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The Guild News

www.astrologyguild.com

April 12, 2012 Martin Stock – Mundane Astrology

Martin will be presenting a talk on Mundane Astrology – the application of astrology in respect to world affairs, events and politics. He will be giving an overview of Mundane Houses, Planets. Cardinal Ingress Charts and Eclipses (with handouts).

A member of the Guild since 2010, Martin began his study of Astrology in 1968, at the same time as taking up what proved to be a life long interest in Jungian psychology. He began seeing clients professionally in 1980.

Martin's interest in Mundane took over in 2000 during the US election cycle that led to the first GWB regime. Subsequently, following the death of Judy Johns, founder of the Political Astrology group on Yahoo, he became one of the list moderators and then co-owner.

We hope you can join us! See you April 12th!

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CONNECTION & INFORMATION

GUILD MEMBERSHIP

Regular Workshop Fees

Valid from Nov 1st to Oct 31st. Includes a Thursday lecture and Newsletter subscription.

- $45/ Year
- $35/Year Seniors
- $20/Additional Family Members
- $10 Drop-In Fee for Non-Members

Regular Workshop Fees

- $130 Non-Member
- $100 Members
- $80 Seniors (Members)
- $20 Early Bird Discount when paid 90 days in advance.

Guests are welcome to drop into our meetings for $10. Membership application forms available at the meetings or on our website. Hand in your application to our Treasurer, Sukhwinder, or send to the address listed below.

MAILING ADDRESS

The Fraser Valley Astrological Guild.

c/o 476 East 17 Avenue
Vancouver B.C.
V5V 1B1

OUR LIBRARY

Library is open at 7:00pm allowing our members time to browse through our books. Check out a book for $1/Month with a $10 deposit and member card. Lectures $3.00 / Workshops $25.00

We Meet in New Westminster on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Our programs start at **7:30 pm; doors open at 7:00 pm.**

Join us on the premise of ISA:
Unit 201 – 317 Columbia St, New Westminster.
We are upstairs.

Our custom is to have a pre-meeting dinner at ***Stefano's*** at **5:00 pm**. Please join us.

Our yearly schedule is on the back of this Newsletter.

The Guild Executive

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May 10, 2012 — Martha Jones-Jablonski – Astro-Visuals

Martha will be presenting a talk on "Astro-Visuals". In this presentation, we will move into the visually imaginative right-brain, tapping into universal images for deeper meaning. Sit back and enjoy. As Karl Jung said, "The soul consists of images." …

June 14, 2012 — TBA – WANT TO PRESENT?

June 14th is currently open – please contact the Guild Executive if you are interested in presenting!

LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS & SUGGESTIONS

Astrology is a practice that embraces constant learning and newfound insight. With all the different perspectives, ideas and experiences that astrology encompasses, the FVAG warmly invites anyone who has something to share to speak at the Guild! As long as the topic is astrologically based, all topics welcome*!

Also, topics for future **roundtables sessions** are also welcome. If you have an idea for a roundtable discussion, please let us know!

We have the following dates available for speakers at the Guild:

- June 14, 2012 (7:30 – 9:30 pm)
- Nov 8, 2012 (7:30 – 9:30 pm)

** All topics will need to be approved by the Guild. To submit your request, please contact the Guild Executive or Anne at anne@astrologicallyspeaking.com*

LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS

FVAG is a non-profit group. This means that we're run by our dedicated volunteers. Our success rests on membership, attendance and the generous contributions from our members. We greatly appreciate your support!

Write for the Guild News! Express yourself. Share Insights. If you'd like to contribute an article please contact us. No topic is off limits - do you have a hobby or interest you'd like to share with our members? Maybe you're a sculptor or painter? Are you a poet or just like to write opinion pieces? We want to promote our members!

Please contact jasmin@astrologyguild.com for more information.

BEGINNER'S CORNER

ALL ABOUT:
MOON PHASES

The phase of the moon (aka the **lunar phase**) refers to the illuminated (sunlit) part of the Moon as seen by us on Earth. The phases change cyclically as the Moon orbits around us; reflecting the changing positions of the Earth and Sun relative to it.

Astrologically, the Moon represents our emotional needs. It is the part of us that desires emotional security, comfort and nurturing. The Moon reflects matters of women, the mother, feeling, habit and memory. It is a place we feel safe. The phases of the Moon, in turn, represent the stages of growth in our emotional development; personally, and on the societal scale. We look to the phases of the Moon to indicate our own emotional makeup (Natal), our growth (Progressed), opportunity (Electional, Mundane) and much more.

The 8 Lunar Phases directly correlate to aspects between the Sun and the Moon. The Moon's phase provides additional insight into the interpretation of the Moon's sign, house and aspects.

	PHASE	KEY WORDS	ASPECT TO SUN
	NEW	Newness, subjective, impulsive, projection.	Conjunction - 0°
	CRESCENT	Breakthrough, active, striving, future-oriented.	Semi-Square - 45°
	FIRST QUARTER	Pioneering, builder, strong, faces challenges.	Square - 90°
	GIBBOUS	Perfecting, analytical, detailed, inquisitive.	Sesquisquare - 135°
	FULL	Fulfillment; aware, objective, relationships.	Opposition – 180°
	DISSEMINATING	Teaching, communicative, opinionated, storyteller.	Sesquisquare - 225° (135°)
	LAST QUARTER	Change, reorientation, individualistic, correcting.	Square - 270° (90°)
	BALSAMIC	Completion, intuitive, visionary, karma.	Semi-Square - 315° (45°)

Inner Planets Conjunct the Ascendant:
Pressure Points and Facades

By Donna Cunningham

In the Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012 issue of The Mountain Astrologer, my article, "Inner Planets Conjunct the Midheaven: Are You Larger than Life?" discussed conjunctions with the Midheaven by the inner planets - Sun to Jupiter. (This article is posted on the TMA Web site at: http://mountainastrologer.com/Cunningham.html) Here, we'll compare conjunctions with the Ascendant to those involving the Midheaven (MC).

When you have a planet within 100 of the Ascendant (also known as a rising planet) or the MC (an elevated planet), you're bound to be highly visible. However, people don't necessarily see the real you, but rather the qualities of that planet, strongly projected. When the MC is involved, you're known for your standing in your career or in your community. Conjunctions with the Ascendant show how people in your immediate environment are struck - favorably or unfavorably – by your outward personality and physical appearance.

Differences between the Two Conjunctions

1. A planet conjunct the Ascendant is as high-profile as one conjunct the MC, but isn't career-oriented unless it also aspects or rules the MC.
2. The planet on the Ascendant primarily affects relationships within our immediate environment; the planet on the MC primarily affects vocational choices, success, and standing in the wider community.
3. A planet that is rising can describe our physical appearance and show health conditions – congenital or acquired - that affect our relationships and our ability to function in our daily lives. The sign placement may also provide clues to vulnerable parts of the body. The planet on the MC usually isn't directly related to the body, unless it aspects a planet in one of the health houses (1st, 6th, or 12th).

Roles Shown by the Ascendant and MC

A role is a set of behaviors, rights, and obligations that society uses to govern the actions of individuals in particular social positions. Roles create regular patterns of behavior and predictability, allowing people to function effectively because they know what to expect of others. By consensus, certain behaviors are considered appropriate and others inappropriate.

Planets conjunct the MC or the Ascendant reveal roles we're conditioned to play during our early years. A rising planet shows roles that we were assigned in the family circle - like the smart kid, the pretty one, or the clown - and that we carry over into adult relationships and social encounters.

Planets on the MC show the more formal roles we play. in the workplace or the community we live in, based on the example of important role models like parents, teachers, and other authority figures. The career we choose – such as an astrologer, preacher, hysician, or manager - is one of our major roles and, again, is described by the MC and its aspects.

Does the Ascendant Reflect Our True Self?

Behavior patterns described by a planet conjunct the Ascendant are a real part of ourselves, but may be acted upon compulsively in interactions with others and thus become a façade that masks the Sun, Moon, and other important parts of our total being. The planet can be automatically and even compulsively expressed in relationships as a strategy learned in childhood for managing people and situations in the immediate environment. It's especially noticeable as a first response to new people or new challenges.

It isn't necessarily false advertising, but rather a role adopted during childhood to win the approval of parents and others important to us by meeting their demands and expectations. An older sister with the Moon rising might have been assigned responsibility for younger siblings. If rewarded for it in the family circle, she may carry that automatic caretaking behavior over into adulthood, becoming Mother to The World even if that role is alien to her true desires. A boy with Mars on the Ascendant may have tried to live up to his father's expectations that he would excel in high school sports or otherwise be a competitor. He could feel compelled to compete and to display other qualities of the macho stereotype throughout life, no matter how poorly it fits his real nature.

The planet on the Ascendant becomes a kind of pressure point in that we strive to embody that planet's qualities, even if they are alien to the nature of our Sun, Moon, or the rest of our chart. We can display the rising planet's nature compulsively to get through social situations – especially first impressions - at the expense of letting people know what we really want or need. When we're under stress, we may automatically fall back on that planet's energy to cope with tough times, no matter how ill-suited it might be to changing demands.

Discord between our true self and this conditioned response can be overcome by conscious awareness of where it came from and how little or how much validity it has for the path we follow in adulthood. We may consciously choose to retain and use constructive qualities of a rising planet in appropriate circumstances, for they can be social assets that take little thought or effort to maintain. Our approach to others may change after major transits to that natal planet, especially transiting conjunctions.

If we've created a false image based on that planet, then we're likely to feel self-conscious and experience a crisis of confidence under difficult transits. A Venus-rising beauty, for instance, may feel threatened by signs of aging under Saturn aspects to the Ascendant, and resort to serial cosmetic surgery. (Note: I've chosen dates for cosmetic surgery and don't recommend it under Saturn transits to Venus or the Ascendant, because it can give a hard, rigid look. The best results I've seen are under trines by Pluto to the Ascendant, Venus, or Mars.)

12th-House Planets Conjunct with the Ascendant

Not all conjunctions with the Ascendant have the same effect. A case in point is any planet within 10° of the Ascendant but placed in the 12th house. The 12th is traditionally connected with the unconscious, chronic or psychosomatic illnesses, secrets, hidden enemies, and ways we're our own worst enemy, as well as selfless service and spiritual practice. In the 12th is often kept in the closet and is therefore harder to access consciously and express openly. The person may be repressing the qualities of that planet or be in denial about having them. Or he or she may be aware of possessing those traits but believe that they're under control and that others don't notice.

For instance, spiritual devotees whose Sun is in the 12th but close to the Ascendant may believe that they've banished the ego and are living in selfless service, yet they unconsciously possess that typical Sun-Ascendant need to outshine everyone else. To observers, they may appear outright egotistical and consumed with spiritual pride.

Or suppose Mars is on your Ascendant but in the 12th. You disavow aggression or competition and insist that you're never angry - you're too evolved for that! Still, you vie for leadership in the ashram and vigorously practice the spiritual disciplines, and your drive to convert others verges on the zealous. Oddly enough, your less evolved fellow disciples view you as abrasive and competitive anyway. Sigh.

A 12th-house planet in conjunction with the Ascendant often shows a secret that everyone knows; except the person who has it! Secrets people keep from themselves lead them to behave in ways that alienate others. With these conjunctions, that planet's qualities stand out starkly, even to the most casual acquaintance, and can trigger an aversion in others who perceive the person as deceitful. That also goes for questionable activities this person thinks are successfully hidden from the outside world.

When an issue in the relationship can't be raised openly because the person denies doing any such thing, others wind up feeling that there's no recourse but to go behind the person's back, creating another 12th-house pothole: secret enemies. A 12th-house planet on the Ascendant requires even more conscious monitoring and self-improvement efforts than the usual 12th-house placement!

Conjunctions with the Ascendant: What People See of You

Let's look at qualities that would strike people on first meeting you, based on inner planets conjunct the Ascendant.

Remember, a planet's sign and major aspects, such as conjunctions, trines, squares, and oppositions, modify the basic picture. To remind you that these are important considerations for each placement, I'll use the abbreviation UPBAPP, meaning, "Unless the Planet is Badly Aspected or Poorly Placed" (e.g., in a sign that doesn't suit it well).

For example, Mars is strongly Mars-like on the Ascendant in a fire sign like Leo or Aries, but much less aggressive and competitive in a water sign like Pisces or Cancer.

The Sun rising can be either an advantage or a disadvantage, depending on the sign and aspects (UPBAPP). For someone with sterling qualities, it's a fine asset; for individuals who aren't on the up and up, it's not so good! It's a bit like appearing in public naked. If you have this placement, there's no concealing who you are - your true self shines through. You can be the sunshine that lights up a room, but if you come on too strong all the time, others are likely to see you as egotistical and self-centered.

The Moon rising: These people often wear their hearts on their sleeve and can't hide their feelings. They may seem moody and changeable. Male or female, they may compulsively take on a caretaker role, so needy souls may flock to them for nurturing and thus exhaust them. This sometimes leads to overeating for comfort. Again, UPBAPP - someone with the Moon in Aquarius would seldom be motherly or excessively emotional. Those with the Moon in Aries value their independence and freedom and can be irritated by clingy or needy behavior.

Mercury rising can show a bright, eternally curious, witty individual who's a handy source of news, information, and the latest gossip, but can irritate people by constant chatter. These individuals tend to be restless, fidgety, and have a short attention span. As astrology clients, they can be frustrating, for they won't stop talking long enough to hear what the chart has to say. Again, UPBAPP - Mercury in Scorpio people will listen carefully, ask probing questions, and uncover others' secrets, but seldom reveal their own.

Venus rising people can be magnetic because of their striking appearance and charm. They are often highly social and well liked for their warmth. Many are favored and pampered, to the extent that they take their popularity for granted and don't feel the need to work for much of anything. Nonetheless, this placement is a mixed blessing, for there's always the suspicion that people only like them for their looks rather than for their real selves. UPBAPP – since difficult aspects like Saturn conjunct Venus can alter this rosy picture.

Mars rising: We've already examined Mars on the Ascendant but not what it may mean for a woman. Growing up, she may have been the family tomboy and athlete. With abundant drive and energy, she can go far but often threatens insecure male acquaintances and co-workers with her straightforward, sometimes competitive approach.

Jupiter rising is another mixed blessing. There's an upbeat, enthusiastic energy that can uplift and inspire others, and an optimism that can overcome obstacles. The exuberance and humor of these people make them likable. On the downside, they can alienate others by incessant preaching, moralizing, or being an arrogant know-it-all. UPBAPP - Jupiter in Capricorn tempers optimism with caution and thus sometimes puts a damper on others' hopes.

A Few Words of Advice...

If you have a planet on the Ascendant, you can't help being noticed, but make sure it's for the planet's better qualities rather than the undesirable ones - and work consciously to express the better ones. Be aware of times when you're coming on too strong and turning others off. Allow other people their time in the sun, and even graciously step aside to let them shine when they deserve it. Don't use the appeal that inner planets on the Ascendant can convey to coast through life at the expense of developing character or neglecting gifts promised by other parts of your chart. Finally, if you have a 12th-house planet conjunct the Ascendant, work even harder at expressing the evolved side of that planet instead of using it to undermine yourself.

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Donna Cunningham, MSW, is a long-time contributor to TMA and author of numerous books available at www.moonmavenpublications.com Visit her blog, Skywriter, at http://skywriter.wordpress.com Donna will be making a rare appearance at the 2012 United Astrology Conference.

Neptune in Pisces: Beyond Thoughts, Beyond Beliefs

By Maurice Fernandez

In recent years, we have watched powerful new ingresses of slow-moving planets as they entered new signs. Pluto first moved into Capricorn, and then Uranus and Jupiter moved hand in hand into Aries' fire of creation, simultaneously opposing Saturn as it emerged into Libra. In the backdrop of this unique cardinal configuration, an equally dramatic development is set in motion when Neptune enters its own sign of Pisces for an extended period of approximately 14 years. With the world already shaken by natural disasters and socioeconomic unrest, our yearning to transcend illusive schemes and aim for a direct perception of the Truth becomes not merely a quest for spiritual seekers, but a survival imperative for all. As Neptune moves into Pisces, humanity is possibly confronted with one of its most serious existential crises ever. With the stakes so high at a time of paralyzing insecurity, this transit renders us humble and disarmed as we stand in the glaring light of Truth.

Neptune's first ingress was on April 4, 2011 and lasts for a brief four-month period until it retrogrades back into Aquarius on August 5, 2011; then the second and lasting ingress will occur on February 3, 2012 through January 26, 2026. It goes without saying that Neptune's transition, along with those of the other slow-moving planets, has created and will continue to create a fundamental change of climate in our lives, both personally and collectively. Navigating these strong currents is no small task,
but the Pisces influence can potentially clear the considerable accumulated clutter of our psyches and ultimately bring simplicity and more authenticity to our lives. The question arises: Are we prepared to have many of our references washed away by this current as Neptune dissolves convictions and intellectual perceptions? The courage of not knowing is an unfamiliar dimension in an era where humanity's orientation is essentially mind-centered.

Let's explore the fundamental meaning and evolutionary intent of Neptune's passage through its own sign. It is important to approach this analysis with a neutral outlook and understand that this influence will bring both potentially enlightening and challenging experiences. From an evolutionary astrological point of view, there is no advantage or disadvantage when a planet is in its own sign; positive results occur only if we assimilate the inherent lessons. We have free will to make the best or the worst of this transit.

BEYOND SCIENCE

Pisces represents everything in life that is beyond egocentric control — that which is not yet known; it represents the world we did not personally create but instead were simply born into. Since the dawn of human existence, we have searched for answers about where we come from and where we go, wondering how it all began, who is behind life, and what it is all for. Theories and scientific discoveries pile up, but clear answers remain elusive. Our existence is blessed with splendor and charged with challenges, but none of us were given a user's manual upon arrival — we do our best to find our way, learn something as we go, and slowly add pieces to the immense puzzle of life. However, as we become more conscious and knowledgeable, we perceive that there are yet deeper layers to the mystery. Through Pisces, what we discover is that we don't know very much. In this context, our diplomas and years of study serve one important goal: to acknowledge our ignorance. Such an acknowledgment is significant progress, evolutionarily speaking, because most of us possess little knowledge but think of it as complete. Accepting our limitations renders us humble and receptive.

The passage of Neptune into Pisces will naturally affect our existential experience on our home planet; facing the unknown means that we will confront the limits of our science. Established notions will lose their credibility when completely unexpected occurrences and consequences mystify our minds. The thought of this is simultaneously magnificent and terrifying. We tend to associate unexpected events with Uranus and Aquarius, but Neptune and Pisces are the true masters of bewilderment. In the realm of Uranus, the unexpected results from the acceleration of processes and the creation of new paradigms; whereas, with Neptune, the unexpected means that life confronts us with new paradigms just when we thought we had it all figured out. When facing the unexpected, there aren't any words in our vocabulary to allow us to conceptualize
the new phenomena. Our knowledge gives us control, so when we lack the mental frame of reference to address something new, surrendering is the only option — a Piscean gesture, indeed!

Continued…

THE VOICE OF NATURE

With Uranus and Aquarius, humans have the upper hand over life; we decode life's mechanisms and create civilization. With Neptune and Pisces, the balance of power changes, and it is life that gets to direct the play, subjecting us to higher and untamed forces, such as those of Nature. Neptune in Pisces represents Nature in its raw form, before human intervention, and includes the wild — the jungles and natural resources — as well as natural events. In other words, Neptune in Pisces captures all that we did not create but that was here upon our arrival; it includes all the forces of life and whatever existed before civilization. So, with this 14-year transit, we are being called to better harmonize with Nature. However, before such balance is restored, Neptune in Pisces is bound to shake Nature's foundations considerably.

Looking back at earlier Neptune transits, we can observe that, wherever Neptune traveled, it induced a form of "bankruptcy" in the matters of that sign. For example, Neptune in Capricorn (1984–98) brought the collapse of some regimes and set the stage for the disintegration of society's solidity (with consequences lasting to this day), while Neptune in Aquarius (1998–2012) brought fundamental disillusionment about the development of industry and energy use, to the point where once hailed industrial progress is now perceived as a monster bludgeoning the remains of our planet. Of course, the purpose of such a collapse is to align ourselves with something better — and in Neptune's terms, "better" means something that is more in harmony with the natural elements.

Consequently, Neptune in Pisces will likely induce a stronger wave of chaotic natural phenomena — indeed, a bankruptcy of sorts. Water resources and oceans immediately come to mind. We do not need to understand astrology to know that we will face a water crisis sometime in the near future and that our oceans have become depleted by careless fishing practices. Moreover, the excessive extraction of gold and other minerals affects all the rivers of the world, because some consider gold to be one of the most important water and stream purifiers. Spiritually, water represents the womb of our existence; this is where our life energy gestates. Water pollution or scarcity affects the quality of our overall life force, just as a baby born from a malnourished mother is bound to experience a lack of optimal potency. I won't go into the magnitude of problems that can arise from water crises on so many dimensions, but as it is with every predicament, whatever challenges we end up facing will stimulate creativity and growth. Likely, and hopefully, we will not wait for the Earth to become a desert of sand and ice before we learn how to more effectively manage water and other natural resources.

The depletion of water, wildlife, and wilderness may generate new immune disorders. Neptune rules the immune system. Spiritually, the immune system relates to our connection with life and our overall existential well-being; a weakened immune system on the physical level reflects deep existential insecurities on a spiritual level. Neptune's passage through the air sign of Aquarius generated a wide range of airborne viruses that threatened our immunity — from SARS, to bird flu and even swine flu, to the re-emergence of tuberculosis. Will we have "tuna flu" with Neptune in Pisces? We can't be exactly sure how this might manifest, but new and old forms of waterborne viruses (cholera?) are likely to (re)emerge. The reason the immune system is targeted is twofold: (1) The imbalance in Nature and our lifestyle is clearly a weakening factor, so restoring our immunity requires that we realign ourselves with a healthier lifestyle and environment; and (2) through these challenges, our immune system is pressured to improve. Hence, there is not only a need to restore balance, but also a requirement to refine our immunity in order to meet new standards. The evolution of the species depends on our ability to strengthen and upgrade our immune system.

In a larger context, if ecological matters are not adequately addressed, the immunity of the entire planet is at risk under this transit. Up to now, the Earth has been able to absorb and deal with human "experiments," mistakes, and our ogreish consumption relatively well, but we must consider that this may not always be so. The darkest scenario of the Earth's immune system collapse would obviously be far beyond anything we have ever encountered.

OIL, GOLD, AND THE EARTH'S CANDY STORE

Our already fractured relationship with Nature is also bound to affect natural resources — including oil, of course. Oil became a greater "foe" during the passage of Uranus in Pisces (and Neptune in Aquarius) because the threat of global warming and the need to foster cleaner energy production have emerged into our consciousness. (Uranus pushes for sophistication and upgrade, while Pisces directs that toward the use of crude resources.) Chiron took its first step into Pisces on April 20, 2010, inflicting the Deepwater Horizon oil spill wound and further pushing the anti-oil agenda. Accordingly, Neptune in Pisces is likely to dramatically alter the dynamics around oil

extraction and use and will create new circumstances, possibly bringing the discovery of new crude resources or more harmonious management to answer our need for cleaner energy production.

During the last passage of Neptune in Pisces (1848–62), the first commercial oil well was drilled and kerosene was successfully distilled from petroleum, stimulating a worldwide demand for oil as a fuel. Moreover, the great California Gold Rush began in 1848, right along with Neptune's ingress into Pisces — the Earth was our "candy store," and it generated wealth. Today, a single cycle of Neptune afterward, we find out that the "store" is severely depleted because of our excessive consumption.

Speaking of a gold rush, melting ice is creating new sea routes in the Arctic Ocean, allowing ships to bypass their long journey around the continents. Additionally, as the ice melts, new virgin environments are being exposed that are likely full of exploitable oil and gas; the four countries bordering the Arctic — namely, the United States, Canada, Russia, and Norway — recognize this as a serious asset. Neptune in Pisces represents virgin environments and crude resources, so it is likely to precipitate an Arctic "gold rush." Yet, it is clear that, without eco-conscious regulations, the commercialization of the North Pole environment will be the final blow for the local species already fighting the effects of thinning and disappearing ice.

These crises, reflecting Earth's bankruptcy, will create the necessary shock to our consciousness, so that the human race realizes it has no choice but to harmonize with Nature if it wants to survive. This is beyond tree-hugging romanticism, and it does not mean that industry must stop — we are not meant to go back to the Stone Age to lead healthy lives. The key is to change our mentality so that industry and Nature work together. Possibly, in the long run, we will find solutions for alternative sources of energy beyond physical form. Already, the virtual reality of the cyber world allows us to use "non-natural" resources: Sending an e-mail instead of mailing a letter saves us paper and freight gas. With further refinement, hardware equipment may be produced from less toxic materials. Neptune in Pisces could help us to transcend the material realm and develop the capacity to tap into more subtle dimensions where energy is not necessarily produced from matter — this is, of course, a very open field, quite virgin at this point.

THE MIGHT OF ONENESS

Because Neptune and Pisces represent the higher forces of creation that came before human intervention, their influence essentially points to the origin of all things: the "womb of God." Through Neptune and Pisces, we recognize that, despite our individual differences, we all share the same original identity and are unified by common traits, needs, and goals. All living entities breathe the same air, walk the same Earth, and receive the same light from the Sun. We all yearn for love, search for happiness, and dread pain. Pisces and Neptune symbolize the collective conscious and unconscious — that which conditions us all beyond the concepts of time and space. When all boundaries between us dissolve, the reality of "one" affects and touches everyone. The collective conscious and unconscious is a net that connects us all. For example, when Uranus was conjunct Neptune in Capricorn in 1993, the Internet was launched. Today, as a result, we experience ourselves as a much more unified organism (Neptune) because the advances in computer technology (Uranus) have allowed us to transcend national borders, as well as racial, age, and gender differences (Neptune). Neptune and Pisces represent oneness, beyond individuality.

Throughout the passage of Neptune in Pisces, the concept of oneness as a collective identity is a primary theme, for better or worse. The world will continue to grow smaller as differences further dissolve, distances narrow, and our homogeneity is reinforced. This process will begin with smaller distinctions dissipating and then more significant ones following, possibly fostering interspecies affiliation. Humans, animals, and vegetation may be perceived as part of the same family, all sharing consciousness. Thus, new levels of communication between species may increase; we can expect breakthroughs in further understanding the animal psyche and its role in the overall balance of the Earth's ecosystem.

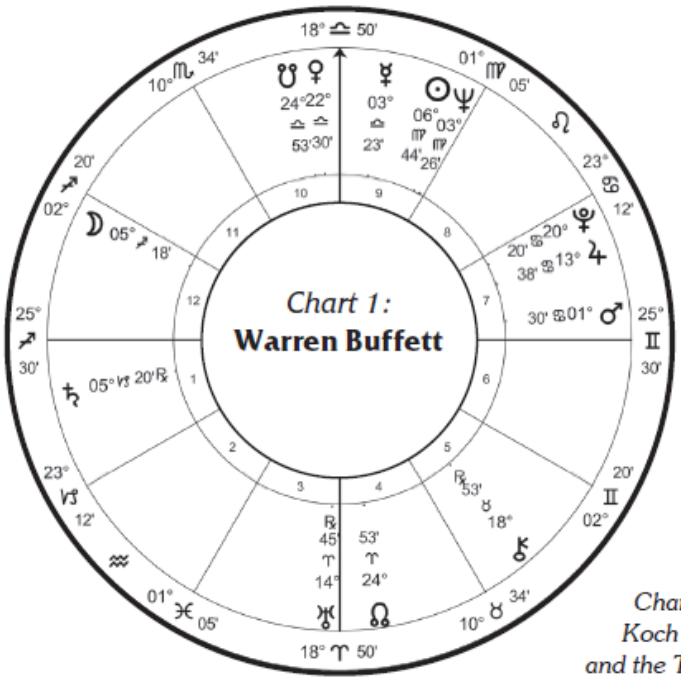
On a human level, oneness means that sociopolitical globalization is bound to gain more ground and yet, at the same time, create more crises. Homogeneity is a magnificent thing, but only when all beings are enlightened and completely integrated. Since we are not yet all enlightened (mind you), differences are essential to our balance, so homogeneity can be a dangerous thing. Uniqueness can lose its voice when collectivism and unification create circumstances where everything is overgeneralized and addressed on a mass level, and individuals are swallowed by the giant wave of globalization — very much like what happens when smaller businesses are overtaken by larger corporations — the result inherently

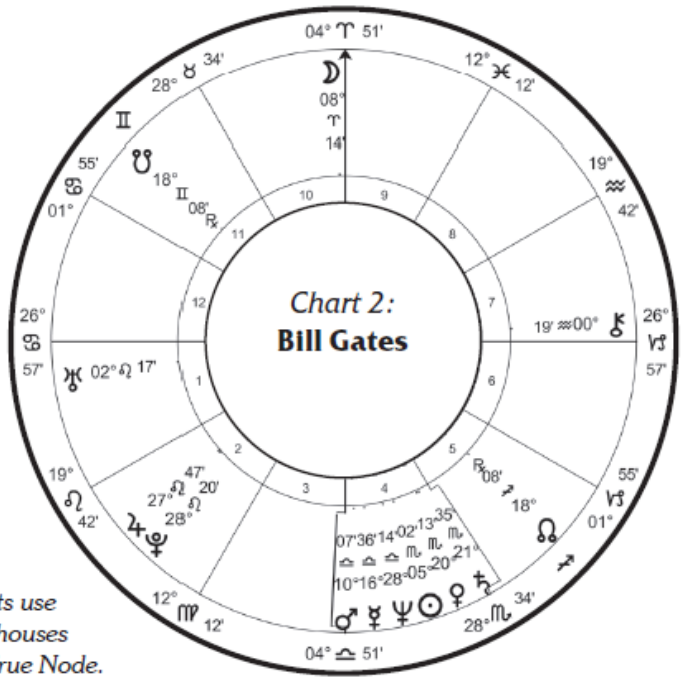
threatening a balanced existence.

On a higher note, the dynamic of oneness could theoretically spur a collective awakening that catches like wildfire and generates a simultaneous response across the globe — an Earth revolution of sorts, whereby people come together as a single organism to promote important causes, support one another, topple dysfunctional regimes, and create needed changes. There is no place for elitism and colossal socioeconomic gaps with Neptune in Pisces. This is a configuration that gives power to the masses, the simple people, the general populace — basically, the true majority. If food, water, and shelter become inaccessible to the common person because of corrupt or dysfunctional resource management, the elite in power will be highly vulnerable to collapse: There is nothing more threatening than a hungry and angry person who has nothing left to lose, an image very much akin to Neptune in Pisces. Thus, we can expect strong pressures on leaders to acknowledge the voice of the people, whether through chaotic revolutions or peaceful reforms.

Positively, we might see the re-emergence of the middle class and the rise of more socially conscious movements; in some ways, Neptune in Pisces may be another nail in the coffin of capitalism. As this article is being written (August 2010), 38 U.S. billionaires have pledged at least 50% of their wealth to charity through a campaign started by investor Warren Buffett and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. This kind of gesture resonates completely with the spirit of Neptune in Pisces, allowing wealth to benefit the masses rather than remain exclusive. Interestingly, Buffett's natal Neptune is at 3° Virgo and will soon be opposed by transiting Neptune (see Chart 1, below), and Gates's natal Neptune at 28° Libra (see Chart 2) was being trined by transiting Neptune in Aquarius in his 8th house of wealth management at the time of the pledge. Later, transiting Neptune in Pisces will trine Gates's Sun at 5° Scorpio — transits that reinforce the theme described above.

Still, homogeneity has a dangerous side where little force exists to counteract the status quo. One negative facet intrinsic to Neptune in Pisces is the absence of boundaries and a lack of containment. So, if famine, disease, or anarchy strike, they could contaminate the whole world and lead to our collective demise. The bottom line is: With Neptune in Pisces, things can spread quickly on a mass level, whether positive or destructive.





Charts use Koch houses and the True Node.

Continued…

POWER OF THE PEOPLE

Neptune's influence also makes the themes of whatever sign it transits more accessible to the masses; this can take the form of a sharp drop in cost that makes a product less expensive or even free. For example, when Neptune was in Aquarius, technology became more available to the general populace, and the price of computers dropped considerably. Similarly, airfare became more affordable, allowing easier access to air travel (Aquarius) — this, at the cost of many airlines dropping out of the competition because of bankruptcy.

In typically Neptunian fashion, the way for airline companies to survive the new demand and market reality was to relinquish their individuality and merge into larger organisms. With Neptune in Pisces, perhaps a more cost-effective technology for desalinating the ocean will be discovered, providing fresh water for the masses. Along those lines, many new services will be provided cheaply or even for free: Neptune in Aquarius offered us a wide array of knowledge and information via the Internet for minimal or no cost. With Neptune in Pisces, perhaps the expense of health care or fossil fuel will actually drop. Overall, Neptune's transit through Pisces is a time for the poor — it truly embraces the slogan "power to the people."

Collective unrest and the dissolution of existing paradigms can bring people together in a spontaneous and unorganized way. Larger threats unify us, just as large-scale catastrophes awaken tremendous compassion and bring strangers together to help one another unconditionally. Existential problems shared by large numbers are magnets between people, fostering the creation of new cells that grow and gain momentum. Neptune in Pisces may, indeed, bring people together because of an external menace. In the long run, this is how new structures are created from below (the people) instead of from above (the government).

Neptune in Pisces is a womb whereby new forms gradually morph from "spontaneous" dynamics and eventually develop into fully established organisms that later define society and existence. In the midst of chaos and turmoil, new life is in the making. These emergences can manifest as innovative social movements, ideologies, or resource management techniques, among other possibilities. At first, such an effervescence of new life usually lacks consistency and needs to pass survival tests — from many new paradigms, only the strongest are eventually integrated. Overall, there is a strong element of anarchy in this dynamic because these emergences aren't yet regulated; they are grassroots actions gradually gaining momentum through chaos.

Accordingly, Neptune in Pisces has a strong dissolving quality: Ideas, political stances, or seemingly unyielding structures will be relinquished and "liquefied" to the point of disintegration. It is hard to know specifically what will dissolve, but surely this dynamic will be significant enough to reshape the landscape of our reality. Neptune in Pisces has a purifying effect and washes way what no longer has substance, despite the tightest grip that attempts to maintain the status quo. It is a force of Nature that overrides human mind control and all forms of resistance — like a dam breaking or a tsunami wave. Possible occurrences include faulty policies being relinquished, leaders stepping down, or border restrictions being lifted; it is a time when stubbornness or intransigence subsides. For example, we may see the rigid defiance intrinsic to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict dissolve, among others. The chart of Israel (not shown) has natal Neptune in the 12th house, which resonates strongly with the themes of Neptune in Pisces.

SPIRITUAL BANKCRUPTCY AND TRUE DIVINITY

As humanity undergoes such a ride on the untamed currents of life, spirituality is another theme that may bounce between extremes: from messianic movements to complete atheism and everything in between. When we are confronted with larger occurrences and circumstances beyond personal control, and when so many established references dissolve, existential questions naturally increase. Back in the earlier Neptune in Pisces cycle (1848–62), China experienced the Taiping Rebellion — a Christian messianic movement that attempted large-scale proselytizing, generating a full-blown civil war that led to devastating consequences, with more than 20 million casualties. Doomsday prophecies are already on the menu for Neptune's ingress into Pisces, along with the 2012 Mayan Calendar brouhaha. Because a collective need for change is strongly felt, individual projections about life's destiny and meaning sprout from everywhere, carrying along all those who yearn for answers. Neptune in Pisces can breed escapism, so the thought of the world ending or a new flood of biblical proportions can be strangely more seductive than ever. "Let's get out of here," says Neptune. "Enough of time and space!" On this note, God may also go bankrupt during this passage, or at least our idea of God, because Neptune in Pisces is about a true spiritual

awakening – it has everything to do with revealing the naked Truth, unbiased by wishful thinking and human manipulation. Gaining such clarity depends on adopting a neutral approach to spirituality so that our perception is as free as possible from mind projections. Until then, many existing religious institutions and spiritual movements will be put to the test. Initially, because of existential insecurity and collective unrest, many people may seek refuge in religion or other forms of spirituality. Reinforcing one's religious commitment may reflect a need to appease "God's wrath" when humanity is confronted with afflictions. However, such focus on spiritual matters will only amplify the testing of established notions and expose falsity and illusions where they exist.

Uranus in Pisces brought the attention of churches and synagogues to the gay movement. Neptune in Pisces may actually take the church down completely, unless it regains its original meaning and purpose of serving as a house of God, without superfluous attitudes, narrow dogmas, or other human-induced spiritual fabrications. Sharia laws and other archaic spiritual references belonging to any religious institution may face strong objections from the masses. This is not necessarily about making religious institutions more liberal (as Uranus would), but more about restoring the original purity of intention whereby spirituality (and religion, in this context) inspires humans to harmonize with life. In this process, anti-religion or even anti-God movements may manifest as a reaction to existing disillusionment; ultimately, the purpose of Neptune in Pisces is to engender beliefs that are more authentic and closer to the higher Truth.

CONCLUSION: THE CALLING OF THE GREAT BEYONG

Confronting our ego and mind with the unknown, Neptune in Pisces is likely to awaken a truly adventurous spirit; it is a calling to transcend boundaries, let go of our need for security, and explore the "open seas" of life. For some, this can manifest literally and stimulate a desire to live more on the edge in a free-spirited way, without much attachment to material things, routine, or obligation. Responding to the urgency to redefine our relationship with Nature, many people will be inspired to reconnect with their own animal instincts and authentic nature, stripped of modern artifices and attitudes, and will want to go back to the wild. For others, the response will be to delve into their unrecognized potential by fostering different forms of psychic exploration. For example, ideas contemplated in movies such as Inception (lucid dreaming) or Avatar (psychic bonding) may gain greater momentum in actual reality. We can expect that more research will be

conducted on the force of the unconscious, dreams, and divine intervention. This transit can open new doors that will allow us to experience life in completely new ways. By all means, Neptune in Pisces is about venturing into the no-frontier zone.

Although we face the potential to get (seriously) lost and trapped in chaos, the influence of Neptune in Pisces could ultimately reveal new wonders and dimensions of life that will completely revamp our perceptions of existence. Truly, so much to dream about!

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Chart Data and Sources
Warren Buffett, August 30, 1930; 3:00 p.m. CST; Omaha, NE, USA (41°N16', 95°W56'); A: from memory, Buffett himself to an anonymous source.
Bill Gates, October 28, 1955; 10:00 p.m. PST; Seattle, WA, USA (47°N36', 122°W20'); A: from him, given at a Microsoft function in Seattle.

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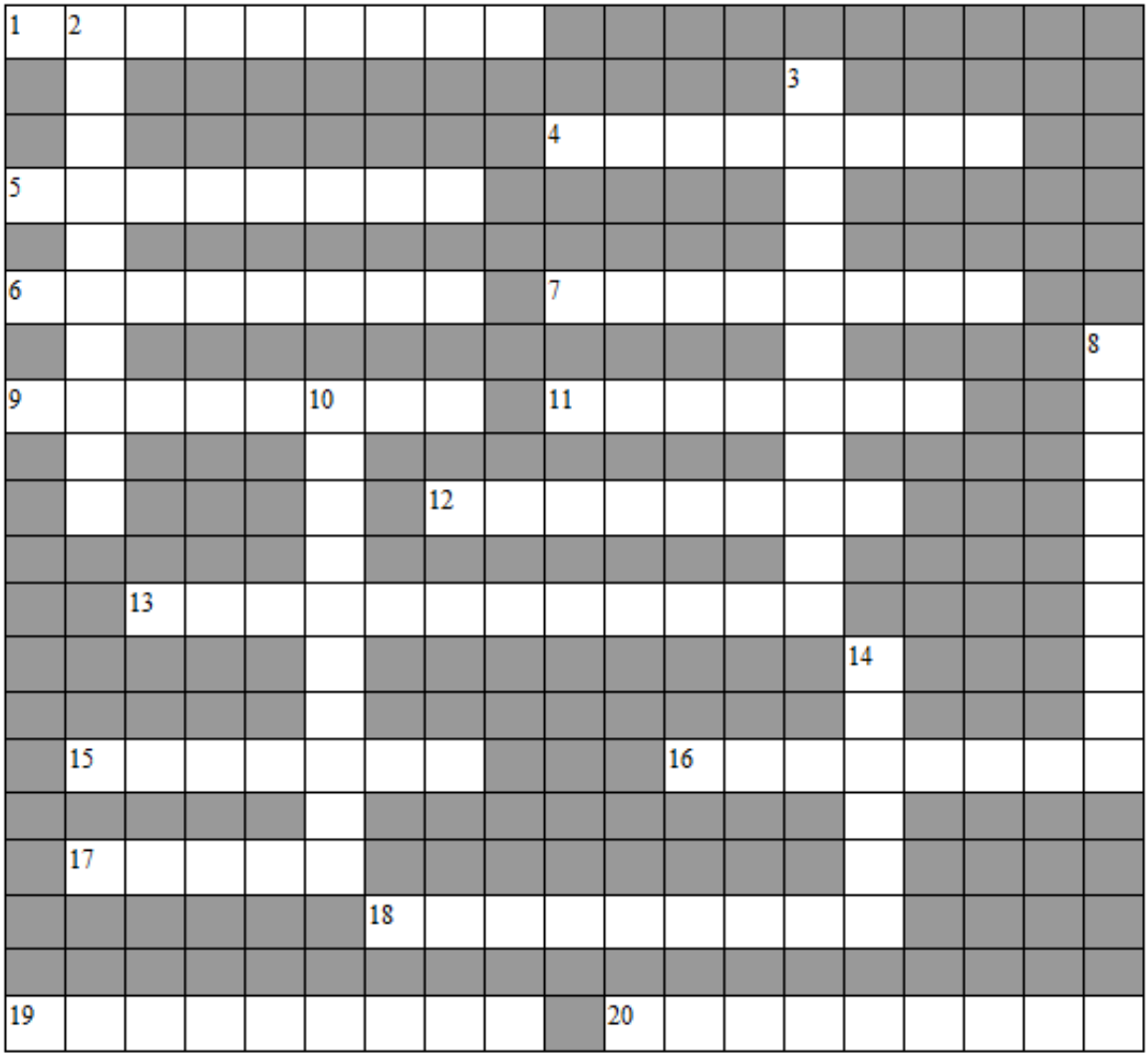
Maurice Fernande z is author of the books, Neptune, the 12th House and Pisces and Astrology and the Evolution of Consciousness. He is a leading evolutionary astrologer and the organizer of the River of Stars astrology conference in Hawaii. His educational programs and reading practice have forged a worldwide reputation of depth and excellence. Maurice also organizes trips to sacred places, which include the study of astrology, yoga, immersion into Nature, and community dynamics for a complete body, mind, and spirit experience. Visit his Web site: www.mauricefernandez.com; contact him through e-mail: majorsky@earthlink.net, and find him on Facebook.

Crossword Puzzle!

Astro Crossword Puzzle – See if you can get them all! Difficulty: 3/5



ACROSS

1. Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn.
4. Too close to the sun.
5. Considered beneficial, good, favourable.
6. Chiron's one of them.
7. Saturn, by another name.
9. Also an Eagle or Phoenix
11. Galactic _____
12. Earthly
13. A sign with no house cusp.
15. "Wanderer"
16. During the day.
17. A House system.
18. Final phase of the Moon.

DOWN

2. Hellenistic term for conjunction of planets.
3. The Sun and the Moon.
8. Weakened planetary position.
10. Enters a new sign.
14. Also known as Terra.

By Jasmin Laflamme

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www.kellysurtees.com

A listing here and on our website is free to our members. Contact our editor to be listed via our website or snail-mail (page 2).

2012 Guild Schedule - Overview

January 12, 2012 at 7:30PM Rose Marcus
Collective Awakening - a look ahead 2012. Are we at the end of time? The Mayan Calendar may end on Dec 21, 2012 —or on one of the other dates tossed around out there —but we stars gazers certainly know it won't be the end of the Uranus/Pluto transit! Neptune and Chiron are just getting started in Pisces, Saturn will advance into Scorpio, and the nodes of the moon will also make a sign change. Additionally, in the first half of the year, Mars and Venus will both do retrograde tours. The big evolutionary agenda continues! Rose will share her thoughts on how to best navigate the 2012 celestial tides.
www.rosemarcus.com or email: rose_marcus@shaw.ca

February 9, 2012 - Claire Morriss
Claire will be presenting a talk, details TBA

March 8-11, 2012 - Lee Lehman
Lee Lehman will present two talks and a weekend of workshops, Medical Astrology and more, see the brochure and check out our website for the latest information.

April 12, 2012 - Martin Shook
Martin will be presenting a talk on Mundane Astrology. Details TBA.

May 10, 2012 - Martha Jones-Jablonski
Martha will be presenting a talk on Astro-Visuals. Details TBA.

June 14, 2012 - TBA
If you'd like to present a talk please contact Anne at anne@astrologicallyspeaking.com

Sept 13, 2012 - Stephanie Clement
Details TBA.

Oct 11, 2012 - Annual Guild Meeting
AGM at 6:30PM
Speaker at 7:30PM details to be arranged

Nov 8, 2012 - TBA
If you'd like to present a talk please contact Anne at anne@astrologicallyspeaking.com

Dec 13, 2012 - Annual Christmas Potluck
The Holiday fun continues! Bring some food and enjoy some good company!