

MONTHLY (Well...Almost)
SINCE 1999 ISSUE # 160

LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

July-August 2012

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested.

There has been some difficulty with AOL, and some readers have not been receiving my emails. All newsletters past and present are available at my website www.mitchastro.com and you can always access them there.

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

The world is changing rapidly and radically. As the depression continues, we are seeing an attempt to redirect control the economics of the world as we head towards the precipice. Europe is decaying. China has topped out and will enter a period of correction, or even recession. By April 2014 when the Grand Cross completes (see last month's newsletter) we will see the true value of our collective wealth, and panic will set in. At first there will be a flight to safety and the U.S. dollar and long bond will be puffed up by the infusion of scared money. But that will only last so long. It will take a long time to re-stabilize the world's economy, which will create a lost generation of youth trying to make its mark in an unfeeling world. And how that redefinition is characterized will decide what sort of world our children will inherit.

The question on most minds is: Will there be another crash or recession, and if so, when? The answer is almost certainly: yes, there will be another recession, and most likely another crash. I have begun to pinpoint when that crash will occur, and I will publish my findings in a few weeks.

Last month on June 24th we saw the first completion of the long term Uranus – Pluto square that will be with us until 2016. One of the first reactions was a reversal in the polls, now putting Romney ahead of Obama in the coming presidential election. Of course, this is only the first of what will be many reversals in this campaign, and it is way too early to bemoan the demise of the Democrats. The polls will flip-flop and much hand wringing will occur on both sides. This square is creating political and financial instability and will continue to upset our society for the next four years. No matter who wins the presidency its effects will persist to be unsettling and disruptive. Many months ago I predicted that Obama would win reelection and I still feel this way. But it will not end the current struggles even if I'm right. The split in this country is wider than it has been since the War Between the States. (Civil War seems like such a contradiction in terms.) The Republicans will fight all attempts to rebalance the system.

The effects of Uranus square Pluto can be seen everywhere. Pluto rules all things shared, such as pensions,

social security, Medicare, etc., and the radical energy of Uranus is creating unstable situations in areas we thought were solid for the last 70 years. Many of the Republican states are rejecting Medicare increases that the federal government is offering at zero cost to the state. According to the New York Times a quarter of the residents of Texas, 6.3 million people are uninsured. That is the highest percentage in the country. Yet Governor Rick Perry refuses to accept the infusion of federal money that would significantly reduce these numbers. Five other Republican governors so far, from Florida, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Louisiana, have followed suit and rejected much needed funds to help the poor in their states. This is a health fiasco waiting to happen.

This is just one example of the results of Uranus square Pluto, as well as the deplanetization of Pluto that I have written about for many years. It's disgraceful that the wealth of this country has been so disproportionately tipped towards the rich. As the underbelly of our culture continues to deteriorate there will be less stable ground for the middle class to stand upon. The battle over Obamacare has only begun. Just because the Supreme Court has acknowledged the program doesn't mean the fight has been won. The Republicans will stop at nothing to destroy this president's achievements, even at the cost of our nation's stability. The collective right-wing animus has been bubbling angrily under the surface for a long time, actually ever since F.D.R. was in the White House and created the Pluto ruled safety net of social security, unemployment benefits, and pensions. As difficult as it is to understand or even at times believe, there is a large segment of our political class that truly wishes to reverse all of these programs and leave the individual flapping his or her arms uselessly in a violent wind. All we can do as individuals is try to influence those around us, and vote into office people who will protect our way of life.

Once again this month, because of the placements of the planets at this moment, there are a number of **extended Void of Course Moons** (*see the last page of this newsletter*). This will add an element of disconnection and lack of continuity to many of our plans and schemes. While the moon is void you must be careful how you handle things. It is not a good time to make a permanent decision, even about the simplest of things. Purchases are often unfulfilling, and if possible you should wait until the moon is attached to something before buying anything of real value. Because there are so many long periods of V.O.C. Moons this month, a bit of caution is certainly called for. Any trades made during these times may not work out as planned. It is a period that frustrates technical traders, especially if you are day-trading. Position trades will appear to reverse direction, but you should wait until that V.O.C. Moon is over before assuming the trade is a failure.

Occasionally I will use this newsletter to write an obituary for a friend or colleague who has departed. I must once again mention the loss of an associate. Brilliant bass player, Bob Babbitt, best known for his work on dozens of Motown hits, passed away this week. Bob was a part of the sound track of our lives for decades. We all grew up listening to his remarkable talents on hundreds of albums. I was incredibly lucky to have him play on my CD and work live with my band for about a year. His approach to bass lines was unique and epitomized what that instrument was capable of. I hadn't seen Bob in years, as is often the case in the music world. But it is with sadness that I bid farewell to one of the greatest musicians I have ever worked with.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Thursday July 19th at 12:24 A.M. EST at 26 degrees Cancer 55 minutes. The sign of the New Moon shows us the personality that the collective will display for the next 2 ½ weeks until the Moon is full. Cancer is the most home-body of the 12 signs, so expect the family and your emotions to be the center of attention. The past will play a strong role as well, so pay attention to issues that are being brought up again. We are often revisited by the past under Cancer energy, and this is an opportunity to repair or finish things. Anything incomplete will drive us towards fruition. The cardinal signs are the most assertive and directed, and they hate leaving things undone.

JUPITER SEXTILES URANUS:

On Sunday July 22nd at 12:04 A.M. EST this exciting aspect completes. If this hits a sensitive point in your chart this will be a day of unusual and unexpected surprises. There is a strong desire to escape all restrictions and limitations when these two planets are aspecting each other. These are the two most freedom-loving luminaries, and it is difficult to ignore the need for unbridled liberty. Many people will display this energy in rebellious ways. This is not a good day to restrict your movement or tie yourself to a computer. Get out and see the world. This aspect can sometimes bring us luck in the most obvious of ways, but only if it sets off your chart.

THE SUN ENTERS LEO:

Also on Sunday July 22nd at 6:01 A.M. EST we enter the fixed fire sign. Now issues of romance, fun, and childlike behavior will be in the forefront. This is a time to plan a romantic getaway or have that first date. Family and emotions will still be a strong influence at least until the Full Moon, but with the Sun in Leo there is a better chance of some 5th house fun. Leo rules the stage, so expect some dramatics in the mix as well. Don't take everything said too seriously. For the next month or so we will all be playing different roles in our personal dramas.

MERCURY SEXTILES MARS:

Also on Sunday July 22nd at 6:55 A.M. EST the first in a series of positive Mercury transits completes. This sextile will add a lot of energy to all communications, but because it is a sextile we can use this proactively and get our point across without being overly aggressive. There will be assertiveness in the air, and conversations will be direct and energetic. This is a good time for any important conversation or presentation. Travel will be on many minds this week, and even a short trip will be a positive event.

MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Tuesday July 24th at 3:15 P.M. EST this wonderfully optimistic and outgoing transit completes. This is a day to expand your consciousness and try to include as much information and input as possible. Anything that will bring you new knowledge or a different way of seeing things will have a positive effect on you. Travel of any kind, short or long journeys, is favored. Dealings with foreigners or ideas from a different background

will enlarge your perspective. This is a day of open-mindedness and an ability to see the other person's point of view.

MERCURY TRINES URANUS:

On Wednesday July 25th at 9:28 A.M. EST this group of positive Mercurial aspects continues. Because of the recent Jupiter – Uranus sextile those two planets will aspect each of the quick moving ones in rapid order. This trine will open your consciousness to new and unusual ideas and ways of looking at the world and your place in it. This is a good day to tackle any problems that have been giving you trouble. You may be able to recognize new and better ways of dealing with them and could resolve something that has been causing you angst for some time. This is not a good day to strap yourself to your desk or stick to your usual routine. You will be easily bored and would waste the potential this trine offers. Get out and see the world and try to find some new and different input. You will be drawn to unusual people, ideas, and events.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Saturday July 28th at 3:58 P.M. EST Mercury completes its transits with the conjunct to the Sun. There will be willfulness about most communications and we all need to pay heed to how we are saying things as much as what we are saying. The Sun will add a lot of strength and fire to whatever planet it is affecting. This conjunct is often a turnaround in the US long bonds, and in the agricultural markets. All of these Mercury aspects are occurring while it is in retrograde. This is giving us a chance to see how each planet affects our thinking and communications. Once Mercury goes direct it will complete all of these aspects once more, giving us another chance to examine each aspect in order.

THE SUN TRINES URANUS:

On Tuesday July 31st at 1:22 A.M. EST this very positive aspect will complete. As with most Uranus aspects, this is not a day to just sit around and follow your usual routine. You will be bored and antsy, and won't be able to focus your attention on your work. This is a day to explore the universe and look for new and exciting events, people, and ideas. Stretch your perspective, follow the path less taken, and keep your eyes open for anything that seems just a little "off". It may be the doorway to new knowledge and self-awareness. Because this completes so early in the morning its effects will be felt by most of us the night before. This is usually a good day for the stocks and other financials.

VENUS TRINES SATURN:

Also on Tuesday July 31st at 3:40 A.M. EST this realistic aspect will join the Sun trine Uranus mentioned above. This is a good day to review your relationships, especially romantic ones. It is easier to see them in a sensible and pragmatic way without the potential negativity that a conjunct, opposition, or square might produce. It can be frightening to see your close associates in a clear and un-tinted light, but it can help you make decisions that you otherwise may not be willing to consider.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Wednesday August 1 at 11:27 P.M. EST at 10 degrees Aquarius 15 minutes. No Full Moon demands more respect than this one. Aquarius is notoriously unpredictable and often works without a sense of boundaries (or a net). This is a day for caution, but also for experimentation and exploration. Try not to limit your experiences; this is not a day to follow your usual routine or strap yourself to your desk. Get out and see the world; just pay attention to what is going on around you. With Uranus, the modern ruler of Aquarius, in square to Pluto now, an explosive situation is even more likely when these planets or their signs are greatly affected. We could see a world event around this time.

THE SUN SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Tuesday August 2nd at 5:56 A.M. EST this positive and optimistic transit will complete. This is a day of expansion and learning. New ideas or knowledge will be easy to embrace, and you can enlarge your point of view more readily than usual. It's a good day to take in a lecture, or begin a new class. This sextile favors all social gatherings, so try to spend some time with your close people. Travel is also favored, and any journeys, even a short one, will increase your consciousness and perspective.

VENUS ENTERS CANCER:

On Tuesday August 7th at 9:43 A.M. EST the goddess of love enters this most emotional of signs. People will be a bit more demonstrative with their feelings for the next month or so, especially in romantic encounter. Family matters will be more in the forefront and the past will play a powerful role. People, ideas, and projects that you thought you had left behind may pop their heads up once more. It is an opportunity to deal with them once and for all, either to re-invite the issue into your present situation, or to say goodbye to it once and for all. We will all be a little more emotional and receptive to our feelings while Venus travels through this Moon ruled sign.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Wednesday August 8th at 1:40 A.M. EST this mischievous winged god begins to run forward once again. As Mercury turns around you can expect to hear some unexpected news, as secrets tend to come out during the confusing period of its turnaround. For a day or so before and after this moment extra caution is called for. Mistakes and misunderstandings abound, and it is important to clarify things. The world will begin to run faster as it attempts to make up for the retrograde period, and this is when most mistakes occur. The speed of information and events can become overwhelming and discombobulating. Because Mercury is traveling through Leo, you can expect some dramatics and emotional flair ups.

VENUS OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Wednesday August 15th at 5:09 A.M. EST this intense energy comes along. Relationships will be passionate. We will all tend to delve deeply into our closest connections, and won't be satisfied with superficial answers to our questions. This is a time to examine your relationships, and to make deep transformative changes in how we view and define them. Any difficulties that exist in an ongoing relationship will probably make themselves known now. Because Venus is traveling through emotional Cancer, this could

be a difficult day of intense encounters and thoughts.

MARS CONJUNCTS SATURN:

Also on Wednesday August 15th at 6:37 A.M. EST this difficult aspect completes. Mars rules the ego and assertiveness in us all, and it doesn't do well when held back by restrictive Saturn. This is a day of frustration and unexpressed tension. There will be an underlying feeling of repression for a day or so leading up to this aspect, and its effects will linger into the morning hours. But once an aspect completes it begins to wane. So the worst of this will be the night before and early in the morning. If you have an important conversation or meeting, try to plan it at least a day before this hits, or much later in the afternoon once the effects of this have begun to lessen.

VENUS SQUARES URANUS:

On Thursday August 16th at 2:49 A.M. EST Venus will square unpredictable and explosive Uranus. Any problem in a relationship that has been kept buried under the surface will most likely come out now. Uranus, more than any other luminary likes to expose the truth and lay bare all the facts. This can be a very exciting aspect, but its effects are so impulsive and fickle that you can not rely on its outcome. Any new relationship that begins under this influence will be adventurous, but not terribly stable or dependable, so allow a few days to pass before committing yourself or your emotions. Venus also rules our money and values, and you can expect some changes and erratic behavior in that area as well. This is not a good day to go shopping as you will not have your usual common sense and your values may go haywire. Sudden gains and sudden losses are possible, so hold on to your money with both hands. This may be a radical day in the markets, especially the cotton and agricultural pits.

THE SUN SEXTILES SATURN:

On Friday August 17th at 8:05 A.M. EST this positive sextile comes alone. This is a day of stability and structure, and we will all be more concerned with our responsibilities and obligations. It's a good day for any paperwork or for dealing with details, so try to get your work done. Because this comes so close to the Dark of the Moon it's a day for completions, not new beginnings. Put your efforts into tying up loose ends and finishing what you have already begun.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Friday August 17th at 11:54 A.M. EST at 25 degree Leo 08 minutes. The day or two leading up to it will be a particularly low energy period. If you tend to be emotional this may be a very trying time each month. I have found that people with prominent moons or a Cancer Sun, Moon or ascendant respond to the cycles of the moon more intensely than others. Spend this time finishing up anything that is incomplete, don't try to initiate new projects on a waning moon, it just won't work out. Once the New Moon hits you begin new projects or attempt a new approach to an existing problem. If you have been living in a situation or involved in a relationship that is intolerable or has outlived its usefulness this would be the proper time to move on with your life. If you have been working on a project that is almost

complete but you seem to lack the energy for the finality, you must push during these low energy days to end the matter once and for all. If you don't, when the New Moon arrives it will bring this "dead" energy along with it and conflict with the newer force being presented. Each month we are offered a chance to clean house, so to speak.

Note: All aspects are most powerful and effective as they apply. Once the transit has completed, its force is lessened. The further it separates the weaker it becomes.

For information regarding personal readings please contact me at: mitchastro@aol.com.

Below is a list of times this month when the Moon is Void of Course and neither important decisions nor purchases should be made during these periods. The Void of Course Moon is a time when we should try to center ourselves and deal with spiritual matters not materialistic ones. Any decisions made on the VC Moon will not turn out the way we had expected. **As mentioned in the Author's Notes, take into account the many long periods of V.O.C activity this month.**

The Moon is Void of Course from the time it makes its last major aspect in a sign until it enters the next sign. For example, if the Moon squares Mars at 27 degrees Aries and then has no more aspects until it enters Taurus it will be Void of Course for three degrees or about 6 hours. The aspects used are the conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition.

All times are Eastern Daylight:

July 19th 12:24 A.M. – 6:13 A.M.

July 21st 1:17 A.M. – 1:24 P.M. *** moon is void all day

July 22nd 8:44 P.M. – July 23rd 6:38 P.M. *** moon is void for almost 24 hours

July 25th 11:22 A.M. – 10:29 P.M. *** moon is void all day

July 26th 11:38 A.M. – July 28th 1:18 A.M. *** moon is void for almost 2 days

July 29th 5:01 P.M. – July 30th 3:29 A.M.

July 31st 7:30 A.M. – August 1st 5:56 A.M. *** moon is void for 24 hours

August 3rd 3:24 A.M. – 9:58 A.M.

August 5th 1:56 P.M. – 4:59 P.M.

August 7th 4:04 P.M. – August 8th 3:28 A.M.

August 9th 2:55 P.M. – August 10th 4:11 P.M. *** moon is void for 24 hours

August 12th 5:49 P.M. – August 13th 4:28 A.M.

August 15th 4:21 A.M. – 2:05 P.M.

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New York City

(212) 726-3814

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