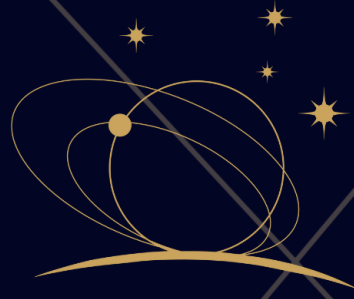
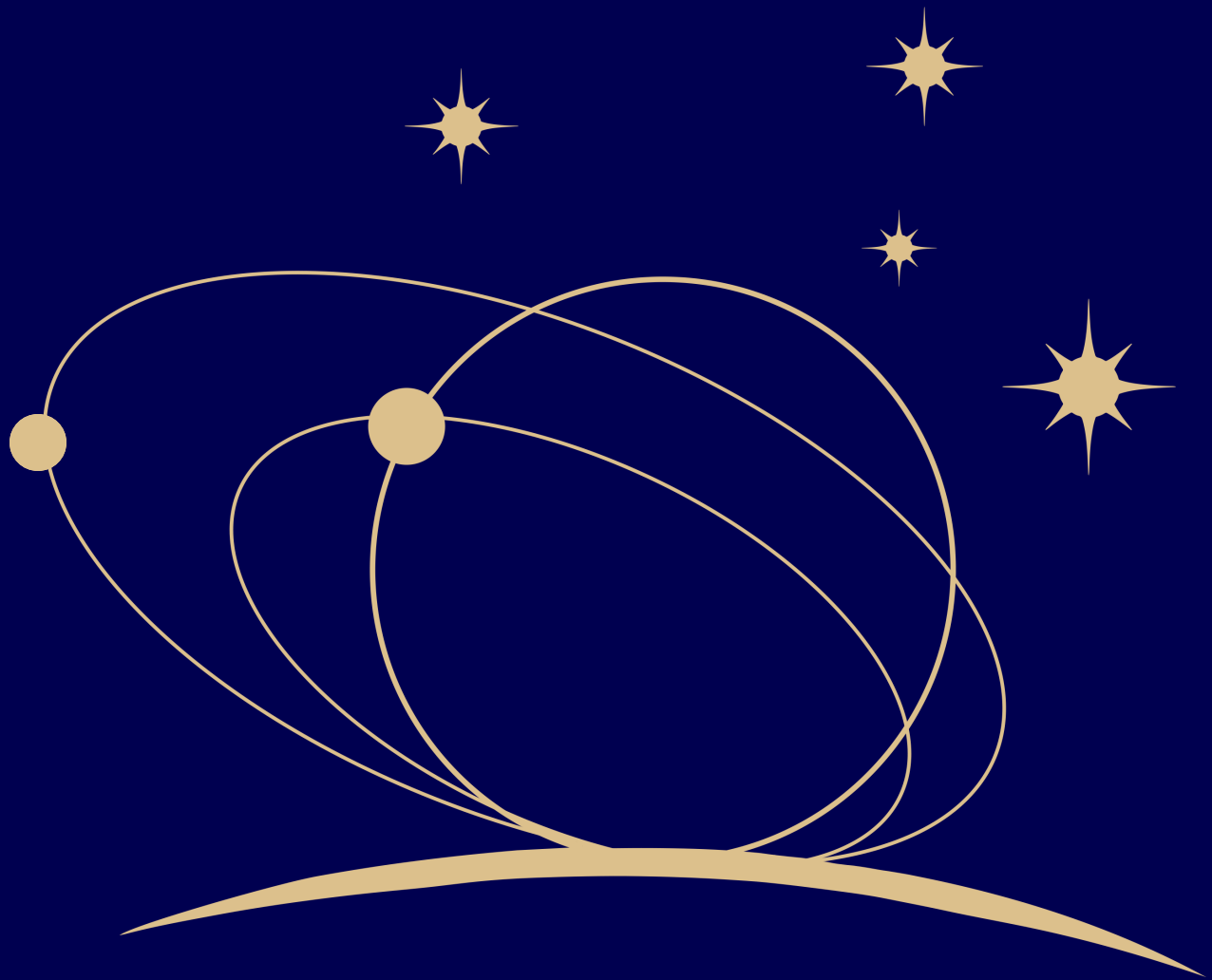


NCGR
memberletter



Spring 2024



In this issue:

- ◆ NCGR gets a new look
 - ◆ Pluto's Entry into Aquarius
 - ◆ What is Astrology?
 - ◆ The US Progressed New Moon in Pisces

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Message from the President

Whew! We made it! Wasn't April one of the most aspect-packed months of recent times? Now that Mercury is direct, it's time to integrate all of the changes from the super powerful eclipse season and the Jupiter-Uranus conjunction! Some of the changes are obvious, and some more subtle and slowly being revealed.

The most obvious change for NCGR is the soon-to-be-launched website. If any of you have ever been involved in building a website, you know that it takes a lot longer than one would anticipate. I'd like to acknowledge and thank the website team: John Marani, Howard Moore, Elizabeth Hazel, Deb Osfeld and Tara Ireland, who are diligently working on this project. We hope to have it available for you soon.

The bonus that came with our website design process is the creation of a new logo! We hope you like the new look as we intend to rebrand and create a consistent look through all of our publications and marketing.

Speaking of publications, we've been getting feedback that you are receiving too many emails. The Publications Committee is looking into how we can reduce the number of emails so that the ones you do get are welcome. If you have any suggestions or comments about this project, please feel free to let us know.

One way we plan to reduce emails is to have you register for the national webinars, so if you aren't interested, you're not receiving those webinar links and reminders. Also note: The recordings of the webinars will still be available to you for 6 months on the NCGR YouTube channel.

Thanks to Jackie Slevin and Monica Escalante Ochoa, our webinars, both national and international, have been scheduled for the remainder of the year, so please mark your calendars for the ones you'd like to attend.

We have an archive of timeless information to share, so as something fun to do, we've decided to make an "Oldie but Goodie" webinar available during the Mercury retrogrades to be in sync with the retrograde energy. Perhaps the chapters would like to schedule watch-parties and have a discussion afterwards. With that in mind, we'll be implementing "discussion time" following our national webinars. The Sacramento Chapter has been doing this to replace taking speakers to dinner, which

was our tradition in the pre-Covid days. The discussion time is for comments and questions and is a great opportunity to get to know the speaker "up close and personal".

We are exploring other ways to provide opportunities for more interaction. That said, if you're planning to attend NORWAC, we'll have a table there. Please come by and say hello, and maybe even get behind the table and represent this organization we love.

I'd like to acknowledge Maria Wander, who once again produced a very successful "Ask the Astrologer" event in honor of International Astrology Day. This was a joint venture with AYA, represented by their Chair, Janay Anthony, and marks the beginning of many more collaborations to come.

I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to Frank Clifford who has agreed to be our new delegate for the UK, and heartily thank Christeen Skinner for her many years of service.

With Saturn and Neptune in Pisces, you too may be feeling a call to be of service. NCGR is evolving and there are many committees and projects that can benefit from your time and talent.

As we navigate this time of transformation, we find ourselves on the path of self-discovery, which reminded me of this quote by Mahatma Gandhi:

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service of others."

At NCGR your participation is always welcome!

Respectfully and with much gratitude,

Linda

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Pluto's Entry into Aquarius And How You Can Harness His Power

By Noel Eastwood

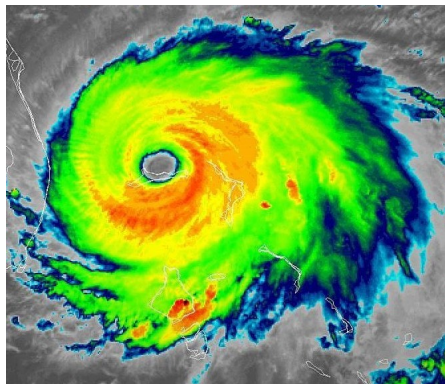
Like a hurricane destroying everything in its path, Pluto's transits can wreak havoc through his resolve to bring about renewal and regeneration. In the knowledge that we have the power to nurture, protect or destroy ourselves and our environment, we must ask: *"Can Pluto's transit through Aquarius cleanse our species of its self-destructive behaviours? Can he deliver a spiritual renaissance that will enable us to save ourselves and our planet?"*

To facilitate this magnitude of transformation, Pluto must first engage with Aquarius to shed the chains that have bound him during his sojourn through Capricorn.

Aquarius represents humanity's best qualities, which we as a species need now more than ever to save us from ourselves. Aquarius dislikes containment and hierarchy - which is exactly what Pluto will bring with him from his sojourn through Capricorn. But the rebellious nature of Aquarius will not tolerate any of Capricorn's restrictive traits, and will do its utmost to shrug off those shackles of restraint. Aquarius will, in turn, need Pluto's dynamic and sometimes destructive force to fully embrace its instinctive appetite to bring about the spiritual and moral renaissance we need in the twenty-first century.

Pluto has the power to transform the corrupt and destructive behaviours that were normalised during its transit of Capricorn by many - including charismatic 'cash for comment' personalities on TV, radio, and the internet. We are now witnessing wholesale climate collapse and social upheaval, though calls for radical changes to our political and corporate landscape seem to be falling on deaf ears. Where is the motivation for our leaders and their big business buddies to change their toxic ways?

Humanity as a whole is crying out: *"Pluto, we need your alchemical processes to engage with Aquarius to transform our species before we destroy ourselves."*



How do I embrace Pluto in my natal chart?

One way to transform the world is by first transforming ourselves. Your natal Pluto can show you where and how you can begin to transform your life, particularly when he is conjunct or opposing the most sensitive points in your chart. These are Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Ascendant and Midheaven.

Start with your natal chart and identify:

- Pluto's sign and house placement.
- any planets sitting in your 8th house.
- the sign on the 8th house cusp and the planet that rules this sign.
- the house cusp that Scorpio is sitting on (Pluto rules Scorpio, making this another key in your quest for transformation).
- Pluto's conjunctions and oppositions to any of the sensitive points in your chart (described above).
- any planetary patterns such as T-squares, Grand Trines, Grand Crosses, and Mystic Rectangles.
- any squares, trines, sextiles and quincunxes to Pluto, as well. Though not as powerful as conjunctions and oppositions, these are still significant.

Recognising Pluto's function in your chart will reveal your fundamental emotional conflicts. These highlight elements of your psyche where you will need to apply yourself to find resolution. You can do this through counseling, psychotherapy, shamanistic training and spiritual mentoring, martial arts, yoga, tai chi, and the practice of specific meditations such as inner child and chi breathing (Yogic and Taoist Alchemy). These are just some of the ways that you can uncover Pluto's gifts: those hidden, innate qualities you possess that are necessary for your personal transformation.

Astrologers say: *"The clues you need to guide you on your mystic's quest always begin with your natal chart."*

What about Pluto's transits to my natal chart?

I consider a Pluto transit to be something like a bomb ready to detonate. His transits provide an explosive opportunity to

break the fixed, negative personality traits we all possess. Of course, for some people, there is no noticeable detonation and they cruise through what would usually be a tough transit. Maybe this is because Pluto is only a minor player in their natal chart. It is Pluto's task to awaken those hidden spiritual qualities you never imagined you had, regardless of how much you try to cling to the habits and comforts that hide them.

Look for transiting Pluto:

- forming conjunctions or oppositions to the most sensitive points in your chart (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus,

It is Pluto's task to awaken those hidden spiritual qualities you never imagined you had...

Mars, Ascendant and Midheaven). These transits energise and reinforce your personal metaphysical journey and will guide you towards your spiritual awakening.

- creating square, trine and quincunx aspects. These create what seem to be minor triggers for change, but they often occur at a much deeper and often invisible place within your psyche.

- when transiting Pluto leaves one house to enter the next may also be a minor trigger.

- Pluto's power is felt most often from an applying aspect (moving towards the exact point) to one of your sensitive natal points from an orb of about 5 degrees. By the time he gets to an orb of 2 degrees you will really know something is happening.

- in his separating aspect (leaving or moving away from the exact point) his transformative action usually drops off at around or orb of 3 to 5 degrees. This is the point at which you begin to feel his explosive power easing.

The conjunctions and oppositions are dynamite, providing clear validation of Pluto's forces for chaos and transformation. Transiting aspects (squares, trines, sextiles and quincunxes) are felt deeper in your psyche and therefore usually less noticeable to the individual. They can, however, be very annoying, which can lead you to change certain aspects of your life unconsciously.

I won't go into every house, sign or planetary aspect, as this is outside the scope of this article. However, if you can just

focus on the key planets and points I've mentioned above, you will have a head start in recognising Pluto's drive for transformation.

Pluto commands: *'if you can't change the world, then you must change yourself.'*

Pluto's gifts

Pluto's gifts include the ability to harness the energy of the universe, commonly called life force, chi, energy, prana, ki, or kundalini. His gifts include astral travel, out-of-body experiences, remote viewing, clairvoyance, and energy healing. One thing to remember: your archetypes won't hand you their gifts, you must earn the right to tap into and use them.

Pluto facilitates the mystic's awakening through death and rebirth

There is much more to Pluto and the story of transformation. Pluto takes you on his journey of transformation by first pulling you apart, breaking down your barriers and exposing your greatest fears. We all love our comforts, but sometimes the habits you crave contribute to your spiritual, emotional or physical limitations. Your habits can easily disguise that which Pluto seeks to transform. Working with Pluto can help you ascend beyond these limitations.

Pluto's alchemical processes leading to transformation have been the trademark of the shaman for eons: a spiritual initiation involving a symbolic death and rebirth. This can happen spontaneously in your meditations or dreams, as it has for me. But fear not, it will only happen when you are ready.



Alchemical manuscript from the University of Glasgow

Our ancestors formed mystery cults whereby members experienced a symbolic death and rebirth to discover the answers to their most pressing questions. The most famous of these cults was the Eleusinian Mystery Cult.

What did our ancestors want to know so badly that they would undertake dangerous pilgrimages to some of the

most sacred temples of the ancient world? These pilgrimages frequently involved fasting, isolation, and meditation,



Relief of Demeter, Archeological Museum of Eleusis, Greece

as well as facing wild animals, brigands, and extreme weather. I believe that every culture on our planet has had some form of mystery cult, be it pagan, druid, or shamanic. The question the initiates asked back then is the same we ask today: *“What lies beyond death?”*

The answer to that question lies in Pluto's realm, and one of your road maps is your astrological chart.

In summary, here is an excerpt from an article written by astrologer, Alison Gunn, which helps put Pluto and his corresponding alchemical sign and house (Scorpio and the 8th house) into perspective:

“In Greek, the process of descending and re-emerging from the Underworld is called katabasis, a vital step in many mystery cults, and crucial as an initiation ritual...The hero or upper-world deity journeys to the underworld or to the land of the dead and returns, often with a quest-object or a loved one, or with heightened knowledge. The ability to enter the realm of the dead while still alive, and to return, is proof of the classical hero's exceptional status as more than mortal. A deity who returns from the underworld demonstrates eschatological themes such as the cyclical nature of time and existence, or the defeat of death and the possibility of immortality.”

(Unfortunately the website where this piece was quoted from has disappeared but Alison can be contacted here:

<https://www.allisongunn.com/blog>)

Author bio

Noel is a retired psychologist, he now writes books on astrology, tarot and psychology. He started out as a teacher many years ago and worked in special education for a few years before transferring to infants/primary, which is something like your middle school. After a few years he went back to university and studied to become a psychologist and began work as a school psychologist. After that he worked in private practice till he retired. All through this he was an astrologer and tarotist working to hone his skills. This brings us to the present and after a life-time of study and research he has written 6 books on tarot, a book on self-hypnosis and 3 books on astrology, and there are two more books on astrology and psychology in the wings for this year. Through his years of working he busily collected the birth data of those who presented to his clinic. This forms the foundations of the books he writes. He lives with his wife which is only a short distance from his children and grandchildren.

<https://www.plutoscave.com>



Terra-cotta plaque showing Hades carrying Persephone into the underworld. From Locri Epizephyrii, ancient city on the eastern side of the “toe” of Italy, founded by Greeks c. 680 BCE

What is Astrology? and Related Questions

By Michael Munkasey

What is astrology? If the people who practice astrology can't agree on an answer to this question then astrology is in trouble. We can not be a "profession" if those concerned can not agree on what astrology is or what the purpose of astrology is, for then there is no profession. Practitioners, yes. Sympathizers, yes. But are astrologers professionals or hobbyists? Part of the answer to that question lies in defining who has and who does not have the right to use the title "Astrologer."

A hobby is an activity or interest pursued for pleasure, while a profession is defined as any vocation or business pursued for sustaining reputation and lifestyle. Thus astrology may be viewed as a hobby by some, or as a vocation by others. I would think that the number of people who pursue astrology as a focused vocation or business are a small minority compared to the large number of people who practice astrology casually, or for fun or pleasure. The numbers of people on each side of this dividing line is important in defining what astrology is. It's possible that astrology is a hobby for a majority of people who call themselves "astrologers," while it is a profession for a minority. Maybe part of what we need to answer is "Who has the right to call themselves an astrologer?" This is a *very* important question.

It may be easier to start by defining what astrology is *not*. According to Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary, "divination" is the practice of attempting to foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge by occult or supernatural means. A "science" deals with knowledge of the physical world. Definition number one under "science" reads: a branch of knowledge or study dealing with a body of facts or truths systematically arranged and showing the operation of general laws. Definition number

six reads: skill; proficiency. Pseudo-science is not defined in the dictionary, but I would take that word to mean something that pretends to be a science, or a "false" science, or something that goes against the rules of science (whatever the rules are—and that drifts depending on who is evaluating). It is my opinion that astrology should avoid being characterized as a science.

Definition three under "craft" reads: an art, trade, or occupation requiring a special skill. Definition seven under "art" reads: the principles or methods governing any craft or branch of learning: e.g., the art of baking, the art of sailing. This would imply that baking and sailing could be just as much a pseudo-science as astrology. Each has a body of principles and rules, and then a wide variation in the application of these rules and principles.

There is nothing hidden or occult about astrology. There are accepted procedures for determining the planetary positions for an astrological chart. That procedure is not hidden or occult, supernatural, or magical. The practice of erecting a chart can be taught. The practice of recognizing and reading astrological symbols can be taught. Meanings for those symbols and chart patterns can be taught. The art of chart synthesis and interpretation can be taught. Methods that can be taught to students are not magical, nor are they supernatural; and they are only occult (hidden) if a teacher chooses to withhold information about them.

Since astrological chart interpretation requires the application of skill and knowledge beyond an A = B mentality, then that part of astrology can not be a science. This idea could be equally well applied if we were discussing medical diagnosis, sailing, cooking, psychology, gardening, and many other fields of endeavor. Each of these has a "system of rules" and then an "art" of application.

Astrology as Language

The question, "What is astrology?" raises some points: the determination of whether the astrological community is actively working toward astrology as a profession, and also the definition of what constitutes astrological practice.

In one sense astrology is a language. Languages use symbols (letters, characters, glyphs, punctuation, etc.) and pat-



*There is
nothing
hidden or
occult
about
astrology.*

terns within those symbols to convey information. Astrology uses symbols and patterns within the symbols to convey information. The vocabulary of astrology is planets, signs, houses, aspects, etc., and the grammar of astrology is: planets in houses; planets in signs; planets in aspect; etc.

Since astrology can be regarded as a language, then an astrologer is a person who trains himself or herself to translate from the symbols and patterns of the chart to the language of the client. E.g., "Your natal Mars in Leo shows that ...". Since astrology can be thought of as a language, then it is total folly to try and "prove" astrology through statistical methods. This would be akin to trying to prove the "science" of French or Spanish using statistics.

Defining Astrological Practice

Let me address what constitutes astrological practice, and then show what various authors have said on this subject.

Astrology is the practice of delineating planetary and cosmic information designed to help people understand themselves, their strengths and weaknesses, and their current life situations. Astrology requires an intimate knowledge of certain tools, as well as demonstrated skill in specific techniques (listed below).

The dictionary offers different definitions for "practice." These include: the need to repeat processes through repetition while learning; a skill gained by experience; the action of performing or doing something; the exercise or pursuit of a profession; and the business of a professional person. Some or all of these definitions may apply here.

Astrologer: a person who applies the principles of astrology.

Chart: a symbolic diagram of planetary phenomena used by astrologers.

Measurement: ways of determining impact or strength, quality, dimension, quantity, etc., usually in comparison with a standard. Astrologers often confuse measurement with technique. Measurement does not substitute for technique, it is a method used within technique.

Primary Thrust: astrology built around a purpose. Primary thrusts of astrology (listed alphabetically) include: business, compatibility, electional, esoteric, event, horary,

medical, mundane, natal, rectification, and weather forecasting.

School: a system of specialized and/or defined techniques, sometimes associated with the ideas of just one person or group, such as Cosmobiology, Western, Vedic, Astro*Carto*Graphy, Uranian, Sabian Symbols, ancient Hellenistic methods, Chinese, Jungian, etc.

Technique: a method used in the application of astrology. Mastery of techniques requires repetition and/or learning.

Tools: astrological tools are: solar system planets, zodiacal signs, aspects (or harmonics), the personal sensitive points, houses, fixed stars, other solar system bodies, planetary nodes, and long precessional cycles.

Here is what some authors have said about astrology:

Jeff Mayo, *Teach Yourself Astrology*, 1964

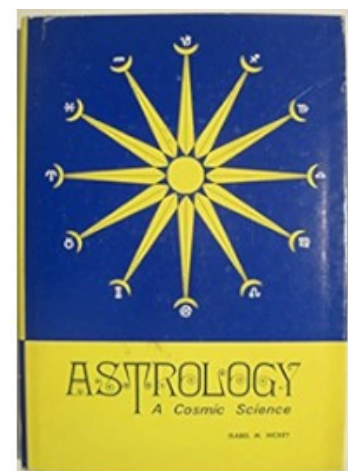
"Astrology is a system of interpreting planetary motions and their angular relationship to the Earth in terms of human characteristics, behavior and activities." (An astrologer is a person who practices this system.)

Fred Gettings, *The Arkana Dictionary of Astrology*, 1985

"Astrology is the study of the relationship between the macrocosm and the microcosm, which (in materialistic terms) is often defined as the study of the influence of the celestial bodies on the Earth and its inhabitants. ... Exoteric astrology ... tends to be involved with personal readings and horoscopic data, and with the predicting of events and experiences in the life of individuals."

Isabel Hickey, *Astrology, A Cosmic Science*, 1970

"(Astrology) involves the relationship between the larger universe outside you and the personal universe within. The same energies that function in your personal universe function in the larger one 'out

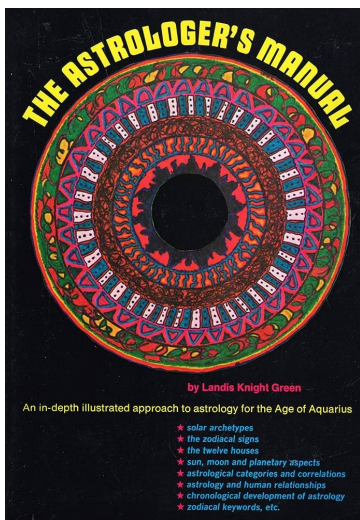


there.' The blueprint we call our horoscope, or the birth chart, plots the energies that flow in your magnetic field. At the moment of birth you took into your body, with your first breath, the vibrations manifested on that day and time at that particular spot on earth. This basic pattern goes with you throughout life.”

of the art, while they reinforce these ancient maxims with modern astrological and scientific thought. ...Old truths and observations will have to be translated into the language of the new time.”

Clifford Charles Matlock, *Man and Cosmos*, 1977

“Legend, scripture, and literature have impressed upon us that for every individual in life, and for all life, there is a time to sleep and a time to rise, a time to rest and a time to wane, a time to go forth and a time to return. But have you ever thought about time as one of the raw materials of which a person is made? Or that frequency is inseparable from motion in life activity? Or that our earth, our solar system, and our galaxy are systematic components of an integrated, orderly, organic cosmos? And have you considered that there are countless rhythms of cosmic origin that express themselves in our lives and beings, to some of which we are genetically coded to respond, and some of which are cosmically imprinted upon us to the extent that the rhythms themselves are part of our very being? The subject is as broad as man and cosmos, and as narrow as the activity of a single cell of the simplest form of life.”



Landis Knight Green, *The Astrologer's Manual*, 1977

“Properly understood, astrology is an important key to psychological and spiritual insights which may be less obtainable in other systems of knowledge.” (paraphrasing) Astrology is the study of the cyclic motion of the Sun, Moon, and planets of the solar system, and how

these cycles and patterns affect man.

“Today the better astrologers hold firmly, though not rigidly, to the truths and standards of the earlier practitioners

The United State's Progressed New Moon in Pisces

By Elizabeth Hazel

A New Moon at 19° Pisces 26' took place on March 9, 1777 at 10:40 am LMT in York, PA. This lunation was 248 days after the Declaration of Independence was written and 248 years in the past, or one Pluto cycle. Depending on the ascendant an astrologer uses for the national chart, the progressed New Moon will be exact on or around March 23, 2024.

Rudhyar recommended examining progressed new moons as stand-alone forecasting charts. Its a useful forecasting method for clients and for personal considerations - why not for a nation? A progressed new moon chart is relevant for at least 14 years and possibly 28—29 years (a full lunar cycle).

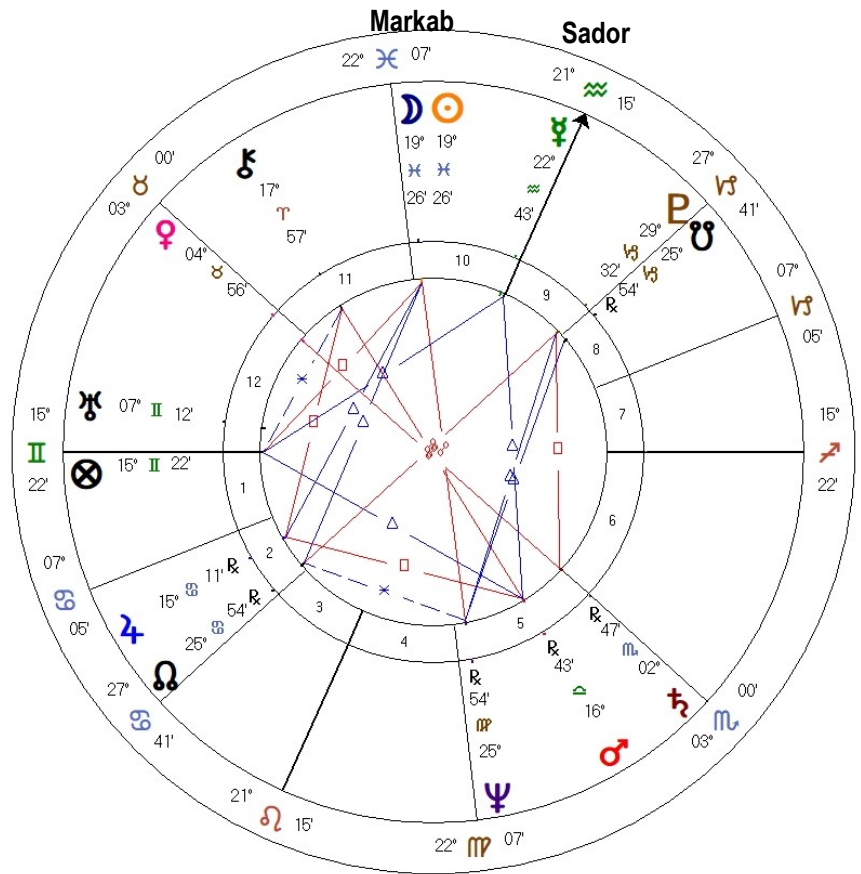
The Gemini ASC and Mercury/Sador on the MC give this chart a distinctive Mercurial flavor. Ascendant-ruler Mercury is about as eastern as it can get and fares well in the Saturn-ruled air sign. Mercury gets an additional boost from Mars Rx in Libra, although the Mars energy is very quarrelsome and litigious. The litigation trend is already focal. State and federal judiciaries are fielding cases where the opposing parties take entirely different tacks regarding the interpretation of laws and legal precedents. These legal battles are further indicated by the T-square between Mars Rx in Libra square Jupiter Rx in Cancer square Chiron in Aries.

Airy intellect dominates the chart, but there are powerful watery energies with the Sun-Moon in Pisces, Jupiter in Cancer, and Saturn in Scorpio.

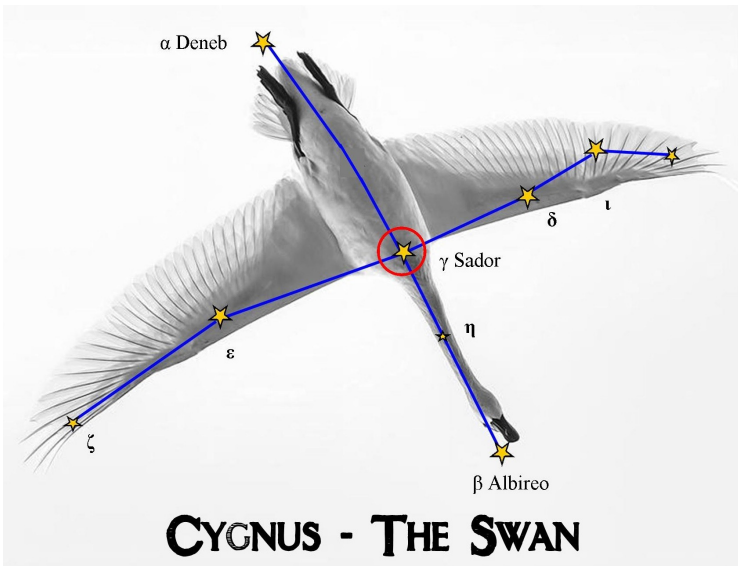
The Sun and Moon are conjunct Markab, the alpha star of Pegasus. It a star fraught with great risks and potential violence, but this star has a shrewd and literary side as well. The qualities of Markab are heightened by the trine between the star's attributed planets Mars-Mercury (in that order). The way

that works is that Mars gets into trouble through impulsive actions. Then Mercury talks its way out of penalties and later writes about it in his memoirs or tell-all autobiographies. Mercury is in better condition by sign and angularity, suggesting the nation is going to have to talk its way out of a myriad of problems in every direction.

Mercury and the MC are conjunct Sador, a very positive star in Cygnus (aka The Northern Cross). Sador occupies the point where the line of the body and the line of the wings intersect, so it's a place where many factors merge. People who bring multi-disciplinary skill sets to the table will be increasingly influential, especially those with good speaking and writing skills and people who are good at hammering out fair compromises that satisfy the Aquarian MC. The US is going to write a new chapter in its national history, and Mercury-Sador points the country in a very fortunate direction.



US Progressed New Moon
March 9, 1777, 10.24 am LMT, York, PA
Geocentric—Tropical—Placidus—True Node



Sador (gamma Cygnus) is the central star of the Northern Cross

The New Moon trines exalted Jupiter in Cancer rising in the 2nd house. That points to great wealth and abundant resources, but T-square with Jupiter Rx signals conflicts over how wealth is managed and dispersed. The US has significant national debts and wealth inequity. Jupiter's antiscion is exactly conjunct the Ascendant as well. Instead of exaltation, Jupiter's antiscion is in detriment in Gemini. There's a discrepancy between how Jupiter wants to be seen and how it truly appears. One could relate this to the discrepancy of the Dow being over 38,000 but the general public struggling to meet normal costs of daily living. Cancer is a signifier of homes and housing. Housing costs and availability of affordable housing are a serious and growing issue across the country. This chart suggests financial problems from top to bottom and serious legislative battles over the options for easing affordable housing problems. There is also a growing consensus that the country must create a sustainable pattern of greater wealth equity across the entire population. Jupiter is fantastic at coming up with new ideas and theories – the problem is getting people to give those ideas widespread political support.

Venus is in a good sign and a bad house and in opposition to Saturn. That's not at all good for women in general! While Venus has access to significant resources and security (Taurus), the opposition from Saturn places severe limitations on Venus. Her 12th house placement suggests sorrows and losses. Venus rules marriage and birth: marriage rates are dropping, and birth rates have dropped as well, from 14 births per 1,000 people in 2004 to 12 births per

1,000 people in 2024. (2, 3) Graphs that display marriage and birth data show significant drops in both categories after the 2008 mortgage crash and the pandemic. Economic factors play a large role in choices to marry and have children.

The Sun and Moon make applying aspects to the Nodes and Neptune. The Moon rules the 2nd and 3rd houses, the Sun rules the 4th house. Neptune erodes, dissolves, deteriorates, and disperses. Neptune's effects take place over a long period of time, often unnoticed until it's extremely difficult to make a course-correction and undo the systemic damage. This can play out in a lot of ways, but consider the potential effects on the houses ruled by the Sun and Moon: 2nd - wealth and finances; 3rd - daily travel and communications; and 4th - the condition of the land and property. The dangers of Neptune are somewhat mitigated as Jupiter receives the Sun and Moon by trine, and is in excellent condition to render fortunate assistance. Neptunian dis-information will remain a looming issue, however.

Saturn retrogrades to square Pluto at 29° Capricorn. The Saturn-Pluto square is significant because transiting Pluto is quite near the place where the Saturn-Pluto conjunctions took place in 2020 as well as the US radix Pluto. There are significant political clashes over who gets to impose limitations, and diametrically opposite ideas about what those limitations should be!

Neptune seems to be the most dangerous culprit of this chart, and how the chart is interpreted depends greatly upon how you interpret Neptune.

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PAA Testing January 22-April 14, 2024

Levels I, II, and III proctored exams are available to take online. Information is available on the PAA website at www.astrologersalliance.org. The Level I and II exams are revised. This online exams are easily accessible to anyone in the world in English. Thanks to Monica Escalante's translation efforts Levels I and II are available in Spanish. We are also working to make exams available online in Turkish. More complete information on rectification is currently in the works.

Thank yous for teaching and proctoring exams during this time period:

Teachers: Meira Epstein (USA), Monica Escalante (Mexico), and Maki Zhai (Taiwan).

Additional thanks to the examiners who grade the exams that are not taken online.

Level III:

Clifton J. Wigtil, Non-Member, San Antonio, Texas

Level II:

Karen Hoffman, New York City Chapter

AstroMexico:

Alejandra Sella Gerling

Paula Martinez Haro

Alejandra Hernandez

Victoria Lopez

Karla Susana Martinez Mera

Fernanda Sandoval Penages

Isabella Parada

Adriana Cabestany Ruiz

Maria Fernanda room Rumirez

Cecilia Campos Vasquez

Level I:

Ming Chu (Akari), Chong; Taiwan Affiliate

Timothy J. Reagan, Boston Chapter

Unuzul (Zula) Bayaraa, Non-Member

Sam Ogden, Non-Member

–Cathy Coleman, Director of PAA Testing and Certification, can be contacted at: ccoleman829@gmail.com.

Book Review

Astrology in the Era of Uncertainty: An Astropoetic Exploration of Cosmos and Psyche

By Joe Landwehr

Ancient Tower Press, 2024

394 pages, plus bibliography and index

\$29.99

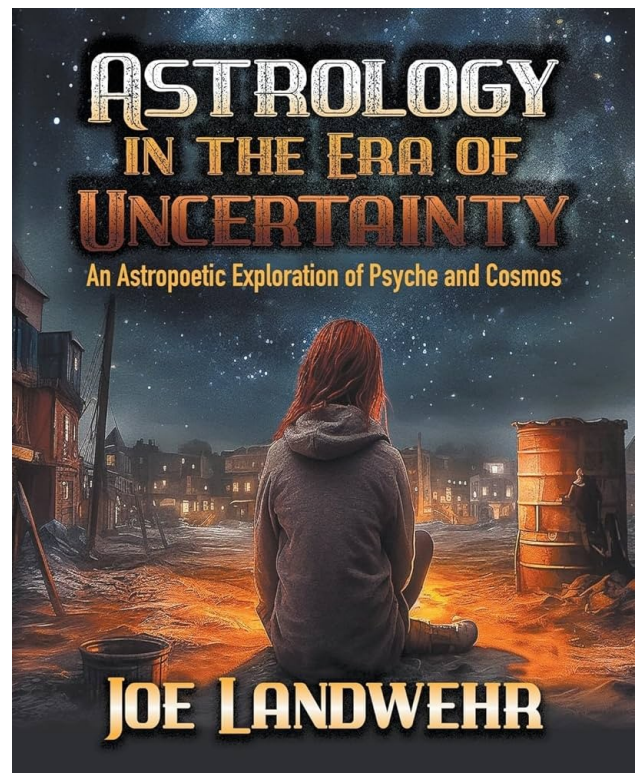
Review By Armand Diaz

In a kind of symmetry, Joe Landwehr wishes more people would pay attention to astrology, and I wish more astrologers would pay attention to Joe Landwehr. He's among the most original and grounded astrologers writing today, and his work has a tremendous benefit to offer the thinking astrologer: his work is always thought-provoking. *Astrology in the Era of Uncertainty* is his latest book, and perhaps his most accessible work.

Reading the title, I thought that I might be in for a book about mundane astrology and how to handle the aftermath of the last decade's Uranus-Pluto square or other celestial signposts. What I found instead was a reorientation of astrology within the already-accepted 'era of uncertainty', an era that extends in both directions well beyond any current transits.

In the first chapters, the author takes up the question of astrology's relationship to the dominant paradigm in Western culture, scientific materialism. This is a topic that has been frequently addressed by many astrologers—myself included—and Landwehr does an excellent job of showing both why the materialist paradigm is limited and why astrology doesn't fit in as a science (and should stop trying to do so).

Thinking that particular argument had been dispatched, I found to my surprise that *Astrology in the Era of Uncertainty* goes on to deconstruct not only scientific materialism, but the gushier side of the New Age, as well as traditional religion (to some extent). Landwehr has little tolerance for




sloppy thinking, whether it comes from the rationalist or non-rationalist, and he doesn't mind taking aim at astrologers who slide around in the mud of overgeneralizations and simplistic arguments.

The book presents a history of current thought; that is, how we got where we are, both astrologically and in the dominant paradigm. Landwehr follows the New Age back to its origins, and he traces astrology forward into Psychological Astrology and its more modern forms. While recognizing the value of the various twists, turns, and innovations, he also takes out the razor of discrimination to point out where things veer off course.

Although the material is philosophical and historic, Landwehr's writing is clear and concise, and this makes the book very accessible and a pleasure to read. I read, reread, put it down, and took it up again many times, and presume this is the way many of us will read it—taking time to think is part of the process.

Later in the book, the author presents an example of the astropoetic approach via an empirical exploration of decades of Vesta transits in his personal chart (actually, Vesta returns rather than transits). This more intimate approach works well to show us how astrological understanding de-



velops as a blend of accepted knowledge with personal experience (although he never really stops addressing historical material).

Rather than resting on rigid principles in a mock-scientific formula, we are encouraged to move around freely within the parameters described by our art. This section of the book is sure to appeal to many astrologers, and it serves as a balance to the more philosophical material. Indeed, Landwehr talks about the balance between yin and yang approaches, or the hermeneutics of faith and suspicion.

It is a common endeavor among astrologers to try to situate astrology within the contemporary world, a world which is—as Landwehr points out—simultaneously hostile to astrology and fascinated by it, depending on what sector of society you fathom on the issue. Generally, I have found that authors on the subject wish to convince the greater world of astrology’s value, or at least generate a group effort to step outside of the dominant paradigm together. There’s often a tightness in these arguments, a plea of “don’t leave me hanging out here by myself.” By contrast, Joe Landwehr offers his insights with an open hand.

Once you read *Astrology in the Age of Uncertainty*, you’ll understand far more about how astrology works, how it fits into contemporary culture, and how you can use it for your personal development as well as for your clients. It would make great summer reading for any and all astrologers, with endless opportunities to chew on the ideas presented.

NCGR Memberletter

Updated Submission Guidelines and Deadlines and Issue Dates 2024

Submission Deadline: Monday, July 8, 2024
Summer Issue Date: August 2, 2024

Submission Deadline: Monday, October 7, 2024
Autumn Issue Date: November 2, 2024

Formatting Your Article

Article length: 1,000 to 2,000 words (there's some wiggle room but lengthier articles should be sent to *Geocosmic Journal* or the *Syzygy, the Research Journal*)

Submissions MUST include:

1. Article title and text
2. end notes – full citations of sources and references, and chart data with Rodden Ratings
3. an author bio with contact information at the end.
4. Attach images and charts separately as jpgs.

Standard format is preferred: Word docx, Times Roman font, 11 or 12 point, 1.5 spaces between lines, no indents or formatting.

Images and Charts: Indicate where images should be placed in red font.

Ex: (X chart here).

Please **do not** paste images or charts into the text! Attach images separately on an e-mail as jpgs or pngs, high resolution (300 dpi preferred). PDFs compress and lower image resolution so please avoid those.

End Notes: Insert manual end notes.

Do not use the automatic endnote function in Word as these cannot be copied and pasted into the publication format.

Example: in the text "*Here is a quote.*" (1)
and at the end: (1) Author, *Title in italics*. Publisher, year, page cited.

Web references must appear as URLs.

Example: www.website.com

Zodiacal Notations

Write zodiac positions as: 2° Pisces. Planets should be

capitalized: Jupiter, Neptune, Mercury, etc. North and South Node. Ascendant can be spelled out although the abbreviation ASC is acceptable (same with Mid-heaven - MC, Descendant - DSC, Imum Coeli - IC). Avoid extra articles in descriptions – Ex: "Moon trine Venus" rather than "Moon in trine to Venus"

Ex: "Will conjunct" rather than "will be conjuncting"

Capitalize proper nouns, names, and titles; avoid excessive capitalization (astrology doesn't need to be capitalized unless it's in a title or a specific name, like Uranian Astrology).

Time Sensitive Topics

If you want to write about transits, planetary activity, eclipses and lunations, etc, please make sure that the article's focal time period is follows the publication date of the intended issue.

Edit Before Submitting!

You are strongly encouraged to review, re-read, and edit the written material **before** submitting it. Double-check that you have provided the material requested as described above. Make sure you've followed the formatting guidelines. Check your word count and end notes. Articles that don't conform to guidelines may be returned with a request to make repairs before the article is accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to fact-check, edit for length, content, and grammar.

Send submissions to Liz at ehazel@bex.net

Feel free to inquire about possible topics or an article that's in the works. New book reviewers are welcome.