Greetings Everyone!

We are busier than ever at OPA! The 2016 programs in Athens Georgia (March) and Athens Greece (May-June) are completely new ventures on OPA’s resume. i-Astrologer is an incredibly exciting event we are putting together to help aspiring and practicing astrologers manifest their dream to lead successful careers as astrologers.

We know there are setbacks to making it as a full time astrologer, and this is where OPA saw the need to create a platform that would bring together all the elements needed for astrologers to gain the insight and confidence to overcome challenges and thrive in their practice. If you want to become an astrologer, or if you already are practicing but need a greater flow of clients and inspiration for expansion, do not miss this event! Check all the details in this issue or on the OPA website.

OPA is dedicated to make astrology and astrologers stronger, and to provide support for our profession, OPA is in the advanced process to publish a book titled The Professional Practice of Astrology, a compilation of chapters from prominent astrologers, each exploring the different aspects of a successful practice. The book is scheduled to be released at the 2015 OPA retreat, October 2015.

This coming season, OPA will also further expand in South Africa where we have a workshop organized in Johannesburg on August 16. Contact OPA’s South African Satellite, Heiltje LeRoux for more details.

With Venus retrograde, conjunct Jupiter on the royal star of Regulus, we surely hope to make the coming season as regal as can be! Enjoy this great new edition of the Career Astrologer and “Enhance your Practice” and “Transit of the Month” columns.

Many blessings for this new festive season, and gratitude for your support, always,
Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA
The theme of this Career Astrologer’s edition is VENUS RETROGRADE, in anticipation of the upcoming Retrograde of Venus from Virgo to Leo (July 24 – September 6).

Venus will begin its retrograde motion on July 24, @ 0 Virgo 46, on the Fixed Royal Star Regulus. It will retrograde back to Leo, to meet with Jupiter at 28 Leo. Venus will subsequently make its inferior conjunction to the Sun on August 15 at 22 Leo, and then trine Uranus on August 18 at 20 Aries. She will station at 14 Leo, shortly after an exact conjunction with Mars in Leo.

This cycle will be particularly powerful since Venus happens to be the ruler of the transiting North Node in Libra.

See selected charts at left for important points along this transit.

On the following pages, astrologers share their perspectives.....

- Kari Noren-Hoshal
- Grace Morris
- Wendy Stacey
- Monica Dimino
- Moon Zlotnick
- Anne Ortelee
A New Venus Star Point is Born

August 15, 2015 to June 6th, 2016

by Kari Noren-Hoshal

The month of August is a time of change this year. From January to mid-August we are experiencing a potent fire sign trine with Jupiter in Leo, Saturn in Sagittarius and Uranus in Aries. The party would seem to be over when this audacious outer-planets trine dissolves and Jupiter moves into Virgo on August 12th. But a new fire-sign energy comes to take its place. On Saturday, August 15th, at the mid-point of the Venus retrograde, a Star is born. This Star, is a Venus Star Point at 23 degrees Leo. This Venus Star Point forms as the degrees of the Leo Sun and Venus in Leo align, making an inferior conjunction.

Because of Venus’ 3.39% tilt in relation to the Earth, this conjunction will not be visible since the Sun, Venus and Earth will lie in different declinations, BUT, the influence of the new Leo Venus Star Point will be felt!

Every 9.5 months the Sun and Venus make an inferior conjunction (on the near side of the Sun in relation to Earth) or a superior conjunction (on the far side.) Thus, the Venus Star Points alternate between what we call “Morning Stars” and “Evening Stars,” respectively.

The Venus Star Points are a new cosmology developed by astrologer Arielle Guttman, over her 10 years plus of personal study of Venus and its relationship to the Sun and Earth. In her 2010 book, Venus Star Rising: A New Cosmology for the Twenty-first Century, Arielle Guttman examines the Venus/Sun cycle and the ways in which it influence our life energy.

The ancient Greeks observed two distinct Venus or Aphrodite Types:

- **“Aphrodite Pandemos”**: A Morning Star Amazon intent on exerting her will and protecting her property (because she is closest to Earth and earthly concerns.)
- **“Aphrodite Urania”**: An Evening Star Spiritualist whose concerns are contemplative and diplomatic (in her phase farthest from Earth and closer to “the heavens.”)

In Mayan astrology, the study of Venus is second only to the study of the Sun & Moon.

In one story, Venus went into the underworld (retrograde) where it was embraced in the Sun’s fiery heart. After 40 days, Venus emerged (went direct) as a warrior, dripping with blood and ready for battle. Thus Mayan Morning Star cycles coincided with periods in which Mayan armies went to war with other tribes or were on alert to possible invasions from other tribes. Conversely, Mayan Evening Star cycles were considered peaceful times in which to concentrate on agriculture and commerce through diplomatic relations with other tribes.

Forty-day cycles are referred to often in the Bible. The period of Lent, for example, is a time of atonement and self-discipline before Passover and Easter. Moses is referred to having gone onto the mountain for 40 days and nights with God, coming back triumphantly with the Ten Commandments. The Great Flood is referred to lasting 40 days to cleanse the Earth of impurities.

The sign of your Venus Star Point, combined with the house it occupies and its designation as either a Morning Star or Evening Star, brings new layers of meaning to a reading of the birth chart. Dane Rudhyar observed that people born as a Morning Star, Venus embodied “Projection” of an individual vision and purpose, to follow one’s own instinctive urges leading to tensions with dominant social paradigms.” In Rudhyar’s view, these people seem more ready to create their own power by boldly stating their goals and moving toward them, regardless of a lack of being “groomed” for the position. These self-affirming individuals are ready to compete for power based on personal beliefs.

Rudhyar’s view of those born under Venus as an Evening Star embodied “A tendency to follow and reinforce traditional values in action and deed.” These people were more often “tapped” for positions of power after proving themselves by coming up through the ranks.

The natural authority and diplomacy of these individuals is highly prized by their superiors because it has clearly been earned.

For information about the character of your Venus Star Point (VSP) refer to Arielle Guttman’s book, in which she describes the character of each VSP in detail. She also describes how it behaves in seeking and maintaining romantic relationships. A detailed description of historical events taking place during the cyclical re-emergence of each VSP between 1750 and 2049 comprises a section of the book.

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The Venus/Sun conjunction cycle moves in a clockwise fashion around the circle of the ecliptic. Contact is made every 9.5 months. Each contact is called a “Venus Star Point.” Like the current Venus/Earth Synodic Series,
the current Venus/Sun cycle also moves from Gemini, Capricorn, Leo, Aries, Scorpio and back to Gemini. (See the Star listed below as 2004-2012 which is still active) Signs remain active within the Venus/Sun Star for approximately 100 years. For example: on August 22nd of 1987 (the week of the Harmonic Convergence) the Virgo arm of the Venus Star shifted into Leo. It will remain in the sign of the Lion for another approximate 100 years until 2088.

Yet another cycle observed with the Venus Star is that every 4 years the Venus Star Point returns to the same sign of the zodiac, and close to the same degree. If the original VSP was a Morning Star in Scorpio, the VSP four years later will again be Scorpio, but it will be an Evening Star. To have a complete return to the same sign and phase takes 8 years. Thus, a Leo Morning Star, will return again after eight years.

Looking back to the most recent Leo Morning Star period which began on August 17th of 2007, we can gain insight into what the upcoming VSP at 23 Leo Morning Star (August 15, 2015) will bring. The Leo Star was born for the first time since 1849 with great promise and high spirits in August of 1987 (see chart at right).

In general, the Leo Star seems to encourage heart-centered action and the use of one's talents to ensure that we are passing down a legacy of love to younger generations. Environmentalism and recycling first got their start in the late 1980s as a way of showing love for the planet. Just as a mother would want to preserve a healthy way of life for her child, the healthy child, now an adult, will want to care for its aging mother, the Earth. Animal conservation, should see an increase during the Leo VSP.

The Leo VSP period from 1744 to 1849 gave birth to what Guttman calls "a bright and colorful era." As per Guttman, “During that 109-year period the French and American Revolutions and the founding of America as a nation occurred. The Napoleonic era 1790-1820 reflects the commanding solar presence of this Leo sun sign military leader who conquered peoples on multiple continents. In the early days of U.S. history, the California Gold Rush took place in the early to mid-1800s and reflected a new-found American obsession with land speculation and sudden wealth.

In the most recent Leo VSP (2007), riches linked to oil were front and center in the news as the US invaded Iraq. Oil prices reached an all-time high of over $100 a barrel in January of 2008 during the Leo VSP. As it has become commonly known, the U.S. made this unilateral invasion in order to attempt to appropriate Iraq's oil wealth. The troop surge in Iraq that finally "won" the war took place in January of 2007. The most bloody insurgent bombings killing over 700 and wounding over 1,500 innocent civilians took place in August of 2007. This war over control of the oil source continued until September of 2010 when a transfer of military control finally took place. Since 2007, the focus has shifted away from an exclusively oil-centered world energy economy toward more alternative sources such as biofuels, solar and wind power. New energy technology discoveries and the emerging billionaires behind them, are likely to surface during the period of this next Leo VSP. The upcoming Leo Morning Star VSP will last from August 17th, 2015 to June 6, 2016 when the VSP will shift to Gemini Evening Star.

As per Guttman, many world leaders of the dawning of the new Leo VSP period...
since 1987, such as Bill Clinton (a Leo Sun), Nelson Mandela (a late Cancer Sun) and Barack Obama (A Leo Sun) exemplify the heart-centered approach of this era that began with the Harmonic Convergence. While Obama was not elected until November 4th, 2008, he announced his candidacy on May 2nd, 2007 and did the bulk of his campaigning between August of 2007 and November of 2008. Oprah Winfrey the Leonian “Queen of the Airwaves” made her first campaign appearances for Obama in December of 2007, during the Leo Morning Star VSP.

Celebrity Culture first got its start in the late 1980s and reached gigantic proportions in 2007 when Hilton Hotels heiress Paris Hilton was arrested for driving under the influence. Like a spoiled princess, she snubbed her nose at the law and broke her probation several times before finally serving a very reduced sentence. The words “above the law” took on new meaning during this period which also saw the on-again, off-again rehabs and incarcerations of teen screen idol Lindsay Lohan.

The housing bubble of the early 2000’s is also very Leo VSP oriented in that banks worldwide took huge risks at selling mortgages to those unable to pay for them. The Leo concept of gambling and risk is seen to have come to a negative end when housing prices peaked in 2006 and then crashed most notably in September and October of 2007 just as the Leo VSP dawned. The credit crisis resulting from the bursting of the housing bubble is—according to general consensus—the primary cause of the 2007–2009 recession in the United States.

The Leo VSP of August 15th 2015 to June 6th of 2016 is likely to re-visit the themes of spiritual inspiration, heart-centered leaders, financial and scientific risk-taking, new sources of energy, new sources of wealth, and plenty of shocking celebrity gossip to keep us busy.

The Royals of England have been making news over the past two years with the royal wedding and the births of William and Kate’s new prince and princess. There are those who say that Prince Charles will never rule and that Prince William will take over after Elizabeth the II’s end to her 63-year plus rule. There have never known such a long-lived ruler since Queen Victoria who reigned for 63 years 216 days. As per Wikipedia, On 10 September 2015, Elizabeth II will, if still reigning, surpass the reign of her great-great-grandmother Victoria.

The Sabian Symbol for 23 degrees Leo is A Bareback Rider. This is a symbol of man’s absolute mastery of his immediate world of experience and of his ability to capitalize on any special function of life with which he is concerned.

The Sabian Symbol for 23 degrees Leo is A Bareback Rider. This is a symbol of man’s absolute mastery of his immediate world of experience and of his ability to capitalize on any special function of life with which he is concerned. There are illimitable opportunities for the human spirit to dramatize its personal achievement or aspiration and to do this in the way that is most effective. The keyword is “Audacity.” When positive, the degree is uncompromising courage in the everyday business of living and assurance in meeting the problems of a modern society. It sounds like we have an inspiring nine-and-a-half month period on the horizon. It’s time to practice our Roars in anticipation of August 15th!

Kari Noren-Hoshal is an evolutionary astrologer in Baltimore, Maryland. She teaches a two-year internship program and publishes an in-depth monthly astrology column which can be seen on her Facebook and on www.sivanaspiritblog.com. Kari is a former VP for Programming of the Baltimore Astrological Society. She has presented her views on astrology at UAC, NORWAC, the River of Stars and at NCGR chapters in the Mid-Atlantic. Kari is the Director of Programming of the White Bison Association as well as Secretary to the board. To contact Kari call 410-662-4676 or email her at karinorenhoshal@aol.com. Her website is www.visionquestastrology.com.
Venus Rx
in Business and Personal Finances
by Grace K. Morris, M.A.

The upcoming Venus RX period 7/15/15 – 9/8/15 is an opportunity to go over your finances, your bank account(s), your portfolio and your mortgage. Just as Mercury RX is a chance to reorganize your closets and your desk drawers, so, too, the two months of Venus RX can be used with regard to your financial life. Venus rules the 2nd house, the natural Taurus house and the 7th house, the natural Libra house. Taurus is psychologically the full-pantry syndrome, always wondering if there is enough canned goods on the shelf or money in the bank. Venus RX is a great time to take an inventory of one’s self-worth in terms of one’s possessions. The negative side for Taurus is to see their self-worth only in terms of their possessions. The positive side of both Taurus and Libra is an appreciation of the material things in one’s life and the support that means to enjoy life and expand one’s world. Investing can then be seen as an enjoyable learning experience and not a desperate need to secure one’s future.

Venus RX is a great time to take an inventory of one’s self-worth in terms of one’s possessions. Those who have lived through a Pluto transit to their Venus usually experience a new appreciation of their “worth”. People born with Venus RX or Venus progressing to RX is not an indicator of personal financial problems. Many very financially successful people have Venus RX. They may take a very different approach to making money or how they view success.

In setting up incorporation charts, first trade charts and new ventures for business clients, it would be nice if all the financial planets (particularly Venus and Jupiter) were direct but that would mean that no new businesses would begin for many months of the year. This just isn’t so. In setting up a good signing time to start a business, Venus/Jupiter RX can be kept out of a prominent place such as the angles or ruling the 4th house (end of the matter). Explain to a client that it may be worth waiting for a more profitable outcome to start the business. It is then their choice.

The stock market will continue to trade, companies will continue to function and consider the difference between ‘love of’ and ‘unconditional love’. This is a period of questioning what or who one needs (or no longer needs). A personal deep assessment on what may bring contentment and security becomes realised. In a Libran way, this may be connected to the femininity of an individual or it might require an objective evaluation of existing relationships which is weighed up and understood by positioning needs to address their own true worth. This may be to do with love, how one is loved and the capacity to love, how someone might identify themselves through another and consider the difference between ‘love of’ and ‘unconditional love’. This is a period of questioning what or who one needs (or no longer needs). A personal deep assessment on what may bring contentment and security becomes realised. In a Libran way, this may be connected to the femininity of an individual or it might require an objective evaluation of existing relationships which is weighed up and understood by positioning

MONEY AND FINANCIAL DECISIONS

Venus RX can offer an opportunity to renegotiate a financial contract or loan. Some things are better done as Venus goes direct. Such as purchasing luxury goods or items intended to last for a long time. Not because they won’t last but they could later be disappointing. Or there could be a problem in the cost of the item not apparent at the time of the Venus RX purchase.

Make a list of items that will require action as Venus goes direct, such as starting a new business, a new bank account, a new discount trading account, a new IRA account, purchases of long-term luxury items. Then in September as Venus stations and goes direct you have a plan.

Grace K. Morris, M.A., CA-NCGR Level IV, ISAR C.A.P., LPMFA, timing/trends specialist, president of Astro Economics, Inc. publishes two newsletters, the Astro Economics® Stock Market Newsletter and The Right Time. Morris’ latest book is How to Choose Stocks to Outperform the Market 2016. Her work has been acknowledged in articles in Forbes and the Financial Times. She has appeared on CNN Headline and Business News, CBS-TV, CNBC, and ABC-TV. Grace has worked with business clients for over 25 years. She is Business Editor for the Astrology News Service (ANS). Grace K. Morris, M.A., 1415 W. 22nd St., Tower Floor, Oak Brook, IL. 60523, USA, Phone: (815)464-8200, Fax: (815)464-8163, email: astro@astroeconomics.com, Website: www.astroeconomics.com.

Venus Retrograde
by Wendy Stacey

When Venus begins its journey into the retrograde phase the relationship between Venus and the Sun becomes more prominent. Similar to Mercury, in its retrograde phase, Venus will appear brighter in the sky (as it is closer to the earth) and appear only to us on earth to be moving backwards. During its retrograde period it will always make a conjunction to the Sun and therefore Venus needs to be understood in the context of the Sun-Venus relationship and the start of a new cycle.

When Venus goes retrograde it will deepen the issues that the Sun-Venus relationship represents and express itself more internally. These areas might be to do with confidence and self-esteem – a period where one needs the support of these planets to be moving direct. Astrologers have a tool to use in setting up incorporation charts, first trade charts and new ventures for business clients, it would be nice if all the financial planets (particularly Venus and Jupiter) were direct but that would mean that no new businesses would begin for many months
Venus Retrograde

by Monica Dimino

While all the outer planets have retrograde periods every year, the personal planets have retrograde periods in truly distinctive intervals. We are used to Mercury’s retrograde periods which average three a year, and perhaps Mars’ retrogrades with its two year retrograde rhythm. But Venus does not retrograde every year. Instead, it retrogrades at approximately 19+ month intervals, lasting 40 to 44 days. It is hard to keep track of irregular cycles like this.

Not only did I meet both of my husbands during a Venus retrograde period, five members of my immediate family reported meeting their spouses during a Venus retrograde period.

In the 1980s I began a project about relationships and marriage related to astrology. I wanted to help my clients in finding auspicious times to expect meaningful relationships. To do this, I asked clients in successful marriages (they existed then in Venezuela where I lived) to provide the date and year when they met. The majority seemed to remember, often adding curious but interesting tidbits to their stories. So many people mentioned a sense of fate in their meeting. I continued this study until I left my practice there in 1988. Quick tabulations showed a surprising number of these successful relationships began in the 7 week period when Venus was retrograde.

I did not return to this study until recently when we had a Venus retrograde period in late December 2013 to the end of January 2014. These findings were too small to furnish outstanding results, but I did have some surprising discoveries within my own family and community. Not only did I meet both of my husbands during a Venus retrograde period, five members of my immediate family reported meeting their spouses during a Venus retrograde period. Interestingly, most also added stories of those encounters with a powerful sense of recognition upon meeting.

Whenever we can, observing periods related to retrograding planets can teach us more than most textbooks. This year we will have the opportunity to do that with Venus. She does her retrograde station on July 25 at 0 degree 46 minutes Virgo. Then she “moves” back to 14 degrees 25 minutes Leo moving to direct station on September 6. What events related to Venus will surface during this time frame?

Stacey

Venus Retrograde

In Transit

They themselves both inside and outside the relationship. In a Taurean way, this might present a period of heightened senses or issues to do with the physical body, a material assessment or appreciating one’s personal relationship with nature.

... a period where there is a need to take stock, consolidate or discard what one has or what one needs.

The Venus retrograde phase brings forth a new conjunction with the Sun so there is something old and something new associated with this phase. It is ultimately about re-evaluation and how one might achieve getting their needs met, whatever they might be. It is a period where there is a need to take stock, consolidate or discard what one has or what one needs.

There are various points during Venus’s retrograde journey which are worth noting, in particular if one of them make an aspect to planets and angles in an individual’s natal chart. They are as follows;

1. The degree Venus stations and starts to go retrograde (Venus will be positioned approximately 30 degrees ahead of the Sun). For example, on the 25th July 2015 Venus will station at 0 degrees of Virgo.
2. The degree that Venus and the Sun conjoin which will be during Venus’s retrograde journey which using the same example will be on 15th August 2015.
3. The degree that Venus stations and moves direct which is approximately 30 degrees behind the Sun (and approximately 45 days from when the retrograde period started) and where it begins its journey forward will be on the 6th September 2015.
4. The point in time when Venus returns to the position of when it began its retrograde journey and advances from the shadow of the retrograde period. So this would be when Venus returns to 0 degrees Virgo on the 09th October 2015. Additionally, Venus will become retrograde within the same house of a natal chart every eight years and can give us some insight into the patterns and internal assessments we place on ourselves in these areas of life during these cycles.

If someone was born with Venus retrograde it is interesting to note when Venus would go direct in their natal chart by progression. This can occur anytime from age 1 to 45 and might depict an enlightening time when challenges and conflict to do with personal relationships or their self-esteem might be reconciled.

Venus Retrograde

In Transit

by Monica Dimino

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A Summertime Venus Retrograde
by Moon Zlotnick

For about six weeks this summer, from July 25, 2015 until September 6, Venus will provide us with some beautiful celestial viewing as she travels in retrograde motion from 0 degrees of Virgo back to the 14th degree of Leo. During a retrograde period Venus appears to travel in reverse motion against the backdrop of stars. This is not real planetary motion, but it creates the illusion of doing so from our vantage point here on Earth.

Retrograde planets take us away from the traditional external focus of the planet and direct that energy inward, towards introspection and deeper understanding. For example, people born with a retrograde Venus tend to give their hearts cautiously. During this period of time there can be a change or slowing of romantic feelings, particularly in new relationships. When Venus turns retrograde we all are invited to slow down and reevaluate; we may experience a different perspective on the relationships with all the people we love. This will be more intense for people born with personal planets or angles from 14 degrees of Leo to 0 degrees of Virgo.

Venus is more than the planet of romantic love. She also presides over friendships, as well as all expressions of beauty. During a retrograde period romantic relationships may stay the same but insights into friendships can bring about change. For people working in the arts, this period is excellent for going back to renew old pieces, make revision of all kinds, and go more deeply into already existing projects. Even though Venus retrograde may slow or inhibit external results, not the best time for an art show, or opening a music production, it can spark a great renewal of creativity.

Venus rules finances and money. The retrograde suggests rethinking both our spending and saving habits. Use this time to save for a big purchase, or learn more about investments.

During this period of Venus retrograde, Venus will spend three days conjunct with Jupiter on August 4-6th at the 28th degree of Leo. Venus and Jupiter are considered the benefics of the heavens, and together they promise expansive love, happiness, and blessings. If you have personal planets or angles at this degree these could be lovely romantic days for you or days that bring good fortune.

Due to these bright stars traveling together in the heavens, EarthSky.com suggests that there will be great viewing of them as evening stars from late June through July, with a particularly bright conjunction during the end of June-early July. I hope you find time to see this glorious sight, which will occur just after sunset in the western sky.

Venus Retrograde in Leo
Summer 2015
by Anne Ortelee

Venus is going to be retrograde in Leo.
Venus enters Leo on June 5, 2015. She enters her shadow phase at 14:23 Leo. The shadow phase gives each of us a sneak peak and sample of our upcoming Venus retrograde journey on June 21, 2015 at the summer solstice. Venus stations to turn retrograde at 0:46 Virgo on July 25, 2015. She moves retrograde, appearing to reverse her steps, until September 6, 2015 when she turns direct at 14:23 Leo. She leaves her retrograde journey on October 9, 2015.

The 2015 Venus retrograde is interesting for a few reasons. First, Venus will be on the world axis and semi-square to Cancer Sun at the Summer Solstice as she enters her retrograde shadow. The semi-square produces an anxious energy between two planets as well as a public pull towards the outer world due to the World Axis placement. Venus asks us what we LOVE and DESIRE. More importantly, Venus wants to know why those things stress us out yet nurtures, feeds and gives form to our Solar purpose. Venus gives us time to explore our questions about loves, creativity, abundance, exuberance, life and passions as she spends 112 days in Leo.

Second, Venus joins the Sun in an inferior, retrograde conjunction on August 15, 2015 starting a new 8 year cycle in our Leo house about how our heart’s desire links up with our Solar purpose which we express on earth. Think back to earlier Augusts 2007, 1999, 1991 for earlier versions of being asked by Venus and the Sun to start 8 years cycles. Inferior conjunctions, when Venus is captured between the Sun and Earth suggest more interior, psychological journeys to the deep center of our heart chakra where our life force pulses and our soul’s yearning resides.

Finally, Jupiter is in Leo, finishing up his year long journey. He dances with Venus and the Sun, beginning a new 12 year journey simultaneous to the Sun and Venus beginning their new 8 year journey. Lots of juicy, delicious fire starting, vision sharing, heartwarming energy. Leo is the Fire place or bonfire Fire – fixed and warming while contained in our hearts and hearths as we gaze at the flickering lights dancing.

The Leo House of our chart is where we are supposed to shine and grow in our lives. Summer 2015, the benefic Leo planets are calling each of us to focus our considerable light on how we can best shine in the world and share our gifts with humanity.
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Richard Smoot

YOUR ID

Email: richard@richardjsmoot.com

Your family: My family is those around me with whom I share my life and provide mutual support. My current family of origin includes my wife of five years, Victoria, my three sons and daughter, and a grandson. I have two sons from a first marriage, one is married and has a son and the other is going to be married this June. My other two children I adopted in another marriage. They were born in Korea. Yet my family extends to my astrological family over the past forty years and around the world. Oh and lest I forget, I’m also married to ISAR, Inc. and have various types of “intimacies” with OPA, NCGR, AFAN, APAI, AAGB, and AFA… I’m blushing.

Religious background & conditioning? I was brought up in a Presbyterian Church, but left at age 14 due to a congregational speech I made during a “Coming of Age” event. I read the Christian Bible from a historical perspective and I found (through a 14 year olds eyes) that it seemed like the Bible in early Christianity was used as a weapon of the literate church to oppress the illiterate public and manipulate the people to do the church’s bidding. My speech was cut short after my statement and the church door closed behind me. Later, I joined a Unitarian Universalist church and was a member for 20 years and became the President of their board. After I left the UU church in the mid-1990s, I did not involve myself with organized religion.

Spiritual orientation – do you follow any specific practice? I’m interested in Jainism and I’m a member of a Jain meditation center in Michigan. Yet I rely on the daily experiences of my seemingly new life that is currently unfolding. There is an awakening occurring. I have a personal axiom, which still works for me, “We are on this planet to raise the next generation and to serve.”

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you? Is this an employment interview? I think I heard that question when I applied for a job an administrator at the Detroit Medical Center. The worst and best thing about me is that I’m loyal. Loyalty is a double edge sword. Oh, I also got the job.

You never tried… Well, to those who really know me may agree that there isn’t much I have not tried (Seven cardinal and six fire signs). For a few years, I worked with the Oglala Lakota in repairing homes on the Cheyenne Reservation in South Dakota. During a Sweat Lodge I was given two names, “One Who Runs with Scissors” and “Gentle Tiger”. Incidentally, my Jain Sanskrit name is “Rohit” which translates “Eternal Flame.” I believe all three fit quite well, thank you. I never tried skydiving or bungee jumping.

You can’t refuse… Ah, I can’t seem to refuse a good old or new movie; live classical orchestra programs; a leisurely good dinner with friends and conversation; music of almost every genre ( I just can’t get into improvisational jazz and country; songs like, “How Can I Miss You if You Won’t Go Away by Yank Rachel and the Tennessee Jug Busters”).

Now this may be strange, but I can’t refuse looking at accounting and treasurer’s reports. I was ISAR’s treasurer for a while and I’m currently the treasurer for the Jain meditation center in Michigan, which I spoke of earlier. Of course, if I see an astrology chart, I can’t refuse to look at it.

What is playtime for you? As above, a good old or new movie; live classical orchestra programs; a leisurely good dinner with friends and conversation. I do love camping and the outdoors.

Your animal totem? During a Sun Dance on the native Lakota reservation, I came upon a turtle. I watched that turtle for nearly an hour. I saw in it, time, determination, and strength. It provided me with the courage to continue. I seemed to form a relationship and a personification with that turtle. So, I suppose a turtle is my animal totem.

Your superstition? As in superstitions are “irrational beliefs”? It is hard to imagine anyone without an irrational belief. Superstition as in a “personal fallacy”? I suppose I do, but I do not know.

Your Chinese sign? Ox Earth – This seems to some things up: “People born under the sign of the Ox are generally calm, dependable, patient and unflagging. The Ox is symbolic of prosperity that is achieved through hard work. Although obstinate they do have logical minds and will not be easily frightened. They appreciate that in order to achieve success things must be done in a certain methodical and correct way. Ox people are seldom deprived and tend to be both reliable and conventional. They are patient and very loyal.” (http://www paranormality.com/ox.shtml#sthash.qwi42TOC.dpuf)

Favorite place on earth? There are many places, all with their own charm, beauty allure. The two that come close to my heart is “the wedge” on the Pacific Ocean in Newport Beach, one of the first south facing beaches in California where storms in Baja, Mexico pound against the rocks that protect the boat inlet. It is here, when there are no people on the rocks, I would sit for hours and meditate as I became mesmerized by the ocean.
INTERVIEW - RICHARD SMOOT

Then there is my favorite backpacking and camping spot along Pictured Rocks along Lake Superior, Michigan is the 42 miles between Grand and Munising, part of the National Lakeshore Trail. Its outback camping so you have to register. From the walking trail on top there is often a 100 to 200 foot drop into Lake Superior.

What would you define as an important evolutionary lesson for you in this life? The term “evolutionary” evades me. I my client work, I use “evolutionary” as the passage of the transiting North Node around the chart. If this term is meant as insights into where the soul has been, its current life purpose, and ultimately where the “soul” is going, I can feel several periods in my life where such a lesson was learned. This was the period between transiting Pluto squared my Asc/Dec to transiting Uranus conjoined my Descendant. (2003-2008).

This was a period of major upheaval and awaking in my life. It was a period of great growth and emergence as a full time professional astrologer; a recognized owner of a software sales company (AstroDatabank and AstrologySoftwareShop), and recognized for my publishing work as ISAR’s journal publisher and consulting skills co-author. It was also a time of release when my business collapsed into bankruptcy and a marriage divorce. Incredible lessons learned and “soul” defining moments.

Your chart? April 8, 1949 @ 4:20 PM in Detroit, Michigan. Pick your house system, yet I seem to follow my Koch chart most closely.

YOUR PRACTICE
Where do you live and practice? I have lived in Lakewood, Ohio for the past five years. Most of my clients are by telephone or Skype, however I do have an active clientele in Michigan and will meet with people there once a month. If there is someone local, I do have an office I can use or I just meet with him or her at his or her home (I do house calls).

How long have you been practicing – How did it start? It’s rather a long story. I believe in 1970 (21 years old), I was working at a Crisis Center/Suicide Prevention Center (Hearing Aid) in a suburb of Detroit. A group of us just completed writing a grant to the National Institute of Mental Health to establish a crisis center, free medical clinic, a metha-
done maintenance program, and a five-bed unit at a local hospital to provide barbiturate and pain killer withdrawal support. During that time several of us received listening skills training from two groups in Lansing. We hired our first Executive Director, Ray Merriman. That is how I started astrology. I sure wish I had the time and date for that event.

Your Astrology teachers? To top the list, Ray Merriman was my first teacher and lifelong mentor. I still work with Ray and I recently was on his staff for his Merriman Market Timing Academy. By the time this publication is printed, I will have graduated (with my other staff cohort Darri Murphy) will have graduated with our certification in financial market timing and geocosmic studies. This was a two-year course over seven (four day) sessions with about thirty students from many countries traveling to Michigan to attend. Darri and I assisted in teaching astrology to the students. To this day, several of the “students” have become very close friends and became my teachers in market analysis. They are a whole new “family” for me.

I have had several other teachers, including a three-year course with Robert Corre (teachings from Jean-Baptiste Morin de Villefranche). My favorite teachers are those that helped me personally become a better astrologer. They are Monica Dimino; Chris McRae; Sandra-Leigh Serio (my closest sisters); Gary Christian; Maurice Fernandez; Arlan Wise; and Robert Mulligan. It is through OPA that I have been fortunate to have these grand teachers. This would not have been possible if there were not OPA.

3 favorite Astrology books? Can’t do that…here are my favorite books I still refer:

- Modern Textbook of Astrology, Margaret Hone
- Astrology; A Cosmic Science, Isabel M. Hickey
- Evolutionary Astrology, Raymond Merriman
- Predictive Astrology: The Eagle & The Lark, Bernadette Brady
- Most of the entire collection of Ivy Goldstein-Jacobson:
  - Simplified Horary Astrology
  - Foundation Of The Astrological Chart
  - Here & There In Astrology
  - All Over The Earth Astrologically
  - The Way Of Astrology
  - Explain Me Why Astrologically
  - In The Beginning Astrology
  - Correspondence Course In Astrology

Your Astrology hero? Hero? Well I have several, Raymond A. Merriman. We always remember our first crush (blush). Yet I rush to mention Monica Dimino, and Chris McRae who have brought to me their enormous experience and knowledge.

What do you feel is your greatest achievement to date in your astrology career? It was in the early 2000s that ISAR commissioned a study to find what is most important to be an astrologer. From the results ISAR learned that listening, competency, and ethics were the most important components to be a competent and professional astrologer.

That is when Gisele Terry and I created the ISAR Consulting Skills training. ISAR’s Consulting Skills Program is a 16-20 hour intensive training that is designed to give astrologers listening and empathy skills that facilitate the astrologer-client relationship. A requirement for ISAR certification, this 2 1/2 day training is primarily experiential, emphasizing role-playing exercises that teach empathic communication, reflection, paraphrasing and active listening. Integrated with the basic principles of chart interpretation, these skills provide astrologers an ability to respond to their clients’ most personal thoughts and feelings and in this way help clients feel better understood.

Over the past 10 years, we have trained 14 trainers and over 500 people in 15 countries have taken the ISAR Consulting Skills training. Gisele and I were nominated for the 2008 UAC Regulus Award in Education.
INTERVIEW - RICHARD SMOOT

Secondly, I value the contribution I made in sustaining the AstroDatabank. Lois Rodden devoted her life to developing a comprehensive and accurate database of over 40,000 people and events, and distributing the software that could locate over 365,000 astrological variables in the database. This was a quantum leap in astrological quantitative research. Along with AstroDatabank, I owned Astrology Software shop where astrologers could review 800 types of astrological software and reports. On average, the website had 90,000 unique visitors spending an average of 45 minutes on the site each month. Eventually in 2008 when people needed to pay for their rent and food rather than buying software, my business went bankrupt. This was a very valuable experience.

Finally, one of the accomplishments to date in my astrology career is the eleven years (55 issues) of putting together and publishing of ISAR's Journal. My vision remains to have a quality astrological journal with meaningful, topical articles and peer reviewed articles from astrologers' world-over. In addition, my vision was to have a journal that put a “face” to ISAR, with photographs, world wide events, regular columns with interviews, book reviews and to be inclusive of ISAR's membership by providing new writer's the opportunity to be published. The journal now has a professional editor/astrologer (Victoria Smoot, an OPA group leader) and host of editors and an advertising manager.

What made it possible for you to become a full time astrologer? It was rather a long road. For many years trying to keep a full time job as a student, a hospital administrator and then an accountant/business manager for a large non-profit recycler. Then, magically, one day the Executive Director at the recycling center told me she loved my work and was very pleased, “however”, she found my off duty work with astrology was a distraction and that someday I would have to choose between my job and astrology. Well, fire up the Aries in me! I told her that I do not take kindly of threats and I gave her a one-month notice. No, it’s not fair to give two weeks for a management position. I was “out of there!”

I was free! Yes, my wife and children where shocked and angry, however, I was free! This is when I started astrology full time and went to work with Ray Merriman in his office for a while and it left me to devote more time to my practice, astrology and the astrology community. I never looked back.

What is the great thing and the hard thing about being an astrologer? For me there are several fantastic things about being an astrologer:

- Passion for the work we are doing.
- Manage your own time and your own direction.
- Meet amazing clients
- Have an extended family of other astrologers from all over the world.
- Be able to be with “family” during conferences and listen and learn from many great teachers.
- Study whatever and whenever you want.

There are several challenging things about being an astrologer:

- Finding clientele to work with, especially when you are involved in the astrology community.
- The uncertainty of a steady income.
- Keeping and maintaining an active client base.
- Having the money to travel for conferences and continue to take classes.
- Focusing on your business day to day.
- Having a business plan that is always evolving.

All in all, the great reasons outweigh the difficulties. It is about passion to help others, passion about astrology and staying on the path. There is no plan “B”.

Tell us about your story with ISAR? A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...about 2002 I was monitoring at the 2001 UAC conference. I had just met Monica Dimino and we had a great talk, I was really excited and fascinated. Up to that point I was not affiliated with any one group, except receiving my NCGR Level IV certification and a PMAFA member. During that conference, Ray Merriman came up to me and asked me if I wanted to join ISAR. I really did not know the differences, so he asked me if I was “west coast or east coast”. I had recently lived in southern California for eight years, so I said, “west coast”. He said, “ISAR is where you belong”. So I joined and over the next few years I found myself be introduced to the ISAR Board, and developing a consulting skills program with Gisele Terry. In 2004, Ray asked both Kim Rodgers-Gallagher and I to produce the ISAR Journal. I was elected to the Board for a short period, until I was asked to be it’s Treasurer and Operations Manager since it was a paid position. Over the past four years, ISAR had grown to the point that I could no longer do the Treasurer’s position and continued as its Operation Manager. My task is to be the “one-point” of contact for all the memberships needs (along with Marguerite dar Boggia) and manage any operational function for ISAR's programs, at the Board's discretion.

What are your future ambitions in the field of astrology? I suppose this is where a business plan would come into play. Currently I'm enjoying grading ISAR and NCGR examinations and I'm taking classes in classical and Vedic astrology. As for my future ambitions, ask me when transiting Uranus and Pluto are done making their "delicate" modification in my life and attitude. I believe it was Alexander Ruperti in his book "Cycles of Becoming" said something like, “The planets Saturn and closer to the earth make us the best person we can be, while Uranus, Neptune and Pluto make us better than who we are.”

What inspires you to be an OPA member? OPA is a place where we are all on the same level, learning about ourselves and learning from our peers. It is in OPA I found a home and family where I learned so much from so many people via their retreats, lectures and their certification process. Nowhere in astrology that I'm aware of is anyone doing an actual consult with peers for guidance and help in a confidential and purposeful environment. Purposeful in that OPA's concern is assisting the astrologer to be the best consulting astrologer. The method is exactly how it was done, on a weekly basis, with other social workers I worked with in California. This experience has been a great accomplishment; especially in the skills I have learned; the people I have met and the family that has developed.

Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers? The only magic in astrology is the magic you put in. We are here to serve and assist people to explore and find their answers. We are here to listen, understand and to provide our skills and practice to each client, one at a time. Learn the most you can and do as many charts as you can. Be authentic, ethical and responsible.

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

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OPA's Quarterly Magazine

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Welcome New Russian members

OPA welcomes our newest members from Russia. As our astrology community expands and solidifies, we learn from one another and make astrology stronger.

спасибо
Astrology is a spiritual art. Astrology provides the framework for spiritual evolution for the astrologer and it provides the opportunity for the astrologer to show up as a spiritual guide for a client. This is true even if you are doing horary, financial or other non-psychological astrology, because all facets of life are indeed part of the spiritual path from a non-dual approach. In non-dual philosophy it is understood we are all spiritual beings living a physical existence and that everything we do is sacred.

In dual philosophy there is an underlying belief is that our human life is ‘less than’ and a perfect being or aspiration directs us. A non-dual approach leads us to absolute choice centered, empowering astrology. A dual approach leads us to the concept of preordained fate in our astrology. Most of us fall somewhere in between, understanding the chart as a roadmap of the soul’s path that guides and directs us along the lines of fate, and allows consciousness to determine choice within predetermined karmic patterns that are poised to come to fruition in this life.

As the Buddhists say, we are on a river; we can flow along the river we’re on, maybe meandering from side to side, but we can’t move to another river. (Unless we portage of course, carrying our heavy canoe to another river, a task too daunting for most). So we stay on our river, and astrology helps us navigate wisely.

How does this matter for ‘Enhancing Your Practice’?

I want to set the stage of astrology as spiritual practice as I write the upcoming columns. Yoga philosophy gives us a wonderful set of precepts called ‘Yamas’ and Niyamas that can be used as tools to deepen our personal spiritual practice of life, and can be applied to being an astrologer. Yamas translate to restraints and include nonviolence, truthfulness, nonstealing, nonexcess and nonpossessiveness. The Niyamas are observances and are more positively framed intentions (purity, contentment, self-discipline, self-study and surrender).

Ahimsa — ‘Nonviolence’

Of course, you say, you are not violent at all. A lighter translation of ahimsa might be non-harming. And even here you imagine you are not harming anyone. Let’s go deeper. Yamas are subtle.

For you, as an astrologer, how are you harming yourself? Are you eating well, taking care of your body, aware of your capacity to become stressed or overly busy? So often when we are in the serving/healing professions we give in excess to others and treat ourselves less than kindly. As an astrologer, our body and mind are our tools. Without physical health and mental clarity, we simply cannot do our work well. We are channels of information and insight gleaned from years of study, but also from the magic of the moment. If our physical health is impaired, our inner lens will be grey. We will not feel empathically nor see clearly.

Here’s an ahimsa checklist for you whether you are a professional astrologer or not. It’s always a good time to wonder if your choices are harming you or bringing you closer to your highest potential. There is no right answer or perfect choice; these are simply questions to contemplate honestly. On the physical level:

- do you get enough sleep?
- do you consider your body’s nutritional needs and follow your inner truth as much as possible, knowing that excess rigidity might also be harmful?
- are you mindful of the effects of mind altering substances (including caffeine and sugar) on your body, mind and emotions, including how low, moderate or excess use affects (or perhaps doesn’t affect) your astrology practice?
- do you exercise regularly?
- do you find time to be in nature?
- do you consider a healthy, balanced schedule for you? Balance is different for everyone and involves listening to your deepest intuition about your personal needs.
- do you have healers you work with regularly to keep you in optimum shape, not just waiting to become sick?

On an emotional or mental level, we can benefit from looking at our inner dialog because how we talk to ourselves will leak out into how we think about and talk to others. In consulting sessions our language is extremely important. Our clients will feel the empathy and compassion with which we think about them. This affects the healing potential of their experience, and also their likelihood to be returning clients. If you don’t like your client it’s important to contemplate why that is, and either heal that within yourself or choose to refer them to someone else.

Although normally it’s pretty easy for me to enjoy and care for my clients, I once had a client I found very annoying and hard to sit with. She was needy and in pain, and also very judgmental and critical, unable to hear anything I said without resistance. I know we’ve all known that person … and probably we’ve all been that person at least on occasion! I knew I had to do something to heal my own attitude, or refer her to someone else. When I sat with her chart and compared it to mine, and then to my mother’s chart, I could see very clearly how she was mirroring core issues. She was embodying the worst of my personality traits, and my mother’s, all wrapped into one person! Once I could see that my heart softened. I had to accept my ‘flaws’ and cultivate another level of forgiveness for my mom. I made a point of feeling love and compassion deliberately when I talked to her, and soon I developed true positive feelings toward her. She has remained my client for many years.

It takes inner work to be able to see ourselves clearly. You might ask yourself:

- have you tamed your inner critic so that you may relax with your own humanness?
- do you understand the concept of non-violent communication?
- do you strive for empathy and compassion in all interactions, including simple tasks like booking appointments, obtaining initial details, and follow-up?
- are you aware of your blind spots, prejudices and personal fears that may affect your sessions?
- do you have personal support network like a therapist, your own astrologer, deeply supportive friends?

Going Deeper …

The Client Session

One of the underlying issues that might cause us to be subtly harmful to others is how we act when we feel powerless. Additionally, as astrologers we are vulnerable to feeling ‘in power’ because we know so much about another person, and they often give their power to us. ‘Tell me about what’s going to happen to me’ they implore with the hope we’ll soften...
the blows and allay their fears. This might give us a feeling of false power.

To be a good astrologer we need to cultivate a spiritual sense of personal power, drawing on who we really are, softening the tendency toward ego based power. In this way we can open clients’ eyes to seeing and feeling their own power. Here we might consider:

• am I answering the client’s questions in a way that empowers them?
• am I facing my own fears so that I do not impart fear in the reading? If we are overly fearful we will tend toward negative predictions. We might also worry excessively about our clients, finding ourselves enmeshed and stressed. It is helpful to understand the difference between ‘helping’ and ‘supporting’.
• do you know how you’re going to handle it if the client asks hard questions, like when someone’s going to die, or when will they die themselves? When a client is deeply depressed how you can give them truth without harming them further? Do you know when to refer your client to an expert beyond your scope of training and experience?
• are we able to listen empathically and not interject our personal stories and bias into the session excessively?
• have we created a healing experience for the client in a serene uncluttered office, an easy process of booking sessions and a professional yet inviting telephone demeanor?

As we explore ahimsa and its relevance to our professional practice, the possibilities are limitless. We can view our personal patterns with love and compassion, developing a gentle intention to clear old patterns and live our lives in accord with our highest intentions. This is not a one time exercise, it is a lifelong practice, woven together with astrology as an ongoing spiritual practice. This exploration is not an exercise in inner criticism. I cannot stress enough how important it is to view ourselves with compassion as we move through simply human experiences.

Through the exploration of astrology as a spiritual practice, and the meditation on ahimsa in all facets of our life, we discover that developing our own sense of spiritual and physical clarity, courage, love and empathy culminates in a professionalism that permeates through every aspect of our practice. An attitude of non-harming affects the way we do our analyses, our communication style and perhaps every detail in the way we conduct our astrology practice. This ongoing spiritual inquiry infuses our life with meaning and purpose, and makes us much better astrologers, no matter what style or brand of astrology we believe in.

With love & gratitude, Kay

Kay Taylor integrates an evolutionary/ spiritual and psychological approach to astrology with her refined intuitive skills, psychosynthesis counseling, yoga and hypnotherapy. She teaches all of these disciplines individually and synthesized via classes, workshops and webinars. She leads international retreats, is an ISAR Consulting Skills Trainer, has lectured at various conferences (ISAR, UAC, SOTA), and wrote for Astrology.com for many years. Kay is ISAR CAP and NCGR II certified. Known for her grounded, heart-centered approach, Kay has had a thriving private practice for over thirty years based in the San Francisco Bay Area and available by phone/skype. Email: kaytaylorwisdom@gmail.com

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Exploring our Full Self

Working with the Antiscia

Much of Astrology focuses on our external actions and inner psychological interconnection. Humans are far more complex than these two arenas. It is my belief that it is the journey of a human’s life to explore all facets of experience. Much of these deeper human realms can be found in the use of Antiscia points.

Exploring the full range of our human experience involves so much more than the social actions we engage in daily. To understand our “full” selves, we need to reach areas of existence and experience. In our client work, the Antiscia can be used to discover and interpret the hidden parts of our clients. Furthermore, we can aid our clients in defining sensitive times with, when and how these hidden characteristics could show themselves.

Also known as “Solstice Points,” the Antiscia of planets represent our shadow and reflections of ourselves. Knowledge and use of the Antiscia date back to Ptolemy and Julius Firmicus Maternus in the 2nd century BCE.¹

Shadow and reflections are archetypical in that every culture throughout time has an association and symbolic reference to shadows and reflections. Most recently “shadows” in the human psyche are described by Carl Jung.²

A shadow, or a reflection, is not a real object, but a representation and interpretation of an object. Such are Antiscia points in a chart; they are a representation of unconscious compensating values to those held by the conscious personality. The “shadow” often represents one’s dark side—those aspects of a person that exist, but are not shown normally. To know our shadow is to know dimensions of ourselves that we can explore.

It is important to note that Antiscia points are just points; they have no connection to house placement or rulership and cannot be used as such in interpretations. Antiscia points are only sensitive contacts where we can find information regarding our inner selves, our libidinal urges, and our anima/animus.³

Shadow is the inferior part of the personality; it is the sum of all personal and collective psychic elements which, because of their incompatibility with the chosen conscious attitude, are denied expression life and therefore coalesce into a relatively autonomous “splitter personality” with contrary tendencies in the unconscious. The shadow behaves compensatory to consciousness; hence its effects can positive as well as negative.

Because a reflection is not a real object, it is different than a shadow in that a reflection shows the reality that exists within a person as it interacts with the outside world. The reflection is distorted by the observer through their own persona and collective worldview past experiences.

When activated by transit or progression, the Antiscia points can appear in conscious form and the person can “act-out” and are often seen by society as exhibiting “abnormal” or “antisocial” behavior. Yet, it is important that we understand and know our shadow selves. The shadow self is revealed as if we are expressing our animal and primal selves with no regard to social convention or norms. Some well established past public displays by Britney Spears, Charlie Sheen, Tiger Woods, Lindsey Lohan and Whitney Houston are notable by transits and progressions to their natal Antiscia points.

For us astrologers, this means we can locate periods of time in a client’s chart where stress or other circumstances can reveal a reaction that appears to be out of that person’s character. This could be as mild as developing coping mechanisms to complete personality changes. These periods are very important for they allow us to experience our full selves and gain a deeper understanding of the depths and range of our human experience.

The Antiscia of a natal planet is found in most higher end astrology software, such as Sirius, Kepler, and Solar Fire. You can also derive the Antiscia by using a simple formula. Below is a graphic of sending and receiving Antiscia signs.

In looking at the zodiacal graphic, the sign of Aries will have an Antiscia in the sign of Virgo; the reverse is also true. This also applies to Taurus/Leo and Gemini/Cancer. Above the Asc/Dec axis, Pisces will have an Antiscia in the sign of Libra; and the reverse would also be true. This also applies to Aquarius/Sagittarius and Capricorn/Pisces.
To manually find an Antiscia, choose the planet and the sign it is in and make note of the planets degree and minute. Find the corresponding Antiscia sign and subtract from 30 degrees the position of the natal planet. The result will be the degrees and minutes for the Antiscia planet. Do this for all the planets and angles, and you will have your Antiscia sensitive points. Here are two examples:

1. You have natal Venus at 13:47 Leo and want to find its Antiscia point. Note the Antiscia sign for Leo is Taurus. So take 29:60 (30 degrees) minus 13:47 and the answer is 16:13 of Taurus as your natal Venus Antiscia point. Transits and/or progressions to 16:13 Taurus would “set off” shadow or reflective characteristics of natal Venus according to the type of aspect and the nature of the transit and/or progression. Remember the Antiscia point is only a point and does not hold house placement or rulership. If Uranus is making a square to Venus Antiscia point there may be an urge for a sexual interaction; the quick repulsion or attraction to someone; or your sense of harmony and compatibility could be upset, especially in the areas where natal Venus rules.

2. Here is another example. Your natal Sun at 9:44 Gemini and want to find its Antiscia point. Note the Antiscia sign for Gemini is Cancer. So take 29:60 (30 degrees) minus 9:44 and the answer is 20:16 of Cancer as your natal Sun Antiscia point. Any major aspect by transits and/or progressions to 20:16 of Cancer would “set off” shadow or reflective characteristics of natal Sun according to the type of aspect and the nature of the transit and/or progression. At the time of this writing transiting Venus will be making a conjunction to this Antiscia Sun. One could experience a deep sense of harmony and well-being and want to act on it in a way that is not common for them. Since this is a fast transit, they may find themselves wanting to act in a Venusian way where the Sun is in by house or rulership (Leo). There “not common” acting out may only be observed by them, however they will have gained a deeper peek into their personality and identity than ever before.

In using Antiscia points in a natal chart, you will most likely find Natal planets making aspect with another Antiscia planet. These are important. In this case, the natal planet receives the shadow/reflection and its connection while the Antiscia planet will further emphasize the Natal planets character. Antiscia points are activated when a transiting planet or secondary progression with any major aspect (2 degrees applying and one degree separating) is in effect.

It is as if the Natal planet develops a new persona not seen before by others or the native and it opens a period of time where the native’s experiences dimensions of themselves they have not worked with, but need to, for them to fully be human or experience the full depths of their “animal” self. Since celebrities are the most obvious for us to witness in a period exhibiting non-social behavior, let us look at Charlie Sheen for one of the many periods in his rocky life where a combination of transits, and progressions manifested a change in his life. It is the Antiscia points that brought about the bizarre anti-social melt down we witnessed in March 2011 in his “Winning Tour.”

Charlie Sheen was born as Carlos Irwin Estevez on September 3, 1965 at 10:48 PM EDT, New York, NY. (AstroDatabank AA rating) Below is the bi-wheel of Charlie Sheen’s natal chart with his Antiscia chart on the outside.

Note the following 1-degree major aspects: Natal Sun opposition Antiscia Venus; Natal Venus opposition Antiscia Sun. It is these (and a few inconjuncts Sun/Neptune, Uranus/Pluto) that are sensitive points are theme areas where Mr. Sheen can and will explore issues within his shadow self and reflection of self. Sun=identity, ego; Venus=compatibility, harmony, sensuality, and love. The inconjuncts between Sun/Neptune, Uranus/Pluto could bring in more of the darker and unpredictable nature of Mr. Sheen’s personality and actions. If you research Mr. Sheen’s history, this theme has been expressed throughout his adult life.

In looking at his personal and professional “meltdown” (March 10, 2011), see chart below, Mr. Sheen had many powerful secondary progressions and transits active. These could tell most of the story at the time. Yet Mr. Sheen’s inner battle with his shadow, anima and libido (animal) self were quite strong and lend more to his inner challenges and growth than other forecasting tools. By transit and secondary progression, transit Sun conjunct progressed Chiron; transit Sun inconjunct natal Venus; progressed Ascendant trine natal Saturn; progressed Midheaven trine natal Mercury.
A new and shadow/reflection part of Mr. Sheen’s experience of self can be found in the transits and secondary aspects to his Antiscia points. A key occurrence is that natal Antiscia Pluto and natal Antiscia Saturn are in opposition and the progressed Ascendant forms a T-Square to those points. This shows the Saturn/Pluto battle in his natal Antiscia chart (lifelong aspect) is now squared by his secondary progressed Ascendant. It is as if Mr. Sheen projects the inner shadow struggle between Saturn and Pluto through his current personality path (progressed Ascendant.) There are quite a few other Antiscia point connections, such as progressed Mars/Venus square Antiscia Venus and progressed Jupiter conjunct Antiscia point Jupiter.

By transit or secondary progression, Antiscia point orbs are not more than 2 degrees applying and one degree separating. The Antiscia planet point receives the nature of the transit or progression and sends the “shadow or reflection” to the same natal planet. The natal planet will experience the “shadow or reflection” and act in a way of the Antiscia point planet and the nature of the aspected planet in exploring the shadow/reflection.

I currently have no research completed using solar arc, primary, or tertiary directions with the Antiscia, however it seems likely these valid forecasting tools hold promise and are worthy of further research.

In conclusion, I ask the reader to experiment using Antiscia points, especially with partners’ spouses and friends. Place their Antiscia chart on a bi-wheel with your natal chart in the center and find the connections. Most likely you will discover shadow connections in your chart with the other person. Its action in the relationship will often challenge you to act differently and in ways not expected.

Were there periods in your life where you acted unlike your regular self or were told by others that you were acting “different”? It could have been a period where people stayed away from you or reached out to you. These are indications that transits or progressions were activating your Antiscia points.

By observing the events and behaviors of clients or others we can perhaps the journey people take when the Antiscia is in action. These events and their sometime extreme action are not easily seen with our common tools of natal or forecasting tools. It’s all about our individual journey in life both in society and with the deeper reaches of our personality and the experience of our inner selves, our hidden selves and our instinctual animal self (libido.) Being “fully” human is to experience all we can.

Endnotes:
1 “The Antiscia of the Greeks has been handed down by tradition. I do not wish anyone to think that the Greeks have not discussed this. For even Ptolemy followed no other theory but that of Antiscia, Antiochus said that indeed Libra did not see Aries because the Earth was in the middle, as if through a mirror, reached the theory of the Antiscia. Dorotheus of Sidon, on the other hand, a very wise man who wrote about forecasting by the stars in very accurate and learned verses, explained the calculation of the Antiscia in clear terms in his fourth book.”
Julius Firmicus Maternus, The Mathesis: Ancient Astrology Theory and Practice

2 C. G. Jung: “The shadow personifies everything that the subject refuses to acknowledge about himself and yet is always thrusting itself upon him directly or indirectly—for instance, inferior traits of character and other incompatible tendencies.”
(The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious, Collected Works 9, i, pp. 284 f.)

Continued on Page 30
June Solstice 2015

THEMES OF THE SEASON

- June Solstice
  June 21, 2015
- Saturn Revisits Scorpio
  June 15 until September 17, 2015
- Venus Retrograde
  July 25 to September 6, 2015 - 0Virgo46 to 14Leo23
- Uranus Stations - Retrograde
  July 26, 2015 - 20Aries 30
- Saturn Stations Direct
  August 2, 2015 - 28Scorpio 16
- Jupiter enters Virgo
  August 11, 2015
- Partial Solar Eclipse
  September 13, 2015 - 20Virgo 10
- Mercury Stations Retrograde
  September 17, 2015 - 15Libra 55
- Jupiter opposing Neptune
  September 17, 2015 - 7Pisces 58

W

e are reaching transition points as we approach the summer solstice, with the moon, sun, Mars, and Saturn all in the last degrees of signs. As soon as the sun enters Cancer, the changes begin, starting with the moon entering Virgo twenty minutes later and followed by Mars ingressing into Cancer in the following week. The transitions around the solstice are thus likely to be quite noticeable this year.

One planet that will not be changing signs until later this season is Saturn. The Celestial Timekeeper is summering in Scorpio, backtracking into the sign a week before the solstice and leaving for Sagittarius on September 17th, a few days before the equinox. During his stay in Scorpio, Saturn will have us taking another look at some of the issues that were prominent during his stay over the past few years.

Some very difficult themes emerged during that time. On the week that Saturn entered Scorpio in 2012, Penn State’s assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was sentenced to prison for sexual abuse. As Saturn left the sign last December, comedian Bill Cosby was battling multiple charges of sexual assault. These are not “sex scandals” – like the indiscretions of politicians that so titillate the public – these are sex crimes. Saturn in Scorpio exposed not only a dark side of men who stood out as the very image of American wholesomeness, but of the power structures that helped protect them. A similar, if slightly less sinister, theme emerged around the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few super-rich people in the world. We’re likely to be revisiting these issues during the course of the summer. Saturn will station to move direct at the midpoint of summer, on August 2nd, a likely pivot point in our collective understanding of these themes, and a test of integrity for people in position of authority and power.

Venus is retrograde for a good portion of the summer. She just puts her toe into Virgo on July 18, then changes direction on the 25th, almost as if she thinks better of it. The goddess of love re-enters Leo on July 31st, and turns direct on September 6th at 14 Leo 23. Backtracking through Leo, Venus may have us reconsidering romance and the grand gestures we often associate with love: is a diamond really a girl’s best friend? Excessive aesthetic may also raise an eyebrow when designs may seem a bit over the top. Perhaps Venus is importing some Virgoan sensibilities to temper expansive Jupiter’s visit to dramatic Leo – sometimes less really is more.

Venus’ station will coincide with Uranus stationing to retrograde just a day later, on July 26th. In fact, a square from Mars to stationing Uranus on the 25th may signal some dramatic events. Uranus stations often create an edgy, impatient feel, and adding Mars to the mix could trigger those of us with an already short fuse. The Stellar Warrior will be in self-protective Cancer, challenging more independence-oriented Uranus in Aries. It could be a matter of striking first and asking questions later. Look to Mars’ opposition to Pluto on July 15th to give an indication of the issues – or look back to the meeting of Mars and Uranus on March 11th. Protests in Ferguson, Missouri and a terrorist threat against an Air France flight to New York were prominent stories at the time.

Stationing is ‘in vogue’ in mid-summer, with Venus, Uranus, and Saturn all changing direction. Jupiter keeps moving forward, however, and enters Virgo on August 11th. Jupiter in Virgo can be like using a...
The telescope to examine your fingernail, and we may exaggerate details and wind up mistaking minutia for the big picture. Yet we can also recognize the value of service, and the somewhat Spartan feel of Virgo can encourage that most un-Jovian of virtues, moderation. Health care reform in the U.S is likely to get a boost from Jupiter in the sign we associate with health. This is a topic that was prominent when Saturn was in Virgo (around the 2008 presidential election). Issues around the food supply, such as organic foods, GMOs, and factory farming are also likely to be amped up – although perhaps all sides of each of these debates will benefit equally from additional Jovian hyperbole.

**Vesta**, an asteroid closely associated with the sign of the virgin, turns retrograde in **Aries** on August 12th, just a day after Jupiter’s ingress. Vesta stations square to Pluto in Capricorn – an indication of activism against Big Agra, Big Pharma, and icons of corporate control over our health and well-being. Vesta’s station is likely to subtly color Jupiter’s time in Virgo.

The Virgo emphasis continues with a **partial solar eclipse** on September 13th, at 20 degrees of the sign. This was the degree of the second of five oppositions of Saturn to Uranus during the years 2008 – 2010 (the first occurred on November 4, 2008, when Barack Obama was elected president in the U.S.). This degree also correlates with health care reform in the United States, so we may see some changes around that issue. Immigration is not especially Virgoan, but the focus of immigration in the U.S. is on Central Americans, who make up a large section of the undocumented labor force in the country, and that is an issue that falls under Virgo. Watch for news in these areas.

**Mercury retrogrades** from September 17th to October 9th, retracing his steps through the first half of Libra. With the Cosmic Messenger shifting the gears into reverse in Venus’ home sign just after the goddess turns direct in Leo, we may be reviewing aesthetics as well as business practices. Where do we find harmony? Where is cooperation as important as competition?

With Mercury retrograde in Libra, Venus backpedaling through Leo, a solar eclipse in Virgo and Jupiter entering the sign, a theme seems to be emerging. We appear to be moving towards a leaner, more practical aesthetic. More Lacinto kale and less Kobe beef, more Doc Martin’s and less Jimmy Choo, more Dr. Oz and less Keeping Up With the Kardashians. Although downsizing is a frightening idea in many contexts, we could be entering a period when sustainability becomes the keyword, and that’s likely to mean cutting back in some areas. With an economy run by the need for corporations to constantly grow and culture where even weight loss means acquiring a new product, this shift in thinking and values is likely to engender some blowback from the powers-that-be.

### Solar Eclipse

**September 13, 2015**
7:41am
Greenwich, UK

### September 17

- Mercury Retrograde
- Jupiter/Neptune opposition
- Saturn returns to Sagittarius
Mercury's stations often get our attention, but September 17th features some really unique energy. **Saturn takes his final leave of Scorpio and enters Sagittarius** on the same day. In the week or so before, we can expect to see Saturn-in-Scorpio issues at a kind of peak. Generally, the day that a planet ingresses into a sign shows at least the tone of its stay, yet with Mercury stationing we may get mixed messages and perhaps misread the information we receive.

On the same day, **Jupiter opposes Neptune**. Jupiter-Neptune often correlates with significant social changes, often focusing on the care of all members of society. On the Virgo-Pisces axis we’re likely to see this at an extreme, with an outpouring of compassion and a collective desire to “save” others (or perhaps save ourselves?). As this is Jupiter’s first major aspect in Virgo, we can take it as a kind of keynote address for his time in the sign. Although Mercury and Saturn may try to upstage him, Saturn will be entering Jupiter’s sign on the same day and may inadvertently lend a hand. Look for faith-based initiatives to be in the news, along with labor disputes.

**Pluto is deep in Capricorn** throughout all of the above. We may be approaching a turning point in our approach to the economy, the environment, and our health, but there will be resistance. With Pluto stationing trine to Jupiter on a lunar eclipse just after the September equinox, we’ll probably see that soon enough.

**Armand Diaz, Ph.D.,** is an NCGR-PAA Certified Consulting Astrologer, with a practice based in New York City. In addition to consulting, he speaks on astrology nationally and internationally. His book, Integral Astrology: Understanding the Ancient Disciplines in the Contemporary World, was published in 2012. In 2013, he co-produced and co-edited Transpersonal Astrology. His most recent book, Separating Aspects, is on relationship astrology. He is Books and Articles Editor for the Astrology News Service. Armand can be reached via his website, www.IntegralAstrology.net.

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**Book Review**

**The Light of Venus**

By Arlan Wise

**The Light of Venus**

By Adam Gainsburg

Here is something new in this book that comes from something very old. Adam Gainsburg has added information to our astrological knowledge by using the ancient method of observation. He looked at the night sky for nine years and while doing so he received understanding from Venus about her phases as she moves through both the night and morning skies.

Adam defines phases as the dynamic sub-section of a planet’s complete cycle with another body that conveys a broader meaning than the planet itself. He uses the astrophysical conditions such as speed, brightness, latitude and sky appearance to enhance a planet’s meanings.

In this book Adam uses the archetypal meaning of feminine when he speaks of Venus. He describes it as the yin half of the duality of masculine and feminine and emphasizes that it is not to be seen in terms of gender. He then goes on to differentiate between the personal feminine and the dharmic feminine, which is ones spiritual responsibility to the collective and thus objective and beyond self, the place where one moves from me to we.

Venus has thirteen phases in her relationship to the Sun. Each phase has a specific meaning that Adam delineates. The meat of the book is these detailed descriptions of each phase. Adam gives factual data, the personal and dharmic (soul growth) meanings of each phase, and a meditation image. It is all good advice that helps you obtain a deeper look at who you are. He has excellent graphics and diagrams that add a visual dimension towards understanding what he is saying. You can see the phases as Venus moves from morning star to evening star and back again. There is a table that spans the time period from 1900-2100, which enables you to find the Venus phase at birth for you, your parents, your children, and grandchildren, and all your friends. This makes it easy to study Venus phases by using the information in reference to those you know.

The book contains thirteen appendices. One of these is on Venus-Moon aspects, adding another dimension. There is a table that makes it easy for you to find your Venus-Moon phases with information on the sign it is in and what it means for you.

This is an easy book to read but is not a book for beginners since you need to know your basics to understand it. It is a book that will make you think. The Light of Venus gives your understanding of astrology a new and added dimension. After reading this book you will want to go out at night and look up at the sky like the earliest astrologers did.

**This is a book you want to have on your bookshelf.**

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A NEW PLANET HAS COME INTO OUR ASTROLOGICAL VIEW!

Eris was discovered and named as recently as 2006, and called a “dwarf Planet” — the very same astronomical category now as Pluto. Henry is able to report, after several years of research, that Eris symbolizes an archetypal energy representing powerful inner work, along the lines of the other recent planetary discoveries of the past few centuries, as a Feminine Warrior for Soul Purpose.

His book is *The Tenth Planet: Revelations of the Astrological Eris* (to be released Spring of 2015).

"Henry Seltzer’s new book is more than a well researched treatise on Eris, it is a fantastic look into the workings of the mind of a true astrologer. Henry displays all the intellectual resources, the philosophical depth, and the respect for our ancient craft that go into the making of a definite addition to our astrological home libraries. Plus, we get to learn all about the properties of this newly discovered planet. Bravo!"

— ALAN OKEN, AUTHOR OF *SOUL-CENTERED ASTROLOGY*

"In this cogent study of Eris, Henry Seltzer is doing bold, ground-breaking work on the astrological frontier. I’ve marveled at the slowness of the astrological community to embrace this new planet despite its being slightly bigger than Pluto. Perhaps that is because these new worlds always represent new, emerging possibilities in consciousness, and thus tend to frighten people. Thank you, Henry, for not being afraid."

— STEVEN FORREST, AUTHOR OF *THE INNER SKY*

Download the first chapter for free here: [tinyurl.com/tenthplanet](http://tinyurl.com/tenthplanet)
The 2015 OPA Retreat Faculty met in June in Martha’s Vineyard (MA) to undergo the OPA Peer Group Process. All participants discussed the upcoming process of the retreat in October, and each of the 3 days processed different dynamics of their professional practice, in order to enhance their service as astrologers, and provide a support system for each other.
The Astrology of SPIRITUAL IMPACT
Notable People Who Speak from Beyond the Waking Dream

Column by William Sebrans

PART TWO: RAM DASS

Introduction

What do Ramana Maharshi, Krishnamurti, Ram Dass, Rudolph Steiner, George Gurdjieff, Osho, Deepak Chopra, Byron Katie, Ranier M Rilke, Eckhart Tolle, Nisargadatt, Ken Wilber, Alan Watts, Ammachi, Gangaji, Walt Whitman, Johann Goethe, Yogananda – all have in common?

They have, to a greater or lesser degree, awakened from the dream of mechanical unconscious life and, in their way of being in the world, imparted an energy of pure presence that raises us up.

As astrologers and eager students of the Mystery in action, we might inquire:

~ What predisposes a person to awaken to their true nature beyond the mechanical inclinations of personality and the conditioning patterns by the outside influences of the world that secure them? And, if such a transformation in someone takes place by whatever force, what creates the inner and outer environment that allows his or her awakening to significantly impact the world?

~ How will the impact manifest according to their unique dispositions and role, as a teacher, artist, or as a collective leader?

~ Can astrology with its masterful, archetypal language identify patterns that suggest an awakening spirit and one who will further impact the collective?

This series of articles will take a friendly and deeply curious look at these lively questions. In so doing, perhaps we will further enlighten ourselves as to the myriad flavors of awakening that are available in a human life. This investigation may also instruct us how the various elements of our astrological language can manifest at increasingly higher levels of expression or frequency, – similar to the 3 Gunas in Vedic lore corresponding to Tamas, Rajas, Sattva; where each of the planetary and sign archetypes are available for interpretation and impact at a spectrum of levels from dense shadow to everyday gift to divine gift.

As we go about our terrestrial business, it is salutary for us to note our biases. The Cosmos responds benignly to these kinds of good manners. In regard to our subject here, I offer 5 personal biases in regard to the overarching theme of awakening and spiritual impact:

1. It is not possible to know the evolutionary state of a soul from a chart. Maybe someone can do it, perhaps with intuitive wizardry, but I cannot, and everyone I know cannot. If such is your expertise, contact me immediately – because we have business for you! Whatever the configurations, all charts (aka people) are available for evolution and profound transformation.

2. Given the just mentioned bias, then it must be true that two infants born with exactly the same birth chart will manifest their lives in utterly unique ways. And that said, it is also true there are in fact predispositions that incline one to be a seeker of higher truth and a longer for transcendent connection, or, at least to be the ready if unwitting recipient of illuminating Divine Whacks. That is, whatever the configurations, all charts and therefore people are available for evolution and profound transformation.

3. The predispositions to ‘seeking’ and to being transformed can often, but not always, be seen in a chart.

4. Anyone with major spiritual impact – who raises the consciousness of many individuals to increasing higher level of consciousness – nearly always has astrological factors that are observable as being the influence of the transpersonal planets on personal planets and key angles.

5. There is no standard behavioral code or standard of personality that fits for the awakened condition! Being nice, communicative, powerful, have high endurance, artful, of pointed intelligence, competent are not required! The consistent theme, independent of these virtues that exists among the awakened, is that of the witnessing Presence dictating their response to Life, rather than the body functions or the discursive mind. Outside of that...it is all fair game.

Concluding this section, let the congregation please rise to the following fertile musings from Sri Yukteswar, Yogananda’s guru and noted Vedic astrologer and See-er.

“A child is born on that day and at that hour when the celestial rays are in mathematical harmony with his individual karma. His horoscope is a challenging portrait, revealing his unalterable past and its probable future results. But, the natal chart can be rightly interpreted only by men of intuitive wisdom: these are few.”

Ram Dass

“If you want to know how enlightened you are, go spend a week with your parents.”

Ram Dass was born April 6, 1931 as Richard Alpert at 10:40 am in Boston, Massachusetts.

Definitions: Mensch – Yiddish for a decent guy of goodwill you can count on. Individual Planets and Signs: You are on your own? What does this mean?

Background

Growing up in a liberal well-to-do Jewish household, he emerged as one of the seminal spiritual pioneers who came out of the trippy cocktail of altered states that marked the 1960s. That period was formatted by the trippy cocktail of altered states that marked the 1960s. That period was formatted by the trip...
with Lady LSD who opened the doors of his perception, already ajar and ready receive the considerable transpersonal influence latent in his psyche.

Like many seekers from the progressive Jewish milieu, he turned to India for a deep dive into the Big Questions during the 1960’s and that is where he met his Master - Neem Karoli Baba. In 1971, at age 40 he published the seminal book: BE HERE NOW, which became the de facto manual for everyday awakening for seekers everywhere during the following decade and beyond.

His spiritual teachings took a decidedly humane and accessible course as over the decades he has shared his vulnerability and humanity. He grew to emphasize a devotion to practical, compassionate service as paramount in a profound spiritual life, and as precedent to the personal cultivation of higher states of consciousness.

A debilitating stroke in 1997 awakened another dimension in him, the acceptance of his guru, Neem Karoli Baba’s fierce grace. He has emerged as one of the most real, warm-spirited, and accessible spiritual teachers of the past 50 years.

What’s Ram Dass’s Spiritual Shtick?

Like nearly all notable and impactful people in the spiritual domain and in any human field, there is a notable influence of the transpersonal planetary triad - Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto on the personal planetary energies in the chart. RAM RAM - Richard is a poster boy for those influences. (Warning: It’s gonna get loud...)

The Sun, the Nodal Axis and Mars

His SUN is in enterprising, independent ARIES and is rendered Uber-excitable and unconventional by a tight conjunction to URANUS in the 10th house of career/public reputation. In addition, the North Node is in tight conjunction to the two, emphasizing the radical, initiating imperative of this lifetime, and in the public awareness. Accenting that emphasis, the fiery Sun is rendered more powerful by mutual reception to an enterprising MARS/LEO in the 1st. Mars rules the NN.

There was little doubt that Richard Alpert would be a person of unusual and surprising impact, one who possesses the capacity for satori level of insights in whatever field he embraces. The South Node is in Libra, in the 4th house, and ruled by Venus/Pisces 9th. These signatures indicate this is a soul coming from a place of idealism and spiritual explorations - a more passive expression in the world with a merging Neptunian flavor.

This lifetime calls him to express his imperatives in the public eye (North Node in Aries in the 10th house, conjunct the Sun and Uranus). And so, Richard Alpert is faced with harnessing his considerable ego in this life towards a public service by integrating his mystical explorations and focusing his exploratory urgencies to that end.

The North Node pull of Destiny conjuncts his individuated Uranian public expression and leaves little wiggle room for simply mucking about in his own little play, while larger destiny and karmic forces are at work.

Cancer Ascendant, Pluto, Jupiter & Saturn

In contrast to the Aries extrovert energy, - Ram has a deeply sensitive CANCER ASCendant, available for nurturing and the caring for his world.

This is no ordinary Cancer Ascendant though: it is tightly conjunct PLUTO, rendering its imperatives intense, charismatic and even compulsively driven. Later in the article when exploring the 1997 stroke, we can see that Pluto on the Ascendant in T-Square to Saturn and the Nodes has a latent and non-negotiable message in this life of the necessity for consciously embracing death, with Cancerian care.

With JUPITER conjunct the ASC from the 12th house of self-effacement and collective unconscious, there is buoyancy within him to match that intensity. The same is enhanced by the added ‘guardian angel effect’ of a 12th house Jupiter in its exalted sign of Cancer, which contributed to his being perceived by friends and colleagues to be infectiously upbeat (Mars & Moon contribute, as well).

Sobering the benevolent Jupiterian Cancer configuration is Saturn/Capricorn in opposition from the 7th house cusp, which restricts and saddens some of Cancer’s nurturing feel, dampens some of Jupiter’s enthusiasms and royally pisses off the Pluto there. So what happened with Dad, anyway, we are led to wonder? Or in himself, no matter how upbeat, he must have and perhaps struggles with right relationship to power and authority.

Spiritual Impact

Karoli Baba. In 1971, at age 40 he published the seminal book: BE HERE NOW, which became the de facto manual for everyday awakening for seekers everywhere during the following decade and beyond.

His spiritual teachings took a decidedly humane and accessible course as over the decades he has shared his vulnerability and humanity. He grew to emphasize a devotion to practical, compassionate service as paramount in a profound spiritual life, and as precedent to the personal cultivation of higher states of consciousness.

A debilitating stroke in 1997 awakened another dimension in him, the acceptance of his guru, Neem Karoli Baba’s fierce grace. He has emerged as one of the most real, warm-spirited, and accessible spiritual teachers of the past 50 years.
Ram Dass has been obliged during his life to live the polarity between the fierce ARIES and demanding CANCER archetypes locked in a mythic square that pits the fire against the water energies, challenging the expansive self-generated imperative against the collect the, yielding and preserving ones.

**Moon in Sagittarius aspected by Mars/Leo and Neptune/Virgo**

Adding to the spicy conundrum just referred to is a can-do MARS/LEO/1st trining an expansive MOON/SAG/5TH. There is considerable go-for-it energy in those individual elements alone and exponentially more so with the facilitating trine connecting them. These fiery, confident dynamics have, during his career as an explorer of liberation, spurred him into action mode towards the various experiments in the mystical domain, which the transpersonal influences have relentlessly and unconsciously proposed to his nimble psyche.

The Moon in Sagittarius, the ruler of his turbocharged Cancer Asc, is highly activated in his chart. Beyond the MARS trine, it is in powerfully strengthened by mutual reception with Jupiter/Cancer/12th.

Additionally, Neptune Rx in Virgo and the 3rd house figures in with a flooding square to the Moon. We have then in Ram Dass a SUN, ASCENDANT, & MOON each with significant contact from the transpersonal planets. The NEPTUNE square, rather than serving as a dreamy and artful infusion from the lord of other worlds, lends to his emotional expression a dissatisfaction with the mundane and routine: welcome Lady LSD, and an experimental life on the edge.

Egging him on as well with an edgy urgency to his fierce explorations is the Aries Sun/Uranus/Nodal combo loosely squared by Saturn/Capricorn, on the 7th house cusp. No smooth ride for Richard Alpert, however rich Dad was.

**Neptune, Venus & Mercury in natal aspect**. Richard Albert was an excelling student and turned his practical researches from the grounded Taurus Mercury more to the 'inspired' side of life, with the help of Neptune trining it from Virgo. Such an aspect is a most excellent inner cocktail for researching experientially the hallucinogenic effects on the physical body and psyche.

**Neptune/Virgo/3rd** offers yet again her transpersonal influence in the form of an opposition to Venus/Pisces/9th. This blessed blend of transpersonal influences in the VIRGO/PISCES axis marks the quintessence of an evolving soul the compassionate state of mind. It is a likely call to devoted service, to the activation of the inquiring heart, and to a love of higher learning in its most spiritual dimensions. **Harvard University is not enough here, but rather the Cosmic Universality.**

With so much grit to transform amid the grace, there is scant room to easily bliss out, or go delusional, as some of the Neptune action might suggest. Given the ubiquitous transpersonal stream flooding little Richard Alpert from day one, there was very little chance that the young fellow would simply get out of this life as Richard Alpert, PhD from Boston and a few notable research papers.

He is Here Now as Ram Dass, - Compassionate Servant, Conscious Mensch.

**DESCRIPTION OF 3 LIFE-ALTERING EVENTS AS RICHARD ALPERT AND RAM DASS LSD: Loosening the knot, - at Play in the Fields of the Lord (strawberry fields) - May 5, 1961**

Just before the age of 30 and coming to the end of his Capricorn Saturn return, Richard Alpert and Tim Leary blew open the doors of perception with their initial LSD experiment, the first of many unpredictable excursions into the inner landscape. The profound astrological context of that day included:

- **Transiting Nodal axis had been conjunct Pluto and then natal Neptune/Virgo/3rd** for some time, all of which opposed natal Venus/Pisces/9th - a signature invitation to altered states. That Neptune/Nodal formation is in a T-square to his Moon/Sag. The transiting NN/Pluto also trines natal Mercury/Taurus. This is a set-up for a radical re-visitation to non-rational realities and emotional habit patterns, as well as a natural flow to the imaginative mind.

- Also on that particular day, and acting as triggers is a **rectangle formation involving transiting Uranus/Leo/1st opposing Mercury/Aquarius, then trine to Venus in Aries, and sextile Moon in Libra/4th**

From this geometry, one might say that Richard Alpert was destined to have his emotional mind quite literally blown, courtesy the outer planets, the nodes, and the electric revolutionary astro-weather of that day.

Following these interior revels were 6 years of active experimentation that involved chipping away at neurosis and prestige, and ego de-construction. Still dis-
satisfied, destiny brought Richard to India where through his meeting with his spiritual teacher Neem Karoli Baba. ...

...Richard Alpert Is Upgraded to Ram Dass: Initiation and Grace, 1967

In the latter part of 1967, the same year that the Beatles made their sojourn to India, Richard Alpert was turned upside down in his encounter with Neem Karoli Baba. The guru who fractured Richard’s discursive mind with an accurate reading of his entire life conundrum.

No precise day seems to be available for that meeting. During that timeframe the transpersonal influence of Uranus/Virgo was hovering on his IC at 28 degrees Virgo, overturning and re-imagining RA’s core emotional foundation and sense of identity. Physically, it re-oriented his life away from Boston to India; psychically, it revolutionized his interior. During the same period, transiting Jupiter was on his natal Neptune in Virgo, reflecting an expansion of spiritual awareness. Neptune/Scorpio was hovering in a long transit trine to his atomically charged Pluto/Cancer Ascendant at 18 degrees.

Stroke of Enlightening: Baptism & Rebirth by Fire & Water, 1997

When Ram Dass was 66, he experienced a nearly fatal stroke on February 19, 1997. While a stroke is nothing to joke about, unless you reside on Mt. Olympus where human drama is the stuff of entertainment, it did seem that whatever persona resided around Richard Alpert or Ram Dass as Teacher, ionized in the raw humility that followed.

That day started out pretty spunky and was a particularly good one for expansive self-expression. There was transiting Leo Moon on Leo Mars in the 1st, trining Sag Moon in 5th and conjunct transiting Pluto, and all trining Saturn/ Aries/5th Node in 10th. A double Grand Fire Trine it was, quite a good day to be a public and published teacher, and not one to be critically hospitalized.

What also was present on that day, though, was an ongoing transiting Uranus/ Aquarius opposition to natal Mars/Leo, stressing the cardiovascular system for likely months before. Also transiting Uranus/ Aquarius was in long duration square to Mercury/Taurus, ruler of the 4th house where his South Node resides, his habitual retreat to harmony and balance, now under assault. Most significant was the developing opposition of Neptune/ Capricorn to natal Mars/Leo, within 3 degrees orb. The stage is set there for a forced surrender of willful Mars energy, even in its most evolved expression, to forces beyond his control.

The transit was a long one and the theme of surrender has galvanized his life since then, where he has declined to be anything but ordinary and vulnerable, profoundly changing his teaching.

Transiting Mars/Libra was conjunct the South Node in the 4th house and was opposed by transiting Saturn/Aries/10th,
Spiritual Impact

suggesting the possibility of some kind of interior fracture. The set-up continues...
What’s happening with Darth Pluto??

Indeed, Pluto/Sagittarius was in long-enduring T-square to Venus/Pisces/9th and Neptune/Virgo/3rd. In addition to the spiritual crisis that a Pluto/Neptune square can indicate, the 9th House is challenged with Neptune as its ruler, as was the resident of the 9th. All these stresses makes for a radical and severe re-visit-ation to themes of will and surrender, reputation and humility, living and dying.

Where Neptune was setting up to dissolve Mars, and Uranus to electrify Mars, Pluto was setting up Ram Dass to take a trip in his love nature from the 10th house to the 4th, from public influence to vulnerability.

Trigger event? Why that day and not the day before...Don’t know...It was a good day to be a Leo Mars on the surface of it; but below the surface where Pluto resides, the gods had other plans already in formation for many months and most likely lifetimes before it.

Ram Dass’s life and charts are more intricate than they are confounding; all the elements are observable and impressively marked in his journey from the lifetimes of comfort in harmony to the imperative to explore and innovate, to the role of the Teacher of spiritual impact, and finally to the simple awakened man as humble servant, teaching by his surrender to what is.

William Sebrans is a practicing astrologer and ‘Duende’ Coach living near Grass Valley, California.

He integrates the Human Design System and the Gurdjieffian Enneagram based on planetary types into his approach of distilling out the best version of oneself.

William had been an active student in the Gurdjieff work for 25 years, experiencing all manner of revels, spiritual conundrum, lofty education, rough edged circumstances and interior surprise.well.

He ran a high technology executive search firm in the San Francisco Bay Area, and was among the first wave of coaches trained in the 1990’s. He is an accomplished classical and improvisatory guitarist. William loves raspberries, art, beauty, ridgewalking, extreme ping pong, and golden retrievers. He finds people pretty entertaining most of the time as well.

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RUSSIAN HUMOR

These cartoons are the result of joint work, and have very interesting origin. The author of these cartoons is an astrol-oger from Montenegro, Predrag Popovic-Njegoš. His works are notable relevance and criticism of astrologers. In these cartoons Predrag ridicules not only atheists but also astrologers. Slightly modifying their appearance, I have translated these caricatures to Russian language and spread them online. But the greatest work was done by Predrag.” - Dmitriy Paramonov
When they burned the ancient library at Alexandria, generations of ancient materials were lost.

Do we want this to happen again?

Coming Soon!

The Alexandria iBase Project
International iBase for Astrological References for Educational Purposes

Many of our peers are retiring, moving away and passing away. What happens to their valuable Astrological Book and Article collections? Libraries don’t take them – they have no funding and they have no room. Many families don’t know what to do with their parent’s collections and so they are either donated, sold or tossed.

A joint international effort is forming the seeds of this project, which will be supported by subscription/donations to the materials either out of copyright or released by YOU, the writers of current astrological data.

Library Scientist needed - see reverse!
The following passage is a study on the planet Mercury and its true essence, by Thanasis Matsotas. It belongs to a series of articles that link astrology and esoterism, and aim at clarifying and correcting terms and views that have been distorting both astrology and esoterism for a number of years.

In traditional astrology, Mercury identifies with mercury, communication, information, the nervous system, speech and mental ability. In mythology, it is the winged God: cunning, inventive, able but unreliable at the same time. It is the deity who – in embodying it – illustrates best the contrast between the human and divine element. It is the patron of thieves, but also mankind’s first teacher in Knowledge and magic. It is often represented as the hermaphrodite messenger of the Gods, while its statues at crossroads is presented as the hermaphrodite messenger of the Gods, while its statues at crossroads proclaimed it ‘road-pointer’ to the right but also of thieves, but also mankind’s first teacher in Knowledge and magic. It is often represented as the hermaphrodite messenger of the Gods, while its statues at crossroads proclaimed it ‘road-pointer’ to the right but also the wrong course. All these sketch Mercury’s astrological meaning.

However, in our opinion, identifying Mercury with mental ability is not entirely accurate. Its position in a natal chart mainly describes (according to traditional methods of interpretation) the way that a person expresses himself. A person’s thinking faculty and his perception in general are traced throughout the chart, with an emphasis on the 3rd-9th house (Gemini – Sagittarius) axis. For example, Mercury in Gemini could indeed speak of a hyperkinetic and inventive person; nevertheless, the issue of intelligence would not end there. Intelligence also depends upon the position of the Sun and the Moon, as well as the element that colours them (water, air, earth, fire). Moreover, a man could polarize his thinking through another dominant planet in the horoscope, such as Mars or Venus.

Next, it appears that the majority of horoscopes present a ‘restrictive’ element pertaining to perception. For example a 5th house Mercury trine Jupiter and Saturn, which is considered ‘strong’, could be in an aquatic sign that would mentally restrict it but enhance its intuition. Even if we find Mercury perfect in aspect and position, we will often come across other restrictions, such as Saturn squaring the ruler of the 3rd house. These restrictions always hold a decisive meaning because they function as the horoscope’s regulators, potentially withholding certain abilities in exchange for a more expansive mental constitution. This is why we often meet smart and quick-witted people that lack depth of thought, or the opposite.

However, only the esoteric meaning of this planet will reveal his true stature hidden behind the usual astrological interpretations. To begin with, Mercury is it who neutrally transmits all information. It is indifferent to everything and mechanically adaptive. Aleister Crowley writes:

“It must here be remarked that because of his complete indifference to anything whatever (and that thought is – when you get far enough – only a primary point of wisdom) he is entirely unreliable. One of the most unfathomably dreadful dangers of the Path is that you must trust Mercury, and yet that if you trust him you are certain to be deceived. I can only explain this, if at all, by pointing out that, since all truth is relative, all truth is falsehood. In one sense Mercury is the great enemy; Mercury is mind, and it is the mind that we have set out to conquer.”

Here exists the antithesis it holds as a planet, and the shades that colour it during its course along the zodiac. This antithesis is adequately explained if one realises its actual and higher function, although it is very difficult to approach due to the planet’s fine and fragile nature.

Essentially, this planet represents the energy in between conditions. If Mars is a centrifugal force, the beginning of the path-way to individualisation, and Venus is the centripetal force of Love on man’s way to the Sun – as a symbol of consciousness, then Mercury is the condition that intervenes between Mars and Venus. He is the energy between Empedocles’ “love and strife”, Plato mentions in his Symposium that the philosopher stands between God and man, searches for knowledge he knows he lacks. Namely, philosophy is tension, an intermediate state between knowledge and ignorance. It is also ‘love’, and from this point view, Mercury – philosophical mercury – expresses ‘love’s’ energy as the “Third force” of the religious and philosophical triadic system.

In Dervish orders, the Master is called ‘Dervish’, a word that derives from ‘Hermes’ and means intermediate – mediator. It actually refers to the “Observer within”, and the state of “observing one’s self” – the fragile and tender energy – state of Consciousness that meditation practitioners often arrive at. Namely, the sacred state of “Attention” followed by “Next Attention”, in Gurdjieff’s words. It is the point when the dove descends!

Let’s not forget that Yoga means union. Thus, Mercury is Yoga itself, as well as its
The 'intermediate state,' 'baro' and 'next attention' – despite all efforts at a detailed description - will only be truly comprehended by those who achieved a personal physical experience through overexertion and 'skill,' and of course 'Divine Grace,' and will remain dark secrets for the unintiated and all who remain at profane, rough and crude mental approaches.

At this point, it is worth meditating on the planet’s relationship with the ultimate philosophical and scientific question of all time - one that assumes new dimensions after the discovery of the D.N.A helix (Caduceus): the enigma of consciousness’ birth from matter. It is true, that in some esoteric paths – such as the one Gurdjieff called “The Fourth Way” – the most fundamental principle for a disciple is to discover the existence of the principle per se! Such a thing requires that the seeker possess a mighty Mercury – guide within, which will lead him safely through wild and deceptive pathways.

The ‘intermediate state,’ ‘baro’ and ‘next attention’ – originally derives from the Latin conscious, where con- means ‘together’ and scire ‘to know,’ and signifies the simultaneous existence in two levels, the merger and fusion of two separate worlds into a third state of presence. It furthermore indicates an underlying cognitive object within man, which turns him into the subject of his own observation!

One may find valuable notes and deciphering of symbols in The Spirit Mercurius, Jung’s chapter on Mercury in his Alchemical Studies.

Harry Potter is given the incomprehensible instruction to wait at platform 9 ¾ in order to take the train to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry; neither at platform nine, nor at ten, but at platform nine and three quarters, whereat he finds himself after a truly inspired – although apparently unreasonable – act of launching into a wall in the space between, transferring himself to the right place, and at the same time, onto the covetable path of Knowledge, in search of the Philosopher’s Stone.

Thanasis Matsotas is an astrologer from Greece. He has 25 years experience in astrological teaching and research. He has written books, articles and he cooperated in astrological cyclopedia. Furthermore he has participated in TV and radio programs and he is professor in “Astropedia” astrology college. His personal blog is matsotas.blogspot.gr.

SMOOTH ANTISCIA
Continued from Page 20

aspect of the unconscious ... If it has been believed hitherto that the human shadow was the source of all evil, it can now be ascertained on closer investigation that the unconscious man, that is, his shadow, does not consist only of morally reprehensible tendencies, but also displays a number of good qualities, such as normal instincts, appropriate reactions, realistic insights, creative impulses, etc.” (The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious, CW 9, ii, p. 266)

4 Solstice origin: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solstice
5 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_Sheen

Even today Mr. Sheen’s smooth fan appeal with his “bad boy” image to propel him is evident in this TMZ video about Justin Bieber: http://www.tmz.com/videos/0_1x2y9ai9. Mr. Sheen speaks about his “meltdown” regrets: http://www.en.wikipedia.org/story/entertainment/people/2015/05/13/charlie-sheens-two-and-a-half-men-regrets/2730875/. His father, Martin Sheen, has recently commented on his son’s meltdown in 2011: http://perezhilton.com/category/charlie-sheen/#.VWin1us-46U

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www.donnvantoon.com

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Feb. 26-27 – ISRAEL ASTROLOGY CONFERENCE with Bernadette Brady
Contact: healingstar11@gmail.com

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