

QUARTERLY

Spiritual Astrology Series: Gemini



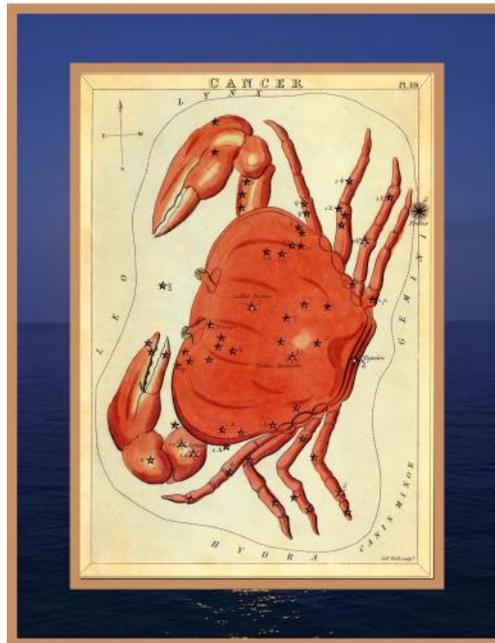
SPRING 2023
VOLUME 98, ISSUE 2

The Sign Cancer in the Quest of Spirit: Heaven's Gate—Cancer

MaryMeg Dissinger

The sign Cancer, represented by the crab who moves sideways always, never directly faces its destination yet trusts its intuition for guidance. There's a life lesson here. Zain uses the word **parenthood** as his metaphor for this sign, seemingly because everything about Cancer has that element of demanding that the senses and intuition must work together in any creative journey. Feeling Cancer springs from Thinking Gemini.

At the height of Sun's journey through the northern hemisphere, we find summer festivals where there is a strengthening of the urge to recreate on all levels of creation for the purpose of procreation. This creates the environment for us to be



(Continued on page 4)

Spiritual Astrology:

Cancer—I FEEL

Scenza

The fourth sign of the zodiac is Cancer, which translates as "the crab" (Merriam-Webster, 2021). According to Hickey (1992), Cancer is a negative (receptive), cardinal, water sign ruled by

the Moon. The key phrase for Cancer is "I Feel." Cancer extends from June 21st through July 21st of each year.

Before entering upon an explanation of Zain's (1997) interpretation of the sign Cancer, it is

worthwhile to describe the general characteristics of the Moon, the celestial body which traditionally holds rulership over this sign. If you wish to understand the influence of the Moon, an informative avenue is to consider its

(Continued on page 6)

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Consider that ...

- *Life, Love, Light:*

"The ego furnishes the eternal divine energy...its experiences are registered as feeling and intelligence....Love and Wisdom."

— *Esoteric Psychology*

- *"Cancer people absorb ideas and conditions...capable of diverting them to their own use. They are not active physically, but are intensely active assimilating and redistributing sense impressions. Mediumistic, reflective, dreamy, mild of temper, emotional, very domestic, they respond to kindness, sympathy, and approbation, are fond of publicity, and are influenced by their surroundings. The dominant idea is I FEEL."*

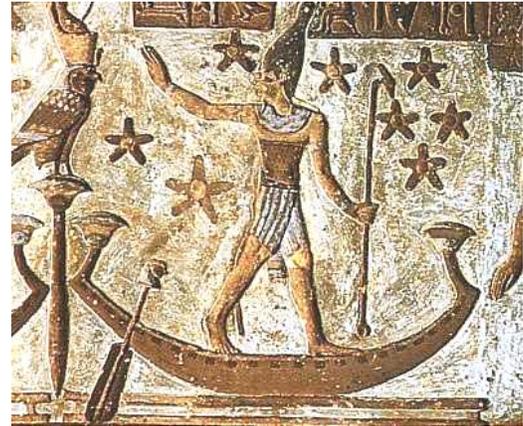
— *Astrological Signatures*



The Stellarian Honor Guard

For the period between October 1, and December 31, 2022.

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but how much love we put
into giving.”
— Mother Teresa*

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Editorial

Margaret Joscher, President

*"Everybody knows how to raise children,
except the people who have them."*

— P. J. O'Rourke

S In this issue, although we start our consideration of the sign Cancer, it is the first summer sign and I would be remiss in not noting that in the Northern Hemisphere, we are entering spring. Spring is a time when new life begins, where the seeds of the last season start to sprout and bloom. Many animal species time the birth of their young in spring to ensure their offspring have the bounty of good weather and food to grow and thrive.

For a few years, I had the pleasure of observing a pair of mourning doves nest in a hanging basket on my patio. Mourning doves are terrible nest builders and will often repurpose what's at hand for a safe nesting site. Both parents take turns sitting on the nest. Every day around 5PM I'd observe the switch between parents as one left and the other arrived for their shift. There were usually 2 eggs although sometimes only one hatched. I eagerly awaited the hatching and for the chicks' first flight. For a couple of years I missed the flight and surmised they flew at first light, long before I started the day. But one year when I got up I saw the chicks standing on the basket edge with their parents cooing to them from the ground. They eventually flew to the ground and squatted there for a while like a couple of grumps - they had flown after all so they were done. For a couple of days the parents shepherded them about my patio teaching them to forage. I often hovered at the window keeping watch like a Big Bird since I was concerned the friendly neighborhood cat, who liked to hang out in my yard, would show up for a visit.

From lower to higher life forms, the level of parental care increases, from dropping a seed or egg to fend for itself to a life-long commitment of support. Of all the affectional bonds Zain discusses, he seems to emphasize the parent/child one more than others. Parents are the gateway through which souls are provided experience on another rung of material existence. Parents in turn have the opportunity to selflessly nurture, protect and defend another life. When we extend these feelings into the wider world from our own to others, it becomes truly powerful. It is the seed of altruism.





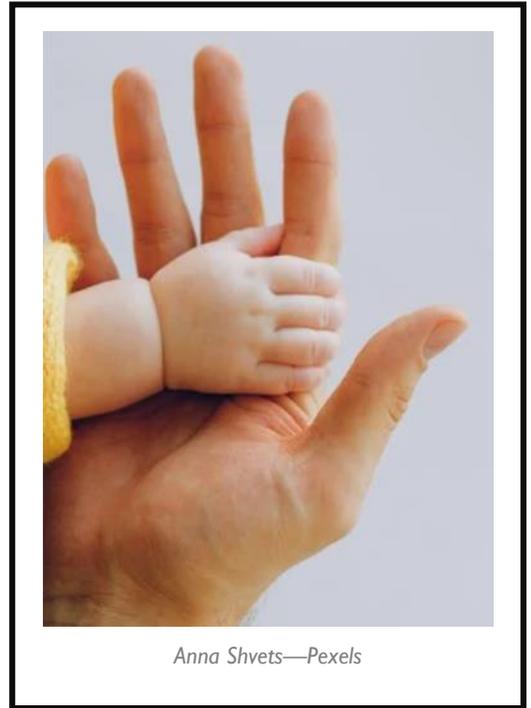
Heaven's Gate...continued from page 1

creative, fallible, imperfect parents with good intentions. This time of year also gives rise to the urges of the soul to plant more, learn more, and strengthen the growth of our spiritual life and practice. Anyone who has ever given birth to a concept, an idea, a child, a garden, a song, a relationship...can understand why the word Parenthood is used.

Parenthood demands the ultimate sacrifice. It teaches us many lessons, with or without a human child. Parenthood is a metaphor for what is required of us as we use the power of the Sun at its apogee, and how we may use its energy to illuminate our spiritual journeys. Parenthood is about selfless love, selfless service, selflessness, acceptance, and all the while feeling as though everything is out of control. THEN that which we are parenting (animal, vegetable, mineral) begins to grow and have a life of its own. The Cycle of Necessity.

"Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them."

— Oscar Wilde



Anna Shvets—Pexels

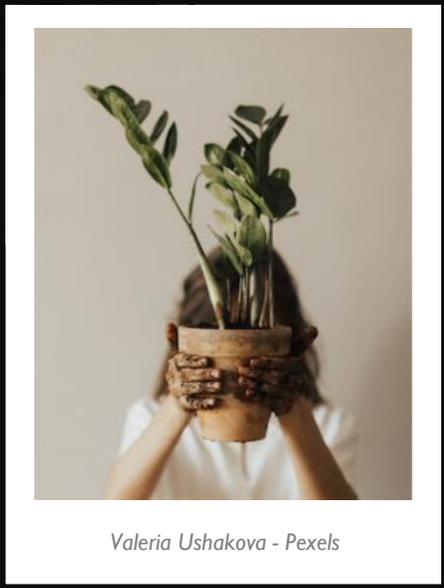
Take a moment now and look back on your parental experiences, whether they be with a human child, a furred, feathered, or finned child, a vegetable or mineral child, or a child of the imagination, a child of reason, an inspired idea. These are all truly the children of our lives, our minds, our spirits, to whom we have given birth, have nurtured, have watched them grow, and in my opinion, have given us way more than we give them. After, we give them away, and the cycle begins again. We are left with the knowledge of how to love, how to give, how to serve, then how to let go in order to make room for what's next.

If we are inclined, try going back into our own experiences as a child with the parents we had, who, regardless of their mistakes, certainly did and gave their best to raise us with what they had. I recently discovered my parents' birth certificates with the times of birth. After casting their natal charts and progressing them to my own birth and time, may I say, the

(Continued on page 5)



Sasha Kim—Pexels



Valeria Ushakova - Pexels

new perspective is interesting. I love our work.

The next metaphors Zain presents for this Cancerian Quest are about Angels, ladders between here and heaven, Heaven's Gate, and Matthew 16, which all happen to address the same theme: Insight and Intuition; Thought and Reason; Gemini to Cancer; Thinking and Feeling; all stories from a Christian tradition relating to the quest of knowing ourselves, accepting ourselves, speaking our truth about ourselves, forgiving ourselves.

There are stories in other religious, spiritual, and cultural traditions that teach the same lessons. Live a rich life of service and concern for others. Live a life where the barrier between intuition and reason has been breached as we gain knowledge, surrender to living our best authentic life and to the ideals of our

own Hermetic teachings. By doing this work we find the way to connect the bridge between this life and the life to come.

Read this very section of Book VII, Chapter 5. Study, learn, discuss, question, research, assimilate, and then start again. Be patient and kind with yourself and others. Parent yourself well. Trust in your own abilities, your own life, your own path. It is The Great Work.

"So Shall It Be"

Mountain Crone, Elsa TX, February 2023

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C.C. Zain. Cs. VII, *Spiritual Astrology*. Los Angeles: Church of Light Press.



"Whoever brought me here will have to take me home."

— Rumi



Tatiana Syrikova - Pexels



Sky & Telescope: Phases of the Moon over 28 days from same location.

[Georgia Hofer Photography](#)

“The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.”

— Albert Einstein

physical appearance, its physical properties, its periodic movements in the heavens, and its function in our solar system as perceived from Earth.

The Moon is a gray-white satellite of the Earth orbiting at a distance of approximately 239,000 miles. It is the brightest, largest object in the night sky (NASA, 2019). Traditionally, it is known as the lesser Light (Hickey, 1992), indicating its central role in illuminating the dim, mysterious hours of the night sky. In this manner, it plays the role of the queen to the king, presiding over the eventide as the Sun, the majestic orb of day, rules over the daylight hours. She is his royal consort across the vault of heaven.

Fascinatingly, while the Sun and Moon, the greater and lesser Lights, respectively, are extraordinarily different in terms of

absolute size, with the Sun being approximately 400 times greater in diameter than the Moon (Cain, 2008), since the Sun is also approximately 400 times further away from Earth as compared to the Moon, from our vantage point here on Earth, they both appear to be about the same size. Figuratively, the heavenly King and Queen rule our planet with a just, faithful hand, appearing to their subjects here on Earth as being of equal strength and glory in their complementary roles.

Of course, most people know that the Moon does not produce any light of its own, but rather reflects the light of the Sun (NASA, 2019). Metaphorically, we can interpret this attribute of the physical universe to indicate that similarly spirit shines through the mind and body, illuminating our paths as we ourselves rise

(Continued on page 7)

and set each day. And in this we find the main symbolic meanings of the Moon: she represents matter, motherhood, intuition, changeability, and the natural world, whereas her consort, the Sun, represents energy, fatherhood, reason, constancy, and the supernatural world. As the orb of night, she is the perfect complement in every way to the orb of day, the life-giving, light-giving Sun.

Having described the general influence of the Moon, the planet that rules the zodiacal sign Cancer, we can now turn our attention to *The Story of Jacob's Ladder*, the tale which Zain (1997) most completely analyzes as a metaphor for the message and meaning of the celestial crab.

The Story of Jacob's Ladder is depicted in Genesis 28. The basic plot of the story is that Jacob is sent by his father, Isaac, to Laban's house in Padanaram to court a wife.

Along the way, Jacob grew tired and lay down to rest, using as his pillows the stones of the field. That night, Jacob dreamed a vivid dream of a ladder set up between heaven and earth, with angels of God ascending and descending upon it. The Lord stood above the ladder and blessed Jacob, saying that he would give Jacob that land, and multiply his offspring within it. When Jacob awakened, he consecrated the stones that he had used as pillows, naming the place Bethel, which translates as "The House of the Lord."

As is typical with allegories, there are many manners in which this account can be understood and interpreted. Zain (1997) examines the story through an astrological lens, which is detailed as follows. Zain (1997) explains that the ladder



Photo by David Billings on Unsplash

in Jacob's dream represents concomitantly the circle of the Zodiac, as well as the Cycle of Necessity through which all organisms must pass in order to increase their Life, Love, and Light. As the angels in Jacob's dreams, the planets and Lights act as emissaries of the Lord, representing the archetypal energies with which the Lord creates and sustains the universe. The rungs of the ladder represent the days of the 360-degree Zodiac, which endlessly repeats upon itself. The angels are

(Continued on page 8)

*"There are two kinds of light
- the glow that illuminates,
and the glare that obscures."*

— James Thurber



The Sign Cancer (Continued from page 7)

seen as ascending and descending, in that the planets, and in particular the Sun, vary in their declination, their distance north or south of the celestial equator, in a predictable pattern year after year. First, the sun ascends until it reaches the Tropic of Cancer, which occurs at the summer solstice, after which it descends until it reaches the Tropic of Capricorn, which occurs at the winter solstice. This cycle repeats anew with every year.

Fascinatingly, the humble crab represents very well these complementary symbolisms as described by Zain (1997). In the first case, crabs do not amble only forwards, but can also adopt a sideways or even backwards gait, as the situation demands. Zain (1997) likens this to the planets and Lights traversing the Zodiac, first moving forward as they ascend in declination, then moving sideward when they briefly stand still at the equinoxes, and finally moving backward when they descend in declination.

“The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude.”
— Oprah Winfrey

According to Zain (1997), the Story of Jacob’s Ladder also represents the Cycle of Necessity through which we all must pass as we wax in Life, Love, and Light. That is, in order to gain experience, wisdom, and knowledge, we must pass through increasingly complex physical bodies, as punctuated by periods of assimilation on the astral plane. Zain (1997) strikes a balance somewhere between the tenets of reincarnation as communicated in Eastern religions and the utter lack of reincarnation beliefs in Western traditions. He argues that as souls grow in complexity and understanding, they attract increasingly complex physical bodies, which allow them to occupy a more advanced physical form, thereby increasing their access to Life, Love, and Light. By cycling through physical incarnations and astral assimilations in this manner, the soul grows in experience, wisdom, and knowledge.



*Jacob's Ladder, c. 1490
The French School*

Crabs also ascend and descend in the course of their daily lives. Crabs are intriguing creatures that use gills to breathe, but through special adaptations, are able to spend protracted periods of time on land, so long as their gills remain wet. Amazingly, they are actually able to ex-

(Continued on page 9)

tract oxygen directly from the atmosphere so long as these conditions prevail (Oregon Coast Aquarium, 2021)! Just like the soul that goes through iterative periods of physical and astral existence, the crab hides away in its burrow during the day, emerging at night to hunt and forage. The crab also exists equally well in terrestrial and aquatic environments, in some cases cycling comfortably between them as a matter of daily business (Parent-Doliner, 2017). In the same manner, according to Zain's (1997) explanation of reincarnation, souls cycle through physical and astral bodies as they gain and assimilate experiences respectively, attracting a more advanced physical form with each subsequent incarnation.

As explained at the beginning of this article, the zodiacal sign Cancer is ruled by the Moon, symbol of the Great Mother. Selecting the crab to represent this sign sacred to the Moon was a maneuver of exceptional insight on the parts of our ancient spiritual ancestors, in that many species of crabs are caring, doting mothers who look after their young for several months after birth. This level of maternity is exceedingly rare in the animal kingdom. Incredibly, mother crabs will actually monitor and adjust the pH of their nursery pools in order to provide the ideal conditions for the maturation of their young (Chak & Duffy, 2019). They also "aggressively defended their nests against intruding crabs, even when the intruders were large, and sometimes even killed them" (Chak & Duffy, 2019). Clearly, mother bears have nothing on mother crabs!

Hence, it was an insightful choice indeed to select the versatile, doting mother crab to represent the sign of the Great Mother that lights our nights, the Moon. At the

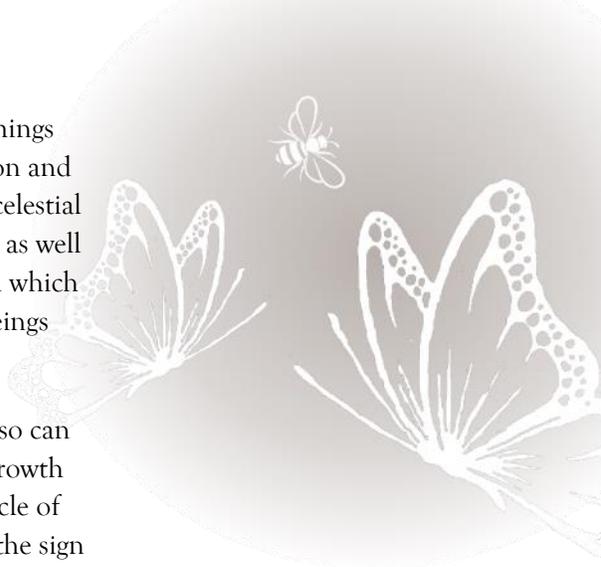
same time, the crab's various comings and goings represent the ascension and descension of the sun along the celestial ladder represented by the zodiac, as well as the Cycle of Necessity through which Zain (1997) asserts all sentient beings must pass.

As crabs are doting parents, so also can we accelerate our own spiritual growth most effectively through the vehicle of parenthood. The leading text of the sign is, "*Parenthood Tends to Displace Selfishness With those Tender Affections that Most Quickly Strengthen the Soul and Build the Spiritual Body*" (Zain, 1997, p.93). He argues that when positive, constructive parenting allows a person to invest so heavily in their child that they displace their own egotistic tendencies, not only are they raising a child well, but they are also making substantial spiritual progress in their own right. Zain (1997) declares that such authentically altruistic urges not only transform the astral substance of our souls, but actually penetrate even deeper to design a spiritual body which can soar beyond the astral spheres. As life undeniably undergoes constant adaptation and evolution, so also does existence itself appear to spiral infinitely onward towards greater development and complexity. Who knows where the journey will lead us? One thing is certain, however: no experiential existence at all is possible without the great gift of parents. They are the portal through which a new physical life emerges. In an act of great reciprocity, parents and children enrich each other deeply through their mutual investment.

References

Cain, F. (2008, August 20). *The sun and the moon*. Universe Today. <https://>

(Continued on page 22)

An illustration in the top right corner of the page. It features a crab at the top, positioned above two large, stylized butterflies with intricate patterns on their wings. The entire illustration is rendered in a light, monochromatic style against a soft, circular background.

"The strongest will is the will
that knows how to bend."

— Alice Duer Miller



Stellarian Stories

Deborah Yaffee



Deborah Yaffee began her journey with the Church of Light in 1979. She had been raised with an interest in astrology and all things psychic as the line of women on her mother’s side of the family were all given to prophetic visions and the ability to “read” people. As a high school sophomore, she began to study astrology after school with a local astrologer. This popular astrology and popular tarot are what she’d continued to study and use through high school and then through college.

While browsing in an occult book store in Harvard Square (Cambridge, MA) in the fall of 1979, she was attracted to a book that was carefully protected in a glass case by the cash register. This was the book that changed her occult life: *The Sacred Tarot* by C.C. Zain.

She was absolutely entranced by the material here. It was wonderful and exciting and confusing at the same time. Wonderful and exciting because it felt like, finally, here was the REAL deal, the teachings of an unbroken oral lineage. Confusing because there was so much here that was totally different than what she had been studying and had accepted as truth since she was 15.

At the back of the book, she noticed a picture of a whole set of books and the notice that these were the teachings of the Brotherhood of Light and that there existed a correspondence course. In spite of her intellectual unease that these astrological and tarot bits and pieces were not

what she’d learned previously, the promptings of her intuition insisted that she pursue this course of study. So, in May of 1980, she and her husband, Marty, both joined the Church of Light and began a course of study.

They began with course 1 and went straight through to course 21, becoming Hermeticians, then Missionary Teachers. In 2019 Deborah joined the *Order of the Sphinx* in the Paws division, and in 2020, she became an official Minister with the Church. She is also currently working to help with the online Academy of Hermetic Arts course quizzes. During the early years, she and her husband enjoyed participating in two weekly study groups (one at the Boston Psychic Tea Room under the direction of Rev. Oliver Cox and the other in Portsmouth, NH under the direction of Hermeticians Larry Sands and Linda Smith). They attended several East Coast Conventions and Deborah was a presenter at two of those. As a young Hermetician, she often gave seminars about psychism and psychics, with

(Continued on page 11)

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

Deborah Yaffee (Continued from page 10)

the intention of educating people about this important subject.

Living the Stellarian life, the couple renewed their wedding vows on their first anniversary with a Stellarian Marriage Ceremony, performed by Rev. Oliver Cox at the Boston Psychic Tea Room. In the late fall of 1981, Rev. Cox came to their home to perform the Stellarian Christening Ceremony for their daughter, Ariele.

Deborah reconnected with her Stellarian friends at the 2017 and 2019 conventions in Albuquerque. Shortly after that, she proposed the creation of an online Meet and Greet meeting where members, old and new, can meet each other. The Meet and Greet format is especially helpful for new members, as she reviews the materials they should have received in their new member packet. She then gives a general orientation about being a member of the COL and a tour through important places in the infinitely rich resources of the Light.org website. You never know what will happen at a Meet and Greet! So many great conversations!

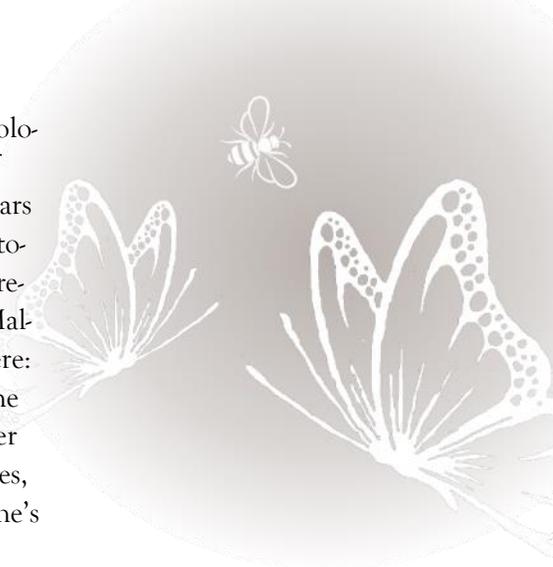
Deborah lives in the tiny village of Shelburne Falls in western Massachusetts, where she and her husband owned and operated a much beloved restaurant for many years. She began her academic career with a double major in Biology and Chemistry, and spent several years work-

ing as a student fellow in neurophysiology research through the University of Texas Medical Branch, and then 3 years working at U.S. Army Natick Laboratories as the assistant in psychophysics research to Howard Moskowitz (hear Malcolm Gladwell's tribute to Howard here: <https://youtu.be/iliAAhUeR6Y>). She continues to be one credit short of her Associates in Elder Recreation Services, but now that she's an official elder, she's just living the dream!

Her love for holistic and natural healing methods came to the fore during Course 16 *Stellar Healing* and Course 21 *Personal Alchemy*. Her personal goal is to truly be a stellar healer.

Deborah is a Certified Nutritionist, Veriditas Certified Labyrinth Facilitator, Certified Reiki Master Teacher, National Guild of Hypnotists Certified Hypnotist and Instructor, and a Senior Trainer with the Tai Chi for Health Institute. An Aquarian with a first house Jupiter in Gemini, yes, she integrates everything she learns with the work she does with groups and individuals.

Her humble advice to her fellow Stellarians is to take time each day to apply this amazing material to your life and be a source of joy, peace and love; the world needs it!



*"We cannot direct the wind,
but we can adjust the sails."*

— Dolly Parton

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Mundane Astrology 2023

Vicki Brewer, Hermetician



“MUNDANE
ASTROLOGY is the science
of the influence of the
heavenly bodies as they affect
the world, nations, cities,
communities and other
groups of people.”
— C. C. Zain
Course 13,
Mundane Astrology

The difference between Natal Astrology and Mundane Astrology is that the stellar cells or thought cells of Natal Astrology are replaced by the individuals of a group in Mundane Astrology. The desires, motives and ideas of individuals form the thought cells of the corporations, cities, or nations to which they belong.

A community birth chart indicates the character of the group as a functioning whole. As progressed aspects form to the birth-chart and progressed planets, thoughts of individuals release energy, linking to other individuals of similar motives and ideas. Thoughts come together in a manner that enables them, and the thought forms they generate, to perform the same function of a temporary stellar aerial stretching across the astral body of individuals.

A reliably timed birth chart is the most accurate astrological tool for assessing the type of energy at play over time for a city, or country. The problem for Mundane Astrology is that we do not have the luxury of knowing the exact time of birth for most cities and nations. Fortunately Cycle Charts offer a solution.

Research shows that Cycle charts, erected for a specific location, describe types of energy at play and offer a reliable substi-

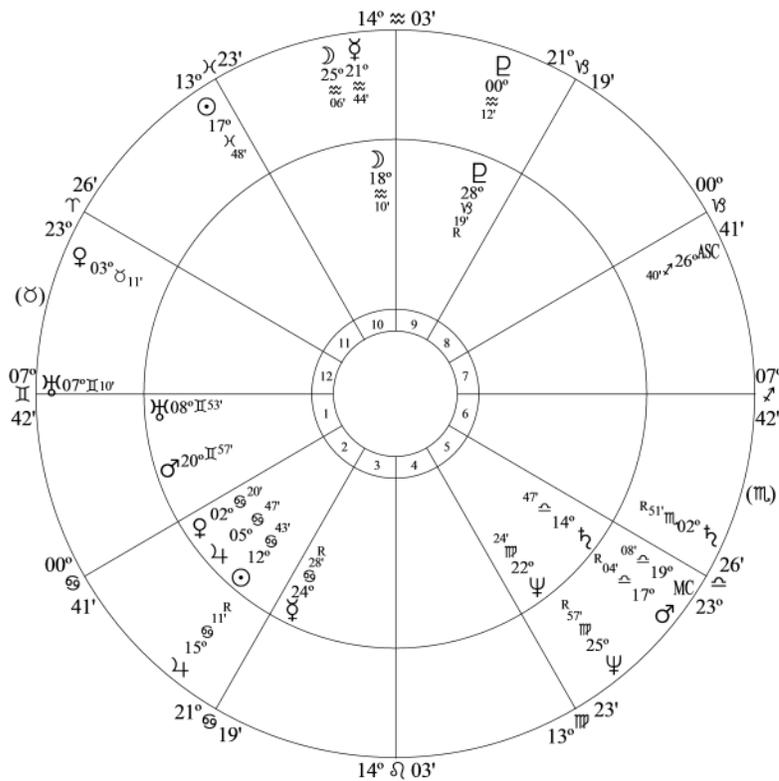
tute for a birth chart. Cycle charts describe the events attracted in a specific location.

According to Zain, if lucky enough to have a reliable birth chart, cycle charts can enhance timing where specificity is desired.

Points of Interest for Delineating a Cycle Chart

Chapter 3, *Mundane Astrology* describes four factors, in order of importance, for determining events. They are:

1. **Planetary Cycle:** Things ruled by the cycle chart planet are active agents to bring about events. For example, Uranus does not reveal orthodox thought, land, basic utilities, or the miner and farmer. It will indicate influences of ultra-progressive thought, invention, complicated mechanical devices, and radical politics.
2. **House occupied by planet receiving aspect.**
3. **Special affinity of planet receiving the aspect.** For example, an aspect to the Sun will affect those in power, particularly those in politics; or an aspect to the Moon will affect large numbers of people.



United States of America

July 4, 1776; 2:14:43 AM LMT
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 39° N 57' 08"; 75° W 09' 51"
 Major Progressed to March 20, 2023



"Our experience has been...that in predicting events for a nation, city, town or corporation, nothing else gives the details and precision that can be gained by the use of a correct birth-chart and progressed aspects...In the case of most countries and cities, however, the difficulty of obtaining a correct birth chart is so great as to prohibit their use."

— C. C. Zain

Course 13,
 Mundane Astrology

USA Birth Chart

"...in predicting events for a nation, city, town or corporation, nothing else gives the details and precision that can be gained by the use of a correct birth-chart and progressed aspects."

Although the time of birth for the United States is controversial, we use the chart Elbert Benjamine determined was better for describing America's character and progressed energy. As always, the proof is in the pudding and to date there has not been rigorous, standardized testing for the accuracy of any of the charts. For this reason, as scientists and truth-seekers, we must look at the EB chart with an open mind.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 12)

4. House occupied by the progressing planet at the time the aspect is complete will be subordinate to the influence on the things ruled by the house occupied by the aspect planet and even the special affinity for the aspected planet. Exception is the slow-moving planets that stay in a house for an extended period.

Zain discusses two other important considerations: (1) environment and (2) only progress the cycle planet.

Environmental conditions must support the event attracted. Pay attention to dominant thought trends – they shape the avenues of expression afforded the energy!



Major progressed event list:					
	START*	MAJOR	Peak	End	
1	06/08/1931	♃ ♂ ♀♁	04/28/1957	-----	Major progressions in force at start of report.
2	09/14/2006	♃ △ ♀♁	-----	-----	
3	11/11/2006	♃ □ ♃♁	-----	-----	
4	07/28/2009	♀ ∠ ☉♁	10/01/2018	-----	
5	06/14/2011	♃ △ ♂♁	03/22/2013	07/31/2023	
6	09/10/2011	♃ □ ♃♁	08/01/2013	04/18/2023	
7	03/18/2021	♁ □ ♃♁	05/20/2022	07/18/2023	
8	04/03/2021	♁ △ ♃♁	04/03/2022	04/04/2023	
9	07/04/2021	♀ * ♀♁	06/07/2022	05/13/2023	
10	01/12/2022	♀ ♂ ♃♁	12/04/2022	10/28/2023	
11	04/23/2022	☉ □ ♃♁	04/09/2023	03/25/2024	
12	07/20/2023	Moon moves into the sign Pisces			Major progressions starting in 1st year of report.
13	01/11/2024	♁ △ ♂♁	01/11/2025	01/13/2026	Major progressions starting in 2024

(Continued from page 13)

Major Progressed Aspects

The last aspect of 2022 occurred on 12/6/22. Venus p (12th house) moved to opposition Saturn p (6th house). During this time there was a dramatic uptick in hospitalizations (12th) from illness (6th) due to both the Coronavirus and RSV. This aspect mirrored the stress on an already over-burdened health care system. Fallout from this event may result in a greater number of health care professionals abandoning (♁♁) or redirecting their careers thereby weakening health care institutions in general.

For 2023, there is only one aspect peaking (see above major progressed event list).

4/9/23: Sun p (11th) moves to sesquiquare Saturn p (6th house). Nately, the Sun is in the 2nd house. We can expect the legislature (11th), to influence issues connected to the people's money (2nd), especially as it relates to 6th house matters such as illness of the people, employees of the people (civil service, military, and police), restaurants, drug stores, and small animals.

The aspect is a sesquiquare, so we might expect agitation (stirring of anxiety) emanating from Congress (11th), the controller of the purse strings and civil service

employees (6th). Given the environment, it is not difficult to see how this aspect might be related to the looming Debt-Limit crisis.

The good news, this aspect is one of the moderately weaker aspects (orb of 4° for luminaries in succedent house) so it is likely to cause handwringing and questioning of U.S. integrity without causing any long-term debt-related damage or crisis.

Alchemy Wish List: The Spiritual Alchemist might look at this aspect as growth opportunity for the President (Sun) and Congress (11th) to focus on increasing confidence in the government and its power to solve problems for the American people.

Cycle Charts 2023

“A nation, or a section of the country, responds so pronouncedly to Cycles and current astronomical positions, that even when the birth chart of the nation is known, these should receive special consideration.”

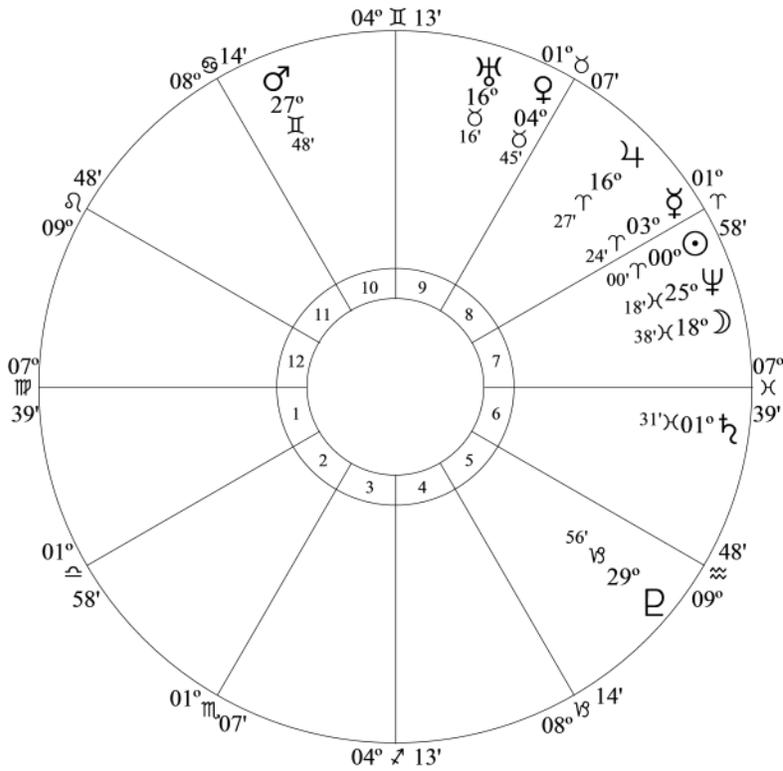
Sun Cycle

“Sun tends to events in which those in power, particularly those high in politics, are affected.”

(Continued on page 15)

“...the Sun Cycle chart...thus serves the purpose of a natal chart for the year, for the place where erected, and should be read in all details almost precisely as if it were a person's birth chart. The only difference in such reading is that, because it relates to national or municipal affairs, some of the houses attain a peculiar significance.”

— C. C. Zain
Course 13,
Mundane Astrology



Sun Cycle, Washington DC

March 20, 2023 21:24:25 GMT

District of Columbia, Capitol Building, 38° N 53' 24"; 77° W 00' 34"



(Continued from page 14)

With all planets, except Mars in the 10th, on the west side of the chart, environment plays a significant role in managing the affairs of the country in 2023. The nation will tend to operate from a defensive position rather than offensive. The president (Sun) and the people (Moon) are in the 7th house, the house of foreign nations, partnerships, and international disputes. The Sun is the most powerful planet in this cycle, and conjuncts Neptune, the planet of vision. The nature of these two planets highlights visionary leadership and working in the spirit of fraternity with foreign partners during this time of war (Russia's invasion of Ukraine). Invigorating national and international unity requires more effort than it did in 2022 when the Sun was in the 10th house.

With Mars in the 10th house, we can expect fiery rhetoric and an aggressive attitude (Mars in Gemini) from the administration. Of course, Mars, no matter how constructive, comes with strife, but if couched in terms of coming to the aid of those in need it will be palatable.

During times of stress, character not only counts, but kicks in. The energy described above in the Sun Cycle chart reinforces the United States birth chart (page 13). Mars, the dominant planet, is slightly discordant with -1.45 discordynes. The Moon with +14.91 harmodynes is 2nd in power. Gemini Mars is natively in the first house and mercifully, is alchemized by an applying trine to the Moon in Aquarius in the 10th house. This means that coming to the aid of the "weak and helpless" for humanitarian

(Continued on page 16)

"SUN-

In thought, politics. In business, executive work and administration. In politics, bosses and the ruling class."

— C. C. Zain

Course 13,

Mundane Astrology



(Continued from page 15)

(Aquarius) purpose runs deep in the DNA of American character. This, combined with the Sun Cycle energy, would lead one to expect the USA will extend continued intellectual and social support (air signs) as well as military (Mars) support and training for the Ukrainian cause (Democracy vs. Autocracy, defined by the Administration).

The 2nd most powerful planet in this cycle, Mercury, is in the 8th house of death, foreign debt, taxes, and pensions. We can expect voluble rhetoric about social security, Medicare, and taxes – covid may even creep into the conversation. In fact, the Sun moves to conjunction Mercury three days after this chart takes effect, so the rhetoric will be immediate and followed by the conjunction to Jupiter (finances) on April 6th. These aspects align with the current Debt-Ceiling standoff. Planets in Aries could lend to constructively pioneering a way forward. However, this is not the habit system of the current Congress. Unless there is a dramatic shift in the American peoples' desire to send problem-solvers to Congress who want to be constructive, we can expect more of the same hostility toward the opposing party instead of compromise and successful solutions!

In late April and early May, as the Sun moves to conjunct the two planets in the 9th house, expect publicity around upcoming legal and Supreme Court decisions. Venus (social, women's issues) and Uranus (radical element) are in Taurus, the sign of stability, stubbornness, and conservatism. This conservative sign suggests that the court will not stray from precedent like they did with the Dobbs decision in 2022. However, it seems likely the court will stay their course of defer-

ring decisions back to states' rights and within a strict constructionist (or originalist) philosophy toward the constitution, no matter the precedent. Venus and Uranus are both harmonious, trine the people (Asc.). This could mean the Court will make decisions resulting in good fortune and in alignment with the will of most people, but that is hard to see, given an activist conservative majority court. Viewed from the perspective of the U.S.'s birth-chart Mercury in the 3rd house opposition Pluto in the 9th, legal decisions are fraught with division. The intellectual activity and thoughts of the people are at odds with the supreme court, churches, and religion.

There could also be Justice Department activity surrounding the January 6th, 2021, attack on the Capital.

Mars in Gemini (10th) suggests the executive branch of government is at war - a war of words. Arrows will be flying freely at, and from, the executive branch of government. That the natal Sun (president) is separating from the square to Mars in Gemini suggests the discord-producing actions happened in the past.

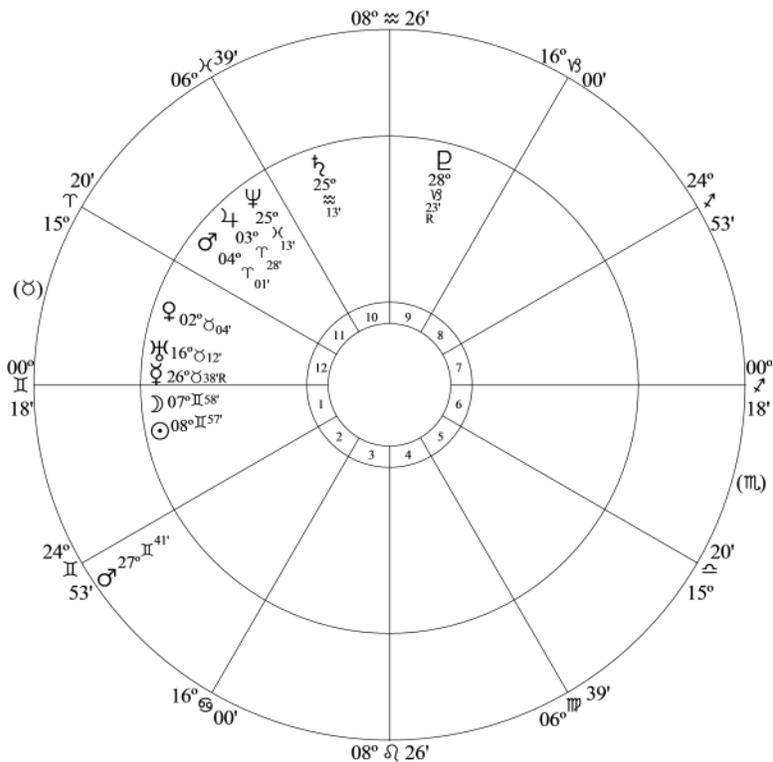
Pluto in Capricorn, the planet of coercion or cooperation is in Capricorn, a business sign. Pluto tends to bring events associated with drastic action, and cooperation plays a part. Natively in the 5th house, ruling places of amusement, speculation, the stock market, children, and places where they congregate. Pluto is not particularly powerful in the chart but when the Sun moves to aspect throughout the year, we can expect events related to the above. Dates to watch for are: 4/20 (first square), 5/20 (first trine), 7/22 (opposition), 9/22 (2nd trine) and 10/22 (2nd square).

(Continued on page 17)

"MARS—
In thought, mechanics. In
business, manufacturing and
the military profession. In
politics, militarism."

— C. C. Zain

Course 13,
Mundane Astrology



Mars Cycle, Washington DC

May 30, 2022, 9:20 GMT Progressed to March 20, 2023

Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34 Data Source: Table of Planetary Phenomena 2nd Edition



(Continued from page 16)

Mars Cycle

“Mars tends to strife, violence and accidents.”

This cycle has been in effect since May 2022. Around March 14th natal Mars in the 11th (irritable Congress) moves into the 2nd house and trines Saturn in the 10th (executive branch). This may be when Congress takes action to raise the debt-ceiling so the U.S. can pay its bills.

With Mars natally in the 11th house of the legislature and progressed into the 2nd house, one might expect the topic of military spending to be top of concern for Congress. The first aspect (3/21) by Mars p is an inconjunct to Pluto r in the 9th. Expect wavering (inconjunct brings things together and then apart) of international cooperation and expansion of military spending as Ukraine continues

its struggle against Russia’s invasion of their sovereign territory. Again, this is a weak aspect so not likely to cause any major parting of ways.

Jupiter Cycle

“Jupiter events affecting finances and the trend is toward expansion, expenditures, and higher prices.”

With a new Jupiter Cycle beginning in January 2023 and lasting until May 2034, we can expect a shift in the country’s financial focus.

In the previous short cycle (May 2022–Jan. 2023) Jupiter was in the 12th house. As the country and the world were pulling out of the restricted Covid pandemic financial markets, a state of disappointment, confusion, and restriction, lay like a pall over financial and consumer confidence. Inflation combined with unex-

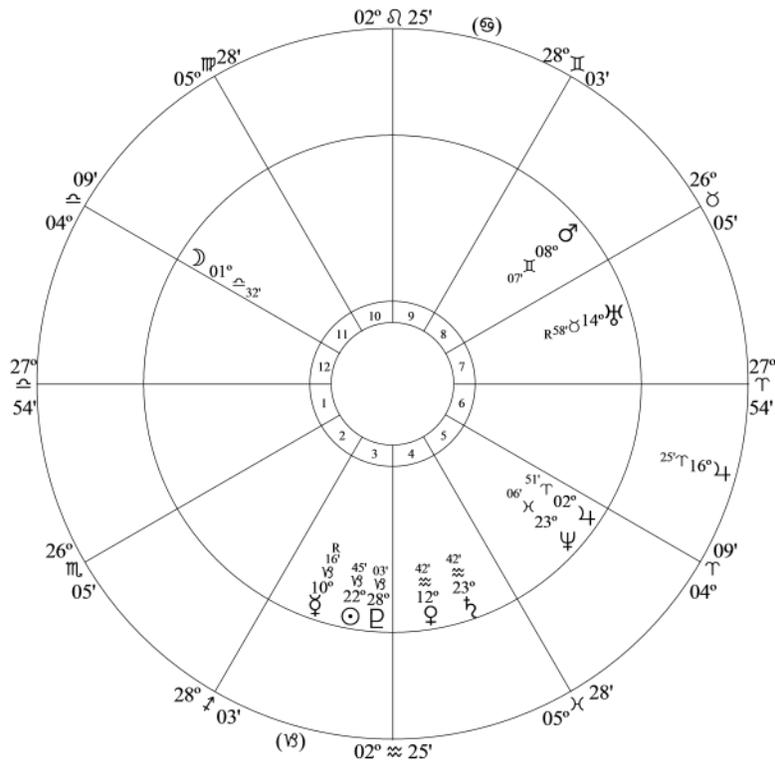
(Continued on page 18)

“JUPITER–

In thought, religion and philosophy. In business, finances and commerce. In politics, capitalism.”

— C. C. Zain

Course 13,
Mundane Astrology



Jupiter Cycle, Washington DC

January 13, 2023, 5:57 GMT Progressed to March 20, 2023

Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34 Data Source: Table of Planetary Phenomena 2nd Edition

"SATURN—

In thought, orthodoxy. In business, land and basic utilities. In politics, conservatism, the farmer and the miner."

— C. C. Zain

Course 13,

Mundane Astrology

(Continued from page 17)

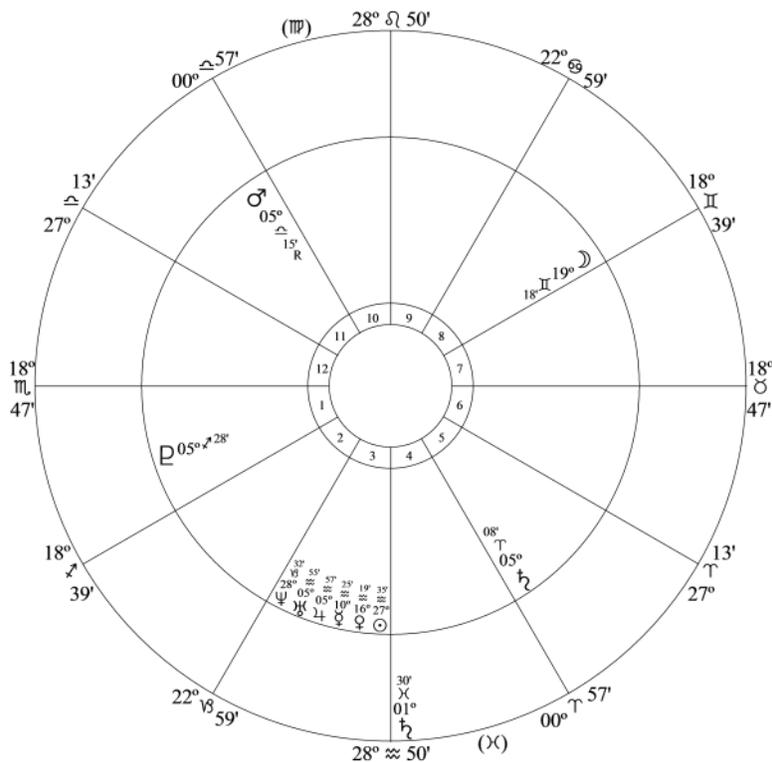
plainably robust labor markets resulted in mistrust and inability to confidently interpret typical financial indicators. Consumer confidence appeared confused in terms of how people voiced their opinions about the economy compared with how they were spending.

The new Cycle finds Jupiter positioned in the 5th house, the house of entertainment, speculation, stock market, foreign ambassadors, children, and their places of congregation. We can expect "expansion, expenditures and higher prices" as they relate to the 5th house.

Currently progressed into the 6th house, the booming U.S. labor market is confounding all financial predictions.

Although not of significant interest to people at large, there is a current court case that is interesting from the perspective of 5th house of speculation. A prediction market called *PredictIt* was formed in 2014 by Victoria University, Wellington NZ and Aristotle Inc., Washington DC. The market offers a betting platform focused on political elections. So far, its performance offers a successful history of accurately naming winners. Its founder claims this is because betters, with skin in the game, are well informed and better skilled at filtering "fake news" compared with the results of traditional political polling. Recently the Commodity Futures Trading Commission filed a letter of noncompliance, claiming *PredictIt* is in violation of regulations. Currently in the court system (Jupiter), we are likely to see

(Continued on page 19)



Saturn Cycle, Washington DC

February 16, 1997, 5:27 GMT Progressed to March 20, 2023

Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34 Data Source: Table of Planetary Phenomena 2nd Edition



(Continued from page 18)

legal action when Jupiter progresses into the 7th house in the coming months.

Saturn Cycle

“Saturn has an influence over labor and tends toward contraction, economy, loss and lower prices.”

Saturn is the planet of loss. Progressed into the 4th house (weather, homes, buildings, ground crops, mining), it is highly likely that the U.S. will experience more weather-related destruction and loss. Weather-related events are uncovering other inadequacies of U.S. infrastructure (Saturn). In the 3rd house until Feb. 26, 2023, winter weather events caused a system melt-down with aging technological infrastructure, bringing air traffic to a devastating halt. We can expect similar

stresses resulting from a lack of preparedness to protect homes, crops, and buildings from climate change related weather now that Saturn has progressed into the 4th. Another example of Saturn in the 4th is the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment that, on the surface, appears related to ignoring safety with a lack of investment in infrastructure and employee cutbacks.

Saturn, currently opposing the MC, will result in pointing fingers, and in this case the executive branch of government is going to be at the end of those pointed fingers. Of course, this attitude is non-productive. Saturn solutions require time, patience, forethought, system, planning, along with a strong Will (Sun) to do what is loving (Venus) and correct

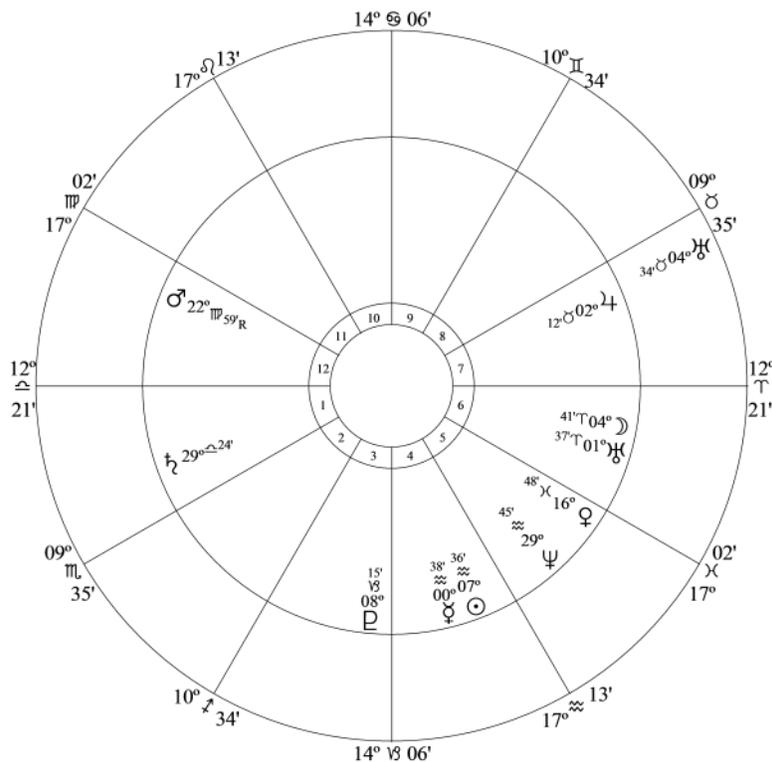
(Continued on page 20)

“URANUS—

In thought, the occult and ultra progressive. In business, invention and unusual methods. In politics, the radical element.”

— C. C. Zain

Course 13,
Mundane Astrology



Uranus Cycle, Washington DC

January 28, 2012, 3:42 GMT Progressed to March 20, 2023

Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34 Data Source: Table of Planetary Phenomena 2nd Edition

“NEPTUNE—

*In thought, the mystical and
psychic. In business, promotion
and stock companies. In
politics, the ideal.”*

— C. C. Zain

Course 13,
Mundane Astrology

(Continued from page 19)

within the environmental parameters
(reality).

On a positive note, Saturn is the planet
of system and planning for the future.
Projects funded by the Bipartisan Infra-
structure Law will begin to work their
way into the American economy and life,
supporting a safer and more vibrant
homeland future.

Uranus Cycle

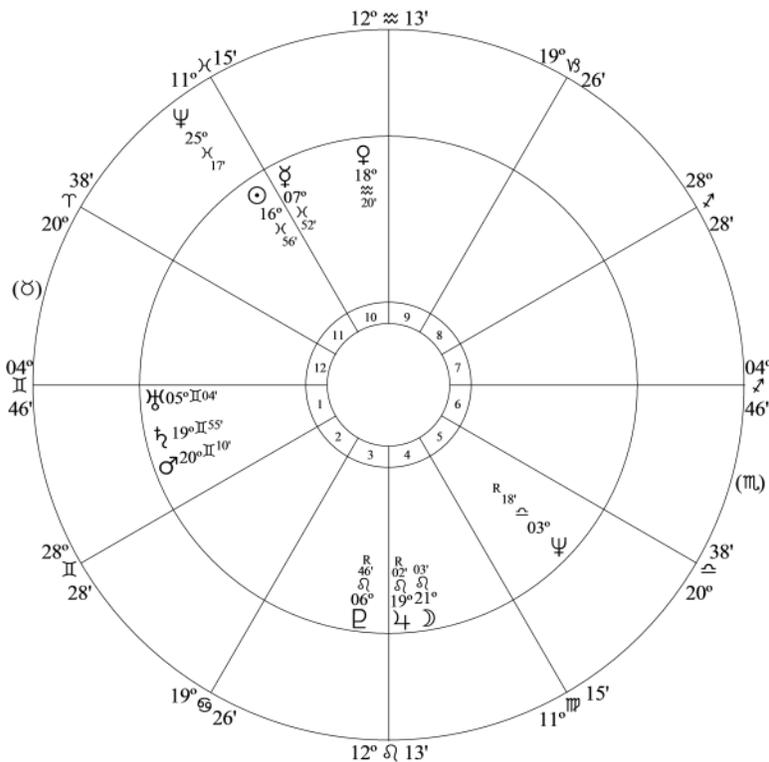
*“Uranus tends to bring radical
activities and exposé.”*

Early 2015, as Uranus began its progres-
sion through the 7th house, an irate, fac-
tional, political divide between the right
and the left entered a war-like phase. An-
gry, with online social platforms that ap-
peared to mirror and legitimize discon-

tent, people began to realize they were
not alone in feeling their institutions had
abandoned and betrayed them. Hope for
future prosperity and well-being disap-
peared. Anger and violence replaced it.

In search of a validating political voice,
one emerged in the form of Donald
Trump, a very unusual candidate for the
presidency (Uranus in Gemini in the
10th house). From the moment he de-
scended that escalator, public discourse
shifted; institution and “other” bashing
became the norm. Decorum took a leave
of absence. Donald Trump legitimized
conspiracy theories and subversive groups
that pre-existed his arrival by amplifying
their anger and discontent. Rifts among
friends and family emerged, tearing at the
fabric of civil society. Jupiter—an attitude
of benevolence—is the natural antidote
for both sides.

(Continued on page 21)



Neptune Cycle, Washington DC

March 7, 1944, 15:06 GMT Progressed to March 20, 2023

Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34 Data Source: Table of Planetary Phenomena 2nd Edition



(Continued from page 20)

As we begin 2023, 8th house Uranus in Taurus is progressing to the sextile aspect with Pisces-Venus in the 5th house (3/30/23). This timing may mark the opportunity for a return to civility, decorum, and stability rather than tearing the house down and making war on our ourselves. Venus is in the 5th house of entertainment, places of amusement, stock market, children, and places where they congregate. It is possible that compassionate reforms will come to the forefront of attention for the benefit of children; factions will begin to recognize what is commonly shared and valued.

Neptune Cycle

“Neptune tends to events affecting aviation and the moving picture industry.”

On the positive side, Neptune is the planet of vision, the ideal and brotherly love. However, since Neptune progressed into the 11th house of Congress in February 2017, we have not seen any evidence of love or uplifting vision surfacing. Instead, there seems to be an abundance of exaggerated expectations and chaos. There are no significant aspects forming in the coming year.

Pluto Cycle

“Pluto tends to bring events in which drastic action and cooperation of some kind play a part.”

Pluto is progressing through the 5th house and making the semisextile aspect to Uranus and Saturn in the 4th house of homes, buildings, weather, and agriculture. Although the semisextile aspect is of moderate to weak power, it carries harmony and expresses as “growth.” With

(Continued on page 22)

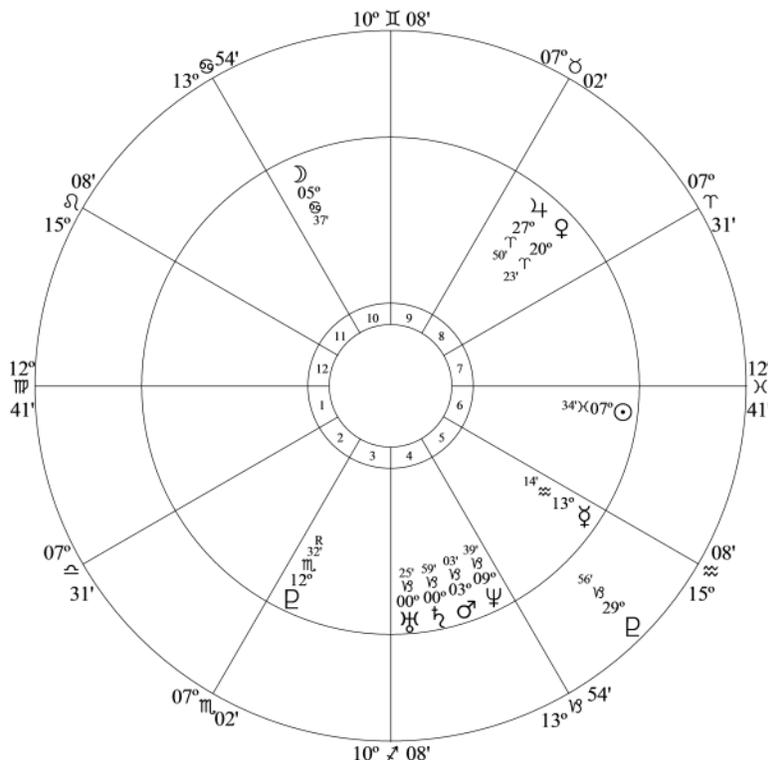
“PLUTO—

In thought, spirituality or inversion [turning upside down], and the influence of invisible intelligences. In business, group activity, either for the selfish advantage of the group or for universal good. In politics, compulsory cooperation.”

— C. C. Zain

Course 13,

Mundane Astrology



Pluto Cycle, Washington DC

February 26, 1988, 23:18 GMT Progressed to March 20, 2023

Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34 Data Source: Table of Planetary Phenomena 2nd Edition

“The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience.”
— from *To Kill a Mockingbird*

(Continued from page 21)

this energy, we may find more groups aligning in cooperation to render aid and

relief to those impacted by weather-related disasters.



The Sign Cancer (Continued from page 9)

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