Greetings OPA!

Blessings on the December Solstice where I write you from the brightest day in South Africa.

I was delighted to introduce OPA and the Peer Group Work to the local community of Johannesburg. Alexandra Karacostas has also conducted a Peer Group session in Athens, Greece last month, so we are glad to share OPA’s pioneering programs to the international community of astrologers. The OPA Peer Group Work provides a support system for professional astrologers and focuses on enhancing professional standards for practitioners. Our next sessions are scheduled for February 2017 ahead of the Baltimore NCGR conference.

We have reviewed OPA’s milestones in photos for this past year 2016 (Page 52) and can be proud to continue making astrology ever more accessible while retaining standards of quality and ethics.

2017 looks very bright for OPA, here are some of the highlights planned:

• February 13-15 – Peer Group Work in Baltimore

OPA is planning:

• March 21 Astrology Day Celebration from Istanbul Turkey and across nations
• October 19 – 22 – The OPA Retreat in fabulous Zion National Park in Utah
• NEW OPA BOOK: Essential Astrology is in process:
  • This new book will compile chapters from more than a dozen astrologers about the study of astrology.
  • It will include basic astrology tutoring as well as more advanced chapters on Astrology of Location, Financial Astrology, Astronomy for Astrologers, and much more.
  • The book is schedule to be released in February 2018
• March 2018 – I-Astrologer 2

The OPA team is wishing you a cosmic, prosperous, and healthy holiday season and New Year! As the Sun moves on the Cardinal Capricorn point, perhaps this is an opportunity to remind ourselves and our leaders the laws of alignment, responsibility, and accountability for our words and actions. The Year 2017 is particularly fiery, a wonderful promise for creative purposes, but vulnerable to excesses and even... scorched earth. The margin of error is getting ever so narrow, let us work for the greater good of all, and that only.

Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA

Peaceful blessings.

Fiery 2017 promises to be immensely creative and expansive with a Jupiter/Uranus interplay blowing limitations and boundaries and forging access to whole new frontiers. Enjoy this selection of articles contributed by our gifted astrologers... and fasten seat belts!

On page 29, explore with us the forever controversial issue of House Systems in Astrology. At OPA we welcome all house systems and combinations, particularly if tea is served with a slice of cake.

On the following pages astrologers share their perspectives...
The Year 2017
by Maurice Fernandez

A new year with its own set of powerful planetary alignments is ahead of us. Surely the Jupiter/ Uranus opposition will dominate most of the upcoming 10 months, until a change of climate occurs at the end of 2017 with Jupiter moving into Scorpio and Saturn into Capricorn, both introverted signs.

**The Jupiter – Uranus opposition in Libra/Aries**
- December 26, 2016 @ 20 degrees
- March 7, 2017 @ 22 degrees
- September 27, 2017 @ 27 degrees

**Solar Eclipses on Royal Stars**
- February 26 @ 8 Pisces (Nodes on Fixed Star Fomalhaut)
- August 21 @ 28 Leo (Conj. Fixed Star Regulus)

**Venus Retrograde**
- March 5 @ 13 Aries
- Direct on April 16 @ 26 Pisces

**Lunar Nodal Axis Ingress to Leo/Aquarius**
- May 9 @ 29 Leo North Node, 29 Aquarius South Node

**Saturn Trine Uranus in Sagittarius/Aries**
- Dec 26, 2016 @ 20 degrees
- May 19 @ 26 degrees
- November 11 @ 25 degrees

**Jupiter Ingress to Scorpio**
- Oct 10

**Saturn Ingress to Capricorn**
- Dec 20
Royal Stars Eclipses

Two Solar Eclipses will align in 2017 with Fixed Royal Stars Fomalhaut and then Regulus. The term Royal Stars has its roots in Zoroastrianism as well as the Book of Enoch in the Bible. They are considered Keepers of the four directions with angelic references and qualities.

Direct conjunctions with their ecliptical degrees amplify leadership qualities in a person’s chart.

The Royal Stars are in the constellations of the Fixed Signs, however, due to the Precession of the Equinoxes, they are now in Mutable Signs in the Tropical (Western) Zodiac. Here is the list of the stars with their 2016 positions (moving approx. 1 degree per 72 years).

- **ALDEBARAN**
  Eye of the BULL (10 Gemini 01) – EAST – Archangel Anael (God’s wish)

- **REGULUS**
  Heart of the LION (0 Virgo 03) – NORTH – Archangel Raphael (God’s healing)

- **ANTARES**
  Heart of the SCORPION (9 Sagittarius 59) – WEST – Archangel Uriel (Light of God)

- **FOMALHAUT**
  Recipient of the AQUARIUS waters (Piscis Austrinus constellation) (4 Pisces 05) – SOUTH – Archangel Gabriel (Strength from God)

While close alignments with the Royal stars can manifest in prominence, might, and leadership, these placements involve an initiation and test of integrity, elevating people to influence when such tests are passed and involving powerful karmic repercussions when failing to meet ethical expectations.

**Leaders with Royal Stars alignments:**

**Sun on Aldebaran**
- Prince Rainier III of Monaco
- John F. Kennedy
- Angelina Jolie
- Marilyn Monroe

**Sun on Regulus**
- Bill Clinton
- Mother Teresa

**Sun on Antares**
- Jacques Chirac (French Leader)
- Princess Aiko (daughter of Prince Naruhito)
- Woody Allen

**Sun on Fomalhaut**
- Naruhito (Crown Prince of Japan)
- Prince Andrew (UK)

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Leaders Time
Eclipses in Leo and Aquarius in 2017

by Öner Döşer

In classical astrology, Solar and Lunar Eclipses are often used while making annual predictions. Ancient astrologers regarded eclipses as negative events, implying that eclipses bring depressing events and endings. They represent stressful times and unexpected crises. Solar eclipses were considered as the harbingers of events related with nobles, governors, leaders of the countries and events that affect the countries in general while Lunar eclipses were considered as the harbingers of events that affect people.

On the other hand, modern astrology considers eclipses as opportunities that bring rapid changes and growth. According to the modern approach, eclipses give us the energy that is necessary for us to make the changes that we want to make in our lives. They help us get our lives in order. Endings bring new beginnings and speed up the coming of some stressful or positive results. They help the manifestation of imbalances in our lives and push us for balancing them again. Therefore, our creativity and ability to find solutions step in. In fact, we need to use these talents. In this sense, eclipses reveal our awareness and raise our consciousness.

During and after the eclipses, circumstances change and we are prompted to make changes. The direction of these changes may be predicted through our natal charts and also by reflecting the eclipse chart on the charts of corporations, cities, and countries. Eclipses show us in which fields of life these changes and transformation may take place and where we should concentrate our attention.

Eclipses in Fixed Signs
The eclipse axis is about to shift from the Mutable signs of Virgo/Pisces to the fixed signs of Leo/Aquarius. Eclipses in fixed signs are known to bring changes in fundamental social constituents. It is difficult to maintain continuity and stability.

In 2017, two eclipses will occur in Leo. One of these eclipses will be the Lunar Eclipse in 22° Leo on February 11th which will be visible in Europe, much of Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Arctic and Antarctica.

The second, a Solar Eclipse in Leo will occur in 28° Leo on August 21st and will be visible in western Europe, North/East Asia, North/West Africa, North America, much of South America, Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic. This total eclipse is crucial for the USA and is defined as the Great American Eclipse.

According to the modern approach, eclipses give us the energy that is necessary for us to make the changes that we want to make in our lives.

Sepharial states that eclipses in fixed signs are related with seismic quakes, changes in the earth’s crust and mines. Eclipses in fixed signs also affect the parliaments, national income and monetary issues and bring changes and transformations in these issues. These eclipses take effect slowly but for a long period of time. They may also bring diseases, epidemics, increase in death rates and the death of distinguished people.

Under these circumstances, we will be experiencing some political, economic and ecological changes in current conditions within the next one and a half years.

The sign where the eclipse takes place informs us on how and in which fields these changes will come to the surface. The emotions, events, occupations and people represented by this sign will be highly affected within this period.

ECLIPSES IN LEO represent the periods when friendliness and self-confidence, the need for showing oneself, desire for being appreciated and admired, and the impetus for being in the center and ruling others are the main issues. These are times when we want the best and value quality, distinction and success.

Leaders, managers, bosses, the people in authority, and the themes related with these people are ruled by this sign. Performing arts, acting, entertainment venues like theatres are also ruled by Leo.

When the eclipses occur in Leo, our desire for promotion to a managerial position, leadership and recognition is tested. While some challenging eclipses may bring disgrace or loss of one’s position it is also possible to gain accomplishment.

Another feature related with Leo is the ability to speculate. As a fire sign Leo displays the courage of taking risks and making attempts. Managing the risk is also an art; this is Leo’s business.

Risk also brings us to Mars. If an eclipse is in contact with Mars, then the desire for taking risks increases. During Solar and Lunar Eclipses in the Leo/Aquarius axis in August, Mars will be in Leo and close to the degree of the eclipse. Consequently, 2017 seems to be a year in which people in leadership positions in their societies will manifest a more dominant and confident profile, will take risks, will take courageous actions and will want to display their strengths.

ECLIPSES IN FIRE SIGNS bring fiery events like fires and can reflect times when armies are marching. According to H.S. Green, eclipses in fire signs may represent sensational events, turbulences in religious, cultural and social matters and wars. He says: “Eclipses in Fiery Signs are said to excite men’s minds and produce sensational public events, disturbances, disputes, murders, sometimes danger of war and movement of armies; the death of the kings, nobles, or great men; excess of heat, scarcity of rain; expenditure of money, increase of taxation.”

According to Raphael, eclipses in fire signs indicate the death, imprisonment,
between the Eclipse, Saturn, and Uranus. During this period, we will probably encounter dominant attitudes and a show of force between leaders. Leaders who insist on one-man governance or bullheading will display such attitude more significantly. On the platform of international relations, we can expect a highly sensitive period. The Eclipse conjuncts the fixed star Regulus possibly describing a strong desire for victory, power struggles, and vindictive behavior.
When a Solar Eclipse is in conjunction with the North Node, there are unexpected opportunities for the leaders to attain power. At this point, it is crucial to avoid the misuse of power. In addition to the Eclipse-Regulus conjunction, the Mars-North Node conjunction may bring misuse or excessive use of force.

As this eclipse in Leo is close to Donald Trump's Ascendant degree and his natal Mars, we may assume that Trump will be one of those leaders who pursue an aggressive policy and manifest a dominant profile. This eclipse also represents some severe decisions and attitudes which may irritate the American people because Trump's natal Mars on 26° Leo is opposing the Moon of the United States chart, representing the people (and also women).

The charts on the previous page depict these configurations.

Mars, Leo and the Turks

According to Persian astrologer Abu Mashar, Leo and Mars are related with Turks. This means that 2017 will also be an important and remarkable year for Turks as Mars will be in Leo during the two eclipses in August this year.

During summer months, when the Sun and Mars will be close to each other in Leo, the chart of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shows that this year will be highly important as his natal Pluto is activated by the eclipses.

Additionally, the Solar Eclipse in Pisces on February 26th happens to be Erdogan's own Solar Return chart with many planets in his 10th house. This may describe that he will be more active in the new Presidency model.

According to William Lilly, eclipses in double-bodied signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces) threaten the kings, princes and governors.

The Eclipse in Pisces is subject to bring dramatic events for Turkey. According to William Lilly, eclipses in double-bodied signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces) threaten the kings, princes and governors. During the coup attempt last summer on July 15th, Mr. Erdogan was under the danger of assassination and fortunately survived as he left his hotel 15 minutes before the assassins. In addition to the activation of his natal chart, this eclipse will also be close to the MC and South Node of Turkey's chart (Oct 29, 1923 @ 8:30pm, Ankara, Turkey).

The August eclipses in Leo will be close to natal Neptune, the MC ruler of Turkey's chart and square Jupiter in Scorpio, the second MC ruler. We may assume that the Presidency model will raise a question mark and confusion.

As the eclipses occur in the 2nd and 8th houses of Turkey's chart and on Neptune's degree, it indicates financially difficult year. August and September particularly may show important fluctuations in economic and stock markets.

Nodes in Leo-Aquarius

Nodes represent cooperation. With the Mars-North Node conjunction in Leo a potential cooperation between the leaders who want to gain more power may occur.

On the other hand, Aquarius refers to pluralistic governance models where governance is more democratic than sole individual power. In 2017, a Lunar Eclipse will take place in 15° Aquarius on August 7. It will be visible in much of Europe, Asia Australia, Africa, East South America, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Antarctica.

AQUARIUS represents mental and intellectual development, humanitarian and social themes, and service to humanity. Aquarius rules inventions, developments in technology, space sciences, all technologies and tools that are used to advance society and foster progress.

Solar and Lunar eclipses in Aquarius emphasize the above issues and promote equality and democracy. We may witness outdated social models begin to change and undergo reforms.

Aquarius represents the necessity to harmonize the old and the new and to build a bridge between the past and the future. Eclipses in Aquarius foster intellectual developments, new ideas, inventions, discoveries, and new and different information. It may also uncover some ancient knowledge that we knew before but have lost track of.

Aquarius is related with personal freedom and human rights. During eclipses in Aquarius, people want to express their opinions freely; civil rights, human rights and animal rights are emphasized. Aquarius operates on both individual and societal scale. The personal ego is
DÖŞER

replaced with social ego, instigating social ideals and team work. 

ECLIPSES IN AIR SIGNS are related with sudden changes in weather conditions, winds and devastating storms. These strong winds also blow in human minds and consequently bring changes and

Eclipses in air signs invite us to make logical judgements and use common sense in making decisions. 

innovations in human relations, communication, and mental issues. They are also related with social events. Possible problems in governments may arise, problems may occur in foreign relations, agreements and alliances may be questioned.1

Eclipses in air signs invite us to make logical judgements and use common sense in making decisions. They are intellectually motivated. In a negative way, previous allies may part ways, people may change their minds and agreements be violated.

As a result, 2017 appears to be a highly active and turbulent year in the political and social arena. The Lunar Eclipse in Aquarius may signify that the people and those with a more pluralistic vision will take action against the leaders who desire to impose their power and authority. The Moon in USA’s chart being triggered by the eclipses both in Leo and Aquarius strongly suggests that.

To summarize, we may conclude that the eclipses in Leo on the North Node are auspicious for leaders who are aiming at individual governance. Will the Lunar eclipse in Aquarius on the South Node be enough of a force for those who possess a pluralistic approach and value diversity, equality, and liberty to make a difference? We will have to wait and see...

With love, light and hope!

Öner Döşer, AMA, MAPAI, ISAR Cap OPA Turkey Satellite
www.onerdoser.com/en
www.astrolojiokulu.com/en

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The Leo-Aquarius Nodal Axis Transit

MAY 9, 2017 TO NOV 6, 2018

by Kim Marie

The nodal axis ingress into Leo-Aquarius will shift individual and collective consciousness into creativity and activism on egoic or emotional levels. Whether this happens on an inclusive or exclusive basis remains to be seen. The mean motion of the Moon’s tropical nodal axis reverses through the zodiac, with the North Node moving through Leo while the South Node moves through Aquarius from May 9, 2017 to November 6, 2018. As the current North Node in Virgo-South Node in Pisces transit winds down, there is still opportunity to make sense of recent changes taking place in our world and decide how to personally be involved in any group efforts to shift the direction forward.

A look at the culminating Pisces/Virgo Nodes

Before looking at the possibilities and potentials with this new nodal axis transit, let us first consider the larger backdrop that our collective emotional evolutionary process is interacting with – the first quarter phase of Uranus in Aries to Pluto in Capricorn. The “crisis in action” 90-degree squares (2012-2015) between these two power points are now revealing the struggle between liberating ourselves into the future versus keeping control of the past. This could also be described as the battle between more liberal or inclusive principles versus conservative or exclusive principles. Both sides feel the insecurity of new Uranian upsets threatening to break down established Plutonian structures.

Through this undercurrent, the Leo-Aquarius nodal axis transit will bring a mixture of revolutionary leaps forward as well as some traumatic paralysis causing us to maintain the status quo. Individually, this process is always about recognizing personal self-responsibility as we co-create with the universe. The archetype of Pisces (12th House/Neptune) teaches us that ultimately there is no victimization; there is only conscious and/or unconscious co-creation with whatever our perception of universal source is, even including a rejection of divinity altogether. Human religious distortions condition us to believe we are powerless and we tend to give our power away to this source, reinforcing a sense of victimization in this imperfect world. Natural spiritual principles reveal that the co-creation process is empowering us and encouraging healthy boundaries as we recognize our role (Virgo/6th House/Mercury polarity) in this grand evolutionary journey. How has the South Node in Pisces emotionally re-aligned your world? Victim or co-creator?

The North Node in Virgo energizes us forward according to our perceptions. The woundedness of false or limited beliefs (Pisces) may lead to procrastinations, excuses, escapism, etc. which then create the famous “crisis” as the mutability of Virgo demands change. Have you utilized your disillusionments and crises to understand the emotional and physical changes necessary in your world to move onward? Do you recognize how communion with a universal source requires you to “pray with your feet”? One foot in front of the other as movement (Virgo) creates the necessary spiritual, mental and emotional processing in our life to make whatever changes are in front of us.

The Nodal Axis in Aquarius/Leo with rulers Uranus and Sun

Now let us consider the continual unfolding and understanding of our emotional or egoic past: South Node in Aquarius. These traumas of the past – this life and previous lives – may be revisited and/or re-experienced in order to bring them into consciousness. The intent is to observe with detachment and objectivity as to the “whys” of what has wounded us in the past. This allows us to break free into a new sense of self: North Node in Leo. This is the context that now gives way to the nodal axis in Leo-Aquarius for the next 18 months, with its corresponding eclipse highlights.

Clues to the past will be found with our natal Uranus signature (ruler of Aquarius) by house and sign and their rulers, as well as its aspects. Include activity with your natal 11th House as well as the house cusp(s) that Aquarius rules. Transiting Uranus in Aries by natal house will initiate new insights into this emotional past. What old beliefs (Pisces) need to be released around these old traumatic wounds?

The danger is becoming trapped in the intensity and distortions of the traumas. We can become stuck in our old patterns and beliefs, our story. We rapidly defend the past and fight against anything or anyone that threatens current securities. Ultimately, the archetype of Uranus/Aquarius/11th House is to liberate from the past and find the courage (Sun/Leo/5th House) to move forward into an unknown future. However, that is not how the consensus world operates. Tomorrow is feared; the Uranian upsets manifest to the degree natural evolution is resisted, or natural laws are suppressed. For example, imagine this for a moment with regard to climate change denial.

Aquarius is an archetype, via the fixed modality and air element, that also has us searching for a common mindset as an extension of security through its changes via the active polarity. This falls into three possibilities, and relates to emotionally comforting words – friendship, community, tribe, etc.

One Aquarian mindset is commonly known as the “avant-garde” (the future) of any society or group. These individuals embrace change and follow through on their visionary insights. They sense the path forward in relation to the events of today and the effects of the past. Many times they are rejected by society as being wrong, or just plain weird. They feel the pressure of current regressive events and possible setbacks to their progressive nature.

A second possible manifestation is the polar opposite – those who resist change (the past) as threatening to their current securities and societal structures. Tomorrow will never be as good as yesterday. They either cannot see, or refuse to consider, that jobs lost to automation will not be
coming back. This is the Saturnian effect to Uranian change. We have all heard some of our elders (and consensus consciousness) voice comments to this effect.

The third possible mindset are those in the middle (the present), swaying between moving forward and resisting it. They become influenced by the emotional triggers of their own insecurities. These people tend to decide the results of U.S. presidential elections. They may or may not objectively understand why their individual past is what it is, and what is required to change – for their own health, and the society they live in. This may include an inability to objectively understand collective patterns, falsehoods, misinformation, biases, fake news, beliefs, etc.

These three Aquarian mindsets ebb and flow as they create all the individual and collective evolutionary choices at any moment in any point in space/time. This is the real foundation to both the liberal and conservative populist movements currently taking place all over the world. Wow, this story remains to be written.... How will you choose to be involved as the transiting South Node in Aquarius unfolds and triggers your world? What are your unique North Node in Leo choices in exploring your talents and evolving role in society?

Real evolution is represented by the transiting North Node in Leo. Opportunities will depend directly upon our evolving sense of creative self-actualization in response to societal needs, rather than our own, and the evolving emotional courage to activate change accordingly.

The clues moving forward will be found with our natal Sun signature (ruler of Leo) by house and sign and their rulers, as well its aspects. Include activity with your natal 5th House as well as the house cusp(s) that Leo rules. The transiting Sun around your chart will initiate any new possibilities forward on a monthly basis relative to your natal Sun/Leo/5th House signatures.

A common distortion with Leo is emotional insecurity that looks for safety outside of self rather than within. This can be the incessant love affairs exploding in our face, versus learning to deeply self-love first. It can be the “starving artist syndrome” whereby our fantastic idea or creation doesn’t even get off the ground. Sooner or later, we will revisit the trauma/drama patterns that rock our world. The intent is to detach and objectify (Aquarius) what happened, and why it happened, to be followed by the courage to change as necessary on an individual basis according to societal needs and readiness.

Another Leo distortion is narcissism, everything and everyone revolves around me and my needs. Astrology looks at this as some type of arrested emotional development, the emotional self-reliance and maturation distortions of Cancer projected onto the next sign of Leo.

The Aquarius/Leo Nodal Axis and the US Chart

Perhaps the most famous example right now is the new U.S. president Donald Trump with his 30° Leo ascendant, willing to say whatever it takes to be noticed without any regard to objectivity of truth versus lie. Another example is the United States natal North Node Leo-South Node Aquarius nodal axis in July 4, 1776 charts, that is reflected in clichés such as “the greatest country on Earth” and “leader of the free world.” These phrases may not be shared by other countries; reinforcing a perception that the U.S. is actually a bully, forcing its ideas on to everyone else as it plays world cop.

We may also include the fact that both commonly-used July 4, 1776 charts (2:13am and 5:10pm, Philadelphia, PA) have Moon in Aquarius, which represents the collective citizenry, especially its emotional security. Reflect for a moment on how the U.S. has vacillated between open-mindedness – “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...” – and exclusionary fearfulness – “build a wall” and indigenous genocide perpetrated on others to establish this country.

South Node in Aquarius will move over the natal U.S. Moon May-June, 2017 for the 5:10pm chart and November, 2017 for the 2:13am chart. Which side – inclusive versus exclusive – will prevail? It could easily take the first U.S. Pluto return at 28° Capricorn in 2022 (and beyond) to resolve this choice, while the nodal axis transit may bring the issue into collective consciousness in more real and objective ways. How can a nation of immigrants, who almost completely destroyed the nations of the free world.” These phrases may not be shared by other countries; reinforcing a perception that the U.S. is actually a bully, forcing its ideas on to everyone else as it plays world cop.

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The transiting nodal axis in Leo-Aquarius may take us down a class warfare path – racial, religious, sexual and gender inequalities, or my country is better than your country.

Solar and lunar eclipse through this transit is within orb of his natal Mars, Pluto and ascendant – power points to the max. It may ignite massive public protests and energize both liberal and conservative mindsets as they realize just how much they were conned by all the financial elites. While President Trump read the electoral economic frustrations correctly, his solutions are firmly entrenched with Pluto in Capricorn control and exclusivity. It will remain to be seen if his egoic need to be noticed (Leo) will respond to the actual needs of the citizenry (Aquarius).

Just as the Uranus-Neptune conjunctions in 1821 at 2°-3° Capricorn initiated all the massive upsets and collective economic displacements through accelerating the industrial revolution, the same is happening now from the 1993 Uranus-Neptune conjunctions at 18°-20° Capricorn. This time it is a technological explosion on a much larger magnitude than the last one, and is taking place on a global scale much more actively. Manufacturing jobs are not coming back; robots will replace humans at an increasingly faster pace. Multi-national corporations will do whatever they can get away with. Unless we invest in our real resource – humanity – many will continue to be left behind, and inequality may reach ridiculous new levels. The Leo-Aquarius nodal axis transit may be a prelude to what we can expect through Pluto in Aquarius 2023/24 – 2043.

There are a lot of other astrological factors involved. This article focused upon the emerging emotional awareness of potential downsfalls and opportunities of the Leo-Aquarius polarity. Objective Aquarius shows us where we need to be a "group of one" in order to find the Leonian willpower to individualize and do whatever is best for our self and others equally, as our societies reveal how and where they need our help and creativity. From the collective need – Aquarius – arises new creativity – Leo. Invoke the visionary qualities of Aquarius to show you how and where to shine your love and life force in the world. It will take a global village to stand up for each and every one of us, including all species, on this small rock around the Sun.

Kim Marie is the Director of the Evolutionary Astrology Network. She oversees the EAN’s Evolutionary Astrology Course worldwide and teaches via webinars, focusing on the basics of EA and forecasting. She has studied and practiced Evolutionary Astrology for 30+ years and counsels an international clientele. Her background includes experience in alternative healing and environmental politics. Kim Marie is a certified Master Gardener and a Deep Memory Processing past-life regression therapist. She is also an independent Facilitator for the Energetic Matrix Church of Consciousness (EMC) – a leading edge computerized spiritual technology for 24/7/365 self-healing via photographs. She resides on a beautiful piece of paradise in the Black Hills of South Dakota with her husband LeRoy – General Manager for EAN.
The outermost planets with their long orbital cycles symbolise collective experiences and universal themes shared by all. In 2017 Pluto continues its slow journey through Capricorn (2008-24) exposing the limitations of the Earth and pressing us to live more sustainably. In January this year Pluto has traveled 180 degrees from its discovery position in 1930. Although Pluto has an orbit of 248 years, its irregular cycle means it has traveled half the zodiac in just 87 years. This suggests that humanity is set for an awakening in consciousness with more awareness of the processes and cycles that affect all life on Earth. It suggests we are confronting karmic forces that were laid down in the 1930s. It’s more vital than ever that we take personal responsibility for our actions and behave ethically.

Pluto’s progress on its orbit suggests we are confronting karmic forces that were laid down in the 1930s.

Like last year, 2017 has very little in the way of fixed energy. Until Jupiter moves into Scorpio in October 2017, all planets from Jupiter outward continue to be in only mutable and cardinal signs. This two year period from September 2015 to October 2017 is the longest possible period without anything in the way of fixed energy since 1825-27. We are likely therefore to continue to experience a lack of stability and frequent stops, starts and direction changes.
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Late last year Uranus and Jupiter lined up on opposite sides of the Earth with Eris and Ceres joining Uranus. The conjunction of Uranus and Eris has been very unsettling and unpredictable and there will be one final hit of this union in early 2017, so we have yet more surprises in store.

Saturn continues through Sagittarius this year but notably will cross the threshold into its own sign Capricorn in December just two days before the Sun. The passage of time and our relationships to it will become more crucial and critical with Saturn joining Pluto in Capricorn over coming years. The limitations of the Earth and our collective footprint are likely to become more apparent.

The New Moon on January 28 ushers in the Chinese year of the Fire Rooster, or Red Chicken. The Rooster is a dynamic sign possessing a resilient and determined nature. Fire Rooster years are action packed, when much can be achieved through hard work, tenacity and risk taking, but the Chinese Rooster can be somewhat self-absorbed and insular and like real roosters who strut around in the barn yard, egos can run amok if we allow them to when the Rooster is crowing.

Venus and Mars will rendezvous just once in October 2017. Mars is direct all year but Venus will be retrograde from early March until mid-April. When Venus is retrograde she asks us to consider how well our lives reflect our core values. This is the perfect time to re-evaluate our priorities and commitments. Compromises sometimes take us away from our centre, but when Venus is retrograde and close to the Earth we can re-engage with the most important aspects of life.

Donald Trump and the August 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

The August 22 total solar eclipse will traverse the United States from coast to coast. The degree of this eclipse is 28LE53 on Trump's Ascendant and very close to his Mars. A few days after this eclipse, transiting Saturn will station at 21SG11 exactly on his Moon and therefore also be opposite his Sun and on his nodal axis. Watch for key Saturnian developments in the US when this August eclipse and accompanying Saturn station.

The September Equinox

The seasons shift once more as the Sun crosses the celestial equator, heading southward. Libra symbolises the exact balance and equality between day and night, yang and yin, or two people in a relationship. Libra’s ruling planet Venus will rendezvous with Mars a few weeks into this season. Mars and Mercury oppose Neptune and Venus will do likewise soon after this Equinox. In relationships, it’s important to strike a balance between each individual’s needs and self-expression. Sometimes communication can become clouded by expectations and our desire to belong, resulting in imbalance. Jupiter and the Moon are close allies now too, opposing Uranus, so freedom to be ourselves is paramount. This chart reminds us that relationship harmony cannot be attained by repressing our individuality and forever trying to please others. Adjustments may be necessary to reach consensus.

The December Solstice

Saturn and the Sun begin a new cycle together as they shift into Capricorn. With the lord of time in its own sign, time is ticking more loudly. An alarm is awakening us to the dawn of a new reality. Saturn represents the structure of our world, its systems, governments and corporations and how we manage time. Above all, Capricorn asks us to behave ethically. The corruption that was exposed with the GFC when Pluto crossed this same point in 2008 will again be in focus. It’s time to take personal responsibility and act with a higher degree of consciousness and self-discipline. Over the next two years Saturn and Pluto will fundamentally transform the structures of our world that are crying out for reform. Karmic forces are sure to come home to roost. Saturn will remain in Capricorn until 2020.

Watch for key Saturnian developments in the US when the August eclipse and accompanying Saturn station.
Jupiter – Uranus Opposition and the US Chart

by Susan Falk

As 2016, the year of so many unexpected events, draws to a close it seems that these kinds of startling events will continue. The planet Jupiter, which symbolizes abundance, good luck, venturing into the unknown, positive outcomes and optimism will be opposed by the planet Uranus symbolizing spontaneous, unexpected events, flashes of insight, lightning bolts of change. It’s “fasten your seat belts” time. The planet Saturn, which symbolizes stability, discipline, and maintaining the status quo is in trine to Uranus which gives some stability to this very unstable situation. It’s definitely going to be a time of dramatic and unexpected changes which can be exciting or frightening but the Saturn influence should give some grounding which seems to be sorely needed.

Donald Trump’s astrological chart is being activated by the transits of Jupiter, Uranus and Saturn. He is having a Jupiter return which is in his 2nd house of money so his being elected president is definitely helping his brand which is probably a major reason that he decided to seek the Presidency.

Jupiter will be in trine to his Sun at the time of his inauguration and sextile his Moon so it seems positive for his financial situation. Saturn will be right on his Moon so it seems positive for his financial situation. Saturn will be in trine to his Sun at the time of his inauguration and sextile his Moon so it seems positive for his financial situation. Saturn will be right on his Moon so it seems positive for his financial situation. Saturn will be in trine to his Sun at the time of his inauguration and sextile his Moon so it seems positive for his financial situation. Saturn will be right on his Moon so it seems positive for his financial situation.

It’s definitely going to be a time of dramatic and unexpected changes which can be exciting or frightening but the Saturn influence should give some grounding which seems to be sorely needed.

with the United States Pluto which is at 27 degrees of Capricorn. Since Pluto is associated with Plutonium and the invention of the Atomic Bomb I hope that Trump does not do anything rash and impulsive during this time. Tweeting is fine but setting off a nuclear bomb is not. Saturn will be on his Moon at that time so I’m hoping it will be a stabilizing force. However, it

could mean that he will be suffering the consequences of some of his rash actions and I hope the whole country doesn’t go down with him. We can only hope and pray for the best. ☹️

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Chinese Year of the Fire Rooster
JAN 28, 2017 to FEB 15, 2018
10th Zodiac Cycle

by Maurice Fernandez

The Chinese Zodiac year begins with the second Full Moon of the Year, usually in the sign of Aquarius. Those born from Feb 1957 until Feb 1958, will have a FIRE ROOSTER RETURN CYCLE, promising a very important year for them.

Rooster Characteristics:
- Flamboyant and colorful personality
- Blunt
- Stubborn and argumentative
- Self-motivated
- Hardworking
- Resourceful
- Powerful and Dominant
- Perfectionist

The hour of the Rooster:
- 5pm to 7pm - This is the time when Roosters begin to get back to their coops

Rooster Day:
- Saturday

The Chinese Astrology Cycle consists of all 12 signs going through the 5 elements, for a total of 60 years. The current cycle began in 1984 with the year of the Wood Rat. It will end in the year 2044 with the Water Pig.

Following the Year of the Chinese Monkey (2016) which took us on a roller coaster ride, hopping from branch to branch, we continue a fiery activation through the colorful Sun Greeting bird in the course of 2017. We can expect a continuation of creative, but volatile and scattered energy.

The Rooster being the sign of dawn and awakening, it can bring triumph through hard work and creativity. It is a sign of both dominance and activism, where the need for honesty drives people into fierce debates.

Ceremonial activation
Celebrate the New Year of the Rooster greeting the Sunrise loudly and proudly. Fry yourself sunny side up eggs, wearing hackle rooster feathers. Get yourself a couple of pretty hens and enjoy organic eggs all year long!

From Lucia Lu  China

The next year in Chinese astrology is 丁酉. 丁 is always related to the Rooster and 酉 is a fire element and that is why we call it Fire rooster.

This current year (2016) is 丙申 (Bǐng-shēn). 丙 is associated to the Monkey and 申 is fire so the current year is Fire Monkey. In the Chinese system fire challenges the Metal element (both naturally associated with Rooster and Monkey) so 2016 and 2017 are somehow connected and that means that problems and issues that emerged up this year and the next year may have similar tones.

This year’s (2016) fire from heaven (戊) is like the fire of the Sun (Yang Fire). It is related to religious and spiritual leadership and passion for human beings, but it's sometimes a little bit reckless. So we may want to smartly decide what we are most passionate about and what we believe, and maybe embark on an adventure. We might have claimed outwardly who we were and what beliefs we had.

The year beginning in 2017, the heaven fire (丁) is YIN, like the fire of candles. It is more related to human life and more useful
to us as it can be better controlled. In this Yin year we have to continue what we started and decide how to transform the passion (sometimes anger) into organized action and deal with the unresolved practical and emotional concerns. These issues could be more subtle and require more patience and wisdom, but we should not forget the the danger and create a practical plan which we test with cautious action.

...we should not forget the danger and create a practical plan which we test with cautious action.

The four gates of karma are the elements – Earth, Air, Water, Fire. Fire and Air signs are masculine and show a role of taking action. Water and Earth signs are feminine and show the necessity of accepting what life brings. This underlying concept is applied to all the various ways of looking at the chart with an eye to understanding past lives. These methods are the twelfth house, the fifth house, the last conjunction of the Moon, Saturn, planetary aspects to the nodal axis, separating aspects of 1 degree orb, and the Duad chart. By assigning houses to different past lives, and using the system of derivative houses, he turns the chart into a kaleidoscope that gives up its hidden meanings with each twist of the wheel.

Aleksandar brings original thoughts to the meaning of the nodes. He examines the nodes placement in houses, in signs, the rulers of both nodes, as well as aspects to both nodes. The book is worth reading just for this section on the nodes.

He brings up the idea of looking at the chart of this life as the middle of a continuum.

The structure of life and the Universe is such that everything is contained within everything. Therefore, all the time that has passed and that will ever follow is already contained within the present.

One has to examine the houses that relate to the past life, the current one, and the next life. If a planet has a one degree separating orb, it describes the previous life, if it is a two-degree orb, it is the life before the previous one. He discusses karmic directions of one degree equals one lifetime. An original idea is that of karmic progressions and how through mathematical calculations one can find a date when an important event happened in the past.

This is a book you want to own so that you can write in it. You’ll want to make notes and list the people you know who have those markers in their charts. The only suggestion I have is that I found the example charts are small and difficult to read. Perhaps this could be corrected in the next printing of the book, (I’m sure there will be one.) This is a book that is a necessary addition to one’s astrological library.

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**Book Review**

*By Arlan Wise*

**THE FOUR GATES OF KARMA**

The Astrology of Reincarnation

By ALEKSANDAR IMSIRAGIC

In this book, Aleksandar explains the techniques he uses to look at a chart and see why one’s life is what it is.

He says: _Natal astrology should provide an answer to the questions WHAT will happen in someone’s life. Predictive astrology provides us with the time frame and answers the question WHEN it will happen. However, the goal of karmic astrology is much deeper, because it should reveal the purpose of an invisible link stretching between various incarnations of the same soul. Therefore, the karmic astrologer should provide the answer to the question WHY something is happening now._

He describes how to trace the karmic history of past lives and how to read this information. The book is very explicit in its detail and teaches the reader many tools to uncover the mystery of one’s previous lives.

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About Lucia Lu: I am a Chinese Western astrologer and not truly versed into Chinese Astrology, though I do have some knowledge about it, and have learned the basics. This short description of the Rooster year is an evolutionary approach based on general understanding of the elements of the year. ☯
Venus Retrogrades Redefine Relationships

MARCH 4 – APRIL 15, 2017

by Kathryn Andren

The love planet Venus is attractive and alluring. She reveals herself both as an evening star and a morning star. Look up early evening and sometimes you will find her, gorgeous in the West just after sunset. Over time she disappears, retreats and reemerges in the early morning sky, rising in the East.

Venus is the brightest object shining in the sky after the Sun and the Moon. Listen to her. She may be speaking to you softly, or radically raging for you to pay attention to what is important. All matters of the heart are in your face during the 40 day Venus Retrograde cycle. Notice your emotional space just before, during and after a Venus cycle. This is a symbolic time to retract, retreat and reflect.

Venus is the goddess of love, art and beauty. In modern astrology, the Venus position illuminates how we place priorities in relationship and gives clues to innate desires and values. The Venus retrograde cycle is symbolic of exploring the inner feminine, and offers an opportunity to explore inner worlds.

Venus Retrograde is March 4 – April 15, 2017.

Venus stations retrograde at 13' 09 Aries & stations direct at 26' 55 Pisces.

Shadow period begins when Venus crosses 26' 55 Pisces on January 30, 2017

Shadow period ends as direct Venus crosses 13' 09 Aries again on May 18, 2017

What Does Retrograde Mean?

What does it mean when a planet goes retrograde? A retrograde cycle is an optic illusion. From our view on Earth, the planet appears to stay still in the sky, then apparently moves backwards against the backdrop of stars (retrograde) before moving forward again. When a planet changes direction in its stations retrograde or direct, astrologers say there is more power with this planet.

Just like an acupuncture session aligning the meridians on your body, a station or retrograde planet energizes a particular region of the sky and your personal birth chart.

Aligning with the ancient principle, “As Above, So Below”, retrograde planets serve as a symbolic reflection to:

- Review
- Revise
- Reconsider
- Reevaluate
- Redo
- Retract
- Retreat

What Venus Retrograde Represents

Of all the planets, the Venus retrograde is the rarest. The Venus retrograde cycle is approximately 40 to 44 days every 18 – 19 months or so. Forty is a sacred number in various traditions. There are biblical stories of rain for 40 days and 40 nights, and wandering for 40 years in the desert. In the mystical Kabbalah, 40 is the number of fruition, birth and abundance.

All matters of the heart are in your face during the 40 day Venus Retrograde cycle.

Interesting that there are 40 days of Venus retrograde and it takes 40 weeks for a child to grow in the womb. Imagine the 40 days of Venus retrograde as a hologram. If each day were a week, it could represent 40 weeks in the womb. What aspect of yourself would you rebirth during this time?

Venus is the goddess of love, art and beauty. In modern astrology, Venus represents the inner feminine, money matters and what you innately value. The Venus position in a personal birth chart illuminates what we value in relationship.
This may be an opportunity to redefine healthy boundaries in your relationships.

**Personalizing Venus Retrograde**

During Venus retrograde, there is an opportunity to explore inner worlds. Take some time out just for you. This Venus retrograde begins in Aries and retreats into Pisces.

Consider these questions for contemplation, embracing the themes for both Zodiac signs for this Venus retrograde cycle:

- What is my heart’s desire?
- How have I defended my heart?
- What is worth fighting for?
- What have I sacrificed for love?
- How can I assert my individuality while maintaining compassionate connection with others?

Throughout the Venus retrograde cycle, notice where Venus aspects your personal astrology chart by sign and house placement. In general, Venus retrograde times offer an opportunity to simply stop, take a step back and have some breathing room. Reflect on the possibilities of reinventing yourself!

### Additional Aspects for Consideration:

**Cardinal Planets Activate Transformation & Individuation**

There is extra potency to this Venus cycle as Venus meets other planets in the sky story. If the planets were characters in a play, they would interact in unique conversations as Venus engages on her retrograde journey. During this upcoming cycle, Venus in Aries will start off in T-square with other cardinal planets, then when in Pisces, she squares off with Saturn.

On March 4, at the beginning of the retrograde, Venus is at 13 Aries, with Mars and Uranus near 22 - 25 Aries opposing Jupiter at 22 Libra. These planets all square off to powerful Pluto at 18 Capricorn. So many planets in a Cardinal T-square at the start of this Venus Retrograde gives an added emphasis on inner transformation. Take a deep look at how you show up in relationships. You may surprise yourself or someone new may come your way during this time!

At the end of the cycle, Venus stations direct on April 15. During this week, Saturn in Sagittarius squares off to Venus in Pisces. Saturn supports commitment, there is an invitation to dive deeper with people, projects or plans you truly love.

Kathryn Andren is dedicated to healing service as an astrologer, writer & intuitive recently relocated to New York. She holistically integrates astrology, massage and energy healing bodywork in her private practice. A deep connection to land, sea and sky brings a passionate and practical approach to her consultations and classes. She holds a BA in Psychology and embodies years of professional experience with intuitive wisdom. Find featured articles by Kathryn Andren at www.theloveastrologer.com.

### Bonus material.

Heavenly Haiku for Venus Retrograde:

- leave me for the Sun
- can I see you one more day
- these tender meetings

- journey of Venus
- preparing for underworld
- love light disappears

- rushing toward the Sun
- descent into darkness
- Venus paradox
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- Chris McRae – Horary in Three Parts
- Maurice Fernandez - Relationships and Sexuality in the chart
- Monica Dimino - The Game Changers in the Chart
- Sandra Leigh Serio - Astrology and Spiritual Evolution
- Alexandra Karacostas - Peer Group Work - (max 4 people) - Sold Out
- Richard Smoot - Peer Group Work - (max 4 people) - Sold Out
- Susan Falk - Peer Group Work - (max 4 people)

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Neptune, Chiron & South Node in Pisces
Water Spirits and the Karmic Effect of Forgiveness - The Dakota Access Pipeline and the Flint Water Crisis
by Maurice Fernandez

In April 2010, Chiron entered the sign of Pisces on the day of the Deep Water Horizon explosion and devastating oil spill in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Soon after, in March 2011, on the eve of Neptune's entry into the sign of Pisces, the Fukushima power plant disaster spilled immeasurable amounts of radioactive waste, not fully contained to this day, into the Pacific Ocean, which led to the worst possible contamination of water ever recorded on the planet.

Global Warming, the acidification of oceans, plastic pollution, and excessive fishing have already decimated ocean life, posing an immediate threat to the future of our existence as we know it. Neptune causes bankruptcies to the fields associated with the signs it travels through. When it was in Aquarius, the 9/11 crisis plunged the aviation industry into a security nightmare and chaos, eliminating many airline companies and forcing surviving ones to merge together and reinvent themselves. Now in Pisces, the sign that represents the source of life, the original design and what is untamed by humans, Neptune reflects a threat that could devastate nature and its resources, particularly anything associated with water, because water is the womb, indeed the source of life itself.

FLINT, MICHIGAN WATER CRISIS
As the transiting Nodal Axis moved to the signs of Pisces (South) and Virgo (North), first to conjunct Chiron in Pisces, the Flint water contamination scandal emerged into public consciousness when on January 5, 2016, Michigan's Governor Snyder declared a state of emergency. Flint, a city with a majority of low income African Americans and notoriously labeled as one of the most dangerous cities in the United States due to escalating crime rates, had its water supply redirected from the safe conduits of Lake Huron to the Flint River to cut on expenses. Saving a few bucks was apparently prioritized over the catastrophic health hazard caused by corroding pipes leaking extremely high levels of lead, a heavy neurotoxin, into drinking water supplies.

Flint's population, including thousands of children, drank the poisonous waters over many months and suffered severe health setbacks, some of which may be irreversible.

The chart of the emergency declaration shows the Sun in Capricorn, tightly involved in the Pluto/Uranus square, describing the high-level official corruption, along with Chiron in Pisces opposing Jupiter in Virgo on the Nodal Axis, describing the effect of water poisoning and associated health hazards.

STANDING ROCK – WATER IS LIFE
Soon after, in April 2016, the Standing Rock protest movement began, an effort led by Native Americans of the Sioux tribe to oppose the crossing of the Dakota Access Pipeline under the Missouri River on the edge of their protected land and water supplies. The pipeline was previously re-routed from its original itinerary where it was designed to cross the Missouri river north of Bismarck, a town with a population of 92% whites, because it was recognized that, indeed, the pipeline would pose a major threat to the water supplies of the town.

Pipeline contractor's logic had it that if the pipeline posed a threat to Bismarck's water supplies, it should be re-routed instead to cross the water supplies of low income Native American sacred lands at Standing Rock Reserve in North Dakota.

The protestors began to gain widespread support around the month of September when videos of brutal police force use against them began circulating and raising more awareness on the cause.
The slogans “Water is Life” and “Protect Lands and Waters” gained viral recognition as the South Node in Pisces was now fast traveling towards its own ruler, Neptune, making an exact conjunction at 9 degrees in the middle of November. The threat of a harsh North Dakotan winter did not discourage land and water protectors and activists in their resistance but instead stimulated greater support across the world.

ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS

Early in December, a group of 2000 US veterans signed a declaration of their support for the Sioux cause, opposing the pipeline course and denouncing the brutality of police forces. Many of them came to Standing Rock to stand between activists and the police force as a gesture of solidarity, sending a message of zero tolerance toward such injustice.

The first week of December was significantly eventful as the Army Corps denied the Dakota Pipeline necessary permits to advance the project and sided with the Sioux movement. On December 5th, an extraordinary event occurred when the veterans, among them Wes Clark Jr, the son of retired U.S Army general and former supreme commander at NATO, Wesley Clark Sr, made a public apology to the Native Americans:

“Many of us, me particularly, are from the units that have hurt you over the many years. We came. We fought you. We took your land. We signed treaties that we broke. We stole minerals from your sacred hills. We blasted the faces of our presidents onto your sacred mountain. When we took still more land and then we took your children and then we tried to make your language and we tried to eliminate your language that God gave you, and the Creator gave you. We didn’t respect you, we polluted your Earth, we’ve hurt you in so many ways but we’ve come to say that we are sorry. We are at your service and we beg for your forgiveness.”

Astrologer and Tarot reader Tara Greene compared the charts of this event with the Wounded Knee massacre that occurred around the same area in 1890. She spoke of a Karmic resolution between the massacre and the gesture of forgiveness, and indeed, Astrology is speaking out loud about the resonance of these two events.

**THE WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE…**

What is striking in the charts is that Neptune in Pisces, which represents forgiveness, letting go, unifying principle, water and womb, in the chart of Forgiveness is amplified by its conjunction to the South Node, and beyond that, it is on the exact 9 degree Pisces of Wounded Knee’s Mars (war, aggression).

Moreover, the Sun of Forgiveness Chart stands exactly on the South Node of Wounded Knee, indicating a revisiting and recognition of the massacre event. (The Suns in both charts happen to conjunct Asteroid Juno). Most importantly, the Sun conjuncts Saturn in Sagittarius in the Forgiveness Chart - squaring Saturn of Wounded Knee Chart. Saturn is associated with Karmic events and the need for realignment, correction, and Karmic consequences. This graphic Saturnian configuration shows how heavy the Karmic weight of Wounded Knee has been, and how this gesture of forgiveness plays a significant role in the effort of realignment.

[This] Saturnian configuration shows how heavy the Karmic weight of Wounded Knee has been, and how this gesture of forgiveness plays a significant role in the effort of realignment.

Neptune will remain in the sign of Pisces until 2025/26, and then ingress into the sign of Aries along with Saturn. This is a configuration until 2025/26 that reflects a deep new beginning and a karmic purge, perhaps echoing and linking the events that have occurred in the course of 2016 when Neptune in Pisces was in its last Square phase to Saturn.

Sources

• https://infinitynow.wordpress.com/
The best trait is my sense of humour, but it's day. Today it's procrastination. I think sheesh! I have a new worst thing every day. Today it's procrastination. I think it will continue to learn and grow, and the contributions that he's made to astrology in his lifetime.

3 favorite Astrology books?
Gemini rising, Libra moon. How could I possibly pick a favourite? The ephemerals.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment to date in your astrology career?
I think the thing I am most proud of is the community of astrologers I have had a hand in building in Calgary. It started with an idea that we should get together to exchange ideas and hone our craft on a regular basis, and has evolved into a monthly gathering at a community centre. Next year more than half of our scheduled talks will be from people who are speaking to the group for the first time! When I first started studying astrology, there were no Astrology groups in Calgary. Once we were finished with our introductory classes, there was nowhere to go to speak the language. So, the development of this community felt not only self-serving in that I could surround myself with like-minded people, but as I've become more involved with other groups and organizations, I realize how important it is in the bigger picture to be ambassadors for Astrology. The more people who know and appreciate what we do, the more respected Astrology will be as a profession.

Your Astrology hero?
Probably Rob Hand. I once dreamt that he was my higher self HAHAAHA. I have such a tremendous respect for how he continues to learn and grow, and the contributions that he's made to astrology in his lifetime.

What's the worst thing and then, the best thing about you?
Oh sheesh! I have a new worst thing every day. Today it's procrastination. I think it will continue to learn and grow, and the contributions that he's made to astrology in his lifetime.

You never tried…
Bungee jumping.

You can't refuse…
Small children

What is playtime for you?
Playing with my dog, passengering in the Harley side car with my beau, staying up all night talking with my sisters, camping, road trips

Your animal totem? Raven

Your superstition? I'd tell you but then it would happen ;-) 

Your Chinese sign and element? Metal Ox.

Your favourite place on earth? Maybe I haven't been there yet :). But if I have it's Tulum, Mexico

Your chart: March 5, 1961, Drayton Valley AB 11:01 am

Your Practice
Where do you live and practice?
Calgary, Alberta

Your Astrology teachers? So many! My first class was with Vanya Innendorfer who introduced me to Maurice Fernandez, Steven Forrest and Ulrich Bold. Then I attended Kepler College and was privileged to learn from Rob Hand, Demetra George, Georgia Stathis, Bruce Scofield, Lee Lehman and Nick Campion. There have been many others along the way, too many to mention. But my mentor who has been with me since day two is Gary Zyla.

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What is playtime for you?
Playing with my dog, passengering in the Harley side car with my beau, staying up all night talking with my sisters, camping, road trips

Your animal totem? Raven

Your superstition? I'd tell you but then it would happen ;-) 

Your Chinese sign and element? Metal Ox.

Your favourite place on earth? Maybe I haven't been there yet :). But if I have it's Tulum, Mexico

Your chart: March 5, 1961, Drayton Valley AB 11:01 am

YOUR TRACK AT THE OPA RETREAT
Hand Drawing the Chart: The Foundation of Astrology
Many people are intimidated by the idea of calculating a chart by hand. And indeed, the idea that this is necessary for certification is contentious with many. Why go through this tedious process when we have computers who will do the job for us in the blink of an eye? If there's a zombie apocalypse and we need to calculate charts by hand, we can pull out the books and figure it out then. And I'll confess that there was a time when I weighed in in favour of that idea. But since I wanted to graduate from my astrology studies and had to learn, I've had a big change of heart. Calculating a chart by hand takes more time, to be sure. And if you want to look at the chart in several different ways, it would make client prep work more arduous. But I would argue that the knowledge that comes from being able to calculate a chart by hand provides much greater insight than would come from jumping in ready to delineate without this comprehension. Especially if you are new to astrology, learning chart calculation helps to make sense of much of the vocabulary that you learn, but don't really understand. Basic astronomy from an astrological perspective becomes clearer, the effect of planetary speed, retrogrades, and aspect relationships suddenly make more sense. The reasons behind some of the basic house systems become more obvious. Additionally, when you are drawing out a chart one planet at a time, you are connecting to the nature of those planets as you work your way through the process. By the time you're done with the chart, half of your prep work is complete. An
I asked astrologer pal Andrea Gehrz her favourite thing about the process. She's well known for her love of the hand drawn chart. Her response was that she liked to watch the chart unfold one piece at a time. That, and the ability to choose her own colour palette. There is more feeling to the chart. Her hand drawn charts become small pieces of art that I'm sure her clients treasure.

Taking the time to create your own hand drawn chart is a great way to integrate the right and left sides of the brain. And you can direct emphasis to important planets in a way that's not possible with a computer-generated chart.

For the math-phobic among you – don't be frightened; there are a few steps, but the math is simple. The education you received in elementary school is enough to get you there.

You can learn it on your own, but if you'd prefer personal instruction, join me at the OPA retreat where I'll be leading a track in Chart Calculation.

Bring crayons.

Thank you!

I.D.

Email: mhabled@aol.com


What's the worst thing and then, the best thing about you? The worst is procrastination. The best thing about me is my total dedication to my astrological practice and my clients.

You never tried… Sky diving.

You can't refuse… Any professional request.

What is playtime for you? Digging into charts related to current events.

Your animal totem? The owl.

Your superstition? None that I can think of.

Your Chinese sign and element? Wood Dog

Game Changers In the Chart

Stasis is a characteristic that describes many situations in our astrological work, be they with clients or mundane work. Yet most of our clients come to us to unlock what might be a stagnant situation in their lives. In this group work I will bring my vast experience working with astrology through life’s shifts and turns to help us identify them: to show what they mean and how astrology can help us work with them.

This is an ideal track to better understand predictive work (and yes, it will even show how we astrologers failed to predict the outcome of the US Elections 2016).
Interview with Track Leader

Anne Ortelee
Astrology Fundamentals

Your chart: September 11, 1954. 6:02 pm Rochester, NY.

Your Practice


Your Astrology teachers? I studied astrology with the following people: John Marchesella (my First Astrology Teacher ~ 2½ years Basic Astrology and NCGR certification tests), Eileen McCabe (20 years and ongoing Psychological and Spiritual Astrology), Judi Vitale (3 plus years Uranian Astrology), Ronnie Dreyer (7 years Vedic/Jyotish Astrology), Ken Kimball (Astro-Math, Eclipses, Mundane and Advanced Predictive Techniques), and Wendy Ashley (Mythic Astrology). I studied Mythic Tarot with Pattie Canova, as well as, Tarot, Hermetic Cabala and Palmistry with Ellen Goldberg at her School of Oracles, Rachel Pollack and Mary K. Greer. I have 9 stuffed bookcases and attend every Astrology conference I can to learn from all.


What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment to date in your astrology career? Training many excellent astrologers!

Your Track at the OPA Retreat

Astrology Fundamentals

This is an excellent opportunity to dive into all the components of astrology and chart reading for the first time OR review the basics in a comprehensive, thorough manner ORfill in gaps lurking in self-study knowledge OR if you have a friend who expressed interest in learning astrology, recommend this track to them!

Over the course of 12 plus hours, we will review the fundamental building blocks of astrology and chart analysis. Each student will work with their own chart as well as famous peoples’ charts. An 80 page study guide, class recordings and PowerPoint slides will be used and available to students for their future reference. Included in the track is the history of astrology; the horoscope; planets; signs; houses; aspects; elements; modes; quadrants; chart patterns; how to cast a horoscope chart; how to analyze a horoscope chart; the twelve houses; what each planet does; the personal planets; the collective planets; how each sign behaves; the private signs; the public signs; putting it all together; explore a real chart; what is the core mythology; ruling planets; dispositories; nodes of fate; life’s path; how the planets talk to each other; aspects and harmonics; Ptolemaic aspects; minor aspects; planetary configurations; basic health information; planetary energy flow; and other information sources to help you continue to learn.

Anne has taught this track in 15 separate Weekend Workshops in New York, Florida, and Vermont. Now she's traveling west of the Mississippi to bring it to Utah! Anne C. 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. Anne is the Treasurer of OPA. Anne writes articles, speaks, publishes a Weekly Weather column, periodic newsletter, teaches webinars and hosts three weekly internet radio shows. Find everything at www.AstroAnne.com

I.D.

Email: aneortelee@yahoo.com
Website: www.astroanne.com

Spiritual orientation – Do you follow any specific practice? Raised Roman Catholic with Catholic High School and College. Philosophy and Theology minors. Love a good ritual, great music and inspiring sermons. Generally go to places that offer these (currently a Unitarian or a Jesuit service). Meditation daily (usually). Jungian dream interpretation. Trained in Celtic White Magic and Reiki. Work, talk and use the angelic realms in my astrology practice.

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you? Worst: Over-committing and running behind on deliverables. Best: Try, try again! Optimism.

You never tried… Jumping out of a plane.

You can’t refuse… Macaroni and Cheese.

What is playtime for you? Laughing and having adventures with friends. Reading a good book in my big green chair with a cat on my lap.


Your superstition? Fast Karma Return Feedback Loop. I pay attention to the rule of three all the time. What I put out there comes back fast and sharp, threefold. So I put out stuff I want back three fold. And I DON’T put out what I don’t want back threefold.

Your Chinese sign and element? Wood Horse. I know Horse Women are stubborn, hard to control and tame but very accomplished in what they like or choose to do. Story of my life!!

Your favorite place on earth? My bed. A beach.
What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment to date in your astrology career? I have synthesized astrology with intuition, spirituality and healing modalities so that I have my own unique astrosynthesis philosophy that helps clients truly heal their lives and connect to their soul path.

YOUR TRACK AT THE OPA RETREAT

The Healing Power of Astrosynthesis: Is this your next step?
I imagine there are aspects of your personality that you understand through your chart, yet haven’t been able to change. Despite your best efforts to walk around that pothole in the road, you still fall in every time. Or if you are a consulting astrologer and explain a hard aspect, say a Neptune square Venus, although the client agrees that yes, you are right, they still fall for unavailable partners, literally falling into the pothole of love!

Astrology not only facilitates awareness and insight, it can lead to grounded healing and true change. Astrology describes our dilemmas—and—it also illuminates a very clear healing path forward. We can use astrology to synthesize complex parts of our inner selves into more wholeness, what I call Astrosynthesis. Jung was one of the first to point out that we realize our “Self” or high Self/Spirit through the integration of one’s personality. Without this synthesis our separate and often shadowy/negative parts operate as singletons and keep us from expressing and even knowing the higher levels of who we are. These intense shadow parts are always described by the hard aspects and intense planetary configurations in the chart. Astrological synthesis is actually the key to spiritual awakening.

To do this, first we must be able to analyze a chart with clarity—to connect to the forest of core issues and not get lost describing each tree leaf. This will be our first step. **No matter what style of astrology you practice**, if you attend my Healing Power of Astrosynthesis track at OPA 2017, you will learn to clarify the core meaning of the chart and the evolutionary potential this life offers—quickly.

We’ll discuss how to develop excellent communication and consulting skills. We’ll go beyond a simple informational reading to a dynamic interactive process.

Some people think you can’t be intellectually precise with your astrological analysis and also be in your intuitive right brain. This is not so! As astrologers we need intuitive skills so that we learn to trust our inner wisdom, connecting to the client’s deeper feelings and needs and allowing ourselves to be drawn to the correct interpretation out of a field of many astrological options.

We will cultivate empathy and compassion. Healing occurs when we are “seen” by another human. With the road-map of the chart in our hands, we are totally in a unique position to “see” and validate another person’s life journey. We will learn to get out of our heads and draw the client into a deeper felt experience while we hold safe emotional space. (Ever wonder whether to stop talking when a client cries or keep on going because they’re paying for the time… we’ll talk about questions like that). We’ll also cover the basics of “Integrative Intuitive Healing” — how to integrate hard aspects in a guided meditation process to offer a truly powerful and permanent healing.

If this feels like your next step I hope you’ll sign up for this dynamic track.

Although this track is geared toward consulting astrologers or those who ultimately wish to offer astro services to clients, if you have the astrological basics (planets/signs/houses/aspects) and wish to develop chart synthesis skills and interpersonal tools to use in all of your relationships, this track is for you too. In OPA retreat tracks, each person gets an opportunity to work with a chart in front of the group. If you’re a more seasoned astrologer, you can do a consultation integrating some of these skills into your own style. If you are more of an astrology student at this point, you can practice one aspect of an analysis or a consulting skill that you feel ready for.

Thank you!
I.D.

Email: wisearlan@gmail.com
Website: www.arlanwise.com

Spiritual orientation – Do you follow any specific practice?
I was born and raised Jewish. I became a student/friend of Ram Dass in the 70’s and he initiated me to be a disciple of my guru Neem Karoli Baba. In the 90’s I reconnected with Tibetan Buddhism and received the Kalachakra initiation from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I pray in four languages.

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you?
I am shy. Sometimes my Pisces rising makes me feel invisible and I fade into the background. I can set a goal and achieve it. My Pisces rising lets me adapt to any situation with comfort.

You never tried…
I never tried bungee jumping.

You can’t refuse…
I can't refuse a good book.

What is playtime for you?
My playtime is curling up in a comfy chair with a cat and a good book and reading for hours.

Your animal totem?
My animal totem is a skunk (that's what a vision quest told me). I love dogs and cats and horses and can communicate with them.

Your superstition?
My superstition is tossing salt over my shoulder when I spill some.

Your Chinese sign and element?
Wood Rooster

Your favorite place on earth?
My favorite place on Earth is Southern India. I am home when I’m there. I also love Iceland.

Your chart: I am a Sun-Pluto 5th house Leo. Roar! I am a shape-shifting Pisces rising with a 12th house Aquarius moon, which is why I live on an island. I have 5 air planets, and 5 planets and all 4 angles in mutable signs. Mercury in Virgo ties with the Sun in Leo for final dispositor.

YOUR PRACTICE

Where do you live and practice?
I live on Martha's Vineyard and work at home, on the phone, and by Skype.

Your Astrology teachers?
I was my first teacher. I remembered astrology in dreams. I also studied with Liz Greene, Michael Lutin, Richard Idemon, and many others.

Your Astrology hero?
My astrology heroes are Dane Rudhyar, Marc Edmund Jones, Patrick Walker, and Ellie Bach.

3 favorite Astrology books?
It is not fair to ask me to name my three favorite books - I love so many of them. Of course, the Ephemeris is number one. Number two is an old book called Sun Signs / Moon Signs by Jefferson Andersen. Anything written by Dane Rudhyar, Liz Greene, Steven Forrest, Michael Lutin, Greg Bogart, to name a few.....

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment to date in your astrology career?
My greatest achievements to date in my astrology career (and I can't list just one) would be nurturing OPA from a toddler to the teenager it is today. I was president of OPA for two terms during its formative years. My most recent achievement was giving a writing workshop at the British Astronomical Association conference this past September. It was a break in tradition to have an experiential class in the middle of the conference. I did it and got great feedback.

YOUR TRACK AT THE OPA RETREAT

Writing Workshop for Astrologers
Mercury and Uranus teach this class with me. We will help you erase the voice of that high school teacher who told you that your writing was flawed and not good enough. We encourage you to make friends with your Mercury as you go through these three days writing the assignments I give you, reading what you wrote, and listening to constructive feedback from the other group members. This is the time you've been wanting, time to have nothing to do but write.

When not writing, we look at charts of authors, at your own chart, and the charts of your class mates, with an eye to seeing why people write what they write. I read from authors who have cool things to say about writing. We discuss your future writing projects and encourage you to make them happen and urge you to complete the half-finished ones. This track is open to all levels. All you need is a basic understanding of astrology and a willingness to be creative. You'll have fun!

And, to boast a bit, - here are some comments from previous retreats:
“Thank you! We owe our group success to Arlan Wise, one of the best group leaders I have ever had the privilege of working with. She was direct, inspiring, and articulate. I hope she continues to have the writing track in the future...I now know I chose the correct track for myself and am certain I will leave here a better writer.”

“I could feel Arlan's encouragement and enthusiasm for my writing as it has been improving while at OPA. My fellow group mates also assisted as we all cheered each other on and began to write.”

“While Arlan may appear to be a taskmaster with her galley of pupil slaves, Arlan is a kind, gentle and patient writing coach... I strongly recommend Arlan's writing workshop to develop your writing style. A style that will grab, inspire and captivate your readers.”

Thank you! 😊
Interview with Track Leader

Sandra Leigh Serio

Astrology and Spiritual Evolution

I.D.
Email: sandraleigh@sandraleigh.com
Website: www.sandraleigh.com

Spiritual orientation – Do you follow any specific practice? Buddhism, meditation, spirituality

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you? I give way too much to my clients, often taking appointments on the weekend. That could also be the BEST thing about me, too! I really care for my clients.

You never tried… Bungee Jumping.

You can’t refuse… A bike ride or bridge game.

What is playtime for you? Duplicate Bridge and making bookmarks and greeting cards with watercolor pencils and glitter markers

Your superstition? I don’t consider myself superstitious, VOC Moons do NOT freak me out.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment to date in your astrology career? Teaching students and reading charts. I am really good at it!

Your Chinese sign and element? Wood Rooster

Your favorite place on earth? Places in California: Sonoma, Napa, Santa Barbara, my Jupiter descendant line is there.

Your chart 12/16/1945, 4:34 pm, Cleveland Ohio

Your Practice

Where do you live and practice? Boulder, Colorado and also go to Cleveland to see clients, too.

Your Astrology teachers? Self-taught from books, Margaret Hone and Derek & Julia Parker.

Your Astrology hero? Do not really have one, though I do admire Rob Hand, Steve Forrest & Maurice Fernandez

3 Favorite Astrology books? Do not really have one though the Ephemeris would be my bible and any book that talks about and lists Eclipses.

Your Track at the OPA Retreat

Astrology and Spiritual Evolution

It is important to view the chart as a soul map and that means it is important to find out your unique path in this life including why you are here and what your dharma and karma paths are. What your issues are…including past life struggles that impact this life.

The more you know about yourself, the more you can evolve and grow and be a light in the world.

Thank you!

Test your Astrology IQ Answers

The first to get these 5 answers correct will receive a Bonus Month membership
Send your replies to wisearlan@gmail.com

1. What rate is Pluto moving per year in Solar Arcs
   a. Pluto does not significantly move in Solar Arcs
   b. Approximately 3 degrees per year
   c. 1 degree per year
   d. SAME AS THE RATE OF THE PROGRESSED SUN

2. What constellation is the Sun located in during the Winter Solstice in the North?
   a. Scorpio
   b. SAGITTARIUS
   c. Capricorn
   d. Aquarius

3. When is a planet the closest to the Earth?
   a. At its Perihelion
   b. At its Aphelion
   c. WHEN IT RETROGRADES
   d. All of the above

4. Which of these Sun signs is the most common in the world?
   a. Sagittarius
   b. Cancer
   c. Leo
   d. LIBRA

5. Which Dwarf Planet is associated with an egg in its myth?
   a. Haumea
   b. Sedna
   c. MAKEMAKE
   d. Eris

Thank you for your submittals! The correct answers are highlighted at left!
House Systems

by Maurice Fernandez

The dilemma of house system use is part of the astrology study process. Many students usually follow the system used by their mentors, though greater research can be useful to really determine a choice of one’s own. Perhaps, the use of more than one house systems would be the most sensible approach as each House System highlights different things in the chart. It is crucial to remember that ALL house systems have their valid references and logic. Astrology is a blend of Astronomy/Nature references with Symbolism references, so approaches vary. Some systems will rely more heavily on astronomical coordinates, while others will rely more heavily on the symbolism references.

Location based House Systems where the Ascendant/Descendant and MC/IC natural intersections between the earth and the sky are serving as the indicators of the chart angles: Houses 1, 4, 7, and 10. The inner houses (2-3, 5-6, 8-9, and 11-12) are artificially calculated and will vary in each of these systems.

• PLACIDUS – Placidus is mostly used by Tropical Astrologers. Once the location based Ascendant and MC Axes are determined, the system uses a time based reference to divide the inner houses. The paths drawn for each degree of the ecliptic to move from the nadir to the horizon, and from the horizon to the midheaven, are trisected to determine the cusps of houses 2, 3, 11, and 12.

• KOCH – The Koch house system refers to the Midheaven at the time of birth. The time is then turned back - to put it simple - until the zodiac degree, which formed the Midheaven in the chart, is made Ascendant. This temporal distance is trisected, and in this way the cusps of [11] and [12] are obtained from the respective Ascendants. The cusps of [2] and [3] are formed in a similar way using the distance to the IC. To put it differently: The cusp of [12] is the point on the ecliptic that has been above the horizon for one third of the time that the Midheaven degree has been above the horizon. Similarly, the cusp of [11] has been above the horizon for two-thirds of that time. (From Wikipedia.)

• PORPHYRY – Here, the space between the Ascendant and MC angles is divided into three equal parts.

• REGIOMONTANUS – Commonly used by Horary Astrologers, with reference to the work of William Lilly.

In the Arctic Circle, beyond the 66 North Latitude, the Locational House Systems will not be used because the MC collapses on the Ascendant. Only Zodiac Sign based house systems (See below) are possible from that latitude North.

Which house system to use if planets change houses: All house systems have their valid references. Perhaps a way to reconcile between the different house systems is to refer to a planet as influential in both houses if it switches positions from system to system.

Zodiac Sign based House Systems where houses are aligned in greater precision with the 30 degrees size of signs.

• EQUAL HOUSE – The Ascendant degree opens the 1st House, and the rest of the houses are divided equally into 30 degree parts.

• WHOLE SIGN – The Ascendant sign is used to determine the 1st house, but every house will open at the zero degree of each sign to preserve a symmetry between houses and signs.

• SOLAR HOUSE – The degree of the Sun is the degree of the Ascendant, and the rest of the houses are divided equally into 30 degrees from that reference. This system is usually used when no birth time is available.
Why I Use the Placidus House System For Most of My Work

by Chris McRae

When I first began studying astrology, the most common house cusp structure was Placidus and hence it seemed the most appropriate. Then along came Walter Koch who published a new Table of Houses in 1971 utilizing a different geometric process. That prompted me to investigate, not only the Koch system but all the others as well. This was made possible when the Digicomp DR-70 computer came out in 1978 that included an array of house cusp systems. I began casting a countless number of notable charts in many different systems, both public figures and personal friends.

According to Astrodienst, the most popular House Cusp System used by astrologers in 2011 was as follows:

- Placidus: 44%
- Topocentric: 20%
- Koch: 14%
- Equal, Porphyry, Regiomontanus: 5%
- Campanus, Alcabitius: 1%

Noticeably it does not include Whole Sign Houses as used today that gained popularity through the research of Robert Hand, in that it was the original house cusps system used by the earliest ancient astrologers. I do not know the percentage number of astrologers who use it today.

The astrological wheel is simply a form or tool onto which we can put planets at a particular time as viewed from a specific location. That doesn't sound complicated until we consider that we are trying to appropriate divisions of the twelve different houses with the time inequality of uneven days and nights due to the fact that the Sun does not rotate perpendicular to its axis. The other problem is taking a 3-dimensional picture from space and putting it on a flat piece of paper. Another part of the problem seems to be that the planets measured along the Ecliptic do not rotate exactly on the Sun's exact apparent path due to latitude but along a narrow band that can range up to about eight degrees north or south of the path that we call the Ecliptic. I must be careful in expressing my opinion here because this is certainly not my area of knowledge, understanding and mathematical capacity.

One may wonder why there are so many different house cusp systems. It seems to me that each one was devised over the centuries in an attempt to improve on the previous one. That would blow the theory that someone may choose the oldest system because it has been tested over the longest period of time. If that be so then it would justify whole sign houses, it being the oldest. That is a little like saying that we should use the oldest form of surgical procedure because it has been used the longest but it would negate improvements that have been made over so many years of research and observation.

Perhaps we should use Porphyry that was devised in the 3rd century. Campanus came along in the 13th Century, Regiomontanus in the 15th Century, and Placidus in the 17th century by a monk and professor of mathematics at the University of Padua, named Placidus de Tito. There may be another consideration of house cusp choice in that the Sun was not known to be the center of the Universe until Nicolaus Copernicus formulated his theory of a Sun centered universe early in the 16th Century.

We know that most systems use the Midheaven as the cusp of the 10th house and the Ascendant as the cusp of the 1st house creating the same angles in all systems. The differences come from the secondary cusps in between the angles, namely the 11th, 12th, 2nd, 3rd and their opposite cusps.

Information learned from a book entitled, The Elements of House Divisions, by Ralph William Holden, dated 1977, divides houses cusps into three different geometric processes as follows:

**ECLIPTIC SYSTEMS:**

- Equal House, Porphyry
  
  As previously stated, the problem with this system is that latitude north or south of the ecliptic must be considered.

**SPACE SYSTEMS:**

- Campanus, Regiomontanus, Morinus, Axial Rotation, East Point
  
  This system divides the intermediary houses according to the space occupied on the astronomical Great Circle from the Midheaven to the Ascendant.

**TIME SYSTEMS:**

- Placidus, Koch, Alcabitius, Topocentric
  
  This system divides the time it takes a planet to move from the Midheaven to the Ascendant.

In a lecture I once did on this subject, I showed the chart of Prince Charles, born at a latitude of 51N30 in London, in several different house cusps to make a comparison with Placidus. The planets remained in the same houses for the Koch, Topocentric and Regiomontanus but the Placidus chart had an interception across Gemini/Sagittarius, whereas the Koch chart had Taurus/Scorpio Intercepted. In the Porphyry System three planets changed houses with Cancer/Capricorn intercepted. Regiomontanus kept all the planets in the same houses with Gemini/Sagittarius intercepted. Morinus shifted four planets into different houses and Alcabitius shifted only one.
DONNA YOUNG AND TAMARA MCGILLIVRAY
House Systems

DONNA YOUNG AND TAMARA MCGILLIVRAY will present a Free presentation on House Systems for OPA members!

Details at OPAastrology.org

July 2, 2017

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McRAE

planet into a different house with the signs of Cancer/Capricorn intercepted.

The higher or lower the geographic latitude from the equator, the greater the difference in house cusps divisions. At my latitude of 53N32, I found that the Koch system began breaking down faster going a degree or two further north than the Placidus system. By “breaking down” I mean there is an increase in the number of interceptions making chart delineation highly complex. Central geographic locations, closer to the Equator, have less differences using different house cusp systems.

After many years of investigation through hundreds of charts into various signs and planets intercepted, I began to realize that interceptions are not weak as some authors have indicated, but that their need for fulfillment is very powerful due to deep inner reflection and understanding before their fulfillment can be utilized overtly. A phrase I frequently use is “Intensification due to Internalization”. Also, a transit moving through a house with an intercepted sign will often be there longer than a house without interceptions. Some intercepted houses may only add a few degrees into the length of the house and another can give up to and over 50 degrees. Perhaps this can be a guide to the choice of house cusps systems, depending on which, if any, signs or planets are intercepted. For a complete interpretation of Interceptions, the reader may wish to refer to my book entitled, Understanding Interceptions: A Key to Unlocking the Door.

I have 57 degrees in my 12th and 6th houses. I have paid very careful attention to the length of time various transits spend, particularly in my 6th house, where observation is often more overtly noticed.

Due to various concepts outlined in this short article, I have chosen to use the Placidus house cusp system. It has not been chosen because it was the first one I used, but continued to be used after careful investigation of my chart structure at Latitude 53N32.

Bibliography:

- Understanding Interceptions: A Key to Unlocking the Door, Chris McRae, Published by AFA, Tempe, Arizona, 2nd printing

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Thursday, Oct 19-21 (DAYS 1-3)

THE ART OF LIVING AND DYING

- Living Like We’re Dying (KAY TAYLOR)
- Living your Life to the Fullest (SANDRA LEIGH)
- Answering the Tough Questions About Death, Illness, Decline (ANNE ORTELEE)
- Identifying Reincarnation in the Chart (MAURICE FERNANDEZ)
- The Astrology of Past Life Regression (ARLAN WISE)
- Using the Death Chart as a Counseling Tool (MOON ZLOTNICK)
- What Does Pluto Want From Us? (GAYE ALKAN)
- Death and Rebirth in the Chart: Not Just Pluto’s Game (KATE RUSKO)

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Sunday, Oct 22 (DAY 4)

ASTRONOMY FOR ASTROLOGERS

- Beyond Astronomy: Understanding the Mechanism of Astrology (MAURICE FERNANDEZ)
- Astronomy for Astrologers: Common Terms (ANNE ORTELEE)
- Heliocentric Perspective and Mundane Astrology (ONER DOSER)

Full Schedule and Details at OPAastrology.org
There are many discussions among astrologers about which house system to use. Some of us are following Hellenic traditions and believe that The Whole Sign protects the whole and accurate information of the chart. Some of us are using different Quadrant Systems saying that the Ascendant degree and axis are vital and that a chart cannot be complete without an Ascendant degree dividing the upper and lower hemispheres.

This confuses astrology students in their learning journey. They are trying to find the reliable guidance about which house systems to use. I studied astrology with Öner Doğer and he always uses the two systems: Placidus and Whole Sign system. I also personally believe that these two house system techniques show two different and valid information. Here is how:

Above right is my natal chart.

Using Placidus house system, I have many planets in the 2nd house in Pisces. Although there are a lot of squares, a T-square and an anaretic house cusp (29 degree) in the 2nd house, one can think that this concentration of planets shows the prosperity in one's resources.

I say this is accurate in my life. But resources are not only money or objects. Resources can be ideas, feelings and personal needs.

Below right is my Whole Sign chart:

As we can see, the Pisces stellium is now placed in the 3rd house in Whole Sign house system. This shows what kind of communication style I have. The squares from Pisces to Sagittarius show the creative and challenging process of materializing my ideas, particularly as the planets in the 12th house are similar to the Pisces energy, and describe some of my struggle with basic communication while at the same time having a range of mental and emotional values.

An important note is that I was very successful in my early education (3rd house) and I gained several awards in poetry and story telling. When I was fourteen, I...
The question of which house system to use remains critical and alarming especially when you work with clients and need to find more accurate descriptions in natal and predictive work. In my own history of practicing astrology, I became interested at first in Renaissance astrology and later became more focused on the Hellenistic approach in the early 00’s. Being a staunch follower and fan of Robert Hand, like many of us, his monograph on “Whole Sign Houses, The Oldest House System” (Arhat Publications, 2000) made me aware once again about the consistency in the way of thinking, or let’s say the rationale behind different house methods.

In this course, I began to compare and contrast many charts between Placidus and Whole Sign Houses and I tried to ask questions to my clients during my consultations for a year. Although an astrological chart represents to us the configuration of the sky, it is in fact a model of mind, a construction in itself to speak about the stars. Every model carries its own philosophy behind its own applications. Astrology which is essentially built on numbers, geometry and cultural symbols finds itself a clear cut and simple way of representation through whole sign houses as each sign corresponds to a whole house. Indeed, you can be sure that the 5th house is always in trine aspect to the Ascendant point. This gives WSH a gentle, symmetrical but also simple way of interpreting the dynamics of psyche. Let’s take...
KIRKOGLU

an example of John Lennon who was shot dead by a crazed fan in 1980. In which part of the chart would you expect Mars to be positioned?

The upper right chart shows Placidus houses, the lower right chart is produced in terms of WSH. The Placidus houses chart has only Mercury in the 7th house (house of open enemies and dangers to the body) whereas WSH shows an angular but also in detriment Mars which is the ruler of the 8th house. I think, in terms of topical analysis like external dangers to one’s life WSH seems to provide a more accurate description of his conditions.

In another example, that of Henry Kissinger, who was the architect of USA The Placidus houses chart has only Mercury in the 7th house (house of open enemies and dangers to the body) whereas WSH shows an angular but also in detriment Mars which is the ruler of the 8th house.
foreign policy and a master politician, you would expect that Sun and Mercury are in an angular, highly visible place.

Kissinger’s Placidus chart puts Cancer in the 3rd house of communication, and both Sun and Mercury fall into a cadent placement. Although Mars is strongly accentuated in both charts due to its proximity to the Asc degree, WSH provides a much stronger visible outlet for Sun and Mars, moreover the Sun becomes the ruler of the 3rd house.

In Queen Elizabeth II’s natal chart in the Placidus system, we find her Sun on
The Leo Moon in the 8th seems to be more fitting example of royalty inherited via the father’s line.

It is no doubt that a few examples might not be enough for making generalizations, but, in my view, WSH houses bring much clarity in topical analysis in the natal work. Additionally, in predictive work such as solar return charts the two systems could suggest another look in differentiating between two alternatives. Below, two charts show solar returns of Mia Farrow who sued Woody Allen amid a scandal over their children in 1992.

While Placidus houses put Venus-Neptune and the Mars stellium in the 3rd house, WSH shows them in the 4th house of family and domestic environment which I assume, seems to be a more accurate description of the event that took place. Furthermore, WSH gives more emphasis concerning children via planets, especially Saturn (Aquarius: severance) in the 5th house. Whereas Pisces 5th house talks a whole different story in terms of Placidus houses.

Placement of the MC, interceptions and further considerations

Quadrant systems such as Placidus, Regiomontanus or Campanus assign the cross of matter (horizon and meridian) as the cusps of angular houses in which MC always points to the beginning of the 10th house. On the other hand, WSH or Equal Houses take the MC as a floating point which well could be in the 9th or in the 11th house (even in some cases in the

KIRKOGLU

the cusp of the 3rd house. However, I would argue that as the Sun is a symbol of royalty and status of her father, one would expect it to have a much more proper house placement. As an alternative look, WSH puts the Sun into the 5th house, the house of offspring and possessions of the father (being the derived 2nd house of the 4th) Meanwhile, the Leo Moon in the 8th seems to be a more fitting example of royalty inherited via the father’s line.
8th or 12th) depending on the rising sign. In this context, we need to emphasize a genuine differentiation between the MC and the 10th house itself. The MC as a personal point is an apt description of one’s own aspirations, motivations and personal direction. Whereas the 10th sign/house from the Ascendant can be seen where we find our own placement within the fabric of society and consequently it defines how the public places us within its own matrix. In this regard, special placement of the MC in the 9th, the 10th or the 11th houses provides us with additional background information about one’s aspirations whether it be in angular, succeedent, or cadent houses.

Interception, especially working with higher or lower latitudes, becomes another issue when we employ quadrant house systems. At some latitudes, for example for Edinburgh, Scotland, a house could contain even more than two signs which could immensely distort the essential meanings of the houses. As geometry and numbers have a fundamental role in our astrological understanding, and since aspects themselves are reflections of different ratios, in quadrant systems we might come across with ambiguities such as an aversion between the 3rd and 11th houses, or a trine between the Asc and the 4th house. Although some contemporary astrologers have brought different ways of interpreting interceptions like karma or uncontrolled contents regarding these houses, we lose the gentle symmetry and psychology based on geometrical relations. Here is an example, a chart set for Reykjavik, Iceland, which is at a much higher latitude. It poses a confusing situation in interpretation as it contains 4 signs in the entirety of the 1st house and almost 3 houses in one sign (Sag/Gemini)

The planets close to cusps might be puzzling when we try to have a clear description in natal work. Most astrology students tend to struggle in deciding about the house position of such planets and it becomes more confusing and might lead to hesitant interpretations before the client. The 5 degree rule can be applied to overcome such difficulty however it might well also be quite whimsical and not very consistent in practice.
These are the basic dilemmas that raise many questions in our minds as practising astrologers. In our professional work, we create our own fast rules and we usually learn more by our own experiments. Such experimenting takes time and enormous amount of reflection and investigation. I find WSH especially accurate in topical analysis and would like to emphasize that it does not lose the ability of reflecting the planets' interaction with angles of the chart. Through using whole sign houses, we can maintain intrinsic symmetry and be able to harmonise the psychology of geometry within our model of human affairs and consciousness.

R. Hakan Kirkoglu has been a leading figure of Astrology in Turkey as a consultant, teacher and writer. (D. F.Astrol.S and ISAR CAP) Lectured internationally in UK, USA, Australia, Poland and Serbia. He especially combines ancient techniques with contemporary issues. He was mundane astrology co-ordinator (UAC 2008) and key speaker (UAC2012). Studying astrology for more than 30 years, he is the founder and principal of School of Wisdom of Sky in Istanbul and ISAR VP for Turkey. He can be contacted via hkirkoglu@ttmail.com or his website: http://www.hakankirkoglu.com
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JANUARY 15
Kaypacha Lescher
newparadigmastrology.com

The Year 2017 and Its Evolutionary Process
Kaypacha, founder of the Pele Report Video Series, will guide us through the different processes of the coming year. Join this opening talk for the year with inspiring insights about the different configurations and aspects of the year, notably the transition of the Nodal Axis to Leo-Aquarius, the Jupiter-Uranus opposition, and much more.

FEBRUARY 5
Öner DÖSER
onerdoser.com

Cosmology and Astrology in the Sufi’s Tradition
Sufi cosmology is connected to angelology and spiritual hierarchy in the heavens. Medieval Sufi masters such as Muhyi al-Din Ibn al-Arabi and Abd al-Karim al-Jili take first the seven heavens, which rise in concentric, and make the prophets correspond to the planets - starting with Adam, whose dwelling place is the Moon. In this talk, Öner Doser will give some essential keys to their cosmology, astrological symbolism and understanding of the spiritual hierarchy.

FEBRUARY 18
Boaz Fyler
astrology.uno

The Great Ages - Role and Contribution of Astrology to Humanity
A thought provoking journey through Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, Hellenistic Greece, Arabia and Europe hand in hand with famous figures like: Abraham, Ptolemy, Aristote, Hippocrates, Pythagoras, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Jung and others. Unfold their personal connection to the sacred, how it molded them and our society, and changed the world. Together we will get acquainted with Astrology’s unknown past and contribution to humanity. Join me for a unique journey through time and space!

MARCH 5
Angela Tiki
angelascorner.gr.blogspot.gr

The Venus Retrograde Cycle
The goddess of beauty and harmony symbolizes our quest for satisfaction, unity and completion. Aristophanes (Plato’s symposium) describes that humans are weak because they were made half by the Gods, so their need is to find their other half - their soulmate, in order be complete. Aphrodite is the archetypal type of mother and fertility, the spouse and the lover, the ideal beauty both in body and spirit. Ironically, even though Venus’s cycle is synonymous to “Aesthetic Perfection” and the Golden Ratio, in Greek Mythology Venus - the peace searcher - was the source of many troubles and disputes. During her retrograde phase, it’s the time to look inside us, connect with our heart, appreciate the meaningful things, face the ugliness and transmute it into something precious. It’s time to bring purity and balance in our soul.

MARCH 25
A.T. Mann
www.atmann.net/atm1.htm

Life Time Astrology: Who initiated your conception? The essential events and psychological developments of your life and relationships begin the 9th cusp (conception), when your mother and father make love to conceive you. Remember that life is a process in time. SO, who initiated your conception?

APRIL 9
Kay Taylor
www.kaytaylor.com

The Cracked Mirror: The Astrology of Narcissism
We could simply say “It’s the Leo’s” and move on (ha!), but then we’d remember an Aries we once knew, and a Mars character we’d rather forget, and then what about obsessed-with-my-power-Pluto…? There’s not just one expression of the disorder, nor is there one clear astrological signature. We’ll explore the entire range from typical narcissistic tendencies to classic diagnosable types, including astrological chart examples, dealing with narcissistic clients and pathways to healing.

APRIL 22
Baris Ilhan
www.barisilhan.com

The Astrology of Nasir al-Din Tusi
Tusi, philosopher, theologian, mathematician, astrologer and astronomer, is by far the most celebrated scholar of the 13th century in eastern Islamic lands. When his land was conquered by the Mongols, he joined Hulagu’s service. Hulagu Khan was deeply impressed by his knowledge and astrological competency. Tusi established the observatory at Maragha and produced new astronomical tables called “Al-Zij-Ikhan”. His books on astrology remained unknown until today. At this presentation we will meet Tusi and his astrology books.

MAY 7
Wendy Stacey
wendystacey.com

Cycles of 2020

Calling all, the Venus Retrograde Cycle is underway. As the last in the Big Three, this 49-day transit is the final chance to express our relationship ideals. Delve into the intimate details of its symbolism, and how it manifests in the natal and transit charts. We’ll also look at the signs and house relationships, and consider how this can impact the sphere of love and work.

MAY 21
Arlan Wise
www.arlanwise.com

Writing for Astrologers
Why are good writing skills important for your work as an astrologer? I will answer that question and discuss how to hone your ability to translate the symbolic language of astrology into clear, concise, and easy to understand words in English, or in your native tongue. I’ll talk about where you can contribute your written work for publication. We will look at charts of astrologers who have made a name for themselves through their writing. And, I’ll ask you to do a bit of writing yourself!

JUNE 4
Christos Archos
astroconfess.com

Dealing with Clients with Mood Disorders: Escaping the Prison of Mind
We live in a world where mood disorders are in increase. A lot of our clients suffer from various mood disorders especially depression. In our presentation we will cover the reasons for which a person develops depression but also we will discuss why clients with depression sometimes act against the benefits their natal chart gives, how can we understand a chart that has mood disorders and most importantly, how we need to consult and help those people and at the same time respect our profession ethical limitations. Finally, how can we help our clients to blossom and prevent a mood disorder in their life, and when must we not interfere with the client’s depression if it is a sign of spiritual awakening?

JUNE 24
Anne Ortelee
anneortelee.com

Finding Clients In Your Chart
How do you find, keep and grow your clients. We’ll talk about how to pinpoint where they come from and how they find you. It is all in your chart.

JULY 2
Donna Young & Tamira McGillivray
youngestdonna@gmail.com, tamira@silverdisc.ca

Understanding House Systems
Which house system is the best? How do we use multiple house calculations and still create a delineation that is effective? Join us for an exploration of the differences between some of the house systems in use today to help you make an informed decision.

JULY 24
Heiltje Leroux
heiltje@gmail.com

Moon’s Spiral of Revealed Consciousness
Just like Saturn, the Moon forms a spiral of revelations on a deep soul level throughout our lives. When we understand the linked spiral of emotions of the Moon and understandings of Saturn, we start to live our lives according to what we need to experience in this life, and less as unmoored receptive individuals only as reflections of this life impacting on us.

JULY 21
Arlan Wise
www.arlanwise.com

Understanding House Systems
Which house system is the best? How do we use multiple house calculations and still create a delineation that is effective? Join us for an exploration of the differences between some of the house systems in use today to help you make an informed decision.
Carl Jung: Astrological Portrait
Considered the founder of Analytical Psychology, Jung pioneered and contributed to the theories of the unconscious and collective consciousness, dream and shadow theories, archetypes and the process of individuation. Jung was not without critics; however, his contributions far exceed the critics. As Astrologers we use many of his concepts in our work. In this presentation we will look at some of these theories in relationship to how they have influenced Astrologers in the way we look at the chart impacting on us.

DECEMBER 3
Charles Jameson
charlesj4@me.com
The Jupiter/Saturn Cycle 2020
A New Era Begins. Astrologers through the ages have paid special attention to the conjunctions of Saturn and Jupiter every 20 years. William Lilly even wrote a book about the 1643 conjunction, and what it might foretell. What they found fascinating was that for many years the conjunction would occur in signs of the same element - Fire, Earth, Air, Water, and repeat. When a conjunction occurred in a new element, this signified a new era. We had such a new era start in 1980, with the conjunction in air, after being in earth signs since 1802. The 2000 conjunction was back in earth, but we return to air sign conjunctions in 2020, for the following hundred years or more. So what does all this mean? What defines our most recent earth sign sequence of conjunctions? And what lies ahead? What does history show us, particularly from 1960 onwards, about what these conjunction cycles might mean? (Australian Time)

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

The OPA Café, a webinar format rendez-vous, will be open once every two months for an informal chat with OPA members. It is an opportunity for us astrology enthusiasts to talk, exchange ideas and get to know each other a little better.

Next Meeting: January 22, 2017
A link to the webinar will be sent out to the membership the week beforehand.
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THE PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGER
A NEW BOOK RELEASE BY OPA

What does it take to succeed as a professional astrologer?
This volume gathers the experience and guidance of some of the world’s most successful astrologers, who discuss the dos and don’ts, potential pitfalls and rewards, and critical building blocks of a successful and fulfilling practice.

With Ray Merriman, Steven Forrest, Chris McRae, Hakan Kirkoglu, Caroline Casey, and many more...

BE COME AN OPA MEMBER
OPAastrology.org
Enhancing Your Astrology Practice

Column by Anne Ortelee

Developing Your Business Plan

In prior Enhancing Your Practice columns, I talked about identifying your ideal clients, charging money, and marketing or selling your services as an astrologer! In this column, we’ll talk about the power of a well-constructed business plan. We’ll explore ideas and suggestions about how to build a business plan. Please take time, as you read the column, to do the suggested Exercise. Gather the Three Exercises from the previous columns, too, as we’ll incorporate those ideas into your plan.

In Athens, Georgia, this spring, at OPA’s I-Astrologer event, we formed Mentoring Groups. Ten students and a full time astrologer met for a few hours to discuss where the students were and how to develop their practices. The plan was to schedule 4 follow-up phone calls during the year. We left with a month of commitments and a planned meeting at the end of the next month. I had a bunch of overachievers in my group, who voted to meet monthly for the rest of the year, on different days to accommodate everyone’s varying schedules – figuring with that 12 opportunities to show up, we’d all be able to attend at least four meetings.

In watching and listening to my students work on growing their businesses, I learned quite a bit, which I would like to share with you today. Each month, every student attending would review where they were and what had happened in their practice and their lives during the previous month. They’d ask for help. Other team members joyfully shared their expertise or observations with the presenting student astrologer. At the end of the monthly review, each person would commit to their goals for the next month. We maintained a rolling PowerPoint presentation with a picture of everyone in the group, their natal chart as well as what they committed to at each session they attended. My assistant Kate would transcribe the recorded meeting and post updates on the PowerPoint slides which were distributed to all.

During the course of the year, each student attending the meetings progressed and grew their practices significantly. The verbalized commitment to do xyz during the next month, the support of the others in the group as well as the accountability of a monthly meeting encouraged focus, continuity, steadiness, and progress. Life got in the way quite a few times. However, having the monthly meeting encouraged students to circle back and rededicate to their practice. The students who consistently showed up developed websites, started classes, began webinars, grew their financial skill levels and consulting talents. Sharing ideas with each other helped everyone feel they contributed and were heard.

Key words: Commitment. Support. Accountability.

Of course, we know these are the key words to success by watching the world! The highly successful Weight Watchers works on the same principles: commitment, support of the group and check-ins. All behavior programs offer the same structure to change behaviors and achieve desired results – whether it is gym class, quitting smoking or learning how to drive a car.

When I was in computer programming and software sales, I had a monthly meeting with my manager. At the beginning of the year, we would put together a binder with a vibrant, alive business plan. There was a page for every major component and project of the year. As new projects arrived, new pages were added. As projects were completed, they were signed off on. Some projects got no traction and sat quietly in the binder for the year. Other projects flew in and flew out. In the Professional Astrologer book published by OPA, I included the GOSPA business plan I still use from my early marketing days.

When I started my astrology practice, my goal was to read for five clients a week and teach a class. I would check in with myself every other week. Each year, I would revise my plan and add more components to the plan. Each and every year for the last 22 years, I have exceeded the goals outlined in my plan. http://www.opaastrology.org/publications/magazines-books.

EXERCISE FOR DEVELOPING YOUR BUSINESS PLAN

Gather your three prior exercises and review them. Search on the internet for samples of business plans that appeal to you. Using the three prior exercises, populate your plan. Not too big a plan, to intimidate. Not too small a plan, to ignore. But just right. Think of it as alive and thriving. Schedule a regular check up with your plan (at least monthly but every week is ideal). Adjust your plan as your life brings you changes and swirls.

Another option is simply to ask other astrologers what their business plans are. Finally, consider forming a group or joining one that supports growing your business. It can be astrologers or other entrepreneurs. You’ll find it invaluable to have a group to run ideas by and receive support.

In this wild and crazy world, we need good astrologers out there helping people navigate the energy! It is a fabulous time to grow your practice with a solid plan to help others understand what they are here to do! Capricorn rules astrology – as Pluto continues to wander through it and Saturn enters Capricorn in 2018, now is the time to get your vision clear of
what your astrology business and practice will be.

All of 2017, the cardinal action-taking T-square (with Pluto square to Jupiter and Uranus, and Uranus trine to Saturn in Sagittarius), shoots the energy out into the foundational Cancer house of your chart. Time to build a plan that supports you and your practice, providing safety, security and a deep sense of creativity.

Enhancing Your Astrology Practice

Through the different questions brought in the book, astrologers have the opportunity to discover their strengths and weaknesses during a consultancy session. Many of these questions may also be answered by clients. They may also be utilized for archiving and keeping statistics.

The book includes information on how to make money from astrology, ethical and appropriate astrological practices, astrology jargon, monetary concerns, the rights of the astrologer and the rights of the client, and also provides answers for these questions: Where is astrology heading? What are the areas of development? How should the astrologer of the future prepare him or herself? What should an astrologer know to defend him or herself when faced with criticism or other obstacles?

The advantages of being an OPA member and the benefits of astrology education is also mentioned in this book in addition to information on world renown astrology organizations and astrology schools.

I strongly recommend The Professional Astrologer to all astrologers and astrology students; it is a wonderful guide!

Öner Döşer
The Organization for Professional Astrology (OPA) Turkey Satellite

BOOK REVIEW

By Öner Döşer

The Professional Astrologer
A HANDBOOK OF TECHNIQUES
Compiled by OPA

Nowadays, many people demand professional astrology consultations as astrology is gaining increasing popularity. Consequently, the astrologers need to know how to practice astrology in a more professional and comprehensive way.

The Professional Astrologer, the book which consists of advice given by worldwide known astrologers and published by The Organization for Professional Astrology (OPA), is the right guide for all astrologers who want to perform their services professionally.

This is a magnificent book, which provides suggestions about the professional practice of astrology. It is not only for the astrology consultants but also for everyone who writes, studies, teaches or lectures on astrology and provides a professional business plan.

Through the different questions brought in the book, astrologers have the opportunity to discover their strengths and weaknesses during a consultancy session. Many of these questions may also be answered by clients. They may also be utilized for archiving and keeping statistics.

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Öner Döşer
The Organization for Professional Astrology (OPA) Turkey Satellite

Level 3. Anne was recently elected Treasurer of OPA. Anne 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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Facebook: http://facebook.com/Anne.Ortelee
Twitter: http://twitter.com/anneortelee
Phone: 212 879 2766

The Professional Astrologer
is available in Paperback and E-Book: Amazon.com and OPAastrology.org
We are celebrating 1 year from the release of The Professional Astrologer, a book that addresses for the first time what it takes for us to thrive and become successful as Astrology practitioners – what the challenges and opportunities are in this particular time in history.

With the upcoming Jupiter/Saturn cycle in Aquarius, the reality for astrology will likely completely transform. Find out everything there is to know about our profession.

**CHAPTERS**

**Introduction** – Maurice Fernandez

For a Future Generation of Astrologers

1 – Donna Young

The Different Orientations in Astrology

2 – Maurice Fernandez

Building and Sustaining a Successful Practice

3 – Sandra-Leigh Serio

Consultations, Counseling and Ethical Considerations

4 – Chris McRae

The Financial Equation

5 – Georgia Stathis

Making your Practice Financially Viable

5B – Anne Ortelee

A Business Plan

6 – Robert Woodliff and Leisa Schaim

(.AFAN) Legal Issues in the Practice of Astrology

7 – Wendy Stacey

The Times are a-Changin’

8 – Monica Dimino

Building a Feedback Loop into your Professional Practice

9 – Jacqueline L. Janes

Counseling Techniques for the Consulting Astrologer

10 – Arlan Wise

Writing and Astrology

11 – Frank C. Clifford

In Print: A Practical Guide for Writers of Astrology

12 – Alexandra Karacostas

The Power of the Peer Group in Astrology

13 – Kay Taylor

Professional Development and the Community of Astrology

**Resource Index - Nancy Beale**

The list of Astrology Schools, Astrology Organizations, and Local Chapters around the world

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**EXCERPTS**

CHRIS MCRAE – The Financial Equation

We next had the task of elevating our professional status beyond the gypsy fortune teller and crystal ball gazer into a legitimate field of study with insight into how our personal journey on planet earth evolves with the cosmic flow. Various astrological organizations began outlining educational requirements. Astrological schools and colleges sprang up throughout Europe, Australia, and North and South America.

Prior to the 1965 New Age Consciousness movement there were very few professionals earning their entire living through astrology. That has changed dramatically in the 21st century. This is certainly due to the speed of generating data, multiple income streams made possible by the internet, and the improvement in educational and certification standards.

FRANK CLIFFORD – In Print

Blogs are your chance to be on an equal footing with other writers, and to have free rein to produce what you want. The way to distinguish yourself from the 1001 other blogs and bloggers is to develop your own authentic voice and specialism. The Internet has thousands of astrology blogs, and often “free content” is content-free. You’ll encounter blogs with interpretations that defy belief (“Venus–Saturn aspects mean you’ll never have financial security and will never be loved”), so start by looking at some ethical, well written blogs online...

MAURICE FERNANDEZ – Creating and Sustaining a Successful Practice

An important step towards reconciling scientific discrepancies in ‘proving’ astrology’s credibility depends on recognizing that astrology is not solely based on astronomy, but is also archetypal. It combines measurement with symbolism. The most immediate illustration of this dynamic is in the fact that the zodiacal constellations are not truly the same 30 degree size on the ecliptic; while there is an astronomical reference to the placement of these constellations, their division into 12 equal parts is artificial, and this is reflective of the symbolism of their equal importance in the dynamics of consciousness.

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**THE SURVEY - SAMPLE**
Questions about money crop up frequently. Money issues affect us in many different ways, from salaries to investments and loans. I have had clients asking questions on the fairness of a price of a service, course or object they wish to purchase.

The role of the second house shows the clients movable possessions from your car to your money, anything that is animate and can be moved belongs to the second house. If it is fixed or inanimate such as your home or land, then it will belong to another house, the fourth, not the second.

As with most horary questions the art of turning the chart, deriving one house from another, is important. For example, I ask a question about the financial affairs of my aging mother, I cannot look at my money, my second house. I will have to look at her money which is her second house.

When turning the chart always count from the house you start with. Mothers belong to the 10 house, mother's second house will show us the condition of her finances. Her money affairs will be the 'turned' eleventh house. We count two from mother, so two from tenth, tenth being one and eleventh being two. The eleventh house and its ruler will describe the condition of my mother's finances.

This comes to the question I have recently been asked, “Will the bank approve my home loan?”

I was asked and understood the question Saturday the 22 October 2016 at 1:39 pm, in Johannesburg.

In all questions the person asking the question, the client, is known as the querent - to seek gain or ask.

The person or thing asked about is the quesited - in search of something.

The money he has to loan will be his turned second house the eighth house ruled by Mercury.

My client is lord one signified by Saturn, she is Saturn. Saturn in the question is in the sign of Sagittarius. I want to know if she has any dignity and can see right away that Saturn is in an angular house, the 10th house. Saturn is a triplicity ruler in a fire sign; this shows that the querent has dignity to act. This is positive testimony, but useless without an event. Aspects make events, without an aspect bringing two situations together there is no event.

As Saturn is in the sign of Sagittarius it is ruled by Jupiter; this shows that the querent is concerned about all things ruled by Jupiter. This gets interesting as her second house of her finances has Sagittarius on the cusp showing her concerns over her finances. Jupiter the ruler of her finances is in the 8th house of other people's money. In this case the money she needs to loan.
HORARY ON THE HOUR

As she is seeking a loan essentially she is looking for money from another source, in this case the loans clerk in the bank. All other people are 7th house people. The 7th house is the house of all open enemies in horary.

By turning the house we are interested in the money which is in control of the loan clerk, his second house which is the eighth house. The sign on the cusp of the eighth house is Virgo so the ruler of this house is Mercury.

Now we can see that Saturn in Sagittarius receives the money by detriment because by essential dignity

Horary is one of the most accurate forms of predictive astrology, but it is not a craft that one should dabble in.

Mercury is in the detriment of Sagittarius, so detrimental to Saturn. This makes sense as the querent is not able to buy her home without the loan and this puts her in a detrimental space, she could lose this home she so desperately needs if she does not get this loan.

Mercury, significator of the loan, is at 25 degrees 59 minutes in Libra and my querent’s cosignificator the Moon is at 25 degrees 34 minutes of Cancer. They will come together by aspect of a square within 25 minutes. A square is a difficult aspect and this poor client had to jump through hoops to get this loan. If it had not come through within a week of her asking the question she would have lost the house.

She will get the loan and she will get confirmation, in my words to her “any minute now” This happened. She left work soon after asking the question so did not see the email granting the loan. The next morning she called to say she got the loan.

Just as an aside. If we look at the significator of her house, it is lord four, Venus. Fourth house is the ruler of all homes, land and fixed things. Venus is applying to conjunct Saturn; our querent will get her home.

Some may ask about the aspect Venus, the home, makes to Jupiter before it aspects Saturn, the querent. This prohibition is more of the nature of transferral of light. Jupiter is her money, ruler of her second house so Venus picks up the light of Jupiter and brings our querent and her home together.

Timing and aspects are very important tools in Horary and a clear understanding of the nature and the means in which they work are essential in making the correct judgment.

Horary is one of the most accurate forms of predictive astrology, but it is not a craft that one should dabble in. There are some good horary teachers out there, including myself. If you have found these articles useful and enticing, save up and study Horary. It will give you many more insights into the vast subject of Astrology and a far deeper understanding of our craft. Visit my site www.sublunar.co.za for more information.

SUBLUNAR – TRADITIONAL ASTROLOGER Laurie Naughtin brings her sensitivity, rich life experience and extensive knowledge to every client with whom she consults, combining both a medical and metaphysical past with her astrological talents. Laurie is the founder of Sublunar Academy of Astrology where beginners, traditional and modern astrology, advanced astrology skills, rectification and internationally accredited horary courses are offered.

Laurie started her studies with Anita Noyes-Smith, Medieval with Robert Zoller, advanced astrological studies including time rectification and relocation with Jeanette Martins, Horary with Jacqueline Brook and completed her Consulting skills course with ISAR in 2012. Contact details www.sublunar.co.za or sublunar@telkomsa.net
THEMES OF THE SEASON
DECEMBER 19, 2016 to MARCH 17, 2016
(times are EST)

- December 19 – Mars enters Pisces
- December 19 – Mercury SR 15 Capricorn
- DECEMBER 24 – 26:
  - Saturn 20 Sagittarius
  - Venus 20 Aquarius
  - Chiron 20 Pisces
  - Uranus 20 Aries
  - Jupiter 20 Libra
- December 26 – Mars conjuncts the South Node at 5 Pisces
- December 28 – Sun Mercury inferior conjunction at 7 Capricorn
- December 29 – New Moon at 8 Capricorn
- Jan 1 – Mars conjunct Neptune at 9 Pisces 44
- Jan 7 – Sun conjunct Pluto at 17 Capricorn
- Jan 8 – Mercury SD at 28 Sagittarius 50
- January 12 - Full Moon at 22 Capricorn/Cancer
- Jan 12 –Venus conjunct Neptune at 10 Pisces
- Jan 16 – Mars conjunct Neptune at 10 Pisces
- January 19- Mars squares Saturn at 23 Pisces/Sagittarius
- Jan 23 – Venus conjunct Chiron at 22 Pisces
- Jan 27 –Venus squares Saturn at 24 Pisces/Sagittarius

THE WINTER SOLSTICE

As winter comes and darkness hovers over the northern hemisphere, we retreat and lay low, listening to the inner rhythms that vibrate subtly and quietly, inside and beneath our shaky surface. We find relief under Capricorn's earthy, somber blanket that protects us now… The earth travelling around the great ecliptic circle is at the southern point below the equator and we need to dive deep when the Sun embraces the Solstice Zero Point. Stillness and sobriety are our answers and we can be assured that discipline will be our most trusted and only guide now.

The prominent planet of the winter solstice is Jupiter at 19 Libra opposed to Uranus at 20 Aries, squared by Pluto at 16 of Capricorn. A T-Square of great amplitude is present and the season to come is not stable. Saturn is rising in the east of the United States and there is a wounded price of seriousness to pay as it exactly squares Chiron in Pisces. Can we trust our leaders and the foundation of our systems? We may be scared and sad and feel as if we are sinking as Neptune and the South Node begin to separate after joining in their karmic sting that lies deep in the purple, blinding seas of Pisces. The Sun squares the Moon and tension is present to help fuel each day with movement forward. Mars will conjunct the South Node in Pisces in proximity to Neptune, possibly activating natural events related to waters, and prompting

Pluto and Mercury’s conjunction demands that we think, analyze and stay focused on our most fundamental priorities.
THE CAPRICORN NEW MOON

The Sun and Moon join on the 8th degree of Capricorn Dec 29th while embracing the earthy retrograde Mercury. seriousness is born now. The trio trines the Virgo north node and we need to connect to practical details to manage the “business of life”. Noticing who we find standing in these close corridors matters and taking note of who they are and why they are there speaks messages concerning the state of our lives and this cycle’s affairs. 

Jupiter at 21 of Libra opposes a stationing Uranus at 20 Aries. The opposition was exact on December 26 and will repeat March 2nd at 22 degrees of Libra/ Aries and at 27 degrees of Libra / Aries on Sept 28th of 2017. If you have important planets in the last Decan of the cardinal signs your life now is under major transition.

Jupiter wants expansion and Uranus wants revolution. Because Uranus is stationing it is stronger. Its nature of creating unexpected events is exceptionally amplified! The unexpected must be expected during the month of January and for the following nine months. The energy of these two in opposition can create brilliant, inspiring breakthroughs. Major scientific discoveries and out of the box thinking can take place now. Old patterns can easily fall away as expansive freedom is reached for by the masses and the search for truth could ring like strong compelling bells for every individual on the planet.

With Pluto squaring this opposition there could be excessive, radical, out of control expressions and breakdowns. It looks like gas being thrown on a bed of explosives with Pluto 90 degrees away and in its dark play. I hate to think and to say that Terror could be a main actor on this year’s center stage... I’d rather say that Venus’s presence in Aquarius and trine to Jupiter and sextile to Uranus will lighten the dark reactivity and that consciousness will have its enlightened say...but it is doubtful.

Hopefully the stellium of Piscean energy will heal, console and pacify. The South Node, Neptune and Mars swim closely in these compassionate, mutable waters and feelings will run deep in the midst of the powerful, cardinal T-square that dominates this month. Saturn exactly squares Chiron at 21 of Sag / Pisces and we must take responsibility for the painful, drowning world. Chiron who has been in Pisces since March of 2011 and will stay in Pisces until May of 2018, keeps bringing us back to heal our own souls and the wound of the planet, the animals and the seas...

THE CANCER FULL MOON

The Moon opposes the Capricorn Sun at 22 of Cancer on December 12th. This full moon is like a giant tight bud that instantly flowers fully, blooming boldly and way too fast in front of our alarming eyes. Action and manifestation are its theme but stress may be the outcome. Pluto is 3 degrees away from the full moon at 17 of Capricorn and Uranus and Jupiter at 20-22 of cardinal signs continue their square to Pluto creating an exact grand square with the Sun and Moon adding a torch and fuel to the already burning, out of control, cardinal fire. Anyone with any important planetary configuration at 20 -22 of cardinal signs must stay awake, aware and absolutely careful!

The ongoing Jupiter, Pluto, Uranus tee square of 2017 is activating the Pluto/ Uranus square of 2012 -2015. It’s as though “the invisible seeds of energy and intent” that were planted then now come into manifestation with the push and pull of planet Jupiter. This powerful Full Moon lights up and shows what we imagined from the square, has now finally formed in the physical... The ghost of the Uranus/ Pluto square has now taken a body and is walking, talking, yelling and screaming and living wildly among us all now. Old structures must fall, leadership must be tested, we must act with integrity, but will our leaders follow?

THE AQUARIUS NEW MOON

A sense of relief may come with the New Moon born Jan 27 at 8 degrees of Aquarius – signaling the New Chinese Year of the Rooster. Aquarius is light, airy and detached and it could feel like there is more room to breathe now. All the planets are moving direct for a short week until Feb 6th when Jupiter will retrograde at 23 of Libra and move back closer into the ongoing T-square with Uranus and Pluto. Saturn is now the main
Transits of the Season

actor on the planetary stage as this new moon unfolds because he tightly squares Venus at 24 of Sag/Pisces. Venus has just left the conjunction with Chiron so there is a pillow of vulnerability cloaked around Venus that has her extremely sensitive and with Saturn in hard aspect possibly suffering some kind of loss. Saturn has recently left the square to Mars at 23 Sag/Pisces on Jan 19th that could have left some kind of hardship behind. People with planets between 22-24 mutable may have emotional hardship stories to share during this lunar cycle concerning their aggression, love and money and their intimate sense of values that have been compromised or betrayed, depending on where in the chart this aspect is found. With Saturn in Sagittarius squaring this Piscean mob of planets some spiritual and philosophical responsibility must be taken for the bruised and injured underdogs...

THE LEO LUNAR ECLIPSE

February 10th marks a Full Moon Lunar Eclipse at 22 degrees of Leo. The eclipse season is now upon us with the Sun and the Moon being within 12 degrees of the lunar nodes. This eclipse is called “Penumbral” and is not exact or total but just within astrological distance of the nodes to count as an “eclipse” and cast a faint shadow. It will show up on the physical/psychological radar if you have an important planet or point between 21-24 of the fixed signs.

This could be a “grand royal weekend” perfect for parties with the kingly Leo eclipse falling on a Friday and creating a “grand trine in fire signs”. Saturn at 25 of Sag is trining Uranus at 21 of Aries. This beautiful stabilizing force began Dec 24th with the exact trine at 20 degrees of Sag/Aries and will continue throughout 2017. It will be exact again May 19th at 26 of Sag/Aries and then again Nov 11 at 25 of Sag/Aries. The trine between Saturn and Uranus is exactly what’s needed to bridge the extremes and calm the raging winds of change. Common ground can finally be found and this aspect can help us bring in the new with support that can be trusted. Saturn brings a stable foundation for us to build on, now.

Not only is there a grand fire trine that inspires but Jupiter, the benefic planet of opportunity at 23 degrees of Libra is trining the Aquarian Sun and events that unfold or projects begun now could have the winds of grace and fortune in their sails! With Venus and Mars both in Aries, and only 5 degrees apart and sextiling Mercury, hot romance and fiery passion could flourish. This Full Moon weekend, topped by the cherry of the Leo Lunar Penumbral Eclipse, is like a magnificent, astrologically auspicious dessert being stylishly served to all of us, by the Angels and the Gods...

THE PISCES NEW MOON SOLAR ECLIPSE

The Sun, Moon, Neptune, Mercury and Chiron plus the South Node are all huddled in the deep cold ocean of Pisces now, trying to warm themselves by Pisces currents of compassion. The New Moon Solar Eclipse takes place at 8 degrees of Pisces on February 26th. This is the last of the Eclipses in the Virgo / Pisces axis that began in March of 2015. Have we fed and taken the time to nourish our spiritual selves? Have we organized our physical world? Have we paid attention to healing ourselves? Have we felt the sorrow of our falling civilization and given shelter to the homeless animals? Have we cleared the clutter and managed the nagging details in our everyday worlds? These are some of the questions that we can ask ourselves now as the nodes begin to fade out of the mutable dilemma of Virgo and Pisces and into the fixed lands of Leo and Aquarius.

Mars is the fearless warrior now as this eclipse shadows the earth. Mars ruling Aries stands tall at 22 degrees of Aries after squaring Pluto 4 days earlier on Feb 22 at 18 of Aries/Capricorn. We may feel shaken and we may be bruised, but the fight goes on, as Mars will join Uranus and oppose Jupiter at 22 degrees of Aries/Libra the following day, Feb 27th. This exact potent conjunction and opposition at the time the dark Moon is eclipsing the Sun is surely ominous! This could be a month of angry, volatile energy that wreaks havoc on our soul… It’s also a recipe for accidents as Mars is now joining Uranus and striking the latent T-square that’s been laying waiting to go off like a bomb in our realms since the start of the season...22 degrees of the cardinal signs is on fire now!

As the dart of intensity is thrown this month, remember that with 6 planetary bodies in gentle Pisces, the last sign of the zodiac, take time to shelter and soothe your inner world. Pisces doesn’t have a home in the physical but in the spiritual.

Venus the planet of relationships and finances turns retrograde 5 days...
Transits of the Season

after the solar eclipse on March 4th at 13 degrees of Aries. It will turn direct April 15th at 27 of Pisces. It's time to make peace with all that has occurred since the Sun entered Aries 12 months ago. It's time to review, reflect and restore our relationships as well as our financial management. With Venus retrograding from fire into water we need to pause from constant doing and step back, let go, let God and dare to quiet and feel the shifting tides for a while...Must we reconsider our investments? Is our relationship standing the test of time?

THE VIRGO FULL MOON

The moon having lasered its pointed mark into the cosmos and our consciousness, and darkened the Sun that sat at 8 degrees of Pisces, at the beginning of this cycle, now opposes the Sun on March 12th at 22 degrees of Virgo. Earth has gratefully joined water and has provided some ground for the emotional, psychic storm to be absorbed. Mars has just entered Taurus fertilizing steadiness while trining the north node that's moving into the final last two degrees of Virgo. We are almost complete as the astrological year and winter comes to an end.

Mercury tightly squares Saturn at 27 degrees of Pisces/Sagittarius while opposing the Virgo Moon. Possibily we are confused and uncertain of how to communicate all that has transpired. We must make effort and take responsibility for how we feel, how we think and our ability to speak and to be understood.

As the Virgo theme diminishes at this full Moon with the North Node soon leaving Virgo we must embrace the small and painstaking intricate details of communicating who and what we are. Life will move forward no matter what President takes the White House and the Sun and Moon will rise every day as our last president said...

Chiron the wounded healer, 2 degrees away from the Sun and opposite the Moon, pleads with us to give life and healing to our wounded hearts. Saturn demands us, in order to heal, to distinctly communicate and clarify our stressed minds. As winter ends we need to be free, clear, and complete. We need to wrap it up; we need to do the Virgo work. We need to be open and ready for spring and the Aries newness and we need to pray that everyone on earth can be led forward...

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

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UPCOMING ASTROLOGY CONFERENCES

JANUARY 2017
January 20-22 - KEPLER CONFERENCE
Cocoa Beach, FL
www.thekeplerconference.com

FEBRUARY 2017
February 13-15 - OPA Peer Group Work
February 16-18 - NCGR CONFERENCE
Baltimore, MD
ncgrconference2017.com

MARCH 2017
March 17-20 - INTERNATIONAL ASTROLOGY CONFERENCE,
Istanbul, Turkey

MAY 2017
May 6-13 - ASTROLOGY RISING
Astrology Conference. Costa Rica
astrologyrisingcostarica.com

MAY 25-29 - NORWAC
Astrology Conference. Seattle, WA
www.norwac.net

JUNE 2017
June 8-11 - POLARIS
Astrology Conference. Oslo, Norway
astrologyrisingcostarica.com

OCTOBER 2017
October 19-23, 2017 OPA RETREAT
Zion National Park, Utah
2016 for OPA

The Year 2016 has been quite extraordinary for OPA. We have pioneered the I-Astrologer event (March 2016, Athens, GA), the first of its kind to provide practical training and guidance for aspiring astrologers, setting new standards for the industry.

We have organized our first International Astrology Conference in Athens Greece (May 2016) with Astrologers joining from all over Europe and the United States. It was a truly special event, returning to and honoring the roots of Western Astrology, and providing new opportunities for Astrologers in the region.

New Satellites from Turkey, Greece, and China have been established, expanding OPA’s reach to new cultures and horizons. OPA’s membership has grown to nearly 400 active members, a 40% increase from last year.

OPA has created 9 new OPA Facebook pages in 6 different languages, creating inspiring content for astrologers and students around the world. We have begun Peer Group Work process in Johannesburg South Africa and Athens Greece.

We are excited to continue our dedicated work and create more opportunities for Astrologers, forging new standards and trends for Astrology! Cheers!
The OPA Board wishes all members and everyone else a fantastic new year 2017!
With immense gratitude for your continual support, we march with confidence into this new year full of inspiration to take astrology a few more notches up!

See you all in Utah!

Stay tuned and buckle up! The OPA Board!