Greetings OPA members!

I hope all of you had a very special summer (at least those of you in the northern hemisphere), and are ready for the closing months of the year 2014. I believe most of you will agree with me that 2014 has been a very particular year, charged with tragic tension in the Ukraine, the Middle East, and many dramatic natural events. Astrologically, we started this year with the powerful Cardinal Cross and then in August transitioned to the fixed energies of Jupiter in Leo and Mars and Saturn in Scorpio. The Uranus/Pluto square is making two additional exact alignments, the next one in December and then in March 2015. With an increase of fire energy (Jupiter in Leo and soon Saturn in Sagittarius), we can expect strong external manifestations and changes resulting from this square. Our security will be in motion, creativity, and action it seems.

On our side, OPA has been very busy planning the program for the 2015 Retreat and we are very inspired by our schedule of speakers and topics. Please take the time to review the preview of the tracks in this issue, and take note: those of you who are signing up for the retreat by December 2014, will not only get the lowest price, but also a 6 month membership bonus! I hope you take advantage of this offer and come to celebrate Astrology with us in California next year. Your support and loyalty is much appreciated; it fuels our creativity and inspires our service.

In other exciting news, we are working on a collaboration with Kepler College in order to offer our membership special opportunities to study through Kepler. OPA members can now enjoy a 10% discount on any workshop from $250, and a 5% discount on any workshop below that. OPA is also working on creating a Professional Development workshop with Kepler. Stay tuned for more details!

We soon will be publishing the new schedule for the Free Monthly Talks for 2015. In the meantime, we look forward to hear Armand Diaz, Margaret Gray, and Kari Noren Hoshal in these coming months.

Wishing you all a wonderful season, and I hope to see many of you at the ISAR conference in the next few days.

With Blessings,
Maurice, President, OPA
The Eclipses of October 2014

Lunar and Solar Eclipse are aligning during the month of October. Astrologically, Eclipses occur when the Sun and the Moon align with the Nodes of the Moon, with a New Moon on the Nodes (Solar Eclipse), and a Full Moon on the Nodes (Lunar Eclipse).

The Lunar Eclipse aligns on October 8, at the 15 degree of Libra and Aries.

The Solar Eclipse aligns on October 23 at 0 degree Scorpio, in exact conjunction with Venus.

Check in your chart to see in what house(s) the whole range between 15 Libra to 0 Scorpio is located to see where these influences will most prominently impact your development.

Astrologers are sharing their perspectives on these important events.

Margaret Gray
MSW D. Psych.
Astrology

October brings the second part of two yearly Eclipse seasons which by their nature invite us to do some detoxing and clearing. The total Lunar Eclipse at 15° Aries 05 on Oct 8th is particularly powerful as it activates the transformative energy of the ongoing Uranus/Pluto square in the sky, at the exact degree of the final square on March 15th next year. This Eclipse brings with it a Kite formation with the Sun/North Node and Venus in Libra as the point of expression, inviting us to focus on justice, fairness and balance in our relationships with others and in the structures of our life. Mercury retrograde in Libra from the 4th to the 25th offers the opportunity to make adjustments to ways of thinking that may be out of balance. As Mercury prepares to go direct, we will experience a partial Solar Eclipse at 0° Scorpio 25 on Oct 23rd. With a trine to Neptune, we are invited to listen to our deepening intuition as the veil between the conscious and unconscious realms will feel a lot thinner. Imaginative and creative pursuits are likely to benefit at this time.

Belonging to the 17 North Saros series, Dr Bernadette Brady describes the core theme as follows: ‘This Series brings an impulsive energy to events. Socializing becomes hectic and issues emerge that motivate the individual. This motivation may be concerned with financial projects or relationship issues. Whatever the motivation, it is impulsive, passionate and exciting. Have fun, enjoy it!’

Maurice Fernandez

The weeks around the time Eclipses occur are referred to as “Eclipse season.” The Eclipse influence gains traction when the Sun approaches one of the Nodes. Then, the Nodes’ ‘true’ motion stations, and freeze on a particular degree –this eclipse season, the Nodes will station on the 19th degree of Aries and Libra – Therefore this degree will have tremendous importance.

Eclipse season is a particularly powerful time when the pace of our lives is accelerated on both collective and personal levels. Everything is activated. This is a time when events seem fated and the human mind cannot always grasp

Continued on page 3
what is going on – as if a portal to another dimension opens and energy flushes into our earthly dimension. This is perhaps why, eclipses are referred to as times when Kings die… but in truth, Kings are also born during eclipses – by “King,” we may refer to people who have strong leadership and a special destiny to fulfill.

In our personal lives, this time of acceleration and activation, can have us meet meaningful people, make important decisions, and experience intense changes. We may experience tremendous development, or perhaps losses. Whatever it is, it happens fast and it often marks us deeply.

The Lunar Eclipse on October 8, lands on a T-square between Uranus/Pluto/Venus, and so it can signify a turning of tables in relationships. This can apply on both personal and political levels…enemies may speak to one another, and friends may go their separate ways. This eclipse will land very strategically on the chart of Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu, Russian and Israeli leaders respectively.

The Solar Eclipse on October 23 conjuncts Venus at 0 Scorpio. This also happens to be the day that Mercury stands direct – close to the Lunar Eclipse degree. Did we mention a time of “activation” and setting things in motion? You bet Hillary Clinton will make her big move around this time, and we will hear about Angela Merkel and François Hollande, German and French leaders respectively, who have this solar eclipse conjunct their natal Saturn.

Kari Noren Hoshal

Lunar Eclipse 16 degrees Aries on October 8th at 6:51 a.m. EDT

The Moon between the S. Node and Uranus in Aries makes for a moody and impulsive day. Don’t make a snap decision you could later regret. You are ready to take bold action to “do something different” for once! It is ok to go ahead with unselfish gut feelings. The Sun is also between Venus and the N. Node. This is a “party” day for self-expression and creativity. A new friendship or relationship may spring up. Just avoid over self-indulgence. The Sabian Symbol today is “Fairies Dancing In The Setting Sun.” The dance of life is an unending rehearsal of the special talents we have. The keyword is “Invigoration!” There is opportunity as the result of effort and good karma.

Solar Eclipse 1 degree Scorpio on October 23rd at 5:57 p.m. EDT

In Washington D.C., Uranus squares the Midheaven today. Public criticism of the government is likely this month. Both the Sun and Moon are conjunct Venus. The North Node is both sextile Jupiter and conjunct Mercury. Messages regarding Justice can be expressed through a powerful demonstration. The Sabian Symbol today is “A Sightseeing Bus.” Man is encouraged to reach out widely to share his realizations with his fellows. The key word is “cooperation.” Mercury’s retrograde at 17 degrees Libra today indicates rumination on important issues that is delaying an announcement until after the 25th.

* Dr. Bernadette Brady ‘The Eagle and the Lark’

Kathryn Andren

October 2014 is a very exciting time with two powerful eclipses. First on October 8th, the Moon at 15 Aries is eclipsed near unpredictable Uranus. Then October 23, Sun and Moon meet near Venus at 1 Scorpio for a partial solar eclipse. Be sure to look at the houses in your own personal birth chart to see where these potent points energize your life. Eclipses are a time to honor hidden mysteries. Have the courage to dive deep and savor unseen secrets.

The total lunar eclipse on October 8th falls at 15 degrees on the Aries Libra axis. Moon near Uranus in Aries energizes elevated inspiration supported by this month’s grand fire trine. Reflect what happened for you six months ago during the epic Cardinal Cross and last lunar eclipse April 13. What part of your world is experiencing a systems reset in the realms of relationship and individuality?

The partial solar eclipse at zero Scorpio October 23 is a time to sow the seeds of intimacy as Sun and Moon meet voluputous Venus. What do you truly value, who do you love and how you share your life force are questions to contemplate for this eclipse.

Remember, the first half of October features a grand fire trine including Mars, Jupiter and Uranus. This alignment is most potent during October 4 - 10. Fire signs illuminate intuition and action. Trust intuition will lead you to right action, at the right place, in the right time. Mars in Sagittarius asserts optimism, Uranus in Aries instigates action while Jupiter in Leo expands heartfelt radiance. The heat is on and so it the potency to birth new projects and plans, despite Mercury retrograde October 4 - 25.

Can you see the October eclipses? Check these links for best times and viewing locations:

Gali Sat Puran Livneh

The eclipse season of October 2014 is directing us to work with Venus, i.e. relationships with others; self-acceptance,
our resources and financial situation, all receive extra emphasis. We can expect negotiations, trying to reach agreements, but at the same time the games of war and peace are not quite over yet. In both eclipses the Uranus Pluto square is on the nodes, so more extreme actions together with natures awakening can be expected: earthquakes, volcanos eruption, storms and crazy weather can be seen before and after the eclipse season, as well as expression of fanatic ideology, and more dramatic events such as riots, strikes, terror acts of extremists groups and upheavals.

The total lunar eclipse on October 8th is very potent, and can bring breakthroughs and changes. This eclipse can also bring conflicts to an end, and together with the solar eclipse, can help us to close loose ends and move on. We need to work on balancing our need to be independent and do things our way, towards learning to compromise and make peace with all life’s polarities. To do that we need to release old patterns of relating and communicating, and find new ways that might challenge the old conditioning of society and religion. We can see new forms of relationships for example, that goes beyond the traditional customs.

The solar eclipse will conjunct Venus on the critical degree 0 Scorpio and trine Neptune in Pisces. This energy is opening the door for us to move forward to the next level with relationships. In order to do that we need to be ready to look deeper within us, and recognize our own fears and limitations that can stop us from loving ourselves and bring healing to our relationships. We can feel that there’s an opportunity for a fresh new start.

“Recognize that the other person is you” – Yogi Bhajan  www.healingstar11.com/en

Sandra-Leigh Serio

This fall there are two eclipses. The first one is a total lunar eclipse on October 8 occurring at 15 Aries 05'. Lunar eclipses tend to bring things to some type of conclusion or culmination and can also bring strong emotional and impulsive reactions and responses to situations. The importance of this total lunar eclipse cannot be sufficiently emphasized because it conjoins Uranus at 14 degrees of Aries, squares Pluto at 11 Capricorn and of course opposes the Sun at 15 Libra. If we haven’t had enough violence in the world, this lethal combination can, unfortunately, bring more. On the positive side, it will bring disruption and change that could finally lead to resolution. People born with planets at 15 degrees of the cardinal signs will personally feel this eclipse. Those born in the early 70’s with Uranus close to these degrees in Libra can suddenly encounter a turning point in their lives – one that may have been a long time coming.

The solar eclipse occurs on October 23 at 0 Scorpio 25'. Solar eclipses often indicate a new beginning or a change in lifestyle for an individual when the eclipse occurs within three days of a birthday or when it falls on an angle, the Moon or another prominent planet in a person's chart. This particular eclipse belongs to the Saros Series 17 New North. According to Bernadette Brady in her book Predictive Astrology, this series has a lot to do with relationships because of the strong Venus/Mars conjunct in Cancer that marked the beginning of the series in 1870.

Eclipses often trigger events months before the actual eclipse. When we look at relationships on a more worldly level with regard to the eclipse, we see that Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie finally tied the knot on August 23 in France exactly two months before the eclipse. Present at their wedding were their six children, easily representative of Venus/Mars in the sign Cancer (family involvement).

On an individual level, those with any planet from 28 Libra/Aries to 2 degrees of Scorpio/Taurus will likely feel a new beginning unfolding depending on the planet, house and aspects. Many people born from the mid 50’s to the mid 80’s will have Saturn, Uranus, Neptune or Pluto close to these degrees and as a result they will likely feel an urge to make an important change in their lifestyle which could involve work, family, relationships or personal initiative; this change has transformative and empowering repercussions that further down the road will bring spiritual evolution and destiny fulfillment.

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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OPAastrology.com
n the middle of December of 2013, I receive a much anticipated package from Balboa Press. Inside the bubble wrap envelope was my author’s copy of my book; I was officially published. My journey from ideas about an astrology book to the actual book in my hand was fairly long, but once I started writing it took me less than a year to finish my draft for publication. Several ideas for an astrology book percolated for many years, but the one I decided to write was a beginner’s book for the very, very serious beginner.

Once I became a professional astrologer and decided to do my work full-time, blending in my guided intuitive abilities, tarot cards, applied kinesiology (muscle testing), and a smidge of numerology, I realized the field was actually lacking a beginner book that actually addressed a number of gaps – namely the imbalance of masculine/feminine energies (even the most recent books still only use the Sun to Pluto and a handful have ventured to include Chiron) and a clear path to first level interpretation that laid out what it meant for an energy point to be in a house AND a sign.

Once I felt I had found a sufficient reason to write the book I was actually gifted with the opportunity to write it. And I do mean gifted in the literal sense as well as the spiritual, astro-

logical timing sense. My partner and my daughter’s mother had purchased a publication package from Balboa Press with the intent to write and get her book published. But her astrological timing was not aligned and so the package was on hold. When she realized I was in a position to write my book, she gifted me the package, a gift of $7,999.00 … a most generous gift.

Once in place, I began writing in earnest in March of 2013 and completed the final draft for the publisher in October of 2013. Most of the book is a series of tables (over 300 pages) with an interpretive formula for every energy point I use in my charts (a total of 25) beginning with the Sun and ending with the Part of Fortune. This part of the book was written for beginners and professionals as a desk reference for quick interpretation of an energy point in the sign and house (12X12X25 interpretations). I also provide interpretations for the Cardinal Angles at the very end. The first 60 pages of the book explains my journey into, use of, and how to learn astrology at a deep level right from the start. I expect the reader to come to the book and the subject with a high degree of interest and intelligence.

My journey to publication involves a hybrid of “pay-to-play” and professional editing/printing. I worked with Balboa Press, which is a subsidiary of Hay House. Throughout the process I learned a great deal that I would like to share with you in this article. Almost all the major publishers now have a “self” publication branch. If you believe in your idea and have the funds, you can skip past the traditional gatekeeper process (submit a manuscript and hope for publication) and his or her judgment and get your work out into the world. Like most scenarios, the more you can pay, the more you can play. If you go to: http://www.balboapress.com/Packages/CorePackages/Compare.aspx, you will find packages ranging from $999.00 to $7,999.00 at the time this article was written. Based on my experience, and what I would choose to buy if I had to purchase my own package, I would have chosen the Discovery Package (@ $2,499.00) for the simple reason that it was the first of the packages to offer the Booksellers Return Program, which makes the purchase and shelving of your book risk free for 1 year to bookstores. This option is important because the book is a print-on-demand production and not readily distributed to outlets as part of the original purchase option; I found Barnes and Noble reluctant to shelf the book because it was print-on-demand.

Even with the Master Package you need to be aware of “hidden” costs that will quickly add thousands of dollars to your process. For example, the Editorial Assessment that starts at the Inspire Package level ($3,599.00) is simply an assessment of 1500 words to determine the type of editing process they will suggest, which is a separate fee. The editing suggestions range from line edit of the full text to, well, nearly ghost writing for you. I was fortunate to have experience as an editor and have contacts that do professional editing. I was able to hire them to help polish my own editorial work for a fraction of the cost that Balboa wanted to charge me ($500 vs. $2000). I also found out that I was allowed 10 image files before being charged for each additional image ($500 vs. $2000). I also found out that I was allowed 10 image files before being charged for each additional image ($10 per image). Well, considering my books is filled with tables that use small icons for each energy point symbol and sign, I was looking at another several hundreds of dollars expense! Fortunately I was allowed to submit a print ready pdf, which meant I actually did the typesetting and layout to specifications provided by Balboa.

Without preexisting skills on my part,

“Almost all the major publishers now have a “self” publication branch.”

Continued on page 5
Astrology Unlocked
A Publishing Journey

Continued from page 6

I could have easily bumped up against $10,000 to $15,000 to get the book to publication. Granted I had elements in my book that would not normally appear in others books (if you write fiction). Even so, editing does not come cheap, and is necessary if you want to put out a professional product.

After the book was print ready I found out the real limits of marketing, basically, the bulk of the marketing included in the package was advice on how to self-promote. To get to a higher level of marketing, like radio or predetermined appearances in bookstores; well, that was another expense, to the tune of $8,000 more dollars. Could it be worth it? Yes, Balboa is a major publishing house within a much larger publishing house, but I was just starting my professional practice in line with getting my book published. And, more problematic, I decided to write a beginner’s book for serious-minded readers instead of “for dummies.” I did not try to “make it simple” or claim that mine is the “only astrology book you will ever need.” I have a professional academic background and I wrote a book trying to reveal how complex astrology is and how much work it takes to learn it to practice at a professional level, or even a serious enough amateur level to be responsible. My book is a bit of a marketing conundrum because it is purposely written to a narrow audience.

With all that said, and caveats revealed, I was very pleased with Balboa’s production and handling of my book and process. They were professional, courteous, and helpful. Yes, they did try to upsell me; and had my book been something different, I might have chosen some of the options they presented. In the end they produced a very professional product for me. If you believe in your idea, and want the credence that comes with professional publishing, then you will want to consider the pay-to-play option, just be aware of how much you need to bring to the table to get into the game.

NOTE: I do not use the term planet to refer to the points of the chart; the Sun is a star and a number of points are special calculations like the Part of Fortune; therefore I use the term energy point to describe the astronomical bodies and the calculated points. It is my preferred catch-all term. | Contact Phil Young: blackunykorn@gmail.com

The book is “…written to accomplish two tasks: providing an accessible introduction to the complexity of professional astrology for beginners and offering a desk reference for other professional astrologers.”

Philip is a good writer; in fact he has a PhD in English and taught on the college level as an English instructor. He writes with intelligence. He explains his concepts clearly and precisely in plain English. His intelligence shows as he introduces the reader to his unique way of perceiving astrology. Some of his descriptions are delightful, like the South node being “the way of the worn path”.

Philip presents a formulaic approach to interpretation. He uses the term Energy Points instead of planets so he can include the asteroids, nodes, and angles in these formulas. It seems like a left-brain approach but one that may be very useful in learning how to synthesize the data you see when you look at a chart. The majority of the book is an extensive cookbook giving meaning to the energy points in each sign and each house. He includes a worksheet at the end of the book.

Philip takes it upon himself to reassign rulerships. He has his reasons, which he explains, but it may be confusing to a student who is just starting to learn astrology. One might feel uncomfortable saying in a group class that Venus rules Pisces since everyone else thinks that Venus...
Chiron
Key to Our Careers
by Aubrie De Clerck

In the Career Coaching profession, few of us talk about the deep pain that career and work can cause. There are how-tos and prescriptions on LinkedIn every day, but not much conversation around the feelings of hopelessness that conflicts on the job, purposeless tasks, or layoffs can bring.

In one-on-one sessions, clients speak more openly about this pain and it has become clear to me that it is a bigger barrier than ageism, gaps in work history or any other common concern. Underneath their worries was a universal feeling that there was something wrong with them, something Adam Gainsburg calls a “subconscious belief or pattern of assuming we are permanently damaged, wounded, broken or unfixable in specific ways necessary to our fulfillment.” Work troubles can trigger this pattern in short order.

I looked to astrology to help me find a commonality in client charts that would help explain the pain, change the lens they were seeing through and help them see possibilities. At first, I looked to Saturn, where fear and work can overlap. It seemed especially obvious with the material losses and hard times people were facing. Yet Saturn placements, aspects and transits were not indicative of the pain they were describing.

Then I looked for transits of Pluto and/or Uranus and they came up short as well. Houses associated with work and career, while important, didn’t hold the key. Informed by intuition and years of hearing the hurt underneath my client’s fear, anger and despair, I looked at Chiron.

Since that first look, I include The Wounded Healer in my career readings for clients and us it as the focus of talks and workshops. Over and over I see clients shift when Chiron is added to the picture. They were able to see not only their inner challenges, but also their innate gifts and talents.

Let’s look at a client example, a woman with Chiron in Aquarius in the 5th:

This client continually worked in toxic non-profit environments over her career. Her creativity and innovation were unwelcome in each workplace, the very things she identified as giving her energy and satisfaction in life. She wondered if no healthy non-profits existed out there, but when she went deeper she shared her worry that there was something wrong with her that was causing this struggle - something she couldn’t fix. Her Chiron placement affirmed that she was here to contribute her ingenuity. She realized that she was wired up to give this gift and had been choosing organizations that only supported the woundedness. She was able to conduct a search that focused on understanding the culture of the organization and how to find the place that would welcome her fresh perspectives. She landed in a healthy non-profit that was a fit. A year later, she sent me a note saying that leadership was changing the organization in ways that might limit her contributions and that she was keeping a close eye on it, ready to move on if necessary.

There are a few things I love about this example.
1. It shows how applying Chiron placement simply can be powerful
2. It illustrates the practical career applications of the placement
3. It shows how the client is empowered, using the knowledge as her career continues

How clients orient towards Chiron is important. I think of it as two sides of the same coin - the wound and the gift. Many people identify with the wounded side (especially prominent when Chiron has harder natal aspects) and stop there, trying to protect their vulnerability from the light of day. When we can acknowledge, as in the Chiron myth, that we all are born with the notion that we are separate and imperfect in a way that will cause rejection, we can look at the wound differently. It can inspire compassion for ourselves and others. Once in the light, we can see that in actuality, the wounded place is exactly what is key to our fulfillment—and our purpose. By going into the wound, we find the very thing we are here on the planet to contribute.

How do we know when Chiron might be at work in our clients’ work lives? The following are some of its telltale characteristics:
• What they do well for others is difficult to do for themselves
• Inability to identify how they are unique and special
• Feeling understood more by people who are older than them by about 50 years, such as grandparents or mentors
• Swinging between denial and over-achieve

Chiron shows up uniquely for each person, however there are common ways it has been pivotal in my work with clients:
• Identifying gifts: Giving name to the gifts and the comforting idea that they are innate within the client already. This paves the way for motivation and self-acceptance.
• Defining healthy work environments: Encouraging clients to advocate for themselves at work in a balanced way and guiding clients to structure searches that support the expression of the gift, rather than furthering the wound.
• Finding empowerment: Helping clients understand that the key to change is right in front of them and does not require outside circumstances to change in order for them to access it.

To deepen your understanding of Chiron’s influence on the careers of your clients, consider looking at sign, house and natal aspects to start. It can provide specific information about a client’s gifts, areas that create roadblocks and paths to healing and purposeful expression. Why not look at your own, too? :)

Aubrie De Clerck is a career coach and astrologer, with over 8 years experience in corporate, non-profit and education environments. Aubrie was featured in Willamette Week’s 2012 Best of Portland as “Best Cosmic Career Coach” and named of one of the 100 Most Powerful Women by the Northwest Women’s Journal. Aubrie is known for being highly inspirational and deeply practical - with an innate capacity for supporting people in going after what brings them joy. Visit Aubrie’s website at www.coachingforclarity.net.
The Career Astrologer  OP A's Newsletter for Professional Astrology

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My astrologer says I will go on a Journey and have a dinner party.

Astrology is nonsense! I'm telling it like Virgo and a person who was born as Virgo knows what he says!

I understand the reason for the computer breaking down. The computer program was created in November, but the computer itself was made in February. Scorpio and Aquarius are not compatible.
ID

Email: jjawer@stariq.com
Website: www.stariq.com and www.tarot.com

Your family: not sure what this means. I have a wife and two daughters, grew up with one older sister.

Religious background & conditioning? Reform Judaism

Spiritual orientation – do you follow any specific practice? Buddhist friendly, Qi Gong practitioner

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you? Insecurity and communication skills

You never tried… Vedic astrology
You can’t refuse… good wine or chocolate

What is playtime for you? Good food, wine and intimate conversation

Your animal totem? None, although we have hummingbirds around our house
Your superstition? none
Your Chinese sign? dog

Your favorite place on earth? Wherever I’m feeling peaceful

What would you define is an important evolutionary lesson for you in this life? Becoming more generous

Your chart – May 16, 1946, 3:35 am, New York City

YOUR PRACTICE


How long have you been practicing – How did it start? 41 years, chart done in a social setting when I was 27

You have established StarIQ with Rick Levine – can you tell us what it is about, and where do you see it going? StarIQ has been stagnant for quite a long time. Although we continue to publish some articles, it went from a well-funded business with 12 employees to a labor of love. For now, we’re showing up without big plans or ambition

What do you think keeps your collaboration with Rick successful? Mutual respect and similar values about astrology and life

What do you think keeps your collaboration with Rick successful? Mutual respect and similar values about astrology and life

Your Astrology teachers? Barry Lynes, Zip Dobyns

Your Astrology hero? Dane Rudhyar 3 favourite Astrology books? Rudhyar’s Astrology of Personality, Isabel Hickey’s Astrology, a Cosmic Science, and Ebertin’s Combination of Stellar Influences

What do you feel is your greatest achievement to date in your astrology career? Helping to create AFAN and UAC

What made it possible for you to become a full time astrologer? Lack of conventional income and security needs

ASTROLOGY

What is the great thing and the hard thing about being an astrologer? My two favorites are creating with this rich language and being allowed to connect deeply with clients. The hard thing is being expected to have answers for every question

What are your future ambitions in the field of astrology? A return to 60s era humanism

What inspires you to be an OPA member? The collaboration of practicing astrologers, especially in developing counseling skills

Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers? Do it for love and as a means for growth rather than requiring absolute answers. Thank you! ☺
Welcome to my ongoing column on the ins and outs of being a practicing professional astrologer. I’ve been reading charts and teaching classes for 40 years. Through the years my practice has changed, and I’ve gleaned valuable insights about many aspects of improving the practical side of being a professional astrologer. I can’t wait to share my thoughts with you and I’m happy to answer your questions.

Today, I want to write about a few ideas relating to building your practice, but first, let me tell you a bit about myself. In college I became friends with a woman who was an astrologer. As I listened to her talk about charts I felt compelled to learn more. I went to the public library where I found the A-Z Horoscope Delineator and began teaching myself astrology. Four years later, after formally training with Zipporah Dobyns, I started charging to read horoscopes.

Currently I rent a sunny one room office in a quiet building about one mile from my home in St. Paul, Minnesota. There’s a shared waiting room with chairs and magazines and I hold classes in the conference room down the hall. I’ve always had an office because I need the separation between work and family. It adds about $500 a month to my overhead, but for me, the quiet space devoted to work makes it worthwhile. I also like that the building is full of lawyers and psychotherapists; it gives me a sense of being part of a larger service-oriented community.

There is no one right way to build an astrological practice. Some of us work strictly by personal referral; others are more public and attract customers through websites, Facebook accounts and lectures. When I first started doing readings in 1975, I would read for anyone, because I needed the money and I didn’t realize that I could say no to someone or make a referral. For the most part I was fortunate and didn’t experience much negative feedback, although there were people who saw me once and never returned. That got me thinking about how I might better serve my client base.

Until 2005 I ran advertising in the Edge, Lavender Magazine, The Women’s Press and I wrote Sun Sign columns in a couple of local “New Age” newsletters and magazines. This attracted new customers but some of them were interested in talking to their spiritual guides, or getting past life regressions, none of which fall within my area of expertise. Other people would contact me and after a conversation I would recognize that they needed legal counsel, long-term therapy, or medical advice. As practicing astrologers when we make referrals to other well-established professionals, this can benefit our work. People feel that we are trustworthy, and, if they have a good experience that will reflect back on us. I’ve found great value in keeping a file of other astrologers with specific areas of expertise, along with professionals in the self-help and healing fields, and giving out their cards or phone numbers.

I begin each new client relationship, whether by phone or email, with a prompt reply and then a conversation about what the person hopes to accomplish during our time together. I try to return calls and emails within two days, and set up an appointment time within two to three weeks of the call. People can become very anxious about their first meeting with an astrologer so getting back to them in a timely fashion shows your concern and professionalism. When I travel both my voicemail and email is set to notify people that I’m away and inform them of the date I return. Beginning a new client relationship also includes showing up for the appointment on time, keeping the consulting space clean and fresh, and making sure there are no interruptions during the session. I make a digital recording of each session, which I then email to the client within the next 24 hours. This gives them a way to review what was said.

Once you’ve determined that an astrology reading will benefit the person, I recommend you start your interview or find a convenient time to speak. Each interview is a bit different, but I begin by asking two things: What motivated them to reach out to an astrologer, and how did they find me? Once I know their motivation (I was curious, my therapist suggested it, I’ve wanted to get a reading since forever) I ask them to describe what they would like to accomplish in our session. This helps me define the type of service fits best with their questions.

I break my work with people into distinct categories: Natal work and Forecasting. For people who are interested in self-discovery I recommend Natal Chart readings. If they are doing depth work in therapy or looking for more intensive self-discovery I offer “packages” of three to five sessions on the Natal Chart.

Some people will have very specific issues like timing for a job change, how to deal with problems in a relationship, thinking about retirement, starting a business, while some prefer to look at the bigger picture. In the Forecasting area of my work I offer Yearly Forecasts along with Three year and Five year views. By listening carefully I can determine which type of reading will suit each client, and how to best prepare for the session.

There will always be people who don’t know why they are coming, or what they hope to accomplish even after our conversation and looking at my website. In that case I always start with a Natal Chart and delineating the basics of their horoscope.

At the start of each session I always ask the client to review what they hope to achieve during our time together. I write down what they say, using their language, and during the consultation refer to their list. I incorporate what the planetary aspects are telling me, while staying close to the client’s goals for session. At the end, I check with them to see if any they have any new questions and to make sure I covered everything.

After the session I give them a two-week period to contact me by email with one or two quick questions for no extra charge. There are times that we can’t address all the issues a client brings to the session, or the email questions are too involved. I’ve learned that recommending a follow-up session, at a slightly reduced fee, is a good way to resolve this.

Using the resources of other professionals, screening clients to make sure you are a good fit, staying focused on what they came to discuss and follow-up are just a few ways you can build goodwill with your already existing clients.

I hope this gives you some new ideas for enhancing your practice, and please feel free to let me know if you have any questions or subjects you’d like me discuss. You can reach me at moon@opaastrology.com. ☺
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The themes of the season, whether Autumn or Spring Season given the hemisphere, begin with the Sun at 0 degrees Libra occurring on September 23, 2014, 2:31 GMT, time based on the Greenwich meridian, time zone 0. I’ve chosen to use this format for time and space in all the planetary calculations as OPA is an international organization. Using this format will allow us to think of the themes of this period from a world perspective, not focused on one time zone. Adjustments in time can be made for individual time zones as will be done in specific chart examples.

At the Libra Equinox, one of the four Cardinal pillars, we are invited to consider what harmony, integration, unity for the world or our individual lives would look like. What really is the nature of peace and calm? Can energies, even divergent energies, be brought into some sort of equilibrium that will allow us to function on the highest conscious level?

The Equinox Sun in Libra and Moon in Virgo are in a Balsamic Phase, the dark of the moon. New seeds of thought are trying to be activated, but may still need incubation to move from traditional thought into a new, perhaps even visionary, beginnings. The August Mars/Saturn (17 Scorpio) conjunction may still have active vibrations suggesting humanity has more work to do dealing with unconscious, unclaimed energies around the issue of aggression or anger.

Mars then moves into an exact square (5 Sagittarius/Pisces) with transiting Neptune a day before the Equinox (September 22.) From another perspective we are now challenged to be careful to think through our actions. Illusion and idealization forcefully pushed forward as truth can abound with great hope and sense of freedom, but may have no long term substance to make something solid happen.

Jupiter in Leo turns retrograde later in the season, December 8 (22 Leo) adding a similar cautionary note about not expanding just on faith or principle without careful consideration. Don’t let the drama lead the decisions.

As I write this article a new truce has been brokered by Egypt between Palestine and Israel. Looking at the chart for the Equinox energies in Jerusalem, a city claimed by both countries as their capital, the Mars/Neptune Square spans from the third to the sixth house, from the realms of conversation or disputes to changing habit patterns. A challenge indeed! Mercury in the Equinox chart has no aspects to other planetary energies, only a wide conjunction to the N. Node. Mercury is in the second house can signify resources, land and monetary, and the skills needed for any endeavor. Unfortunately, the prospects do not seem positive for fruitful dialog.

Additionally the Equinox energies for Moscow have a similar theme suggesting similar communication dilemmas with negotiations around the Ukraine.

The closest aspect in the Equinox chart is Uranus in Aries trine Jupiter in Leo. Hope for innovative change and progress is an active desire during this season, but will not come easily with Saturn in Scorpio squaring Jupiter on one end and Pluto in Capricorn still squaring Uranus on the other. While some progress in both arenas may occur, it will be like three steps forward, one step back. Change for its own sake without deep transformation within the very skeleton of whatever needs to be reformed will not work. However, given that Pluto in Capricorn and Saturn in Scorpio are in mutual reception, there is an opportunity to create new talking points in the negotiations based on innovative visions. The only action needed is to embrace responsibility. Vision without commitment and work creates nothing, personally or internationally.

Perhaps the Virgo Moon/Venus conjunction in the Equinox chart will give a softer analysis to those pesky details that keep individuals and countries from taking opportunities to think “outside the box,” beyond rooted thought and habit patterns. The Moon/Venus conjunction is in a wide conjunction with the Sun (semi-square Jupiter) in close sextile to Saturn. Here lies an opportunity promised by the sextile to create a detailed plan for peace. One can only hope that a diplomatic architect will be found to bring reason and heart to the negotiation table of any difficult situation.

Mercury is retrograde this season going retrograde on October 4, 2014 at 17:04 GMT, 2 Scorpio 17.0, and direct on October 25 at 19.20 GMT, 16 Libra 49.2. Mercury barely begins its journey, diving into the realms of deeper thought and perhaps even the darker waters of unconscious, when it moves back into the sign of Libra. Profound contemplation of the issues surfacing in our lives, brought into equilibrium with the other parts of our consciousness is possible, even for negotiations between countries. Of course, in trying to balance all the different voices the result can be that nothing happens.

Neptune travels between 4 Pisces 8.3, the
Tumultuous energies resulting in severe weather, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, economic extremes, government upheavals and dysfunction have been evident beginning in 2008 and certainly intensified since 2012. I image at this time Lord Saturn in Scorpio asking humanity, “Have my planetary peers, Uranus and Pluto, brought enough chaos into your world? Has the time come when I can begin to formulate plans for world wide solutions to some of the Earth’s problems to be manifested while trav-

lying in the Sign of Sagittarius?”

In summary, the themes of the season are a continuation of active rumblings for change and transformation. It has been said that from chaos comes opportunities. Certainly the Libran Equinox Chart and the planetary energies forming in this season suggest both possibilities - more change and more opportunities - from many perspectives. The focus is staying balanced while we are in process, the Libran intention. Nothing firm is ready to form until we clearly acknowledge and bring to consciousness the issues.

* Note that discussion of the Eclipses during this season (Lunar Eclipse in Aries/Libra on October 8 at 10:52 GMT and Solar Eclipse in Scorpio on October 23 at 21:58 GMT) will be done by other OPA astrologers.

Jacqueline Janes, MA, LPC is a Certified Counseling Astrologer, NCGR IV, is recognized by ISAR as a Certified Astrological Professional. Additionally she is a licensed professional counselor in Connecticut. Jacqueline has combined astrological consultation with psychotherapy. She has lectured about and taught astrological concepts for all levels and led workshops in spiritual development. ☺

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The Neptune-Pluto Conjunction
Backdrop to all other Planetary Cycles
by Wendy Stacy

The largest cycle in our solar system is that of the two outermost planets, Neptune and Pluto. The last time these planets came into conjunction was in 1891 and 1892 at 8° and 7° degrees of Gemini. This conjunction marks the start of the current cycle and set the scene for the following 492 years.

Cycles do not operate in isolation and when considering mundane cycles, such as the current Uranus – Pluto square, we are reminded that we need to consider the wider context in which they are played out. Neptune and Pluto and their cycle will provide the backdrop to which all the others will unfold.

With conjunctions of the outer planets we try to understand what happened or may happen by exploring the combination of these planets’ characteristics coming together and what this could mean for the social, political and economic landscape. We analyse the point of conjunction as the ‘seed’ point, the end of something and the beginning of something else. In this case, the characteristics of the planets Neptune and Pluto will tell us what we can expect, what will develop and what will become important to us.

Charles Harvey quotes Barbault, Doolard, Jayne and Rudhyar, ‘who have pointed out the importance of this cycle in terms of major epochs of civilisation. Both planets have to do with the deep unconscious/superconscious of the collective, to an opening up to higher, transcendent collective ideas and ideals!’ Harvey and Rudhyar considered the Neptune-Pluto conjunction to be the accelerated move towards a global culture.

With Neptune comes an element of mysticism, an imaginative period. Neptune is about alternative reality and fantasy, and has a tendency to romanticise and inflate. Neptune rules things we cannot touch; it is elusive, subtle, manipulative and malleable. Neptune does not bring interest in what rationality is, or what tomorrow may bring, but rather shows how we can see or experience things in a different way. Pluto on the other hand brings our attention to what is real, dangerous, sordid and what needs purging – destroying in order for renewal and spring forth. Pluto penetrates, is compulsive, ruthless and seeks to get to the heart and depth of any matter. Both planets can be overwhelming, superstitious, dark and frightening – they trigger the deep-rooted ills in the collective unconscious. Neptune wants to hold on but Pluto demands to let go. Positively, together they can both be healing but indicate a time where illusions can become real and where reality becomes indefinable.

The 1890s period is often referred to as the ‘naughty nineties’, or ‘the gay nineties’, where sexual morality was considered lax. It was named ‘the mauve decade’ due to the colour being used so frequently in fashion and was also considered the end of the ‘gilded age,’ a term coined by Mark Twain who referred to the period later as ‘glittering on the surface but corrupt underneath’, a very apt Neptune-Pluto description. Neptune and Pluto are both associated with areas of psychology and here we saw the development of the study of psychology, psychopathology and psychiatry. Pluto is about death and Neptune associated with escape and during this period Emile Durkheim embarked on one of the greatest pieces of social research ever conducted, which was on the subject of suicide. Magic (with an edge) was brought to the public as Harry Houdini started practising magic and risking his life from the year 1891. His work was about escaping (Neptune) death (Pluto) and brought gimmicks (Gemini) to the public attention. We saw the invention of film (where fantasy and reality became combined) and true to Neptune and Pluto’s penetrative and boundary-breaking characteristics we observed the invention of x-rays and the discovery of radioactivity. Literature such as Sherlock Holmes (mystery crime stories) became popular and it is interesting to note that Agatha Christie who was one of the most famous crime mystery writers was born with Neptune and Pluto conjunct in her tenth house. In the healing industry, organisations such as the Lister Institute of Preventative Medicine were formed (1891), which was the first medical research organisation to become a charity (Neptune) and a leader in laboratory aspects of preventative medicine.

The Neptune-Pluto conjunction saw a short but severe economic depression. This was called The Panic of 1893. Neptune and Pluto together can bring paranoia, Neptune representing heightened imagination and Pluto fear. However, after the short-lived panic, this period saw the introduction of a magnified form of capitalism never seen before. Although stock markets had existed for several centuries beforehand, this period saw the inflation of markets and the beginnings of an inflated cash society, the birth of giant multinational conglomerates. Continued on page 16
The Neptune-Pluto Conjunction:
Continued from page 15

erates, such as Coca Cola and GE and the booming industries of coal and oil to serve the major developing economies of railroads and automobiles. Neptune rules gases and liquids in all forms, Pluto is about digging, excavating and drilling under the ground or under the sea - the economic need for such resources during the conjunction stretched so far that oil became a major industry.

One man born of this era was Adolph Hitler, who was born with the conjunction unaspected. Here Hitler’s influence (along with others) saw the manipulation of the masses, the toxic (Neptune) penetration (Pluto) into the psyche of a collective that resulted in the rise of Nazism. Mussolini was born much earlier than the Neptune-Pluto conjunction but did have Saturn at 7° Gemini and his Moon at 9° Gemini, both triggered by the conjunction which occurred at 7° and 8° degrees. Neptune and Pluto could be said to represent fascism – Neptune wants to connect, bring people together, and Pluto is tyrannical – and here we see two men who lead the way through much of the early twentieth century in trying to create an idealistic totalitarian unified state and attempted to achieve this by eradicating what they thought was societal decay – through mass murder. Neptune-Pluto also reminds us of this historically significant mass murder - which was predominately organised as death (Pluto) by gas (Neptune).

A painting from this era depicts the Neptune-Pluto conjunction well is by Edvard Munch, and the original title in German is Der Schrei der Natur (‘The Scream of Nature’), now commonly known as The Scream, which was completed in 1893. In 2012 it became the most expensive painting ever to be sold at auction.

Munch painted four versions of The Scream and each was a variation of the original. The painting is set in Oslo, Norway, and is a depiction of human terror. Neptune is associated with nature, loss, fatigue and despair; Pluto with death and horror. Both Neptune and Pluto are associated with overwhelming dread and tragedy. Munch’s inspiration for the painting is described in his diary, which states:

Nice 22.01.1892, One evening I was walking along a path, the city was on one side and the fjord below. I felt tired and ill. I stopped and looked out over the fjord—the sun was setting, and the clouds turning blood red. I sensed a scream passing through nature; it seemed to me that I heard the scream. I painted this picture, painted the clouds as actual blood. The color shrieked. This became The Scream.

Peter Aspden recently wrote in the Financial Times that the painting; ‘…is one of the most disturbing images to come out of the history of modern art. It depicts a moment of psychic (Neptune) calamity (Pluto), of shattered nerves (Gemini). Munch intended, when he first created the image in 1893, to record “the modern life of the soul”; and what a fraught, anxiety-ridden vision it was’.

The Neptune-Pluto characteristics will give us the flavour of what is to follow, what will be marked in history. However, we often forget ‘how’ the cycle will unfold. What will dominate from this cycle, what will be permeated into the collective, and in hindsight what might this particular era be known for? The actual sign in which the conjunction occurs can answer these questions. The Neptune-Pluto conjunction in 1891 and 1892 occurred in the sign of Gemini. In the relatively short space of time, even before the first square between these planets has occurred (the first will occur 2061-65 between Gemini and Pisces) we have witnessed or lived through unprecedented major historical developments in all things Gemini. Note that The Scream is a representation of something that is communicated (or not) – which is not often or easily depicted in a painting.

In 1895, when Neptune and Pluto were only 3° separated from conjunction, H. G. Wells released the science fiction novel The Time Machine, inviting the reader to think about mobility (Gemini) and where space and time can shift around (Neptune). This piece of literature was made into two movies and inspired science fiction programmes such as Dr Who (a very Neptune-Pluto in Gemini name).

Another interesting piece of literature to come from this period is The Picture of Dorian Gray, written by Oscar Wilde in 1891. This is a story of a man trying to maintain his youth (Gemini) by trading (Gemini) his soul (Neptune) to the devil (Pluto). Here the duality of the personality is highlighted by a young Dorian who is curious (Gemini), commits horrific acts (Pluto), and has a hidden self locked in a painting in the attic (Neptune-Pluto). He finally learns that his only redemption (Neptune) is to kill the ugly part of himself, the aged and the scarred self (Pluto), only to find that the dual sides of himself
The Neptune-Pluto Conjunction:
Continued from page 16

commits horrific acts (Pluto), and has a hidden self locked in a painting in the attic (Neptune-Pluto). He finally learns that his only redemption (Neptune) is to kill the ugly part of himself, the aged and the scarred self (Pluto), only to find that the dual sides of himself are not split but actually both a part of the same soul – and ultimately through death will merge as one.

Industries ruled by Gemini provide one of the means through which the Neptune-Pluto is lived out, and since the conjunction in 1891 and 1892 we have watched areas attributed to this sign flourish. Developments in transportation, with the expansion of the railroads and the automobile industry, both which are associated with Gemini, have paved the way for an unprecedented way of life for humanity. Gemini is about being mobile and short distance travel is now a way of life. Advancements in roads and public transport have changed our way of life around the globe. The aeroplane industry has now transformed mobility and travel time to such an extent that flying around the world is often considered by many as ‘a commute’. Recently a global society, we will soon be a part of several global communities (Gemini).

Our economy operates through ‘trading’ in the stock markets – dependent on the speed of transactions, our payment systems are continuously developing through faster means, from cash, to cards and now digital. Our business is sealed through contracts, which can also be attributed to Gemini. Companies such as Coca Cola is a drink that is ‘bubbly’ (Gemini) and the name of the brand even represents the duality here. The development of film is shown to us through psychology and psychiatry is Neptune-Pluto but it is the study of the mind and our mental functions – basically, how we think and how our mind operates, which is fundamentally Gemini.

Gemini is about communications, information, media, data collection, neighbourhoods, export-import and education. Communications such as the invention of the telephone and the setting up of the telephone companies in the 1890s spearheaded the way for communications to expand across the globe (note that Alexander Graham Bell had his Ascendant and MC ruler, Jupiter, at 8° of Gemini, the same degree as the Neptune-Pluto conjunction).

In the 120 years since the conjunction our interaction with each other through electronic means and social networking is growing exponentially. These forms of communication has redefined the boundaries of communities as so many form and grow each day on the internet. We are living through an ‘information age’, all of which can be attributed to the greatest outer planetary cycle of Neptune and Pluto which were last conjunct in the sign of Gemini. The traits associated with this sign will describe the areas of how deep cultural changes take place. One of the biggest concerns we face with such an information age is that we need to learn how to filter the junk from the relevant, valid and valuable information, something that Gemini is not always equipped to do.

The conjunction of Neptune and Pluto in Gemini occurred in 1891 and 1892, yet the cycle has only started to unfold. What is relevant to us right now is to also observe other major cycles, particularly Uranus and Pluto, and how they make their own journey against the backdrop of this larger cycle. Uranus and Pluto made their last conjunction in Virgo in the 1965 and 1966 so we live in very Mercurial times! Neptune and Pluto make a series of sextiles for 94 years (1941-2035) and we are still in the middle of these. Neptune and Pluto have both in recent years made an ingress into Pisces and Capricorn, and a sextile has not occurred in the first decans of these signs for over 3,000 years. Harvey describes these sextiles as ‘marking a period when real ideas and ideals can be increasingly set to work in the world’. It is an exciting period watching the recent ingresses of outer planets into new signs and the major aspects that are about to occur. One wonders how they might be played out – how they will mark history and in what context to the larger backdrop of the cycle of Neptune and Pluto.

Wendy Stacy was born in the southernmost city of New Zealand, Invercargill. Of both Maori and English descent.
She began her studies with the Christchurch School of Astrological Studies in 1987.
In 1998 Wendy studied with the Faculty of Astrological Studies for two years and then transferred schools and graduated from the London School of Astrology, where she has been teaching since 2003.
Wendy writes a regular feature for students in the Astrological Journal. Other articles have been published in the UK, the US and have been translated for European publications. She lectures globally on psychological, mundane, research and financial astrology.

In June 2007 she became the principal of The Mayo School of Astrology, a prestigious UK based online and correspondence/distant learning astrology school (founded in 1973 by Jeff Mayo) which has graduates and students from around the globe.