo and Virgo with this stage. These are the performers, the people with special skills and abilities that add value to ordinary things, infusing them with their own special brand of creativity. They are the actors and artists who redefine themselves, challenging the way we look at the world by their interpretations and portrayals of the human experience. They are the scientists and technologists who invent new approaches to solving the problems of modern life. Although they have little decision making power in the social order, the impact of their creations is felt everywhere. They are labor, whose job it is to create something valuable and relevant. Rudhyar connects this stage to Ichchhashakti or “the power of the will”. Look to these signs as well as the fifth and sixth houses to see where this influence manifests in your chart.

The fourth line [CONTINUED ON PAGE 8]
begins the Upper or Heavenly trigram of the I Ching symbol. From this point on, influence and connection replaces self-reliance and independence. Persuasion becomes more important than personal will power, much like the upper half of the Western Chart. This is the realm of the Minister or Eldest Son or Daughter. Because of its proximity to the King above it, the Minister holds a place of humility and tact. As the king’s representative, he holds a status above the workers and artisans below him, but his responsibilities are many with limited decision making power. This is a position of mediator or enforcer who understands the law and applies his wisdom to practical issues. In Western Astrology, there is an obvious tie to Libra and her darker companion, Scorpio. This is the role of the judge, or the middle manager, who need to focus on productivity and results. It is also the role of the husband and wife who look to accommodate to each other’s expectations and aspirations. Rudhyar assigns this power to Kriyashakti, the force that produces results from ideas and intents, much like the power behind The Secret made so popular in recent years.

Line five is the King or father and holds the most powerful position of all six lines. This is the place where decisions are made and a vision originates for allotting power to the other five figures. Although the king is supreme, he has the responsibility of distributing his power to where it is needed. His strength is to form a strategy which benefits the entire system and so defines the law and delegates control accordingly. It’s important to understand the king does not execute the law, but rather creates it. In that sense he is like the Mother, only his creations are not tied to the Earth, but rather to principles, honor and integrity. His influence is felt by everyone. The signs of Sagittarius and Capricorn align with this energy as do the ninth and tenth houses. Kundalinishakti is the force that Rudhyar links to this role, the descent of the spiritual force, which has a regenerating effect on the material plane. It is associated with relevance, inspiration and empowerment. When the vision of the king is clear, harmony is infused into every aspect of society. When clouded, chaos reigns and everyone suffers.

The Chinese regarded both the sixth and the first lines to be insignificant, concentrating on the more powerful inner four lines. The reasoning behind this is similar to a rule in Horary Astrology which regarded the early and final degrees of a sign as either too soon or too late to be of much relevance. The sixth line refers to the Sage or retired grandparent who has moved beyond participating in the social struggle of the other figures. This also can refer to special interest groups who, while individually weak, are influential when operating as an organized whole. Aquarius and Pisces relate most powerfully to this stage. They represent highly focused interests which are often the wave of the future. In modern Western society, they are anything but weak. The image of the sage does conjure up a return to the elemental forces of the world as means of finding our spiritual roots. According to many studies, Americans take matters of religion more seriously than most other nations, for better or worse. Rudhyar associates this power with Matrikashtaki, literally, the power of the thought or word, a theme we look to as the events of our time put our most cherished principles of freedom and democracy to the test.

3. The Twelve Signs of the Zodiac, Subba Row, Bombay 1917

The Six People in Your Chart

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7]
Thank you Louise McCombs and Sandra-Leigh Serio for a wonderful experience at the Midwest Astrology Conference in Ann Arbor, MI at the beginning of August. I have been to many of the larger conferences; UAC, NCCGR, ISAR but had never experienced a regional conference. This was my first and I cannot express how much I enjoyed it.

Every lecture I attended was better than the one before. I would be hard-pressed to say which lecture I enjoyed the most. One thing is for sure, I was surprised at how much I learned — and that is the beauty of this conference. There were world-class astrologers teaching other hungry astrologers. Hungry astrologers in the sense of finally, at last, being with like-minded people. It was wonderful.

I also manned OPA’s table at MAC and we got lots of inquiries, a paid new member and retreat attendee — and a few potential members.

Since I live north of Chicago, in Evanston, IL, it wasn’t a difficult drive to make. In this drive, though, I accomplished the loss of a fear. I’ve always had a fear of high bridges and would avoid the Chicago Skyway at all costs. On the way to MAC and Ann Arbor as I say the exit for the Chicago Skyway, I said ‘what the heck’ and went for it.

I don’t know how many people attended MAC. I wasn’t expecting there to be, I’m sorry to say, much more than 30 people. My best guess is that there were approximately 200 people in attendance. That makes me happy for the future of MAC—that Louise and Sandra-Leigh put on further conferences and, hopefully, in Michigan.

Thanks June for manning OPA’s Booth!
Michael Lutin
*Secret Messages in Astrological Practice*
When people come for an astrology session, they usually have questions in mind or are uncertain about decisions they have to make. They also have bigger issues they don’t even realize is the real reason they sought out an astrologer. Solving the local problems is only part of my job. I use the horoscope to resolve the deeper issues that lurk beneath the surface. The purpose: to restore the client’s faith in his or her own instincts and perceptions.

Grace Morris
*Financial Astrology*
Use astrology to help pick the winning stocks and sectors projected to do well in each cycle. Participants will use techniques from Grace’s newsletter, *Astro Economics Stock Market Newsletter* which has a winning track record and her latest book, *How To Choose Stocks To Outperform The Market 2013*. You, too, can achieve top results.

Sandra-Leigh Serio
*Beginning Astrology: Essential Principles that Form the Foundation of Astrology*
Learn about planets, signs, houses and the horoscope as a whole, plus astrological symbolism and the influence the planets have on personality and human behavior. For beginner/intermediate students who want to deepen their knowledge while learning about the message the entire birth chart delivers. Also included: modalities, chart angles, non-planetary points in the chart and aspects. Fun and interactive, you will learn to observe your world and all its happenings from an astrological perspective.

Monica Dimino
*Advanced Chart Interpretation*
Take chart interpretation to a new level. It’s not about incorporating more complex tools to do chart work. Rather, using the basics, we will create narratives with the chart, showing ways to work with charts that enlighten and inspire. Leaving diagramming astrological sentences to *Astrology 101*, we will move to the deeper literature of chart reading.

Day One will introduce the concept and principles for creating a narrative. On Day Two we will practice with the charts of the participants and show how these narratives lead to relevant chart work. Day Three will carry this work into all sorts of charts. Ample examples will be provided.

The focus is in providing meaningful information for clients, determining what is needed in a session, and incorporating transits, progressions and cycles into these developing narratives.

Arlan Wise
*Astrology Writer’s Track*
What do we do in these writing workshops? We write. We encourage each other with mutual support while we write and then read what we have written. The value of attending a writing workshop comes in finding one’s writing voice through the action of writing. One of the objects of the class is to evict from memory the voice of that high school teacher who gave you a C- on a paper and said you could never write well. It is validating to write with others and receive mutual support while an intimacy builds over the three days in a safe and secure container. You learn that you are a good writer, and, yes, you can write.
Maurice Fernandez
The ψψ 500 Year Cycle and the Generational Cycle
Completely new material on one of the most fundamental cycles that humanity experiences. Pluto and Neptune are among the slowest moving bodies in the solar system, and their 496 year cycle sets the tone for the evolution of a whole era. It touches on the deepest existential questions, both consciously and unconsciously. The last conjunction in 1891 was at 8 degrees Gemini and boosted the crossing between eastern and western cultures, along with the great development of communication and transportation that we are now still fully involved with.

Neptune and Pluto have locked into a 90 year long sextile aspect, from the early 1940s until the late 2030s. We will explore this generational sextile as it has moved from Pluto in Cancer and Neptune in Virgo, to the current Pluto in Capricorn and Neptune in Pisces. Join us for a deep immersion into our personal chart analysis, providing you with completely new insights to analyze your clients charts and beyond!

Chris McRae
Tracing our Evolutionary Journey through the Chart, from Past to Future Unfoldment
We all know the great advantage of looking ahead to see what influences we will be working with in the days and weeks before us. We also know by looking at astrological events that were in place at important past events in our lives can add additional insight and understanding many years later. Techniques or tools used will trace back to an understanding of the natal chart dynamics; the art and nuances of progressions, returns and arcs; cycles that weave their way in and out of our lives; plus an assortment of other techniques gleaned from so many years of star-gazing and application. These are tools I use with my clients who invariably have a stressful issue they bring to the consultation that often reaches back to the natal chart patterns. Our life here on planet earth with its many challenges is an evolutionary journey integrating with our soul pattern. Learn from Chris’s 42+ years of working with clients and thousands of inquiring students who have passed through her semester-structured course. In this intimate group experience, you will tap this bountiful resource.

Bob Mulligan
Timing Spiritual Transformation
Over the last 30 years, I’ve explored aspects of astrology’s use in spiritual development. This track is a flowering of this work; it is meant to be personal, intimate, and transformative. Every soul eventually returns to God; using our own natal charts we will discover our next step on the journey.

By understanding how our thoughts, feelings, and actions affect our consciousness; we bring our lives in tune with the cosmic plan. Habits following us from past incarnations present both gifts and puzzles. Our individual astrology chart is a spiritual roadmap showing us how to use our talents to resolve our difficulties; we merely need to decode our chart, and then act. Astrology contains secret keys showing how we progress on our path God-ward. Personal habits correctly harnessed energize our journey.

Sincerity of purpose reaps the benefit from this material; commitment is more important than background or experience. Each day at the retreat we will examine our own chart from a different perspective. Day one we look at the karmic reason for taking birth at the exact time and place. Day two we examine the best method for overcoming obstacles. Day three we follow the line of logic of our most fated relationships.

Dvora Weil
Relationships Through the Lens of Astrology
Imagine learning a new approach to relationship counseling, while enhancing awareness about your own relationship? This track will transform your view about the nature of relationship, and will enhance your effectiveness when counseling your clients.

I combine my experience as a psychotherapist with my passion for astrology as we explore in the chart, areas of life where our partner challenges us to grow—but we might resist. Gaining awareness here is a win-win … we improve ourselves … and the relationships. The clues are all written in the natal chart. Finding them will be the goal of this group.

4 Days of Cosmic Inspiration for Astrologers at All Levels
Plan NOW to join us & take advantage of Early Bird Pricing!
Register at opaastrology.com
Much of the year ahead brings a lovely interplay between the energies of Saturn in Scorpio, and Neptune in Pisces. One of the ways Neptune operates is by showing where and how we can become more sensitive and compassionate to ourselves. Follow your inspiration to find the way.

When Saturn enters Scorpio this fall we get to redefine our values. The first priority is constructive investment in ourselves, educationally, professionally, and spiritually. This way we improve, sharing our special gifts and manifesting our higher potential. So take stock of your inner world and nurture what you value.

If investing in yourself doesn’t feel quite right, or brings up discomfort, absolutely do it anyway. Have faith that you’re on the right course. Life is filled with magic. The universe works in mysterious ways.

Take time to learn something new, go ahead and attend inspiring conferences and lectures, pay attention to and nurture your spiritual practice. You are your own best investment. It is the key to both personal and collective success!

Note to Self
BY ALEXANDRA KARACOSTAS

Thoughts on becoming a professional astrologer, and illusions along the way ...

> OPA Board & Group Leaders Gather on Martha’s Vineyard

Arlan Wise (the best hostess ever!) graciously opened her home for OPA business over a recent late summer weekend. Attendees went through the rigorous OPA peer review process in preparation for our upcoming 2013 Retreat in Myrtle Beach. Two members – Richard Smoot and Twink Mckinney completed the OPA certification process and were certified by Sandra-Leigh Serio. It was a great getaway – with OPA chefs Alexandra Karacostas, Dvora Weil and Michael Lutin sharing their culinary talents in the evenings. Chris McRae, Monica Dimino, Bob Mulligan and Robert Carre rounded out the group who spent four+ days honing OPA’s trademark group work in preparation for sharing it with our members.

Congratulations Richard & Twink!

At the beach for a much needed break!

Nothing like a little astrology with your morning coffee!