

MONTHLY (Well...Almost) SINCE 1999
ISSUE # 159

LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

June 2012

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Last month, and for only the second time since this newsletter began in 1999, no issue of *Living By Starlight* was published. My apologies to you, my readers, but between the deadline for my upcoming *Starlight Detective Agency* book, *Death in the 12th House*, which will be published by Poisoned Pen Press later this year, and the United Astrology Conference in New Orleans, where among other things I gave the lecture "Metamorphosis of Society", there just weren't enough hours in the day to keep up with the demands on my time.

The UAC conference was a remarkable experience, and I believe that every student of astrology should try to attend the next one four years from now. The amount of information that the other speakers and hopefully I displayed was extensive and illuminating. More on the conference later.

The Grand Cross and Finances (Gold/Euro/Unrest):

Jupiter will square Neptune on Wednesday June 25th. The Sun rules gold, as most of you already know. Gold was discovered in California, on January 24th 1848, setting off the biggest gold rush in history, while transiting Jupiter was exactly conjunct America's Sun at 13 degrees Cancer. **The Grand Cross that will complete in April 2014 again has Jupiter transiting exactly on America's Sun, while Pluto opposes it, Mars squares it on one side, and Uranus squares it on the other.** I was asked by several astrologers if I believed that Jupiter on America's Sun would bode well for our country, and perhaps represent a turnaround of our economy. I'm afraid not! Jupiter, known as the greater benefic, actually doesn't always bring a better situation. Sometimes it just exacerbates an existing one. **This coming grand cross will result in a spike in the price of gold and other metals in April 2014. The fear this aspect will produce will send huge amounts of money into the U.S. dollar, bonds, and precious metals.** This is a date I have been looking at for some time, and don't see it as a positive aspect for the financial markets in America or around the world.

I have been writing for almost two years about the **demise of the Euro**. The natal chart of that currency (Jan 1, 1999 at midnight in Frankfurt Germany) is awful. There is a t-square with the Moon in opposition to Mercury, squared by Jupiter. This shows an unrealistic and overly emotional reaction to financial and social issues, blown out of proportion by Jupiter. **This commodity cannot survive in its present state**. Southern Europe is heading for a depression, and northern Europe, led by Germany and France will form a new currency and expand its economy. I have written for some time that the beginning of the end for the Euro will be early 2013. By the time the Grand Cross hits in April 2014, we will see a much different picture in Europe. If the Euro isn't deactivated this coming year (despite the exit of Greece and probably Spain, Italy, and Ireland), it will be crushed in 2014. The end result will be a flight to security in the US dollar, US bonds, and precious metals. This may create another stock crash, or just a long slow decline in our equities. I will publish the most likely dates for this as the information becomes available.

Saturn goes direct on Monday June 25th. Venus goes direct June 27th. Uranus retrogrades July 13th, and Mercury retrogrades July 14th. I've written about each separately in this newsletter. The change of direction of any planet has a certain influence over our culture and subsequently our financial markets. With so many planets changing direction in such a short period of time, we can **expect several reversals in the markets**. This is not a stable month. Any projects that have been delayed or difficult to bring to fruition will do better once Saturn turns around.

Uranus will square Pluto this month for the first of half a dozen times. (It did come close to a completion in July 2011.) Astrologers all over the world as well as I, have been writing about this aspect and its potential. This is a difficult square. **The compulsiveness of Pluto working with the erratic and unrestrained energy of Uranus will create an atmosphere of unexpected and unrelenting actions.** I'm certain that many of you have been feeling the effects of this transit. Expect the unexpected, and do your best to bend with the wind. The individual cannot control the outer planets; they are the domain of the collective. But if you can accept certain things as inevitable and not fight against the tide you may find it easier to handle. This is especially true if this square sets off your personal planets.

Because of the placements of the planets at this moment, there are a number of **extended Void of Course Moons** this month (*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. I have had to return sneakers, spoiled chicken, and many other minor purchases bought under the V.O.C. Moons. Now I either buy something before that time or wait until it passes. 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.

NOTES FROM THE United Astrology Conference (UAC) UNDERGROUND

The UAC Conference is the largest gathering of professional astrologers in the world. I, along with about 150 other professionals, lectured to a group of at least 1,200 students and astrologers of all levels of knowledge. The information set forth was immeasurable. Techniques and points of view varied, and I think we all learned some new and valuable things.

One of the recurring themes was the state of our economy and political situation. While there was an **almost unanimous prediction that Obama would win reelection**, there was also an underlying trepidation about what a Romney presidency would entail.

I was deeply impressed, not just with the level of knowledge and professionalism my fellow astrologers displayed, but also with a fresh perspective of the struggle we astrologers face as the baby boomers, the most active generation of astrologers in centuries, continue to age. While there were quite a number of younger people at the conference, the vast majority of speakers and attendees were over 50. If we do not draw the smartest of the next generations, astrology will recess into the background and whither away in obscurity until the next rediscovery in decades, or perhaps centuries.

Astrology is the study of how everything fits together. The understanding of the connections and layers of knowledge that go into this study requires a plethora of information and awareness. I came away from UAC with a renewed respect on a subject I have studied for more than 35 years. Thanks to several of my colleagues, including Gary Christian, Arch Crawford, Michael Lutin, A.T. Mann, Bill Meridian, Steven Forrest, and others I will look at astrology from a different point of view. Hopefully this will make me a better practitioner. But even more important is the realization that

astrology, like music, art, politics, or any human endeavor, is larger than any individual. It is the study itself that is the work. Nobody ever finishes their education; rather it has its peaks and valleys and often levels off for years at a time.

Although we came from all over the world, and from backgrounds as varied as the human population, we shared several things in common: a great love of astrology and a desire for further self-awareness. I tip my hat to the astrology community in general, and especially to those who worked so tirelessly to put this tremendous project together.

NEW MOON AND RECENT ECLIPSES:

The New Moon falls on Tuesday June 19th at 11:02 A.M. EST at 28 degrees Gemini 43 minutes. This month will be all about honesty in communication and how well we can confront the truth. Following the two eclipses of last month, a solar and a lunar one, we face the challenge of uncovering the information that was hidden during those eclipses, and assimilating what we now discover. Lunar eclipses are often the end of matters, especially in emotional situations. Any relationships that need to be adjusted or ended will most likely do so during the coming months. The trouble with eclipses is that things aren't out in the open; the light around them is literally eclipsed. After they pass things that were without light slowly come out of the shadows.

With the Sun, Venus, and Jupiter all in Gemini, this Mercurial sign, the desire to uncover the truth and express ourselves is very much on everyone's mind. Venus and Jupiter are the lesser and greater benefic, and it is through communications that we will receive much of our pleasure and expansiveness at the moment. **We can expect to hear some unexpected things, and depending upon how those recent eclipses hit your chart you will either welcome the news or regret it.** Gemini is all about relationships, especially with our siblings, acquaintances, neighbors, and the like. Speak your mind, but expect to be heard.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

On Wednesday June 20th at 12:05 P.M. EST this difficult aspect will complete. It will be hard to express what's on your mind today, which will frustrate all the planets transiting through Gemini for a few days. Travel will be fraught with complications, and you can expect delays and traffic jams. This square restricts communication. The lesson here is to focus and aim your thoughts, communications, and ideas into clear and concise snippets of information that can be easily digested. Don't try to explain the bigger picture right now. Take baby steps and you will eventually receive and understand the information you require. Those born with this aspect spend a lifetime

learning that lesson.

THE SUN ENTERS CANCER:

Also on Wednesday June 20th at 7:09 P.M. EST the Sun enters the cardinal water sign, and summer begins. As I have mentioned often in this newsletter, the first day of each of the cardinal signs is the first day of each of the four seasons. It may help you understand just what the cardinal signs are all about when you consider their initiative powers. **The cardinal signs, more than the mutable or fixed, move things forward in an orderly and proactive fashion.** By learning how to use the cardinal planets and house cusps in your own chart you can better see where your own initiative is most effective.

URANUS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Sunday June 24th at 4:14 A.M. EST the first pass of this much anticipated transit will complete. Astrologers all over the world have been discussing this square and its implications. It is an explosive and upsetting celestial event, which will complete a half dozen times over the next few years. How it hits the individual chart of a person, country, corporation or other entity will decide how upsetting it will be. If this afflicts your own chart you can expect tension and difficulties in certain areas of your life for awhile. Acceptance and the ability to bend with the prevailing winds will help offset some of the stress. It will conjunct and square the Sun in the chart of the Euro in 2013, putting excessive pressure on that besieged currency. I'm afraid that will mean the demise of the Euro, pushing southern Europe further into a deep depression.

JUPITER SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Monday June 25th at 3:59 A.M. EST one of the potentially most confusing and misdirecting transits will complete. Coming a day after the first Uranus-Pluto square this aspect will add a layer of confusion to that difficult transit. With Saturn about to go direct and Mercury about to enter Leo (both occurring today as well), and with Venus going direct on Wednesday, the beginning of this week may have a long term effect on the equities and currencies. The square of Jupiter and Neptune will exacerbate the already confusing situations in Europe and China. **This is often an aspect that brings inflation (or, occasionally, deflation) as the true value of things becomes muddled.** And I believe that in time we will see the true inflationary picture that is the result of governments printing money without limitations. Our currencies aren't worth what we think they are. This square will further muddy the waters and may help lead to a huge spike in commodities prices in general. Buying volatility in the C.R.B. may be the best way to go. With Neptune prominent I doubt that a clear picture will emerge.

Because this is a single pass that will not return for many years, its affects will be lessened, and some of the confusion it creates may not linger as it has in past years. We are dealing with Pluto – Uranus is the prevailing energy right now. The Jupiter-Neptune square will only produce more fog. Get beyond that illusion and you will be able to see what is really taking place.

In our personal lives there will also be confusion about what path to take on our journey to the future. The ingestion of alcohol and drugs (legal or illegal makes no difference in medical astrology) must be carefully monitored. A negative reaction even to powerful herbs is possible. It is easy to overdo things when these planets are in conflict. Wait until this is out of orb for a few days before making major decisions regarding your finances or future plans.

SATURN GOES DIRECT:

Also on Monday June 25th at 4:01 A.M. EST the most karmic planet reverses direction. Many business plans that have been delayed or thwarted should begin to move forward once again. **It is always best to begin a new business with Saturn going direct**, so if you have been putting off the start of a new project, now would be a good time to consider incorporating or opening the door for business. Although there have been many successful companies started with retrograde Saturn, they all have to cope with a fragile underbelly.

The reversal of Saturn has more to do with the stability in our culture than with future's prices. Jupiter's reversals have much more to do with the price and direction of the markets. But this aspect will change many people's feelings of structure and security. We may see the equities rise for a little while. But that Jupiter–Neptune square mentioned above will add a feeling of instability and a lack of clarity that traders need. Most of the aspects following this one point to a downward trend.

MERCURY ENTERS LEO:

Also on Monday June 25th at 10:24 P.M. EST Mercury enters the fixed fire sign. People will be feistier in their speech and less emotional than they were last month while Mercury traveled through Cancer, so don't expect as sympathetic an ear. People will tell you what's on their minds the way a Leo would—directly, honestly, and perhaps a bit harshly. There will certainly be more theatrics and a boisterous voice in general.

Mercury has a great influence on the U.S. bonds futures markets, and on soybeans, which tend to trend in opposite directions. Watch these two markets for direction. If they both head the same way,

the equities will break out of their trading range one way or another.

VENUS GOES DIRECT:

On Wednesday June 27th at 11:07 A.M. EST Venus turns around. This will have a strong influence on our personal lives. **Romance and emotional relationships of all sorts will attempt to “break out of their trading range”** as well. It may be time to redefine an ongoing relationship. If it has been limited but requires growth to express itself fully, one of the participants may demand an expansion or redefinition. This can also point out relationships that aren't working out and sometimes ends them.

In the markets, I have found the reversal of Venus has less influence than some other astrological writers have expressed. I believe it will help clarify where our society really is, and how strong the foundation of our financial markets is. The stocks may rally a bit, but with Jupiter in square to Neptune I wouldn't expect too much from any upward movement. And with the Sun in opposition to Pluto and in square to Uranus on Friday (see *below*), even if the markets do rally here, we may see another reversal in only a few days.

THE SUN OPPOSES PLUTO AND SQUARES URANUS:

On Friday June 29th at 11:00 A.M. EST and 4:11 P.M. EST respectively these powerful and very demanding transits comes along. Please use caution when out in the world. Some people may respond to this opposition by seeking power struggles or attempting to control situations. Even if you are not looking for a fight, others may be. If that Uranus – Pluto square is setting off your own chart, the influence of the Sun in the mixture may prove powerful enough to cause you great difficulty. The outer planets need an inner luminary to trigger to events. The Sun can be such an element.

If the stocks have been rallied on the Venus direct motion they will probably give back much of their gains. If you aren't out of the stocks by now, I suggest flattening your position. I will be short this market from now until the end of this lunar cycle.

The square of the Sun to Uranus is also a reversal of direction, often in a violent way. You must be careful all day, as each of these two aspects can bring animosity and aggression. We may see a major move in the stocks towards the end of the trading day.

MARS ENTERS LIBRA:

On Tuesday July 3rd at 8:32 A.M. EST Mars enters this Venus-ruled sign, the opposite of its home in Aires. This is a lousy placement for Mars. While Aries is a direct and forceful sign, Libra is a passive-aggressive one that tends to circumvent direct action and confrontation. Mars has much to do with the British Pound. I am watching that currency as this aspect begins. This often represents a weakness in that market, and coming so close to the Full Moon the Pound may make a major move, probably down.

In our personal lives this placement makes it difficult to be assertive and often leads to wishy-washy decisions that we will regret later on. It is usually best to **wait until you are sure about something before taking action**, while Mars is here. The need for balance and passivity, at least on the surface, often makes us hide our anger and true feelings, which can create tension in the undercurrent. It is more difficult to express and deal with our inner emotions when Mars isn't feeling its usual oomph.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Tuesday June 3rd at 2:52 P.M. EST at 12 degrees Capricorn 14 minutes. This is a powerful Full Moon which will demand that we examine our lives and test the foundation upon which we are standing. Any weaknesses will be shown. While this isn't usually a day for crashes or huge rallies, the direction these markets are heading may be shown now. Look for any reversals in the technical trades. Capricorn is perhaps the most relentless of the signs, and there is little patience for frivolous or unnecessary action.

The aspects that follow this Full Moon point towards a big sell off in the stocks.

URANUS RETROGRADES:

On Friday July 13th at 5:49 A.M. EST the most erratic of celestial bodies begins its annual trip backwards. We will all be more concerned with issues of personal freedom and uninhibited growth for the next few months. **Many will find a conflict between their personal needs and the needs of the group**, whatever group you are in. Marriages and other personal relationships will be stressful, unless a compromise is reached between obligation and the needs of the individual. Even if you are single and have few commitments, the issues this brings up will affect you as well. We often don't realize just how many group situations we are involved in until they start to weigh upon us.

This may have a big effect on the NASDAQ possibly a reversal in direction, and with Saturn and Venus also reversing direction, this month will continue to be volatile and erratic in the markets. Any news, good or bad, will have greater than anticipated reaction in the equities.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Saturday July 14th at 10:16 P.M. EST the winged god begins its mischief. Well, here we go again. The periods of retrograde Mercury are fraught with misunderstandings, mistakes, accidents, and the inadvertent discovery of secrets. Take a deep breath. With Mercury retrograding in Leo and thus staying in that fixed fire sign for an extended period of time, there will be a lot of theatrics floating around. Take what is said with a grain of salt. The sign where Mercury retrogrades tells us what kind of a period it will be. In Leo there will be a lot of things said with great authority. How true or correct they are is another matter. Try to remove the outer shell of the conversation with all its pomp and fluff and get to the kernel of information that you require.

As always during these periods, leave extra time for travel, double check plans, and make sure you understand what is being said. Try not to purchase a new cell phone, computer, automobile, or skateboard until this goes direct August 8th at 1:40 A.M. EST. This is often a reversal in the stocks and bonds, but the turnaround can happen days in advance.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

On Sunday July 15th at 12:14 A.M. EST this difficult and limiting aspect completes. This is usually a very bad aspect for the equities markets. With Mercury retrograding the day before and Uranus turning backwards on Friday I would expect a big sell off beginning either the end of last week or the beginning of the coming. **Since I have been short the markets since June 28th, this may represent another leg down, but probably the temporary bottom. I would flatten my shorts on Monday or Tuesday and examine the coming New Moon cycle.**

MARS TRINES JUPITER, SQUARES PLUTO, AND OPPOSES URANUS:

On Tuesday July 17th at 8:40 A.M. EST this positive Mars–Jupiter trine takes place. **The stocks may rally on the open, but Mars will square Pluto Tuesday July 17th at 4:23 P.M. EST and oppose Uranus on Wednesday July 18th at 10:56 P.M. EST, and they will probably give back most of their gains before the New Moon.** This is the Dark of the Moon, so what happens during these two days will indicate what to expect from the New Moon cycle. **Jupiter will sextile Uranus next month, and I believe this is the time to buy.** If the stocks take a hit now, they are just shaking out the shorts before a rally on the New Moon July 19th.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Wednesday July 19th at 12:24 A.M. EST at 26 degree Cancer 55 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.

Summer Reading Special—to offset reader's fears about the impending Uranus-Pluto squares and other stressful astrological events, for a limited time there is a discount on personal readings with me either in person in New York City or by phone. My specialties include financial and health astrology and I am a holistic astrologer. Inquire for details 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:

June 19th 11:02 A.M. – 1:34 P.M.

June 21st 12:48 P.M. – 11:47 P.M. *** moon is void all day

June 23rd 6:26 P.M. – June 24th 7:43 A.M. *** moon is void all night

June 26th 6:53 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.

June 28th 4:22 A.M. – 4:32 P.M. *** moon is void all day

June 30th 3:46 P.M. – 6:04 P.M.

July 2nd 6:21 P.M. – 6:51 P.M.

July 4th 8:25 A.M. – 8:26 P.M. *** moon is void all day

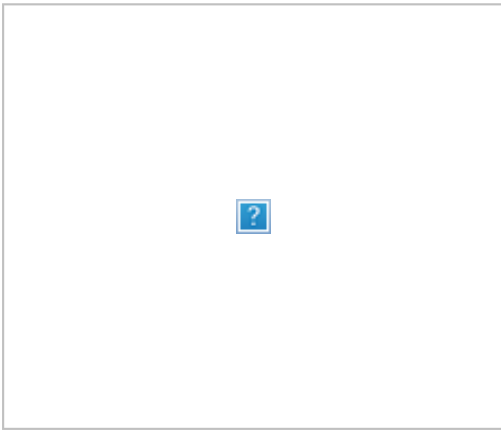
July 6th 11:48 A.M. – July 7th 7:00 A.M. *** moon is void all day

July 8th 7:00 A.M. – July 9th 8:14 A.M. *** moon is void for 24 hours

July 11th 5:23 A.M. – 7:30 P.M. *** moon is void all day

July 13th 3:46 P.M. – April 14th 8:26 A.M. *** Moon is void all day

July 16th 6:56 A.M. – 8:31 P.M. *** moon is void all day



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