MARS
2501
MARCH EQUINOX
2016
RX
Mars has entered its shadow period preceding the retrograde cycle on February 19 at 23 Scorpio.

It will turn retrograde on April 17 at 8 degrees Sagittarius, until June 28 station at 23 Scorpio.

Upon leaving its shadow period on August 22, it will conjunct Saturn at 9 Sagittarius.
Mars retrogrades when it is in the opposite hemisphere of the Sun. Naturally this puts Mars in a reflective mode, and sometimes generates a need to question our direction and motives, or of those who are leading the mainstream. Mars Retrograde can generate identity crisis and have a rebellious edge as a result.

**FAMOUS FIGURES BORN WITH MARS RETROGRADE**

- **Bernie Sanders** (US Election candidate) – Mars Retro in Aries
- **Jim Morrison** (Singer of the Doors, Young Death) – Mars Retro in Gemini
- **Mikhail Gorbachev** (Soviet Union President who dissolved Communism) - Mars Retro in Cancer
- **Nostradamus** (Astrologer and Seer) - Mars Retro in Cancer
- **David Lynch** (Movie Director) - Mars Retro in Cancer
- **Wolfgang Mozart** (Iconic Pianist and Composer) – Mars Retro in Cancer
- **Linda Tucker** (Activist and Conservationist) – Mars Retro in Leo
- **James Dean** (Iconic Actor – Young death) – Mars Retro in Leo
- **Grigori Rasputin** (Russian Mystic, adviser to the Tsar wife) – Mars Retro in Virgo
- **Pope John Paul II** (Pope) - Mars Retro in Libra
- **Peter Gabriel** (Singer and Activist) – Mars Retro in Libra
- **Mahmoud Abbas** (Leader of the Palestinian Party Fatah) – Mars Retro in Libra
- **Jean Paul Gauthier** (Fashion Designer) – Mars Retro in Scorpio
- **Saddam Hussein** (ex Leader of Iraq, Executed following the 2nd Gulf War) - Mars Retro in Sagittarius
- **Angela Merkel** (Germany Leader) - Mars Retro in Sagittarius

**INTRODUCTION**

by Maurice Fernandez

April 17, 2016
8 Sagittarius - 23 Scorpio
DAVID LYNCH AND JOSEPH MERRICK (ELEPHANT MAN)

– A Mars Retrograde Connection

David Lynch’s breakthrough film was about the life of Joseph Merrick, the story of a Victorian surgeon that rescues a heavily disfigured man who is mistreated while scraping a living as a side-show freak. Behind his monstrous facade, there is revealed a person of intelligence and sensitivity.

It is fascinating to compare the charts of David Lynch with Joseph Merrick and see that they both have Mars Retrograde exactly opposite one another (Lynch with Mars Saturn, while Merrick with Mars in Capricorn), along with many other chart connections. Mars Retrograde is commonly describing a path of an iconoclast. We can suspect there was a past life connection between the two. 🌑

MARS DIRECT EVENTS

When Mars goes direct after 6 weeks retrograde, it tends to release a significant amount of energy. This can stimulate action, but also release frustration and anger. Not surprisingly (or perhaps yes), many wars and conflicts have started with Mars going direct.

- World War II – Mars direct in Capricorn
- Pearl Harbor Attack – Mars direct in Aries
- Suez Canal Crisis – Mars direct in Pisces
- 6 day War (Middle East) – Mars direct in Libra
- 9/11 attacks – Mars direct in Sag to Capricorn

MARS RETROGRADE EVENTS

- Middle East partition (1920) – Mars Retro in Libra
- Gandhi assassination – Mars Retro in Virgo
- Yom Kippur war (Middle East) – Mars Retro in Taurus

FERNANDEZ

- Jack Nickolson (Iconic Actor) – Mars Retro in Sagittarius
- Frida Khalo (Iconic Painter) – Mars Retro in Capricorn
- Elephant Man, Joseph Merrick (Historic Figure, Deformed body, subject of a film by David Lynch) – Mars Retro in Capricorn
- Alan Leo (Astrologer who stimulated a revival of Astrology) – Mars Retro in Capricorn
- David Copperfield (Magician and Entertainer) – Mars Retro in Pisces
- Julian Assange (Wikileaks founder, Activist) – Mars station in Aquarius
- Kurt Cobain (Iconic Singer, Young Death) – Mars station in Scorpio
- David Lynch's breakthrough film was about the life of Joseph Merrick, the story of a Victorian surgeon that rescues a heavily disfigured man who is mistreated while scraping a living as a side-show freak. Behind his monstrous facade, there is revealed a person of intelligence and sensitivity.

It is fascinating to compare the charts of David Lynch with Joseph Merrick and see that they both have Mars Retrograde exactly opposite one another (Lynch with Mars Saturn, while Merrick with Mars in Capricorn), along with many other chart connections. Mars Retrograde is commonly describing a path of an iconoclast. We can suspect there was a past life connection between the two. 🌑
Mars will be in retrograde motion from Mars Retrograde and the Challenge of 2016

In his Working with the Planets column [The Astrological Journal January edition] Roy Gillett reported and made the following comment on a recent finding from the renowned mundane astrologer André Barbault.

Roy will be looking deeply into the astrology of the present world predicament at the upcoming OPA Conference in Greece – May 27th to 31st.

For everyone’s sake, international talks have to be genuine, to have gone beyond recent tendencies to agree to opponents demands only to do the opposite in practice. The atmosphere of mistrust created by such diplomatic behaviour patterns could be lethal as we move into the late spring and summer of the year [2016]. In addition to the ongoing Saturn / Neptune square pattern, the following important additional information has been recently received from André Barbault.

......[Mars] is nearest to the Earth when at opposition to the Sun. When Mars is at perigee (the point in its orbit when it is closest to the Earth), at the same time that it is at perihelion (when its orbit comes closest to the Sun) this is a perihelic opposition which usually happens every fifteen years. This is when Mars is closest to us. We can see that this is what happened in August 1939 – one of the signs that war would break out in Europe – then in October 1941 when Japan was planning its attack on Pearl Harbour which would globalise the war. A perihelic opposition of Mars also occurred in the summer of 2001, a few weeks away from the kamikaze attack in New York on September 11th of that year.

We are now approaching the next Martian epicycle: Mars will be at perihelion from May 22nd 2016 when the proximity of the planet from our globe will be 47 million miles. With a Sun-Mars opposition which is semi-square and sesqui-quadrature to Pluto; followed by the passage of a Sun-Venus conjunction in opposition to Saturn in a T-square with Neptune in the first ten days of June. There is reason to fear a natural disaster, if not a world catastrophe especially with the cyclic indicator crossing the sign of its detriment.

All experienced students of aspect patterns in natal and mundane charts will know that we should always see difficult aspects as opportunities, not harbingers of doom. Indeed, those that seek aggrandisement for themselves by forecasting disaster for others, perform a major disservice to astrology, as well as the world at large. The predicted dramatic changes in 1989 were a catastrophe for the Soviet Union, but a long awaited chance of freedom for the millions previously under its control. Many gained greatly, because they were ready to embrace the changes demanded by the times.

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So, when the world’s most experienced mundane astrologer makes such a clearly explained observation alongside what we already know about these astro-events, it would be wise for world leaders to accept the time has come to stop playing power games with the lives of millions of people. ISIL is the outcome when inexperienced insensitive egos are allowed the reigns of power.

It would be wise for world leaders to accept the time has come to stop playing power games with the lives of millions of people. ISIL is the outcome when inexperienced insensitive egos are allowed the reigns of power.

Let the negativity of the time be turned inward. May all involved experience the angst of inner pain that comes from accepting they have been wrong! May all think again to accommodate the position of others, who are also ready to admit they were wrong! The predicted traumas of the 2012 transits were re-directed into highly successful Olympic Games in Britain. Let 2016 see the confusion of potential war not call up its dogs, but instead clear its clouds to welcome in the illuminated light of mutual understanding.

References and Notes


Mars Stations Retrograde on Antares

by Baris Ilhan

Mars will be in retrograde motion from April 17 through June 29 2016. This journey will start just before Mars conjoins the royal star Antares at 9° Sagittarius. Hence this retrograde period will be colored (flavored) by Antares. According to Ebertin, Antares is an important star for military personnel. It conveys mental alertness, strategic ability and courage and makes dare-devils... If associated with Mars, courage is said to become foolhardiness, leading to increased dangers.¹ Diana Rosenberg sees Antares prominent in events marking the great issues of humankind, especially intolerance, racism and human rights.² Mars will turn direct on June 29, reaching the starting degree on August 22, and two days later, conjoining Saturn at Antares. Robson says “Antares with Mars is connected with quarrels with friends... and fairly favorable for gain”. With Saturn, it connects with “many disappointments, loss through quarrels and legal affairs, trouble through enemies, many failures,... unfavorable for domestic matters.”³ From those explanations we can easily tell that the last week of August is very critical in terms of multinational war, racism and human rights, and we have 3.5 months to work on these issues and find some solutions, before it gets really destructive. Plus we shouldn’t forget that Mars-Saturn conjunction will make a square to Neptune (oil) at the same time. Let’s use this Neptune energy as compassion and unity instead of war for oil.

1 Fixed Stars and Their Interpretation, Ebertin-Hoffmann, p.70
2 Fixed Stars Interview with Diana K. Rosenberg By Edith Hathaway
3 The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology, Vivian E. Robson, p. 138
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Mars Retrograde in Real Life

by Julian Wise and Arlan Wise

To be born under retrograde Mars is to think you misheard the starting gun at the beginning of life’s grand race and are hence perpetually behind the pack and out of sync. Where others seemingly charge forward, devoid of fear or hesitation, you stumble and tiptoe, uncertain of the path to success and suspicious that error and misfortune bedevil your every step. From an astrological perspective this makes sense; the outward Mars energy is turned upon itself, leading to a sense of constant struggle and the eventual belief that everything wished for is either never going to happen or will arrive late, diminished, or riddled with flaws and disappointments. In time one can see that, rather than being a natal hex, retrograde Mars carries within it a valuable curriculum. It teaches the importance of patience, humility, and the ability to break long-term goals into small, manageable pieces that must be undertaken with diligence and attention to detail. Impatience, grandiosity, and inattention will never yield worthwhile results under this configuration’s stern, patient watch. However, when you accept the value of a diligent, one-step-at-a-time outlook, unconcerned with hypothetical big-picture tribulations, the rewards do come, causing one to understand that they could have been realized at any time but were rendered inaccessible due to dysfunctional cognitive patterns. It’s a slow-ripening lesson, but when it arrives it creates a paradigm shift with tremendous potential for personal and professional growth.

— JULIAN

J ulian’s retrograde Mars is in Aquarius, in the eighth house, and conjunct the North Node. Mars rules the Midheaven indicating that the career rise will be a slow one. Mars is in square to a Moon in the fourth house-Jupiter in the fifth house conjunction in Scorpio. Instead of this aspect working out as anger towards mother, it functions with mother being the receptacle for hearing about the frustrations and delays. Mother becomes the grumble catcher.

After seventeen years of diligent yet creative work teaching in an elementary school, his Mars went direct by progression. This stationary Mars was sextile both Chiron who is in the tenth house and Uranus who is in the fourth house. At this change point in his life, he quit the job in the school and started his own business. He now owns a successful art gallery (go to Island Images on Facebook) with the underlying business model that art should be affordable to all. How very Aquarian.

Steven Forrest in Yesterday’s Sky, a book on the Nodes and their relation to reincarnation, states that a planet that conjuncts the North Node “becomes part and parcel of the North Node. Attaining the highest reaches of its potential is the evolutionary goal.” When that planet is Mars, “the person must experience his own power and courage”. When that Mars is retrograde, the task is harder but the reward is greater.

— ARLAN, mother of Julian

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Using all the experiences attained throughout the path, we are now ready to plot a new course, free from meaningless acts, fears, and frustrations.
Reflections on Mars Retrograde 2016

by Kathryn Andren

In 2016, Saturn square Neptune aspect is getting plenty of attention. This dynamic pattern gets extra power as Mars instigates both Saturn and Neptune during this year’s Mars Retrograde April 17 - June 29, 2016. Consider Mars retrograde a time to recall and reflect before making new moves. Mars is proactive and action oriented, acting first, thinking later. Notice if you feel challenges being reactive or proactive during this timing

More Mutable Energy Please

The big theme for 2016 is the “mutable cross” of Saturn square Neptune in Sagittarius and Pisces. Jupiter expands this party currently in Virgo. As these zodiac signs are all the last sign of a season, mutable energy encourages adaptability and change. Mars moving back from superior Sagittarius into secretive Scorpio adds more passion and intensity to the mix.

The Mars retrograde starts in Sagittarius near supportive Saturn. On a personal level, now more than ever is a time to reconsider belief systems. What stories do I keep telling myself over and over? Consider the roots of my beliefs. Squaring off to Neptune in dreamy Pisces, how do I know what is true?

Questions for contemplation during Mars Retrograde:

• What is worth fighting for?
• Who or what will you defend?
• Where do you want to put your power, passion and energy?

Mars pushes. It is a separating and discerning force. Are you feeling stuck? Mars fires things up this year with Saturn and Neptune, serving as a catalyst how to make my vision a reality.

• Mars stations retrograde April 17, 2016 at 8.54 Sagittarius
• Mars stations direct June 29, 2016 at 23.03 Scorpio
• During this time steady Saturn is also retrograde:
  • Saturn stations retrograde March 25, 2016 at 16.24 Sagittarius
  • Saturn stations direct August 13 at 9.47 Sag.

(Note: Mars retrograde point is within one degree of the Saturn direct point!)

On August 24, the journey comes to an end, opening the synodic cycle of Mars-Saturn. Using all the experiences attained throughout the path, we are now ready to plot a new course, free from meaningless acts, fears, and frustrations. We need courage not horror, we need control over our actions, we need self-discipline and to dare to act within our limits. But above all, we need to KNOW. Besides, that’s what makes us humans...

Angela Tiki: angelatikis@yahoo.gr

Consider serious Saturn as the old boss while motivated Mars is the young punk who thinks he knows something.

Hot dates for 2016:

Check out when the Sun and other personal planets are in the mutable signs this year. Take note, this is when there is extra fuel to the mutable mix. Adaptability and flexibility required!

1. First week of June: Sun and Venus in Gemini add energy to the mutable cross, opposite Saturn and squared off to Neptune. Where’s the party? What a perfect time to network, meet new people, gather information and share your ideas to many.

2. Last week of August and early September. August a very important month as Mars direct approaches Saturn, meeting exactly August 24. Sun in Virgo faces off to Neptune and instigates Saturn Mars in Sagittarius. Get to work!
Take care of life’s little details and be sure not to get lost in confusion.

3. End of November & early December. Sun in Sagittarius first squares off to Neptune then Sun and Saturn meet on December 10. Let your light shine on your faith and beliefs!

August a very important month as Mars direct approaches Saturn for the magnificent mutable party. Heads up for August 24 when these two meet up in the sky story at 9.53 Sagittarius. (This is near the star Antares, the heart of the Scorpio. Antares is described as: great power, authority, headstrong & obstinate,* from the NCGR - Professional Astrologer’s Alliance)

Consider serious Saturn as the old boss while motivated Mars is the young punk who thinks he knows something. For sure Mars has power, passion and energy. Our buddy Saturn however, has years of experience and been around the block. What happens when these two meet? Saturn and Mars together in Sagittarius can provide energy for action with an enthusiastic vision to follow through. Together squaring off to nebulous Neptune could create confusion, or perhaps an alignment with a creative muse for greater connection to the spiritual realm.

Supportive suggestions for this Mars Retrograde:

1. Remember RIGHT USE OF WILL
2. How can I be proactive, rather than reactive
3. Express yourself, don’t stuff your emotions
4. Make healthy choices in your sex life, understand the conscious consequences of desire
5. Be mindful to take care of self, self nurturing and self care is extra important at this time.

(Note, some of these suggestions are adapted and inspired from a recent lecture by Adam Gainsberg during the “Secrets of 2016” audio program with Astrology Hub.)

Mars Retrograde in a Natal Chart

An important consideration is that Mars goes through its retrograde phase when it is opposite the Sun. Contemplate the themes of: action and ego, the right use of will and taking action steps with confidence.

Personally I was born during a cycle of Mars retrograde in Taurus. I notice how in my own life, I often wait and see what is happening around me first before taking action. I often reconsider a situation and review multiple options before making a definitive choice or plan. I learned to hesitate before speaking. Perhaps it was my teachers in school saying, “You have two ears and one mouth for a reason”! They also said things like, “Empty barrels make the most noise”. Whether it was my teachers in school, or the Mars retrograde in my personal birth chart, I’ve learned to wait first before making a definite move. I respond and react to the current circumstances around me often before being proactive.

During this years Mars retrograde cycle from Sagittarius to Scorpio, I invite you to consider your own approach to taking action and how you discern what is true when making powerful choices.

Kathryn Andren is an astrologer and intuitive currently based in New York. She is a featured writer and event coordinator for Astrology Hub. Dedicated to healing service since 1997, she integrates astrology, art, & energy healing bodywork in her private practice. Her deep connection to land, sea and sky inspires a holistic approach to her consulting and teaching. She holds a BA in Psychology and embodies years of professional experience with intuitive wisdom. Learn more, visit www.kathrynandren.com
Book Review
By Arlan Wise

The Book of Neptune
By Steven Forrest

He’s done it again. Steven Forrest has written another great book. For those of you old enough to remember, the joy when hearing that the Beatles had put out a new album, or that Tom Robbins had written a new novel, or Apple released a new Iphone, it’s that same happiness that that there is a new book by this favorite author and teacher. Steven has aced it with The Book of Neptune. He gives us the planet through the eyes of an evolutionary astrologer. Reading this book is a process, more of a transformative experience than a cognitive event.

Steven starts the book teaching us astronomy. This section sets up the main metaphor of the book - Neptune is the window to the transNeptunian planets, which symbolize the world of consciousness, what lies beyond and within.

Neptune is the window through which consciousness peers at the cosmos-and through which the light of the cosmos pours into us.

However,

With Neptune you have no control over what come in through the window.

A window is both inside and outside of the house. In a similar fashion, Neptune belong both to the known planets and the unknown, newly discovered, and yet to be discovered planets in the Kuiper belt. Once he establishes this image, he tells us in the rest of the book, how to polish this mirror. He states: taking care of our souls boils down to window washing.

He teaches meanings of Neptune in aspect with the planets, Neptune in the houses, and finally Neptune in the signs. Steven uses both popular music and religion to describe how Neptune affects the culture as he moves through the signs. He has a chapter on Neptune in Pisces and speculates on what that may bring.

There is a section on experiencing Neptune by transit and Solar Arcs. Periods of Neptunian stimulus correspond to periods in which one’s consciousness might be becoming more spacious. Most of what is truly important in such a time happens invisibly. It is more centered in the category of “realization” and less focused on actual existential events.

He makes the point that Neptune does not evolve you, that he does correspond with a time of evolutionary opportunity, but the work is up to you. Steven gives good suggestions as to how to make the best of such times in your life.

This book is a great help to the counseling astrologer. There is good advice on how to work with clients and Neptune. He is thorough and explains how to impart these ideas about Neptune to those who come for a reading.

Steven Forrest is a great writer and a great teacher. This material is taken from workshops from his Apprenticeship Program. He writes in a dynamic way and it feels as if we are sitting in a classroom with him. From the beginning of his publishing career, his books have been filled with clear meanings for the astrological symbols. As he grows older and ripens, his books reflect the evolution of his consciousness. He is thus able to tell us how to do so ourselves. In The Book of Neptune, he gives us the 21st century evolutionary description of Neptune. He makes our understanding of Neptune come alive. It is more than the Mercurial meanings found in other books, because he frees us from words and takes our understanding to a new realm.

Steven tells us that Neptune coincides with synchronicity, not coincidence, and my Neptunian self resonated with this book as I read it a few weeks before the Lunar eclipse which fell by degree on my natal Neptune. From now on I will look at Neptune in a client’s chart with new depth of understanding. Thank you, Steven, for writing this book.

If you want to enhance your dreams, find your path to higher consciousness, and honor your spiritual life, buy this book.

I give it 5 ++++ stars. 😊
n the Enhancing Your Practice column over the next year, I will discuss the profession of astrology as practiced by you! We’ll explore ideas and suggestions about ways to increase your client work, the quality of your services, and how to grow your practice. Please take time after you read the column to do the suggested Exercise(s). Don’t just read them! Do them! You will find they are invaluable for connecting you to your dream practice. Put the Exercises in a safe place where you can reference and use them during the year we spend together. The Exercises will help you build a practice you adore and attract clients you love!

Remember when you first discovered astrology and were SO EXCITED to learn about this magnificent tool we call astrology? Since then you read books, studied how to analyze charts, practiced on your friends and family members, and finally started taking money for readings from strangers who were referred to you. You’ve decided to move your astrology into a business instead of a hobby. Whether part time, full time or retirement time, once you shift your astrology into a business instead of a hobby, you are blessed to be asked to join our cli~ with stars) the heavens ask of us. So let’s work with considerations (consider~ stars) how to analyze charts, practiced on your astrology? Since then you read books, studied about this magnificent tool we call astrology and were SO EXCITED to learn

EXERCISE: IDEAL CUSTOMER

Think of your Ideal Customers ~ the ones you LOVE to work with, get excited to talk to and feel connected to. Think about a couple of customers whose charts you enjoy reading. What do they have in common? Compare and list their age, gender, career, income, values, beliefs, approach to astrology, sense of humor, worldview, and types of interests. What kind of astrology reading do they like? What are their other interests, reading materials, vacation plans, and life style? Write all of this down and create a customer profile. You may have a few different types of clients you like to work with~ include all of your favorite customers.

Be sure to describe your service adequately on your website so that potential clients come to you for the right reason.

One of my favorite students, an Aries with a Scorpio Moon, was age 22 with the face of a 10 year old when she started reading charts professionally. Older adults would dismiss her advice saying “What could you possibly know ~ are you too young!?" Plus, she found she didn’t like listening to people complain and then not take action to fix their situation. I suggested she explore Horary astrology. She did and loved it. She now has a thriving Horary practice where she answers questions and gives them “just the facts!” A Horary astrology practice, (don’t ask the question if you don’t want to know the answer) suits her Aries temperament perfectly.

So let’s take some time to think about what YOU want in YOUR astrology practice.

When we first start with astrology, we read any chart we can get our hands on. It gives us a broad based education in astrology. Now you are looking at developing how you want to spend your time each and every day as well as what kind of astrology you want to practice. I found the following exercise proved helpful for my students. Get a folder to keep the exercise in as we will continue to use your answers during the year ahead!

FIRST, do no harm. Our job as astrologers is a sacred profession. We are blessed to be asked to join our clients in the sanctified act of analyzing their chart and looking at their life, their soul, and their cosmic map as it describes their earthly path. Be aware of the impact and force of your words.

People remember what astrologers tell them. Sometimes a casual comment reverberates through time and space, returning later. You want your comments to help rather than haunt. These days when anyone can hang a shingle, print a chart via a computer and call themself an astrologer, you may find yourself dealing with another astrologer’s disturbing comments to one of your clients. They are seeing you for a second or even tenth time. If you don’t agree with the other astrologer’s observation, say so—even IF the astrologer who said it was ‘famous’ or more ‘experienced’ than you are. I learned this lesson the hard way when a client asked 5 separate astrologers about a surgery date. She then carried the differing opinions back and forth, seeking consensus. I ultimately folded, “bowing” to an astrologer who had much more experience than I did. She was blinded by the surgery. I vowed to never fold again!

NEXT, if you don’t know the answer to a client’s question, say so! If, looking at the chart after the question was asked, you STILL didn’t see the answer, advise the client you will research their question and get back to them. Then research their question and get back to them. In one case, the grandmother heard the unborn grandchild had clubfeet from the ultrasound. I researched the configuration for clubfeet and got back to her. My research had the added benefit of predicting the baby’s birth too! (Moon afflicted by Mars in Gemini ~ both feet were clubbed). Astrology covers everything under the sun so there is NO way you can know everything. You do have your astrology library to look things up in! Make sure to get back to your client as they will often worry that you saw something “bad” and didn’t want to tell them.

FINALLY, if it is a kind of astrology you are not comfortable practicing or don’t enjoy, don’t do it. This is YOUR astrology business so you get to do the kind of astrology you want to do.
Enhancing Your Astrology Practice

This is a good way to filter out clients that would not be a good match for you. Now, step into your customer’s shoes. Imagine you are them! Answer the following questions as they would: What emotions do they experience as they buy/book your service? Why do they want to come to talk to/learn about astrology from you? What are they secretly afraid of? What are they worrying about? What triggers their fears (think Saturn here!)? What do they wish was true about their life? What do they expect from their consultation with you?

In my case, I was trained as a predictive astrologer and spent quite a bit of time and money studying Vedic/jyotish and Uranian astrology and practicing with published biographies of people to hone my predictive skills. What I found after doing the IDEAL CUSTOMER exercise was I most enjoyed the psychologically oriented or “work with the energy productively” clients rather than those seeking predictive services such as “when will I marry” or “get the job promotion” clients. Of course, I still answer client’s predictive questions during readings but not nearly as often as I did when I started my practice. Instead, we discuss the psychological, spiritual or growth challenges presenting in their lives and explore techniques of how to work with them. So take time to focus on, clarify and build in your mind your IDEAL CUSTOMER.

Next take a minute to reflect on what you DON’T like in a client’s requests/expectations or about your client work. I don’t want you to spend a lot of time on this exercise or give it too much thought or energy – use it more for clarification and release. If you don’t like Mushrooms, you don’t order dishes with Mushrooms! You can do the same thing with the kind of astrology you want to practice. In my case, I don’t like clients who try to give me their Saturn and ask me to make their decisions for them. I am very clear my role is as a guide who can read their astrological map while they are the person in charge of living their life – driving the car so to speak. I don’t want to be their Saturn! Take that Don’t Like energy and put it in a bright balloon in front of you. Watch the balloon float gently away. This exercise is helpful for releasing clients you no longer want to work with – put them in the balloon!

As astrologers we understand the energy in a chart can be used for higher or lower purposes. We are called to be astrologers and help our clients understand how to use the energy. Doing these exercises will help create an astrology practice that you love and attract clients you adore by focusing how to use your chart’s energy!

See you next issue!

Anne

Anne Ortelee, ISAR-CAP, NCGR-Level 3, PMAFA

Anne Ortelee has a thriving astrology consulting practice where she uses an array of eastern and western astrological approaches. She is dedicated to helping people find practical ways to work with the unique energies in their charts. Anne is certified by three astrology organizations – ISAR-CAP, AFA-PMAFA and NCGR-PAA Level 3. She writes articles, speaks, publishes a Weekly Weather column and hosts three weekly internet radio shows. Find everything at www.AstroAnne.com

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Astrology Day
March 20, 2016

A selection of poems from OPA members in honor and celebration of Astrology Day.
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Elizabeth Rozan
My Life in a Neptune Balloon

In the balloon filled with helium and other strange ethers
I am buoyed, released to the sky.

Out of the danger zone,
I am able to view the shimmering kaleidoscope of patterns
moving in their contained circles, clearly bound, but shape shifting in relation to each other.

Safe, I no longer run the risk of colliding with the debris of asteroids and cosmic dust.

Guided by the gravitational waves, I’m drawn into the orbits around the Sun, flawlessly radiant,
to face pure space, open, simple, and full of complex integrity.

Bonnie Svardal
Moon Square Neptune

Washed up upon alien lands Whose structure like shifting sands I tread the surface lightly Knowing my footprints vanish nightly As waves mysteriously wash away And drown the words I wished to say I am the sailor who became marooned When Neptune conspired with the Moon

Arlan Wise
Astrology in the Dreamtime

In the misty mystical timeless twelfth house world where we go when we sleep. There is a library. It is a storehouse of astrological knowledge watched over by Saturn and Mercury, tended by the old souls of astrologers who love their task. It has bookshelves filled with volumes of brightly colored covers. The shelves go up so high that you can’t see the tops of them as they disappear into the mist...

Nikki DeKeuster
Pluto Remedies a Situation

You know Mercury, and Mars, and Earth, and Venus Jupiter, and Saturn, and Neptune, Uranus But do you recall, the very last planet to fall? Pluto the 1st dwarf planet, Used to be the hallowed 9th one. Excepting in Astrology, Where we count the Moon and Sun. All of the things Pluto rules Power, death, and the extremes, Astrologers still know are with us, As Pluto slips behind the scenes.

On that dusty August Eve Neil Degrasse Tyson came to say, Pluto with your mass so small, you are not a planet at all. Then how the people mourned him. Fittingly a Plutonic theme. Pluto the 1st dwarf planet, Now you’re free to plot and scheme

Just like you always planned it, Hidden from humanity!

Bonnie Svardal
Moon Square Neptune

Washed up upon alien lands Whose structure like shifting sands I tread the surface lightly Knowing my footprints vanish nightly As waves mysteriously wash away And drown the words I wished to say I am the sailor who became marooned When Neptune conspired with the Moon

Arlan Wise
Astrology in the Dreamtime

In the misty mystical timeless twelfth house world where we go when we sleep. There is a library. It is a storehouse of astrological knowledge watched over by Saturn and Mercury, tended by the old souls of astrologers who love their task. It has bookshelves filled with volumes of brightly colored covers. The shelves go up so high that you can’t see the tops of them as they disappear into the mist...

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March 20, 2016

Judy Tsafirr

Haiku

Birth data revealed.
Oh wow, that makes total sense.
Blame and judgement gone.

Jupiter Return.
Blessings are not guaranteed.
Hope springs eternal.

Heiltje le Roux

The Dance of Astrology

Sun keeping time, dances in rhythm with Moon;
Both culminate in heaven, at the height of noon.

Then darkness descends, after brilliance of day;
Tracing luminous paths through stellar display,
The soul-keepers appear in full array.

There’s mischievous Mercury, fleet-footed in duty;
While Venus is flaunting her fecund beauty,
Mars, always at the ready, with fire he glows;
Jupiter bestows benevolence wherever he goes.
Saturn is the last to be seen;
Excellence in time, make this your this mean!
Uranus picks up the pace with brilliant innovation;
Until Neptune dissolves, to fuse with Creation.

Pluto calls forth Soul-phoenix, over time evolved;
To soar in brilliance, all questions now solved!

Still Sun dance in rhythm with Moon;
Awaken Soul-serpent, for it is high-noon!

Maurice Fernandez

Black Star

Black star, shining in the daylight
Shelter me from blindness, from the glitter and vanity of my enlightenment
you absorb everything, all into nothingness
Perhaps that is what will soothe my soul

Dark matter, do you matter the most
Transparent, weightless, and pain free
We guess you are there, and yearn to know more
Nothing can appease our compulsion to see
Nothingness perhaps is beautiful of all

Black hole, inevitable emptiness
delete every step we conquered and walked
Swallow all the particles of consciousness
Broken, fragmented, and clueless no more
Perhaps that is what will soothe my soul

Kate Rusko

Ageless Questions

Full moon overhead, creative blooming within.
Like an ecstatic dance around a fire,
We play with the mysteries.
Ageless questions:
Who is swallowing the moon?
We tune into the cycles,
We dream with the nodes.
New consciousness as the sun rises:
Ignited, aroused.
The midday sun brings the greatest shadows.
We wait again for the midnight dream to bring the greatest illumination.

Brian De Keuster

Musings on the Transits of the Great Builder

Ow.
Saturn you bastard.
Mary Lewis

You Astrology

Indeed, you are sacred, my starlight friends guiding, beckoning with your flights of light into the night of forever.

Yours is a journey we take as mere babes For reasons beyond our deepest comprehension

Beyond the blood that pumps the very life through us on this earth planet.

Beyond all our sorrows, draped in heaps about us.

Beyond heart exploding joy carefully cradled and tucked within, for safe keeping.

Always.

You, old friends in ever constant flight are our eternal wings

Guiding us, enticing us all the way home.

Whispering of truths to be revealed without and within

The Mother the Father the Child

The Beloved.

The love never to be forgotten or known

Soul that knows only seasons, no end.

You, astrology.

Nancy Clark

The Sun, Jupiter & Cousin Greg

You must know, Cousin Greg,
That I'd be very curious
To look and see what
the sky tells us
About the time & place
we will never forget
About the time and place
of your crossing

And there it was,
The sun in Sag so bright he rose,
So blindingly bright in the east,
So bright that you or no one else could see
He emerged like a blazing emperor from his gilded throne

Then remarkably enough
There he was,
As if called to the rescue
As if called to carry you

Facing off across the western sky
Setting exactly opposite
on the other side,
The centaur’s ruler Jupiter
Across the clear sky in Gemini

From horizon to horizon,
As if Jupiter held the emperors hand,
Stretched out across the celestial sky expanse,
To claim you and take you back to source

Jupiter protects and expands,
limitless, never ending
Purity of truth absolute
The wise man, philosopher
Intelligence, humor and wit

He rules the big world beyond,
Guides us to trust what we cannot see
His nature is to be happy
He's known as the great benefice
Clever and funny, a teacher among teachers
Just like you Greg

It’s true Cousin Greg,
That Jupiter is always there,
for those who pass
He’s always somewhere near

He stands at the gate
To open us unto a world
Beyond anything we can imagine
He guards the great mystery

He holds the elusive secret
That someday we will all know
And one day we will see you there,
One day in the future
When Jupiter the Great Benefic
Is looming somewhere near

Inspired by my Cousin Greg

Sara Fisk

Sag Saturn Woes

Magical snow calmly decends;
The quiet woods enchant.
My dog rushes ahead with glee, wondering where the path might lead and what delights he might encounter.
Life is beautiful.
Oh wait, I forgot
Saturn is crossing my sixth,
He reaches from the earth to grab my foot. He pretends to be a hidden branch beneath the snow.
He won’t let go, I fall, trying to shake his grip.
It is no use, I break, I limp, I become a gimp until the doctors say, ok, go play. Someday.
For now I wait, but that is good too.
Part of fate, Part of my due.
Donna Young

Oh, The Planets You’ll See
*Channeled by Dr. Zeus*

The lights and the planets we see in the sky,
Are the bodies that guide us,
and here is the why:
For thousands of years their behaviors explained,
As above, so below - this is how it’s ordained.

The Sun’s not a planet, but a bright shining star,
Wherever you find it, that’s right where you are.

The Moon moves around you, reflecting the light,
Your habits and patterns, your emotional plight.

Beyond these great lights and all that they offer,
You will want to consider what else makes you prosper.

Fast moving Mercury deals with your speech,
What you are thinking and how you will preach.

Venus will prove your magnetic attraction,
And Mars comes up next showing how you take action.

Jupiter wants to expand and to grow,
But Saturn responds by telling you “no”.

Uranus will shock you, which might have appeal,
Until Neptune asks if it’s fake or it’s real.

Pluto’s demotion has altered it little,
He’ll shake up your world if you are too brittle.

The planets and lights, they talk to each other.
If you listen closely, one after another,
Their voices will tell you what you need to know -
How to flourish and thrive, how to go with the flow.

Rick Levine

Past Lives

We have known each other before.
Maybe it was in the ocean;
You were a rebel dolphin;
The leader of the pod
In your Marlin Brando black leathers
And I was the second in command.
We were both male, but that didn’t stop us;
We shared the lovely calves coming of age
And ruled the seven seas.

Or maybe it was Atlantis:
You were a long-robed priest;
Wise, 20 years my senior
And I was a temple virgin;
But that didn’t stop us then.
I knew what I wanted, and so did you.
Although we created our own special brand of magic,
The Empire crumbled around our personal pleasures.

We have known each other before.
Maybe it was in Tibet;
You rode in with the wild Mongol horde
And I said yes before you asked.
Nothing stopped us then
As I wrapped myself around you
And held on for the ride of my life.
Although you conquered all in your path,
You let me rule you with compassion.

We surely have known each other before.
Perhaps it was in Athens;
I was Socrates and taught you everything I knew;
You were Plato and showed my works to the world.
Together we were invincible, even after they killed me.
Although our love wasn’t physical,
Together, we transformed Greece.

Yes, we have known each other before.
It may have been in Rome;
You were a powerful bishop;
I was your skilled courtesan.

©2016, rick levine,
March 19, 2016

Astrology shot into my life as a distant star, when sudden divorce brought shock and awe. My first reading gave reassurance of predestined change setting me on a new path both deep and strange. Astrology presented a positive view replacing fear with hope long overdue. It gave me the faith in many dark times that meaning and order existed in mine. Seeking to grasp these mystical laws I began my studies never losing the awe. Now after forty years have past I look back with gratitude and no regrets at last.
Astrological Analysis: The Passing of US Supreme Court Judge Scalia

Over the past couple weeks while surfing through my thoughts, swimming through the triviality or life and it's whimsical reflections occasionally it would pass through the reality box between my two ears “Vinnie focus let's write a short quaint article”. Begrudgingly, I would drop my Piscean daydreaming, brain storm and surf the net looking for something apropos to write about. So I ran into Supreme Court Justice Anthony Scalia death and it stuck.

And maybe it stuck for reasons I don't even know of at this point. I must give myself kudos, when I was reading articles about his death a felt grief and love for someone I strongly disagree with, I wish I could have those moments of indiscriminate compassion more often..... welcome to the club, don't we all.

So I am briefly going to give a succinct listing of the main signatures of death during Scalia's passing. Three of the indicators of physical death, are Pluto and it's planetary node, Chiron and it's planetary node and the Arabic part known as the part of death. I have to pay homage to Maurice Fernandez for putting out the idea that Chiron is death, I am not taking credit for this I have only found that it works. The greatest healing can be when we take off our space suit of flesh and walk down the tunnel and meet our perfected self in the after-life, which is also the before-life.

Scalia's Chart discussed points (not shown in chart):
- Pluto Planetary Nodes: 20 Capricorn (SN) – 18 Cancer (NN)
- Chiron's Planetary Nodes: 26 Aries (SN) – 3 Scorpio (NN)
- Part of Death: 18 Taurus
- Progressed Sun: 9 Gemini

The birth time I'm using for Anthony Scalia is from astro.com and has a AA rating for accuracy. I feel confident with this birth time after working with it while gathering my notes for this article. Scalia's chart was absolutely lit up with death signatures by transit and progression.

The greatest healing can be when we take off our space suit of flesh and walk down the tunnel and meet our perfected self in the after-life, which is also the before-life.

First of all Scalia's natal sun was conjunct transiting Chiron which is sitting on the axis of the transiting lunar Nodes in Pisces/Virgo. The Lunar Nodes highlight everything they touch in the chart, they are not in no shape or form minor players in the chart. Scalia's natal Sun conjunct transiting Chiron on the nodes with Jupiter on the North Node as part of a grand-cross with transiting Saturn in Sagittarius in opposition to his
natal Chiron which is also conjunct his progressed Sun.

His natal part of death (18 Taurus) was in opposition to transiting Mars (20 Scorpio), the sign of death, creating a square with transiting Sun (23 Aquarius) in his 4th house of endings. The part of death derived from his progressed chart is conjunct his natal Ascendant which conjunct his natal Moon and the natal axis of Chiron’s North Nodes (3 Scorpio), which also squared his natal Pluto (28 Cancer).

My intent in showing all these signatures of death is not to muddy the waters with complexity but to show how potent the symbols of death were when he died.

Scalia’s Death Chart with the United States

Looking at Scalia’s death chart is also describing his legacy. Especially in comparison to the chart of the United States (Sagittarius rising). The mutable (ideology, dogma, and religiosity) Grand-Cross of his death chart is locked right into the United States chart in a rather curious way. The death chart with Saturn in Sagittarius is conjunct the ascendant of the US chart—which was right on the Neptune in the US chart. Neptune in Virgo having a potential to be a religious purist or fundamentalism. He has and will definitely left a stamp of fundamentalism in the collective awareness. He was known to say there is no line between state and church. Could the Saturn in Sagittarius in the first house be the baton of fundamentalism being passed onto the new rising wave (Ascendant)?

Blessings, Vinnie Scotti

Sun and Moon in Libra, Ascendant in Pisces

BIO: Hello I’m Vinnie Scotti, I live in Seattle Washington. I started asking everyone there zodiac sign about 20 years while in high school, little did I know astrology would become my raison d’etre. I use astrology as a foundation frame work to see through the contorted illusions of consensus reality. I love digging in the underbelly of journalism to find out what’s really going on on this planet, whether it’s through educating myself in deep politics, ufology, abrupt climate change or any occulted and marginalized topic of import. I’m an artist, my main medium is oil paintings. I love myself some good underground hip hop, and any good enigma rapped in a mystery. I must admit I don’t always walk the walk, but when I do I know at a core level my spirituality and humanitarian concerns need to be one and the same. NAMASTE! Destiny Beckons, So make flesh out of your dreams!
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Book Review
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Under a Sacred Sky
ESSAYS ON THE PRACTICE
AND PHILOSOPHY OF
ASTROLOGY
By Ray Grasse

Ray Grasse’s new book *Under a Sacred Sky, Essays on the Practice and Philosophy of Astrology* is a delight and inspiration. The seasoned astrologer and the novice who is astrologically curious will find treasures of insight in the author’s thoughtful essays. The book is a compilation of essays on various topics; including astrological connections in cinema, arts and culture, current events, diving deep in the metaphysical, and more!

The author illustrates practical examples of how astrology works in the world across time. This is one of the greatest gifts of reading *Under a Sacred Sky*, since the content is both timely and timeless. Ray Grasse cites many historical references and some chapters link research to birth charts of popular individuals in politics, arts and sports. For the astrology enthusiast, this dynamic variety of essays has something for everyone.

I dare say that this book is a must read for any astrologer who is in professional practice. There are several chapters where the author clearly and compassionately defines how to be a better astrologer. He offers supportive suggestions that are touching and heartfelt. Chapters on astrology counseling include: “The Seven Most Common Mistakes Made by Astrologers” & “The Perils of Telling People What to Do.”

Ray Grasse writes from decades of experience as a seasoned astrologer with a rich variety of interests. His is the author of two other books and has been a contributor to *The Mountain Astrologer* for many years. “He received a degree in filmmaking from the Art Institute of Chicago . . . He has studied with various teachers in both the Kriya Yoga and Zen traditions . . . He’s lectured extensively on the topics of astrology, synchronicity, and mythology, and maintains an active astrological practice with clients around the United States and abroad”. Learn more about Ray Grasse on his website [http://www.raygrasse.com](http://www.raygrasse.com)

Ray’s book deeply inspired me. A most happy surprise was an essay called “Astrology and the Chakras: Toward a Sacred Psychology of the Horoscope” originally published in the TMA in 1996. This chapter includes revealing information integrating planets with the chakras. Personally, as an astrologer and massage therapist who has been in professional practice of energy healing bodywork for years, I was humbly reminded as well as excited, that no matter how much I think I have learned, there is always more to know!

Concluding chapters include inspiring interviews called “Conversations in Astrology” with Richard Tarnas and Laurence Hillman. Readers, be sure not to skip the notes! The final remarks at the end of this author’s chapters hold a wealth of information.

Ray Grasse’s depth of knowledge and material inspires me to check out his other books: *The Waking Dream*, and *Signs of the Times*. I am in deep gratitude for this author’s contribution to the field of astrology!

Order information for Ray Grasse’s books is found at [http://www.raygrasse.com/#!alternate-book-page/cq0i](http://www.raygrasse.com/#!alternate-book-page/cq0i)

Find a sneak peek of Ray’s writing available on his web site: [http://www.raygrasse.com/#!contact/c1472](http://www.raygrasse.com/#!contact/c1472).
Charles Jameson
(Melbourne)
Charlesj4@me.com
Website: http://astrology-school.net

My astrological journey started in the early 1990s when I had my first astrological reading. It was one of those ‘significant events’; was a stepping stone to an eight year involvement with an esoteric Christian community and learning astrology in a small group at the astrologer’s home.

In about 1997 I passed the Federation of Australia Astrologers (FAA) Practitioner’s Diploma exam. And later completed Robert Zoller’s Foundation of Medieval Astrology and John Frawley’s Horary Apprenticeship.

I was co-organiser of two iterations of the Regulus traditional astrology conference in Melbourne. And I’ve presented at the Victorian Astrologers Association on topics such as Elizabethan astrologer Simon Forman, the astrology of cult leaders Jim Jones and Marshall Applewhite and the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction cycles.

I have an enduring fascination with the esoteric side of life, history and the ‘meaning’ of, well, pretty much everything.

I currently work full time in the business training sector, so astrology is (for now) an enduring passion outside that realm.

I was inspired to become the OPA Australian satellite after hearing Maurice interviewed on Chris Brennan’s podcast (The Astrology Podcast). I’d never previously heard of OPA. But I’d now like to share its existence with my fellow Australians.

About Astrology in Australia

Astrology in Australia is alive and well! There are State branches of the FAA that meet regularly, and the FAA conference every two years that features excellent local and international speakers. There is a broad spectrum of astrologers and astrological training across the country.

More traditional astrological perspectives are in the minority, but there’s nevertheless a general trend towards integrating traditional practices into modern psychological astrology.

Contact me and join OPA Australia!
Tell us about your practice
I am a full-time astrologer for about eight years and practice in Athens but thanks to internet technology I have clients from various parts of Greece and other countries.

Through readings I like the fact that I can help people to discover themselves but teaching and writing are the ones that I love in particular. But, I also make a lot of research on my own, using family, friends and client charts or major event charts.

Your website?
My first “baby” is my blog, www.angelascornergr.blogspot.com but recently I have also built a website, www.astrologica.gr

Tell us about your lecture at the conference
Choosing Retrograde Mars as my topic was a spontaneous decision. Being an Aries with Scorpio rising may have something to do with that :) But actually, I was raised by a mother with a retrograde Mars and lots of my clients have too. Let’s say I have a close relationship with him. At the conference I will explain how retrograde Mars works in the natal chart and how we can make the best out of it. It’s not as passive as most people believe. I will use charts as an example. Then I will talk how and who affects when transiting. The most fascinating of all will be the analysis of the archetype of Aries, this is the best way to capture his actual role in our lives. Greek myths have all the answers.

And what is your specialty in Astrology?
I try to approach the natal chart from a psychological point of view. Most of the people are not really connected to themselves, they don't know what's in there. By reinforcing the positive elements and by trying to eliminate the negative patterns, we automatically become masters of our lives. I use transits and other systems to pinpoint the time and the way to help clients take advantage of the opportunities or face the challenges.

What brought you to Astrology, how did it start?
Well, even as a teenager I was very attracted to astrology but I still can't explain how and why, since no one in my family or close environment had any special connection to this field. I could easily forget your name but never your sun-sign. I knew only the basics until Uranus entered my sixth house, when I decided to quit my job and focus on astrology.

Tell us about Astrology in Greece?
Interesting question. I don't know if it's the people or some astrologers (maybe both) but I would like all of them to see astrology as an activating tool not a fortune teller field. I think that things are gradually changing, modern astrologers have lots of knowledge and treat astrology with respect. Connecting with an international astrological society such as OPA, I think we will be able to elevate astrology in a higher level.
What will you share at the Greece conference?

At the conference, I will present the psychological effect from the power coming to us from the minor planet Chiron.

Mythology is also a language in which secrets and meanings of the archetypes are enclosed. So firstly I will refer to the story of centaur Chiron, as it is being told to us in Greek myths.

There will be given an analysis of the position of Chiron in signs and in houses. My main focus will be on enlightening the part of ourselves that we feel like wounded and how we ought to deal with it.

Some examples will be presented and we can discuss on questions or thoughts that might arise.

What do you love about astrology?

As I have written before, learning the secrets of astrology has no boundaries. Astrology itself expands its limits. I think of my colleagues and I as a part of this progress.

Tell us about your practice

I am practicing in Athens as a full time astrologer for about three years. My main focus is on readings. This year I started teaching to a small group. I prefer to present my researches on certain topics or forecasts to seminars. This way we can have a dialogue and questions can be asked at the same time that the analysis is being presented.

Astrology was for me the first step of self-exploration. I started having lessons and very quickly realized that this new language, this knowledge could travel me through the maps of the existence. Consequently my main concern at the readings is counseling. Psychological astrology can help us regain the percentage of our self-dynamic that is being held back by fear.

Tell us about Astrology in Greece?

Astrology in Greece is a drop filled with memories of truth and knowledge from the past which urges to merge with other drops and all together with the symbols and the energies of the universe. As I have written before, learning the secrets of astrology has no boundaries. Astrology itself expands its limits. I think of my colleagues and I as a part of this progress.
How did it start?
My father. When I was 3-4 years old, he held regular meetings at our house as he was part of an astrology group. They drew charts and studied the philosophy behind astrology. When I was 10 or 11 I saw my chart for the first time and later I started asking my father about the glyphs and their meaning. This led to my study on my own. I found it to be the only valuable source for understanding myself, as I had a challenging time as a teenager.

I took my first class when I was 20 with Alan Oken and since then I got deeper into the world of astrology. I left high school and never attended regular schooling; I studied spiritual arts on my own. I kept alive as a chef’s assistant, hotel management assistant and waitressing jobs.

Tell us about your lecture at the conference – why did you choose that topic, and can you give us more details about the contents?
The myth of Eros and Psyche is a potent story of love and the mystery of love. Love matters a lot to us humans and we yearn for being loved and appreciated. There is an element of “the ultimate love story” in this myth and there are also hints as to how achieve it. Eventually it is all about the inner union between the mortal and the God, and the eternal state of ecstasy such a union brings. Now just imagine how much chocolate people would stop eating if they had this sweetness of divinity within.

Are you a full-time or part-time astrologer?
I am working full time with astrology, energy healing and therapeutic meditation. I combine the two and offer a range of different tools to work with clients who had their charts done and want to go deeper into the dynamics.

What is the main focus of your practice?
I am an evolutionary astrologer, with special focus on the karmic aspect of the chart for its potential for healing. To understand the «why» is important for me, as I see it has powerful ripple effect in the consciousness and life of the client.

Tell us about Astrology in Norway?
When I first started with astrology in Norway, we quite hadn’t moved into the world on Internet yet, and there were islands of astrologers here and there. Norwegians are fond of their isolation and the astrology milieu reflected this. We had a handful of astrologers doing the regular weekly scopes for magazines and then the national union for astrologers doing some work here and there. After the Internet, I find that we are more united, more familiar with each other and that the family of astrologers and students is growing. More people choose to become professional astrologers and, despite a very strict skeptic movement, the interest is on the increase.
OPA Conference
Greece!

We are delighted to present an extraordinary program for the Greece conference in Athens (May 27-30)

Join us for the conference weekend only, or for the full journey.

Conference Schedule

FRI MAY 27
• 18:30–20:30: Cocktail
• 19:15: Speech Maurice & Alexandra

SAT MAY 28 (DAY 1)
• 9:00–10:05: Alexandra Karacostas “Relationships: Keep it simple!”
• 10:10–11:20: Thanassi Matsotas “Eclipses, Portals of SpaceTime”
• 11:30–12:40: Aleksandar Ismirajc “Reincarnation in Astrology”
• 14:00–15:00: Sol Jonassen “Eros & Psyche – Sexuality, Sensuality, and Vitality”
• 15:10–16:15: Smaro Sotiraki “Astrological Interpretation of Homer’s Odyssey”
• 16:25–17:30: Roy Gillett “Global Economics and Astrology: Why and how we are racing toward global destruction”

SUN MAY 29 (DAY 2)
• 9:00–10:05: Roy Gillett “Principles before rules: Planetary regeneration”

Presentations

ROY GILLETT - UK
GLOBAL ECONOMY AND ASTROLOGY PART I & II

How Can the Global Economy Survive? An indepth study of its astrology inspired by the Greek situation

The 17th century Bank of England and early 20th century US Federal Reserve astrology charts clearly describe the nature and failings of colonialism and our consumption-driven market economy. After studying these, we will consider the consequences of our failure to address the warnings of 1930s depression and the astrology behind the dire consequences of adopting and propping up a competitive monetarist market economy since the 1980s, culminating in the 2008 global crisis, the illusory ‘world recovery’ since and austerity in the Greek and many other national economies.

Principles before Rules - Planetary Regeneration
Mainstream economists, law-makers, educators, scientists, marketing and media experts insist that a competitive, rule and growth obsessed global economy is the only realistic way to administer the human and natural environment.
Astrology sees a very different view of the Universe; one driven by tolerance, informed by intrinsic principles; not manipulated by human-made-to-be-broken rules. As Pluto advances through Capricorn, applying these principles to our institutions has to be the benchmark; the golden standard of genuine planetary efficiency that will reverse the race to global destruction.

ALEXANDRA KARACOSTAS - USA
RELATIONSHIPS - KEEP IT SIMPLE
I will share the methods I use to recognize major themes in a person’s horoscope. Then we will look at how to apply these simple techniques to identify underlying and complex issues playing out in our relationships. We will look at some charts, but hopefully examine our own. A fun and simple way to understand ourselves better!

IOANNIS RIZOPOULOS - GREECE
THE SYNTHESIS OF TROPICAL AND SIDEREAL ZODIAC: THEORY AND PRACTICE
Reincarnational Astrology provides us specific tools to determine the time when specific events have occurred in our previous incarnations. Time is a circular, or more precisely – spiral. So, past or future events defined in the Time spiral, no matter how far from now, are always connected with us through strings between incarnations, and therefore significantly influence the life that we live now. More than that – events that are happening in previous incarnations represent cornerstones in one’s (current) destiny. Defining those events in time and even space – allows as to be in touch with the energy vortex of one’s karma, and transform potential negativity that we may carry in our memory.

ALEKSANDAR ISMIRAGIC - SERBIA
REINCARNATIONAL ASTROLOGY

ANGELICA PANOUSSI - GREECE
THE ARCHETYPE OF CHIRON
What is it that the Grand Teacher wants to teach us and how can we earn our place among the stars? Centaur Chiron is being referred in Greek mythology as the teacher of the hero Hercules. With the valuable preparation and the education that the hero absorbed, concurred the twelve deeds that were assigned to him. During this preparation Chiron was wounded. Which is our wounded part? What are the lessons that we are being taught? How can our experience be a lesson to others?

SMARO SOTIRAKI - GREECE
ASTROLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF HOMER’S ODYSSEY
In his Odyssey, Homer artfully narrates the heroic return of Ulysses (higher mental - spiritual vehicle) to his Ithaca (heaven, his destination, the Elysian Fields) and his Penelope (Soul). The adventurous - initiatory stations of Ulysses number twelve, as many as the initiatory grades of esoterism and naturally, as many as the starsigns.

In this talk, with esoteric astrology as my guide, I will decipher Ulysses’ each stop - initiatory test as corresponding to one of the twelve starsigns, lending a new dimension to the esoteric interpretation of the zodiac. Ulysses’ whole course - spiritual development will be deciphered through the zodiac to lead to his final deification and union with Penelope, namely the alchemic wedding - the union of spirit and World Soul. It is a talk useful to whomever wishes to follow the path of Truth and Spiritual Ascension.
A planet such as Mars can manifest constructively when retrograde or "how it can evolve the ego-Sun" and "how the magma that seethes in the depths of our soul-Pluto can be handled without erupting uncontrollably", both in natal and in transit, are among the themes I’m about to analyze. There will also be a reference in the mythological archetype of Ares, in an effort to enter to the core of the nature he advocates.

**SOL JONASSEN - NORWAY**

**EROS AND PSYCHE; SENSITIVITY, SEXUALITY AND VITALITY**

The two asteroids Eros and Psyche not only involve the most romantic mythology between a mortal and the God of Love, but they also appear prominent in the charts of human beings who have given us passionate contributions in history. In this lecture we will look at the charts and legacies of those individuals and explore the deeper themes of the mythology, penetrating the spiritual layers of these two asteroids. Even though asteroids are minor bodies, the myth of Eros and Psyche has informed humanity for centuries about the nature of Love.

**BOAZ FYLER - ISRAEL**

**SEX, LUST, GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN THE NATAL CHART**

Can we know by looking at the Natal chart how passionate, lustful a person is, and maybe, even his/her gender and sexual orientation? How? In an interesting and humoristic way we will explore the different attributes and learn to recognize them and understand how they play a part in a person’s personal life. We will do so by examining the charts of celebrities, of people we love to love, hate, and mainly, people we can learn something from about ourselves through their lives. The lecture is suited for an audience with at least some astrological background.

**MAURICE FERNANDEZ - USA**

**NEPTUNE IN PISCES AND THE MUTABLE CROSS**

Maurice will share his perspective on the dramatic Mutable energies influencing the year 2016, with a particular focus on the June 2016 Mutable Cross involving Jupiter in Virgo, Saturn in Sagittarius, a Gemini New Moon, and Neptune in Pisces on the South Node. A lot is at stake, but what is this about?
fill a week. Mycenaean and ancient monuments around every corner. Among them are Epidavros, one of the best preserved amphitheatres in existence in terms of its perfect acoustics and fine structure.

It was constructed in the late 4th century BC and it was finalized in two stages. Originally the theatre had 34 rows of seats divided into 34 blocks by stairs and walkways. It is situated near the ancient sanctuary of Asklepios, a celebrated healing center of the classical world. It was used as a therapeutic and religious centre dedicated to Asklepios, the God of Healing.

Properly positioned on the stage, I could hear Dvora’s unamplified whisper from the top row of seats! This is perhaps an opportunity for us to send from this site waves of healing to the world!

The next morning we headed back north, travelling to the ancient fortifications of Mycenae, where Agamemnon once ruled, husband of the very same Helen whose escape with Paris started the Trojan War, subject of Homer’s Iliad. No trip to Greece is complete without a picture taken under the Lion’s Gate!

The Lion Gate was the main entrance of the Bronze Age citadel of Mycenae, southern Greece. It was erected during the 13th century BC in the northwest side of the acropolis and is named after the relief sculpture of two lionesses or lions in a heraldic pose that stands above the entrance. The Lion Gate is the sole surviving monumental piece of Mycenaean sculpture as well as the largest sculpture in the prehistoric Aegean.

On the evening of May 28, following a day of cosmic presentation at the conference, we will visit the Dora Stratou theatre, considered the living museum of Greek dance. There are daily performances in the its 800-seat garden theatre and includes a company of 75 dancers, musicians and folk singers, with collection of over 2,000 village-made costumes, with jewels and other works of folk art worn on stage.

In tasting a bit of the sacred sites tour, Dvora and I found ourselves driving from Athens, passing the ancient port of Piraeus, crossing the impossibly narrow and deep Corinthian Canal (started by Roman Emperor Nero), in finding our way to the north end of the Peloponnesian Peninsula toward the city of Nafplio.

The ARGOLIS region is what locals call the “real Greece”, and they claim Nafplio is the most beautiful town in the country. Nafplio was the first capital of Greece, and beauty, culture, history and tradition characterize this wonderful city. The beautiful old city has a wealth of narrow alleyways and streets, steep stairs, taverns serving delicious Greek food, lively bars, clubs and cafés, a lovely seafront promenade, and enough sights to
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You can run Solar Fire 9 on Windows Vista to 10, Windows 8 Pro tablets, and Windows-enabled Macs.
Horary is known as predictive astrology but does not always have to be completely predictive. One can use it for analysing situations as well as investigating what has happened in the past.

The practice of Horary is very effective and the outcome, if one adheres to the rules, is very effective.

Horary astrology is the ability of finding specific answers for specific questions from a chart set for the exact time the question is understood by the astrologer. The place the chart is set for will be where the Astrologer is at the time of the question asked.

Horary is a Medieval Latin word pertaining to an hour.

The trick when delineating and working with the Horary chart is to keep things simple. It is after all a quick, effective type of Astrology providing clarity when answering questions.

Lost object questions are quiet common questions, some are simple, and others are not. It is advisable to ask the client for as much detail as possible as this can give us some idea as to what was going on at the time of the loss.

To get a question from the client or querent, like “Where is my ring?” is a common question for the Horary Astrologer. Some background history is helpful and can save a lot of time. Many a time the querent will tell you where they know they lost it. Nine times out of ten it is not where the querent thinks it may be.

Contrary to popular belief lost property questions are not as easy as they seem. The method is simple, it is inter-operating the chart that is challenging. Some are a breeze but others send the astrologers on a merry go round.

A clear understanding of houses and signs are vital for a correct outcome. As an example I have a querent who had lost her watch. I cast the chart and saw that the ruler of the second house, house of our possessions and in this case her watch, was in the seventh house.

Now as the querent asked the question about her watch we do not need to turn the chart. This is a method where you adapt the chart to find the correct rulers of the quesited. Had she asked me where her husband’s watch was, I would need to look for his possession which will be his second house. This is the second from the seventh, the eight house making its cusp ruler the husbands watch.

She asked the question about her watch so we look for Lord two the ruler of the second house. This is where the lost object will be. I could see it was in the seventh house in a mutable sign. When a lost object is in a mutable sign it is normally hidden or in something.

The watch was in the husband’s house, the seventh house as well as in the sign which was mutable.

My answer was simply that your husband has it on his person and it is safe. She called him and he had it in his jacket pocket, she had taken it off the night before to wash the dishes, on his way out to work he saw it lying on the counter so put it in his pocket to keep it safe from the builders working on their home.

William Lilly, the great master of this craft, often spent time looking for missing objects that his man servant had purposely hidden from him. The answer can be abstract and this practice was essential to hone in on the horary way of thinking.

As an example of how this works I have a lovely example of this demonstrated in this Horary chart for this column.

I was away on an Astrology conference and lost my glasses. So I asked the question for myself, I am the querent.

WHERE ARE MY GLASSES?

I printed the chart for the area I was in, the astrologer will always draw up the chart from the area they were in when the question was asked and understood.

I was in Simon’s Town in the Western Cape and had the glasses with me when I returned to my cottage after a day of talks. I put them down somewhere but just could not remember where. So as I often do when I misplace something I reverted to using my horary skills.

First house is me the querent, my significator is the Moon as the sign on the cusp is Cancer. Now normally the querent will get the ruler of the first house cusp as well as the Moon as significators. I just got the Moon.

Now looking at the Moon can describe the querent, this Moon is angular; below the horizon in a night chart so has accidental power to act. With lost objects if the lights are below the horizon at night that is good testimony for success.
During the day with both Sun and Moon above the horizon there is more chance of finding the missing objects as there will be more visibility.

Ok great so I have a lot of accidental dignity, sadly my significator the Moon in Scorpio is in fall. When looking at the essential debility of fall it is likened to one who is bound and gagged in the corner of a room. In a way this makes sense as I cannot see without them and am far away from home where may spare pair are, so I really need to find them! It always fascinates me to see how well a Horary chart will describe the Querent.

Next step is to find what the significator for the lost glasses is, so we look at the second house cusp which is Leo, the Sun rules Leo so the Sun is the significator of my glasses. This is perfect as we know the Sun is the natural ruler of eyes showing further testimony that we have the correct significator.

Where are they, where is the Sun? The Sun is posited in the fourth house of home, so they must be with me in the cottage...but where? I have looked everywhere and cannot find them.

So let’s look at this Sun, firstly it is in the fixed water sign Scorpio so is near water. As it’s a fixed water sign it could be near my glass of water on my bedside table, it is not. The Sun is in the same house as the Moon, me, so cannot be in the bathroom or another room.

The Sun is one degree away from the fifth house, the child or play room. That could be the room next to mine as it has double bed bunks in it for visitors with children, but as it’s not in the fifth house it cannot be in that room. The Sun is nearly conjunct the fifth house cusp, they must be near to a wall.

Now I look at what planet the Sun is close to and see that it is Mercury, which is in the same fixed water sign. What could the fixed water and Mercury be telling me? They are so close to my glasses in the same room in the same space!

Then it all begins to fall into place, I took my computer out of my the cupboard which I had hidden under some clean spare towels. I left the chord in the cupboard, perhaps I left my glasses there as well.

On opening the cupboard I see the chord and on the other side of the towels near the wall of the next room in the cottage I see my glasses. The towels being an item of drying off water can be described by Scorpio, fixed water.

If we want to look at timing we need to take the fastest moving significator, in this case the Moon, and take it to the slower moving significator the Sun. The Moon is 9 degrees 30 of Scorpio and the Sun 18 degrees of Scorpio, it should take me about nine units of time to find the glasses. Here we can use logic, as they are at home fixed and going nowhere I should find them sooner than later. Nine days is too long I would have left. In nine hours I will be doing yoga at the venue so it must be 9 minutes.

Watching the process, the Moon took about six minutes as I was trying to think this one through before remembering I had them when I went to collect my laptop. I found the chord but could not see the glasses.

I went back to the chart, sipped on a cup of tea as I pondered the clues in the chart, the glasses had to be close to the chord and the wall, so off to the cupboard again and felt along the back wall of the cupboard the wall of the next room.

I found them in just over 9 minutes, very abstract yet perfectly clear as the puzzle unravelled. Horary astrology can be very rewarding and exciting, it takes practice to train your brain to think along the lines of what the chart is showing. But when it all comes together it just works.
Book Review
By Richard Smoot

The Professional Astrologer
Building a Successful Astrology Practice
Compiled by OPA

This is your book; you must have this book! Buy this book!

You want to know more? Why is this book your book? Why must you have it? OPA (Organization for Professional Astrology) has put forward a compendium on becoming, being a professional astrologer, and developing your own astrological business. It does not matter the level of astrology you are learning or practicing on, this book has a lot for everyone.

In reading, The Professional Astrologer: Building a Successful Astrology Practice, OPA establishes a benchmark in the counseling astrology field. In this regard, the mission of OPA stands firmly behind you, the practicing astrologer. Consider OPA’s mission and the objective of this book:

“...advancing the cause of professional astrology by helping students and practicing astrologers get the information, insights, and experiences they need to foster their understanding of astrology, and launch and enhance their astrology practices.”

The uniqueness of this book is its organization and presentation of the various chapters. Each chapter is written by one of the most recognized names in our astrological community. From each of their own perspective and experience, these practicing professional astrologers are our teachers in the many facets of being a professional in astrology.

For me, the pages in this book flew by. I was entranced with all the information, ideas, and experiences down to the smallest nuance. Each chapter is a piece of the roadmap to be considered and used in developing the work we do and or our individual style, ethics, business persona and public face. The message is that our personal business practices are always changing. Knowing the essential foundations and the building a strong, yet flexible and attainable business plan and review are developed and underscored.

The question I faced was, how much of each chapter issue am I using or not using to its fullest? Well, now there is a book, another tool I can use to develop and grow my astrological business. This book collectively hundreds of years of experience and suggestions from successful, public astrologers.

Listing of chapters is not generally necessary or wanted in a book review. Yet consider each chapter, the topic and author. It is evident the rich and deep expertise and experience of the author. In your possession of this book, you have their guidance, ideas, years of experience, and best practices. Read each chapter. Consider them all and take what you need. As you develop, return to a chapter issue you want to further develop. Chapters are both general and specific. Each chapter is a book unto itself. Note the flow of the chapter titles:

Introduction (Maurice Fernandez)
PART 1 - The Survey
PART 2 - Understanding the Profession and Guidance for Success

• Chapter 1 Different Orientations and Uses (Donna Young)
• Chapter 2 Building and Sustaining a Successful Practice (Maurice Fernandez)
• Chapter 3 Consultations, Counseling, and Ethical Considerations (Sandra Leigh Serio)
• Chapter 4 The Financial Equation (Chris McRae)
• Chapter 5-1 Making your Astrology Practice Financially Viable (Georgia Stathis)
• Chapter 5-2 A Business Plan for Astrologers (Anne C. Ortelee)
• Chapter 6 Legal Issues in the Practice of Astrology (Robert Woodliff and Leisa Schaim)
• Chapter 7 The Times are a-Changin’ (Wendy Stacey)
• Chapter 8 Building a Feedback Loop (Monica Dimino)
• Chapter 9 Counseling Techniques (Jacqueline L. Janes)
• Chapter 10 Writing and Astrology (Arlan Wise)
• Chapter 11 In Print (Frank C. Clifford)
• Chapter 12 The Power of Peer Group in Astrology (Alexandra Karacostas)
• Chapter 13 Professional Development & the Community of Astrologers (Ray Merriman)


References and Resources for Astrologers (Nancy Beale)

For me, the pages in this book flew by. I was entranced with all the information, ideas, and experiences down to the smallest nuance.

In the last section of the book are interviews by various well-known professional astrologers. While interesting and informative, this section used a self-interview formula outline which each astrologer completed. To keep in the same spirit the book was written, I would
Book Review

By Richard Smoot

have enjoyed a personal narrative from each astrologer on how they began, grew and maintained their astrological business. A real-life example in the careers of these noted astrologers.

Witnessing each astrologer’s journey using the topics of each chapter provides us a spectator’s view and demonstration of applying the principles found in this book. Yet, we all have a story we are constantly evolving and rewriting. In the end, each one of us can learn from someone else or assist someone else. Being a professional is what we do and who we are.

In conclusion: This is your book; you must have this book! Read, enjoy, use and reuse this book and continue the success within you. It is you, your clients, our community and profession who will benefit.

I say congratulations to OPA and on our never-ending story along the professional astrologers path.

Richard Smoot
Richard has been an astrologer since 1971 and is a certified astrologer by several astrological associations nationally and internationally. A former licensed social worker; he currently is the Operations Manager for the ISAR, The publisher of the ISAR International Astrologer, Cochair of ISAR’s Consulting Skills Program, An OPA Peer Group leader and a Graduate of the Merriman Market Timing Academy and is involved in several other organizations. Smoot puts the “S” in Service. Richard’s emphasis in his consultations is to empower his clients in determining their own life. richard@richardjsmoot.com.

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The Lunar Eclipse arrives on the heels of the Spring Equinox and the internal war rages on between self-interests and the needs of others. The Spring Equinox for Western astrologers heralds the Sun’s entry into Aries with great fanfare. It is the time of the year that promises original themes, nascent growth, forward movement and new beginnings. As the Equinox unfolds it is derailed by the Lunar Eclipse energies and brings a crisis with issues of cooperation and compromise from partnership-minded Libra. This yin/yang tug of war makes for interesting politics and conflicting public statements. Politicians in America are looking at a presidential election in the fall. They tout their talents and skills but also agree to support their opposition. Very Aries/Libra. At the end of March we are likely to see someone drop out of the presidential campaign and pledge allegiance to the opponent of choice.

The Equinox chart has Mars conjunct the Midheaven but the following month it retrogrades at 8 Sagittarius within one degree of the 7 Sagittarius Midheaven. When Mars is retrograde often one country, with retaliation on its mind, will declare war or take aggressive acts of war on another. But more likely than not, the “war” is short lived. It is quite clear looking at the Equinox chart that fires, attacks, and threats from foreign powers are a strong possibility. The Venus/Neptune conjunction squares the Mars/Saturn midpoint pointing to sneak attacks or countries getting a little too relaxed about protecting themselves whether from natural disasters or belligerent outsiders. The Equinox chart does have positive perspectives. Ascendant co-rulers, Saturn and Uranus, form a lovely grand trine in the fire element with the Moon in majestic Leo that promises continued advances in technology, the possibility of written cooperation (treaties?) with adversaries, productive artistic expression on a grand scale (the unfoldment of a magnificent work of art, perhaps?) and new discoveries about our solar system and beyond.

Saturn and Mars both station retrograde within 23 days of each other in the wise, candid, philosophical and legal sign of Sagittarius. This occurs on March 25 when Saturn reaches 16 degrees of Sagittarius and April 17 when Mars climbs to 8 degrees of Sagittarius. Foreign relations and matters of the courts are highlighted when these two malefic planets do their backward dance. An appointment to the Supreme Court could run afoul or be postponed and immigration policies could be test-
The day after Mars retrogrades, Pluto joins in (April 18) as it reverses its direction at 17 degrees of Capricorn. Pluto retrograding energy can affect the masses on a grand scale. It can also bring issues of nuclear power, mass destruction and collective efforts to the surface. There can be natural and unnatural disasters with Pluto retrograding so close to the time of the Mars retrograde. On a deeper level, Pluto urges us to go within and connect with our inner power. Pluto retrogrades once per year and because it is doing it in April, it might be a good time for personal renewals and retreats and also to revive some waning traditions with business associates, family or friends.

Mercury’s Retrograde period from April 28 - May 22 from 23 to 14 degrees of Taurus bodes well for reminding us to live true to our values and ethics for they will be tested during this period, especially for those born under the sign Taurus or those who have key planets at these degrees. Taurus is also the sign of comfort and indulgence and with Mercury here, it is a reminder to bring more joy and satisfaction to your life without overdoing it.

In the middle of the Mercury Retrograde cycle in Taurus is the Transit of Mercury. This occurs 13 or 14 times per century when Mercury comes between the Sun and the Earth and appears as a very small black dot across the surface of the Sun similar to an eclipse. As a result it forms a conjunction with the Sun, this time at 14 degrees of Taurus 25 minutes. The last transit of Mercury occurred in 2006 also in Taurus because transits of Mercury occur in May and November. A transit of Mercury occurs only if it is in inferior conjunction with the Sun (between Earth and Sun) and is also crossing the plane of the Ecliptic. Those with planets at this degree (and depending on the aspects and house positions) will be compelled to focus on issues regarding financial security, indulgences, and personal motivation.
Transits of the Season

On the same day as the Transit of Mercury (May 9), Jupiter Stations Direct at 13 Virgo 15 minutes. Seventeen days later, Jupiter still at 13 Virgo but now 41 minutes forms an exact square to Saturn at 13 Sagittarius 41 minutes. This planetary alignment evokes a feeling of great freedom and liberation (Jupiter Stationing Direct) but then the celebration is cut short because Saturn moves in to curb Jupiter’s enthusiasm with a heavy dose of reality and responsibility. Jupiter will feel like Saturn is raining on his parade! If you have planets at these degrees, it feels like someone is stealing your thunder or overshadowing your talents. The rewards you seek will only be there if you have done the hard work necessary for success. Jupiter/Saturn squares are known for wreaking havoc on business deals, testing your faith and inner convictions and causing timing to be off.

The manifestation of this square is an excellent time to review your life accomplishments and make an organized plan for future successes. On a global level, this square can bring unfavorable news about economic markets, the banking industry, health concerns and educational matters.

The Mutable Grand Cross comes together June 3 and 4 with the cross occurring within 12-14 degrees of mutable signs. A Grand Cross is like a spoke, each spike within the circle is a necessary balancing energy that serves to hold the circle together. This Mutable Grand Cross contains Jupiter in Virgo, Neptune in Pisces, Saturn in Sagittarius and Venus and the New Moon in Gemini. Additionally, the Nodal axis and Chiron also connect to this sensitive point within a few degrees. Mutable energy is about sharing, gathering and dispersing information. The Gemini-Sagittarius axis is about seeking truth through information and facts and the Virgo-Pisces axis is about service and understanding. Mutable signs have the weakest boundaries and can often get carried away. There is fluidity and changeability within a Mutable Grand Cross. Just look at our climate and how we are setting records for high temperatures, dryness in some areas and flooding in others. This clearly represents the influence of so much mutability in the sky.

Neptune Stations Retrograde on June 13, 2016 at 12 Pisces 03 bringing confusion, idealism, and false information to the surface. Neptune is the planet of drugs, alcohol, dreams, mysticism, idealism, water, oil, and gasses. When it turns retrograde, on a personal level, we have to stop lying to ourselves because the truth surfaces and often it is an ugly truth we don't want to hear. With Neptune in its own sign since 2011, it is a powerhouse of revelations and intuitive understandings. All those born under the sign Pisces and those with Pisces planets within three degrees of its stationing degree can experience a deep and intense connection to the profound divine energy of the universe. This may sound dramatic, but Neptune is an enigmatic planet that brings mystery and awe into one’s life. It’s retrograde cycle, especially in Pisces, is a fruitful time for exploring yoga, meditation, poetry and the oceans of the world.

Sandra-Leigh Serio is certified by ISAR, AFA and OPA as a professional astrologer and has written for the Mountain Astrologer, Llewellyn Publications, Horoscope Magazine and StarIQ. She has a M.A. in Psychology, lives in Boulder, Colorado and since 2003 has been the President of the Rocky Mountain Astrologers. In the 80’s and 90’s she had her own TV and radio show. She serves as a Group Leader and Treasurer for OPA and a trainer for ISAR’s Consulting Skills. In her spare time she plays duplicate bridge. www.sandraleigh.com, sandraleigh@sandraleigh.com, 303-641-6838
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Incorporated on October 4, 2000 at 1:45 pm EDT in
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APRIL 2016
April 14-18
GLAC, Michigan greatlakesastrology.com

MAY 2016
May 27-29 - NORWAC
May 27-30 - OPA CONFERENCE IN GREECE
Athens, Greece www.OPAastrology.com
May 31-June 9 - OPA SACRED SITE TOUR
Greek Islands www.OPAastrology.com

OCTOBER 2016
October 13-17 - ISAR CONFERENCE
Costa Mesa, CA

NOVEMBER 2016
November 10 to 14 - SOTA 2016
Cheektowaga, NY

JANUARY 2017
January 20-22 - KEPLER CONFERENCE
Florida www.thekeplerconference.com

FEBRUARY 2017
February 16-18 - NCGR CONFERENCE

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**JANUARY 17**
Robert Corre

**Planetary Dignities**
Chart delineation and evaluation depends on the ability to measure the quantity (how much) and the quality (how refined/crude) of the different planetary forces present. What changes from one chart to the next is this variation of mixtures. Every chart has a Jupiter, a Saturn, etc., the question is how much and how constructive are the influences?

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**FEBRUARY 7**
Georgia Stathis
www.starcycles.com

**The Importance of Phases**
Join Georgia Stathis on this discussion about the phases

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**MARCH 20**
Aleksandar Imslagic
www.keplerunited.org

**Hermetic Astrology and Strings Between Incarnations**
Everyone lives through three incarnations simultaneously at any moment. They are represented as three different lives that are most crucial for our development. Finding a way to unite them means liberation and represents the final goal of Hermetic Astrology. In this lecture we will define those three different incarnations we live all the time and also we’ll describe a way to unite those different lives in order to create one real Cosmic Life, that represents our True Being.

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**APRIL 3**
Sol Johansen
www.sol-with.com

**Virgo, Scorpio and Capricorn, the Birth of the Human**
In spiritually oriented astrology, humans’ ability to reach for the stars are reflected through the initiations into a higher expression of one’s potential, not necessarily in a material sense, but more in a spiritual sense, yielding a deep sense of purpose. Humans most intense arena for development occurs both in the relationship to one self, but even more strongly felt in the area of relationship. First we learn how to live with our selves, then in a relationship, then in a bigger group and eventually, as a humanity.

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**MAY 1**
Linea Van Horn
www.astrologeratlarge.com

**Before the Client Arrives**
The client-astrologer relationship begins the moment a client reaches out to you, often well before the actual session. Learn how to present a professional appearance right from the start by using a Client Intake Form. Then, make the most of your valuable preparation time before the session by following a well-thought-out Chart Analysis Form, which will take you through the steps of delineating a chart to give you the most important information at your fingertips. Linea will share the forms she has developed over the years, so you will be able to immediately implement the suggestions offered in this webinar.

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**JUNE 12**
Grace Morris
www.astroeconomics.com

**Economic, Real Estate and Business Cycles**
We’ll talk about the astrological cycles that have worked for over 100 years in real estate, business and the economy. What an advantage we have in our own financial life, in working with clients and in sharing with the world that astrology works! Learn more about these cycles. Be ahead of the game projecting your own future successes.

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**JULY 10**
Adam Gainsburg
www.soulsign.com

**Sky Phases of the Planets**
The Sky Phases of the planets represent the very origin of the astrological tradition. The living sky was in fact the very first astrological “chart.” Through 3D software and explanatory graphics, this lecture will introduce the missing celestial ingredients from every round chart wheel such as speed, brightness and Earth proximity. Learn why there are such differences between one conjunction and another (between the same planets)! Tangible meanings for each sky factor are emphasized along with best practices for delineation.

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**AUGUST 7**
Michael Bergen

**The Astrology Code**
Michael will discuss the key findings from his research and show you how to apply them to your readings. You will get a detailed look at his purpose and process for investigating the validity of many astrological techniques, including: the zodiac signs, aspects, the diurnal cycle (houses), and the 9th harmonic.

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**SEPTEMBER 11**
Rick Levine
www.stariq.com

**Horary Astrology: The Important Keys to Analysis**
The premise behind Horary Astrology is that a question, like a person, is born at a unique and specific moment. The Horoscope cast for the birth of an all important question is called a horary chart. Delineation and analysis of the chart reveals the circumstances surrounding the question and its eventual outcome. Horary is a predictive form of astrology with clear cut rules necessary for passing accurate judgment on the question asked.

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**OCTOBER 2**
Laurie Naughtin
www.astroeconomics.com

**About the 2016 US Election**
Two days before the US election, Maurice will discuss the ways to analyze the election process, from the candidate’s charts to the forecast about probable outcomes. This is not only about the elections themselves, but about how to approach the analysis of such an event.

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**DECEMBER 4**
Demetra George

**Topic To Be Announced**

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Get updates and learn more at [OPAastrology.org](http://OPAastrology.org)
On October 31, 2015, Russia was shaken by the events of a terrorist attack that downed a Russian passenger plane that just departed from Sharm el Sheikh in Sinai, Egypt; all 224 passengers died. Members of the Russian Astrological community immediately reacted to the situation and horoscopes and interpretations of the event began to appear in the networks. This tragedy was analyzed with respect to the effect of eclipses, takeoff horoscope, and astro-cartography, and we studied the effect of index cycles. This catastrophe was dismantled by all known analysis methods. Usually, because of my beliefs, I try to stay away from these discussions, as I did that day, but I saw the birth dates of passengers published on the Internet. I thought that this is a very good opportunity to analyze the data through an astrological horoscope statistics collection program. After that I collected all the data on this plane: the date of construction of the aircraft, the flight data, and data of the disaster.

From the resulting list of events I chose the ones that are interesting in terms of statistics and began to form the basis of horoscopes data on this event. The rest of the work was carried out directly from that database. As a base I used the analyzer special unit “Research” in the astrological program “Uranus”.

Subsequently, I processed the data using Exel. This program helped me to get the data in the form in which it is presented now.

I do not analyze the event, but only give the astrological data collected with the statistics of the disaster.

I want to say a special thanks to Anna-Cristal de Lyon for her help in collecting dates and funding of the project.

About the research

I deliberately refrained from drawing conclusions in this work, but collected the statistical data. This information can be valuable material for astrologers who specialize in research and collect
Metrojet Plane Crash

Statistics on astrological influence; for writers who want to write a book about air crashes; or astrologers specializing in making presentations at conferences. Professional information implies that it is aimed at people who use it professionally, i.e. for the development of their careers or for earnings.

All the tables are presented in the colorful form, easy to use in presentations or for pasting into e-books. I separate highlighted peak indicators, give a summary presented in the form of charts, which can be traced back by percentage.

Details about the crash

The crash occurred on October 31, 2015 over the central part of the Sinai Peninsula. Airliner Airbus A321 was on a flight from Sharm el-Sheikh to Saint Petersburg, but after 23 minutes after takeoff the crew radio contact was lost and the plane disappeared from radar. On board were 224 people (including 25 children and 7 crew members) who all died.

At 03:50:06 UTC the flight 9268 took off from Sharm el-Sheikh, and then began to climb. Then the plane turned left to cross the Sinai Peninsula and exit to the Mediterranean Sea.

According to the site «Flightradar24», at 04:13:00 flight 9268 was under the control of the autopilot at a speed of 408 knots. It had climbed to 30,875 feet when normal flight stopped. The plane began to lose altitude quickly with a vertical speed of about 6000 feet per minute. At approximately at 04:15 UTC flight 7K-9268 fell to the ground in the central part of the Sinai Peninsula and was completely destroyed.

According to the FSB of Russia, there was an explosion on board. Responsibility for the attack is assumed by a terrorist group “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)”. Aircraft Airbus A321-231, registration number EI-ETJ 663, was released in spring 1997 made its first flight on May 9.

About the statistics

In collecting astrological horoscope I take into account these accident statistics:

- Horoscope of the first flight
- Horoscope of the last take-off
- Horoscope of the explosion
- 217 passengers horoscopes
Detailed statistics covers 46 pages with a detailed analysis of horoscopes.

**Detailed analysis includes**

- Distribution of the planets in horoscopes of 217 passengers on the signs of the Zodiac;
- The distribution of the retrograde planets in horoscopes of 217 passengers on the signs of the Zodiac;
- Distribution of planets in horoscopes of 217 passengers on the Elements;
- Distribution of planets in horoscopes of 217 passengers on the Quadruplicity;
- Distribution of planets in horoscopes of 217 passengers on the first and last degrees of each sign of the Zodiac;
- Distribution of asteroids in horoscopes of 217 passengers on the signs of the Zodiac;
- Distribution of transuranic planets in horoscopes of 217 passengers on the signs of the Zodiac;
- Distribution of planets in horoscopes of 217 passengers on Degrees, Decanates and Dodecan;
- Analysis of the distribution of the planets’ aspects in horoscopes of 127 passengers (Aspects 0, 45, 60, 90, 120, 135, 180) (Group Aspects 0, 90, 180) (Group Aspects 0, 45, 90, 135, 180);
- Aspects between the take-off horoscope and horoscopes of 217 passengers (Aspects 0, 60, 90, 120, 135, 180);
- Aspects between the horoscope of the first flight and horoscopes of 217 passengers (Aspects 0, 45, 60, 90, 120, 180).

For more information about the reports and passenger’s data, contact Dmitriy Paramonov
paramonov@astralife.net

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**Distribution of asteroids in horoscopes of 217 passengers on the signs of the Zodiac**

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PART 1: March 18-20, 2016

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UGA, Athens GA

Keeping Calm with Kate Rusko and Duncan McCollum

We heart Richard Smoot

She-Astrologers

We heart Sue Minahan

Vinnie Astrologer
PARTICIPANT QUOTES

- "Excellent – More than I expected"
- "Surprising, Supportive – I learned so much!"
- "Loved the mentorship program"
- "This was an excellent conference – some of the best guidance and advice I’ve seen on building a business (in Astrology)"