

LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

January 2014

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

I want to wish all of my readers the healthiest, happiest, and most prosperous New Year. May we all see growth and optimism in the months ahead.

I did not expect the stocks to crash this past year, and have been in opposition to a number of astrologers who had predicted that. However, the stock markets also did not have the correction that I have been waiting for, and in fact, this was one of the best years for the equities in some time with the DOW rising 26%. I still feel that this is a very precarious place to enter a market that is at an all time high, and believe it can turn on a dime. But the truth is that while the growth of corporate earnings has increased, and the wealth of the top tier has also grown, the middle class in America continues to struggle in a squeeze between what they earn and the rising cost of virtually everything. Stocks do not really reflect the shape of our economy, only the psychological attitude behind them. And with little chance of increasing our personal wealth any other way at the moment, the equities are the only game in town. I still think they are shaky and will be quite volatile in the coming year.

In 2014, the Feds plan to reduce their stimulus in the bond markets. Congress has refused to extend unemployment benefits. Fallout from the mess that is Obamacare will continue to plague our system. And in April that Grand Cross will rest on America's Sun. if you surf the web you'll find many well-known and wealthy economists who are in stark disagreement and are predicting everything from the DOW hitting 20,000, to a collapse. How could there be such a discrepancy in their outlook? If the economy is in the shape to support a rise in the DOW of 26% would we be seeing so many looking for trouble? I doubt it. Even in this unsure environment I continue to examine individual stocks looking for fairly safe investments. This past year I recommended NOKIA when it was trading at \$3.40 and RITE AID at \$4.00. NOKIA is currently trading at \$8.12 and looks quite strong. RITE AID is at about \$5.50 and is in a holding pattern. But I am cautious and watch the markets everyday for signs of a reversal.

As we all know, we're morphing into a new age, a transition that takes a long time. We say that the age of Pisces began (more or less) in what we call the year zero. Yet it took until the year 440 for the Roman Empire to fall, and Christianity and its symbol the fisherman (Pisces) to become the predominant ruling force. My lecture at the United Astrologer's Conference in May 2012 (which is available at their website) was a discussion of the evolutionary process that took place from the age of Aires to the age of Pisces, and

subsequently what I expect from this present transition to Aquarius.

Someday in the not so distant future our descendants will look back at this period of millennium transition as the end of *Old Earth* and the beginning of a new period. So many things humankind has embraced and relied on since we first stopped picking lice out of each other's hair are about to disappear forever.

How long will it be before condos with a watering hole view are available at The Serengeti Trump Towers and golf course? Once they get rid of all those pesky animals it's just a matter of mapping out the land and setting up a sales department. All the wildlife of our books and nightmares, fairytales and fantasies will soon go the way of the dragon and the gargoyle. Children will hear stories of elephants and giraffes and assume they too were fables. If we continue on the path we have chosen, that is our legacy, to inherit the wind.

As they say: *the only constant is change*. We should look forward to the coming of each New Year with excitement and awe. It's an empty page, an unwritten book waiting for us to fill it in. The more we hold onto situations that are no longer working to our advantage the harder it will be to make the changes we need for continued growth. While I think New Year's resolutions are mostly useless, especially made while drinking that 2nd bottle of champagne, and rarely followed through, the idea of marking off a period of time with new ideas and plans is very positive. So, although I probably won't keep many, I've made my list of designed changes as well.

Venus is in retrograde and will be stuck in conservative Capricorn where it feels restricted and limited, for months until March 5th 2014. Mars will retrograde in early March while in Libra, sign of its detriment, where it too will remain until July 25th. At least until March when Venus finally enters Aquarius this combination will strain relationships between the sexes and create a chasm of misunderstanding and frustration. Venus in Capricorn lacks the sensitivity and compassion we expect from that planet. It's difficult to express feelings and is akin to a Venus – Saturn conjunction, which can be a lonely and harsh aspect with little romance. Mars in Libra will lack the assertiveness and directness we need from it. It becomes wishy-washy and unable to push that Mars ego forward. So when the two sexes attempt to communicate with the male and female planets in such hard placement, there won't be the reaction we are used to and need for interpersonal relationships from either side of the equation. The end result could be much disappointment and irritability. We need to reevaluate how we relate to each other and explore new and more patient ways of expressing our sexuality and desire for closeness, or many attempts at love will fail. Don't expect to have your usual aggressive approach to relationships; you may not be able to assert yourself in your usual manner. And don't expect the compassion and caring you usually have or are used to from the other person. This period is a testing of how well we can relate under these stressful circumstances.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Wednesday January 1st at 6:14 A.M. EST at 10 degrees Capricorn 57 minutes. This is the first New Moon of our calendar year. Capricorn is a conservative sign whose main concerns are

foundation, structure, and stability. Our culture chooses this sign to represent the New Year in an effort to begin the new cycle on the most stable energy in the zodiac. The fact that Sagittarius precedes Capricorn in the zodiac is a big problem for humanity. We should first put down a foundation and then build and expand upon it. Instead, we expand first (Sagittarius) and then seek a way to support the growth through Capricorn. This creates all sorts of problems, and it represents that very basis of our difficulties as a species.

By putting the New Year in Capricorn we are essentially using astrology on a grand scale just the way many of us do individually. We look for the best times to begin new projects or to complete old ones. I believe the collective chose this date to resolve a problem humanity has had since we first looked up to the sky for answers. How can we expand without the foundation to support our growth?

Because this New Moon is conjunct Pluto (see below) it will define this month's cycle and what we can expect.

THE SUN & MOON CONJUNCT PLUTO:

Also on Wednesday January 1st at 1:54 P.M. EST the Sun and New Moon conjunct this most stressful non-planet. When there is an aspect close to a New Moon it represents that energy that lunar cycle will display. With Pluto in close proximity we can expect some more stressful times ahead. This month will be about power struggles and hidden agendas. You can expect to uncover some secrets which will have to be dealt with directly. Pluto in Capricorn will release a lot of things buried in the unconscious. Pluto is in conflict with Saturn (ruler of Capricorn) during many difficult world events. They were in square in 1940 as the Second World War was starting to heat up. They were in opposition when the World Trade Center was destroyed. At the moment they are in mutual receptivity with Saturn in Scorpio, which is helping us cope with the mess we've been in for the last few years. With Pluto conjunct the New Moon in Capricorn we can expect to see some manifestations of the repressive energy of Capricorn coupled with the deep and probing power of Pluto.

THE SUN SQUARES MARS:

On Thursday January 2nd at 7:14 P.M. EST the stressful energy continues with this excitable and potentially violent square. You must use caution today. People will be impulsive, rash, and angry. There is an explosive quality to this combination that should be respected. Even if this doesn't set off your chart it may be hitting the guy sitting next to you, so be careful. The energy this square releases can certainly be used positively, and if it's controlled a lot can be accomplished. It's when aspects run amok that they create problems for us.

MERCURY OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Friday January 3rd at 2:11 A.M. EST this positive and expansive transit completes. People will certainly be chatty and outgoing. This is a good day for conversations and for any educational endeavor. But Jupiter can also blow things out of proportion and it's important that you keep it in perspective. Exaggerations are quite common under this aspect, so try to make sure that what's being said is realistic and within boundaries. The Mercury-Jupiter combination is one of the aspects found in many con-artists' charts, so don't fall for a scheme that seems too good to be true. It probably is. This isn't a very good aspect for dealing with anything

that requires attention to detail. It's the bigger picture most of us will be interested in, and the little things seem to slip through the cracks. This is a very good day for travel as long as you pay attention to details, such as following directions, getting off at the proper exits, and filling the tank. We are all so concerned with grandiose schemes that everyday needs could be ignored. Anything that expands your consciousness and opens your mind to new ideas will be most helpful.

THE SUN OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Sunday January 5th at 4:12 P.M. EST this wonderful transit comes along. Because we had the Sun-Mercury conjunct on December 29th (see last month's newsletter) they will both aspect planets in short order. Today is all about expansion of ideas, plans, and thoughts. This is a good time to plan for the future. There's a far-sightedness about this combination that will continue the expansiveness of the Mercury – Jupiter opposition mentioned above. Allow yourself the privilege of looking at things in a new and un-tethered way, but as I mentioned above, you need to keep things in perspective and not allow that Jupiter energy complete free reign, or you may take on more obligations and make more promises than you can keep. Travel is also favored, as it will expand your perspective, and that's really what Jupiter is all about.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Tuesday January 7th at 5:02 P.M. EST this pleasant conjunct takes place. We'll all enjoy communications of all sorts, and there will be an easy attitude in most conversations. This is a good day to smooth over any ruffled feathers or to find a compromise to a troubling situation. Short journeys will be quite pleasing as well.

MARS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Wednesday January 8th at 5:36 P.M. EST the self-image can get blown out of proportion. Mars is the ego, and the main conflict here is tendency to allow it to run amok. Jupiter has little sense of boundaries or limitations, and restraint is what is required. The problem is that restrictions of any sort are alien to this planet. Squares to Jupiter are unlike any other, and Mars' energy is thrilled to find a partner that will allow it to express itself fully and without restraint. This can be an outgoing, optimistic, and very positive transit, while at the same time the lack of self-control and discipline can make you overly enthusiastic and unstructured. There is a real possibility of taking on too many challenges without enough strength and focus to complete them. Risk taking is also a well-known side effect of this combination, so use some caution and make sure you're not just acting out an unsuppressed fantasy that can result in injury or conflict.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Saturday January 11th at 7:25 A.M. EST this easy-going aspect completes. This is a very pleasant transit that will make most of us more receptive and less aggressive. This is a good day for any social gathering or entertainment. You'll be quite sociable and more open to the arts and things of beauty. Sometimes, if this conjunct hits your chart just right, this can represent a new relationship. But you would have to be open to the idea. This isn't powerful enough to force the issue. These two will sextile Saturn today

as well (see below) which will add foundation and security to our endeavors. If, in fact, you do begin a new relationship now it may very well have some longevity.

VENUS & THE SUN SEXTILE SATURN:

Also on Saturday January 11th at 5:44 A.M. & 8:39 A.M. EST Saturn will anchor that Sun – Venus conjunct and place a foundation underneath. Any creative endeavors you are involved in should move forward in a patient and meticulous way. We'll be looking at our work, relationships, and plans in a realistic manner and seeking ways to solidify what is already in place. There may be some inspiration from the Sun – Venus conjunct, but the best way to use this 3 planet combination is to go over your existing work and clean it up. This is a perfect time to rewrite or edit a story, prepare a publicity campaign, or just make sure there are no glaring mistakes in any work you're involved with. Because Mercury is also entering Aquarius later today, which will stimulate and speed up our minds and communications, you should spend today putting your old work into order and preparing for a new wave of ideas and schemes.

MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:

Also on Saturday January 11th at 4:35 P.M. EST the ruler of the mind enters this eccentric sign. We say that Aquarius rules the higher octave of the mental process, and I have found that to be true. This is called the sign of genius (although there are many configurations that can lead to the many different types of genius), and as such new concepts, ideas, and possibilities will make themselves known. The key to using this energy properly is to allow your mind a certain amount of freedom to explore any uncharted paths it may wander down.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Wednesday January 15th at 11:52 P.M. EST at 25 degrees Cancer 58 minutes. This is an emotional Full Moon that will stir up many feelings and could bring up some issues from the past that we thought were resolved long ago. All Full Moons tend to increase the intensity of the parts of life the sign they fall into rule. A Cancer Full Moon will focus our attention on the emotional side of things. Relationships will be prominent, as will issues involving women or anyone who reminds you of your mother. It's the connection to the past that's predominant and the way that we handle the past in the present will be obvious today. If you find yourself overreacting to something it would be a good idea to study it and try to understand the true origin of your anger. You may be surprised.

VENUS SQUARES MARS:

On Thursday January 16th at 12:13 P.M. EST the male and female planets are in discord. This isn't a very good day for relationships between the sexes. With Venus in stogie old Capricorn and Mars in wishy-washy Libra at odds with each other, the chances of a pleasant encounter are lessened. Neither energy will be particularly assertive, and the end result could be frustration for all.

MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS:

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On Friday January 17 at 1:25 A.M. EST the lower and higher octaves of the mind create a positive and useful sextile. Ideas will flow and be accessible, and you should keep your mind open to any new concepts or plans. This will be more effective the night before as it applies so if you're trying to finish the outline to your book and have been stuck, get that coffee pot out and pull an all-nighter. Or just leave cookies and milk for the elves.

THE SUN ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Sunday January 19th at 10:51 P.M. EST we enter the fixed air sign. This is the most erratic of the 12 signs, and its reputation is well earned. Aquarians aren't like other people. Their rules and values tend to be different, and often are in contrast to societal codes. This is the sign of the lunatic or the genius. Sometimes both. If you keep your mind open to all new ideas and concepts you will allow Uranus, the modern ruler of Aquarius, a chance to show you some concepts you never could have imagined. But if you close yourself off to anything out of the norm this energy will manifest as frustration and a feeling of unfulfilled promise. Saturn, the ancient ruler of this sign has a much different attitude, which is why we needed to discover a new planet before entering the Aquarian Age. There are certainly Saturnine Aquarians and Uranian Aquarians, and I look at both rulers when diagnosing a chart, but the sign itself is most defiantly projected more through the collective than the individual, and Uranus more clearly defines the growth herein.

MERCURY TRINES MARS:

On Friday January 24th at 9:57 A.M. EST this productive trine will help us all say what's on our minds without the usual difficulties. Most people will be more assertive and forceful. The aspect allows us to make statements in a direct and clear way. This is a good time for all communications, also for paperwork or organizing. You may find people a little too chatty, but in a non-aggressive way. Some physical activity is also called for. Mars needs to stretch its legs, so to speak, and even in a positive aspect it can become irritable if not exercised. A long walk or a short drive would do the trick.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

On Saturday January 25th at 6:56 A.M. EST this difficult square will complete. It's hard to say what's on your mind and you might feel withdrawn or even depressed if this square sets off your chart. This is not a day of inspiration, but rather one of perspiration. Get your grunt work out of the way and focus on your obligations and responsibilities. Finish up anything that has been nagging at you and clear the decks. This falls shortly before the Dark of the Moon, so you need to make room for new beginnings. Any conversation will be very honest and direct, but may be coming from a rather negative perspective, so you may be better off leaving things unsaid unless you're objective is a jolt of undecorated reality.

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

On Wednesday January 29th at 3:33 A.M. EST a moment of creative enthusiasm will strike. This occurs in the wee small hours of the morning, so unless you're a night owl you may miss much of its impact. Still, the celestial event will occur and should bring us all a more positive end to this lunar cycle. We're all seeking

some way of making things better in our lives, and the transits will bring us lessons, either easy or difficult, through which we can manifest the changes necessary to improve our situations. The Dark of the Moon is a time of endings and completions. I have seen many people die, relationships, jobs, and living situations come to an end as the Moon wanes out of light. This is a time to let go of anything that has been holding back your growth and development. We are all creatures of habit and it's difficult for many to stop holding on to the past. Each month we are given a small lesson regarding this issue. Sometimes it's more obvious than others. Look forward to the coming of each New Moon with hope and positive expectations.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Thursday January 30th at 4:38 P.M. EST at 10 degrees Aquarius 56 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.

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 Standard Time:

Please note: In response to requests from a few readers I have added a few VOC Moons into the next lunar cycle for those who need to make plans before my next newsletter is released.

January 2nd 6:12 A.M. – 12:03 P.M.

January 3rd 8:47 P.M. – January 4th 11:58 A.M.

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January 6 4:44 A.M. – 2:45 P.M.

January 8th 11:22 A.M. – 9:42 P.M.

January 11th 5:58 A.M. – 7:26 A.M.

January 12th 4:33 P.M. – January 13th 7:25 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

January 15th 11:52 P.M. – January 16th 8:00 A.M.

January 18th 3:51 A.M. – 8:23 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

January 20th 3:55 P.M. – January 21st 7:43 A.M.

January 22nd 10:50 P.M. – January 23rd 4:43 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

January 25th 8:55 A.M. – 10:13 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

January 27th 5:02 P.M. – January 28th 12:04 A.M.

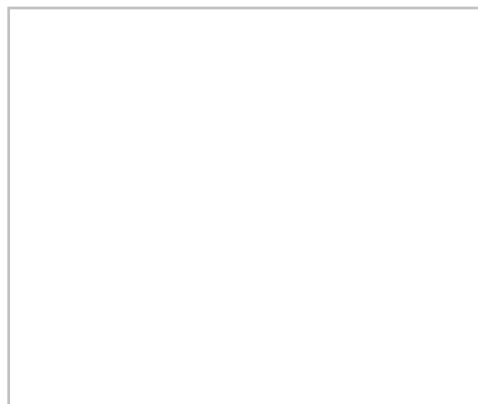
January 29th 11:47 A.M. – 11:33 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

Due to popular request I have included below several VOC moons in the next lunar cycle:

January 31st 11:45 A.M. – 10:45 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

February 2nd 11:34 A.M. – 10:45 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

February 4th 6:14 A.M. – February 5th 4:46 A.M.



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