Volume 19 / Issue 1 January / February 2010

The Guild News

www.astrologyguild.com

January 14, 2010 7:30 - 9:30 pm — Rose Marcus - The Year Ahead

Rose has studied astrology for 30 years and is well known for her heartfelt passion, sensitive counselling skills and dedication to helping others. She is the director for the Canadian School of Evolutionary Astrology, the Jeffrey Wolf Green Method, a highly regarded and much sought after specialty training course.

Rose will be joining us January 14th for a look at the year ahead. 2010 launches with Mars, Mercury and Saturn retrograde right on the heels of the Lunar Eclipse (December 31, 2009) Next up is the solar eclipse on January 14/15 which is part of a metonic cycle. Following is a shift that will be sure to bring an exciting year with both Uranus and Jupiter entering the sign of Aries!

Please join us with Rose Marcus on January 14, at 7:30 pm. She will be sure to dazzle us with this year's planetary dance and so much more!

February 11, 2010 7:30 - 9:30 pm — Rachel Visconti - The Elements & Psychology

Over the past decade, Rachel Visconti developed from a green-fingered horticulturist to a caring 'Gardener of the Soul' and is now working as a therapeutic practitioner using astrology and counselling. She has a long-standing interest in symbolic systems, is an ardent student of human nature, and likes to examine the relationship between the greater whole and the smaller part - always striving to find a holistic and integrative perspective.

Rachel holds a Diploma in Psycological Astrology from Liz Greene's Centre in London, and an MA in Psychotherapy and Healing. Visit her website at www.soulstars.net and contact her at: astrachel@gmail.com

Her upcoming February 11th lecture is titled **"The Magic of Four: An Exploration of Astrological Elements and Psychological Types"**

During this talk we will look at the four astrological elements and follow the history from the ancient Greek doctrine of humours and temperaments. We will attempt to draw a bridge between the astrological types and the psychological types as defined by C. G. Jung.

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We meet at Unit 201, 317 Columbia Street, New Westminster - doors open 7PM

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MEMBERSHIP in The GUILD

- $45/year (Nov.1-Oct. 31) includes newsletter
- Additional Family member $20/yr no newsletter
- $35/year for seniors
- Newsletter subscription only $15/6 issues
- E-mail yourname@astrologyguild.com $10/year complete with web access
- Drop-in Fee $10 for non-members
- Regular workshop fees for our members $120, seniors $100. Early bird discount $20 if paid 90 days in advance
- Non-member workshop fee $150
- Check registration form for **Early bird discounts**
- Membership application forms available on our website and at the meetings
- Members at large $25 includes newsletter and 2 meetings attendance
- Send dues to The Fraser Valley Astrological Guild, c/o 1567 East 8th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5N1T6 or hand to treasurer at meeting.

The Guild Executive

CO-PRESIDENTS:
Dawn Muncaster 604-538-5152
dawnmuncaster@telus.net
Denise Grams 778-340-6129
planetarypresence@shaw.ca

FOUNDING and PAST PRESIDENT:
Anne Massey 604-888-9552
anne@astrologicallyspeaking.com

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Sukhwinder Nizzer c/o astrologyguild@shaw.ca

TREASURER:
Michèle Ribaille c/o astrologyguild@shaw.ca_

SECRETARY and CO-EDITOR:
Christine Linwood c/o astrologyguild@shaw.ca

EDITOR:
Michael Michouris
e-mail: mm@hilightprojects.com

General email: astrologyguild@shaw.ca

Annual Dues

Please note your membership fee is due on November 1st. Such a reasonable price to pay to learn "all about astrology". We appreciate your continued support and offer great speakers and

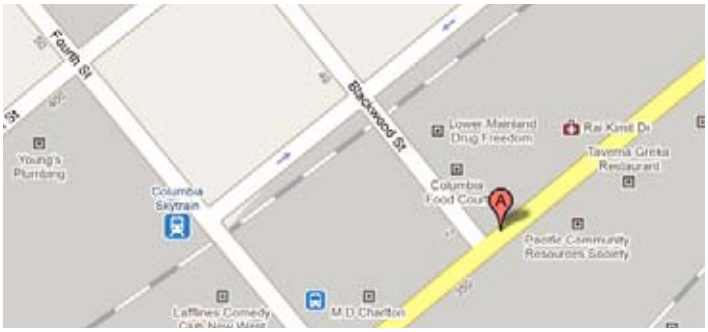
***The Guild News** every two months.*

Many Happy Solar Returns to our Aquarius and Pisces members:

Janice Brown, Rebecca Garcia, Denise Grams, Sally Marcantonio, Mikhail Michouris, Michele Ribaille, Noni Rein, Carolyn Zonailo

We meet in New Westminster

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month, our program starts at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7PM. Join us on the premises of ISA, Unit 201, 317 Columbia Street, New Westminster (upstairs), our custom is to have pre-meeting Dinner at Stefanos at 5PM, do join us. ***Our schedule is on the backpage***



Our Library

Christine has set up the books into cabinets on the premises. Melonie looks after our tape and Video/CD library. Many of our workshops are on VHS tapes; you can rent a video of a workshop you may have missed for $10, or rent an audio cassette for $3. Check out a book $1/month ($10 deposit). The doors open at 7PM before our meeting so our members have time to browse the library.

Mailing Address:

The Fraser Valley Astrological Guild
c/o 1567 East 8th Ave.,
Vancouver, BC V5N 1T6

Presidents Message: January 2010

By the time you receive this newsletter Christmas will have come and gone for another year. We hope you ushered in the New Year with great new plans for yourself and had a wonderful holiday with friends and family.

We wish to thank Charlotte Greenwood for her outstanding November talk on the History of Astrology. *The next segment is coming soon!

There is lots happening in the sky, and here are the highlights:

Mars went retrograde on December 19 at 19 degrees Leo and will go direct at 0 degrees Leo on March 10, 2009

The Winter solstice occurred on December 21 and occurs exactly when the earth's axis tilt is farthest away from the sun at its maximum of 23° 26′. The seasonal significance of the Winter Solstice is in the reversal of the gradual lengthening of nights and shortening of days.

Mercury went retrograde on December 26 at 21 degrees Capricorn and will turn Direct on January 15th, just as the solar eclipse is occurring, this should be an interesting mix of events!

We had a lunar eclipse on December 31 at 10 degrees of Cancer forcing us to be cognisant of our feelings, family issues, and thoughts of the past choices we have made. It is a time when we may discover a connection to a historic event, and bask in the nostalgia of remembrance of days gone by.

On January 14/15th we will have a solar eclipse at 25 degrees of Capricorn

What's happening with the planetary light waves? Just watch the news and you will see how the planets and eclipses are affecting individuals, nations, the masses, and the planet. Of course we have all heard about Tiger Woods set of unfortunate circumstances, all has been revealed by these 2 eclipses which have profoundly hit his chart with a very big bang, and now he has the opportunity to re-invent his universe. Next was the Copenhagen environmental summit, the health care bill in the United States, the plane incident in Detroit, plus heightened aviation security measures, and the rumbling volcano in the Philippines! Are you wondering what is happening? **Then please join us on JANUARY 14TH when Rose Marcus will impress us with her predictions and possibilities for the year ahead.**

On February 11th we have Rachel Visconti for a wonderful and informative lecture on psychological astrology.

*Our March talk will feature Charlotte Greenwood with Part ll of the History of Astrology, if it's anything like the last one, you won't want to miss it!

On April 8th, 9th, and 10th we have a series of lectures and a workshop with Kevin Burke, please remember to register and pay for this event by JANUARY 14TH in order to receive the early bird discounted price. (Members $100, Seniors $80)

We wish you a very Happy New Year, and may your stars shine brightly upon you!

Dawn and Denise

COMING HOME TO ASTROLOGY

On a black moonless night I am in a deserted street in the European city where I lived for many years. The shadowy outlines of the tall houses are faintly silhouetted against the even darker sky. I can't understand why I have never been on this street before, since it is near a part of town that I know well, somehow tucked just behind it. I stand at the entrance to a house, seeking admission by entering a numerical code into a keypad which will release the lock on the door. I know the correct code but because I am surrounded by darkness, I am not able to see clearly enough to make the proper entries. Frustrated, I remain standing outside the door.

I had that dream in December 2007 just as I had finally resolved to begin studying astrology, after years of sporadic and furtive dabbling. I felt that the dream represented the need for guidance or illumination in order to find expression for whatever astrological understanding I might possess. Mars was retrograde and in the following weeks I was not able to make contact with my future teacher. Not only that, my Guild membership application went astray in the mail. Clearly, I was still standing outside that locked door.

I was left with no choice other than to wait, which is what I did. In time Mars went direct, I started classes, joined the Guild, took the Level I exam, and am now working toward Level II.

After a few months I became aware that in my mind I was consistently referring to my teacher by a name other than her own, Joy. One evening in class I mentioned this, a book was consulted, and we learned that the name means "joyful, follower of truth." A phrase from the Psalms was also quoted: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

For a recent homework assignment I referred to the Sabian symbol for my tenth house Pluto, the most aspected planet in my chart and natural ruler of the eighth house, wherein lies my Sun. It promises the possibility of experiencing a "joyous carnival" once the soul is liberated through finding its true means of self-expression in this life.

And that is what brought me to write this article.

My interest in astrology was aroused very slowly, with much inner resistance on my part. I'd always thought of astrology as being rather tabu, at best silly, even though I don't recall having heard derogatory, or for that matter any, comments about it from those around me. A promising opportunity for an introduction occurred during my challenging first Saturn return when my husband impulsively purchased a computerized interpretation of his natal chart one evening while we, tourists in Paris, were walking on the Champs Elysees. As we continued on our way he read me parts of it, and I, sad to say, simply laughed. In a shallow, Geminian way. It took a number of years and a number of frustrating life experiences before, somehow, I gradually discovered astrology as a means of explaining "why."

Now that I have finally passed through that once closed door, I can't imagine relinquishing the insights, beauty and joy that I find in this cosmic science, which, among many other blessings, gives me a better understanding of who I am and how I can express that in this life.

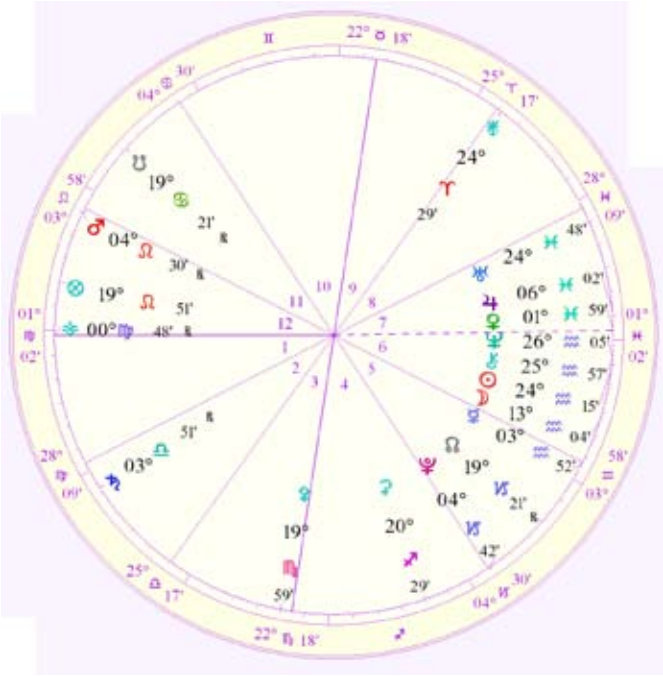
Linda Konvur

A Look at The 2010 Olympic Games

All eyes of the world will be drawn towards Vancouver on February 12th with the Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 Olympic Games. It's time for Vancouver and Canada to shine, but more importantly for athletes to shine. For many of our athletes - for they are all "ours" collectively - this is the realization of a lifelong dream of being an Olympian. For the host city, the people of Vancouver, are also participating in the Olympic Tradition. How might the Opening Ceremonies set the tone for these Olympic Games?

The Opening Ceremonies are being held at B.C. Place Stadium in Vancouver and scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Here is the chart:

Opening Ceremones, 2010 Olympic Games
February 12, 2010
6 p.m., Vancouver, Canada
49 N 16, 123 W 07
Standard Time: 8 hrs. West
Tropical Koch



The overall chart pattern is of a wheelbarrow suggesting there is balance to be achieved and/or maintained. Mars and Saturn form the handles of this wheelbarrow, sextile to one another, and spanning the Ascendant. An individual with this overall pattern may employ the sextile to maintain their life course or purpose and if one relies upon one handle of the wheelbarrow more than the other, the balance of life would tip, falling off centre and crisis would ensue. We can consider a mundane chart in the same way.

The Ascendant is about how we approach others or our world, how we begin things, as well as how we are seen by others. Here, the Ascendant is in Virgo. We are familiar with Virgo's tendency towards perfectionism; the fussy, critical side of Virgo. But considered positively, Virgo is discriminating, and a master of detail. Virgo brings order of chaos, puts things together in meaningful ways. Virgo's flair is for managing resources, organizing and categorizing information. The opening ceremonies have been well planned, organized, and perhaps disciplined with an overall sense of simplicity, practicality. Virgo is rather modest, not ostentatious or grandiose. Thoughtful, considerate, able to draw comparisons, and having a sense of good judgment, Virgo desires to be of service to others, to seek a constructive role in the world and offer something useful.

Many Canadians are looking forward to the Olympic Games with open arms and excitement, standing on the side of the road and cheering while the torch is passing through town, perhaps dreaming of hockey gold. While others are of the opinion the games have lost their true meaning; the games are no longer about athletes and the spirit of countries setting aside their differences and coming together in peace. To some the Olympic Games have become nothing more than an opportunity to make money through tourism, corporate sponsorships, debt and taxes.

While there is the potential to be lost in one's own importance, the Sun conjunct Chiron, conjunct Neptune, in Aquarius in the 6th house might suggest that the Olympic Games have the potential to be a channel for humanity, inspiring brotherhood among its participants, athletes as equals among equals, and accepting of cultural diversity.

Mercury, the chart ruler, exalted in Aquarius is located on the 6th house cusp, which is also dignified because this house corresponds to Virgo. In an individual's chart, Mercury in Aquarius could be indicative of a mind that is open to new experiences, receives flashes of inspiration, is scientific and inventive, technological, and highly original. In this case we are looking at an event. Will these Olympic Games be innovative and technologically complex? These Games are reputed to be the 'most green' and ecologically responsible for its carbon footprint. The most advanced drug testing facilities and technologies are in place for the event and perhaps we can anticipate a few surprising outcomes in competition. Considering Mercury's placement in the 5th house there will be much for the news media to say about sports and competition, the creativity and passion of all Olympians. We may even hear of love affairs; but perhaps we'll hear more about the love for the athletes and the games, especially among children.

A wide Moon/Mercury conjunction may be representative of an audience in the same frame of mind: one that is friendly, receiving others freely; one that is impartial and objective; one that is concerned with truth and humanitarianism.

The Moon/Mercury conjunction also opposes Mars Rx in Leo, the only planet in a fire sign. Being retrograde, physical energy may be more internalized and perhaps athletes will appear calm, composed, and stable while inside grapple with the tensions of a competitive mind. Mars in the 12th house indicates that desires and actions are strongly influenced by the subconscious. Many athletes have made great sacrifices in their lives to participate and compete in these Olympic Games. Will athletes be quick thinking in competition and able to put their thoughts and emotions into action? Or will they act without thinking? Will we see more accidents or payoffs in

competition as result of risk or gamble? Perhaps athletes will be courageous, able to draw upon their own inner creativity and willpower, or perhaps excessive pride and egotism may lead to undoing. Mars Rx sextiles Saturn Rx indicates an opportunity for some to try again, the chance to compete with the goal and focus to win. Some athletes may pull in the energy of the 11th house and make their dreams come true.

Mars rules competitions. Leo, rules the 5th house in the natural wheel, and is associated with risk taking, gambles, passion, great love affairs and sporting events. Located on the 12th house cusp, Mars might symbolize not only the athletes and their desires, but also the institutions steering the games, Vanoc and the IOC. What actions have taken place behind the scenes, in secret, to avoid opposition of others surrounding these Olympic Games? What may arouse anger during this two week period? Mars rules Aries, located on the 8th house cusp, which suggests this may play out among shared resources, debts and loans, and of course, taxes. Mars is in a yod configuration, inconjunct Pluto in Capricorn, as well as inconjunct Jupiter conjunct Venus in Pisces. Mars is the yod apex and according to Dane Rudhyar the meaning of 4° Leo is "A formally dressed man stands near trophies he has brought back from a hunting expedition." And he refers to "the masculine will to conquer his animal nature and impress his peers with his skill in performing the ancient traditional power rituals." (1) This is certainly fitting for athletes bringing home medals, but may also be about all the business of corporate sponsorships, contracts, and opportunities to generate profits through a hugely compassionate and supportive public embracing the games.

Mercury also rules communication and transportation, and presently, there is still ongoing construction on our roads. Athletes, Tourists and Vancouverites may experience difficulties getting around with numerous parking bans, street closures, and networks filled to overcapacity. Will there need to be adjustments in the timing of events for athletes? Will there be issues with security?

The Moon in Aquarius, less than 45 degrees behind the Sun, is in a Balsamic Phase approaching a New Moon, which occurs the following day at 6:51 p.m. PST. This suggests that all efforts of the previous cycle are being seeded for re-emergence. Following the opening ceremonies, the first full day of competition begins a new lunation cycle. Two weeks later, with the Full Moon in Virgo where the urge is to strive for perfection, these 2010 Olympic Games realize their highest potential, draw to a close and the flame will go out.

The flame is the unifying principal, and focal point around which the world's athletes and indeed, we all will gather. The lighting of the torch has always been an important moment during the opening ceremonies, and the torch is kept alive, burning throughout the games. To be a torch bearer, to carry the flame is an honour. It is symbolic that the asteroid Vesta is prominent in this chart conjuncting the Ascendent at the critical degree of 0°48' Virgo. Vesta is goddess of the hearth and represents the scared fire, the eternal flame. She dwells in every being, every home, every public building; in each of us during these Olympic Games. Vesta is the "inner presence" connected with our roots, Gaia, Mother Earth, the center of the world. (2) According to Ariel Guttman and Kenneth Johnston in "Mythic Astrology Applied" the ultimate inner meaning of the goddess Vesta is that the center of the universe is traditionally, one's own village, one's own family. This is totally fitting for Canada and the Olympic setting at Whistler Village. The name of our country originates from the word "Kanata" meaning "village," "settlement," or "land." Landscape is a vast region. The body and soul can represent a landscape new and unexplored. Throughout Ancient Europe and the Near East, the center of the universe is often depicted as the tree of life, and a fiery energy rises from the base or the roots through the crown of the tree. (3) This energy resides within each of us as the kundalini, and upon harnessing these powers, one may attain miraculous achievement.

There are many who pursue spiritual service, but instead of doing so in sanctuary or retreat, or in a cloistered setting such as a monastery or ashram, do so as pilgrims and travel in pursuit of their goals.(4) This is true of the world's athletes during the Olympic Games. Their chosen path of sport is one of focus, dedication and integrity. In Virgo, the placement emphasizes work, the body, and the need to be of service, which fuels one's capacity to concentrate and perform, to perfect and reach one's highest potential. The sabian symbol for Vesta at 1° Virgo is "In a portrait, the significant features of a man's head are artistically emphasized." (5) The given keyword is "character."

"Having enjoyed and released energy, the personalized consciousness now has to learn the lesson of significant form. It must be able to see life situations as wholes of experience, and to discover their meaning by distinguishing their most characteristic features."(6)

No matter what one's spirituality is, in these times we are all reaching for the strength and courage to thrive. Not just in our jobs, or through the routines of our daily lives, or through the body, but also in spirit. How many times have we watched athletes bless themselves before the final run, the jump, the skate? How many times do we bless ourselves before we draw upon what lies within? We are the totality of all of our experiences. Virgo encourages us to dedicate ourselves to something that will better the world around us and we may begin with ourselves. The value lies in who we can become. Olympic athletes by their example, show us how. The Olympic Games may help us recognize that what happens for one can happen for all, though we are uniquely different we are in many ways the same and we can be inspirations for each other.

Christine Linwood

Sources:

(1) "An Astrological Mandala" by Dane Rudhyar, p. 133
(2)"Mythic Astrology Applied" by Ariel Guttman and Kenneth Johnston, p.195
(3)"Mythic Astrology Applied" by Ariel Guttman and Kenneth Johnston, p.196
(4)"Mythic Astrology Applied" by Ariel Guttman and Kenneth Johnston, p.197
(5) "An Astrological Mandala" by Dane Rudhyar, p. 150
(6) "An Astrological Mandala" by Dane Rudhyar, p. 151

Mars Retrograde: How Do We Get There From Here?

by Kevin Burk

Over the course of our lives, we often ask ourselves what it is that we want. Our desires, our goals and our intentions are what fuel us. In order to accomplish our goals, it's important for us to be clear about what it is that we want. But occasionally, we must look even deeper than this.

Sometimes it's not enough to know what it is that we want. Sometimes, we also have to ask ourselves why we want the things that we want.

In astrology, the planet that rules the things that we want is Mars. Every two years or so, Mars appears to change direction and move backwards, or retrograde. And while we're under the influence of a retrograde Mars, it's important to look more deeply at the things that we want. Mars retrograde is an opportunity for us to perform a course correction on our lives. It's a chance for us to make sure that we're pursuing the goals that really matter to us.

The first pass of this Mars Retrograde cycle began on October 17, 2009 when Mars first entered Leo. The second pass began on December 20, 2009, when Mars turned retrograde at 19 degrees Leo, and will continue until March 10, 2010, when Mars stations at 0 Leo. The third pass will be from March 10, 2010 through May 16, 2010, when Mars finally moves into new territory. As we are currently in the middle of the Mars Retrograde cycle, now is an excellent time to investigate the nature of our desires.

In astrology, Mars is the planet that represents our warrior energy. Mars is our drive and our power. Mars wants us to expend energy in a focused and direct manner. Mars wants us to take action and do something. However, Mars does not have any perspective or objectivity. It's best to think of Mars like the engine of our car. Mars just wants to express itself; it doesn't care who's doing the driving, or where it's going.

There's one more quality of Mars that we need to consider—one that is buried in the depths of classical astrology. Planets are either Diurnal (day), or Nocturnal (night). Diurnal planets are always true to their own nature: they are completely honest and forthright. The Sun is, of course, the most Diurnal planet in astrology. Nocturnal planets, on the other hand, are more mysterious: their appearance changes and they do not easily reveal their true nature. The Moon is the most nocturnal planet.

Mars is the second most Nocturnal planet.

That Mars is Nocturnal in nature means that Mars is not always what it seems to be. Mars is not always honest. In fact, Mars is very much the used car salesman of the Zodiac.

Mars wants us to expend energy. Mars wants us to get up off the couch and do something. The way Mars accomplishes this is by getting us to want something. Mars was known as "the light that commands." Mars shows us a bright, shiny object, and we are compelled to go out and pursue that goal.

Of course, since Mars is Nocturnal in nature, when we actually achieve that goal and get the thing that we wanted, we often find that it's not nearly as perfect as we were led to believe. But that's okay, because Mars is ready with another want, and before we know it, we're off in pursuit of another goal.

This is exactly as it should be. Our higher selves know that the path of our lives takes many unexpected turns. We rarely get to see the big picture. Often, we take what appear to be detours in our lives because it's simply not possible to get to where we're going from where we currently are.

Our higher selves understand that while the ultimate path of our lives will take us from point "A" to point "Z", that it's essential that we visit all of the intervening letters as well. As long as our higher self is driving the car, Mars will get us where we need to go in perfect order and timing.

The challenge is that we're not alone in the car. Our higher selves may be doing the driving initially, but our egos are riding in the back seat. And our egos are ill equipped to see the big picture.

What happens then is that Mars entices us to set a goal, and we drive off in pursuit of that goal. Our egos believe that if we reach our goal, if we get the thing that Mars has made us want, that we'll be happy and fulfilled. Of course, when we get there, the experience is always noticeably lacking in perfection. We're not as happy as we thought we'd be. But before we can wallow in our disappointment for too long, Mars makes us want something else, and we're off again, pursuing our next goal.

The ego will only put up with this for so long, however, before it starts to complain. We make it from point "A" to point "B" and point "B" isn't as perfect as we believed it would be. Our higher self knows that "perfection" isn't the objective, and now that we're at point "B", it's time to move to point "C." But our egos step in and insist that we're not done with point "B" yet.

Our egos believe that if we just worked a bit harder, point "B" could actually make us as happy as we hoped it would. Our higher selves step aside and let the ego do the driving. And Mars is only too happy to oblige, because Mars doesn't care who's doing the driving. It's all the same to Mars if we're heading on to point "C" or if we decide to spend more time exploring the suburbs of point "B". All Mars cares about is that we're taking action.

Every once in a while it's important to ask ourselves who's driving our lives? Are our higher selves doing the navigating, or have our egos taken control? We determine who's doing the driving by asking ourselves "What do I want?" and "Why do I want it?"

The areas of our lives that we need to investigate are the ones that are demanding the greatest focus and energy from us right now. The stage was set during the first pass, from October 17, 2009 through December 20, 2009. This was the first of three times Mars would activate these areas of our lives (and our charts). During this time, as Mars approached its retrograde station on December 20th, Mars was asking for more awareness of our short-term and long-term goals. Look back at your life during this three-month period and ask yourself the question, "What do I want?"

Because Mars is retrograde in Leo, the focus during this period is likely to be on ourselves. Pay attention to stories you may be telling yourself about being acknowledged and appreciated. The lesson of Leo energy is that our true source of value and worth lies within, and we do not need to be dependent on other people's approval or appreciation in order to feel loved. You may notice that other people seem to be overly sensitive, and touchy, taking even the smallest things personally. When you do notice this, remember that you're seeing a projection of your own issues, and take the opportunity to look within yourself and notice where you are giving your power away to others, seeking approval.

During the retrograde period, it's time to look beneath the things that we want and explore why it is that we want them in the first place. The objective is to uncover the original goal; to remember the choice and the desire that fueled this part of our journey.

If the ego is at all involved, we may find that we have to dig very deeply to uncover our original path. For example, we may be working sixty hours a week to finish a key project at work because we believe that that project will help us to get promoted. Our immediate desire is the promotion.

When we investigate that goal, we realize that we want to get promoted because a promotion will mean more money. The underlying motivation then, is to have more money.

When we explore this desire, we may realize that we want more money because we want to go on vacation. And when we explore this

desire, we may discover that we want to go on vacation so that we can relax and not spend so many hours working.

In other words, we may discover that we're working ridiculously long hours because we want to have more time to enjoy ourselves. The original objective was to be able to work less not more. We were willing to invest some extra time and energy into working more for a short time so that we would have the resources to reach our original goal. But the ego took over, and our goal became getting a promotion to a position where, yes, we would make more money, but we would also have more responsibility and far less time to actually enjoy it.

If we go back even further, looking at the choices we made that led us to our current job; we may even discover that what we really want is a new career. We may discover, in fact, that we've been devoting the majority of our time and energy to moving ahead in a job that we only intended to keep for a very short while.

This questioning process isn't limited to our careers (although our careers do tend to be the areas of our lives most vulnerable to ego interference). We can investigate and explore every goal and objective in our lives. Often, we have little choice in the matter: while Mars is retrograde, our goals and projects have a way of slowing down and forcing us to take a closer look at them.

If we are on track we have discovered that we are, indeed, following our higher guidance, we can expect to see great progress towards our goals during this period. On the other hand, if we discovered that we missed our metaphorical exit, we can use this period to make any necessary course corrections.

Sometimes we become aware that we're pursuing things that we no longer want, but we aren't clear about what it is that we do want. In these cases, this process is about letting go of our attachments and our ego-based wants.

For example, we may discover that we're devoting all of our time and energy towards advancement in a job or career that we no longer enjoy. However, as long as we're still attached to our job, we're not able to see any other path or entertain any other options. Before we can choose another path, we first must stop pursuing our current one. We don't have to quit our current job, mind you. All we have to do is to choose to no longer pour our energy and focus into it. We simply release our attachments, and let ourselves come to rest.

The present moment awareness exercise on page 48 of The Relationship Handbook: How to Understand and Improve Every Relationship in Your Life can be very helpful in this process. You can download an MP3 of this meditation at http://www.TheRealAstrology.com/PMA.

When we've come to rest and are no longer entirely focused on following our ego's directions, we can take stock of our current position and consider where we would like to go next. Knowing the truth that we can do anything we choose to do, it's time to ask our higher selves what it is that we truly want.

Once we identify what we want, then we can go about mapping how to get there from here. And the more awareness we take with us on the journey, the harder it will be for our egos take control of the wheel. We can set out on our journey knowing that we don't need to know what's ahead. We can accept that the long-term goals we set for ourselves now may simply be illusions designed to get us to the place where we can see what it is that we really want. We can appreciate that our lives rarely follow straight lines, and that just because one goal didn't bring us the happiness we expected, doesn't mean that we wasted the trip. We can remind ourselves that every part of our journey is perfect, and that we are being guided by our higher selves.

Of course, should our egos lead us off our path, we'll have another Mars retrograde in two years to help us to reconnect with our higher selves again.

Kevin B. Burk, NCGR IV, Astrological Counseling
H: 619.741.3649, F: 619.741.3658, M: 619.807.2473
Kevin@TheRealAstrology.com www.TheRealAstrology.com

Astrology Classes

Details of classes are at www.astrologyguild.com/classes

Classes with Dawn Muncaster

Astrology, Ongoing CAAE Level 1 classes, Module 3 will begin January 25th, 2010, as final preparation for the CAAE exam in May, 2010. Those with basic astrology background are welcome to join us.
Classes are from 7-9 pm in White Rock, BC.

Ongoing CAAE Level 2 classes will continue on January 27th from 7-9 pm

Please call Dawn at 604-538-5152, dawnmuncaster@telus.net for more information. www.dawnastrology.com

Classes with Denise Grams

CAAE Level 1, January, 2010 please call Denise at 778-340-6129, planetarypresence@shaw.ca, www.planetarypresence.ca

Classes with Rose Marcus

Evolutionary Astrology
(enrollment is being accepted for March 2010), Workshops, Tarot - contact rosemarcus@shaw.ca, or www.rosemarcus.com, www.astrolink.ca

ISAR COUNSELLING SKILLS PROGRAM: March/April 2010

Please let Rose know if you are interested in attending the ISAR Counselling Skills program (20 hours) in Vancouver. This program is part of their certification requirements. Once a minimum of participants have registered, we will select a convenient date for all. The course will be taught by Chris McRae and Giselle Terry. More info can be found on ISAR's website. rosemarcus@shaw.ca

Private Tutoring with Anne Massey and various workshops

From basics to advanced techniques and tools, Anne is teaching students at all levels—including those wishing to write exams with the CAAE. See details at www.astrologyguild.com/classes

For more information and to pre-register, contact Anne or 604-888-9552, www.astrologicallyspeaking.com & www.annemassey.ca

CAAE (The Canadian Association for Astrological Education) www.thecaae.com

Astrological Community Resource Directory:

All the astrologers listed are available for personal consultations

Our Astrologers:

Janice Brown (CAP ISAR) 604-418-7830
www.janicebrown-astrology.com
astrojanice@shaw.ca

Phyllis Chubb (M.A., C.A.P.) 250-757-9498, Vedic
www.phyllischubb.com

Mac MacLaughlin 604-731-1109
straightstars@telus.net
www.macsstars.com

Marielle Croft 604-873-5963
www.croftastrologer.com
Marielle@croftastrologer.com

Denise Grams 778-340-6129
planetarypresence@shaw.ca
www.planetarypresence.ca

Charlotte Greenwood, 604-985-4042
charlotte@truepathastrology.com
www.truepathastrology.com

Samantha Kane-Kennedy
www.sam-star.com
samstar@telus.ne

Rose Marcus (CAP ISAR) 604-988-1299
www.rosemarcus.com
rose_marcus@shaw.ca

Anne Massey (CAP ISAR) 604-888-9552
www.astrologicallyspeaking.com
anne@astrologicallyspeaking.com

Dawn Muncaster 604-538-5152
www.dawnastrology.com
dawnmuncaster@telus.net

Thaya Sukhanova 604-274-6921
www.thayastar.com

Carolyn Zonailo 514-483-4432
www.carolynzonailo.com
cz@carolynzonailo.com

This information and more is available on our website at: www.astrologyguild.com. A listing here and on our website is free to our members. Contact our editor to be listed. If you do not have a computer, add your name via snail mail - check page 2 for the address.

Tentative Schedule 2010

- **January 14 - Rose Marcus**

The Year Ahead

- **February 11 - Rachel Visconti**

The Elements and Psychological Astrology (and ideas from the Liz Green School)

- **March 11 - Charlotte Greenwood**

The History of Astrology Part 2

- **April, 8,9,10 - Kevin Burk**

Workshop - Astrology and the Law of Attraction, and Exploring the Archetypes

- **May 13 - Dawn Muncaster**

The Mayan Calendar, The Birth of a New World Order, and Upcoming Transits
(we may move this into a workshop in the fall)

- **June 10, 11 - Kay Meierbachtol**

Vedic Astrology

- July and August - Summer Break
- September 9 - TBA
- October 14 - Annual General Meeting, and TBA
- November 11 - TBA
- December 9 - Christmas party

April 2010 Workshop

Kevin Burk is our presenter and workshop facilitator for April, 2010. His workshop, Astrology & The Law of Attraction, will be held on the following dates:

Thursday April 8th, our regular meeting night – 7:30 to 9:30,
Friday, April 9th from 7:00 to 9:30pm
Saturday, April 10th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

For information on Kevin's workshop please go to http://www.AstrologyLawofAttraction.com for a preview of this workshop.

Kevin is the author of "Astrology - A Comprehensive Guide to Classical Interpretation" and "Astrological Relationship; How to Use Astrology to Understand Every Relationship in Your Life".
Kevin will also be available for private readings while he is here. To set up an appointment you can reach him at Kevin@TheRealAstrology.com

There is Early bird registration **ONLY UNTIL JANUARY 14th: Members $80.00, Senior Members $60.00.**

Registration after January 14th is: Members $100.00, Senior Members $80.00, Non-Members $150.00.
The workshop site for Friday evening and Saturday will be at the Unity Church at 1630 Edinburgh St, New Westminster (between 16th and 17th Streets). We will provide maps at our March meeting.