Greetings OPA!

Sending greetings from the Mediterranean shores following our incredible conference and journey to modern and ancient Greece. This was a real voyage through time, connecting with the ancestral roots of astrology, and yet taking astrology to the future. The highlight of this experience has been for me to connect OPA with the astrology communities of the area, notably Greece, Turkey, and Serbia and Israel. Speakers truly delivered and the OPA spirit was ever strong. We look forward to strengthening our European connections and stimulate more fruitful exchanges. Special thanks to Roy Gillett, Christos Archos, Angela Tiki, and Oner Doser for being of tremendous help in making the conference successful.

Onward, we are putting the final touches on OPA’s upcoming events – the OPA 2017 Retreat is scheduled for October 19-23, 2017. Our current choice of location in Zion Park in Utah, but this is yet to be confirmed. Stay tuned for more details about this promising event.

OPA is also planning to organize a Peer Group Work session at the 2017 NCGR conference in Baltimore (February 2017) - those of you who are interested to participate in another session toward your certification, stay tuned!

OPA is also working in close collaboration with the New Paradigm Community who are organizing a conference in Costa Rica next May 2017: Astrology Rising – Co-Creating the Future. I’m delighted to announce that OPA members are eligible for a $100 discount on the conference package! Among the speakers, OPA members Maurice Fernandez, Sol Jonassen, Kaypacha, Christina Caudill, and Timothy Halloran.

This issue: Our theme for this issue also combines ancestral knowledge with future knowledge of astrology, with a combined focus on Fixed Stars and newly discovered Dwarf Planets. We have a wealth of articles on these subjects, with pioneering insights, and hope you enjoy this issue!

Spread the OPA love and share this issue with more Astro friends!

With blessings on this solstice and Mars going forward!

Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA

Peaceful blessings.

OPA: Our theme for the month, Fixed stars, has been studied for many centuries by numerous astrology cultures. We are presenting here a wonderful collection of articles, reviewing different perspectives.

The second theme for this issue, Dwarf planets, our newcomers in the astrology lexicon, promise to create a significant impact on the future of astrology.

On the following pages astrologers share their perspectives . . .
stellar constellations or stellar clusters represent the web of mysterious threads that create our collective destiny, as well as the individual’s fate. This foundation is made up of primordial myths incorporated within the being or essence of the collective unconscious, therefore representing the fundamental codes of humanity. No matter how incredible it might seem at first, myths are the only authentic history of humanity. All other histories, events or destinies – individual or collective – always occur in concordance with these fundamental codes.

In the basic nature of every fixed star lives a part of the myth of the constellation to which this star belongs. Thus it is necessary to understand the nature of the myth of every constellation, and only then take into consideration the specific influence of the star.

Although all the stars and constellations both create and exist within every horoscope, only those stars (and along with them the constellations) that are “touched” by planets or cusps of houses are “awakened” and put into effect in an individual’s life, through the nature of the planet or house involved. People unconsciously carry within themselves activated myths (or parts of myths) and their destinies as defined by the story of the constellation, whereas all the other planetary influences are just pawns in the game, manifesting the primary need of the myth.

Therefore, when it comes to interpreting a star’s influence on a planet, it is very important to estimate if that “stellar-planetary” combination will transmit the entire myth, or just part of it. This influence depends on whether the planet is a good transmitter for the constellation to which the star belongs. So, if the constellation is of a Venusian nature, then Venus will certainly be the best transmitter, and will easily transmit the whole myth. Whereas if that planet is Mars, which is not primarily connected to that constellation, it will transmit only the part of the myth to which it is particularly related.

This time Mars started its retrograde motion at the 8° 54’ of Sagittarius which is very close to the Royal Star of Antares, even by declination! More than that, Antares represents the “Heart of the Scorpio”. Its planetary nature is very Martian which makes this retrograde Mars period a powerful one. Let’s see the nature of this star.

**Antares - The Watcher of the West**

Antares entered 10° Sagittarius 00’ this year! The declination of the star is 26° S 26’ which is close to the current Mars declination, emphasizing the activation of the star.

Its traditional nature is Mars-Jupiter. Its name derives from the word Anti – Ares, which means something like, *The Rival of Mars*. This is one of the four royal stars of ancient Persia, known as *The Watcher of the West*.

*General influence of the star:* Fearlessness and readiness for action.

It makes a person very successful, especially in the West or in something that is related to the West.

In any affliction (including, in this case, an affliction of Mars), it can cause sudden, unexpected events and potential accidents.

Traditionally, Antares is of a violent nature and considered to be responsible for violent deaths, either in battle or by the process of law.

**WINSTON CHURCHILL, November 30. 1874. 01:30 GMT, Woodstock, England**

Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II, had the Sun (07° Sagittarius 43’) on Antares (at the moment of his birth at 08° Sagittarius 01’) and he represented a special *Watcher of the West*, which this star traditionally represents. This star has a very dominant position in his chart, which is also shown by the condition of its dispositor (Jupiter) which is conjunct Mars. These two planets describe the nature of the star Antares! In addition to everything else, Jupiter is placed on the star Spica, a first magnitude star giving success in affairs of state. Mars (which is conjunct Jupiter) is placed on the star Seginus (from the constellation Bootes), which is typical for politicians, therefore this combination
describes one of the major figures of his time, who represented the great Antares in the astral sky in the form of a politician, statesman and military strategist.

**Cultivated Land or Heart of the Serpent**

At the end of June, Mars will stop again – this time to go direct! It’s going to happen very close to two fixed stars. First is Agena from Centaurus constellation, symbolically called the Ground or cultivated land or soil.

The other star that is close to this one and has some Martian nature is Unukalhai from the Serpent, known as the Heart of the Serpent.

Agena is right now on 24° Scorpio 02', and Mars will turn direct on 23º Scorpio 03'. The declination of this star is southern, but it is very high (60° S 22'). The traditional nature of the star is Venus-Jupiter, so Mars is not really the best transmitter of it.

However, let’s look at this star’s nature. It is said that Agena gives significant friendships and good social position, all in the symbols of the planet in conjunction with this star.

If well-placed, it could indicate going into the field of research, and even teaching that on the nature of the planet which is in conjunction with it (and its dispositor as well). Any affliction (its position, malefic aspects or dispositor) indicates an injury, wound, sacrifice or in other words – the native’s weak point.

**ABDUL AL BIRUNI, September 09, 973. 05:05 LMT, Kath, Uzbekistan**

Al Biruni is a great name of medieval Islamic astrology. He was the court astrologer in service to one of the greatest Muslim rulers of that period, the sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi. His Moon, the ruler of the 11th House (astronomy), is placed in the 3rd House (thinking) in conjunction with Uranus (another indicator of astrology) and is on the star Agena (at 09° Scorpio 32'). It indicates significant friendships and a good social position through the symbol of the planet which it conjoins. Since the Moon is the ruler of the 11th House in conjunction with Uranus, it is obvious that this position made him earn his astrological skills. Agena also indicates a field of research which is symbolically associated with that planet, therefore it is also confirmed here that its nature is about astrology, especially because everything is related to the 3rd House (learning).

**The Heart of the Serpent**

The other star that is going to be activated, maybe even stronger than Agena, is Unukalhai. This star is now at 22° Scorpio 19', even closer to the Mars station than Agena. This star similar to Mars because its nature is of Mars-Saturn. **General influence of the star:**

Traditionally, it indicates a danger of poisoning, violence and also a danger of snakes. It is essential that the person represented by the planet placed on this star has something exceptional in himself and in his nervous system to be able to put someone’s life in danger, as well as to heal them. It is said to give wisdom and knowledge, therefore if this is given to the right person (if it is well-placed in their chart, as well as its dispositor, and if Neptune, Mars and Saturn are also well-placed) then an exceptional healing transformation is possible. It is of great significance for doctors, surgeons, and all other healers as well. Generally, all those who are in service to others by healing or teaching according to their observations could only receive good fortune from Unukalhai. If afflicted, this star could cause deceit, lies and treason, and it could also cause chronic illnesses which are quite difficult to diagnose. Thus, perfidy, conspiracies, deceit, forgery, poisoning, contagion, suffocation, and violence are its main negative manifestations. There is a tendency to be involved in politics.

There is another significant association with this star. It is the symbol of a woman, and it is also the symbol of a multitude of women in general. Therefore, if a woman is described then she is a seductress, lover, passionate but most frequently an adulteress with a certain power over men (usually it is power of an erotic nature). It also describes

**IMSIRAGIC**

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other women, usually those whose “love” could be paid for or bought. A woman’s love and passion are mixed here in the form of a dangerous dance, which depends only on the rest of the female factors in one’s horoscope, like Neptune along with everything else.

AKBAR THE GREAT. December 03, 1542. 00:30 LMT, Umarkot (India/Pakistan)

Akbar the Great is one of the greatest kings (rajas), who is also well known, among many other things, for his enormous harem of 5,000 women (of course, besides his wife and three children). A harem, as a place for fun and love, is represented by the 5th House, and also by the planet Neptune. Such an enormous harem as this one must have been noticeably represented in his horoscope. The ruler of his 5th House is Saturn, which is placed on the star Unukalhai. At that time, all fixed stars were placed 6° 22’ backwards from their current positions (or more precisely, from their positions on January 1, 2000). At the moment of his birth, Unukalhai was at 15° Scorpio 43’, in conjunction with Saturn (at 14° Scorpio 50’), and both are in conjunction with Venus. Since one of the descriptions of Unukalhai (particularly if it is associated with a symbol of the 5th house) is a multitude of women, especially in a sexual sense – and along with the position of Venus at this same degree – the illustration of a great harem becomes obvious.

Certainly, we can raise the question of, “Why is a harem represented by the conjunction between Saturn and Venus on Unukalhai, and not, for example, by Jupiter and Venus placed on the same star, which would be much closer to the symbolism of a joyful picture of a large number of women, whose moral is in doubt?

The answer is in the fact that the harem was not “an institution willingly gathered by women.” Instead, they had to (Saturn) be involved in the harem if they were chosen by the sultan or raja. It is interesting that probably because of that, even now, the entire area of the Middle East and India carry the typical mark (seal) in the collective unconsciousness expressed in the symbol of the Venus and Saturn conjunction!

Finally, in order to have such an enormous harem (which was really enormous in those times as well, even for one raja), one must have a particular inclination toward a lot of women. His fascination with women could obviously be seen in the conjunction of his Ascendant (himself) with Zavijava (which gives a remarkable fascination with women and an inclination towards them). In those times, Zavijava was placed at 20° Virgo 48’ not only in conjunction with his Ascendant, but also forming an occultation with it, emphasizing even more the influence of this star upon him.

The extremely powerful passion of this king is seen in the position of his Mars

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**Unukalhai**

15° 43’ at that time!
and Pluto in the 5th House, forming a square to that conjunction of Venus and Saturn. Pluto is the most concrete disposer of Venus and Saturn in Scorpio and it forms an exact square to them. On the other hand, his wife is represented by Neptune (which is placed in the 8th House) and Jupiter (in Libra), which are in opposition, and their dispositors form the already described dangerous square. This leads us to the idea that his wife could have accepted “his amusement” only to a certain degree, and only by that part where she is represented by Jupiter in Libra but not as Neptune in the 8th House (which is already subconsciously working on his death). The position of that Neptune in the constellations is significant since it is placed on the star Kurdah (then at 17° Aries 51’, just a few minutes of arc from Neptune) which is in the constellation of Cepheus (The Ethiopian King) and it represents his left arm. Since in this story there is also a king (even though he is not the king of Ethiopia, but of India) this already becomes personally related to him – or even more to her – his Neptune, the ruler of the 7th House. It is known that the Ethiopian king Cepheus had serious problems caused by his wife (Cassiopeia). In this case, Neptune is the representative of Akbar’s wife and it is placed on the star representing the left arm of Cepheus, which is traditionally the female side – in combination with the 8th House, it becomes obvious that his wife, because of her passion/lust (dispositors – Venus square Mars), will be the cause of his death! King Akbar died on October 16, 1605. His death remains a mystery (Neptune on the cusp of the 8th House), but it is believed that he was poisoned. There is no doubt about it, because it is known that that kind of death is brought by Neptune in the 8th House. Certainly, the star Unukalhai itself in his horoscope represents a typical energy of poisoning (at first “poisoning” as the result of his passion getting out of control, and afterwards a literal poisoning). It only takes looking at his secondary progressed chart for October 16, 1605 and there is the most direct answer:

Secondary progressed chart of the king Akbar for October 16, 1605.

His secondary progressed Ascendant reached Unukalhai. The star which is most well-known for poisons, conspiracies and treasons. The secondary progressed Sun (in his natal chart it is the ruler of the 12th House and therefore represents poisons as well) forms an exact conjunction with natal Pluto and an exact square to natal planets placed on Unukalhai! It is certainly sufficient to make the confirmation in this “historical detective work” that the cause of death was poisoning, and to confirm that the mastermind behind everything was his wife, and finally to learn the lesson that he who wants to rule serpents, must first and foremost control the serpent within himself, his own kundalini or sexual energy in order not to be controlled by that serpent.

Stars – the framework of mythological fate

The myth given by a constellation is the basic framework of reality and the deeply encoded fate that the native bears within himself on his path toward realizing the myth or part of it. The planets complete that illustration, giving tangible solutions and directives to the mythological possibility. In fact, through the planetary influence, the myth could also be completed in this lifetime in a different way than it was in the story – a person could live just a part of one myth, and another part of that person’s life is carried by some other mythological fate.

Aleksandar Imsiragic (ISAR CAP) is ISAR Education Director and founder of the Johannes Kepler Astrological Institute in Belgrade, Serbia.

He has been an astrologer for more than 25 years, teaches meditation, has written eleven astrological books, and has organized annual International Astrological Conferences in Belgrade since 2001.

His work is based on a synthesis of Western and Eastern traditions of knowledge, and his special interests are in the fields of fixed stars, karmic astrology, and astro-healing.

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Pillars of Destiny

The Fixed Stars in Astrology

by Aleksandar Imsiragic

Pillars of Destiny is a unique book about the influence of the fixed stars based on the constellations’ mythological code.

The book describes the influences of 291 stars from the empirical or the traditional point of view, as well as giving the mythological code of any given constellation. Moreover, special attention is paid to some 54 constellations, which are thoroughly analyzed.

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Separate chapter ‘Anatomy of Constellations’ presents symbolic relationship between stars and body parts or images that they represent within constellations.

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The Fixed Stars of Ancient Egypt

by Victoria Naumann Smoot

The history of astronomy/astrology is based on some significant Fixed Stars that played prominent roles in Ancient Egypt. A “Great Divide” remains between what Egyptians were doing astrologically and what we know about what they were doing. The simple reason for this was the “Silence” of centuries when Hieroglyphics were undeciphered and undecipherable. In the meanwhile, records from Greece and Rome and their astrologers have been passed down unhindered by languages lost in obscurity. With each published translation, the lights turn on these ancient places and illuminate these ancient minds, their knowledge and the “classical” and Hellenistic astrologers’ practice. The Rosetta Stone, discovered by Napoleon’s army, finally made possible the translation of Egyptian writings to begin in the 1800s, yet the job of “catch up” is still going on. Now, recent research opens up another treasure – the actual “horoscop ic” astrology from ancient Egypt.

Were the ancient Egyptians Astrologers? It seems that the astrology community holds that Western Astrology started to be practiced in Babylonia, which ran concurrently with the later dynasties of Egypt and that Egypt in those days only “learned” the astrology from the Greeks. After all, the word Horoscope comes from the Greek “Horoskop.” I might have been among those who accepted all that, but for what I have learned about the sophistication of the Cosmology of Egypt, more ancient than Greece, and the Sacred Geometry that started there. Pythagoras brought this knowledge back to Greece after 22 years of temple study in Egypt. The Egyptian sages were masters of the calendar, having THREE of them! They had a calendar for the cycle of the Sun, and another one determined by the cycles of the Moon. Their premier and most accurate was the Sothic Calendar, commencing with the rising of the Fixed Star Sirius (Sothis), the brightest star, before the Sun on their New Year’s Day, around July 17 or 18, when the First Month of the Nile River’s flooding began. Upon the roof of the Temple of Hathor, dedicated to Isis, at Dendera, Egypt, priests celebrated the sighting of the heliacal rise of Sirius. Sirius is a binary star and a sister to our Sun. In our Galaxy it almost precisely measures a “complementary” cycle our year of 365 ¼ days plus 11 minutes and 14 seconds.¹

Fixed Star Sirius – Mother Isis, wife of Osiris (Orion). The use of a circular chart, as exemplified by the grand and enigmatic Dendera Zodiac on the ceiling of the Temple of Hathor, was not used until the Ptolemaic Dynasties were established after 22 years of temple study in Egypt. The Egyptian sages were masters of the Calendar in “Shifting Milestones of Natural Astronomy” by astronomers Lauri Jetsu and Sebastian Porceddu published the findings of their research of a papyrus called the Cairo Calendar in “Shifting Milestones of Natural Sciences: The Ancient Egyptian Discovery of Algol’s Period Confirmed” in an open access, peer reviewed on-line journal PLOS.

The ancient Egyptians used star charts for the building of a temple or for a ruler or nobleman of the realm. I hadn’t heard much about the use of horoscopes for the common people to follow – until now.

The Pointer, Navel of the World, Gate of Ma’at (winged goddess representing Egypt’s Divine governing principle of truth, balance, order, harmony, law, morality, and justice), and the Vulture-star, when it marked the pole — this was 12,000 to 11,000 B.C. (Hmmm!) The British astronomer Sir Norman Lockyer in Dawn of Astronomy also confirmed that Vega was the orientation point of some of the temples at Dendera long before the time when Draco and Ursa Major were so used, around 7000 B.C., well before the time of the Greco-Roman era in Egypt.

A pole star is truly fixed. The other stars rotate around it, making it an excellent fixed point from which to draw measurements for navigation of deserts and seas. Names for Vega included The Pathway, The Pointer, Navel of the World, Gate of Heaven, Hub of the Cosmos, Load Star, Steering Star, Ship Star, and Stella Maris (Star of the Sea). For the last 1000 years, the pole star is Fixed Star Polaris, brightest star in the constellation Ursa Minor – The Little Bear – found at the end of its tail. It is moving into nearly exact alignment with our North Pole at a declination of 89° 15’ 51” -- not yet exactly above the North Pole but 44’ 9", only off by about 3/4 of a degree.

Interestingly, stars like Sirius were not designated in Egypt as “Fixed Stars.” Rather, the planets were called the “Wandering Stars,” as every light in the sky was considered a star. If any star could by rights be called “fixed” it should be the star that “fixed” the commencement of Nature’s annual cycle of seasons each year – Sirius. The ancient Egyptians were coshomists and included the Sun, Moon, planets and stars in their star maps and charts. They considered the Nile River to be the Earth’s correspondent below to the Milky Way above.

The ancient Egyptians used star charts for the building of a temple or for a ruler or nobleman of the realm. I hadn’t heard much about the use of horoscopes for the common people to follow — until now. After Alexander the Great came to Egypt in 322 BC, and then assimilated into Egyptian Pharaonic tradition. Egyptians began using birth maps and charts in about the 5th century BC.

As has been discovered and acknowledged by both traditional and alternative science, star alignments are part and parcel of the design and structure of the Great Pyramid as well as myriad of temples throughout Egypt. The circumpolar stars are visible from the bottom of the descending shaft of the Great Pyramid – the part of the sky that is truly “fixed” so that the other stars rotate around it. At the time reckoned by most Egyptologists for the building of the GP (3,000 BC), that pole star was Draco in the Constellation of Draconis. Robert Hewitt Brown, author of Stellar Theology and Masonic Astronomy, tells of when the Fixed Star Vega was Ma’at, the brightest star in the Milky Way above.
ONE, in December 2015. According to Porceddu, “The bright Eye of Horus meant it is raging and a threat to mankind.”

They applied statistical analysis to the calendars of “lucky” and “unlucky” days recorded on the papyrus, matching them to the 2,867-day cycle of Algol, a binary eclipsing star, along with the phases of the Moon. The blinking of Algol was the winking of the Eye of Horus, since it fluctuated in brightness when visible from Earth. It represented for them the activities of Horus (called Heru in the text), the Falcon headed son of Isis and Osiris and equivalent to the “Redeemer” and avenger of his father against his brother Set. Egypt’s foremost myth about Horus, a son born by magical conception to Isis after his father Osiris death and dismemberment at the hands of Set, predates by a millennium the Greek myth of Perseus. It allowed for Algol to stand for a full range of most fortunate to most unfortunate in a spectrum of fate for earthly life corresponding to the dramatic events in the stories of the Egyptian pantheon. Amulets of the Eye of Horus were considered to be a protection against evil and were wrapped into mummies for protection even after death.

**Fixed Star Algol** is considered the “Demon Star” of Western Astrology representing the winking eye of the Head of Medusa in the arm of Perseus whose name was given to its constellation by the Hellenistic astrologers. It is known since those times as a harbinger of the greatest misfortune and experiences of “losing one’s head”, literally and figuratively. Excellent material on these traditional interpretations of Algol can be found in the article Medusa’s Head by Diane Rosenberg, an excellent source on fixed stars, at [http://ye-stars.com/WP/medusas-head](http://ye-stars.com/WP/medusas-head) and Nick Kollestrom’s The Horror-Scope of Algol at [www.skyscript.co.uk/algol.html](http://www.skyscript.co.uk/algol.html)

This present day research shows that the Egyptians were using two significant periods: 29.6 days for the cycle of the Moon, and 2.850 days that represented, at the time, almost exactly the cycle of Algol for when the dimmer star partially covered the brighter star. Today that eclipsing cycle of Algol runs 2,867 days.

The eclipses last about ten hours as discovered by British astronomer, John Goodricke in 1783. So, the first observation of Algol by the Egyptians as demonstrated in the “Cairo Calendar” was made approximately 3000 years earlier than previously thought!

In the Cairo Calendar, each day’s “horoscope” marks religious feasts, mythological stories, forecasts and warnings for the people of Egypt. The brightest phases of both Algol and the Moon matched up to determine the most favorable days.

These forecasts are fascinating and reveal glimpses of the ancient Egyptians’ concerns and how they dealt with fate affecting their daily activities. We get a glimpse into the lives and habits of the ancient Egyptian people. They took the principle of “as above, so below” seriously for everything. Life was to be lived within nature, and nature included everything they could see at night. The lives of the gods and the lives of the humans were always connected so the “horoscope” included what the gods were doing, as well. When you think about it, the religious rituals and celebrations of religion, such as in Christianity, are based on key events in the lives of those worshiped, such as Christ. Not that different.

The Cairo Calendar papyrus has been translated with omissions where there were holes in the papyrus and, thus, breaks in the text. The entry of each day is prefaced by three Hieroglyphics that indicate either good or bad luck, with the character often derived from events of mythology, followed by the recommendations for the day’s activities or an omen.

This is a forecast for the year (somewhere between 1244 – 1163 BC) beginning on about the 17th of July with the rising of Sirius just prior to the Sun as observed from the roof of the temple of Dendera, called Akhet. It is the first month of the year and of the season of Inundation, or flooding of the Nile. Day 11 is pretty interesting. It’s my favorite.

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**Season: Akhet (Inundation)**

1. **1st Month of Akhet: Tekhy**
   - **First Day of the Year - Very favorable.** It is the day of the birth of Ra-Horakhty [Horus of the two horizons]. The Nile begins to rise. All the Gods and people celebrate.
   - **Very favorable** It is the day the Ennead [cadre of the nine most influential gods] go before Ra. If you see anything on this day, it will be good.
   - **Mostly favorable** Anyone born on this day will die by a crocodile.
   - **Mostly favorable** The Gods go in a contrary wind. Do not navigate a boat today. Do not do anything on this day.
   - **Very favorable** The Gods are peaceful in heaven, navigating the Great Barque. If you see anything on this day, it will be good.

2. **Mostly adverse** Anyone born on this day will die by a bull. ...

3. **Very favorable** It is the day of the Welcoming of the Rising of the River and of offering to the
Fixed Stars

SMOOTH

Gods. If you see anything on this day, it will be good.

8. Mostly favorable
It is the day Ra goes forth ... (break) Do not go out on night on this day.

9. Very favorable
It is the day of pacifying the hearts of those on the Horizon in front of His Majesty, Ra.

10. Very favorable
It is the day of going forth of Hedj-Hotep [Goddess of weaving]. All is festivity.

11. Very adverse
It is the day of the going forth of the Great Flame. [The Fire-spitting Cobra Goddess].

12. Very adverse
It is the day anyone disobeying Ra will fall down at once. Do not go out today. Wait till Ra sets in his horizon.

13. Mostly adverse
It is the day of the killing of Meret Shemat [Goddess of music]. Anyone born on this day will die of blindness.

14. ... (break) ... (break)
Make offerings to the Gods of your city.

15. Mostly adverse
It is the day of the Rage of Set Battling Heru [Horus]. Do not go in a boat on this day.

16. Very adverse
... (break) Anyone born on this day will die of a crocodile.

17. Very adverse
It is the day the offering to Sobek [crocodile-headed god ready to consume unbalanced souls after death] was taken away. Do not eat any mehyet-fish today.

18. Very favorable
It is the day Heru was judged greater than his brother Set. If you see anything on this day, it will be good.

19. Very favorable
The Ennead is in festivity in front of Ra, a happy day in heaven. Burn incense.

20. Very adverse
It is a day the great ones - the followers of Set and Heru - are in conflict. Do not do any work on this day.

21. Very favorable
... (break) Make offerings to the followers of Ra. Do not kill a bull or even let it cross your path. It is a day to be cautious of bulls.

22. Very adverse
It is a day Ra swallows all the Gods. When they move about he kills them and vomits them out into the water. Their bodies turn to fish and their souls to birds. Do not eat fish today. Do not warm oil. Do not eat birds.

23. Very adverse
It is the day of causing the heart of the enemy of Ra to suffer. Anyone born on this day will not live. Do not listen to singing or watch dancing on this day.

24. Very favorable
The God Ra sails peacefully with a favorable wind. Anyone born this day will die honored in old age.

25. Mostly favorable
It is the day of the going forth of Sekhmet [Lionness-headed goddess daughter of Ra] to the eastern district and the repelling of the confederates of Set. Do not go out of your home or on any road at night.

26. Very adverse
It is the day of Heru fighting with Set. Do not do anything today.

27. Very favorable
It is the day of peace between Heru and Set. Make a holiday today. Do not killanky-reptile.

28. Very favorable
The Gods are happy when they see the children of Nut [Heru and Set]. If you see anything on this day, it will be good.

29. Mostly favorable
... (break) Do not kindle fire in the house today. Do not burn incense. Do not go out at night.

30. Last Day of the Month.
Very favorable
House of Ra, House of Asar, House of Heru. If you see anything on this day, it will be good. 3

Implications

The use of a Fixed Star, which is virtually stationary in the sky, and the Moon, in constant movement and phase change, is interesting for Egypt - one of the longest lasting and stably civilizations. They used fixed stars to fix on the stellar calendar (Sirius), to fix on the center of a rotating sky as a pole star (precessing from Vega to Draco to Polaris), and to fix on the orientations of their temples. Their traditions and rituals were long standing and pervasive throughout changes in government and invasions from foreigners spanning over 3000 years. Even in the latest years, invaders came to Egypt to be absorbed into and instructed by its mysteries. Alexander the Great eagerly joined in and established the Ptolemaic dynasties of pharaohs that lasted until Cleopatra. The horoscopic calendars of these master timekeepers were yet another guide and control for the people. They understood that in nature, the small changes of fortune and tragedy move quickly causing Chaos, but the Divine Order of nature as Ma’at is long lasting. They accepted both. Both were inevitable in nature ... the interplay of Chaos (mispfortune and change) and Ma’at (order, balance and harmony) and the basis of all Egyptian teachings -- represented and told on the Cairo Calendar papyrus. By following the blinking Algol and the Moon, the calendar seeks to track the ups and downs, the day-to-day fates and struggles of the gods (particularly Horus) and of the ordinary people of Egypt.

Resources:


Additional Reading:

Books:

Articles:
• Nick Kolstrom. The Horror-Scope of Algol at www.skyscript.co.uk/algol.html
• Diane Rosenberg. Medusa’s Head, at http://ye-stars.com/MP/medusas-head

Contact Victoria at vpeltz@gmail.com
Fixed Stars

Making Amends with Medusa

by Dawn Glinski

The fixed star Algol, which is part of the constellation Perseus, and located at 26° in the sign of Taurus, is known as the demon star or Medusa’s head. For centuries it has been recognized for being the most evil star out there. Algol is associated with pain, suffering, violence, difficult and emotionally intense experiences, beheadings, accidents to the head, losing one’s head (mentally) and has been historically linked with murderous acts, disastrous events, and anything horrific. People are advised to be cautious when personal planets are transiting over Algol, and when natal planets are with in close proximity to her, (conjunction) it is viewed to be an unlucky and troublesome placement.

There are many folks out there who, when discovering that they have a personal planet conjunct this fixed star get what I refer to as Algol anxiety. After learning of this placement, panic sets in, people instantly think that they’re doomed and find themselves wondering, “What’s going to happen? Or “how will I lose my head??” Learning about this so called “unfortunate “placement doesn’t have to be an unpleasant experience; in fact, there could be a life altering lesson that needs to be absorbed, that when mastered, can actually improve your life in ways that weren’t possible without her presence.

Let’s first start by acknowledging the stigmata of this supposed malefic star. Just as every planet has positive and negative manifestations, the stars, depending on their planetary conjunctions, have a similar light and dark as well. To demonstrate this, let’s take Saturn for instance; when describing the positive manifestations of this planet, what are the first words that come to your mind? Is it commitment, structure, maybe discipline? Whatever the words, most likely it didn’t take much time to think of them. Now let’s take a moment and try the same exercise with Algol... coming up with those positive words poses more of a challenge, doesn’t it?

I think that as students of astrology, (and lovers of astrology), we need to be cognizant of the negative implications that we associate with such bad boy stars like Algol, who, over the years, have upheld a notorious reputation for representing all things foreboding and evil. While there’s no denying the negative manifestations of Algol and the horrendous things that can stem from it, we need to give this star its fair due here. We’ve heard all about its dark, but what about its light?

Many of us, particularly those who are newer to astrology, don’t realize what Algol can offer in terms of benefits. If we can start to make a conscious effort to think about Medusa in a more productive way, the answers are easier to come by. Trying to view her in a more positive light can free us from the blockage that we’ve created when dealing with her. This lady has important things to say, yet when we don’t listen, we wonder how and why things went awry in the first place. “Blame it on Medusa, for she’s the Goddess of undesirable outcomes!” I can’t speak for others, but simply speaking for myself, I’m not comfortable with this mode of thinking.

Having a positive aspect involving Algol in the natal chart is still not enough to put us at ease. The likelihood of it is comparable to having a friendship with the famed criminal Charles Manson. Given the choice, I’d rather be his friend than his enemy, but ultimately, neither one would make me feel good. I’d prefer to avoid all contact with him if possible, and I think that’s how most of us feel about Algol. We don’t want any planets near it for fear that no good could come of it either way.

No matter what planet she sits next to, one shouldn’t hyperventilate about the nature of the relationship. The point to consider is that Medusa is summoning you to rise to the challenge, respond to the call of action, and make a positive change that will improve your circumstances or the circumstances of those around you. Knowing the true essence of Medusa’s energy can allow us to experience the importance of her presence in our chart. Her location shows us how to deal with extremely difficult situations in life without losing our heads.

She teaches us to stand on our own two feet, to stick up for ourselves, to fight for the underdog, and to speak out when injustice is concerned. She is deliberately paired with specific planets for a reason. If she happens to be conjunct one of your planets, consider yourself an ambassador for the cause. Look for what, (planet) how, (sign) and where (house) you are being called upon to make a difference. To tap into the positive energy of this star you can start by asking yourself the following: What am I passionate about? What do I feel needs to be preserved or protected? What am I an advocate for? Keep in mind, Algol is a FIXED star in the sign of Taurus so she is determined to make a difference somehow, somewhere in your world. With Taurus ruling the throat, her placement will urge you to speak up when something isn’t right.
Three words that I associate with Algol are protection, preservation, and prevention. Algol instills a need to protect and preserve things that are sacred and important; physical structures, the physical body, certain values, traditions, and beliefs, and because her placement is so strongly linked with advocacy, it can manifest a strong desire in the native to go above and beyond to prevent someone or something from being victimized.

An Algol/Jupiter native could be someone who fights to get prayer back into schools, while an Algol/Saturn native fights to prevent a historical building from being torn down. An Algol/Mars native could be a self-defense teacher, (showing others how to fight for themselves), while somewhere out there an Algol/Moon individual is involved in establishing or changing parental rights. Algol brings out the natural born fighter in people. Her relentless passion combined with the grace of Venus gives us the power to take charge and face problems head-on without fear. She makes us comfortable with the uncomfortable.

Algol in an Earth sign likes to get results. She says “don’t tell me what you’re going to do, DO it!” The rage that she is most notably associated with, when released, can produce great change. She is a great strategist, both cunning and creative. Donald Trump has Algol conjunct his MC – I found this to be most apparent during his show The Apprentice, where he would scream “your fired” at those he felt weren’t pulling their own weight; he’s an advocate for those with a strong work ethic, and his anger is his strength. The political leader and Lord Protector of England, Oliver Cromwell, had Algol conjunct Mercury. He was known for his fierce determination and outspoken nature; his main concern was that his country was ruled fairly. Former president John Fitzgerald Kennedy had Algol conjunct Jupiter. He fought for desegregation within schools, pushed for the civil rights legislation, and instilled a belief system in Americans with the tagline “It’s not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” Folk singer Bob Dylan has Algol conjunct Uranus. He was heavily involved with the Civil Rights Movement and rebelled against the establishment through his music. I can go on and list other well-known people with Algol conjunctions who have been equally productive, but the point I wanted to make is this: There is no short cut to personal growth. If the process was easy, then we wouldn’t refer to it as growing pains, but it does tell us something about our character, and character is built upon struggle. Algol can indicate where we may struggle in life, but if we can embrace the messages that Medusa has for us, we can overcome the struggle, and emerge with a new sense of self, dignity, and strength, that we didn’t realize we had.

References:
1. The Horror-Scope of Algol – Nick Kollerstrom – Skyscript
2. Algol Star – The Blinking Demon – Astrology King
3. Fixed Star Algol – Medusa’s head – Darkstarastrology

Dawn Glinski has been a lover of astrology since the age of 9. She attended Buffalo State college where she obtained a BA in Broadcasting, and currently attends Kepler college, where she’ll graduate in 2017 with a diploma in astrological studies that will also accompany an automatic NCGR level 2 certification. She is passionate about educating children on astrology and is presently working on a children’s book. She resides in Lockport NY. Email: dawn.m.glinski@gmail.com.
Fixed Stars

Shipwreck of BATEN KAITOS

by Barış İlhan

In 2003 in an astrology conference I met Diana Rosenberg, “the leading authority on Fixed Stars” (as said by Robert Hand). When she learned my birthdate, she said “Baten Kaitos”. I asked “What is Baten Kaitos?” She replied, “The fixed star on your Sun. It is on my Sun too!” I asked her what it means, she said, “Shipwrecks”.

To tell you the truth, it didn’t make any sense, so I left the subject there. Once in a while, I remembered her words, but I didn’t investigate the meaning of Baten Kaitos or I didn’t think about it in a symbolical sense. I took it literally, and since I prefer airplanes for my journeys, and I am not a sea person, I didn’t care. I thought, if one day I plan to go on a cruise trip, it maybe a good idea to remember Baten Kaitos.

Baten Kaitos is 21 Aries, in the constellation Cetus. As Richard Hinckley Allen writes in Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning, in astrology it portended falls and blows. According to Robson, it gives compulsory transportation, change or emigration, misfortune by force or accident, shipwreck but also rescue, and drowning. (Right opposite it is another shipwreck star, Foramen, Eta Carinae.) Baten Kaitos was at the North lunar node at the Titanic disaster, and shows up in many shipwreck charts. At the peak of his career, when Al Gore ran for U.S. President in 2000, even though he won the popular vote by more than half a million, he lost the election on technicalities and so was “shipwrecked” – left high and dry without even a job or any kind of public position. This is an example of how this star might work in an individual’s chart. With Baten Kaitos, there will be at least one instance in the life where the person will have to deal with a shocking, staggering displacement and have to somehow find a way to restart his or her life. Gore, of course, has become a spokesman for the international environmental movement, and even received a Nobel Prize for his efforts. Here is a quote from my book:

“Baten Kaitos is one of the most frequently found stars involved in shipwrecks, and these people may at some time find themselves left ‘high and dry,’ broken on the rocks of life; yet this is an area of great breakthroughs and transformations and after they pull through, they have much to offer from the depths of their experiences, often ending up with a strong sense of personal destiny....”

After reading this interview, I started to think about my Baten Kaitos. How I changed my whole life in 1993 when transit Uranus was squaring my Sun. How I quit my job as an urban planner, sold my house, moved to another neighborhood, how my lover died in a car accident. It was a real shipwreck, and I started all over again, this time as an astrologer with a strong sense of destiny.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Baten Kaitos and Diana Rosenberg. (Diana passed away on June 1, 2012, when Part of Fortune was on Baten Kaitos)

* You can reach the interview from this link: http://edithhathaway.com/pdf/DianaKRosenbergInterview.pdf

EH: How can we determine if a Fixed Star will give results in terms of all that has been attributed to a given star?

DKR: The short answer is, you can’t! There are too many variables (the rest of the chart, for instance), and how a person lives his life, and what choices he is making. I think a good example here is former Senator and Vice President Albert Gore. (Mar 31, 1948, 12:53 PM EST, Washington, DC). His Midheaven (tropical 21:52 Aries) is aligned with a famous shipwreck star, Baten Kaitos, Zeta Ceti in Cetus, the Sea-Monster or Whale, (tropical 22 Aries, sidereal 28 Pisces). Baten Kaitos is a stormy star, known for shipwrecks, possibly with rescue, and drowning. (Right opposite it is another shipwreck star, Foramen, Eta Carinae.) Baten Kaitos was at the North lunar node at the Titanic disaster, and shows up in many shipwreck charts. At the peak of his career, when Al Gore ran for U.S. President in 2000, even though he won the popular vote by more than half a million, he lost the election on technicalities and so was “shipwrecked” – left high and dry without even a job or any kind of public position. This is an example of how this star might work in an individual’s chart. With Baten Kaitos, there will be at least one instance in the life where the person will have to deal with a shocking, staggering displacement and have to somehow find a way to restart his or her life. Gore, of course, has become a spokesman for the international environmental movement, and even received a Nobel Prize for his efforts. Here is a quote from my book:

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Cetus - Celestial Atlas by Alexander Jamieson – 1822

Shipwreck

of BATEN

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by Barış İlhan

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Book Review
By Arlan Wise

THE MIDHEAVEN
SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS
By FRANK CLIFFORD

Frank starts with the obvious question, What is the Midheaven? (or MC.) He begins with an explanation of the astronomy of the MC. He also clarifies the difference between the 10th house cusp and the MC. He then moves on to show us what it means after a thorough discussion on the angles. He explains how Gaugelin’s studies fit in. Frank teaches the reader how to delineate the MC in an organized, step by step fashion. There are lengthy descriptions of how to read the signs on the MC, fine tuning it down by the possible signs on the ascendant. This is followed by a section on the planets, Chiron, and the Nodes, in aspect to the MC. The information is accompanied by charts to make the explanations clear. Of course, Tina Turner has Uranus on her Midheaven! Oscar Wilde had Saturn on his MC.

Frank is a good writer. You saw that in his chapter on writing in OPA’s book, The Professional Astrologer. In his chapter, he discusses writing small booklets like this one. He states “I find them easier to write, edit and lay out, and they are designed to give readers instant access to an area of astrology.”

He is economical in his energy by quoting from his other books where it is appropriate. He uses information from other astrologers and includes a list of references for further study.

This is a very good book. It is like a well, small in area but deep in content. His information is spot on. I showed the book to a couple of students and watched their reaction and awe as they read about themselves and family members and heard them say “right, right, wow…”

Read it and you’ll feel the same way. It’s a five-star book."
I.D.

Email: oner.doser@astrolojiokulu.com
Website: www.onerdoser.com

Your family: My father was an actor (Known as Onder Somer in Turkish cinema) and then tradesman in Grand Bazaar of Istanbul. My mother was an old opera singer.

Religious background and conditioning? I am a Muslim

Spiritual orientation – Do you follow any specific practice? I am interested in Sufism, but I don't follow any specific practice.

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you? The worst thing about me is I try to do many things at once and sometimes I get distracted and the best part is in the end I manage to bring everything together and final work is good.

You never tried… To smoke.

You can’t refuse… Profiteroles.

What is playtime for you? Sunday afternoons.

Your animal totem? I like horses.

Your superstition? I think I don’t have any.

Your Chinese sign and element? Horse, fire.

Your favorite place on earth? Istanbul.

What would you define is an important evolutionary lesson for you in this life? My family, especially my father, my relationship with him through business, devoting myself to the family. Pars Hyleg (Part of Incarnation) falls in Capricorn to the 4th house of my chart and the ruler Saturn in the 6th in Pisces.

Your chart

YOUR PRACTICE


How long have you been practicing – How did it start? In 1996 I had my astrology chart and by reading astrology books I tried interpreting. In 2002 with the advice of an astrologer I have started taking lessons from Hakan Kırkoğlu. I have begun practicing in 2003.

Your Astrology teachers? Hakan Kirkoglu, Robert Zoller

Your Astrology hero? Robert Zoller

3 favorite Astrology books? Liber Astronomiae (G. Bonatti), Astrologia Gallica books (J. B. Morin), Christian Astrology (W. Lilly).

What do you feel is your greatest achievement to date in your astrology career? Having Astrology school to be approved by ISAR and APAI.

What made it possible for you to become a full time astrologer? I was managing my father's store and after his death I decided not to continue with it. By that time, I was already inter-
ested in astrology and wanted to do the thing I like so I rented the store in 2003. With the money I got from the rent I have financed my astrology work and became a full time astrologer.

What is the great thing and the hard thing about being an astrologer? Using astrology is a very good way to help people find their life purposes, but the hardest part is trying to get astrology to be understood in the correct way.

What are your future ambitions in the field of astrology? I am trying my school to be Internationally known so my ambition is being in cooperation with other schools, organizing joint activities. Personally I would like to attend International Conferences, talking about Sufism and astrology and also astrology in Ottoman times and provide information about the works of Ottoman Astrologers. There were palace astrologers called muneccim which means the chief astrologer of the Ottoman Sultan, for 500 years during Ottoman Empire. From all 37 astrologers in palace the 35th is my relative from my mother side. I also want to share the information I have about this person who devoted himself to astrology.

What inspires you to be an OPA member? The President of Astrological Association of Great Britain Roy Gillett advised me to attend the organization in Greece. I have looked at the web site of OPA and liked the targets of organization and decided to become a member. I believe these kinds of organizations should be supported that astrology can take the place it deserves.

Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers? First of all, they should act with the aim of serving. Astrology is a divine science, that's why when practicing they shouldn't lose their connection with the divine. People shouldn't only stick to modern practices. They should learn classical delineation and prediction methods as well and read classical writings. They should benefit from the works of ancient astrologers like Guido Bonatti, Jean Baptiste Morin, and William Lilly. Should read how to apply classical methods to today's life. (For example books and articles of Deborah Houlding, J. Lee Lehman, Benjamin N. Dykes). Practicing on many charts and using these techniques helps a lot. I believe by using both classical and modern methods contribute to success.

Thank you!
Enhancing Your Astrology Practice

Column by Anne Ortelee

In the last issue’s Enhancing Your Practice column, I encouraged you to think about your Ideal Customer, the kind of client you want to attract to your astrology practice. In this issue, we’ll continue to build up your business, by discussing what is arguably the most important part of any business – MONEY! HOW MUCH DO YOU CHARGE FOR YOUR SERVICES? And how do you communicate with clients about your fees? For many of us, these questions are fraught with doubt and anxiety.

As astrologers, of course, we know that the core question is: how can you work most productively with your Venus? To start, please take time to go through the following exercise.

EXERCISE FOR WORKING WITH YOUR VENUS

Light a candle and hold some paper money in your hands. Pick an amount that you would have trouble burning up or throwing on the ground for another person to find, just enough to make you nervous. Talk to the money. Ask the money to tell you why you have fear, resistance, or other blocks around it. A story will pop into your head; write it down and analyze it. If it’s a story of lack, put on your thinking cap and figure out a way to neutralize it! If it is a story of fear, put on your thinking cap and figure out a way to not be afraid! If it is a story about danger, put on your thinking cap and figure out a way to be safe!

One client remembered when she was a child, she put coins into her mouth. She didn’t have pockets and wanted to use her hands! Her mouth seemed a safe place to keep her money. Her mother smacked her in the face, saying “Money is dirty.” In order to neutralize the message that “money is dirty,” she decided to wash coins in bleach and store them in plastic baggies. Whenever she got nervous about money, she would take out a clean coin and put it in her mouth.

Another client’s mother liked to quote Jesus: “It’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to get into heaven.” So I asked her what the rules were for women. She didn’t know! By reminding herself that her mother’s aphorism didn’t apply to her, a woman, my client managed to increase her income by 30% in one year.

In my own case, as a young woman, I once told my maternal grandmother how much money I was making at my corporate job. Her response, in a shocked voice, was “Who is going to marry you, if you make that much money?” Fortunately, my boyfriend at the time was Jewish. “You Catholics are screwy about money!” he said. “Date Jews. We like women who make money!” By offering an alternate perspective, he helped me not to internalize my grandmother’s worry and continue to make money.

Often, it’s as simple as retelling or reinterpreting a story you were told in childhood. Other times it requires more effort, more digging. Our culture tends to discourage us from thinking and talking about money – it’s considered gauche. We don’t know how much the person next to us is making in salary. For right now, I would challenge you to think and talk about money, in a positive manner, as much as possible. Keep repeating the exercise until you clear whatever negative beliefs about money are holding you captive. Share the messages that holding the money gives to you and figure out solutions or responses to those messages.

Many astrologers struggle with deciding how much to charge for a reading. In my experience, there a few key things to keep in mind. First, make sure you’re accounting for your prep time! If you typically spend two hours studying a chart before you meet with the client, then you need to factor those hours into your fee. In that case, one-hour reading is actually three hours of work for you. If you charge $30 dollars for the reading, then your real rate is only $10 per hour, before taxes. If you charge $120 for the read-

ing, then your real pre-tax rate is $40 per hour. Prep time is work time! Prep time needs to be billed for! Plus, billing for prep time often speeds up your process of preparing!

Traditional wisdom says that, as an entrepreneur or consultant, you cannot generally work more than 20 to 26 billable hours per week. The remaining 14 to 20 hours of the work-week are taken up by administrative chores, marketing, research, meetings and follow up etc. Think about how many hours of readings and billed for prep time makes up the 20 to 26 hours.

If your astrology practice is also your full-time job, one way of deciding how much to charge is to estimate how much you want or need to make in salary that year, then divide that by your expected annual consulting and preparation hours. Voila, your billable rate!

Suppose you’ve decided that you want to make $50,000 per year, before taxes. There are 50 work-weeks in the year, if you allow for two weeks of vacation. So in order to make your goal, you would need to bill $1000 per week. That works out to $50 per hour at 20 hours per week. Assuming that each reading requires two hours of preparation time, as well as one hour with the client, then you need to charge the client $150.

Either of these methods – top down or bottom up – can help you calculate a reasonable fee.

Another option is simply to find out what other, comparable astrologers charge. Think of astrologers you admire who are at or just above your level of experience and contact them or visit their websites to determine their prices. Visiting other astrologer’s websites is also helpful to observe what they charge for. I sell my time by the hour and so will look at any charts you want to look at during that hour. Other astrologers
Enhancing Your Astrology Practice

charge per chart looked at. Some astrologers charge more for synastry readings than natal readings. It IS your practice so you get to set your rates based on how you feel!

Earlier, I suggested thinking of consultation fees in terms of pre-tax dollars. Please don't forget to take taxes into account when calculating your rate, or any of the other expenses that are typically covered by an employer! If you’re just starting out as a small business owner, remember that you’ll be paying twice the payroll tax that you paid as an employee, and that you alone are responsible for funding your retirement plan. There’s a good chance you’ll be paying more for your health insurance, too, even in this era of the Affordable Care Act. It’s likely that you will need to hire one or more other professionals to help you with your business – a lawyer, an accountant, an administrative assistant. You also have to pay for your internet, software, paper, rent, electricity and phone. An income of $50,000 per year as a self-employed astrologer will leave you with significantly less actual take-home pay after the expenses are removed than you would have if you earned the same salary in a corporate job.

When I first started out, my accountant suggested I do the 1/3 plan – 1/3 for me, 1/3 for the government’s various taxes, and 1/3 for reinvesting in the business or expenses. So now that $50,000 per year is actually only $16,666 take home.

All this is basic math. Now let’s factor in the emotional aspects of your money decisions!

Once you’ve decided on your fee, own it! If your fee makes you nervous, practice saying it out loud while looking in the bathroom mirror – keep practicing till you can do this without grimacing, ducking, giggling, or otherwise looking weird! “I am a professional astrologer and I charge . . . for a reading.” You’ll probably feel anxious or silly at first, however mirror talking DOES WORK!! Stuart Smalley was onto something after all! https://youtu.be/-DIEtIxqUZY

What if people say you shouldn’t charge, or shouldn’t charge very much, for your astrology readings because it’s a spiritual practice? After all, didn’t we get help our clients?

Yes, we want to be helpful, AND we want to be spiritual. Helpful and Spiritual doesn’t mean that we don’t deserve to be compensated for our work. Our eyes may be focused on the heavens, but we’re LIVING on Planet Earth, with rent to pay and groceries to buy. Money is not unspiritual. Money is a tool. Money is energy. You don’t want to be chrematophobic! (chrematophobia (uncountable). The fear of money, spending money, or having too much money; the fear of having too little money.) God has lots of money AND God MADE MONEY! You can too!

When a client pays you for a reading, they are balancing the scales, wiping the slate clean energetically. When you do a reading on the house, you’re doing a favor – essentially putting the client in your debt. By charging a reasonable fee, you’re enabling the client to discharge the debt. You are rendering an equal exchange, closing the transaction, and cutting the ties. I think charging fees is a very important component of having healthy boundaries with clients.

Of course, when you’re starting out, you will volunteer to do readings for free to get the practice, to further your own learning, and, to, hopefully, build up your business. In that case, consider saying at the conclusion of the reading, “As discussed, there’s no charge for this reading. However, if you’d like to refer people to me, my rate is . . .”

By saying a rate, you give the person permission to come back. You are also suggesting if they liked the reading and want to refer friends to you, what your rate would be for others. It can encourage people to refer other clients to you.

After all, they had a free reading and often feel it is “unbalanced” because you didn’t charge them! If they found value in the reading and want to come back some day to ask more questions, or if they want their friends and family to experience your astrological wisdom, they can do so without fear of bothering you and know what to say to the “How much did it cost?” questions. The expectations on both sides are clear and defined.

By setting a decent rate for your services, you are showing the world (and yourself) that you value your own expertise and training. One woman I know, who works as a consultant in another field, recently realized she had to raise her rates when she was bidding on a deal and the prospective client said, “I’d be foolish NOT to hire you because you’re so cheap!” Do you want to be known as the “cheap” option?

Charging a decent rate is an especially important issue for women to be conscious of. The majority of astrologers are women. The majority of our clients are women. Working women in the United States STILL make 79 cents for every dollar that men make. At least part of the pay disparity can be attributed to the fact that women don’t tend to negotiate as well or ask for as much money as men do. That tendency, in turn, feeds into the trend of female-dominated fields being paid less than male-dominated fields. It results in female professionals being seen as less competent, capable, and “executive” than men professionals. That is outdated thinking that needs to change and evolve!!

...don’t forget to take taxes into account when calculating your rate, or any of the other expenses... if you’re just starting out as a small business owner, remember that you’ll be paying twice the payroll tax that you paid as an employee...
If you're a woman and you feel guilty about making money, remember by undercharging for your work, you're not only harming your OWN financial prospects, you're contributing to a belief system that harms other women. So if you still need to feel guilty, feel guilty about that! To paraphrase the business coach Pamela Slim, you must charge the going rate or higher, AND (if you want to) you can give every penny of it away!

By the same token, your decisions about money affect the broader astrology community by bringing up or pulling down the bell curve on astrologers' compensation. If you value astrology and believe in astrology's power to help people, treat yourself with the same respect you would give to a doctor, lawyer, therapist, or accountant.

What about people who want to work with you, but really and truly can't afford your regular rate? Do you offer a sliding scale, or barter your services for theirs? Try to develop your policies on these questions before they arise. I don't currently offer discounts or trades, though I did earlier in my career. Barter and trade both have their pitfalls. If you offer a discount to one client, another client may hear about it and feel that they have been overcharged.

If you agree to barter, you may find the other person thinks their thing is worth much more than you do. Or you may not like it! A purse can cost $4 on the sidewalk in Chinatown or $4000 on Madison Avenue. A purse is a purse! Look at the difference in cost! Barter's “intrinsic” value is supposed to be determined collaboratively by the buyer and the seller. However, that isn't always easy to do when you're face-to-face with another entrepreneur, who is as passionate about their work as you are about yours.

At the same time, we often want to share our knowledge and love of astrology with people of all income levels and walks of life. In my business, I share through free and low-cost offerings. I record three 30-minute podcasts a week, and on one of them, listeners can call in to ask questions about their charts, essentially getting a free mini-reading on the air. I write blog posts, newsletters, put out astrology information on my Facebook and Twitter feeds, and as of this year, I teach two online webinar classes each month. These platforms have allowed me to help large numbers of people learn about astrology. They also served as advertising and brought in new paying clients.
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Superstar and extraordinary talent musician Prince transitioned from this world on April 21, 2016, after collapsing in an elevator. Gone too soon, we would agree, for Prince was only 57.

Prince was born on June 7, 1958, on the early summer season that happened to see the birth of some of the most popular and recognizable pop icons of our time, among them Michael Jackson (Aug 29, 1958), Madonna (August 16, 1958), and across the ocean in Britain, Kate Bush (July 30, 1958).

It is truly astounding that this cluster of mega-famous music stars were born within a few weeks of each other. We look for the celestial configurations in the natal chart of these figures that could capture their iconic status, and notice they were all born with a Jupiter/Neptune conjunction on their North Node.

Jupiter and Neptune, rulers of Sagittarius and Pisces, both capture what is beyond material boundaries, representing principles of expansion and what is beyond the tangible: the abstract worlds of inspiration, spirituality, and the reach for what is timeless. Jupiter expands boundaries, while Neptune dissolves them altogether. Together, they are the closest we can get to infinity!

Since this conjunction occurred on their North Node, the calling for a larger than life, mythical pop culture influence seems to be in the realm of a greater call of destiny.

Notwithstanding, this is far from being the only parallel in their lives. Focusing on Prince and Michael Jackson, we notice in their charts that they were both born with Mutable Suns and a Pisces Moon—a Moon known to reflect deep idealism, values of peace and unity, naive Peter Pan-ish demeanors, and a strong identification with collective suffering.

In their own lives, both Prince and Michael Jackson were born to African American musical families, and abusive fathers. To quote Prince in a Rolling Stones interview: “At age twelve, Prince moved in with his father but that came to an abrupt end when (father) Nelson caught his son in bed with a girl. He (Prince) begged his father to take him back but the answer was an emphatic ‘no’. ‘I sat crying at the phone booth for two hours’, he told Rolling Stone in a 1985 interview. ‘That’s the last time I cried’.

At the time, in 1970/71, Prince experienced a Jupiter transit over his natal Neptune, and a subsequent first recurrence of Jupiter/Neptune conjunction in the sky, paying deep consequences for his naïve indulgence, yet beginning a cycle of utter creativity.

In turn, already popular Michael Jackson emerged these years for the first time as a solo artist, with his first solo release Got to be there in October 1971.

The years 1977 – 79 were crucial in both their careers. Prince got signed in one of the most lucrative contracts for a newcomer with record company Warner Bros, and released his first album For You (April 7, 1978). Michael Jackson released his first mature album Off the Wall (August 10, 1979) — interestingly both these albums were released with a Sun exact trine to Neptune, and both albums were conceived in the earlier month with a Jupiter in Gemini opposing Neptune in Sagittarius.

1978 was also the year Kate Bush emerged, storming the music scene with her mystical and ethereal number one song Wuthering Heights, and her masterful debut album The Kick Inside, under the same Jupiter/Neptune opposition on February 17, 1978.

1978 was the year Madonna left Michigan for New York with $35 in her pocket and a head full of dreams.

As Jupiter and Neptune were gearing up toward their next conjunction in Sagittarius 1983/84, Michael Jackson released his monumental best-selling album of all times—Thriller (Nov 30, 1982), and...
On June 25, 1984, Prince released his most iconic album and film Purple Rain, under the new Jupiter and Neptune conjunction phase. Selling more than 20 million copies, and making it one of the top ten best-selling albums of all time.

Madonna followed suit in November 1984, breaking all boundaries of super-stardom with her iconic Like A Virgin album (Nov 12, 1984).

On the British side, 1984 was the year Kate Bush recorded one of her most commercially successful, and critically 'adored' albums Hounds of Love, released following 18 months of recording time (Sept 16, 1985).

A Jupiter cycle forward, as Jupiter was approaching its next conjunction to Neptune in Capricorn in 1996, Madonna announced she was pregnant for the first time, and gave birth to her daughter Lourdes on October 14, 1996. Two days later October 16, 1996, Prince's son Boy Gregory was born, tragically affected by Pfeiffer syndrome, and died a week later.

Michael Jackson, himself welcomed his first child, a boy named Prince on February 13, 1997, exactly a month after the exact Jupiter/Neptune conjunction.

Kate Bush, in slight delay again, gave birth to Birtie, her first and only son in July 1998.

On June 25, 2009 the world was shocked by the news of the untimely death of Michael Jackson, later determined to have been caused by an overdose of pain medication. Jupiter and Neptune were exactly conjunct at 26 Aquarius, alongside Chiron (and semi sextile Uranus at 26 Pisces).

Seven years later, Prince collapsed in an elevator on April 21, 2016, after reportedly
having suffered from flu-like symptoms. It was later revealed that Prince was addicted to pain medication, a factor that likely played a role in his death. Jupiter and Neptune were this time in opposition in Virgo/Pisces, conjunct the Nodal Axis and Chiron.

The next Jupiter/Neptune conjunction will take place on April 12, 2022 at 23 Pisces, the sign of immortality, mythological fame, and dreams. We can expect this to be a period of significant development for the 1958 ladies, Madonna and Kate Bush, and hopefully, for them and for us, many more years of creative genius and well-being, like only 1958’ers can.

Maurice Fernandez. Astrology and the Evolution of Consciousness. Find out more about Maurice: www.mauricefernandez.com

Summer of 1958
JUPITER/NEPTUNE STARS

By Stephen Luff via Wikimedia Commons
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Hipparchus, a Greek astronomer, geographer, and mathematician who lived in Rhodes, discovered that fixed stars were not “fixed”. He obtained the positions of at least 850 stars and compiled them in a star catalogue in 129 BC. Claudius Ptolemy, an astronomer, astrologer and mathematician developed Hipparchus work. He calculated the precession of equinoxes, linked the mythological meanings and influences of the stars with the planetary combinations, and listed 1022 stars which he published in his astronomical treatise named Almagest. Ptolemy tried to explain the potential planetary powers of the fixed stars and his wisdom influenced the following millennium.

Fixed stars are one of the crucial tools of traditional astrology. Guido Bonatti, the Italian Medieval astrologer, stated that in addition to the planets the fixed stars which are rising or the fixed stars that are in contact with the ruler of the Ascendant were the celestial bodies which influenced the life and the personality of the native and the way he expresses himself. As they were highly influential, neglecting them in interpretations would lead the astrologer into mistakes. The Renaissance astrologer William Lilly also put emphasis on the conjunctions of the planets and the fixed stars and suggested that such conjunctions might increase or decrease the influence of the respective planet. Lilly awarded accidental dignity/debility based on planets conjunction with three major fixed stars. In this table of dignities and debilities, the conjunction of a planet with Regulus or Spica strengthens the power of that planet (Regulus gives +6 and Spica gives +5 points to that planet in Lilly’s table of accidental dignities) while the conjunction with Algol weakens the power of the related planet (gives -5 points).

Striking Influences of the Fixed Stars

Planets carry the powerful energies of the fixed stars to the Earth. When the fixed stars are in conjunction or in parallel with the axes of the astrological chart or with the planets, they are influential in the life of that native. While some astrologers consider the oppositions of the fixed stars, I do not work with oppositions. I consider conjunctions and also take notice of the parallel position. I use an orb of 1.5° in conjunctions, and 0° 10’ in parallels. I consider the house where the planet in contact with a fixed star sits as the life area where the influences of that conjunction emerge and the houses ruled by that planet reflect the concerning themes.

When examining a chart, it is sometimes difficult to explain the great achievements of the native. That is when you realize that the fixed stars have striking influences on the life scenario of the native. Tarkan Tevetoglu is one of the leading names in Turkish pop music with worldwide reputation. Without noticing the fixed stars in his chart, it would be difficult to see his notable fame, however, when placing the fixed stars, his great achievements become evident. Below, you may see Tarkan’s natal chart.

In his chart, Leo is rising at 28° 14’. Regulus, the fixed star related with honour, preferment, and good fortune (Robson, page 196), is both in conjunction with the rising degree and is parallel with this degree. The Sun as the ruler of the Ascendant is at 23° 45’ Libra and in conjunction with Spica. This conjunction represents great and lasting preferment, eminent dignity, and immense wealth (Robson, page 211). The Sun is also in conjunction with Arcturus; a position which promises success through slow and patient plodding (Robson, page 139). To go back to Guido Bonatti’s words, the fixed stars that are in contact with the Ascendant or its ruler inform us that the native will reach great achievements. Not only these two fixed stars but many others make conjunction or parallel with the planets in Tarkan’s chart and help us to explain his talents and achievements. Betelgeuse is in parallel with Venus, the planet of artistic abilities, and helps him express his artistic abilities easily and be successful. Sirius in parallel with Mercury, the planet of communication.
skills, promises professional success and support from influential people.

Fixed stars are also operative in the chart of another well-known and productive Megastar of Turkish pop music, Sezen Aksu. Although she has 12 planets including the Sun in her 12th house; none of the planets in her chart is in its rulership and many planets are perigee. It is the many planets in conjunctions or in parallel with fixed stars in her chart that promise great achievements. Below, you may see Sezen Aksu's chart, one of the most productive Turkish pop music composers who wrote more than 400 compositions and lyrics.

In Sezen's chart Venus, the planet of artistic abilities, is in conjunction with Regulus and promises honour, preference, and good fortune. Venus in the 2nd house is an indication of good income as a result of success at work. Spica conjuncts Neptune in Libra, the sign ruled by Venus, indicating the expression of artistic talents and success through this field. Together with their house and sign placements, Castor-Sun conjunction and Pollux-Uranus conjunction explains her creativity and ability in writing magnificent lyrics. South Node-Sirius conjunction emphasizes that her ability to make the ordinary charismatic is a trait that was carried from the past. She is deeply loved by her fans both in Turkey and in the international arena due to her deep and strong ability to express her feelings. She is not only famous in singing but also for the magical appeal of the lyrics she wrote.

Fixed Stars in Synastry Charts
The similarity of fixed stars in the charts of these two celebrities is obvious. Now let's take one more step further and see fixed stars in the comparison of two natal charts. Below you may see Tarkan's and Sezen's charts together.

- Regulus-Venus conjunction in Sezen's chart is projected on Tarkan's ASC degree.
- Spica-Neptune conjunction in Sezen's chart is reflected on Tarkan's Sun which is the ruler of ASC.
- Castor-Sun conjunction in Sezen's chart is reflected on the South Node in Tarkan's chart.
- Sirius-North Node conjunction in Sezen's chart is in parallel with Mercury in Tarkan's chart.
These indicators show that there is a fated connection between those two Mega Stars; their mutual interactions have a strong influence of each other’s destinies. The interaction between Venus in Sezen’s chart and the ASC degree of Tarkan’s chart represent that Sezen’s artistic abilities are supportive for Tarkan to express himself. As Venus is placed in the 2nd house of Sezen’s chart, we may conclude that there would be a financial connection between Sezen and Tarkan. The interaction between the Sun in Tarkan’s chart and Neptune in Sezen’s chart represent that either Tarkan would inspire Sezen or Sezen’s inspirational abilities would contribute to Tarkan’s recognition. The interaction between the Sun in Sezen’s chart and the South Node in Tarkan’s chart indicate Sezen’s writing ability and that she wrote and composed many of the songs in Tarkan’s albums together and gave an unforgettable concert together.

This analysis on the charts of two celebrities confirms Guido Bonatti’s advice from many centuries ago: “Fixed Stars may either help or hinder the matter in question; for they have oftentimes great power, and lead the Astrologer sometimes into error.”

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I will be honest; I do not have much of an interest in celebrity astrology charts. I know they are a staple of beginner and advanced astrology books. And I know why they are a staple of many books; those people who are writ large in the public eye often exaggerate astrological themes and archetypes, making it easier to show how energy of certain astrological types manifests in clear ways in the world. Public figures also have charts that become “public property” due to their famous status. Even so, I have always eschewed using celebrity charts when explaining astrological knowledge. I prefer to write or talk about the charts of people I know personally (names withheld, of course). So why am I now writing an article that will include a celebrity chart? It is funny how the thing we avoid pops up and creates a circumstance where we need to embrace it.

In that spirit, a long time client reached out to me and asked me to consult with her about the death of Prince, the musician who is best known for his album and movie Purple Rain. In response, and before we scheduled our session, I decided to run the synastry chart with her and Prince. My client’s birth information is April 17, 1974 in Brunswick, Georgia at 11:15 am. Prince’s was born June 7, 1958 in Minneapolis, Minnesota at 6:17 pm. When I put his chart on top of hers some very powerful aspects and placement of energy points emerged. I will list them as they stood out to me. Since this reading was about a strong, nearly karmic reaction, I was looking at the Nodes of the Moon in both charts first; and that’s where the first powerful marker appeared. Prince has Saturn Retrograde at 22 degrees and 51 minutes (21d51m) of Sagittarius on the day of his birth. That position put his Saturn just 35 minutes away from my client’s North Node at 22d16m, and going the same direction. His energy gives structure to her karmic stretch goal in this lifetime.

The next alignment to jump out at me was the aspect of the Moons. Hers is at 0d15m of Pisces and his is at 1d59m of Pisces. They share the same energy regarding their soul path, and how they give/receive love. Prince has a tremendous collection of energy in Leo, including: the Part of Fortune, Uranus, Ceres, Astraea, Urania, the Medium Coeli, and Pluto. All these points fill in an area of my client’s chart where she has no energy points, her 2nd House of Values. His creativity would go a long way to shaping her values and personal beliefs. Additionally, his Medium Coeli and Pluto trine her Sun in Aries within less than three degrees, with her Sun approaching Pluto. He was here to be a professional transformer and “solar” contact with that
energy would certainly affect her significantly each time she listened to his music, watched his videos or movie, or read an article or book about him.

Her Uranus (25d41m) forms a perfect midpoint to his Jupiter (21d56m retrograde) and North Node (29d01m retrograde) in Libra. As he expanded and expressed his North Node stretch goal it would have a galvanizing effect on her revolutionary creativity and decision-making. Prince’s Mercury is at 4d05m of Gemini and within less than a degree trine with her Pluto at 4d52m of Libra; more energy of change is activated by his messages. Pluto in his chart at 29d57m squares her Saturn at 29d53m in Gemini within 4 minutes! Some of the challenge would be uncomfortable; it shows a need for her to get outside the box of her own thinking. And his Pluto opposes her Ceres by 25 minutes (Leo to Aquarius) and her Moon by 18 minutes (Leo to Pisces). Not only are there numerous powerful aspects, but the orbs of influence are intensely tight. It is little wonder that his life and death would affect her significantly.

The session work we did helped her immensely; she felt “less crazy” (as she put it) afterwards. The sheer number and intensity of aspects helped her accept that the powerful waves of emotion that kept washing over her will continue to have a profound effect on her soul, probably for the rest of her life (each time she listens to or hears one of his songs). She spoke lovingly and emotionally about her discovery of his music, how much it spoke to her at key intervals in her life, and how she felt “utterly devastated” by his death. In her “rational mind” it made no sense for her to feel as if she lost her life-long sibling or loving partner, but that’s how she energetically felt his passing. And the astrology showed why.

Lynda Carter and Me

I was 7 years old when Wonder Woman first aired and I watched it joyfully from the beginning to the end of syndication in the 1980s. The show contributed to my love of comic books and Lynda Carter was, and still is, Wonder Woman for my generation. Aside from the obvious hormonal excitement, the Wonder Woman show actually embedded feminist ideas in my growing consciousness. Later in life I would earn my PhD in English and teach critical thinking classes to undergraduate university students at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with segments devoted to feminism. To this day I am happy to identify as a feminist thinker and supporter. But at the core of my earliest feminist experience is the celebrity Lynda Carter. So I was curious, after working with my client’s chart and Prince’s chart, to see what a key celebrity in my life would look like in comparison to my own chart. The results were astonishing, even without an exact birth time.

I was born April 12, 1968 at 9:39 pm in Lynchburg, Virginia and Lynda Carter was born July 24, 1951 in Phoenix, Arizona. Her Moon in Aries could range from 12d58m at 12:00 am to 25d44m at 11:59 throughout the day. This fact is significant because I have Aries energy points starting at 0d40m (Chiron), with 7 points between, and ending with my Sun at 23d14m. Somewhere along that continuum Lynda Carter’s Moon is going to strike a conjunction with a significant point in my chart (Mercury, Venus, Saturn, and the North Node are among the 7 between Chiron and the Sun). True to my feminist approach to life, I have added certain asteroids into my chart mix to achieve 11 feminine and 11 masculine points that I use in readings for clients. Because I use so many points I use very limited orbs of influence 0 degrees to 3 degrees (4 degrees for the Sun and Moon).

What follows is a list of intensely tight aspects from her chart to my own. Her...
top of my Jupiter, which is retrograde at 25d57m, a mere 20 minutes apart. Her Zeus (Power and Authority) is almost as close and applying at 25d9m (48 minutes apart). Her Pluto is at 28d6m of Virgo is a chasm away from my Uranus (26d5m of Virgo) with a 2 degree difference. No wonder I have such strong "feelings" about Lynda Carter. Though we have never met and are not likely to meet, the fact is that she has a status in the world that projects her energy out at large scale and I came into the influence of that energy. These alignments would explain why I have such a strong reaction to her, beyond the school boy crush.

Elizabeth Rouse and Oprah Winfrey

I reached out to a colleague of mine and told her about my discovery and she asked to test her chart with her most revered celebrity, Oprah Winfrey. Again, the results were absolutely fascinating. Elizabeth is a world class psychic talent who will one day probably move in the circles of Oprah or Eckhart Tolle. As with the previous examples, multiple key aspects and intense orbs emerged. Oprah Winfrey was born on January 29, 1954 at 4:30 am in Kosciusko, Mississippi. Elizabeth was born November 3, 1974 at 11:57 am in Okinawa, Japan. When you put Oprah's chart on top of Elizabeth's here's what jumps out.

Oprah's Saturn is at 9d26m of Scorpio. Elizabeth's Venus is at 9d26m of Scorpio (24 minutes apart) and her Sun is at 10d18m of Scorpio (1 degree 16 minutes apart). Oprah's Neptune at 26d03m (retrograde) of Libra is a tight midpoint between Elizabeth's Uranus at 28d54m of Libra and her Mercury at 24d54m (stationary) of Libra. Oprah's Jupiter at 16d39m (retrograde) is on top of Elizabeth's Moon at 18d28m. They also have tight conjunctions of Oprah's Uranus to Elizabeth's Saturn (in Cancer) and Oprah's North Node to Elizabeth's Ascendant (in Capricorn). Oprah's Uranus is in a 38 minute opposition to Elizabeth's Ascendant. There is also a 1d05m trine of Oprah's Sun (8d59m) and Elizabeth's Pluto (7d54m).

Elizabeth loves that Oprah has the willingness to keep asking the hard questions and finding the truth. Elizabeth is impressed with the school Oprah started in Africa, and the willingness Oprah has to push forward and keep going. These are traits and ideas that Elizabeth shares. Oprah is a beacon for Elizabeth; her lighthouse or pole star. She appreciates Oprah's dedication to others and helping them find and express their authenticity. When Elizabeth started getting Oprah's magazine it was a difficult time in her life and the articles spoke to her, especially the article “What I know for Sure?”, which was about the power to change your mind and change your story. Now Elizabeth follows Oprah's wisdom and promotes that wisdom in her own way and her own practice. She vowed to live and works on living her best life.

While three synastry charts is by no means a scientific statistical sample, I feel more than confident that celebrities that matter the most to us have strong synastry charts with us. I look forward to running my chart with Enya (the Celtic singer), Ann and Nancy Wilson (of the band Heart), and Forrest Whitaker.

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Oprah's dedication to others and helping them find and express their authenticity. When Elizabeth started getting Oprah's magazine it was a difficult time in her life and the articles spoke to her, especially the article “What I know for Sure?”, which was about the power to change your mind and change your story. Now Elizabeth follows Oprah's wisdom and promotes that wisdom in her own way and her own practice. She vowed to live and works on living her best life.

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Professional Photoshoots
1-ASTROLOGER 2016
The practice of Horary is very effective and the outcome, if one adheres to the rules, is very effective.

The 7th house is very busy when it comes to horary questions as it covers a broad spectrum of questions such as relationships, sports, trials and politics.

Should I go or should I stay, will my team win, does he love me, will the King keep his crown, or will the President of a foreign country win another election. These are the type of questions asked; the trick is finding the correct significators.

In this column we will look at a political question.

I got an email from a client with a very simple question: Hi Laurie, Will my President win again? Sounds like a 7th house win or lose question. As a horary practitioner we need to establish the nature of the situation that has prompted the question. It would be unprofessional to assume you understand the question. This is how the incorrect significators are chosen resulting in a wrong answer.

I made contact with my client to clarify his question that this President is the reigning President of the country where my client lives, therefore his president.

When judging political questions we are essentially working with the rules set out for the 7th house. Who will win? The house given to the candidate or quesited will depend on who is asking the question.

In Horary terminology the querent is the person asking the question and the quesited is the thing or person asked about.

In this question the querent has asked if his current President will win so we will begin with the 10th house, house of his President, the quesited.

The time of the chart was set when I fully understood the question. The question that is in the clients mind is only born when the astrologer understands exactly what the client wants to know.

The 10th house has Aries on the cusp ruled by Mars. The President is signified by Mars Lord 10.

Anyone vying for his position will be his open enemy the 7th house opponent. Turning the chart by counting seven houses from the tenth brings us to the 4th house. Libra is on the cusp of the 4th so his opposition is Venus.

It is not important how many opposing parties we are dealing with, any party gunning for his position is the President's open enemy.

The Moon is the natural ruler of people and of great importance in election questions as the Moon signifies the electorate.

The Moon at 8 degrees of Aries is in the sign of Mars, Mars signifies the reigning president. This shows the electorate feels very at home with their current president and their significator is moving towards

“Will my President win again?”

Kings and Presidents belong to the 10th house. This President’s significator is Lord 10 ruler of the 10th house; any other opposing candidates will be given the opposite house, seven from ten, the 4th house ruler, Lord 4.

It is very important to get the correct significator before you begin to delineate the horary chart. Had my client asked if the political party he supports would trump over the ruling party, we treat this as a ‘my party’ verses the enemy question. This would be treated as a 1st house verses 7th house question.

Should a South African ask if Trump will get more votes than Obama? In America Obama is the reigning King of a foreign country he would be 10 houses from the 9th house of foreign countries, the 6th house, Lord 6. Obama’s enemy Trump would be seven from 6, the 12th house opposite to the 6th.

This exercise of finding the correct significators, where we derive one house from the other, is known as turning the chart.
HORARY ON THE HOUR

his house cusp. At a glance we can see a possible testimony for a win. The most powerful testimony in this chart is that the Moon aspects L10 by opposition. This shows that this President will win the elections. The opposition aspect tells us that the electorate will keep their President, but with regrets.

Looking at the receptions of the President and his opposition we can see that they receive each other by sign, a very strong essential dignity. In this situation it is not showing love for each other rather very aware of each other. Both significators, Mars and Venus are in their own detriment; they both feel the other has the power to harm them.

The accidental dignity of L4 posited in the angular 10th house would usually make Venus strong. In all questions we need to take into account what the 10th house means. In this case it is the President’s house showing that the 10th house has control over Venus, further testimony for a win.

L10, Mars, is moving out of his station after being retrograde, though vulnerable, Mars is moving towards the 4th house cusp where he will have power over all matters of the 4th house, the opponent. This is more testimony for a win!

Many thought this President would be found guilty of crimes he had committed, but he squashed the allegations and moved on to win his position of Presidency.

Looking at the retrograde, then station and direct motion of Mars we can literally see the path that President Zuma has been on and where he is going to.

He went back to his corrupt ways harming the very same people who voted for him, they realised this as the Moon applied to conjunct Uranus. He was re-elected and went back to his evil ways.

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Welcome to Sky Astrology™
Sky Astrology is a sincere community effort to educate and empower astrologers and students with re-enlivened knowledge and embodied experience of the living Sky. Ready to bring the Sky into your charts?

As this is the first issue of Sky Astrology for OPA, perhaps a little explanation of what Sky Astrology actually is. It's a new (actually ancient) way of seeing and delineating celestial events based on their Sky factors, rather than their Chart-only factors. These include the planets' heliacal phase, sky appearance, speed, brightness, visibility or invisibility, Earth proximity, latitude, declination, celestial course, star occultations, and constellational ingress and egresses. Naturally, not all of these factors come into play at all times for every planet. But there are always at least a few that play directly into a planet's influence on Earth. A great example of how the Sky factors significantly enhance and clarify Chart factors (sign, house, aspects) is to first recall the last few times you delineated a planet's station, retrograde or direct. Did you consider the planet's appearance in our skies when it made its station? Was the planet visible or invisible? Was it getting closer to or further from the Earth? Was it moving toward or away from the ecliptic by latitude?

**MERCURY** – Morning Star, disappearing behind the Sun, then heliacally rising again as Evening Star

The June Solstice sees Mercury sojourning as a Morning Star heading toward his/her superior conjunction with the Sun. Thought processes and opinions are exceptionally subjective now, often leading to more myopic, reactive or impatient decision-making, or a much-needed single-pointed focus. On July 6, Mercury conjuncts the Sun at 15 Cancer (tropical). At superior conjunction, Mercury is on the other side of the Sun, at his maximum...
SKY
ASTROLOGY

distance from the Earth (Mercury apogee). We can easily come to believe we are lost or have been abandoned by prior advocates. The key is not to believe our first instincts here around worldly affairs. Wait until Mercury re-appears, as an Evening Star (July 21-Sept 4, to assess what and with whom you continue the journey from this point. Mercury then reaches closest to Earth (Mercury perigee) on Sept 12. In the days leading to the Sept Equinox, make sure to be clear on the reasons you're moving forward in the ways, and with the people, you are choosing to.

VENUS – Invisible then rising into view as an Evening Star

In the midst of her Leo Cycle now, Venus begins this quarter invisible, too close to the Sun to see her:

Sky Astrology then further illuminates that this particular Venus Invisibility period (both inner planets each have two distinct invisibility periods) has Venus furthest from the Earth.

In my work with Venus' phases (see The Light of Venus, Soulsign Publishing, 2012), this is the Transmutation Phase, a profound departure from our normal relationship with what feels normal in our bodies.

"Venus here symbolizes the necessity of meeting our pattern of isolation from that which matters most to us…. We get to see what is (still) here inside us. It's then up to us to decide if we're ready to surrender it or not."

Venus then re-appears in our skies, as a dim Evening Star, on July 24 (if good viewing conditions and clear horizon). She ReBirths herself now with a new purpose; Evening Star planets operate from more collective awareness than do Morning Star planets. Traveling through the signs of Leo, Virgo and most of Libra through this quarter, Evening Star Venus is reminding us – from the powerful initiation she's just come through - that we are not alone in this situation/predicament/opportunity (fill in yours).

MARS – Evening Star

In the graphic at right, we see that Mars, just like all planets on the verge of a station, occupies the same point in our skies for almost two weeks (6/19-7/11 at 23 Scorpio). The longer a planet inhabits a zodiacal or constellational point, the stronger that position in space (consciousness) plays through the planet's
functions. Mars’ station occurs in the Scales constellation (incorrectly known as Libra), in southern latitude. We can understand this multi-valent image as a returning back to something in order to take honest inventory of what’s realistically viable now. This is not a “dream it and it will happen” signature. Our Martian goals should be governed now by how to proceed in the most direct and clear way. It is as if Mars chose this spot to turn around and resume forward movement. Notice the flattened “S” shape of his celestial course. Closer to the Equinox, on Sept 3, Mars enters his Destiny Challenge Phase until Sept 25. Perhaps it will be at his exact Sun square on Sep 13 at 21 Sagittarius, when all he’s been working towards, battling, or persevering through from his Rx station on April 16 faces him square in the heart with a final check-in before there’s no turning back…. “Are you sure you want to proceed from here??”

JUPITER – Evening Star, then heliacally setting to disappear from our skies

Jupiter has been a visible presence in our skies since September of last year. Lord Jupiter has made the journey from dim Morning Star, through dominant Midnight Star, and is now enjoying his Evening Star period.

Evening Stars “magically” appear in our western sky as the Sun’s light fades at sunset each evening (see images above); they seem to hold information or guidance for us from a more collective or societal consciousness which informs our horoscopic delineations (sign, house, aspects).

July 10 is the waning Sun sextile, as Jupiter continues to inhabit the stars of the Lion constellation at 18 Virgo. This is the beginning of Jupiter’s Elder Phase, where the experience and wisdom accumulated to now begin to be disseminated to others or into the larger world.

In the graphic below, observe Jupiter’s position at the start of the quarter (6/20): he is in the midst of his recent retrograde loop. Thus, the experience or wisdom to be shared is something that is taking a few tries to get right, to come out appropriately, or in a manner that assures success. Then on Sept 10, Jupiter will heliacally set, becoming too close to the Sun to be seen as Morning, Midnight or Evening Star.

SATURN – Midnight Star becoming Evening Star

June Solstice sees Saturn retrograde, on his way to the direct station. In Vedic Astrology, Saturn is “the son of the Sun” (credit: astrologer Julene Lewis) which seems to consistently play into Saturn’s significations when retrograde. He poses a contrarian stance to the Sun’s life-giving light, or a needed respite, reality check, or cooling period. August 13 is the exact station at 9 Sagittarius, in the constellations of the Scorpion and Serpent Bearer. This is a chthonic Saturn, unearthing or re-entrenching societal norms, and it is a Saturn who holds a particularly strong influence over Earth matters now due to his extreme closeness to the Earth. At 9 Sagittarius, it would appear that Saturn is in full support of the current bombardment of ideologies, political positions and claims of what’s right, both in the US and beyond. Financial markets have never been more inter-connected across national borders, revealing ever more clearly the manipulation of currencies around the developed and developing world. The remainder of 2016 will see much of this playing out – for good or ill – as Saturn’s celestial course forwards him in the area of space through which he previously retrogressed.

Images by Adam Gainsburg
www.SkyAstrologyConference.com
www.SoulsignAstrology.com
Book Review
From the British Astrology Journal
By Victor Olliver

The Professional Astrologer
Building a Successful Astrology Practice
Compiled by OPA

Now here’s a book the world of astrology will welcome. Compiled by no less an august body than the Organization for Professional Astrology in the US, it fizzes with the kind of go-getting positivity not always overly abundant in Britannia. Yes, you too have the capability to succeed as a business class astro pro – and how can you doubt this message given the tribe of stellar contributors on show?

Among them are Ray Merriman, Melanie Reinhart, Frank C. Clifford, Maurice Fernandez (OPA President), Donna Young, Wendy Stacey, Hakan Kirkoglu, Chris McRae, Chris Brennan, Arlan Wise, and so many, many more, each focusing on an area of expertise. Topics (in Part 2) include marketing strategies, writing and publishing, business plans and payment practices, compartmentalisation of income streams (‘active’ and ‘passive’), counseling, ethical considerations, networking, professional bodies, etc.

Fernandez foresees that “Astrology is destined to become an essential resource and a prominent profession in modern society”, provided that competent practice is maintained and encouraged.

But if the prognosis is all bright Jupiter, there’s a 2015 OPA astrologers’ survey first to digest in Saturn-like Part 1. It tends to confirm what could have been guessed. The majority of astrologers are aged “57 or wiser” and a great many rely on an additional source of income, though I was favourably surprised that nearly one-third already live on astrology alone.

Few began their careers as astrologers, veering towards the horoscope as a hobby or part of a ‘retirement’ plan in later life.

A lack of professional status may explain why astro males are thin on the ground. In other words, astrology has a lot of ground to cover before it’s likely to feature as a career option in our schools.

So what? Cultural attitudes and practices alter with rapidity, a point made in Wendy Stacey’s piece, ‘The Times are a-Changin’. She observes that an astrologer’s constituency used to be local. Now it is potentially global, thanks to the internet. Electronic payments are made in seconds and ‘virtual consultations’ bring immediacy. The Jupiter-Saturn conjunctions in Air in 2020, and Pluto’s entry of Aquarius in 2024, will, she thinks, help to open minds to much broader concerns beyond the mundane, in relation to the self; and to astrology’s advantage.

In Part 3 notable professional astrologers share what they have learnt “from life experience”. Financial astrologer Ray Merriman, for instance, began studying astrology at 20 and was practising by 22. For his living he relies “100%” on astrology.

The Professional Astrologer is the next best thing to a good friend who has made it big in our field. Its upbeat message is inspiring while its readable and priceless insights offer credible routes to astro success.
With the release of this publication – June Solstice 2016 – Dwarf Planets Ceres and Eris are conjunct at 23 Aries, right next to Uranus, and opposing Haumea at 22 Libra. This is an opportune time to further discuss the presence of these mysterious bodies and stimulate interest for further research.

An important Note: With most of the Dwarf Planets and contenders being only recently discovered (Haumea, Eris, Sedna and Makemake in 2003 – 2005), and given their extreme distance and slow motion around the Sun (with Eris taking more than 560 years to complete a full cycle around the zodiac), a lot more time is required to research and validate their astrological significance and influence. We can rely on the myth stories related to their names as an initial point of reference, but we should be careful asserting decisive definitions when so much remains to be revealed. We hope however, that you will feel inspired to place them in your charts and spend time researching them. They certainly emerged into our consciousness at the dawn of this new millennia for important evolutionary reasons.

We know the Dwarfs already mark an important turning point, for, aside from Eris, the newly discovered bodies were not named after Roman Gods as was the tradition, but after Gods from indigenous cultures around the Pacific – Haumea, a Hawaiian Goddess, mother of Pele the volcano Goddess, Makemake after the Creation God of the egg from the Rapa Nui culture of Easter Islands, and Dwarf contender Sedna, after the Inuit Goddess living at the bottom of the Arctic ocean. While there may be more to these planets than their associated myth, we know that there are no coincidences, and must pay attention to this twist of event.

Established Dwarf Planets

- **Ceres** – (Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter) discovered on January 1, 1801. Considered a planet for half a century before reclassification as an asteroid (1860). Accepted as a dwarf planet by the IAU on September 13, 2006.
- **Pluto** – (Kuiper belt beyond Neptune) discovered on February 18, 1930. Classified as a planet for 76 years. Reclassified as a dwarf planet by the IAU on August 24, 2006.
- **Haumea** – (Kuiper belt beyond Neptune) discovered on December 28, 2004. Accepted by the IAU as a dwarf planet on September 17, 2008.
- **Makemake** – (Kuiper belt beyond Neptune) discovered on March 31, 2005. Accepted by the IAU as a dwarf planet on July 11, 2008.
- **Eris** – (Scattered Disk, beyond Kuiper belt) discovered on January 5, 2005. Called the "tenth planet" in media reports. Accepted by the IAU as a dwarf planet on September 13, 2006.

### Dwarf Planets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DIAMETER</th>
<th>ORBIT PERIOD AROUND THE ZODIAC</th>
<th>CURRENT POSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceres</td>
<td>950 km</td>
<td>4.6 years</td>
<td>Aries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pluto</td>
<td>2,372 km</td>
<td>246.0 years</td>
<td>14-17 Capricorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haumea</td>
<td>1,960 to 1,5 km × 996 km</td>
<td>283.3 years</td>
<td>21-22 Capricorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makemake</td>
<td>1,434 km × 1,422 km</td>
<td>309.9 years</td>
<td>0 – 2 Libra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eris</td>
<td>2,326 km</td>
<td>560.9 years</td>
<td>23 Aries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In comparison, the Moon’s diameter is 3474 km (2159 miles).
Dwarf Planets

FERNANDEZ

Enjoy these facts, reflections, and stories about the Dwarf Planets.

A Dwarf Planet is a relatively new definition, dating August 24, 2006, describing a spherical celestial body revolving about the sun, similar to a planet but not large enough to gravitationally clear its orbital region of most of all other celestial bodies.

Mike Brown, who was part of the team that discovered the Dwarf Planets, considers an additional six trans-Neptunian objects to be “nearly certainly dwarf planets with diameters at or above 900 kilometers. These objects are:

- Quaoar – discovered on June 5, 2002
- Sedna – discovered on November 14, 2003
- Orcus – discovered on February 17, 2004
- 2002 MS₄ – discovered on 18 June 2002
- Salacia – discovered on September 22, 2004
- 2007 OR10 – discovered on July 17, 2007

ERIS TODAY

Eris is extremely slow moving and will spend more than a century in Aries (due to its elliptic orbit). She entered the sign of Aries (adding yet more spice to a hot meal) in 1923, and will exit into Taurus in 2044.

In June 2016, Eris will be joined by Uranus at 23 Aries, as it now opposes Haumea at 23 Libra for numerous years. Eris will be squared by Pluto by 2019-2020, just in time for the dramatic Pluto/Saturn cycle in Capricorn.

MEETING HAUMEA and her Daughter PELE, the FIRE GODDESS

What is in a name? and what is in an astronomer naming a distant body found in what seems to be an infinite distance away? Apparently more than we can imagine.

Haumea, the mother goddess who birthed the islands of Hawaii, and all of Hawaii’s Gods, has a well-deserved stellar designation given that one of the most sophisticated telescopes in the world – the Gemini Observatory – sits on the sacred peak of Hawaii, Mt Mauna Kea, taking advantage of some of the clearest atmospheric skies on the planet. The Gemini Observatory captures the difficult marriage between science and religion as indigenous Hawaiians barely tolerate what they refer to as the technological high-jacking of their most sacred mountain.

I have personally been introduced to Haumea and her famed and tempestuous daughter Pele in auspicious and sometimes dramatic ways.

My first calling to set foot in Hawaii came in October 2007 when I organized an Astrology themed workshop on the Big Island, home to the volcano Goddess Pele. Looking back, I realized that I landed on the most remote lands on the planet during a New Moon in Libra tightly conjunct the planet Haumea, at 14 Libra.

ERIS’S DEMOTION PLAN OF PLUTO A SUCCESS

Upon discovering Eris in January 2005, astronomers initially thought it to be a body larger in diameter than Pluto, and this stirred a debate about the real definition of a planet. The conclusion of this debate led to the new term Dwarf Planet, causing the subsequent demotion of Pluto from Planet to Dwarf Planet. For

Eris, named after the Greek Goddess of discord, it was mission accomplished.

Eris in her mythological identity was no stranger to demoting and demystifying “sacred cows.”

The most famous tale of Eris recounts her initiating the Trojan War by causing the Judgement of Paris. The goddesses Hera (Juno), Athena and Aphrodite (Venus) had been invited along with the rest of Olympus to the forced wedding of Peleus and Thetis, but Eris had been snubbed because of her troublemaking inclinations.

She therefore tossed into the party the Apple of Discord inscribed – “For the most beautiful one”, or “To the Fairest One” – provoking the ‘saintly’ goddesses to begin quarreling about the appropriate recipient. The hapless Paris, Prince of Troy, was appointed by Zeus to select the fairest. The goddesses stripped naked to try to win Paris’ decision, and also attempted to bribe him. Hera (Juno) offered political power; Athena promised infinite wisdom; and Aphrodite (Venus) tempted him with the most beautiful woman in the world: Helen, wife of Menelaus of Sparta.

While Greek culture placed a greater emphasis on prowess and power, Paris chose to award the apple to Aphrodite (Venus), thereby dooming his city, which was destroyed in the war that ensued.

This story clearly describes the unsettling nature of Eris – but what can we learn from this? Is Eris exposing an unsettling side of ourselves we did not even know existed? Did Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite know they could go so low as to strip naked and use bribery to “deserve” the title of the Fairest and most Beautiful? Eris exposed these beautiful goddesses in quite an unflattering light.

And so it was, when Eris entered our consciousness - stirring the pot and getting Pluto dwarfed on August 24, 2006, it was later revealed that perhaps it wasn’t larger in size than Pluto after all. But the ‘damage’ was done, Pluto remained dwarfed; notwithstanding, if size matters, of all midgets, Pluto is the largest of them in diameter.

The orbits of Dwarf Planets in comparison to Neptune.

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Interestingly, this was exactly conjunct my 4th house Uranus positioned at 15 Libra (and ruling my North Node). Three years later, November 25, 2010, I moved to the Big Island on the slopes of the active volcano Kīlauea, home of Pele.

Given Haumea's slow motion, by the time I moved, she was still hovering around my 4th house Uranus, but this time in conjunction with transiting Saturn in the mid degrees of Libra. Two months later, I organized the first River of Stars Astrology conference on the island. This was an incredible spiritual experience, bringing astrology, spirituality, community, and heart-centeredness to a celebratory high. Sadly, days after the conference program completed, I was called two continents away to the death bed of my mother who transitioned from this world the morning after my landing. I found a new motherland, and yet was orphaned simultaneously—certainly Saturn trotting through my 4th house has to do with such timing, but Haumea and Pele were no stranger to death and birth.

I personally find it difficult to separate the myths of Pele (Haumea's daughter) from the astrological influences of Haumea. And so it was that 3 years later May 2014, I launched a new promotional campaign for the 2nd River of Stars conference, to take place March 2015. I felt it was time, as the Gods seem to prompt me in this direction.

In the thick of the promotional campaign, August 2014, a violent hurricane pounded that particular area of the Big Island causing considerable damage to the infrastructure. As soon as residents recovered from days and some even weeks without power and the chaos of tree carcasses, the news hit that the Lava flow, which normally continuously flows from the crater to the ocean, had deviated from its usual course, and was now approaching within close distance to our town, Pāhoa.

The slow but persistent flow was swallowing everything in its course, heading straight toward the town, and threatening to cross major highway arteries that would completely isolate this part of the island, not to mention the damage it would cause and the toxic smoke of lava and whatever it consumes in its course. The threat became critical and alarming in September 2014—a time when Haumea was exactly conjunct the North Node in the sky at 20 degrees Libra. The September 8th headline stirred emergency and panic: "The lava flow could reach the government road in Pāhoa within 16-18 days."
Hawaiians have absolute respect for the goddess Pele, and the lava was not to be perceived as a random natural phenomenon, but a divine force with clear intentions—they made it clear that no human intervention to divert the lava was to be attempted, but only evacuation when necessary.

The lava took its time and extended the suspense. It crossed the first fields of town, narrowly missing homes, and crossed the first peripheral road and encircled a wasted processing station by November. Serpenting its way through back yards and inflating with the heat, these were the days of scorched earth policy, turning a lush rainforest area into a barren black lunar landscape.

Business closed, people stored cans and gas supplies, with smoke almost constant; evacuation strategies were well studied by everyone. Pele was not to be messed with, but gave us residents ample prep time.

Prayers and rituals were organized, school children wrote private messages to plead with the Goddess in attempt to appease her anger. But the first D-day was eminent; Pele was about to cross the main town road, and then the adjacent main highway. Residents gathered within safe distance to view the daunting spectacle – but that day, she did not cross, only got closer. The next day, nor the following week, the same. Pele stalled just by the road, sparing us on the threshold of a catastrophe.

It took another month for additional lava fingers to stall again, short of minimal distance from major infrastructure. By the end of December, residents began to gain confidence that albeit fire was still surrounding town, they could begin to breathe fresh air again. At that time, Haumea and the North Node were distancing themselves from each other, now within 7 degrees of orb. The goddess made her point and yet heeded the prayers – unbelievably, with lava crossing this rural town, it only burned one house down.

The River of Stars conference prevailed with participants flocking from all directions, eager for an infusion of vitamin D and star knowledge. And yet, the first day of the conference was challenged again by a forceful wind storm that knocked power down for a few hours. But on that same evening, a powerful hula dance performance was taking place in honor of Pele, led by a great Kumu (teacher) who gave a blessing for the conference, and that completely turned the tide, propelling the conference to an absolute
success. The Hula performance opened with Dwarf Planet Haumea rising. Haumea seems prominent in the charts of important events associated with Hawaii. As it is, Hawaii became the 50th state of the America on August 21, 1959 with the Sun tightly conjunct Haumea at 29 Leo.

THE EGG OF CREATION, and the THREAT OF EXTINCTION – A WARNING FROM MAKEMAKE

The Rapa Nui Polynesian culture from the Easter Islands worshipped Makemake (pronounced makei makei), the bird God, and their story is entrenched with the existential polarity of new life, sustainability, and termination.

As part of this tradition, an important rite of passage consisted of having young men coming of age fetch an egg from bird nests on tall and sharp cliffs; they had to swim back and forth through shark infested waters and carry back the egg in their mouth and deliver it unbroken to their patron. The first to succeed in this mission would be recognized as man of valor and worthy leader for the year.

Interestingly, the remote Pacific island was named Easter Island by the first recorded European to access the island, Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen, who happened to arrive on the island on Easter (egg) day 1722. The Dwarf Planet Makemake was discovered shortly after Easter Sunday 2005.

With such a symbol of fertility and the nesting of new life, it is noteworthy that a tragic fate awaited the Rapa Nui population and Easter Island; an industrious culture, living on fertile land with a rich and yet precarious ecosystem, they ended up overpopulating the island, causing massive deforestation and their subsequent demise.

From Wikipedia:

21 species of trees and all species of land birds became extinct through some combination of overharvesting/overhunting, rat predation, and climate change. The island was largely deforested, and it did not have any trees more than 3 metres (10 feet) tall. Loss of large trees meant that residents were no longer able to build seaworthy vessels, significantly diminishing their fishing abilities. Deforestation also affected agricultural production on Rapa Nui. At first, the native tropical forests provided ideal shade cover for soil. But with many of the native forest being destroyed, the topsoil became eroded causing a sharp decline in agricultural production. This was further exacerbated by the loss of land birds and the collapse in seabird populations as a potential source of food.

Sound familiar? Easter Island may reflect a microcosm of our current day ecological crisis on a planetary scale – the discovery of Makemake at this time may be significant with regards to questions of personal and collective survival and sustainability.

An interesting illustration of this theme: the transit chart for Leonardo DiCaprio speaking for the first time at the UN about the urgency of climate change – Transiting Sun at 0 Libra is exactly on Makemake, hovering over his Ascendant.

Maurice Fernandez. Astrology and the Evolution of Consciousness. Find out more about Maurice: www.mauricefernandez.com
Dwarf Planets

Dwarfs, Gods and Goddesses

by Henry Seltzer

We astrologers have a new Solar System out there to recognize and begin to work with. This is so as of the very recent date of September 2006, when Eris was named a new planet, to be followed two years later by Makemake and Haumea. That was when the astronomical category of “dwarf planet” came into being, assigned to all three (and to Ceres, the first of the major feminine asteroids). This was of course also when Pluto was assigned to this category. Many astrologers wondered at the time whether this would affect the way that we would regard working with Pluto in Western Astrology. For this initial question, the results can be said to be in; namely that as a group we do not consider Pluto to be any different – by and large – from working with the other well-known outer planets of Uranus and Neptune. So as far as we astrologers are concerned, dwarf or not, Pluto is still a planet.

This immediately brings a larger issue to bear – namely the status of these others, most notably Eris, named for the Greek Goddess of Chaos and Discord, far denser than Pluto. This was considered to be the mysterious tenth planet that astronomers had long sought, until being relegated to dwarf status, or perhaps in spite of that. There are also the smaller spheroids of Makemake, the first actual planet designated from the mythology of indigenous peoples, named for the creation God of Rapa Nui – the Polynesian culture of Easter Island – and Haumea, named after the mother goddess of the Hawaiian people. These are dwarf planets, but for me the operative word here is ‘planet.’ After all, this is the astronomical category that Pluto now bears, and we know that small but potent Pluto is incredibly important in Western Astrology.

What, then, of these others, notably Eris?

It is a mistake to call her an asteroid, as many astrologers now consider her. She might even be just as powerful as Pluto in charts! At least, this is a hypothesis to be considered, and research conducted to determine the findings there, and how we might begin to characterize this new astrological archetype. That was my starting point some eight years back, and somewhat to my surprise, I found this hypothesis to be true – that Eris can in fact be considered an important new planetary archetype.

As many of you reading this article will already know, I have been able to characterize Eris as a Feminine Warrior energy for deep soul intention. This aligns with (although is not identical to) her status as the sister and companion of the Greek God of War, Ares, translated into Roman mythology as Mars. How, I wondered initially, would a feminine warrior outer planet be differentiated from the militaristic and feisty male energy of Mars? Also I was very interested in understanding what the positive manifestation of Eris might be, as we have come to understand, also, that side of Pluto. The astrological archetype of Pluto can represent deep desire, un-manifested needs, compulsivity and the potential for obsessive and controlling behavior; and yet also, transformation. Pluto represents the necessary ability to leave behind, as we change and grow, that which no longer serves us.

Eris, located even deeper in the Kuiper Belt, beyond Pluto, also represents what emanates from the deepest portions of the psyche, and so the characteristics of Erisian actions, which can be extreme, even violent, as I have found. These also come from the more remote layers of the human psyche, relating to deep instinctual forces of nature. Violent, yes, but violent in a quite natural way, as a mother tiger kills in order to feed her cubs. So that the question would be to find the upside of this energy.

I looked into the Eris archetype as it manifests in actual charts, for instance it is quite strong in the chart of noted literary icon D. H. Lawrence. His chart features Eris signular in one hemisphere – apart from all the other planets – in partile opposition to the midpoint of his close Sun-Jupiter conjunction, and in close square with Chiron. I found that there is usually a decided urge for natural law, and for protecting the natural environment, as opposed to man-made arrangements based on rationalism and materialism. Lawrence for example decried the industrial black soot from coal that had descended over the Midlands area of England where he grew up. He also demonstrated in his fiction a depth of awareness and a fighting spirit against the established and rather stultifying mores of his day.

After reviewing many charts I have come up with some principles that apply to interpreting Eris in natal charts. One is that whatever house Eris is in is a quite important house. Eris also brings any planet that she touches into great prominence in the life. An example would be the chart of psychiatrist C.G. Jung. With Eris in partile trine to Mercury, Jung lectured in three languages and wrote incessantly. His collected works come to eighteen volumes. Toward the end of his life, he also became deeply involved with Alchemy and with the Spirit Mercurius, which he described in great detail. Another example chart with prominent Eris-Mercury is noted Jungian psychologist James Hillman, with a close conjunction. Hillman, who spoke and lectured in elegant complete sentences, is known for his scholarly approach and his eloquent and prolific Jungian writings.

As far as house placement – I have written these up, the twelve different positions, in my well-received book on this subject, The Tenth Planet: Revelations from the Astrological Eris, published by The Wessex Astrologer, and they also appear in the latest version of the TimePassages software for desktop, which I invite you to sample for yourselves. I have almost

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universally found that people readily recognize themselves in these descriptions. Eris magnifies whatever house she is found within from the standpoint of deep soul intention. For a brief example from the chart of Jung who had **Eris in the first house**, therefore tied up with his very identity, the interpretation text reads, in part: “You are a strong stand for yourself and for what you believe. You must believe utterly in what you are doing in order to be effective, and when you do, look out! Whatever you truly set your mind upon, it will happen.” (fn 1)

He was in fact a bit intimidating; in his own words:

> It is the truth, a force of nature that expresses itself through me... I can imagine many instances where I would become sinister to you. For instance, if life had led you to take up an artificial attitude, then you wouldn't be able to stand me, because I am a natural being. By my very presence I crystalize; I am a ferment. The unconscious of people who live in an artificial manner senses me as a danger. Everything about me irritates them, my way of speaking, my way of laughing.

> They sense nature. (fn 2)

And it is interesting to note that Freud, who pioneered depth psychology and had a complicated home life, had **Eris in the fourth house** of home, family, and psychological roots. Einstein, who became the most famous and most easily recognized scientist in the world, had **Eris in the tenth, conjunct the MC**.

As far as the difference of the Eris archetype to the more routinely militaristic astrological symbolism of Mars, allow me to again quote from my book:

> The potentially violent action, and standing up for oneself, that characterizes Eris, comes from such a deep place and has this soul-purpose depth underlying it, that it would never make sense for a person with a strong Eris to act as a mercenary, or commit violence for money or greed as one with a strong Mars might; just the opposite. My research indicates instead a desire to defend the underdog, to fight for justice over and above self-interest. It is the end to be achieved, and not the violent means to that end, that is truly representative of the Eris archetype.

> This relates to deep natural process, as in the animal world. A predator kills to eat, and for the sake of its young; ultimately for the survival of the species. So this natural form is action, potentially violent action, based on ultimate need. Mars fights because he wants to, Eris because she has to. (fn 3)

I have found, in specifics, that **Eris in combination with Saturn** almost invariably indicates one who goes out of his or her way to battle for the underdog. You could associate the Saturn archetype with a sense of justice, of fitting natural law that allows each person their due. Marianne Williamson, with a partile Moon-Eris conjunction and is a fierce and protective mother, having adopted children

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from the third world, as is appropriate for a ninth-house placement of these planets. She is a bit of a rebel, and has tattooed upon her abdomen, in Latin, “what nurtures me destroys me.” I was fascinated to note her fierce act of devotion when she went through a double preventive mastectomy in order to be sure that she would not die prematurely of breast cancer, for which she was known to have a genetic predilection. She had lost her own mother to breast cancer. She stated that this way she could assure her six children that she would be around to see them graduate. With Mars ruling surgery and the Moon ruling the breasts, and with Eris standing for fierce and potentially violent action in support of one’s own deep beliefs, the symbolism is precise.

Over and over, as I examined the charts of feminists and paradigm shifters that have gone against the grain of existing society to articulate a new vision stemming from their own unique perspectives, as well as film-makers, actors and singer-songwriters whose lyrics seek to shift in positive ways the society that surrounds them, I have found a strong presence of Eris, often in combination with the planets that most appropriately define them, such as Mercury for prolific writers. For a summary, see from my book, The Tenth Planet, Appendix B (Feminists) and C (Paradigm Shifters) and Chapters 2 and 7.

What, now, of the other two dwarf planets named by the IAU (International Astronomical Union) in the previous decade, namely Makemake and Haumea – what might they represent in charts? I have a working hypothesis there, and a growing quantity of evidence. Because these two are related to the mythology of indigenous people, earth issues such as global warming and resources come to the fore. Makemake was the creation god of the Easter Island Polynesian people, called the culture of Rapa Nui. They were in terrible shape when discovered by Dutch explorers on Easter Day, 1772, because some years back they had cut down the last of their trees, and, being an isolated island civilization, had no where else to trade with and obtain more of this vital resource. The poignant quote from Teddy Roosevelt is applicable:

“We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation.”

He is, in fact, known as the conservationist president. When I examined Roosevelt’s birth chart, I found to my delight that he was possessed of a particle conjunction of Eris with Makemake at the very top, in the tenth house, a degree away from his North Node. See the chart fragments below, which make use of glyphs for Makemake and Haumea suggested by other astrologers, and of my own design, being variations on the glyph of Pluto, their astrological cousin.

I went on to examine the charts of other prominent environmentalists, and found, with every one, that there was some form of prominent Makemake or Haumea placement. I will give some examples in the list of charts at the end of the article.

Haumea was the mother goddess of the Hawaiian people, responsible for the many creatures that populate the Hawaiian Islands, and mother of Pele, who creates land out of fiery lava, as she is still doing to this day. Haumea was a fecund creator, standing in for the bounty of the natural world, giving birth to many of the Hawaiian people’s gods and goddesses from different parts of her body. Her mythology thus suggests a concern with earth issues, such as global warming and the survival of animal, bird and fish species. So it made sense to me that both of these tiny dwarf planets, far smaller than either Pluto or Eris, would be involved with issues of the environment and with animal rights. An interesting example involving Haumea arose when I examined Prince’s chart after his recent and tragic death this past spring.

With such a strong configuration of Haumea, at the top of his chart and conjunct Pluto, as well as being semi-sextile to Makemake, I thought that Prince might be involved in animal rights and environmental causes, and
went to look for evidence of such on the Internet. Here is a summary of what I found:

A committed vegan who never shied away from speaking the truth, Prince laid out the reasons why animals are not ours to eat in these stirring lyrics from his song “Animal Kingdom”:

No member of the animal kingdom nurses past maturity
No member of the animal kingdom ever did a thing to me
It's why I don't eat red meat or white fish
Don't give me no blue cheese
We're all members of the animal kingdom
Leave your brothers and sisters in the sea

A proud PETA supporter, Prince donated “Animal Kingdom” to PETA to use as a musical invitation to our 20th anniversary party in New York. He also attended our 2005 gala, and in 2006, Prince was crowned PETA’s Sexiest Vegetarian Celebrity. (fn 5)

Of course, it makes sense as well that Makemake would be important for environmental activism, and a good example is the chart of David Bowie, another musician and cultural icon, also recently passed on. He has 

Makemake opposite his close Sun-Mars conjunction, sesquiquadrate his Venus on the MC, and semi-sixtile Uranus as well, within one degree; Haumea is semi-sextile to Makemake, closely sextile Uranus, sesquiquadrate Eris and inconjunct his Sun-Mars. Bowie was among many other things an animal rights person and an environmentalist.

It is difficult in this initial stage of the research to separate the “influence” (which is really symbolic resonance) of Makemake and Haumea as far as which specific issue among those of animal rights, environmental activism and protecting earth resources. These issues are certainly very topical ones right now, as would be indicated by these new planetary archetypes coming to the fore at the beginning of this new 21st Century.

It does seem safe to say that Makemake and Haumea tend to partake, as does Eris, in this factor of decisive activism; in their case corresponding to a soul-level need to respond to earth issues, in spirited defense of the planet and all its denizens.

Notes
Fn 4 – https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/history-culture/theodore-roosevelt-and-conservation.htm
Fn 7 – http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/prince/coloredmind.html

Chart Data – Source = ADB (AstroDataBank) or Wikipedia, with Rodden Rating A-C
Angelina Jolie: June 4, 1975 5:09 am PDT, Los Angeles, CA (ADB, A)
D. H. Lawrence: Sep 11, 1885, 9:45 am, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, UK, ADB, A

C.G. Jung: Jul 26, 1875, 7:29 pm, tz -.5, Kesswil, Switzerland, ADB, B
“as the sun was setting”
James Hillman: Apr 12, 1926, 9:08 am, Atlantic City, NJ, ADB, C
Sigmund Freud: May 6, 1856, 6:30 pm, Pribor, Czech Republic, ADB, AA
Albert Einstein: Mar 14, 1879, 11:30 am, LMT, Ulm, Germany, ADB, AA
Teddy Roosevelt: Oct 27, 1858, 7:45 pm, New York, NY, ADB, B
Prince: Jun 7, 1958, 6:17 pm, Minneapolis, MN, ADB, AA
David Bowie: Jan 8, 1947, 9:00 am, London, U.K., ADB, A
Edward Abbey: Jan 29, 1927, 10:30 pm, Indiana, PA, ADB, AA
Edward Joffe: Jan 29, 1927, 10:30 pm, Indiana, PA, ADB, AA
author The Monkey Wrench Gang
Rachel Carson: May 27, 1907, 2:00, Springdale, Allegheny, ADB, A - author The Silent Spring
Leonardo di Caprio: Nov 11, 1974, 2:47 am, Los Angeles, CA, ADB, AA
addressed the U.N. on climate change
Rachel McAdams: Nov 17, 1978, 5:20 am London, Canada, Wiki, B - environmentalist
birth time source - The Rachel McAdams Handbook - Everything You Need To Know
About Rachel McAdams by Emily Smith.
Desmond Morris: Jan 24, 1928, unk, Puton, U.K., Wiki, X - author The Naked Ape
The Axial Age and Sedna

The axis of Gemini – Sagittarius as we now is associated with cognitive abilities, philosophical thinking, belief systems, and how we adapt and learn from our environment. We evolve as a species, and in Gemini – Sagittarius we see how we change as humans. From 1432 – 18 BC Sedna was in Sagittarius, the sign in which it stays the longest time. In the year 2024 Sedna will enter the Sign of Gemini where it will stay until 2066, in her 11.400 cycle around the zodiac.

Sedna in Gemini – 2024 to 2066

From 2024 to 2066 Sedna will stay in Gemini and may bring revolutionary ideas that change the way we understand the concept of cosmos. Soon after, Sedna will be at its Perihelion in 2075 – 2076. So in the course of its 12,000 years’ of travel, Sedna will be the closest to the Earth, possibly increasing its influence on us. During her Aphelion will form a T-Square with Pluto and Uranus which for me will end several structures of our societies. Issues associated with human cloning, transhumanism, and genetic manipulation of human DNA may fundamentally alter our current worldview and possibly bring a collapse as a modern society. It is my view that the changes Sedna reflected through its passage in Sagittarius, may reoccur during its presence in Gemini, until its Aphelion. Those years will change humanity radically and we will see new people coming and teaching new ideas. We may call it the time of “Technomages;” it may prompt further space exploration and possibly contact with new species that change the foundations and perception of the collective permanently. If during the period of Sedna in Sagittarius we had the Birth of Philosophers and Gurus, now we will have the birth of people who use technology with philosophy to change the world—we can possibly expect one of the most significant change of consciousness to date—a golden age.

New world

As always new ideas do not come simply as a miracle. I believe that before we experience a golden age, 2070 and forwards, humanity is likely to face severe problems. Confucius came to China in a period of great turbulence, and as Heraclitus mentioned, War is the father of all, people often learn to advance through strife and conflict. Ecological, financial, and ethical crises are to be expected and that will shape the following years providing the platform for great people and movements to emerge and change our world.

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UPCOMING ASTROLOGY CONFERENCES

OCTOBER 2016
October 13-17 - ISAR CONFERENCE
Costa Mesa, CA
isarastrology.org/2016-conference

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

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

FEBRUARY 2017
February 16-18 - NCGR CONFERENCE
ncgrconference2017.com

MAY 2017
ASTROLOGY RISING
Astrology Conference. Costa Rica
astrologyrisingcostarica.com

OCTOBER 2017
October 19-23, 2017 OPA RETREAT
Details to come
What Inspires me

Art took me back to astrology. I’ve been in love with astrology since I was a child running around the school yard during recess asking my classmates what were their signs. I didn’t know then, but I was interested in understanding patterns and what made people tick in their own individual ways. Then as a teenager, I discovered Linda Goodman’s book and I was off to the races. But it was only in my mid-twenties that I started studying astrology in depth, taking classes with various teachers and attending conferences.

sensible thing to do. Towards the end of graduate school, my art reawakened in me. I started exploring my love for drawing, and in that journey I started drawing personalized birth charts. It started with doing one for a friend’s new born baby. Immediately, my friends were interested in having their own birth charts done. They wanted the art, but they wanted to learn about their own birth charts too, and that was how I got back on the road to astrology.

My process for creating Birth Charts

When a client commissions a drawing of their birth chart, I first have the reading with the client, walk with them through their chart, and it’s from this encounter that I find inspiration to create the art piece. I try to infuse the drawing with symbols that evoke my client’s life theme or experience. Often clients are enthralled by the level of details and patterns placed in their birth chart, and they love the felt experience of having the chart come alive in such a visual way. My favorite part in this process, is seeing the client’s reaction when they first see their charts. It really makes the piece and the entire experience come alive for me. It’s such a joy for me to introduce my clients to their birth chart in this symbolic and colorful way.

Branching out into other astrologically inspired art

My other art pieces are inspired by my wish to weave colorful patterns into my own felt sense about astrology. I’m a Gemini Sun with Taurus Rising, and I just love bringing my ideas down to a physical form. The feeling of the markers, the texture of the paper and the meditative state in which I get to when I’m working on these drawings are a soothing balm to my Gemini monkey mind. In working on the zodiac glyphs, which I called the ‘Zodiac Medallions’, my wish was to create patterns and use colors that would highlight the essence of each sun sign. I then turned these into my 2015 calendar and greeting cards, which were a success with my clients and friends.

It was around this time too, that friends started telling me that I should create a coloring book. At first, I wasn't sure how to go about it, but around Thanksgiving of 2015, inspiration finally hit. I’m passionate about the Moon, and I have noticed the rise in interest amongst my clients to understand and work with the Moon. So ‘The Astrology of Joy - Lunar Mandalas’ Coloring Book was born. It’s part coloring book and a workbook, where one is guided through each New and Full Moons, with journaling prompts and the lunar mandala to color. I invite them to share their finished colored piece on social media. I absolutely love to see how each person weaves in their own color energy into the mandalas. Each time, I see their colored mandalas, it’s like my own creation comes alive again. Plus it gives me immense joy to be sharing my love for astrology.
for coloring and drawing with others, in a way that can reach more people, and take astrology into a more experiential level too.

You can find the Astrology of Joy - 2016 Lunar Mandalas coloring book on Amazon (http://amzn.to/1SkzOsA).

The Joy Phone Cases

As for the phone cases, it all started with a Valentine’s gift. I had got a new iPhone, and I needed a new case. My partner designed one for me using one of the mandalas from the coloring book. Once I shared that on social media, requests started pouring in. So we decided to create more phone cases, one for each Sun Sign. I call them “The Joy Phone Cases”, and they can be purchased at Redbubble.com (http://www.redbubble.com/people/liminalastro/shop). I have other ideas of astrology-themed merchandise that I want to create, but next in line are “The Joy Scarves”. I always wanted to see my art in fabric, and I love wearing scarves, so why not wear my joy for astrology?

I’m also looking forward to creating my new astrology coloring book for 2017. So this Spring and Summer, I’m back to the drawing table for new creations. I’m very grateful to be able to weave all my passions into my work: art, astrology and depth psychology. It brings me immense joy to see my clients being able to interact with astrology in a creative and visual way too.
Transits of the Season

By SANDRA LEIGH SERIO

JUNE 20, 2016 to SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

THEMES OF THE SEASON

- Summer Solstice
  Sun enters Cancer June 20, 2016
- Jupiter trines Pluto
  June 26, 2016 - Jupiter 16 Virgo 29/Pluto 16 Capricorn 29
- Mars Stationary Direct
  June 29, 2016 - 23 Scorpio 04
- Venus Trine Mars
  July 6, 2016 - 23 Cancer 22/23 Scorpio 22
- Uranus Stationary Retrograde
  July 29, 2016 - 24 Aries 30
- Saturn Stationary Direct Sq. Venus
  August 13, 2016 - Saturn 9 Sagittarius 36/Venus 9 Virgo 46
- Lunar Eclipse
  August 18, 2016 - 25 Aquarius 52
- Mars conjunct Saturn
  August 24, 2016 - 9 Sagittarius 52
- Venus conjunct Jupiter
  August 27, 2016 - 27 Virgo 21
- Mercury Stations Retrograde
  August 30, 2016 - 29 Virgo 04
- Solar Eclipse
  September 1, 2016 - 9 Virgo 21
- Jupiter enters Libra
  September 9, 2016
- Saturn square Neptune
  September 10, 2016 - Saturn 10 Sagittarius 25/Neptune 10 Pisces 25
- Lunar Eclipse
  September 16, 2016 - 24 Pisces 20
- Mercury Stations Direct
  September 22, 2016 - 14 Virgo 49

The longest day of the year in Northern latitudes, also known as the Summer Solstice, occurs when the Sun enters Cancer. This event takes place on June 20, the same day of the Full Moon at 29 Sagittarius 33. The chart for the Summer Solstice calculated for Greenwich Mean Time reveals a mutable grand cross with Saturn in Sagittarius on the Midheaven, Mercury in Gemini on the IC, Neptune in the first house in Pisces and Jupiter in Virgo in the 7th. The planets that make up the mutable cross are between 11 and 15 degrees. Saturn’s prominent position on the Midheaven of the chart indicates the need for foreign governments to take responsibility for their treaties and covenants. Yet Mercury, Jupiter and Neptune in stress aspect as part of the grand cross points toward confusion in understanding and applying the laws that affect all nations. Saturn rules the Democratic Party in the United States and with its placement on the MC of this chart, the Democratic Party will have a lot to say and receive quite a bit of attention in the coming months.

The Jupiter/Pluto trine on June 26 at 16 degrees Virgo/Capricorn is the 3rd in a series that began October 11, 2015. (The second one was March 16, 2016). This last trine in earth signs can bring opportunities on a grand scale as well as increasing your power and authority if you have planets at these degrees. Under this configuration, politics are likely to take an interesting turn. Integrity and values will be emphasized and candidates who epitomize these qualities will move forward and experience increased popularity.

Mars Stationing Direct at 23 Scorpio on June 29 puts deeper motives in perspective and allows for a release of pent up energy if you have planets around 23 degrees of the fixed signs. It is a good time to apologize to someone you maligned and to leave the past behind and concentrate on projects and initiatives that ignite your enthusiasm no matter how small or personal they may seem.

The Venus/Mars trine on July 6 at 23 Cancer/Scorpio bodes well for those looking for romance, especially if you have Venus or Mars in your natal chart at 23 degrees of the water signs. If romance is not your priority, then this is a great time to find commonality with opposites and to integrate male/female energies into any project you undertake.

Uranus Stations Retrograde on July 29 at 24 degrees of Aries. If you are into technology, aviation or work in inventive or intuitive fields, and have planets at 24 degrees of the cardinal or fire signs, you are likely to review your work and past discoveries and have a Eureka! moment. You may also find that new ideas come to you when you are asleep, meditating, or engaged in a spiritual discipline. It is also
Transits of the Season

a reminder that you are not an island. Pay attention to the other people in your life by acknowledging their worth and appreciating their contributions to your life.

Saturn Stations Direct on August 13 at 9 degrees of Sagittarius just as it squares Venus at 9 degrees of Virgo. If you have planets at 9 degrees of the mutable signs, you could feel some tension with work projects or feel a need to reevaluate your career direction. Relationships may feel strained and you could feel disappointment around a current project. If you like art, architecture or graphic design, this is an excellent time to work on your creative projects.

The Lunar Eclipse on August 18 at 25 Aquarius most likely will bring something to fruition if you have planets at 25 degrees of the fixed signs. Aquarius deals with group activities and social media and you could decide to limit your time with these activities and examine certain friendships that no longer have value in your life.

Mars is conjunct Saturn on August 24 at 9 degrees Sagittarius. When these two malefics join forces frustration, loss and irritability result. Mars is raw energy and Saturn is structure and restraint so when these two connect, chaos and setbacks are likely but only if you have planets at 9 degrees of the mutables. The best use of this energy is to sit back, lower your expectations or have none at all and accept the challenges before you with grace and an eagerness to find resolution. You will grow in the process and come out of it better able to handle life's foibles.

Three days after the Mars/Saturn conjunction, lovely Venus moves in to align with optimistic and jovial Jupiter at 27 degrees of Virgo. You'll feel like your fairy godmother has moved in to heal your wounds and bless your soul. If you have natal Moon, Venus, Jupiter or Uranus near these degrees, luck can descend on you and though you probably won't win the lottery, you will find some other incredible fortunate experience, person or thing to come into your life.

Mercury’s seasonal retrograde period begins on August 30 when it retrogrades at 29 Virgo. On September 22 it moves forward at 14 Virgo. If you are a Virgo or Gemini or have one of these signs rising or have planets between 14 and 29 of Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius or Pisces then this retrograde period will bring delays, changes and malfunctions with communication and transportation equipment. All retrograde periods of planets allow you to reflect on what you really want. This particular Mercury retrograde period allows you to rearrange your priorities so you can be of service to someone or something in your life. Bring along a book or a favorite game or word puzzle so that when communication and transportation problems arise and you have time on your hands, you will have something to keep you occupied and entertained.

The Solar Eclipse on September 1 occurs at 9 Virgo spelling a new beginning for Virgos after some trying times. (Notice this degree is also the degree of the previous Saturn Station, Mars/Saturn conjunction and within one degree of the upcoming Saturn/Neptune square). Often a change in lifestyle is experienced around a Solar Eclipse and it often happens months before the eclipse takes place. Virgo is a sign associated with health, work, small pets and aunts and uncles. If
Transits of the Season

you have planets at 9 degrees of the mutables, these areas of your life are most likely affected. Do not fear change, it moves you forward and into new experiences.

**Jupiter enters Libra on September 9** and brings joy, opportunity and celebrations to all Libras for a full year. Specific partnerships especially involving royalty, celebrities or politicians are highlighted. There is usually one important wedding on a national or international level during this time. Jupiter entering Libra can bring increased awareness to the arts and a new way to formulate compatibility for dating services. It can also bring more of the arts to colleges and universities and a greater appreciation of art in communities and nations. If you are an air sign, Jupiter will bless you with new friends, and energize you with younger people, new hobbies and more enjoyable pastimes. If you are a Libra, luck should be your companion for the next year.

**Saturn squares Neptune on September 10** at 10 degrees of Sagittarius/Pisces. This is the 3rd in a series for the planets in Sagittarius and Pisces that began November 26, 2015 and had its 2nd square on June 17. This final square highlights the need to find structure and security in life among confusion and betrayal especially if you have planets at this degree. Life can get so chaotic that the need to escape could bring you to drugs, alcohol or unsavory behaviors with Saturnian consequences. A better choice would be to seek psychological counsel during times of grief, depression or low energy. Attending a spiritual retreat would help instill discipline and mindfulness into your psyche and assist you in getting beyond these tense energies. The best outcome of these conflicting energies is for Saturn to bring structure to your idealism that in turn brings a more practical and realistic approach to life. Utilize these energies to think clearly and discard people or things you cannot trust or rely upon. Do not be swayed by seductive speakers who have nefarious intentions. Follow your intuition and your logic, not your heart.

**The Lunar Eclipse on September 16** falls at 24 Pisces. This eclipse will work to bring something to a final conclusion in your life. Pisces is the sign that embodies understanding and faith. If you have planets at this degree, you may well feel that something in your life has reached a level of completion and it is time to move into a new, more fulfilling direction. Do not let fears and anxieties overwhelm you. Trust that there is a better plan for you and have faith in what you can’t see. The rewards will manifest.

_Sandra-Leigh Serio_ is certified by ISAR, AFA and OPA as a professional astrologer and has written for the Mountain Astrologer, Llewellyn Publications, Horoscope Magazine and StarIQ. She has a M.A. in Psychology, lives in Boulder, Colorado and since 2003 has been the President of the Rocky Mountain Astrologers. In the 80's and 90's she had her own TV and radio show. She serves as a Group Leader and Treasurer for OPA and a trainer for ISAR's Consulting Skills. In her spare time she plays duplicate bridge. www.sandraleigh.com, sandraleigh@sandraleigh.com, 303-641-6838
Between Incarnations

Hermetic Astrology and Strings Between Incarnations

Everyone lives through three incarnations simultaneously at any moment. They are represented as three different lives that are most crucial for our development. Finding a way to unite those different lives in order to create one real Cosmic Life, that represents our True Being.

The Sky Phases of the Planets

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

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Jan 17
Robert Corre

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

Feb 7
Georgia Stathis
Hermetic Astrology and Strings Between Incarnations

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

Mar 20
Aleksandar Imsiragic

Virgo, Scorpio and Capricorn, the Birth of the Human

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

May 1
Linea Van Horn

Before the Client Arrives

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

June 12
Grace Morris

Economic, Real Estate and Business Cycles

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

July 10
Adam Gainsburg

Sky Phases of the Planets

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

Get updates and learn more at
OPAastrology.org

Aug 7
Michael Bergen

The Astrology Code

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

Sep 11
Rick Levine

Topic To Be Announced

Oct 2
Maurice Fernandez

About the 2016 US Election

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

Nov 6
Laune Naughtin

Horary Astrology: The Important Keys to Analysis

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

Dec 4
Demetra George

Topic To Be Announced
Our first International Astrology Conference in Athens, Greece, was an amazing experience. Hard work for us all with meaningful results. Attendees came from all over Europe, and even Zimbabwe and Brazil! Thank you all for your support.

Special thanks to Alexandra Karacostas and Maurice Fernandez for a successful production!