Happy Astrology Day!

URANUS IN TAURUS – Astro Geeks talk money!

Happy Astrology Day! Thank you for being part of OPA and helping us help Astrology reach new heights.

With Uranus moving into Taurus, we can hope for greater awareness and efforts to make astrology a more lucrative profession and allow it to be sustainable for people of all ages to practice astrology. Bringing the heavens down to earth can mean that astrologers will assert their prerogative to be better remunerated.

Your financial investment in astrology represents your future paycheck as an astrologer.

We invite you to come to I-Astrologer 2018 taking place next October in Tucson Arizona. Some of the most prominent and skilled astrologers will provide you with all the tools you need to accomplish that goal – become the most successful astrologer you can be! I-Astrologer represents the 21st Century Astrologer.

Join us in Tucson in October!

We would like to introduce Geni Picazo as a new Recording Secretary of the OPA board. Kim de Noue is taking a break from her board duties for personal reasons, and Rae Rutter Sapp is now the Event Coordinator.

We are delighted to have Geni who is very dedicated and a strong OPA supporter among our ranks. Hail to our Canadian board member!

Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA

2018 promises to be tremendously interesting with a number of new ingresses. Following Jupiter in Scorpio and Saturn in Capricorn, now Chiron moves into Aries (April 17), Uranus moves into Taurus (May 15), Mars retrogrades in Aquarius (June 27), the Nodal Axis will move to Cance/Capricorn (Nov 7) and Jupiter again in Sagittarius (Nov 9). In this edition, we focus here on the transit of the upcoming Equinox quarter, namely Chiron in Aries and Uranus in Taurus.

We also feature a special section celebrating Astrology Day including some very interesting retro photos and stories, as well as heart-felt blessings and wishes for Astrology. Enjoy!
FACTS

Chiron will cross the beginning of the zodiac, the Aries point, on April 17, 2018 and will remain in the sign until June 2026, marking its longest run in any sign of the zodiac.

Chiron is situated between Saturn and Uranus and has a particularly eccentric orbit that at times crosses Saturn’s orbit and then Uranus’s orbit. This means that its passage through a sign varies from just 2 years (in Libra) to 8 years (in Aries).

Chiron will reach its greatest distance from the Sun in 2021.

Mythologically, Chiron was rejected by his mother for being half horse and half human, but unlike the other Centaurs who looked like him, he was sophisticated and wise, a teacher of teachers. Tragedy had it that Chiron got wounded by an arrow that he could not heal despite being a medicine man. He chose to relinquish his immortality in order to end his suffering.

Chiron represents: The Maverick, the Genius, Medicine and Healing, an incurable wound, death and mortality, humbling experiences.

Chiron in Aries represents the masterful warrior, the activist, and yet the wound of defeat and impotence that ultimately requires patience and humility to prevail.

Prominent figures with Chiron in Aries, among them prominent activists: Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Leo DiCaprio, Vladimir Lenin, Julian Assange, Aleister Crowley, Yasser Arafat, the United States.

Chiron in Aries Previous Cycles:

April 4, 1968 – the Assassination of Martin Luther King
June 6, 1968 – The Assassination of Robert Kennedy
May 1968 – Massive Protest in France against Capitalism, Consumerism and American Imperialism reach critical tension.
November 1968 – Yale University announces it will admit women
Tapping into the Libra Polarity

by Anjali Soi

Human instincts have been traumatized by the patriarchal system over thousands of years, resulting in blocked energy (prana or chi), rage and chronic suffering on various levels. Aries, ruled by Mars, indicates an individual’s raw energy and ego. Chiron’s transit through Aries will show where one’s sense of self has been debilitated. During the next few years, there will be an opportunity to reconnect with our instinctual selves and heal any wounds festering within our primal natures and psyche/anima-animaus. Chiron, the wounded healer, will encourage us to look without judgment at any anger or aggression coming to the surface and to heal it with love and compassion. We are invited to transform any inner friction into peace, well-being, and a healthier ego using Libra, the polarity of Aries. Polarity is defined as the point directly opposite or 180 degrees from a planet or sign. It represents the evolutionary direction and integrating energy for that entity. Libra is the opposite sign to Aries and values harmony and relationships, lending a sensitive ear to anger resulting from injustice and inequality. By connecting and communicating with others about its experiences, Chiron can begin to help harmonize the dysfunction one feels and to develop perspective, objectivity and interdependence. It will be effective to employ beauty and art in creating healing and inspiration. Perhaps Mercury is inviting us to begin reflecting on our subjective realities during its retrograde phase in Aries from Mar 22 to Apr 15, right before Chiron’s entrance into Aries on Apr 17. Saturn turns retrograde on the same day, and will start to uncover another layer of wounding in relation to the existing system and structures (Capricorn) until Sep 6.

The Libra polarity will also bring up issues around how to relate with others personally, professionally, and societally. Wounds that are felt in personal relationships will prompt us to draw boundaries or make necessary changes. We may then find ourselves asking how can we create partnerships and relate with each other in a way that reduces hurt and injury in the future. The role of Venus as ruler of Libra generates understanding around certain ‘rules of relating’ through active exchanges, cooperation and compromise. Cooperation, in fact, may become a necessary means of survival in the near future. The beauty of Venus is that she encourages creativity in the process and the expression of warmth and friendship. The value of compromise will become even more apparent when Uranus enters Taurus, also traditionally ruled by Venus. Although I personally belong to the school of thought that Earth is the ruler of Taurus, Venus’s natural focus on the physical world will still make a strong impact on values and relationships through Uranus in Taurus. Uranus will want to reform existing ways of conduct so that each person’s identity, individuality, and freedom of expression are incorporated. Authenticity is the name of the game.

A very similar interplay of Aries/Libra energy occurred during the first half of the 1970s while Chiron was in Aries and Uranus was in Libra. During that time, there were protests against the war in Vietnam. Women and other marginalized groups fought for equality. Conservatives who were not happy with ‘liberals’ and the antiwar movement formed their own ‘silent majority.’ Terrorism increased pari-

By connecting and communicating with others about its experiences, Chiron can begin to help harmonize the dysfunction one feels and to develop perspective, objectivity and interdependence.

particularly in the United States by various groups including jihadists, neo-Nazis, militant groups, and religious fundamentalists. Anyone and everyone who was not happy with the state of relations at that time felt moved to take action in a way that incorporated their own ideals. In essence, the Aries instinctual nature expressed itself through various ways, with terrorist attacks being the most awful expression. Terrorism is arguably the result of a loss of touch with true instinct, where violence is committed as some dysfunctional expression of frustrated primal urges. Both Aries and Libra can be stubborn with each other and refuse to interact, but the necessity of tapping into the Libran vibration will hopefully be considered paramount as we move into the future.

The trine formed between Taurus (Uranus) and Capricorn (Saturn) over the next couple of years will focus the desire for establishing reform in relation to the system and existing structures (Capricorn) and may culminate in new initiatives, or rebellion. One recent example is the organizing efforts of students whose classmates were killed in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school in Parkland, Florida on Valentine’s Day. These courageous students organized a ‘March For Our Lives’ on March 24th in Washington, D.C. to pressure Congress on gun reform with respect to making schools safer. Women’s March organizers also organized a National School Walkout on March 14th where students and educators at schools and universities across the country walked out at 10 am for 17 minutes, one minute for each victim of the school massacre. This is the kind of Uranian and Libran unity that forms when people are faced with a tragedy that bludgeons principles and values held in dear regard. Clearly these students are tuning into the upcoming transit and channeling it proactively. We have yet to see how a gun reform movement will actualize in the future, but hopefully solid foundations are being laid now for a strong revolution. April 2018 is going to be an intensely Martian month. A Mars/Saturn conjunction on the 1st and a Mars/Pluto conjunction at
the end of the month are triggers which could produce a wide range of manifestations from the highly creative to the disturbingly negative. The upcoming Mars retrograde in Aquarius/Capricorn and Mars/Uranus squares also feel straining. Intense rage could trigger violence and aggression against women. Jupiter in Scorpio’s influence may continue to reveal sexual assaults and transgressions as exhibited by the Harvey Weinstein scandals. It is important to note that Pluto has entered the Virgo decan in Capricorn accenting the Virgo/Pisces axis. According to evolutionary astrology this signifies the age of Christianity and Western religions, and also the spread of guilt consciousness, the psychology of masochism, and suppression of the feminine. This thinking has been embedded in the system for a long time now and deeply pervades the common consciousness. Uranus and Chiron, both trauma/wound signatures, are bringing everything to the surface. Choosing to make it a journey of positive self-discovery will create a shared healing on physical, emotional and psychological levels for everyone involved.

We are invited to evolve our definitions around what gives us meaning from our personal experiences and revelations. Understanding that a deeper harmony is trying to unearth itself through breakdowns will help bring calm and peace of mind during moments of anxiety and indecision. A structural rebirth is occurring that integrates the whole human. Libra will provide clarity and a way forward.

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CHIRON IN ARIES
Healing a Nation and Singing for Healing

2018-2026

by Burçin Tezay

“The wound is the place where the light enters you.” Rumi

Chiron is sometimes called an asteroid, but it is astronomically classified as a centaur. No matter what we call it, its function is important because it asks us to find healing for our wounds and also it enlightens us. This celestial body is between Saturn and Uranus. Saturn symbolizes wisdom and the past, while Uranus symbolizes innovation and the New Age. Chiron’s symbol is a key, a cosmic key which is given to us as a gift in order to heal our wounds and to help us unlock a remedy for our miseries. Chiron embodies renewal as well as past hurts. It tells us that we need to become integrated with our wounds and try to find a solution to our troubles. First, we struggle desperately with our miseries. Then we understand that we will not find a solution to our problems with our old way of thinking unless we leave the past behind and strive to produce new ideas so that we can move forward. Finally, we acquire another perspective and put that ointment on our wounds.

People with Chiron in Aries in their natal chart have strong survival instincts. They might have some wounds in expressing and manifesting themselves so that they cannot easily move forward. They can overcome these wounds as they get older. They may have self-confidence and self-worth problems, and difficulties in decision making and venturing forth. On the other hand, natives with Chiron in Aries are very successful in helping others and can be great instructors. For instance, a person with Chiron in Aries in the 7th house might become a wonderful relationship therapist. People with Chiron in Aries have a pioneer spirit which helps them work quickly and heal and guide the people around them. Eventually, healing and leading people paves a way for healing their own wounds.

In the context of Chiron in Aries, let’s examine these two charts of renowned people who were both pioneers in their careers: Mohandas ‘Mahatma’ Gandhi and Maria Callas.

MOHANDAS GANDHI

Mohandas Gandhi was the primary leader of India’s independence movement and also the architect of a form of non-violent civil disobedience that would influence the world.

In Gandhi’s natal chart, Chiron in Aries is in the sixth house. This placement indicates that a person in his youth might go his own way and try to choose his own daily routines and may exhibit irregular behaviors. When Gandhi was a teenager, he rebelled by smoking, eating meat, and stealing change from household servants. In the ensuing years, he became a vegetarian. During Gandhi’s first stay in London, from 1888 to 1891, he became more committed to a meat free diet, joining the executive committee of the London Vegetarian Society. Gandhi followed Jainism, a morally rigorous ancient Indian religion that espoused...
non-violence, respect for all life, fasting, meditation and vegetarianism. As we know, the sixth house symbolizes health and daily routines, so it is not surprising that Gandhi acted this way. In his advancing years, this placement caused him to care about his health in a holistic way.

In his natal chart, we see that Chiron is opposed his Sun in Libra in the 12th house. Although Gandhi was interested in becoming a doctor, his father had hoped he would also become a government minister, so his father guided him to enter the legal profession. Finally, Gandhi sailed for London, England, to study law. Sun is the indicator of father. The opposition of Chiron and Sun caused him to study Law at university and he fulfilled his father’s wish. Moreover, this aspect also shows his service to his people and collective consciousness. Besides, Chiron in the 6th house symbolizes altruism which defines Gandhi very well. Sun in the 12th house points out his spiritual, religious and diplomatic side. In addition to this, the opposition of Chiron and Sun made him realize that mere rebellious behaviors were of no use and just caused him pain. Instead, Gandhi used non-violent civil disobedience and saved India from the imperialism of Britain.

Chiron’s trine to the North Node in the tenth house symbolizes his pioneer spirit and service to his country. At the same time, this placement discloses why he hoped to become a doctor and shows his healer side. He fulfilled his mission not as a doctor but as a leader who saved India from the control of Britain, and brought freedom to his country.

MARIA CALLAS

Maria Callas was the most renowned American dramatic soprano of the 20th century and captivated her audience with her iconic opera performances. In Callas’s natal chart we see that Chiron is in Aries in the 5th house. This house represents self-expression, art, and performing on stage. When Maria was a child, she was in the shadow of her sister Jackie. Her mother hoped that her Jackie would become a great musician, and had her take piano lessons. While Jackie took the lessons, Maria watched her from a corner. Chiron in the fifth house caused her not to express herself properly in the presence of her sister and to stay out of the game. On top of that, her sister was attractive and slim but Maria felt she was chubby and unattractive. For this reason, her mother favored her sister. One day, Maria sang a song for her beloved brother Vassilis. Her unique and great voice went out of the open window and when the people on the street heard her voice, they were amazed and stopped and applauded her. Her sister looked at her with jealousy. Her mother then had Maria take piano lessons and she also bought her three canaries for her vocal training. After a while, her parents divorced, her brother died, and she went back to Greece with her mother and

INGRESSES AND TRANSITS

2018

TEZAY

Mohandas K. Gandhi
Natal Chart
Oct 2 1869 NS, Sat
7 11 am LMT -4 00 34
Portland, Oregon, United States
21°19’06”W90°21’06”
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

Maria Callas
Natal Chart
Dec 2 1923, Sun
5 20 pm EST +0 00
New York, NY
40°42’51”N74°14’22”W
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node
sister. Her mother dragged her from one place to another to make money by singing. The situation that Maria was in must have hurt and wounded her deeply in her youth. Chiron trines Mercury in the first house. This indicates that Maria tried to heal her wounds and pain through her unique voice. This aspect also points out that the problematic relationship with her sister and the death of her brother caused deep wounds and sadness. In addition to this, this aspect shows the faltering of her voice in her last years.

In her natal chart, we see that Chiron trines the Sun in the first house. This aspect might have influenced Maria to go her way and to live by her own rules. This is a factor which served her to shine on stage, to be famous world-wide, and to fix her wounded ego from when she was young. This aspect might be the symbolization of her reviving the coloratura soprano tradition which had faded into oblivion in the early years of 20th century.

We see that Chiron trines her Neptune, and Neptune trines her Venus in the chart. Therefore, this is an indication that Maria tried to heal herself virtually via the personification of the characters she played as an opera singer. This might also point out that she cheated on her husband Giovanni Battista with Aristotle Socrates Onassis. Maria became Onassis’ mistress for 9 years until he cheated on her with Jackie Kennedy and, in the end, he married Jackie. This shows Maria’s role as a cheating and cheated woman, and resonates with her childhood issues with her sister Jackie.

Finally, Chiron in her fifth house squares Pluto in her 8th house. When Maria was 43 years old, she was pregnant with Onassis’s child. He objected to the pregnancy and told her to have an abortion or he would leave her because the baby could create a big scandal in his life. In the end, she underwent an abortion and buried her baby with her own hands in the cemetery of Bruzzano. Onassis died in 1975. Maria was devastated by his death and secluded herself. Two years later, Maria died from a heart attack. This square between Chiron and Pluto indicates her obsessive love for Onassis, and she buried this deep love inside her even though Onassis left her for another woman. The death of Onassis caused her own devastation.

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Behold Mars/Saturn Conjunction 9° Capricorn

by Maurice Fernandez

Since Saturn entered the sign of Capricorn last December (2017), we have witnessed critical dynamics affecting leadership across the board. Saturn is the lord of Karma, and commands accountability for our actions and intention. In Capricorn, it is our leadership, moral values, and responsibilities toward those who depend on us that are under cosmic scrutiny. Saturn restores our points of reference and reminds us that there is such a thing as right and wrong; Karma is not a matter of personal opinion, but of universal order. In other words, there are consequences to our actions.

Since then, leaders and institutions have been shaken as a result of this need to restore order and hold those accountable for unethical behavior. The February eclipses played an important role as activators setting these dynamics in motion. Indeed, we saw the dinosaurs South African and Zimbabwean dictators Zuma and Mugabe finally demoted and removed from their presidential position after decades of blatant and severe corrup-

Saturn restores our points of reference and reminds us that there is such a thing as right and wrong; Karma is not a matter of personal opinion, but of universal order.

By Sebastian Vital (Donald Trump Jr.) [CC BY 2.0]
By Adam Bielawski (Stormy Daniels) [CC BY-SA 3.0]
Adding the assertive, or even aggressive, influence of Mars to Saturn is bound to cause additional powerful tremors that are bound to cause escalation of intensity and changes.
INGRESSES AND TRANSITS
2018

We should not be surprised if intense power struggles at the top echelons, including legal actions and even the sparks of war, are ignited during this transit.

expressions of sadism and raging cruelty – did we mention that this conjunction will square the Sun and Mercury retrograde in Aries (ruled by Mars)?

We should not be surprised if intense power struggles at the top echelons, including legal actions and even the sparks of war, are ignited during this transit. Structures will shake, leaders fall or push their agenda in full might, and in general, people will aggressively compete, defend, and attempt to “ram forward” their ambitions without much restraint.

The force used during Mars/Saturn is so intense that it can also cause bone injuries... to this serious point, I would personally recommend avoiding high risk physical activity during this period of time.

Mars and Saturn in the Earth sign of Capricorn can literally generate physical tremors through natural events. At worst, this can signify earthquakes or structural collapse.

Let us look at some of the public figures and events potentially associated with this configuration.

Vanessa Trump recently filed for divorce from Donald Trump Junior, whose Sun is at 9 Capricorn. We can expect an escalation of adversity between the couple before settlements are reached for distribution of wealth and custody of their five children. (See Chart 1, previous page.)

Donald Trump and his no-longer-favorite porn star mistress Stormy Daniels both share Mercury at 9 degrees Cardinal, which will be activated by the Mars/Saturn conjunction. See Chart 2, previous page.)
Two of the most dramatic San Francisco Earthquakes occurred with heavy activity of planets (including Saturn and Mercury) around the 8th degree cardinal. (See Charts 3 and 4, previous page.)

The NRA (US National Rifle Association) shares a Saturn/Mars conjunction in Capricorn, so we expect a double return. (See Chart 5, at left.)

In the scheme of things, it is of interest to view the chart of Jeff Session’s Mars return transit as well. (See Chart 6, below left.)

This is a time to take our destiny into our own hands and assert our ambitions. Use this Army of You to strategically advance your goals and reach new heights.

How can we harness this Mars/Saturn in Capricorn energy to its highest expression? This is a time to take our destiny into our own hands and assert our ambitions. Use this Army of You to strategically advance your goals and reach new heights. Mars Saturn is about right action as well as Karma yoga, not refraining from doing what must be done, with courage and effortless might.

Maurice Fernandez
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Uranus in Taurus
2018-2026
by Öner Döşer

Uranus, the planet of revolution, will enter Taurus on May 15th, 2018. In modern astrology, Taurus is associated with finance and banking systems. We should expect to see some radical changes in these fields during Uranus’s transit in Taurus between 2018 and 2026!

Uranus in Taurus in History
In order to foresee what Uranus in Taurus may bring, let’s have a look at previous Uranus cycles in Taurus.

1934 -1942
1935 – Jupiter was in Scorpio as it is now. That year, US President Franklin Roosevelt signed The Banking Act, which enabled the restructuring of the Federal Reserve and financial system and reorganized the Federal Reserve’s leadership structure. The Federal Reserve Act reorganized the structure, powers and functions of the Federal Reserve System. Additionally, the Social Security Act which was signed on August 14th established a permanent national old-age pension system through employer and employee contributions.

This was a time of economic depression in the USA. Liberals, who supported these reforms, and conservatives, who were against them, emerged during this period. 1934 was a terrible year for agricultural production in the USA due to drought.

During Uranus’s transit in Taurus, in 1935, the Richter scale was developed by Charles Richter, an American seismologist, which quantified the magnitude of earthquakes. As we all know, Uranus is associated with earthquakes and Taurus is associated with the earth.

1939 - World War II erupted when Uranus was in Taurus (September 1st, 1939).

In 1941, when Uranus was about to complete its passage in Taurus, Germany and Italy declared a war against the USA.

DO YOU PLAY MONOPOLY?
Monopoly, the famous board game based on real estate and finances, was first released to the market on November 5, 1935. The game outperformed Parker Brothers’ expectations and has been the most popular board game in history. Uranus was at Taurus 3° and Jupiter was retrograde at Scorpio 29°.

1850-1859
The previous Uranus transit in Taurus was also characterized with economic crisis. The Panic of 1857 was a sudden downturn in the economy of the United States. A general recession first emerged late in 1856, but the successive failure of banks and businesses that characterized the panic began in mid 1857. During this period wheat prices crashed, railroads, banks and companies went bankrupt, and unemployment soared.

1767-1775
This cycle was characterized by the colonial economy. By 1770s, the American mainland colonies were important markets for British products, so the North American colonies became economically and politically ready to become part of the emerging self-government movement. The first colonization movement was seen in the early 1600s, when Uranus was again in Taurus (1600-1607).

Looking back at these historical events, we may expect significant changes in the financial industry during this upcoming cycle.

The end of capitalism is around the corner!
While evaluating the ingress of a slow-moving planet into any sign, I look at the recent slow-moving planet that transited in this sign. For example, Pluto was in Capricorn before Saturn entered this sign and an economic crisis erupted in 2008 when Pluto stepped into Capricorn. You may recall May 2000 when a large number of planets were in Taurus was the beginning of a cycle based on material values. Uranus’s transit in Taurus makes us consider that there will be major shifts in our relations with our resources and our material values.

The Jupiter/Saturn conjunction in Taurus in May 2000 indicated the most intense era of capitalism was upon us. When Uranus enters Taurus, it will reactivate the effect of this cycle and possibly bring reforms or even an end to the capitalist system.

As Uranus enters Taurus in a New Moon period, we may expect we are at the onset of a new era where we will experience new approaches regarding economic systems, currencies and other monetary issues. The bull is a calm animal but unpredictable when it gets angry; so, predicting the market trends will also be difficult between 2018 and 2026, when Uranus, the planet of unexpected events, will transit in Taurus.

Our relation with money is changing!
Uranus’s transit in Taurus emphasizes that we will need to reevaluate our relationship with money on the large spectrum of how we earn and how we spend money. We may...
we should keep in mind that we always need nature and the Mother Earth which feeds us. Mining and farming issues may also be part of this agenda. We are about to enter the Solar Minimum period when there will be fewer sunspots. This cycle coincides with diminished productivity, or at worst, famine. Some scientists claim that some regions on Earth will be exposed to over-cooling and as a result plants will get damaged. The Solar and Lunar eclipses during 2019-2020, when many planets will accumulate in Capricorn, may be related to cold weather conditions. After their passage in Capricorn together for a while, Jupiter and Saturn will make an exact conjunction in Aquarius by the end of 2020 which may lead to cold weather. Taking some preventive measures, such as storing up seeds and plant cuttings may be the right decision.

Generally speaking, changes occurring during Uranus in Taurus between 2018 and 2026 may be slower to occur but more lasting.

New currencies
New currencies, such as cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, are likely to regain strength since Taurus is associated with currencies and Uranus is related to technology. We already witness early in 2018 that through Saturn in Capricorn’s influence, countries are moving to impose an auditable system on digital (Uranus) currencies (Taurus). The days around the Lunar eclipse on July 27, 2018 may bring a security weakness in digital systems. We may also experience some adopting a more frugal and cautious approach. For example, we rent our house or car which we do not use, or abstain from accumulating unnecessary possessions.

We may not hold on to money and our resources when Uranus is in Taurus. It is important to remain more open and flexible to changes and new financial opportunities. It is obvious that the use of technology in natural environments will increase.

We should take care of the natural world
Numerous planets placed in earth signs indicate a stronger focus and need to better care for nature, land, and agriculture. Even if we achieve various technological developments,
problems regarding the technological systems as Mars will be retrograde in Aquarius. These celestial positions put some stress on the astrological chart of Bitcoin (Jan 4, 2009 @ 3:15am Tokyo, Japan).

Currency depreciation of Euro and Dollar

By the second half of 2018, we will see an increase in converting cash payments with mobile payment systems. Cash payments will decrease and currencies in circulation like US Dollar and Euro may lose value. The Euro may lose value in 2018 and US dollar more so in 2019-2020. 2020 seems to be the most critical juncture in the US economy.

Technology has been an inevitable part of our daily lives. While some people are still trying to stay away from technology, astrological forecasts indicate that technology will be a bigger part of our lives as Uranus steps into Taurus. The ones who prefer spending cash will need to keep up with the developments in payment systems.

Below you may see the Euro chart and the chart of 2018 Winter solstice reflected on this chart. Transiting Saturn conjoins the Sun in Euro chart. Transit Uranus and Pluto activate the Venus-Mars-Saturn T-square in Euro chart. Transit Saturn will trigger this degree in 2019-2020. We will see the effect more clearly in 2019-2020, during eclipses in Capricorn-Cancer axis.

Goodbye to the European Union?

People always asked me, "Will Turkey join the European Union?" and I always reply the same answer: "Will there be a European Union?" We may very likely say goodbye to the European Union and to the Euro! If so, 2018 will make this more obvious. By the early 2020s, the European Union may be on its way out or be diminished to a smaller structure.

By the Lunar Eclipse of May 16, 2022, Saturn’s return in the US chart will also reach culmination. Everything ends sooner or later. The US is not an exception of course. In the chart, you may see the eclipse in 2022 at Scorpio 25° projected on the US chart.
We had better get used to technological developments

Taurus represents the neck, throat, back of the neck and back of the ears. We may agree that it is related to hearing. Uranus in Taurus may bring some technological developments concerning these parts of the body. Perhaps, we may consider that chips will be used in repairing hearing impairment.

In line with the developments in health technology, in our daily lives we will frequently use machines which scan our bodies. As Taurus is associated with tactual sense, we will be using touchscreens, touch pads and other touch-operated products and applications increasingly more. As Uranus represents electricity and Taurus is related to the body, we may expect scientists to develop artificial organs which generate electricity. Face authentication systems which were developed when Uranus was in Aries (ruling the head and the face) will be applicable in banking and finance industries when Uranus enters Taurus. Fingerprints will also be used in many transactions.

Smart home systems will probably attract attention as Taurus is also associated with security. Early-warning systems may also be included on our list. On the other hand, the insurance industry will also need some reforms. Reform in the insurance industry may gain tremendous importance in 2018 during Jupiter’s transit in Scorpio.

Some important developments and reforms may be seen in food industry. Our nutrition habits may change in the coming 7 or 8 years. Perhaps, we may see pills that eliminate our need to eat. We may consume less meat and prefer a plant-based diet. We may also have an increasing appetite in some original and special tastes.

Perfumes, scents, soaps and flowers represented by Taurus will also attract attention. Using natural products will be more in fashion.

An increase in natural disasters

The number of natural disasters, especially the number of earthquakes, may increase in the coming years. Based on the Solar and Lunar Eclipse charts of July 13, July 27 and August 11, I suggest we should be careful in these months. The eclipse of July 13 is in

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**European Union Natal Chart**

Nov 1 1993, Mon 0:00 am CET – 1:00 am CET
Brussels, Belgium
50°N 4°E
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

**Lunar Eclipse**

May 16, 2022
Brussels, Belgium
opposition with Pluto, indicating some harsh impacts. A Mars-Uranus square will also be active during these days. The Lunar eclipse on July 27 is the most remarkable eclipse of this year with the Sun opposing Mars. It will be the time when the accumulated energy of the last year will be expressed.

The eclipse on August 11 is a replication of the eclipse in 1999, which was observed from Turkey. In 1999, we had a massive earthquake in Turkey. The coming eclipse will not be observed from Turkey, however the planetary positions of this eclipse will overlap some points in the chart of 1999’s eclipse. So I would like to say, ‘BE CAREFUL!’

According to H.S. Greene, one of the important astrologers who lived in 1900s, the number of earthquakes increases when the eclipses and slow moving planets are in fixed signs, especially in Taurus and Scorpio.

Eclipses will not occur in these signs yet, however Jupiter is in Scorpio and Uranus will enter Taurus on May 15. So, this is a year when we should be careful.

The lives of the people born between 1988 and 1990 will undergo some major changes. They may experience some changes in their business and profit, home and family life and marriage and relations. They may carry out the projects which get one’s feet on the ground.

The people who have planets in Taurus and Scorpio in their natal charts should be ready for revolutionary changes during Uranus’s transit in Taurus! The ones who can quickly keep up with changes will get the benefit of this trend while the ones who resist changes may have a hard time.

With love, light and hope! 
Öner Döşer, AMA, ISAR Cap
OPA Turkey Satellite
APAI Member

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OPA Turkey on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1628325654151225/
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ASTRONOMY FOR ASTROLOGERS
With Gemini Brett
All three programs are steps to OPA CERTIFICATION

FACULTY
Maurice Fernandez, Anne Ortelee, Laura Nalbandian, Sasha Zolotov, Ray Gillett, Russell Ohlhausen
David Cochrane, Ari and Julian Wise, Kay Taylor, Alexandra Karacostas, Gemini Brett

Lodge on the Desert Tucson, Arizona

Find Full Program Details at OPAastrology.org
Uranus enters the sign of Taurus on May 15, and will remain in this sign until 2015. This passage strongly evokes the mythological story of the God Uranus who descended every night from the skies to mate with his mother and wife Gaia. The bridge between Sky and Earth represents our own evolutionary incentive to bring our greater ideas and vision to the practical realm.

If Uranus elevates to transcend gravity, Taurus brings down to earth to materialize. Isn't it synchronistic that the union of Ouranos and Gaia produce the titan Hyperion, a name presently given to the eco-architectural project initiated by Belgian architect Vincaut Callebaut Indian architect Amlankusum, consisting of 6 towers of trees and 36 stories high, with the aim to produce more energy than it will consume. (Vincaut born May 27, 1977 has Uranus in Scorpio opposing Mercury/Chiron in Taurus)

Yet at its worst, Uranus in Taurus brought us the Dust bowl during the last passage of Uranus in Taurus from 1936-40 – a series of severe dust storms that damaged ecology and agriculture, triggered by aggressive agricultural techniques that uprooted native water retaining plants.

The bridge between Sky and Earth represents our own evolutionary incentive to bring our greater ideas and vision to the practical realm.
Uranus in Taurus can represent the most aggressive rape of nature where industrial ambition would sterilize the earth. In the mythology, their son Chronos, or Saturn, came to protect his mother Gaia and castrated his father to end what had become a rape. Transiting Saturn Capricorn will first trine Uranus in Taurus, and then proceed to the sign of Aquarius (2020-2021) to square it along with Jupiter.

Isn’t it uncanny that as Uranus in Taurus will square the upcoming Jupiter/Saturn conjunction in Aquarius (2020-2021), back in 2000 Uranus was in Aquarius squaring the Jupiter/Saturn conjunction in Taurus.

We must apprehend the actions of industrial agricultural corporations such as Monsanto which could damage seed and soil fundamentally.

Will it be a new emergence of musical or eco architectural genres, or more blows to the belly of the earth. We can only hope for sanity to prevail, but realistically remember mistakes from the past.

Pubic figures with Uranus in Taurus: Sigmund Freud, Nikolas Tesla, Steven Hawking, Saddam Hussein, Pope Francis.

Stephen Hawking left his wounded body after outliving his terminal diagnosis by 53 years or so.

With a strong Earth presence in his chart, surely he dealt with the physical dimension and lessons of embodiment. Mars in Aries was not one to give up the fight after he was diagnosed in 1963 with ALS that gradually paralyzed him.

As a good scientist would do, he used Uranus in Taurus to apply technological devices to do the work where his body failed, and lo and behold computers (Uranus) did the talking when his vocal cords (Taurus) failed. A formidable example the fusion between mind (Uranus) and matter (Taurus), or shall we say flesh and the machine.
JOIN OPA’S

ASTROLOGY DAY RAFFLE!

Money raised from the raffle will serve as scholarships to support the most promising Astrologers at the I-ASTROLOGER event on October 4-7, 2018. The more funds we can raise, the more scholarships we can provide for promising astrologers to establish and enhance their practice.

For more information about I-Astrologer, visit: opaastrology.org

$10 a ticket

BUY AS MANY AS YOU WISH AND INCREASE YOUR ODDS OF WINNING

1st & 2nd Prizes: Attendance to I-Astrologer (Choose Part I or II) or a Reading with Rick Levine

3rd Prize: 2018 Workshop: Uranus in Taurus, Saturn in Capricorn, Chiron in Aries Trilogy by Maurice Fernandez

4th & 5th Prizes: A Reading with Arlan Wise or Shannon Jones

6th & 7th Prizes: Astrology 101 Workshop by Kaypacha or Shamanic Direction Reading with Gemini Brett

8th & 9th Prizes: Book(s) - The Art of Horary Astrology by Oner Doser or Ecology Economy and Kindness, with its sequel Reversing the Race to Global Destruction [Abandoning the Politics of Greed] by Roy Gillett (both include delivery)

10th & 11th Prizes: The Professional Astrologer book or a Pendant of your Astrology Chart

12th Prize: 1 Year OPA membership

13th Prize: a T-Shirt with your Astrology Chart

PURCHASE TICKETS AT OPAASTROLOGY.ORG
RAFFLE DRAW: APRIL 15 NEW MOON/URANUS

Thank you for your participation. Let us bring ABUNDANCE to Astrology!
It is time for celebration! The March Equinox marks Astrology Day so we take this opportunity to gather with colleagues and pay tribute to our practice, reflecting on our journey on this path less travelled. OPA is strongly invested in creating a better and easier future for the next generation of astrologers. We are getting to the point where choosing to practice Astrology professionally is not considered a folly or a risk to one’s reputation or financial stability. Ole!

The day astrology is recognized by the mainstream will mark a cultural revolution because this will be a collective acknowledgment that the universe is not a random occurrence but an intelligent design.

Having a reference of our place in existence within the patterns of intercrossing planetary cycles highlights there is sense, or a trackable course, to what takes place in our lives, regardless of whether things are pleasant or challenging. Such a realization can fundamentally alter the way humanity approaches life.

Cheers to Astrology, hail to all astrologers keeping the lights on!

On the following pages astrologers contribute stories of how they started out in Astrology, and the OPA Board & Satellites offer special blessings for Astrology Day and for the future of Astrology...
How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?

My voyage into astrology as a profession started with the very little girl who gazed up into the night sky looking for star patterns that were seen in old Encyclopedias. As I grew up I often wondered how I could learn about this ancient knowledge. One day in my late 30’s I saw an ad in a Fate pulp magazine for the American Federation of Astrologers. Thus began my study from their great book list and great conferences.

I had a full-time television/motion picture business, a home/family, but many people were asking me how they could learn astrology so I started teaching classes 2 or 3 evenings a week at a local college and doing a few readings with whatever time I had available. That was in 1970. Fortunately, I had a couple of people working for me so I could go to conferences where I was further stimulated and excited. My very first astrological conference was an AFA Conference in Dallas, Texas, in 1972. I was also at the very first founding meeting of OPA and was excited that this organization was different by addressing issues for professional astrologers.

One day big changes were developing in the television industry with huge budget cuts, cheaper programming, and other programming changes, so I felt it was time to find something else. That was when I realized I did have something else. I could now conduct my astrology as a full-time profession and catch up on the charts that had piled up on my desk. This was long before the Internet so developing a local clientele was important if one wanted to have a full time astrological career. It is still a pleasure having so many local clients coming into my office, along with my international clientele.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

Prior to the internet it was difficult building a full time self-supporting astrological business, and few were able to accomplish it but now many more are able to do so. Many astrologers may find that by combining local clientele and websites, webinars, and accelerated communication they can build a career much easier and faster than in the bygone era.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

In order to build a full-time career in astrology, first of all one needs to become the best astrologer one can be, with continual study. Then I encourage certification. That is a way, we can grow as a profession and encourage those seeking an astrologer to ask for credentials.

How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?

Astrology came to me during in 2012 during my second Nodal Return window. I had been experiencing mystical oddities that rationalist science could not even attempt to address. I had learned to follow synchronicity so, when several friends suggested I book a Shamanic Astrology reading with Daniel Giamario, I listened. While waiting three weeks for the consultation, I read the “Shamanic Astrology Handbook” and had several breakthroughs beginning with the realization that I’m more than just a ‘Scorpio’. Having learned the basic techniques of his paradigm, I asked Daniel if we could start with me telling him what I had learned about my chart. Daniel responded to my ‘self portrait’ by saying I had a talent and should consider studying astrology. He then went on to tell me things about me that nobody could know. Of course, I was hooked.

A Total Solar Eclipse aligned to my North Lunar Node that very day, but my true “determining moment” came about a month later in the jungles of Peru. I didn’t know Jupiter was exact my Ascendant, but I did know He was in the Sign of Gemini, which confused me because my phone app confirmed what I knew I was seeing with my eyes... Gemini Jupiter was in the Constellation called Taurus. I stared right into His gigantic red eye and asked what in the Heavens was going on. The crazy thing was that He replied. Jupiter’s first words were, “Sit down, son.” After laying down the finer points of Precession and the Turning of the Ages for about three hours, He finished with, “Now go spread the word.”

To cast my vote for “I just spoke with a Planet” over “I just had a schizophrenic meltdown,” I had no choice but to follow Jupiter’s commandment. As soon as I returned home, I began trading astrology consultations for massage, acupuncture, meals, and much more. It wasn’t long before my trade partners started sending paying folks my way. More importantly, I saw that I was helping people see themselves, reclaim their power, and choose change.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

I was fortunate to have a square job that paid well without requiring much of my time. About six months after opening my astrological practice, I shifted to part time hours.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

Dive in and don’t just give your gifts away. Astrology is an unbelievable healing force and a valuable resource. Trade readings until you are ready to start accepting money.
Don’t sell yourself short. If you do, you sell Astrology short too.

Find a good teacher and anchor into one method. Never stop studying and expanding your game and shifting your craft, but it’s not a bad thing to have a recipe to follow in the beginning.

Form a direct relationship with the Planets and Stars. You will learn astrology from the inside if you follow their movement. No need to attempt to understand everything you see. Just spend time in Nature and remember to look up! They’ll teach you, especially if you’re not afraid to ask. Planets are people too! I haven’t really heard a Planet speak English since my first chat with Jupiter, but I know They hear me and Their responses to my questions arrive in wild ways that never cease to surprise. If nothing else, getting out under the night sky will give you time to integrate the endless information you will receive on your quest into the sacred science of astrology.

How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?

I gave my first professional consultancy on July 6, 2003. The client visited me through one of my friends. The transits of that day were very compatible with my chart; the date was chosen on purpose. Of course, before being paid for giving astrological consultancy, I gave lots of consultancies for free to gain more experience. I think this is the best way and I always advise beginners to do the same. Give at least 15-20 free consultancies; however, act professionally as if you are paid for your services. This is necessary to get prepared to any questions you may receive from your clients and developing your personal attitude and style in consultancy. In this way, you may have an opinion on setting up a proper timing and how to give satisfactory answers to your clients.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

I started my professional career in astrology after completing my education in astrology. After having a deep analysis of my own natal chart, I was convinced that I could be a professional astrologer. In those days, I projected that I could be an astrology teacher or author. I quit my family business, being in trade business in the Istanbul Grand Bazaar, and rented one of the stores we had there and had the courage to say “I will be practicing astrology.” I only had that rental income in these days. My wife was an employee in a company and did not have a big salary. We could make a living with my rental income but we could not have the comforts that we had when we used to deal with trade. Anyway, I made up my mind and decided to be a professional astrologer! A few months later I had just one student and gave a few consultancies. 7-8 months later, I had three students and more appointments. Two years later, in 2005, I founded AstroArt School of Astrology, had a class of 16 students, gave a larger number of consultancies and began to earn money at last. I think, the numerous informative articles I wrote helped me gain recognition and new students. I always earned better through teaching astrology. I published my first book in 2006 and made money through that. In 2011, I founded Astrology School Publishing and made money through publishing the books of other astrology authors.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

I advise beginners, who want to build a career in astrology, to write many articles and to shoot informative videos to gain followers and to introduce themselves. These were the two major factors that helped me gain recognition. Today’s technology offers various advantages on making such broadcasts. It was not the case when I first started; I used to make video for an internet television and these videos reached many people. Now, I have my own YouTube channel where my broadcasts reach more and more people. Writing articles is also important as it is the direct proof that you are a professional. Of course, writing a book would be better and more prestigious. The most important factor is that you should sacrifice yourself to your business and offer your services consistently. You should pass this feeling to your audience through your articles and videos. I never neglect writing my weekly column even if I am terribly ill. I broadcast videos regularly and pay attention to make a consistent impression. People should know that you always show respect and attention to your business. So, they respect and trust in you.
little by little, through word of mouth. But in the beginning, I struggled, even if I had wonderful clients. To get my papers in France, I took a job teaching English over the telephone for about three hours a day. I made an agreement with myself that I would stop when I got my ten year carte de séjour. And I did. That was 1987. By then I had a thriving practice, I was already teaching and giving workshops in France.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

I never thought about a career. It was something that moved me from inside. Astrology has been a calling. It even went against my good sense, against common sense, not that those had much power over me. Some of us have a vocation is for teaching, others for writing or research, others for client work. Listen to your gift. If you are here, you are probably passionate. And don’t be in a hurry, wait till the right clients find you. There were very few ways to reach people when I began, the world was a different place.

Photo: taken my first year in Paris.


How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?

I found astrology while working and raising a family from 1978 to 2009. I tried to quit my day job and go full time twice beginning in 2001 but did not last more than a year. In 2009 two events happened. One is that my youngest child left home for college and second, I took Yogi Bhajan’s kundalini yoga teacher training. I feel that the training and the steady, daily, spiritual practice that was born out of it, changed my entire reality. I began to read charts differently than before and the nature of astrology itself took on new meaning. I moved to Hawaii and began recording a weekly forecast, the “Pele Report” and living simply, and became a full time astrologer.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

My response may not be for everyone. Since becoming a full-time astrologer in 1976, I have been guided by what needs to be done first and the need for practical resources second. With very rare exceptions, it has seemed that, if the way ahead is good for as many people as possible, then resources to enable that way will be provided. This has meant at times I have survived on very little, but still been happy, because what we were doing was so necessary and worthwhile. However, at the same time, it is important to be realistic and seek a good balance from others for what you give. Do not act for fear. Especially, do not worry so much about fixed notions of security that you hesitate from the taking the leap of faith that may well be the way to liberation. Fortune favours the brave, but rarely the foolhardily! I especially like Polonius’ “Neither a borrower or a lender be’. It applies to much more than money. If there is need, give without counting the cost or expectation of return. If you have need, be happy to take and feel the need only to return as is required and you can afford.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

This follows on from the above response. Rely on your strengths. Follow your intuition. Do not be frightened or intimidated by advice that may be OK for others, but does not feel right for you. Avoid guilt, especially be pleased to be paid. When you are well paid, you can afford to be generous to others and, especially, give lots of voluntary time for the benefit of astrology and other things you believe in. While being idealistic in this way, also be practical. Know how finance and budgeting works, be able to monitor how things are going.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

I found it interesting that I actually left my base of clients in CA when I moved to HI and was only able to do readings via Skype. My actual intention was to sit in the jungle, eat bananas, swim with dolphins, and do yoga the rest of my life! I did work exchange at a place called Yoga Oasis for food and lodging while starting a new life. My “soon to become” weekly astrology videos on Youtube began to be shared by more and more people, and with no promotion whatsoever I began getting more
How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?

My journey to becoming a professional astrologer was not planned, at least not directly. I had been working on and off at the family bookstore, Astrology et al, since its beginnings in 1975. I left the bookstore in 1979, when my father fired me, saying - “you will never figure out what you want to do with your life, as long as you have the safety of this job.” I ended up working as a secretary at a local hospital and moved on to working at an accounting firm, eventually becoming a bookkeeper. Due to life circumstances – marriage & a baby, and not wanting to put my child into daycare, I went back to work at the bookstore as the manager, taking my baby to work with me every day. My plan was to just be the manager; run the bookstore and eventually inherit the business when mom retired.

I realized that in order to sell books on the topic of astrology, I would need to know something about the subject. I started taking classes from Jeffrey Green in 1983, and promptly quit. I felt that my left brain orientation was not geared toward the symbolic nature of the art.

Feeling bad, I went back and started again, only to quit a second time. Mom kept encouraging me to go back, and back I went for a third time. Well, it seems that the third time was the charm, it all started to come together. It is important to know, I never intended to be a professional astrologer; I just wanted to study and be able to hold an intelligent conversation with our customers and recommend appropriate materials and books.

I studied for about 4 years, also doing astrology readings at our quarterly psychic fairs. I still remember thinking that astrology would not be my profession, again, not directly.

Life has a way of throwing a wrench in my Capricorn plans . . . It’s rather a long story, but suffice to say that due to my brother, my path as the manager of Astrology et al was not to be; Gregory became the manager and partnered with Mom in the bookstore.

Not knowing what I would do, with two children and a husband out of work, I felt lost. After talking with Mom, a truly generous woman, I became her partner in NORWAC and started seeing clients professionally and teaching more astrology classes.

My mother Maggie helped me build my clientele, but she always reminded me that I was the one that brought them back into my office. I was a reluctant astrologer, but I am forever grateful to my brother for pushing me (unwittingly) onto my rightful path, and for my mother, for opening the door.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

I have a couple. First, I believe that it is paramount to have a spiritual practice and be working on yourself more than trying to do astrology “as a business.” Secondly, stay with it. Like I mentioned, I tried to go full-time three times.

The first time I lasted 6 months and the second time I lasted a year. It wasn’t until the 3rd time that my practice actually began to support me. Thirdly, get out of your head and allow Spirit to work with you. For so many years I would prepare to read someone’s chart for at least 6 hours and pour over all the books so as never to “make a mistake.” It wasn’t until I got a booth at some psychic fairs and charged people $20 for 20 minutes, printed their chart right there and started talking, that I got over my inhibitions and began to trust astrology more. Especially when word would spread through the fair and a line would form! Let’s never forget that astrology is the “highest” of the occult arts!

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

I was very blessed to have the support of my mother’s bookstore; I am not really sure I could have done it without her, not with the pressure of providing for my children. I also studied and received a Massage Practitioner’s license in 1989, to supplement my income. I taught classes 4 nights a week, as well as monthly workshops. Eventually, astrology overtook the massage practice – I really didn’t have my heart in that work. I also gave free talks to local non-astrology groups; attended morning breakfast meetings for local business women – basically networking any chance and place I could get. This was long before the internet; we had to go out and connect with people and make contacts. I did some local non-traditional radio spots, and in the mid 90’s, I did sports predicting for a local sports radio station; this helped to elevate my profile and it helped with name recognition in the general public. In 1998-99, I had one of the first (if not the first) internet, interactive astrology “radio” program, called “Astrology Talk”, which paid fairly well.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

Astrology can be fun, but business is business, no matter what you are doing. And starting a business can be daunting; so you need a plan. To be honest, marketing a business whole different world then when I started, but the basics of running a business rarely change. Name recognition is vital and important – so finding ways to get your name and your work before the public.

LAURA NALBANDIAN
SANDRA LEIGH SERIO

“Follow your heart, listen to your inner voice, stop caring what others think.” Roy Bennett

How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?
The determining moment was when I got a regular slot on a radio show and was then able to quit my daytime job. On that radio show, I did free readings for people who called.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?
I was very lucky because I made a living right away doing astrology. I got my clients by word of mouth and by making radio and television appearances. I also wrote a column for the local newspaper. Public exposure really helped me maintain a practice.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?
A career in astrology is not easy to have. You have to be very client oriented and be very good at reading a chart and forecasting events. People do want to know about themselves and about their future. You have to be able to talk about them and focus on their needs, wants and desires during a consultation. If you start talking about yourself, they will never come back. A consultation is all about them, not you. One way to build a business is to offer free lectures to groups including non-astrology groups. The more publicity you can get, the better your chances for attracting clients. Your skills and accuracy are what is need to keep clients.

CELEBRATE ASTROLOGY DAY - MARCH 20, 2018

RICK LEVINE

How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?
As an undergraduate in psychology at Stony Brook University, I was fascinated with Asian philosophies, Freud and Jung and more. I was already interested in astrology, but when someone gave me a copy of Dane Rudhyar’s book: “The Astrology of Personality: A Reformulation of Astrological Concepts and Ideas in Terms of Contemporary Psychology and Philosophy” it was all over. I knew I had to be an astrologer. Although I had no role models and only knew the very basics, it was a life decision. I graduated with by B.A. in Psychology in 1971 and studied astrology through the 70’s. I did my first charts for money around 1977 near my Saturn Return.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?
I juggled multiple careers through the 80’s and 90’s, doing astrology part time and a variety of consulting gigs part time. I was able to manage my fiscal responsibilities by limiting my astrology to about 25 hours per week until 1999 when Jeff Jawer and I partnered to start StarIQ.com. I fired all my non-astrology clients and never looked back. I’ve been doing astrology full time since then.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?
My advice for anyone thinking about a career in astrology is to make use of resources that I didn’t have 30 years ago. Online communities, local organizations, national and international organizations each offer resources and support to the young astrologer. Naturally, OPA’s programs can be a lifeline to someone beginning their professional career. A career in astrology is not for everyone, but it can be the most rewarding path one can take. Like many astrologers, I never chose to become an astrologer. It was in blood and it chose me.

May the planets in your world continue to move on their appointed rounds...

MICHAEL LUTIN

Excerpt from Michael Lutin’s A COURSE IN ASTROLOGY

How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?
When did I know I was going to be an astrologer? I was totally wrapped up in writing a weird, psychedelic novel during that time when I had only plastic and Styrofoam food on the shelves of my fridge. So, you can just imagine the rest. I was completely and totally overwhelmed and bludgeoned by the blinding brilliance of the inescapable truth of Astrology. Reading everything I could get my hands on, I was tortured by it, escaping it, slamming the books closed, coming back to it like a hungry addict. I was afraid it would ruin my life as a novelist, screenwriter and entertainer.

And one beautiful summer day, on the corner of (New York) 72nd St. and York Avenue in Carol Cowan’s Volkswagen, I knew that was it: for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health – it was Astrology.
How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

What about financial survival and prosperity? I'd love to say I sold my body on the street to make a living, but everyone knows that if I ever tried that I probably have to give the clients change, so that wouldn't have worked. I scraped and struggled in the beginning. Half wishing I had finished my PhD at Yale, but only half wished it. I went on TV game shows and did a lot of odd little weird jobs to keep it together until I started publishing. As time went on I knew I wasn't fit for anything but Astrology.

I supplemented my astrological education by being trained for more than 20 years in the Robert J LANGS method of communicative psychoanalytic psychotherapy. I would advise anyone who wants to have an astrological practice to get as much clinical training as possible. Develop other media and avenues where Astrology can be a functional instrument, such as finance, physical or psychological therapy, the healing arts etc. Better yet, keep your day job—which brings me to the third point:

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

IT'S NOT A CAREER.

It's a calling. It is a ministry of a certain type -- not at all a cultish proselytizing obsession with getting others to “believe” in Astrology.

After you've read everything you can read, studied everything you can study taking classes, but not only taking classes, listened to lectures, observes other points of view, become familiar with authors from the present, near past, and the ancient times, investigated different types of Astrology, examined other avenues, then...when and if you are ever ready to dedicate your livelihood to Astrology in whole or part, remember this:

It is a dedication to the relieving of suffering and the bringing of joy to other beings. If that is not your primary goal, go into fish farming or fashion or marketing or something.

Copyright Michael Lutin
How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

I was married and it was a time when we could still live on one salary. The money from my readings went to my studies. I worked part time in the health food store and met the people who would become my clients. I then worked as a receptionist for my chiropractor and met more potential clients. I think it was a big plus to put myself out into the community and let people see that I was competent and helpful in those jobs and set my reputation as a good worker. I approached the local newspaper with an astrology column and asked if they would like to print it. The editor said yes and the column ran for 17 years. It brought me many clients since they read what I wrote and saw how my mind worked and wanted readings.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

Practice and Patience. Do as many chart readings as you can for friends and family to get used to speaking the charts. Let the planets do the talking and listen and learn how to interpret what they are saying. Ask for feedback from friends and family in exchange for this practice time.

You need to disregard some peoples’ bias about astrology and get used to the glazed stare that people get when you say you are an astrologer. Learn to smile politely when they stammer and say “I’ve never met an astrologist”, or, they tell you that their brother has a telescope and they never met an astrologist. “I’ve been told by so many people who think about a career in Astrology?

How did you become a full-time astrologer – Was there a determining moment/event?

It happened by degrees. I started studying at night school in the 80’s and then found the Faculty of Astrology studied with them right up to just before taking my final Diploma exam but . . . there was no prediction allowed. (Even today in the English astrological society, anyone who predicts is regarded as “dirty” and not really part of the mainstream astrological society). One of my tutors at night school (Mike Edwards) was a horary astrologer and had taught me predictive methods, so naturally I wanted to incorporate these techniques into my work. Fortunately, I was directed to the wonderful, late Olivia Barclay who took me on as her personal pupil on the QHP course. She then asked me to Tutor on the course. At the same time, I was approached by a weekly woman’s magazine to write the horoscope column and so I became a “Professional” astrologer.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

When I was living in London in the late 80’s early 90’s, I had plenty of clients, but supplemented my astrological income with a part time job in the investment industry. However, when I moved to the countryside, my astrological client base dropped off. The house I bought dated from the late 1500’s and I ran it as a B&B which generated enough income for me to continue my studies, including taking time out to study for my MA under Nick Campion. Gradually my client work built back up but it was a long haul.

What Is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

Get a recognised qualification, as in today’s increasingly litigious society, professional insurance is important. Prepare to be poor! Unless you have contacts in the field of celebrities or big business, work can be poorly paid and sporadic. (Of course I only have experience in the UK, in other countries, astrology is an accepted career). Even though we study for years (all your life!), pay for courses, books etc, the general public doesn’t understand what a wonderful service we can provide to help them navigate the vicissitudes of life and normally treat an astrological reading as a “curiosity” and don’t value the learning behind our work. However, once they discover what astrology can offer, then they become interested and spread the word. If you are thinking of becoming a professional astrologer, you need to be ethical, humble, and above all, become a good listener. Keep your ego out of the chart reading, allow the chart to speak to the client, not you or your opinions and you will enter a profession full of wonderment at just how the Universe conspires to show you the language of the stars, as above and so below.
return around 19. Following that, people learned that I was studying astrology and asked me to read their chart. The same time a lady came to me and asked me to be her teacher. I told her I did not have enough experience for that, but because she was French and I was the only French speaking wanna-be astrologer, there weren’t other options for her.

The decision to go full time was when I went to New York and my plans to become a sound engineer and be in the music business painfully collapsed. Disoriented during a freakin’ cold January month, I dedicated myself to the practice of Kundalini Yoga, and that triggered a mystical experience that had me understand and connect with astrology completely differently. My path as an astrologer became clear.

How did you manage to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

Teaching astrology provided a more stable income. From classes of two daring souls, it grew to a larger circulation of clients and students. I kept hearing that I could never make a living doing that, including my accountant whose Saturn was exactly on my Sun. But when he saw greater gains year by year, he stopped telling me to get another job.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

Get out of the closet – Tell everyone that you are an astrologer and how amazing it is. They will ask for readings.

Be creative – being an astrologer is a lonesome path. Work doesn’t land on your lap, you need to manifest it. Think about classes you could teach, ways to be accessible and interesting. Be a doer.

Live Astrology – Astrology must be part of your daily life, know the transits of the day and see how they influence what goes on around and within you. If you think about astrology once a week when you have a window of time from family and job duties, it is probably going to remain just a hobby.

Advice on how to sustain yourself and thrive by practicing astrology?

Don’t become an astrologer to make money. I have never made serious money through astrology, but I have always made a living. Any money that I have saved has been through property and investment – using astrology, of course. Become an astrologer because you love astrology and people with a burning passion and then you will always be protected financially.

Start your practice by promotion, advertising and networking. In the first few years, I found that meeting people socially always led to a discussion about astrology. This led onto commissions. There are few jobs where you can sell yourself and fascinate your audience at the same time. With a good consultancy service, you can build up loyal clients organically. I have many clients from over thirty years ago. After several years, you can give up advertising and attract enough business by recommendation.

What is your advice for those who think about a career in Astrology?

Be willing to learn. As astrologers we are always students. Even if you think you know it, be prepared to go to astrological schools and get qualified. You will fill in your gaps and learn new techniques. Get involved in the community of astrologers through social media and through conferences as this enables you to keep up to date and learn in ways that articles cannot convey. • Be an ambassador for astrology. Make friends well beyond astrological circles. You will be judged by others as an astrologer, by your behaviour and you will often be asked to justify your ‘belief’ in astrology. Always be prepared to enter any discussion about your chosen field with humility and a willingness to learn. Most criticisms follow no more than ten different paths – many of them are simple false assumptions. Develop sound responses and know your facts. Your role is one of education not conversion. Every time you debate, you become more coherent and authoritative. With intelligent answers, you and your profession are respected more, and this will lead to more business.

Don’t hide being an astrologer. Any situation where you must pretend to be a psychologist, counsellor, teacher or computer analyst is a situation that should not happen in your life as an astrologer. Don’t pander to the prejudices of others to keep the peace.
An Earthling’s Career in Astrology

CHAPTER ONE

by Meredith McCowan

During my college years, a brilliant music professor created quite an imprint on me. The talent he possessed seemed to ooze out of his fingers onto the piano without effort. In a class that stands out in my memory, he got quite emotional and talked at length about the periods of time in which he doubted himself. He thought he had NO talent. He thought he should give up music. He would stop playing the piano and drink himself into a haze for days. I was completely taken aback. How could someone with such brilliance think this way? His passion for music was unequivocal! Yet, I discovered he could be equally passionate about envisioning himself as a terrible musician. What a polarity! In contrast, I never believed I could share his talent. He thought he should give up music. He thought he had NO talent. What a polarity!

However, I was proven wrong when fifteen years later astrology came into my life. I found MY passion!

After first becoming interested in learning more about astrology, I found my first teacher on Craigslist with whom I worked one-on-one for a few months. I then moved on to an astrologer in my community who offered structured classes and had acquired more than forty years of experience. I was hooked. I read every book I could get my hands on while I continued to take classes.

I wanted to pour fuel on my newly ignited passion. So, not only did I consume everything related to astrology, but I began to practice it too! After about a year of study, I started doing free readings of charts for friends and family just to get the experience. The majority of people offered to pay me! I always declined saying I was not ready to accept payment for readings. During this period, the belief that I could get paid for practicing astrology seemed incomprehensible to me. Earning money by doing something I was passionate about just did not compute. I was still running on my programmed conditioning: graduate high school, go to college, get a good job, get a 401K, get married, have babies. This gospel had been preached to me since birth (as is the case with a lot of us). The words “joy” and “passion” were not part of the vocabulary of my life. Those two words did not produce a paycheck.

Eventually I felt ready to make the switch to paid readings. My experience offering free readings had proved quite successful! The phone was ringing, and there were always emails in my inbox asking for my astrological insights. The first payments I accepted were difficult. It felt peculiar. For the first time, I beat myself up about the readings I had done! Getting paid changed everything. I still can’t quite explain the energies I had felt around it. I wanted to go back to reading for free. It was easier. Why was it so hard getting paid? The guilt, the criticism I endured (from myself) was unyielding. I pushed through these thoughts and feelings, and I realized that many people run businesses fueled by their passions. Feeling determined, I applied for an LLC, bought a web domain, and found office space. After reading the books, taking years of classes, and reading hundreds of charts, I knew I wanted to be a practicing and professional astrologer.

Since I had discovered astrology, my corporate job became more unfulfilling by the day. The paycheck I received from it meant nothing to me. I found no joy in my work. Eventually, I came to the realization that I had NEVER experienced joy at my day job! It was as if practicing astrology caused me to step into Oz where I experienced color for the first time. It became so difficult to return to the world of black and white from 8-5pm Monday through Friday. With an effort to escape corporate prison, I crunched the numbers about how many readings I could handle per month at my new office space. To start, I really just wanted to make enough money to cover the rent there. With the phone ringing and incoming emails I had for the last few years I thought: NO PROBLEM!

I put up my fees on my website which I thought were reasonable given my experience. I created my business social media accounts. I advertised on Craigslist. I told all my friends to tell all of their friends that I was now “officially” an astrologer. Then, I anxiously waited for all of the reading requests to come pouring in!

Radio silence.

No emails in my brand new business inbox.

No phone calls on my brand new business line.

No hits on my newly launched website.

I was devastated. My doom-and-gloom Capricorn Sun REALLY went to town on my optimistic Sagittarius Moon! The phone had stopped ringing. The emails had stopped coming. Did this mean I was a terrible astrologer? Was the great feedback I had received for the last few years lies? My thoughts turned negative; I should quit. I should give up. This is pointless. This is worthless. I drank myself into a haze for a few days. I eventually emerged from the numbness of alcohol with a new clarity.

Time to meditate.

Time to observe my thoughts instead of letting them consume me!

And through observation, of course it became obvious; my Music professor was brought back into my consciousness.

I now understood why that particular memory stood out from that one class. This memory meant something. I remembered it for a reason. I wasn’t a terrible astrologer. I perhaps wasn’t brilliant, but I shouldn’t give up! I had a PASSION for something! The gratitude I felt for having just that was inspirational.

I picked myself up. I advertised discounted readings. I asked for reviews. I asked people what I could do to improve my business. I meditated. The clients and reading requests started to come….few and far between, but trickling in nonetheless.

Although the colorless 8-5pm still exists in my life, the money I receive from readings brings a new gratification to my life. I understand and appreciate that this money will become the food I eat, the clothes I wear, the roof over my head. It is an awakening of sorts. The income that I receive from my corporate job does not have that effect on me.

It was as if practicing astrology caused me to step into Oz where I experienced color for the first time.
I have yet to earn enough money practicing astrology to cover my office rent. I have yet to quit my day job, but I’ve discovered a path that truly makes me happy and once I’ve found that…what can stop me!?
To be continued.

Meredith McCowan is based in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. She discovered astrology as an adult after a life turning point in December of 2012. She is Reiki Level II certified, a Crystal Healing Practitioner, and a member of OPA and NCGR. She is an animal lover, drummer and sci-fi movie fan. She lives in St. Paul, MN with her musician husband and a plethora of furry four-legged companions. meredith@earthlingastrology.com

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THE OPA CAFÉ

OPA Outreach warmly invites you to join us for VIRTUAL TEA and infuse yourself with a new perspective on astrology.

NEXT MEETING
Sunday, May 6, 2018
10 a.m. Pacific time, 6 p.m. UK

Topic to be Announced

A link to the webinar will be sent out to the membership the week beforehand.

Coffee drinkers are also welcome.

Bring your Ideas, musings, experience and questions.
My current astrology wish is that we will establish a healthier and more conscious rapport between our earth and the heavens, our bodies and spirit. Mind our resources more carefully and ingeniously, clean up some of the wreckage on our sweet planet and do this collectively as Uranus enters the earthly sign of Taurus.

—Alexandra
Alexandra Karacostas, Vice President

As AstroArt School of Astrology (Istanbul), our warm wish for Astrology Day is: “Include Astrology in University” See approval of astrology as an academic discipline.

— Öner
Öner Döşer, Turkish Satellite

Switzerland is a beautiful, high technologic country where people take pride in believing in nothing but science. We are in great need of loving hearts, believing in something greater than our selfs. In need of peace in mind and enlightenment. I wish that astrology shall grow and gain acceptance here in Northern Europe too.

—Margareta
Margareta Hedin, Swedish Satellite

Cheers to the endless possibilities Astrology offers. Our blessing to this beautiful community is the inspiration we collectively have to offer others. May we continue to ride these waves on the tides that open people up to the magical journey of Astrology.

— Geoff & Angelina
Geoff Gronlund, Program Director

CELEBRATE
ASTROLOGY DAY - MARCH 20, 2018
My wish or prayer for astrology is heartfelt, that as astrologers, we can bring our clients and the public awareness, assisting those to open their hearts, to see their potential, discover their true self and to know that these wonderful and sometimes difficult cycles are all a part of our life story to increase awareness, evolve, and live as conscious, peaceful beings should we choose. Amen.

— Carol
Carol Dimitrov, Community Outreach

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— Inessa & Elena
Inessa Wuzyk & Elena Van Baalen, South African Satellites

I wish this year will be a great year for astrology and astrologers alike. May we find new proof, and break new ground in astrology related scientific research. May we learn to come further together as a global community and further the communal knowledge base. May astrology bloom and prosper and continue to be disseminated worldwide so it can attract the curious hearts and inquisitive minds out there. May we as astrologers continue to raise our professional and ethical levels. Amen!

— Boaz
Boaz Fyler, Israel Satellite

In celebration of our sacred practice! Astrologers read the language of the universe, coded into planetary cycles, to guide and serve humanity. For those who follow this calling to forge the way forward at this time when the lights are dim, I'm honored to walk with you as we stretch our necks up and then down. Cheers and blessings.

— Maurice
Maurice Fernandez, President

I wish such a development of astrology that it would become interesting to more and more people and that this interest does not end with reading with predictions for signs written in the last pages of journals, but of its deep study and appliance in everyday life. I wish that as soon as possible the time has come when astrology will be returned to official science.

— Khatuna
Khatuna Noel, Georgia Satellite

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— Khatuna
Khatuna Noel, Georgia Satellite
This is Chinese Dog Astrology year; let your pet friends guide you together with Jupiter into the realms of Scorpio’s Underworld. Find out how and much more joining OPA. HAPPY ASTROLOGY DAY.

—Ursula
Ursula Stockder, Mexico Satellite

Happy Astrology Day everyone!

—Angela
Angela Tiki, Greece Satellite

Please let it be that astrology is known in the minds of all beings. I would love to see it come into mainstream use so that it is common to hear which sign the moon is in during the weather report, to have a child come home from school and say which astrology technique she learned, and for all medical and healthcare practitioners know how to use astrology in their practices. I want it to be so ordinary that the person who do not know his or her chart is the oddball.

—Arlan
Arlan Wise, Publications and Products Director

I am happy to witness the current growth of astrology in the world and the astrologers themselves reaching a new level of cooperation. But we are not just individual astrologers, we represent astrology as a group, and we face challenges within ourselves as we continue to fight over house systems, zodics and how to use astrology. I wish we could all embrace each other, knowing that there are 7 billion people out there which means plenty of work for everyone.

—Sol
Sol W. Jonassen, Norwegian Satellite

I wish that astrology would become so mainstream that people would no longer be shocked to learn that it was our occupation, and that children would be introduced to it in school. I would wish that Astrologers, regardless of the type of astrology they practice, would prop each other up instead of cutting each other down.

—Donna
Donna Young, Canadian Satellite

The infinity of the sky has cohesion
The astral planes reveal a logic
To which nature fully resonates and aligns
If few are initiated in this art of interpretation
Of celestial science with existential meaning
I am one
I recognize the privilege and responsibility
To serve humanity as an astrologer
Be the channel between above and below
Remain grounded, clear of prejudice, and open hearted
Respectfully, gracefully, and truthfully
I pledge to assist those who seek higher guidance
Direct them to the space, the time, and the way
As depicted in the map of geocosmic cycles
I will enlighten them in the perspective
That despite trials and tribulations,
Their lives are intrinsic to an intelligent cosmic order
These suggestions shall be made
To the best of my humble understanding
Whether venerated or depreciated publically in this task
I shall not falter, aware of the merit of this honorable calling
My wish for Astrology is for us as a community of Astrologers and Astrology enthusiasts to find unity. To remember our common roots and also celebrate our diversity with camaraderie and mutual respect. — Rae

Rae Sapp, Event Coordinator

My wish for Astrology Day is that we continue to educate everyone from kindergarten to adults to be aware of the motion of the Cosmos. I also wish for astrology to be recognized as a respected art/science discipline by educational institutions so that anyone can obtain a college degree in astrology and have the choice to be an entrepreneur or work in a larger community setting. The understanding of people, countries and events that a knowledge of astrology offers is priceless for a peaceful world. —Nancy

Nancy Beale, Membership Secretary

THE ASTROLOGER’S OATH

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—Nancy

Happy Astrology Day - March 20, 2018
Getting Centered
Astrologers use geocentric (Earth-centered) charts in a heliocentric (Sun-centered) solar system because we are Earthlings concerned primarily with the matters of our planet and because it is Earth, not Sun, from which we observe the heavenly happenings. And yet, we measure astrology, not from Earth’s surface (topocentric) where we reside and witness the Planets wandering through the Zodiac, but rather from Earth’s center (geocentric) because it is the one place where we are all connected.

The Harmony of the Heavenly Spheres
A chart can be heard as a celestial symphony. The Planets are unique instruments playing the note of the Sign in which they reside. The cosmic chord of the moment now resonates in Earth’s heart and is then broadcast from there outward in all directions, reaching each of us simultaneously. We receive the energies of the Above from the Below. Astrology is a way in, not a way out.

Whole and Particular
While all of Earth resonates to the same cosmic chord, the witness of the instruments varies with surface location. A circular symphony sounds different to those facing the trumpet than it does to those facing the cello. If we all stand and stretch our arms towards the heavens, lines drawn through our spines meet at Earth’s center to celebrate our unity, but also point to different stars to announce our individuality. The Below is the Whole and the Above is the Particular.
Primary and Secondary Motions

Notice that when the Aries Ingress chart for the District of Columbia is relocated to Melbourne or any other location (see charts previous page), the Planets themselves are relocated to different astrological Houses. This is an expression of the Particular as are the cultural differences of these cities. Yet they are all of Earth and this unity of the Whole is expressed by the unchanged Aspects of the relocated charts, which all show the Planets in the same degrees of the Zodiacal Signs. The Particular (surface / Houses) reflect the Primary Motion, Earth's daily rotation, while the Whole (center / Signs) reflect the Secondary Motion, Earth's annual revolution about the Sun.

Earth-Centered Zodiac

The plane of Earth's orbit, the Ecliptic, extends through the twelve Zodiacal constellations so, from Earth's point of view, the Sun is always held by one of these star groups. However, while stars are celestial, constellations are terrestrial. For example, from Sirius or Aldebaran, the Orion Nebula cannot appear to be centered within a constellation seen as 'the giant' of Earth's sky. Therefore, I suggest the twelve Signs of our Zodiac do not approach Earth from the constellations, but rather emanate from the heart of our planet and expand outwards along the Ecliptic towards the heavens. This philosophy may not apply to Sidereal Zodiaks, which are anchored to the stars, but must for the Tropical Zodiac whose Signs are not aligned to the constellations traditionally associated with them, but rather to Earth-based astronomy.

The Cross of Matter

The glyph we use to symbolize Earth is the Cross of Matter within the Circle of Spirit. From the perspective of the Whole (gazing from space at an orbital location far above Earth's equator), the Circle might be seen as our planet's circumference. The vertical line of the Cross would be our rotational axis, which extends from Earth's center through the North and South Poles and the horizontal line would be the Celestial Equator, Earth's equator projected into the heavens. Though our planet's daily rotation plays such hits as sunrise and sunset, it is entirely Earth-driven so I refer to the Celestial Equator, the plane of Earth's Primary Motion, as the Circle of Matter.

The Circle of Spirit

The Circle of Spirit is the plane of Earth's Secondary Motion, the Ecliptic, which hosts the annual dance of the Sun through the constellations and Signs of the Zodiac. It is this ring that forms the circumference of an astrological chart wheel. From the perspective of the Particular (surface), the horizontal line of the Cross of Matter is the Horizon and the vertical line is the Meridian, a great North-South circle running through the celestial poles, and the zenith (directly above the observer's head) and nadir (directly below the observer's feet).

THE ASTRONOMY OF THE TROPICAL ZODIAC

Though our planet's daily rotation plays such hits as sunrise and sunset, it is entirely Earth-driven so I refer to the Celestial Equator, the plane of Earth's Primary Motion, as the Circle of Matter.

The Rise, Reach, Rest, and Roots

The Cross of Matter extends from the center of Earth in four directions and intersects the Circle of Spirit at the four Quadrant Angles of an astrological chart. The intersection on the left is the Ascendant (AS) where the Ecliptic is rising on the eastern horizon and that on the right is the Descendant (DS) where the Ecliptic is setting into the western horizon. I call these Angles "The Rise" and "The Rest." The MidHeaven (MC or Medium Coeli, latin for "middle of the sky") is where the Meridian cuts the Ecliptic above the horizon. I call this Angle "The Reach" because it is where Sun, Moon, Planets, and all Zodiacal Stars culminate or reach their highest altitude in the sky at the precise moment between their rise and set. The IC (Imum Coeli, latin for "bottom of the
Astronomy for Astrologers

The Equinox Points are found where the Celestial Equator and Ecliptic intersect and the Solstice Points are found at their greatest separation.

The Marriage of Heaven and Earth

In the second article of this series, I will address why the Meridian is only vertical on a quadrant chart wheel when the first degree of Tropical Aries or Libra is at the Ascendant. For now, I will simply say this truth suggests the astronomy of the Tropical Zodiac is a celebration of the Marriage of Heaven and Earth. The Equinox Points are found where the Celestial Equator and Ecliptic intersect and the Solstice Points are found at their greatest separation. This maximum divergence is about 23.5 degrees, the tilt angle between the Primary plane of Earth’s rotation and the Secondary plane of Earth’s revolution.

Light and Shadow

With the Sun now aligned to the Aries Equinox Point where the Circle of Spirit embraces the Circle of Matter, the shadow Earth casts runs vertically through Her poles, presenting the Whole with equal day and night. Regardless of your Particular location, may this Equinox gift of balanced shadow and light unwrap you. And may these words confirm what you have always known, open new windows of wonder, and offer more questions than answers.

Love and Planets,
Gemini Brett
MoreThanAstrology.com
Illustrations by Ana Zaharia and Gemini Brett

DON’T MISS GEMINI BRETT AT
i-ASTROLOGER

Gemini Brett will be presenting at the 2018 i-Astrologer conference in Tucson AZ – Oct 4-10, 2018.

HIS PRESENTATIONS:

3 DAY Astronomy for Astrologers Workshop (Oct 7-10)

Night Sky Introduction into Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn
The Precession of the Equinoxes and the Astrological Ages
Heliacal Rising and Setting of Fixed Stars
And much more.

THE ASTRONOMY FOR ASTROLOGER WORKSHOP CAN BE UTILIZED AS PART OF OPA’S CERTIFICATION PROCESS.
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Full details & to Purchase

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Maggie’s life changing “12 System” book and four video seminars include; The Big Picture of our Revolutionary Times – Aligning with Your Life Cycles – Psychological Wholeness – Living with the Natural Year

Join the Membership Program

Accredited Astrology Teacher with over 30 years experience
Highly recommended by world renowned Medium John Edwards

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Private Consultations – Personal Tutoring – Free Newsletters – Group Workshops

RECOMMENDATION
• Fabulous newsletter Maggie. You really are a breath of fresh air. WENDY
• You’ve helped me already and have given mē the boost and tools to deal with my shit and improve not only my life but my children’s lives as well. I can’t thank you enough for all you’ve done. JANET
• Bless you for all your time, wisdom, and heart. SUSAN
• Thank you so much for your time and insights today. I really enjoyed connecting with you - you are a lovely lady! AMANDA
• Definitely want to say that everything I have learnt from you has been of the highest value and I am putting it to great use...you are very cool Maggie! MARTIN

maggiekerr@universalastrology.com.au
A fun way of exploring your personal brand might be the exercise below.

- In the interest circle list all the things you enjoy reading or talking about. It does not have to be astrology-related: it can be politics, food, environmental changes, history, mythology, cosmos, etc.
- In the second circle list your skills.

It can be the astrological techniques, areas of research, types of astrologiy you practice, as well as your own, personal ways of using astrology on a day-to-day basis. The goal is to discover and connect the topics you would enjoy studying the most. The indicated pairs are marked by your passion and they constitute the areas of your astrological strength. Focusing on the strengths will give you a better idea what your brand is and what you should focus on developing.

Enhancing Your Astrology Practice

Column by Alex Zolotov

The importance of personal branding in your astrological practice.

Whether you are just an emerging or an established astrologer, you have probably already asked yourself that question: how do I make myself more visible and more marketable on the endless fields of the Internet? That question is even more relevant if you are just in the process of establishing your own astrological practice.

How do I use the Internet to my advantage to be able to establish myself as an astrologer? What should I do to attract new clients?

I hear these questions almost every day at the job. Well, not exactly the same questions, as I do not necessarily consult astrologers.

I do career and personal brand advising for students and alumni at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. I notice that the question of personal branding is being brought up more and more often. And it shouldn't be surprising: almost four billion people are using Internet nowadays, as the most recent statistical research on the worldwide use of the Internet states. 81% of U.S. population uses Social Media. Establishing and developing your personal brand becomes even more relevant today, especially if one is trying to use the Social Media to full advantage. Researchers say, it is becoming a prerequisite for success in your future career.

So, what does this trendy term, personal branding, entail? Personal branding can be described as a practice of creating a marketable image of oneself to create the demand for the skills and services one offers. It implies a continuous exploration of your own skills and talents, and ways to present them as marketable as possible to benefit you and your global community.

It is clear that personal branding is especially important for the newly-emerging astrologers, who have not yet established themselves in the astrological community. It is important to figure out what you want to be known for, what your expertise and the area of your interest is, as it determines the path you would need to take to set up your astrological practice for success. In a sense, developing your personal branding is like establishing the astrological ascendant of your business. This takes time as it is a constant process of learning, assimilating and adjusting: just as you develop and transform with time, so does your story. Your personal brand is building up on your experience.

There are a few great reflective questions you should ask yourself that can help you in figuring out your brand. Putting the answers together provides a basis for the overall Sagittarian view, picturing your best self.
By capitalizing on your personal brand exploration and development you are opening the door to new and amazing opportunities for your emerging practice. First of all, you are becoming the advocate for your true self. You can be the authentic you that you always wanted to be while also gaining confidence in your skills and talents. Once you see that your work has value to others, you become known for that and it ensures that you leave a legacy, something your potential clients could appreciate and relate to. And that, on its own, is a perfect way to connect with your potential clients. Sure, your brand will not appeal to the whole world. And it shouldn’t be your main goal anyway. Your brand will help you build the relationships with others, those who share the emotional connection with what you do and what interests you. That emotional connection creates relationships and strong bonds that speed up the growth of your practice.

If the field of your interest is specific to a certain kind of astrology or a predictive technique, you can easily distinguish yourself from the sea of other astrology practitioners who might not be as proficient in the obscure technique you are using. If you offer a commodity in the market, you create numerous possibilities for others to connect with you, ask your opinion or refer clients to you based on the area of your astrological interest.

By developing your brand, you can focus on your own personality, your strengths and talents. Along with your astro-psychological profile, you are even more aware of who you are, what you want and do not want to do in your career as an astrologer. In short, developing your personal brand is one of the first steps you need to consider before establishing your practice and announcing it publicly. By collecting your branding puzzle beforehand, you are saying yes to the right opportunities that will come your way once your practice has been established. This “homework” makes you better equipped for your future career as a recognized astrologer, not only in the local community but also among the astrologers and clients all over the world.

Alex (Sasha) Zolotov is a career adviser at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Along with his work in the field of professional development and career education, he is completing his second bachelor degree in marketing management, focusing on social media marketing and digital analytics. His background includes managing social media accounts and the content distribution for an independent student newspaper The Mass Media and Spoon University UMB – a digital publication for a foodie club he has founded on campus. Sasha Zolotov has obtained multiple marketing certifications from the leading marketing agencies, along with his astrology certifications from the Kepler College where he is finishing up his Diploma in Professional Astrology. He is a proud board member at the Association for Young Astrologers, where he is honored to serve as a Member Engagement Coordinator.
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Self-confidence for Astrologers
What is the power of the planet that supports you?
by Margarita Logovatovskaya

In the modern world, self-confidence is extremely important and with a feeling of it, one can reach coveted heights. For any astrologer, this is an important criterion in their work activity. It is very important for an astrologer to be confident in themselves and in their abilities, but at the same time, one must know that this confidence is based on objective, not subjective, knowledge about oneself.

Our natal chart can help us in this analysis. From the natal chart, we can learn about the influences of the planet(s) we base our self-reliance on, and, if necessary, how we can properly work in a relevant direction. This might be important to a number of astrologers because in the near future, on May 15, 2018, Uranus, the planet representing astrology, will enter into the sign of Taurus, a sign of personal resources and internal dignity and self-esteem. On a subjective level, this transition may raise the issues of personal practice and personal relationships.

Uranus is a planet of surprises and upheavals, so this can dramatically change the personal practice of any astrologer, make them reconsider their approach to what they have done before, re-evaluate themselves and their abilities in the field of Astrology.

The sign of Taurus is associated with the 2nd house in the natal chart, the house of personal dignity, self-esteem, and resources. Uranus in Taurus can raise questions related to our personal self-esteem as professionals in the astrological world. This will require astrologers to assess themselves. To do this you need to understand your natal chart and the strength of your self-confidence to adequately evaluate yourself and continue to help other people.

We need to get an understanding about the power of whichever planets support our confidence and whether this requires our further attention. In carrying out this analysis, it is important to take into account both the house in which Uranus is positioned in the natal chart and how this position might interact with the transit of Uranus in Taurus. All together this can reveal a number of interesting insights to help us understand your place in the world of astrology.

Self-confidence! This quality is very important in social life; it works wonders. A person who does not possess all the necessary skills but is fully confident in himself through life while a person who has all the skills but lacks the necessary self-confidence is left behind.

Self-confidence is described by psychology as a property of the individual, the core of which is a positive assessment of the individual’s own skills and abilities, sufficient to achieve significant goals and meet their needs. Making things simpler - it’s how a person treats himself, how he sees his abilities and thereby achieves his goals. One can see from this assessment the course of life, whether it will be stormy and intense, like a waterfall of a powerful river, or like a weak stream that barely squeezes between a narrow gap of stones.

Self-confidence and Planets in the First Quadrant

An analysis of the natal chart can help in the question of how to raise self-confidence.

The natal chart consists of 12 houses. The first three houses represent the first quadrant, and in such a way we divide the chart into a total of 4 quadrants. The first quadrant represents our identity (1st house), our values (2nd house), education in primary and secondary schools, brothers, sisters, those in the close environment (3rd house). Therefore, the 1st quadrant shows the conditions under which our personality grew. The calculation algorithm is simple. We have 10 planets which are either supportive (the Sun, the Moon, Venus, Jupiter), challenging (Mars, Saturn, Pluto, Uranus), or neutral (Mercury, Neptune) in nature. Finding favorable planets in the 1st quadrant strengthens our self-esteem, while the challenging ones may complicate confidence and self-acceptance.

For example, finding the Sun in the 1st quadrant, especially in the 1st house, usually gives people tremendous confidence. These people may be bright, proud, with a strong ego, but possibly in a negative way, as such people can also be self-absorbed. The important note is that when analyzing, it is also necessary to take into account the aspects of the planets under consideration with other elements of the horoscope as this will give an additional characteristic in the personal plan of confidence or uncertainty.

Saturn or Pluto in the 1st quadrant may challenge self-esteem. These individuals may be discontent with themselves and need to start with loving themselves, and only then work on confidence.

The Moon in the first quadrant may show that the person may be invested in their own emotions, and they look at the world through the prism of their emotional world. Such things like childhood and the image of a mother or grandmother become important. This strongly affects the further emotional background in general. Confidence is built on the strong emotional background of a person.

Mercury, a neutral planet, does not give strong fluctuations in the inner world of a person, but shows more the importance of communication in that person’s life. If Mercury is in conjunction with other planets, it absorbs the qualities of that planet.

Finding Venus in the 1st quadrant gives a person sympathy and love for others. This person finds it easy to love his or herself, unless Venus is challenged by aspects from other planets.

People with Jupiter in the 1st quadrant may attract a great deal of respect and can gain positions of authority. Here, confidence is high, but it can be very challenging when others undermine their authority.

Neptune in the 1st quadrant, similar to the Moon, is a planet of emotions and the yearning for inner peace. The artistic world plays a big role here, whether it be music, painting, dancing, or other similar activities that increase the vibration of confidence. If there are no creative pursuits, then such people are often absorbed in their own world and may seem strange to others. Neptune can generate a state of uncertainty and drifting in the...
clouds. They may need to ground themselves in the here and now in order to see the surrounding reality.

**Uranus in the 1st quadrant** can be expressed with the quote: “I'm a fool, I'm a circus, ... so what?” These individuals may certainly be original and not ordinary. People may or may not like it. Uranus is considered by some astrologers to be a “malefic” planet, which means that self-confidence will not be very high, unless one learns to be comfortable with their own originality. Otherwise, it will feel oppressive in adult life.

When analyzing a person’s self-confidence in such a way, one also needs to take into account how the planet stands, in what sign it is, the aspects it makes, and how many planets are in the 1st quadrant. This will give a greater context to this dynamic.

For example, let’s say a person has three planets in the 1st quadrant – the Sun in the 1st house in Scorpio, (the house of the personality), along with Neptune and Venus in the 2nd house (the house of material and spiritual values). When the Sun is in the 1st house, the person is usually confident and emanates a sense of mastery and leadership. With Neptune and Venus in the 2nd house, they have their own personal assessment of processes of life that not everyone can understand and accept.

For this person love and relationships may be unconditional and unpretentious, adopting more universal values that are not necessarily the same as the more material ones. But at the same time, Venus, planet of money, in the second house, may highlight the importance of having money and being secure. Such a person is self-confident at first; they may love themselves with a healthy ego and relate the availability of resources to their self-confidence.

**The Transit of Uranus in Taurus**

The transition of Uranus into, and its journey through, the sign of Taurus from 2018 to 2026 will bring an important dynamic, as Uranus in Taurus will compel us to turn our focus inward and help us understand what we really stand for. It will be important for all of us to remain true to ourselves, and not lose faith in our strength and confidence.

Uranus in Taurus is the time of renewal of personal values. The better we understand our natal chart, the more easily and successfully we will be able to accomplish this evolutionary leap within ourselves.

*Margarita Logovatovskaya*’s initial education was at the Theological University in Russia, where she was drawn to uncover the secrets of the Universe and the meaning of our existence on Earth. However, not feeling satisfied, she was led to the study of Astrology (during a Saturn transit) which set an important trajectory for the rest of her life. Margarita was trained at the Scientific School of Astrology, and then with her mentor astrologer Dmitry Paramonov. She realized the laws of Heaven are open to everyone, they only need to be conveyed to all and guided by the prompts of the Cosmos in our lives.

Contact Margarita: margo358@mail.ru

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**2018**

- April 17, 2018
- May 27
- June 27 - August 25, 2018

**April**

- Chiron moves to Aries, as its ruler Mars will turn retrograde
- Mars will be the closest to the earth since 2003
- Chiron will be furthest away from the Sun

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The Spring Equinox chart for 2018, when situated for Washington DC, is cause for concern. The Sun is located in the 10th house, representing the president, the government, the ruling party, and signifying the United States as a world power. The Aries Sun is in a different sign than the sign on the Midheaven, which can suggest a disconnect between what’s apparent and what is true, in this case emphasized by Neptune also located on the Midheaven. The Sun is in a very tight square to Mars and Saturn in Capricorn which together straddle the Descendent, a classic “good cop, bad cop” scenario. This stressful combination pits the strong U.S. leader, denoted by the exalted Aries Sun in the 10th, against a powerful, entrenched overt enemy or opponent (Mars and Saturn in the 7th house of open enemies). Who might this be? There are several contenders! Could it be Kim Jong-un of North Korea, a megalomaniacal despot who is currently experiencing transiting Pluto on his Sun? Or Putin and the Russian oligarchy? Perhaps the United States president will continue to aggravate and alienate the leadership and very structure of establishment government, commerce and industry (Mars and Saturn in Capricorn). Or, potentially, a rift could develop between the Congress and the National Rifle Association.

THEMES OF THE SEASON
March 20 to June 21, 2018

- March 22: Mercury RX stations Rx @ 16° Aries
- March 30: Venus enters Taurus
- March 31: Full Moon at 10° Libra
- April 2: Mars conjunct Saturn @ 8° Capricorn
- April 15: Mercury Stationary Direct @ 4° Aries
- April 15: New Moon @ 26° Aries
- April 17: Saturn Stationary Retrograde @ 9° Capricorn
- April 19: Sun enters Taurus
- April 22: Pluto Stationary Retrograde @ 21° Capricorn
- April 24: Venus enters Gemini
- April 29: Full Moon @ 9° Scorpio
- May 13: Mercury enters Taurus
- May 15: New Moon @ 24° Taurus
- May 15: Uranus enters Taurus square Mars
- May 15: Mars enters Aquarius
- May 19: Venus enters Cancer
- May 20: Sun enters Gemini
- May 25: Jupiter trine Neptune
- May 29: Mercury enters Gemini
- May 29: Full Moon @ 8° Sagittarius
- June 12: Mercury enters Cancer
- June 13: Venus enters Leo
- June 13: New Moon @ 22° Gemini
- June 18: Neptune 5R @ 16° Pisces

March 20: Spring Equinox; Sun enters Aries

The Spring Equinox marks one of the two special and unique days each year when, no matter where on the planet you are, the Sun rises due east and sets due West. Knowing this fact and using it permits you to identify the cardinal directions on your own personal horizon, literally bringing the heavens down to earth. At the Spring Equinox, the Sun is crossing the equator, rising up from the southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere. This association of the Sun with the cardinal directions is what gives the equinox and indeed, the tropical zodiac, its power. It’s why we can use this chart to foresee conditions in the year ahead.

The Spring Equinox chart for 2018, when situated for Washington DC, is cause for concern. The Sun is located in the 10th house, representing the president, the government, the ruling party, and signifying the United States as a world power. The Aries Sun is in a different sign than the sign on the Midheaven, which can suggest a disconnect between what’s apparent and what is true, in this case emphasized by Neptune also located on the Midheaven. The Sun is in a very tight square to Mars and Saturn in Capricorn which together straddle the Descendent, a classic “good cop, bad cop” scenario. This stressful combination pits the strong U.S. leader, denoted by the exalted Aries Sun in the 10th, against a powerful, entrenched overt enemy or opponent (Mars and Saturn in the 7th house of open enemies). Who might this be? There are several contenders! Could it be Kim Jong-un of North Korea, a megalomaniacal despot who is currently experiencing transiting Pluto on his Sun? Or Putin and the Russian oligarchy? Perhaps the United States president will continue to aggravate and alienate the leadership and very structure of establishment government, commerce and industry (Mars and Saturn in Capricorn). Or, potentially, a rift could develop between the Congress and the National Rifle Association.
be in a prolonged intense conflict with Mars and Saturn.

Mercury represents our mental and communicative processes, and when clothed in Aries armor, tends to shoot first and ask questions later. When confronted with the legitimate demands of Mars and Saturn in Capricorn, Mercury in Aries can become sarcastic, bombastic or argumentative. It will take a lot of personal strength to make the most of this time interval.

The best use of Mars and Saturn in Capricorn involves the regular application of energy towards the achievement of a specific goal. Impatient Mercury in Aries wants to go much faster. Instead of permitting yourself to become frustrated by delays, obstacles or an apparent lack of something, put away your work and go out for a brisk walk or better yet, a good run. Work for short intense periods and take frequent breaks. When you feel the heat rise, use the Capricorn to ground and focus.

March 30: Venus enters Taurus

March 31: Full Moon 10° Libra

This Full Moon picks up themes we saw in the Aries Ingress chart. Here we have Sun and Moon involved in a tight T-square with Mars and Saturn conjoined in Capricorn, the identified troublemaker of this season. In fact, this square between the Sun and Mars with Saturn lasts for almost 2 weeks. After the Full Moon it continues to pick up strength reaching its peak on March 31. With these planets both so strong in the sign of Capricorn (Saturn rules this sign, and Mars is exalted in it), their potential for both good and ill is pronounced. In the chart set for Washington DC the Capricorn energy occurs in the 9th house.
Transits of the Season

of legal matters and foreign affairs, extending to the Midheaven. Here we have Saturn ruling the Midheaven, yet in the 9th house, which is the "12th from the 10th." This is traditionally considered a very poor place for the ruler of a house, since it is literally in the house of its own undoing. Such a placement suggests that the governing body is doing something to undermine itself. This idea is strengthened by the fact that the Mars Saturn conjunction in this Full Moon chart exactly opposes the Venus-Jupiter-Sun in Cancer configuration of the US Sibly chart. The Sun Moon opposition straddles the 6th and 12th house cusps of this lunation chart. Sun at the door of the 12th along with an invisible Mercury retrograde informs us things are going on behind closed doors. Moon on the cusp of the 6th symbolizes the working class and service industries, along with healthcare and working conditions, another theme picked up repeatedly by this season’s important charts.

April 2: Mars ♃ conjunct Saturn ♄ @ 8° Capricorn vs

One skill that every astrologer needs is something I call “symbol synthesis.” We must be thoroughly familiar with the key concepts and words for each planet, sign and house, so we can combine them into a reasonable, understandable and relatable thought stream. Since astrology is infinite in its expression while maintaining symbolic resonance, this skill enables us to weave astrology into our lives and those of our clients. Even a novice at symbol synthesis will quickly recognize that the combination of Mars and Saturn is a difficult one. Mars is fast and furious, while Saturn is slow and ponderous. Mars is hot and Saturn is cold. Mars creates new experiences while Saturn yearns for the good old days. Mars wants innovation but Saturn wants experience. Stringing together keywords we get young and old, hurry up and wait. Stop and go, fire and ice. Blocked action, restricted experience. Stringing together keywords we get bottled anger or authority issues? Of course, a positive expression of these two planets is Directing energy, working alone, long-term independent projects. An intense exercise regimen. When approached consciously, there are plenty of positive ways to use Mars with Saturn. Especially when they’re both in Capricorn, where they are both particularly strong. Despite plenty of handwringing about this conjunction (as mentioned repeatedly in this column), this is a good chance to recognize what is out of your control and let it go, while firmly and competently directing matters that are your responsibility.

April 15: Mercury ☿ Stationary Direct @ 4° Aries ☐, April 15: New Moon @ 26° Aries ☐

On April 15, we have a new Moon at 26° of Aries. With transiting Uranus at 28° of Aries, his stamp is all over this chart. When set for Washington DC, the Moon, Sun and Uranus conjunction occurs on the cusp of the 6th house. This impacts all service industries, healthcare, and the working public, extending themes we saw at the New Moon chart 2 weeks ago. At best, we can see radical improvements in these areas, or news of medical breakthroughs or public health improvements. But the financial burden of implementing such changes is unlikely to be forthcoming. One need only look at the 2nd house of finance and money. The Mars Saturn Pluto conjunction in Capricorn here is a highly conservative, limiting factor despite expansive Sagittarius on the cusp. Auspicious Jupiter, ruler of that 2nd house, backs away from the Ascendant. And Mercury, ruler of the 8th house of funding, is moving towards a square with stationary Saturn. The “party line” is likely to be that such any expenditure that is in any way innovative, experimental or out-of-the-box would be too great a gamble. The concept of “modern” might even be too much for the finance committee.

April 17: Saturn ♄ Stationary Retrograde @ 9° Capricorn vs

Saturn is experiencing his first station since entering his home turf of Capricorn last December. He’ll be retrograde until September 6, when he stations direct at 2 degrees of Capricorn. Any stationary planet holds a great deal of potential energy, like a pendulum at the apex of its swing. That’s why the qualities unique to that specific planet become so strong when it is not in motion. Thus, Saturn subjects such as the passage of time, maturation and aging, the burden of duties and responsibilities, and the consequences of past actions are more prominent than at other times. Everyone is impacted of course, but it will be closer to home if your own chart is affected by having planets in the first half of any Cardinal sign (Aries, Cancer, Libra or Capricorn).

This particular part of the zodiac is prominent in the Sibly chart for the United States, for instance. The US Venus is located at 3° of Cancer, and Jupiter is 5° of Cancer. From mid-January to mid-February 2018, Saturn moved from 3° to 6° of Capricorn, opposing both Venus and Jupiter in the US chart. It was during this time that the stock market experienced the “correction” that experts had been predicting for months, causing much angst and nervousness among investors. These exact degrees will be triggered once again in September at the next Saturn station. More market instability is likely late in the summer. Next year, Saturn will oppose the US Sun at 13° of Cancer, bringing with him his restrictions, responsibilities and consequences. Stay tuned.

April 19: Sun ☉ enters Taurus ☉, April 22: Pluto ♔ Stationary Retrograde ♔ @ 21° Capricorn vs

Pluto stations retrograde on April 22, the third planet in a week to change direction. Pluto will be retrograde until September 30, when it will station direct at 18° of Capricorn. It has just entered the 2nd house of the US chart and is inching ever closer to its position in the Sibly chart at 27° of Capricorn. Mars has been “translating light,” efficiently transmitting energy from Saturn to Pluto since April Fool’s Day but it’s no laughing matter. The buildup of tension is intense, and begs a forceful release when Mars conjuncts Pluto at the end of April and quickly moves on to a volatile square with Uranus. With all this focus on the US 2nd house, as the fallout from the new tax law becomes clear, the U.S. economy, and our values, will continue to be a major source of news around the world.

April 24: Venus ☉ enters Gemini ☉, April 29: Full Moon @ 9° Scorpio ☉

The Full Moon on April 29 repeats almost exactly the themes of the New Moon chart from April 15. The charts have virtually identical angles, which is highly unusual in my experience. Notice retrograde Jupiter backing
May 13: Mercury ☿ enters Taurus ☿, May 15: New Moon @ 24° Taurus ☿

The Taurus New Moon chart for 2018 occurs on May 15 at 7:47 AM in Washington DC, a day that will likely live long in the memories of astrologers. Just hours after this new Moon in Taurus, Uranus ingresses into Taurus for the first time in 84 years. With the Rebel Planet literally in the last gasp of Aries (29° 59 minutes!) and this invisible new Moon occurring in the 12th house of Hidden Enemies, coupled with Neptune in the 10th, much is unseen and in a state of flux. Who knows what’s going on in smoke-filled rooms behind closed doors? Whatever deals are being drawn, you can be sure they’ll be costly, thanks to the trine to Pluto in the 8th. While lip service is given to the working class, thanks to the sextile to Jupiter on the cusp of the 6th house, what’s billed as progress is more likely to be regress.

May 15: Uranus ☿ enters Taurus ☿

It’s been seven years since Uranus moved into a new sign and it’s time for a change! On May 15, Uranus ingresses into Taurus for six months before briefly backtracking into late Aries in November. Some astrologers have already coined a humorous nickname for this new placement: Tauranus! An in-depth exploration of Uranus in Taurus is beyond the scope of this column. However, the big picture is that we can expect radical, unforeseen and far-reaching changes in the areas covered by the zodiac sign of Taurus: 

- finance and banking
- currency, money management, salaries and securities
- copper, culture, agriculture
- and food industry, and music.

There will be technological advances in how we raise, grow, store and distribute food. A major transformation of the way money is handled is very likely. Cash is already disappearing, replaced by plastic or digital money. Soon, even that will be supplanted by blockchain, a radical new way of exchanging funds that bypasses banks and other institutions that we trust to handle our money. By the time Uranus dips his toe into Gemini in July 2025, our current methods of handling monetary transactions will be a thing of the past!

May 15: Mars ♃ enters Aquarius ♃

May 15, 2018 turns out to be a spectacularly busy day astrologically. Not only is there a New Moon, and an outer planet changing signs -- something that certainly doesn’t happen every day of the week -- but also Mars enters Aquarius. For at least 10 days Mars has already been ratcheting up to an intense square with Uranus, which perfects within hours of them both changing signs. This is a dynamic and explosive combination, moving from crisis-oriented Cardinal signs to stubborn and enduring Fixed signs, which is likely to prolong the intensity. Mars in Aquarius can be quite the ideologue, prioritizing principles over people. Remember, Aquarius is a socialist not humanitarian sign. Notice that Mars, which usually spends 4 to 6 weeks in a sign, lingers in 2018 for over six months in Aquarius, not leaving until mid-November. When this occurs, you can be sure a retrograde period is coming up, and indeed Mars will turn retrograde on June 26 at 9° of Aquarius. That will still be within a 10° orbit of a square to Uranus, the modern ruler of Aquarius, so the various tensions brought to the surface by this combination will be sustained for several months. The exact dates of the three precise Mars Uranus squares are May 16, August 1 and September 10. Forewarned is forearmed, a metaphor that is alarmingly appropriate.

May 19: Venus ♀ enters Cancer ♋, May 20: Sun ☉ enters Gemini ♊, May 25: Jupiter ♃ trine Neptune ♉

On May 25 we have the second pass of transiting Jupiter in Scorpio creating a beautiful trine to Neptune in Pisces. The first event occurred in December 2017, and there will be a final pass in August 2018. Jupiter trine Neptune is a very soothing peaceful aspect that helps take the edge off some of the harsher energies we have been feeling.
Transits of the Season

This aspect promotes healing, encourages energetic flow, helps people reconnect with their spiritual natures and to form meaningful spiritual practices. Scorpio and Pisces are areas where much sexual healing can occur, and this aspect promotes intimacy, connection and togetherness. Both planets form a sextile to Pluto, so this healing is not casual but deep and profound. The flow of energy in this “mini grand trine” can be utilized on a personal level in a therapeutic process, whether somatic, psychological or emotional. It is an excellent time for trauma release. As aware astrologers, we can project this energy to the greater whole, projecting and radiating its healing potential over our ailing planet.

May 29: Mercury ☿ enters Gemini, May 29: Full Moon @ 8° Sagittarius

The Full Moon chart of May 29 features a prominent Uranus at 0° of Taurus near the Midheaven, and angular nodes. These are all considered disruptive, destabilizing and unpredictable influences. The South Node with Mars is never a good combination, denoting a serious deflation or misuse of Mars energy. You certainly don't want to see it near an angle and ruling the Midheaven while squaring it at the same time. This can denote potential power struggles within political parties or potential strikes and protests. This chart is the icing on the cake. There IS a lovely Grand Trine in water in this chart featuring Venus, Jupiter and Neptune. However, it's located in the secretive 4th, 8th and 12th houses and is not affiliated with the midheaven. Plenty of good will come from it, but it will happen in homes, therapy offices and bedrooms, not in the public eye.

That works perfectly for most of us, since we live private lives, so note where in your chart this wonderful configuration accelerates the flow of energy. Water likes to move, and this Grand Trine both controls and encourages an emotional cleanse. Drink lots of water, massage your lymph nodes while you're in the bath or shower, and visualize purifying white energy circulating through your cells. Be part of the process.

June 12: Mercury ☿ enters Cancer, June 13: Venus ☿ enters Leo, June 13: New Moon @ 22° Gemini

The final New Moon of this season finally provides a little love, with Libra rising and Venus in Cancer at the very top of the chart set for Washington DC. Jupiter's in the 1st house, making a nice trine to Neptune in the 5th. These all indicate for a more harmonious month, and a better image for the US on an international stage. With Moon-ruled Cancer on the midheaven, and peace-loving Venus there, the public is ready to take a break from the intense drama of the past quarter.

The Sun and the Moon are in the last decan of Gemini, bringing in an Aquarius flavor, emphasizing rational communication. Yet there is a heartfelt connection, with Gemini's ruling planet Mercury in sympathetic Cancer. This is a “silver tongue” placement which helps people express how they really feel, whether verbally, artistically, or in writing. Mercury is forming an opposition to Saturn over the next several days, which can guide the communication to be both substantial and effective. There's also the suggestion of establishing communication ground rules or guidelines to use moving forward (Saturn in Capricorn in the 3rd).

June 18: Neptune ☿ enters Cancer, Neptune ☿ enters Cancer, Neptune ☿ enters Cancer

June 18: Neptune ☿ enters Cancer, Neptune ☿ enters Cancer, Neptune ☿ enters Cancer

Neptune will station retrograde on June 18 for over five months until November 24, at 16 and 13° of Pisces respectively. Neptune spends 14 years in a sign, and is now halfway through its sojourn in Pisces. It's provided a sort of “escape hatch” for the past several years while we endured the Uranus Pluto square and other indignities. Now, however, with the outermost five planets now in Earth or Water signs, Neptune is better positioned to soothe the savage beast and create an environment conducive to spiritual development. This station occurs close to the Summer Solstice, reinforcing the idea that we are all in need of a months-long respite, and providing an opportunity for one. Remember that Neptune themes will be strongest at the times of the exact station. Watch for Neptune in key words on the news and in headlines, and remember to drink more water and get extra rest. Keep up your Chi to avoid depletion. Go within, meditate, and choose carefully who you spend time with. We are all so sensitive at this time.

Linea Van Horn, C.A., NCGR-PAA, is the Astrologer at Large. A professional astrologer since 1998, her career centers on teaching, client work and community building. She is the founder and President Emeritus (1992 – 2015) of the San Francisco Astrological Society, has served on local and national NCGR boards including the Board of Examiners, and spearheaded the West Coast Astrology Groups coalition for UAC in 2012. Linea was employed in the astrology internet industry from 1998 – 2009. She now devotes herself full time to client work, teaching, writing, public speaking and networking in the San Francisco Bay Area. Member of AFAN, ISAR and OPA. Visit Linea’s website: www.astrologeratlarge.com.
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The knowledge of the universe is whole. There are many disciplines that are nourished by the same resources such as Philosophy, Astrology, Art. As I studied Theatre Criticism and Dramaturgy, I became familiar with The Ancient Greek terminology and I often see that the Ancient Greek knowledge is connected with many other disciplines. In this article, I want to show the connection between Astrological perspective for human evolution and Aristotles’ terms, specifically the “Hamartia” term, which he explains in his book “Poetics.” The main reason to refer to this connection is, I believe, a deep understanding in the Ancient Knowledge of archetypes and humanity. The terms that Aristotle uses in Poetics seem to summarize well the universal patterns of the human condition.

Aristotle explains the structure of a tragedy with a main rule, “obligation and possibi- lity” in Poetics, a theory book for The Ancient Tragedies (plays). According to his rule, what makes a tragedy a good one, what the ele- ments of a good story are, is based on “the obligations and possibilities” of the universe. “If something can happen in real life in a certain way, it can also happen that way in plays too.” That’s exactly what makes his terms accurate for our usage. He constantly analyzes the real patterns of humanity and makes the rules of tragedy fit them.

In the Greek language, Hamartia means, “to err”, or “mistake”. Aristotle uses this term while explaining a hero’s tragic flaw in the Greek Tragedies. He suggests that the hero always has a Hamartia and this Hamartia takes the hero to the tragic end. This is a weakness, a bleeding point in life that can destroy everything. Hamartia may be a specific characteristic of human nature. For example, one of the tragic heroines, Antigone, has an overblown sense of bravery. She wanted to bury her brother’s dead body, which was a forbidden action for the citizens. This brother was called a traitor by the government and they left his body to be eaten by birds. Although the king, who was Antigone’s uncle, warned Antigone about the possible results, she did what she believed in. Finally, she ended up with a tragic end for following her ethical code in honoring her brother’s dead body. The term Hamartia implies that there is always a blind or compulsive impulse to do something and implies an exaggeration of a quality.

“The Obligations and The Possibilities”
Aristotle uses this measurement while defining the standards of a good tragedy. A good tragedy occurs from the events that can happen in real life. In this rule, the obligations are about the natural structure of the life. For example, a disabled person in a wheelchair, cannot walk a minute later. There is a need for some physical changes to make that person walk, it will take time or maybe it’s not possible at all. Things, people, events have natural conditions in them, which define the obligations. These needs also point to the Saturnian nature of being alive, which we cannot escape experiencing.

According to Aristotle, as in the example, we see the possibilities which are limited and related to the obligations. A turtle having a shell will not be able to fly; this is an obligation due to its nature.

As astrologers, we know that each chart has many configurations which bring out many obligations to an individual and those obligations define possibilities.

This will be our foundation to understand The Hamartia of a chart.

ARISTOTLE’S “HAMARTIA”
In the Charts
Understanding the universal human codes connecting with The Ancient Ties
by Gaye Alkan

The knowledge of the universe is whole. There are many disciplines that are nourished by the same resources such as Philosophy, Astrology, Art. As I studied Theatre Criticism and Dramaturgy, I became familiar with The Ancient Greek terminology and I often see that the Ancient Greek knowledge is connected with many other disciplines. In this article, I want to show the connection between Astrological perspective for human evolution and Aristotles’ terms, specifically the “Hamartia” term, which he explains in his book “Poetics.” The main reason to refer to this connection is, I believe, a deep understanding in the Ancient Knowledge of archetypes and humanity. The terms that Aristotle uses in Poetics seem to summarize well the universal patterns of the human condition.

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This will be our foundation to understand The Hamartia of a chart.

Listening to the client’s story and trying to find the ethical conflict in their behavior is a first step. When a client explains their story, there are the hidden messages about the chart in their statements which can be decoded with the astrological symbolism. For example, one may say: “I can’t stop controlling things in my life, and as a result, my husband wants to divorce because of that. I cannot help it as I see the things that need to be done, so I take charge.” This explanation may be related to a South Node in Capricorn, conjuncting with a planet that can accentuate the need for governance and control – this is an Hamartia effect.

Planets in Detriment or Fall may not express their nature harmoniously. For example, Mars in Cancer can have a tendency to destroy feminine energy and experience conflict with Cancerian symbolism, such as “family”, “mother” and “motherhood.” On the other hand, an exalted planet can have the exaggeration quality of the Hamartia, such as Jupiter in Cancer, especially if it is conjunct the South Node. The Nodes are related to the destiny and they are about the nature of a soul, so they intensify the expression of the planets in conjunction.

Angularity can also be an important key in this dynamic; for instance, Mars in Aries in the 10th house can reflect excessive ambition and motivation. In addition to that, The Cadent houses need to be considered, such as planets in the 12th house, which suggests suppressed energies with the existing planetary symbolism.

Fixed stars, especially The Royal Fixed Stars have very strong, irresistible natures in their energy. It’s possible to see the ethical factors in all the definitions of the Fixed Stars.

Conclusion: Why Look for Hamartia and How Does It Help?

The pressure of the Hamartia effect varies from chart to chart, according to the dynamics of the chart and its evolutionary needs. Obviously, not everyone is Antigone, but everyone has their own Hamartia. I believe Hamartias are the main keys to open up the whole chart and the life’s solution. I hope this connection will open up a new perspective for our practices.

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OPA’s Certification process is becoming a leading reference to add credence that astrologers are competent and effectively provide quality service.

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At that UAC, as in local talks and workshops on astrology, lecturers could be brilliant and insightful yet at the same time address the audience in ways which disparaged or even categorically erased many of us participants, seekers of our own healing. It would be ignorant to cite this as a special case, to ignore blatant patterns of misogyny, tribalisms and racisms, and uncritically celebrated misuses of power written through human history. Yet it seemed equally defeatist to collapse the possibilities in our astrological language under the weight of pre-judgment which would read: Y’all are doomed to be outsiders.

The following year, some of my peers and I gathered in San Francisco for the first Queer Astrology Conference. Nearly 150 people assembled on July 20th and 21st, 2013 using the facilities of a university. Presentations ranged from traditional readings on LGBT history and content, to queer theory inspired expressions and extensions of the astrological symbols and myths as they are applied in our work. To date there have been four conferences, the most recent in February 2018 in Portland, Oregon.

There is an imaginative power in the words Queer Astrology. Astrology persists in the collective. It is a living language older than any on the planet, and offers a body of healing methods and meaning making that persist in the face of so many other forces which aim to silence us. Queer as a concept is notoriously unstable (borrowing this language from Erin D’Estree’s article on the first conference for The Mountain Astrologer, Spring 2014). It evades definition, changing dependent on context, yet always suggesting an orientation which locates one beyond prescribed categories. Queer invokes vital edges, emergent and creative. It shifts us from the ideal of circles to the both/and truths of ellipses and obliquity.

A key reason I have been hesitant to write anything under the heading of Queer Astrology is based in a most unfortunate cultural habit. As English language readers, we seem to be conditioned to elevate the voices and authorship of men over women, as well as so-called white bodies over any of our actual skin tones. In organizing teams, these problems of power and identity have challenged us all to struggle, and to press on. I have been reticent to appear as just another white man in a privileged position, repeating the dynamics which oppress me.

As a step toward growing beyond the cultural sicknesses I see nearly everywhere, I ask us to call these biases to attention and...
not to put them aside. Inside myself, I continue to reckon with the complexities which come from being socialized as a participant in these categories: white, male. And at the same time, I inherit a deeply mixed sense of dis-entitlements and shames: from parents whose Judaism relegated them outside of America’s White ruling-class just one generation ago, as well as in the embodied knowing that I was only cursorily related to the generic ‘male’ as early as elementary school, that being queer signaled real dangers to me if I were to show up instead of quietly passing. Against cultural grain, I cultivated asking permission, learning from mistakes, offering apology.

To answer some common questions: queer astrologers have not re-written nor even needed to re-imagine any of our astrological inheritances. Instead QA events exist to reconstitute the humanity of the participants, by stimulating not just participants but presenters and organizers with encounters of difference and newness we would not otherwise experience. To answer a next most common question: one need not be queer identified to attend. The point of entry might rather be mapped to our solar system, where instead of Saturn delimiting real and Uranus being beyond or outside, we cultivate the healing which comes when the multiplicities intrinsic in the Uranian are a given for us all.

Participants at Queer Astrology Conferences to date have been fortunate to experience spaces where the so-called normal is interrupted. Given an implicit understanding to leave our assumptions of one another at the door, our capacity to see increased nuance and complexities in one another, and in ourselves, is amplified. One commonality I’ve found in folks who attend is a humbled curiosity which encourages us to construct open questions, couched in the understanding of traumas and a reverence for the unknown. By calling together a broad yet undefined group, also the permissions arise to be with one another in our difference. Just as we practice queering one another, we also practice queering the astrological for answers which have not yet been available in hetero-sexist environments.

Obviously destructive tropes, such as the historical projection of Mars in a woman’s chart and Venus in a man’s onto their imagined partners, lose their force. We need not erase the conventions, but can relegate them to the past rather than circumscribing ourselves within them as absolutes. Calling in Mercury’s associations outside of gender binary, and invoking a triad including Mercury, Venus, and Mars each as intimacy signifiers, we can draw upon an enriched array of pairing templates. Or when we set aside the dyad-limited habits of monogamy and marriage, we can perceive the multiplicities of affection and intimacy many of us already practice. We might further invoke an ecosexual orientation, where instead of Earth as Mother: passively providing or compulsively giving until she is destroyed, might render Earth as Lover: a subject of devotion and object of reverent care and delight. Engaging these points of view on our own perpetuates isolation and separation; sharing these commonalities in groups, at conferences, affirms the shared humanity in them.

Given the occasion of this newsletter, I’d like to offer a brief reflection on the skies of the moment. In the next weeks, Chiron will be transiting the Aries Point. While we have likely plotted and read Chiron in Aries into older charts, its 1977 discovery found Chiron in early Taurus. We call to attention that we have never before lived in a time when we were consciously working with this celestial body as it passed through the zodiacal point of origin. Just as Queer Astrology suggests an encounter and mediation among the realms attributed to Saturn and Uranus, Chiron lives in these zones of the sky and our interpretation. While tropical astrology fixes this potent time space moment to 0° Aries, we cannot deny that sidereal astrologers currently read this point in Pisces for some many centuries already, with the much popularized Age of Aquarius still imminent.

Consider, then, we as tropical astrologers take for granted that Aries is First, in lieu of a deeper and more complicated encounter with the endless spiraling cycle which we also know. This echoes the cultural bias which elevates a singular male hero, or an all-powerful masculine godhead, to the position of primacy. The occasion of this Chiron transit could be welcomed as reminder for us to look for how this habit is conditioned into us, and to offer healing when we notice the repetition of its unconscious valuing and destructive implications for us all.

Ian Waisler practices in San Francisco, offering consultations and group classes in Integral Yoga, and Astrology, since 2004. He’s a regular collaborator on Queer Astrology projects, with archives of past events on queerastrology.com. His personal web presence is at ianwaisler.com.
QUEER ASTROLOGY CONFERENCE 2018

by Moon Zlotnick

I’ve attended so many astrology conferences in my 40 years of practicing astrology that I’ve lost count, but never before have I attended a Queer Astrology conference. A number of months ago my daughter discovered the event online, and asked if I wanted to go. My answer was a resounding yes.

I was signed up for UAC (United Astrology Conference) in May where astrologers from all over the globe come to share their ideas and insights. When I thought about attending I remember the last one I’d attended in New Orleans and how often the names of the presenters and the subject matter covered was the same as other conferences. I guess I was slightly frustrated because I’d submitted ideas to become a presenter at UAC for a number of years without any results. That lead me to remembering my dismay when I first learned astrology to see the inherent bias against the water and earth signs which were categorized as “feminine” and interpreted as “weak, emotional, and needy”. And homosexuality in astrology was viewed as a deviant form of sexual expression. I wanted astrology to affirm who I was, not judge me.

Shortly after I registered, the organizers at QAC sent out an invitation for submissions, and within weeks I’d become a presenter. That gave me a sense that I would be hearing voices of new people, and possibly people who were not normally represented. With the organizer’s help we put together a panel called “40 years of Queer Astrology” that covered the progression and continuing need for progress of mainstream astrology to include the voices of all practitioners and clients.

Beyond all else that was my favorite part of the conference, hearing new voices.

Between 120-140 queer folks and a few allies from all over the US, Canada and even someone from Mexico came together under the hashtag “not my presidents” weekend, and spent three days in large and small groups listening to presentations. “Generational Uranus and Queer Revolution”, “Working with Transgender and Non-Binary Clients”, and “Eris as Gender Rebellion” were three of my favorites.

Using the lens of Queer and Trans Oppression, Colonialism, and White Supremacy a variety of speakers re-interpreted myths that form the basis for astrology, gave us simple and clear rules for dealing with all different types of clients, and linked astrology to using herbs, working with Tarot and understanding our collective ancestors.

On the last day we broke into small groups to discuss topics we deal with in our astrological practices, such as giving too much, or how to hold clear boundaries. As I listened, I found myself remarking at how little a person’s sexual identity has to do with our shared desire to be caring, thoughtful, well-versed astrologers.

My Airbnb host asked “Why have a Queer Astrology Conference? Isn’t astrology the same for everyone?” To that I would answer that being part of a group of people who have suffered oppression and been marginalized there is a special kind of safety and magic that happens when we come together, are able to be our authentic selves, and listen, speak and share without fear of judgment. Although not everyone agreed about everything, all differences were shared with the utmost respect and care. Ultimately that’s how we learn, and I learned a lot.

Moon Zlotnick began practicing astrology 1975 and has created a three-year training program for astrologers, taught astrology to beginners and seasoned students alike, participated on the board of ProSig, OPA, and STARS. She is near completion of her book “Death Chart: A memoir” a hybrid of astrology and memoir. moonrabbitastrology@gmail.com
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UPCOMING ASTROLOGY CONFERENCES

MARCH 2018
March 22-26, 2018 NORWAC Conference
Seattle, Washington
norwac.net

MAY 2018
May 24-29, 2018 UAC (United Astrology Conference),
Chicago, IL
uacastrology.com

JUNE 2018
June 22-24 2018 Astrological Association – Diamonds in the Sky (50th Annual)
Reading, Berkshire, UK
astrologicalassociation.com/pages/conference/2018

AUGUST 2018
August 9-12, 2018 Sky Astrology Conference
Moffat, Colorado
skyastrologyconference.com

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OPAastrology.org
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
MAURICE FERNANDEZ (AZ)
Saturn and Karma - The laws that set us free

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
URSULA STOCKDER (Mexico)
The Spiritual Dimension of the Zoodiac

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18
MARGARET GRAY (Ireland) and ARMAND DIAZ (NY)
Relationship Transitions: Understanding the Process of Change

SUNDAY, MARCH 4
NADIA SMIRNOVA-MIERAU (NY)
Music of the Spheres, Physics of Astrology

SUNDAY, MARCH 18
SHERI HORN HASSAN (NJ)
Chiron Ingress Into Aries: Wound to the Right to Exist

SUNDAY, APRIL 15
CHRISTINA CAUDILL (FL)
Maximize Your Profitability as an Astrologer

SUNDAY, APRIL 28
RICK LEVINE (WA)
The X-tiles: "The Truth Is Out There"

SUNDAY, MAY 12
ALEX TRENOWETH (UK)
Saturn Transits: The Wolves You Feed

SUNDAY, JUNE 3
SOL JONASSEN (Norway)
Healing Mars: The Art of Fighting or the Pain of Conflict

SUNDAY, JUNE 24
DAVID COCHRANE (FL)
Making Breakthrough Discoveries In Astrology

SUNDAY, JULY 7
RUSSELL OHLHAUSEN (TX)
Celestia Mathematica: The Presence of the Fundamental Force

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
ALEXANDRA KARACOSTAS (CA)
Uranus in Taurus

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
GALI SAT PURAN LIVNEH (Israel)
Spiritual Leadership in the 21st Century

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
JULIJA SIMAS (Australia) at 3pm Pacific
Venus Star Point Cycle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
NAOMI BENNETT (TX)
What are Moon Wobbles and Why They Are Important

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
SHANNON JONES & RUSSELL OHLHAUSEN (TX)
Sexuality in the Aquarian Age: Merging the Opposites Within

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18
KATE RUSKO (Canada)
Topic TBD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
IAN WAISLER (CA)
Topic TBD

Call from wherever you are and join these one-hour lectures.

For OPA members only.

It’s enlightening, it’s fun, it’s free!

Members will receive the log in information to join the presentations.

Recordings of the presentations are available.

Get complete presentation descriptions and updates, and learn more at OPAastrolgy.org
The 28th IVC Astrology Conference held in Kolkata, India, was an unforgettable other-side-of-the-worldly experience! A glamorous and lavish affair, the biennial Indian event saw a broad offering of both Vedic and Tropical presentations, blended with information on associated spiritual disciplines such as gemology, palmistry and health. The Indian participants and broad international attendance made for charming new connections and interactions, set against the backdrop of the captivating hospitality, color, and depth of the rich Indian culture.

With an estimated attendance of 400-500 participants (possibly more), four tracks were offered the first day at the ITC Hotel, followed by a single track for each of the subsequent three days at Kolkata’s Salt Lake Conference Center. All presentations were followed by a 15 minute Bengali translation. Treated as celebrities, about sixty western astrologers from every continent were present. Upon arrival they were met with warmth, enthusiasm and incredible hospitality, showered with flowers, garlands, gifts of local dried fruit and nuts, and the snapping of photos. Housed at the ITC Hotel, the accommodations proved a lovely and elegant sanctuary within the huge (by US standards), cacophonous, vibrant and bustling city of Kolkata – city of lights.

In addition to its offerings, the conference was filled with pageantry, including a traditional dance event, numerous awards ceremonies, a procession, and the closing state of the art e-disco party, replete with a live Indian band, laser light show, drones, and fantastical scenery. By western standards the conference was simply spectacular!

Also delighted to report, that OPA was well represented at the conference with board members, Arlan, Maurice and Alexandra, OPA satellites, Angela, Oner, Donna, Sol and members including Roy Gillett, Shannon Jones, Russell Ohlhausen, Lynn Bell, Rick Levine, and more.

Enormous credit and appreciations go to the conference organizers, Alex Trenoweth, The Krishnamurti Institute, and in particular its Director, Gopal Bhattacharjee, for the incredible hospitalities and generosities provided. Well organized and run, the conference made for unforgettable memories in both experience and the building of bridges between the western and eastern astrological traditions. Conference organizers are already seeking participation by western astrologers for its next conference in two years, so if you’ve ever wanted to visit India, here is a golden opportunity!

Contact:
ivcconference.com
alex.trenoweth@gmail.com
Cultural Festivities at the Conference

Lunar Eclipse in Kolkata

Indian Star Groove

King Levine – Best Presentation Award

OPA Greece in India

Audience

Faculty of 28th IVC Conference
Interview with Gopal Bhattacharjee

OPA Interview March 2018
Email: kp institute of astrologykolkata@gmail.com
Website: www.ivcconference.com
Gopalbhattacharjee.com

You are leading the Krishnamurti Institute of Astrology (KIA) in India and you are the organizer of the Institute of Vedic Culture (IVC) Conference which last took place in February 2018 in Calcutta. Can you tell us more about KIA, and how you became the chairman?

First of all, I would like to inform that I was a good sportsman in my early days. I was awarded as “State Champion” in both Yoga and gymnast. In 1993, I was awarded as national champion in diving. My father, Late Shambu Nath Bhattacharjee was renowned professional Vedic astrologer. In 1980, he founded “Institute of Vedic Culture” with few other Vedic astrologers. Here students were taught about Vedic astrology using scientific methods and procedures. In 1984, my mother passed away, and due to family responsibilities, my father restricted himself in providing a good care and guidance for us.

My father was the pioneer to introduce me to Vedic astrology. After getting awarded as “National Champion” in diving, I received many job offers from the government, but my father did not allow me to take those jobs. He always inspired me to study astrology. Probably he studied my birth chart and realized that I could have established myself in Occult science or astrology.

Using Vedic astrology, we can predict the future well, and it is science-based, but due to several foreign attacks in the course of history, many old temples were ruined. Many astrological books and other precious notes were destroyed. Professor K. S. Krishnamurti of Chennai presented Vedic astrology in a different angle. Nakshatras and its division as per Parasars Dasha System are the main components in this system and it is well known as KP System. Note that KP System never tried to go against the Vedic astrology.

I was deeply influenced by this KP System and that’s why I enrolled myself to my guru Mr. D. C. Ghosh, direct student of K. S. Krishnamurti. Under his inspiration, I founded “Krishnamurti Institute of Astrology” in 1998 with the help of other astrologically inspired people. I proposed to my teacher D.C. Ghosh to be the chairman of this institute.

In 2000, condition of D. C. Ghosh’s health deteriorated, and other executive board members suggested me to be the chairman of KIA. Since that time, with the help of other executive board members, I am running the institute and trying to explore more opportunities to establish KIA as a well-known astrological institute in India.

Can you tell us a bit more about the place of Astrology in current Indian culture? Have you noticed any change or development in the recent years?

The concept of astrology is well fitted with Indian culture. Here, we fixed the date of marriage after consulting with astrologers and the latter fixed the date by referring to “Jyotish Panjika” or “Panchang”. Dates of all Indian festivals are scheduled by observing the Tithi of “Panjika” or “Panchang”. Dates of all Indian festivals are scheduled by observing the Tithi of “Panjika” or “Panchang”. Dates of all Indian festivals are scheduled by observing the Tithi of “Panjika” or “Panchang”. Dates of all Indian festivals are scheduled by observing the Tithi of “Panjika” or “Panchang”. Dates of all Indian festivals are scheduled by observing the Tithi of “Panjika” or “Panchang”.

I am listing down the names of universities, approved by Indian government, where Vedic astrology is studied by several students. The list is as follows – States of India Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States of INDIA</th>
<th>Astrology Universities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh (AP)</td>
<td>Rastriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujrat</td>
<td>1. M S University of Baroda 2. Sri Somnath Sanskrit University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Kannataka Sanskrit University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh (MP)</td>
<td>1. Jiwaji University 2. Vikram University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>Sri Jagannath Sanskrit Viswavidyalaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Annamali University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh (UP)</td>
<td>Benaras Hindu University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among these, Benaras Hindu University is the best for its superior methods and study programs. Under these universities’ affiliation and supervision, there are few astrological institutes like us where different programs in astrology are conducted. There are many more research scholars in the field of astrology in India but due to lack in communication medium specially in English, they are not well known globally. Recently, after 1990s, English has been chosen as the medium of instruction in many well-known schools and universities. This rapid change has introduced many young astrological research scholars who can communicate in English and provide a better solution to their clients. This change is quite beneficial to our field of astrology.

As you may know, as India got its freedom in 1947, there were quite regional and cultural conflicts between India and Pakistan. In this short history, there were several riots and
struggles that Indians were forced to become accustomed to. But recently, ex-prime minister Manmohan Singh’s “Open Economy” policy has improved economical and social lives of India. India has now become one of the fastest growing economies in this world.

India is the country of different religions and also of the spirituality. The latter helped us to face any crisis in life, and also to pacify mental struggles. Yoga, meditation and astrology sit on the core values of Indians. There are several studies in astrology in the past and still it is developing now.

In the past, there were some dishonest people who used to wear spiritual attire and made money by falsely claiming to predict the future. For example, it was quite common in India to see a person with his pet parrot. This parrot was trained to draw a card to predict about a person’s future. But this are not the correct vision of Indian culture and its preservation in astrology. Now, we, through different seminars and TV programs, have informed our people that astrology is a mathematical science and one has to learn the subject before predicting for others. Young Indian astrologers do not wear costumes like the saints and quite up-to-date both in knowledge and experience. This is a good sign. Moreover, the subject astrology has become quite famous among the top professional areas – such as engineers, doctors and educated people. The number of these fraudulent people, mentioned earlier, has diminished and I believe this will improve the image of astrology.

We were grateful at OPA to have had numerous members of our Board and Satellites invited to speak at the last 28th IVC Conference— with the theme being East meets West, is it common to have Astrologers who practice the Tropical Zodiac come and lecture or even practice in India? Is there a growing interest for that in India?

We are proud and honored that OPA was one of the sponsors for 28th IVC Conference 2018. The conference reached its highest level when so many OPA delegates and speakers enrich the program by their active participation. Special thanks go to you: Maurice, Arlan Wise, Alexandra Karacostas, Angela Tiki, Christos Archos and other OPA members who participated actively in our 28th IVC Conference 2018. I am hopeful that the connection between OPA and KIA will tighten with time.

As you know, we will organize our next conference – 30th IVC 2020 from Feb 4th to Feb 9th, 2020 at Kolkata. Thanks once again to be our sponsor for 30th IVC 2020. OPA MEMBERS WILL GET 10% DISCOUNT and also the I-Astrologer scholarship winners of OPA will be invited to be speakers in our 2020 conference.

There are few western astrologers in India but the interest in this field is increasing day by day. They are in high demand but there are only few institutes to meet up with the growing demand. For this reason, we started regular course on Western Astrology under the supervision of Alex Trenoweth and Richard Fidler. Almost 5% of Indian population of 1.32 billion are keen to learn about the subject. KIA is receiving lots of application for its western astrology classes.

There has been some controversy at the last conference, where one of the speakers claimed that the validity and reliability of the Tropical zodiac was superior to the Sidereal zodiac. This caused a strong reaction among the attendees, and even beyond. But it raised different questions, about which we would like to hear your opinion:

In our conference, each speaker has a right to raise his/her point of view before the participants. The speaker, whom you were referring to in your question, submitted his lecture article 3 months before the conference. We knew that his perspective would go to support the Tropical zodiac. We did not raise any question on that. But during the speech, his arrogance and wrong use of selecting words demotivated the majority of our participants. There were huge contradictions between his speech and the article he sent to us.

On the social media, there was long debate for the irregularities in his speech and article and multiple comments were made by several astrologers to highlight those inconsistencies, among them Rick Levine, Kenneth Bowser Chris Brennan, and Roy Gillett.

Vedic astrologers have been doing their research and observations on the Sidereal zodiac, whereas Western astrologers have done their research on the Tropical zodiac, but both systems can predict accurately. So, both the Tropical and Sidereal zodics represent entirely valid system of astrology.

(You can view these comments on my own Facebook page or ISAR’s)

Conclusion: Astrology is an observational science; the perspective of Vedic astrology and Western astrology is different. Vedic astrologers have been doing their research and observations on the Sidereal zodiac, whereas Western astrologers have done their research on the Tropical zodiac. But both systems can predict accurately. So, both the Tropical and Sidereal zodics represent entirely valid system of astrology.

Table – Fusion of Sidereal and Western terms by K.S Krishnamurti

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zodiac</th>
<th>Sidereal</th>
<th>Vedic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House Division System</td>
<td>Koch/Placidus</td>
<td>Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planetary Positions</td>
<td>Sidereal</td>
<td>Vedic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constellations/Fixed Stars</td>
<td>Sidereal</td>
<td>Vedic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planetary Connection</td>
<td>Aspect</td>
<td>Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing of Events</td>
<td>Parasari Dasha</td>
<td>Vedic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Progression</td>
<td>Western</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>Vedic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruling Planets</td>
<td>Western</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do you think East can meet West astrologically?

The concept of “East meets west” has already been laid down by K. S. Krishnamurti. He showed the way to combine Vedic and Western astrology. Both the Vedic and Western astrology are correct in their ways but Krishnamurti established the connection between these two through KP system.

So, K. S. Krishnamurti was the first person who merged these two systems and founded a layout to recognize astrology in different point of view. I have faith in both Vedic and Western astrology; so why not to research and observe with such a new system?

This is the reason why we had the catch line as “East meets West” in our earlier conference. Our moto is to learn about Western astrology and its uses in different way. We want to know various branches of Western astrology so that we can use the beneficial applications in our predictions. Vice-versa, I also think there are lots of Vedic rules which a Western astrology practitioner can access to make better prediction.

As a conference organizer, how can we create healthy debates, even with controversial positions?

In the next 30th IVC conference in 2020, we decided to arrange a debate on an astrological subject. Speakers will address both the sides of the debate. Participants in this session will learn about the both sides of the debate and can decide to take right step forward. Research and observation on the topic will continue and every side will have the right to place his/her opinion on the subject; but it will not be tolerated and allowed to use any inappropriate comments and/or speeches on the subject.

ABOUT YOU

Spiritual orientation – Do you follow any specific practice?
Hindu; Bramhin

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you?
I am short-tempered (Worst thing)
I love to unite people together and work (Best thing)

You never tried...
Reading new researches on astrology

You can’t refuse...
I cannot refuse if someone request me to do something

What is playtime for you?
Swimming

Your superstition?
When a cat crosses the road in front of my car

Your favorite place on earth?
Paris

Your birth data?
March 3, 1978 at 7:10 am Kolkata

YOUR PRACTICE

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment to date in your astrology career?
To predict the win of Ms. Mamata Banerjee – chief minister of West Bengal – in 2016

What is the great thing and the hard thing about being an astrologer?
Great thing: I received so much positive responses, love and affection from people around India. They now consider me as one of the best astrologers in India
Hard thing: When I find some negatives in someone's chart, it becomes emotionally hard for me to convey the same to the client

What are your future ambitions in the field of astrology?
To set up an astrological institute around the world where Vedic and Western astrology will be taught simultaneously under the same roof

What inspires you to be an OPA member?
I personally like the fact that OPA arranges seminars, astrological events around the year
OPA always prefers to encourage young people in the field of astrology

Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers?
To become a professional astrologer, I believe, it is advised to prepare and collect a data bank of different people. Doing this can help one study and research.

Thank you!