

THE CHURCH OF LIGHT

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Quarterly



Volume 87 Issue 1

Winter 2011—2012

Astrology—Virgo

By Christopher Gibson

Virgo, Latin for Virgin, is the sixth sign of the zodiac. Virgo can be found along the ecliptic with Leo to the west and Libra to the east. After Hydra, Virgo is the second-largest constellation in the sky, easily identified through her brightest star, Spica or Alpha Virginis. Occasionally referred to as the “Harvest Maiden,” Virgo is pictured in the heavens holding a sheaf of grain, symbol of the harvest. Spica, means “ear of grain,” and is the fifteenth

brightest star in the nighttime sky. As it is located along the ecliptic, Spica can sometimes be occulted by the Moon and other planets.

In the Tropical zodiac, the Sun enters Virgo approximately 150 days after the spring equinox, usually around August 23–September 22. The largest of the twelve zodiacal constellations, Virgo extends over 40° of longitude. In sidereal astrology the Sun is in Virgo



Virgo, Johannes Hevelius, 1687

from September 16 – October 15. The sun actually passes through the constellation of Virgo from September 17 – October 30.

In classical mythology, Virgo has been syncretized with

(Continued on page 4)

Virgo Insights— Holy Love

By Meg Dissinger

Text: *If we sow discordant thoughts we will reap painful experiences, but if we sow thoughts of harmony we will garner success and happiness.*
(*Spiritual Astrology page 137*)

The story for Virgo in *Spiritual Astrology* is what we may learn from the tree in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve represent the differentiated ego, and that the quest for knowledge is worth all it costs to make that quest. Knowledge is Power. Knowledge is what we get to take with us as we evolve. Knowledge is hard work, and Virgo is the sign of the zodiac which represents hard work and the fruits of our labor; that which

we harvest. In order for us to learn, we must experience. I can read about ESP and how to develop it, but it is not until I practice, and usually then teach what I have studied that I really gain full knowledge of what it is that I have read. Virgo represents the descent of the soul into the matter of experience. Whatever kinds of experiences we sow, those are the experiences which come back to us.

Virgo in the physical world represents woman uniting herself to man in order to accomplish an equal destiny. In the intellec-

(Continued on page 9)

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For the period between July 1 and September 30, 2011

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EDITOR
Christopher Gibson

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Barb Kniffen

COPY EDITOR
Radine Ramsey

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Directors:

Paul Brewer, President, NM
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Communication Director

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For Quarterly Submissions:

If you wish to submit material to the Quarterly, please write or call for guidelines.

Please address all communications to:

The Church of Light
2119 Gold Ave SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106-4072

tel: 505 247-1338

fax: 505 814-7318

Email:
churchoflight@light.org

Editorial

By Christopher Gibson

“Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy.” - Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869 – 1948)

I cannot reflect on the spiritual qualities of the sign Virgo, for which this issue of the Quarterly is dedicated, without thinking of service. Service means: to come to the aid of another; or an act of helpfulness. Service implies making a contribution to the well-being of individuals or a community. The moral code for The Church of Light is: “Contribute Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.” A Stellarian cannot adhere to this moral code without in the course of his or her life performing acts of selfless service. In order for one’s service to be ‘selfless’ it has to be done without expectation of personal gain. This means we must do things for others strictly from the desire for their welfare. Money, power, and honors are some of the chief motivators here on the earthly plane. Most individuals are concerned primarily for their own well-being and that of their families. It is the rare individual who extends his or her interests out into the larger community, nation, or world as a whole.

In Course II of The Brotherhood of Light Lessons, C. C. Zain discusses the mission of the soul, or plan of action by which Self-Conscious Immortality is to be attained. This is only accomplished through developing the twin attributes of love and wisdom. It is only through our incarnation or experience with form that we are able to do this, and thus the soul descends into matter and enters upon “The Cycle of Necessity.” Zain says;

“To attain immortality the soul must have the love and wisdom to construct for itself forms in which to function on higher planes of existence than the physical and the astral. To do this it must continue to exercise and develop Love and Wisdom to a degree that it can influence the substances of such higher planes. To gain as much information about all other entities in the universe and one’s proper relation to them is the exercise of the greatest Wisdom. To work persistently to be of greatest possible service in this universal society is the expression of the highest love. A life devoted to the exercise of such Wisdom and such Love builds for itself an imperishable form on the spiritual plane that provides, here and now, for Self-Conscious Immortality.” (Astrological Signatures)

It is through selfless service that we grow in love. That service can take on many forms depending on where the need is perceived. It can be through visiting the sick or dying, providing food to a food bank, giving skills to Habitat for Humanity, teaching reading at your local library, helping someone you know is in need. If we look around us there is no end to the services that we can provide to others. There are charities and other volunteer organizations that one can get involved in whose relief efforts might be humanitarian, environmental, or embracing animals and other living organisms.

No matter how difficult our lives are, there is always someone that is less fortunate than us. Look around you, identify a need among your family, friends, or community and perform a service for others without any thought of recompense. This can be the greatest step you take towards building your spiritual body.





Virgo Associations

Thought-Series: I Analyze
 Ruling Planet: Mercury
 Best Quality: Analysis
 Worst Quality: Criticism
 Talismanic Gem: Jasper
 Color: Dark Violet
 Musical Tone: Low B

Virgo Figures

Accountant, analyst, biologist, bookkeeper, broker, carpet and upholstery cleaner, chemist, computer programmer, critic, dietitian, efficiency expert, file clerk, housekeeper, instructor, laboratory worker, labor organizer, librarian, linguist, nutritionist, personal organizer, pharmacist, physician, scientist, secretary, stenographer, teacher, tutor, writer.

Positive Virgo Traits

Alert, analytical, articulate, astute, attentive, chatty, coherent, communicative, conscientious, curious, detail-minded, diagnostic, erudite, expressive, focused, hypochondriacal, informative, ingenious, inquisitive, intelligent, investigative, judicious, knowledgeable, logical, lucid, methodical, observant, perceptive, perfectionist, rational, reasonable, scholarly, systematic, talkative, thorough, thoughtful, verbal.

Negative Virgo Traits

Anxious, apprehensive, blaming, critical, disapproving, discontented, disgruntled, disparaging, fanatical, fault-finding, fidgety, high-strung, interfering, intrusive, judgmental, jumpy, long-winded, loquacious, malcontented, meddlesome, nervous, nit-picking, obsessive, overly-rational, overwrought, pedantic, purist, preoccupied, prim, procrastinating, prudish, prying, rambling, restless, straitlaced, tense, verbose.

(Astrology-Virgo Continued from page 1)

numerous goddesses including Ceres, Demeter, Astraea and Justicia. The story of Demeter/Ceres is inseparable from that of her daughter Persephone who was seduced with a pomegranate by Hades (Pluto), abducted, and carried away to the underworld. Disconsolate, Demeter wandered the Earth searching for her daughter and neglecting the success of the crops. The Olympian gods saw an impending catastrophe and sent Hermes (Mercury) to negotiate for the release of the girl. Hades ultimately allowed for Persephone's safe passage to Earth, on the condition that she returns to the underworld for three months of the year.

In the Mediterranean climate during the three dry summer months, the harvested grain is stored underground silos, symbolic of Pluto's realm; the vegetation shrivels and desiccates. The story of Demeter and Persephone was used to explain this phenomenon. Demeter's veneration was central to the Eleusinian mysteries where initiations were conducted in late August by the Hierophant in the *Telesterion* or temple. During the clandestine rites the *mystes* or neophytes were inducted by *mystagogos* or sponsors into higher esoteric knowledge. Participants in these mysteries were forbidden upon penalty of death, to ever speak of what transpired during the initiations. Our words mystery and mystical originate in these rites.

In the Christian era, the Virgin Mary developed a syncretism with the constellation of Virgo, the only woman pictured by the zodiac. The feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on September 8th as the Sun passes through the sign of the Queen of Heaven.

Like Gemini, Virgo is ruled by the intellectual planet, Mercury. Gemini represents breadth of knowledge and Virgo depth of knowledge. The keywords for Virgo are "I Analyze" and represent the scrutinizing and evaluative qualities of Mercury. Analysis refers to the method of studying the nature of something in order to determine its essential features and relations. This involves separating ideas into its constituent elements. The processes of discernment and evaluation are brought into play through analysis and can sometimes lead to the

(Continued on page 5)

(Astrology-Virgo Continued from page 4)

negative trait of Virgo, criticism. Criticism generally implies a hyper-analysis of something which can lead to its disparagement or condemnation.

Mentally active, Virgos enjoy being studious, scientific, mentally alert, logical, ingenious, witty, and methodical. They love the acquisition of knowledge and often become independent scholars in their particular areas of interest, priding themselves on their depth of understanding. They search out environments which require hard work, but also promise a rich harvest of knowledge and practical life-experience. Naturally curious, Virgos are ever seeking the “How” and “Why” things happen. Virgos have a natural faculty for acquiring information; they are intellectual, methodical, mentally attentive, inventive, clever, expressive, and discerning.

Sharing the Earthy Triplicity with Taurus and Capricorn the tendencies of this Virgo are toward practicality, realism, logic, and common-sense. They are more inclined towards statistics than anecdotal evidence. Like Gemini, Sagittarius, and Pisces, Virgo is a Mutable sign. As “Adaptors” they can be a happy medium between the extreme activity of the movable signs and the stubborn opposition of the fixed signs.

As the sign of labor, Virgos can often take a keen interest in worker’s rights, working conditions, and labor negotiations. This is also the sign of service, therefore Virgos are eager to help out where needed. They can be found in all types of volunteer activities; be they community, academic or faith-based. As driven workers who always feel the need to be doing something productive,



Virgos sometimes find it hard to just seek out rest and relaxation. They frequently draw their self-worth and self-esteem from their job or volunteer activities.

Virgos are also known for being both perfectionists and procrastinators. As perfectionists they want to do everything as well as they possibly can, for they hold themselves up against exacting standards. This trait can sometimes lead to hyper-scrupulousness and constant critical evaluation of their work. They desire a more perfect world and look at everything through the lens of improvement. Their procrastination is also born of their perfectionism; putting things off if they feel that they don’t have enough time allotted to be able to those duties well.

Fastidiousness is another expression of Virgo’s perfectionism and manifests through a need to be neat, tidy and organized. To Virgo “there’s a place for everything, and everything has its place.” They tend to be “binge” cleaners, letting the mess pile up around them before taking action.

Occasionally Virgos become body or health-obsessed, and fixate on their weight, diet or how they are feeling. This can lead to extremes of hypochondria or self-neglect.

In the symbolic language of astrological shorthand, the glyph for Virgo and Scorpio are easily confused. Virgo is pictured as the cuneiform drawing for a sheaf of grain and looks somewhat like a Roman “M” with its foreleg crossed.

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Dominant Virgo Personality: Johnny Depp

By Christopher Gibson

American actor and director, Johnny Depp was born John Christopher Depp II, on June 9, 1963 at 8:44 a.m. in Owensboro, Kentucky. The youngest of four children, he is the son of John Christopher Depp, Sr., a Civil engineer and Betty Sue Wells, a waitress. Depp's family moved frequently during his childhood, before ultimately settling in Miramar, Florida.

Depp gained his prominence as a teen idol in the 1980's television series 21 Jump Street. He went on to star in off-beat roles in dozens of films including; *Cry-Baby*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Ed Wood*, *Benny and Joon*, *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Chocolat*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

With a dominant 10th House Depp has achieved numerous awards from The Screen Actors Guild, London Film Critics Guild, Golden Globes, MTV Awards, And the Russian Guild of Film Critics. In 2004, 2005 and 2008 Depp was nominated for Academy Awards for his work in *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*, *Finding Neverland*, and *Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

Depp has Uranus, Mars and Pluto in Virgo, making this his most powerful sign. Normally Virgo would be associated with fastidiousness; however with a Uranus/Mars conjunction in the 1st house, he maintains an avant-garde, unkempt appearance which has earned him the title "Poster Boy of Grunge." In November 2003 he was named "Sexiest Man Alive" by People magazine.

	☉	☽	♀	♁	♂	♃	♅	♁	♃	♅	♁	MC	ASC
☉	☉					✳ 2.93 4.40	△ 4.97 2.48				□ 1.58 -1.58	∠ 4.69 -4.69	✳ 1.39 1.39
☽	 2.66 0.00	☽	♃ 2.47 -2.47	♁ 2.28 -1.71	♂ 0.60 -0.74	♃ 7.84 -3.92		♁ 2.24 -2.24	✳ 6.60 6.60	△ 3.81 3.81			♄ 1.62 0.00
♀			♀	♁ 14.19 3.55	♂ 4.06 -5.08	∠ 2.31 -1.15	□ 9.80 -14.69	□ 5.71 -5.71	♁ 3.13 -3.13				
♁				♁ 2.88 -2.88		∠ 2.12 -0.53	□ 6.98 -8.73	□ 4.52 -3.39					
♂					♁ 0.76 -0.57	♁ 1.86 -3.25	♁ 10.36 -2.59			♁ 5.59 -1.40	△ 9.86 7.39		
♃						♁ 2.40 -1.20		♄ 2.44 1.22					△ 8.46 12.69
♅			 7.28 -3.64				♁ 3.50 -5.25	♁ 0.34 -0.50					♁ 1.36 -2.04
♁					 10.14 -2.53					♁ 3.95 0.00	△ 8.22 8.22		
♃							 3.45 -1.73		♁ 3.21 3.21	✳ 1.95 -1.95	♁ 3.73 3.73	♁ 0.92 -0.92	□ 9.02 -9.02
♅											△ 3.73 3.73	∠ 0.19 0.19	
MC												♁ 0.92 -0.92	
ASC													♁ 0.92 -0.92



Johnny Depp

Always rebellious, Depp dropped out of High School at age 16 to play guitar in a rock band. His Mars/Uranus conjunction expressed in his youth as self-mutilation; He has at least half a dozen self-inflicted wounds. As an adult his unique body-art fascination has resulted in a collection of 13 tattoos representing important persons or events in his life. His Uranus/Mars conjunction is also a factor in outbursts of violence; in 1994, Depp for criminal mischief, when during a drunken fight with model Kate Moss, he wrecked a \$1200 per night room in a New York hotel resulting in \$10,000 in damages. And in 1999 he was arrested for brawling with paparazzi outside a London restaurant.

Although married only once from 1983-1986 to make-up artist Lori Anne Allison, with Saturn in the 7th House he considers himself a serial monogamist. He has been engage to such notables as Kate Moss, Sherilyn Fenn, Winona Ryder and Jennifer Grey. Since 1998 Depp has been in relationship with French actress Vanessa Paradis with whom he has two children; daughter Lily-Rose Melody

PLANETS

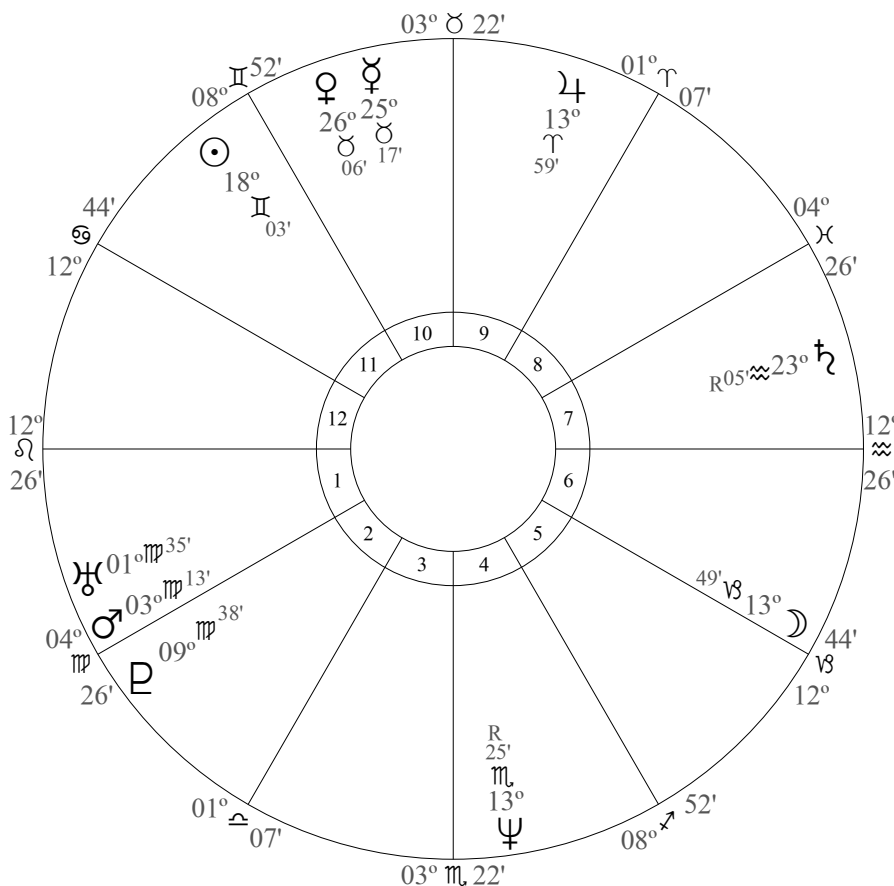
	Power	%	Harmony
♃	64.28	11.7	-14.69
♄	62.71	11.4	-33.33
♅	59.20	10.8	-11.65
♆	53.07	9.7	-35.36
♇	46.68	8.5	-11.69
MC	44.36	8.1	11.79
♁	43.57	7.9	-5.30
♂	38.97	7.1	10.94
ASC	37.97	6.9	2.29
♁	37.10	6.8	-2.67
♁	30.47	5.6	7.97
☉	<u>29.85</u>	<u>5.4</u>	<u>1.00</u>
	548.24	100.0	-80.69

HOUSES

	Power	%	Harmony
10	177.09	21.1	-39.07
1	176.38	21.0	-23.55
7	82.41	9.8	-47.87
9	68.57	8.2	5.11
4	65.99	7.9	-6.22
6	63.63	7.6	-20.35
2	61.83	7.4	-8.69
11	61.20	7.3	-15.66
3	23.34	2.8	-5.84
8	20.64	2.5	1.41
5	19.48	2.3	5.47
12	18.55	2.2	-1.33

SIGNS

	Power	%	Harmony
♍	185.32	22.1	-35.03
♎	177.09	21.1	-39.07
♏	82.41	9.8	-47.87
♐	68.57	8.2	5.11
♑	65.99	7.9	-6.22
♒	63.63	7.6	-20.35
♓	61.20	7.3	-15.66
♈	52.90	6.3	2.79
♉	23.34	2.8	-5.84
♊	20.64	2.5	1.41
♋	19.48	2.3	5.47
♌	18.55	2.2	-1.33



(Continued from page 7)

Depp, born May 27, 1999, and son John "Jack" Christopher Depp III, born April 9, 2002. In 2007 daughter Lily-Rose Melody Depp had an extended hospitalization in the Great Ormond Street Hospital for an E. coli infection that caused her kidneys to malfunction. In 2008 Depp made a donation of approximately \$2 million to the hospital where his daughter recuperated.

Depp is scheduled to start filming in New Mexico, in

January 2012. He has been cast play the role of Tonto in the new Disney version of the Lone Ranger, to be directed by Gore Verbinski and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer.

It will be interesting to see if in the role of Tonto (Spanish for 'Stupid'), Depp can challenge the stereotypical views of Native Americans as they were portrayed in the original television series.

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Johnny Depp—Progressed Aspects

The following time line lists the years of major events in life and the corresponding major progressed aspects in or at the time of the event.

Timeline

Year	Event	Aspect
1970	Moves to Miramar, Florida	MC△P _r
1978	His parents' divorce	ASC○ ^o h _r
1983	Marries Lori Anne Allison	MC□h _p
1985	Divorces Lori Anne Allison	♀△h _r
1987-1990	Stars in TV series <i>21 Jump Street</i>	ASCσ ^o h _r
1990	Stars in <i>Edward Scissorhands</i>	ASC△MC _r
1994	Arrested for criminal mischief	MC□σ ^o _r
1996	Buys Hollywood Hills Mansion	♀∠σ ^o _r
1999	Receives star on Hollywood Walk of Fame	ASCσ ^o P _p , ⊙×σ ^o _p
2004	Nominated for an Academy Award for <i>Finding Neverland</i>	MC×ASC _r
2007	Wins Golden Globe Award for <i>Sweeney Todd</i>	ASC□⊙ _r
2012	Listed as highest paid actor in the Guinness Book of World Records	♀×♀ _r

Virgo Insights (Continued from page 1)

tual world Virgo is the binary, the reflection of unity; the perception of things visible and invisible. In the spiritual world it represents the consciousness of Absolute Being, which embraces the three terms of all manifestation—the past, the present, and the future. Virgo is the harvest of experiences which have become assimilated as knowledge. (*Sacred Tarot*, 57-59) Virgo energy causes us to analyze everything in order to get the very most from it. For many of us, this sometimes means overanalyzing and being overly critical rather than accepting ourselves with all our flaws, as being the absolute perfection of what we are today.

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For two years this went on every day with the woman bringing home only one and one half pots of water. The perfect pot was proud, but the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its imperfection, and miserable that it only did half of what it had been made to do. One day it spoke to the woman: "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way to your house." The old woman smiled, "Have you noticed that there are flowers on your side of the path but not the other? That is because I have always known of your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. Because of this, for two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.

Each of us has our own unique flaws, but it is the cracks we each contain that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding. We must take each person for what they are and look for the very best in them. We do this for others, but are we as accepting of our own imperfections?

We can only be what we can be today with all the experiences we have harvested up to this moment. Virgo is about the willingness to work harder to gain more knowledge and life experience, but we must give ourselves the gift of Holy Love, the gift of loving ourselves. We must know our personal charts. We read and study, and we learn as much as we can to become better and to understand more. At some point, we must

go out and have experiences. The work is about letting go of our negative nature and being willing to go forward into the realm of experience (and the unknown) to practice what it is we believe, and accept ourselves for who we are.

Alchemically, Virgo is the fluxing of experiences to the point which they are exactly equal. The philosopher and lecturer, Marion Woodman, calls this polarity the tension of the opposites. It is not until we are at this point that the vibratory level is raised to that place in which transmutation is readily accomplished. The journey to that place is always filled with trials. It is painful to put aside habits with which we are comfortable in order to gain more knowledge and experience, especially when we know the path will be difficult. Conservation of energy tells us that in order to gain something, something must be released. It is accepting the work with willingness, with an absence of negativity, which aids us in growing beautiful flowers along our path. Of course our jar has cracks; we all have cracks. It is just what we do with them along the path of life which brings us closer to the greater good.

In our initiation we are at the point of ascent where we realize that we must have the relationship and understanding of the polar opposite—we must have that tension of the opposite—in order to be complete. Zain tells us that "reason alone is insufficient with the physical senses to solve life's problems; that intuition and the psychic senses must be developed before adeptship is reached." (*Sacred Tarot* 61)

We have 21 books which have really good information in them. We need to get them read and perhaps reread in order to be truly applying what is in them. Then when we finish the 21, the challenges of the Lucidic Degrees are provided for us so that we can improve our psychic senses in order to reach adeptship. I cannot tell any of you what comes after the physical, but I know for certain that the things we are able to work on here with this physical body are far easier to work on because of the physical body. So we ask ourselves: "Why is it that I am not challenging myself in this work?" Chances are, you are; yet you are also being hard on yourself. The alchemy occurs in the truth of our own experience and working from within that context of honesty.

The most exciting thing I can say is that we are all

(Continued on page 15)

Tarot Card Example Spread—Lucky Seven

Tarot Spread Interpretation

The Querent asked, “What surrounds this Sunday’s fundraising event?”

Card Spread

1. The Past — Ace of Swords (Reversed), this represents “news of sickness or death.”
2. The Present — Arcanum XX—The Sarcophagus (reversed) is read as an “Awakening or Resurrection;”
3. The Future — Arcanum VII—The Conqueror is read as “Victory.”
4. The Ability to Control — King of Cups, is interpreted as “signifies a person ruled by the sign Cancer: mild, reserved, home-loving and pleasant. Right way up it denotes a Cancer man.”
5. The Environment — Five of Cups is read as “good fortune in love; its inner interpretation is Responsibility.”
6. The Opposition — Seven of Scepters is “success in teaching or publishing; its inner interpretation is devotion.”
7. The Outcome — Arcanum VI—The Two Paths. Zain says; “applying the test of love, corresponds to Arcanum VI.”



Summary

The fundraiser was for a friend who had recently been diagnosed with Stage IV Cancer signified by the Ace of Swords in the past position. The local arts and education community pooled their talents to raise funds for his health insurance and co-pays. Arcanum XX—The Sarcophagus represents the awakening within the community and the desire to help. The Future — Arcanum VII—The Conqueror, indicates a successful event. Approximately 400 friends and supporters were in attendance over the course of a four hour event. The King of Cups, is interpreted as a Cancer man. Perhaps it represents the tenacious family members who worked tirelessly to make the fundraiser a success. The environment

was symbolized by the Five of Cups, and the event was filled with loving family, friends, colleagues and strangers who showed up to support the guest of honor. The Opposition was the Seven of Scepters; read as devotion. There was no discernible opposition to success of this event, even in late November the weather cooperated. The final outcome represented by Arcanum VI—The Two Paths might represent the choices each guest had to make. This event was unique in that each guest who donated had the opportunity to choose a wrapped gift to take home that had been donated to the fundraiser by members of the art and business community.



Tarot Correspondence—Veiled Isis



Divination

“expresses in the spiritual world, the consciousness of Absolute Being, which embraces the three terms of all manifestation; the past, the present, and the future.

In the intellectual world, the binary, reflection of unity; and the perception of things visible and invisible.

In the physical world, woman the mold of man, uniting herself with him in order to accomplish an equal destiny.”

Admonition

“Remember, then, son of earth, that the mind is enlightened in seeking God with the eyes of the will. God has said, “Let there be Light,” and light inundated space. Man should say, “Let truth show itself and good come to me.” And if man possesses a healthy will, he will see the truth shine, and guided by it will attain all to which he aspires. If Veiled Isis should appear in the prophetic signs of thy horoscope, strike resolutely at the door of the future and it will open to you; but study for a long time the door you should enter. Turn your face toward the sun of justice, and the knowledge of the true will be given you. Keep silent in regard to your intentions, so as not to be influenced by the contradictions of men.”

Astrology

“Veiled Isis is none other than the immaculate Virgin who becomes a mother through union with the Holy Spirit. She sits in the doorway of the temple of Nature, veiling the knowledge that can only be gained through union, as depicted in Arcanum III. Arcanum II represents science. This is the harvest of experiences which have become assimilated as knowledge. Virgo is a scientific zodiacal sign, and it rules both the harvest and the processes of assimilation.”

Excerpts from *The Sacred Tarot* by C. C. Zain

The Order of the Sphinx

By Allyn McCray and Radine Ramsey

The Order of the Sphinx is the inner circle of The Church of Light established to give Hermeticians a venue to further advance character development and their collective contributions to Universal Welfare. The origin of The Order is lost in time, and its history a bit spotty. Available records indicate that it has been in existence since 1980, fell into inactivity, and was reactivated for a short time in January 2002 by Paul Brewer, President of the Church of Light, and a Dr. Angelo Chirban.

On October 22, 2005, at 2:01pm MDT in Albuquerque, New Mexico, following an annual meeting of the Church of Light, a body of nine Hermeticians led by Neil Cantwell voted to reactivate The Order of the Sphinx once again under a new and its current structure.

The structure of The Order of the Sphinx is based upon The Head, Body, Paws, and Wings of a Sphinx, and each section is headed up by a Section Advisor.

The Head of the Sphinx corresponds to Aquarius, the Head of Man, and an aspiration to research and publishing. The Body of the Sphinx corresponds to Taurus, the Body of the Bull, and to the gift of service in fund raising on behalf of The Church of Light and humanitarian efforts. The Paws of the Sphinx corresponds to Leo, the Paws of a Lion, and the mandate of teaching, mentoring, ritual and liturgy. Finally, the Wings of the Sphinx correspond to the regenerate form of Scorpio, the wings of an eagle, and its mandate to psychic research and investigation.

Section Advisors are elected by members of The Order serve a four-year term. Their duties include providing support and guidance to the members of their section, providing leadership on projects within their section, and serving as liaison between members of their group and The Council of Three.

The Council of Three provides all the administrative direction as well as representing the three main aspects of the Brotherhood of Light teachings: Astrology, Alchemy and

Esoteric Science. The original Brotherhood of Light titles for the Council were Seer, Scribe, and Astrologer. Elbert Benjamine held the title of Astrologer and Thomas Burgoyne, the Scribe, at various times in the original Brotherhood of Light. Today, these titles are still used. The Scribe oversees The Order and is responsible for coordinating and recording meetings and overseeing the activities of The Order. The Astrologer is responsible for the membership of the Order in

processing the membership allocations, keeping membership records, and settling membership issues. The Seer is responsible for the finances of The Order, the creation and implementation of initiation ceremonies, and coordinating the Lucidic Degree Program.

The word *Lucidic* stems from the word *lucid*,

meaning suffused with light; luminous; having full use of one's faculties; sane; clear to the understanding. Lucidic Degrees are a series of exercises that facilitate a path to Adeptship. There are 50 Lucidic Degrees under the following broad categories:

21 Book Manuscripts

Seven Physical Senses – Touch, Taste, Sight, Hearing, Smell, Intuition, Thought Transference

Seven Soul Senses – Psychometry, Absorption, Aromas, Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, Inspiration, Spiritual Communion

Sevenfold Constitution – Physical Body, Electromagnetic Form, Astral Body, Animal Soul, Spiritual Body, Human Soul, Ego

Seven States of Consciousness – Chemical, Vegetative, Psychic, Simple, Rational, Cosmic, Divine

Adeptship is the 50th Degree

The attainment of Lucidic Degrees is an ongoing process



The Order of The Sphinx Meeting—November, 2011

(Continued on page 13)

(The Order of the Sphinx Continued from page 12)

that may span a lifetime and is solely the responsibility of the individual Hermetician to attain. Currently, there are efforts underway to further define the specifics of the Lucidic Degree Program.

Probably the closest encounter members of The Church of Light have with activities of The Order is during the inspirational Initiation Ceremony conducted every other year at our Church of Light Conventions. However, another avenue exists. Even though it is a prerequisite to be a Hermetician before becoming eligible to join The Order, non-Hermeticians are welcome to assist in ongoing programs.

If you would like to volunteer your services to ongoing programs facilitated by The Order, please contact scribe.sphinx@light.org.

Order of the Sphinx General Meeting and Service

On Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on November 19th, The Order of the Sphinx held a General Meeting. We started off the morning with Krispy Creme Donuts and plenty of coffee.

Elections were held. Allyn McCray will be completing the term as Paws Advisor, and Renee Huval will begin a four-year term as Wings Advisor. Our new Astrologer is Adriana Donofrio.



November 20, 2011, Service

It was decided that The Order will be in charge of putting on the 2013 Church of Light Convention, and the convention will again be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

By noon we were hungry again. Members of the Order enjoyed Mediterranean cuisine at Gyros Restaurant. We feasted on hummus, Greek style potato chips, gyros sandwiches filled with beef and lamb, and more coffee.

The Church of Light Sunday Service was held the next day.

Rev. Paul Brewer spoke about Sub-Mundane Atoms of Happiness, and Rev. Allyn McCray lectured on Sagittarius: The Lightness of Being.

We honored the memory of Church of Light Member, Emmett Perry, who passed away on November 17, 2011. Rev. Christopher Gibson gave the eulogy and told us about the Emmett's joyful personality and his generosity in parting with the Doris Chase Doane platter so that it could be raffled off again at the next Church of Light Convention.

After the service, we enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast of turkey, vegetarian stuffing, cranberries, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. We sang a happy chorus of Happy Birthday to our two Sagittarian Ministers, Christopher Gibson and Allyn McCray.

**Volunteer Opportunities—The Order of the Sphinx**

The Order of the Sphinx is an organization of Hermeticians continuing their service to the **Church of Light**. There are four different sections of The Order each corresponding to a different component of the body of the sphinx which defines the work being done for the Church. Each section has projects in their areas that can be started by members, but assisted by all members of the Church of Light who might be interested. One of the sections is the Head of Man devoted to research. We continue to collect AA (Absolutely Accurate) charts with Paul Klamer as the primary contributor.

We currently have 3,707 files in 65 categories. The current categories are mostly career oriented. In the future we plan on expanding to include various health issues. We are preparing for the future where research may be done using these charts when enough data is available. The Head Section is also grateful to Dennis Sutton for various Mundane articles he has made available to our membership.

If you would like to participate in research projects or have a project to propose, please contact: Pat Ramsey at drpat@prodigy.net.

Numbers as Archetypes: The Pentad: Life Emerges

By Peter Tourian

As we arrive at the balance point in our journey through the numbers, we come to a new stage in the development of the universe. The first four numbers, taken from one perspective, can represent the four ancient elements of science: air, fire, water, and earth. To the ancient mind, they formed the physical substance of the world. However, as is readily plain to anyone who takes a moment to observe, some physical things are living and some are not. What then is the distinction between a living and a non-living thing?

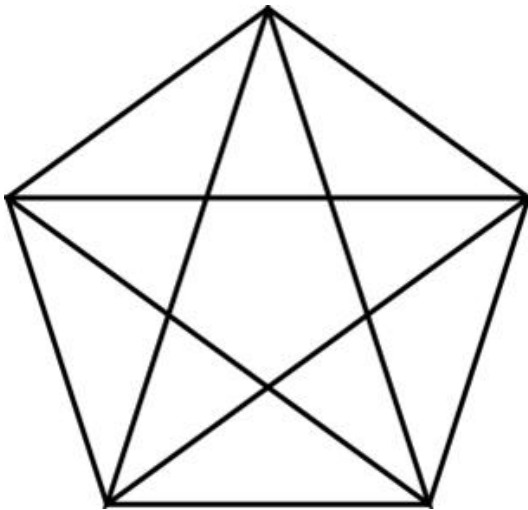


Figure 1: A pentagram inscribed within a pentagon.

The ancient sacred geometers discovered in the mathematics of the Pentad, the number Five, the symbol of the incredible burst of creative energy know as life. The development of an organism capable of some degree of self-awareness must be a miracle of sorts within natural realms. While certainly we as human beings have much purification and improvement to undergo, still, the realization of organisms which can reflect upon and probe their environment appears to be a unique and magical development in the history of the world. The ancient mathematical philosophers counted on the symbolism of the Pentad to communicate this special event.

Geometrically, the Pentad is closely linked with two

shapes: the pentagon, a five-sided regular polygon, and the pentagram, a five-point star (see Figure 1).

Discreetly hidden within the unassuming shape of the pentagram, we find myriad examples of one of the simplest, yet most profound relationships in all of mathematics. The *Golden Section* abounds in the pentagram. The Golden Section is not a number, but rather a relationship between numbers. The diagram below (Figure 2) will help to explain this simple, yet substantial, ratio.

In Figure 2, keep in mind that it is not the length of the line or the line segments which is important, but their relationship. Line segment b is the shortest portion of the line. It bears a certain relationship to line segment a . According to the Golden Section, line segment a must bear *the exact same relationship* to the whole line as line segment b bears to line segment a .

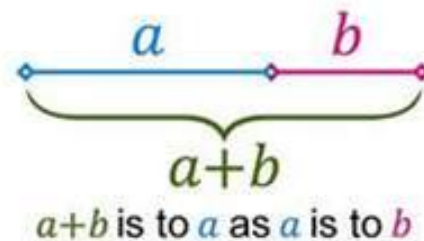


Figure 2: A line bisected according to the Golden Section.

This relationship, discovered and revered since ancient times, is ubiquitous in nature. It has been used by architects in their design of cathedrals and religious edifices. It has been used in art to capture the natural proportions of living things. And it is part and parcel of the human organism. Consider for a moment that: the distance from the tip of the head to the chin, bisected by the brow, is a Golden Section; the distance from the elbow to the tips of the fingers, bisected by the wrist, is a Golden Section; the distance from the top of the head to the feet, bisected by the navel, is a Golden Section. Numerous additional examples could be presented, and have been used by the world's artistic masters to capture the "ideal"

(Numbers as Archetypes Continued from page 14)

form of the human being. Indeed, it may very well be fair to state that what we think of as “beauty” is a tacit expression of this singular mathematical constant, known contemporarily as ϕ , the Greek letter *phi*.

The special and unique quality of ϕ is that it is a self-replicating line. It copies itself in such a way that the relationship of the shorter line to the longer line is exactly the same as the relationship of the longer line to the total line. This relationship can also be extended infinitely in either direction. A line of any length may be divided according to the Golden Section, and that line will always bear the exact same numerical relationship: ϕ . The sacred geometers of old saw in ϕ a symbol of life itself, for one of the key criteria in determining whether something is living or non-living is whether or not it can reproduce more of its own kind. Living things of all types must achieve this, and ϕ , through its simplicity but its profundity, achieves exactly this.

The Pentagram, a regular five-pointed star, is replete

with this constant. Also, a special quality of the pentagram is that it can be extended infinitely in either direction (see Figure 3). Its hallmark is regeneration and replication, as one of the essential qualities of a living thing is its capacity to reproduce more of its own kind.

Hence, owing to its unique mathematical properties, the Pentad has come to be synonymous with that unique and special gift of the Creator, the beginning and end of all things: Life.

References:

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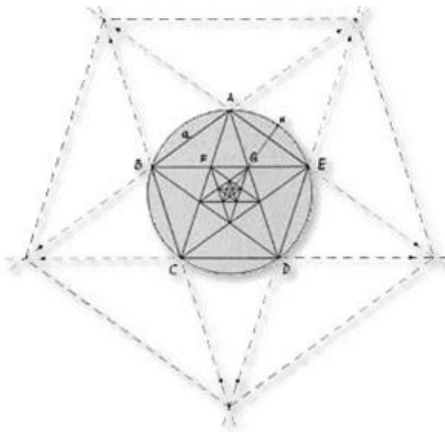


Figure 3: Pentagrams can be inscribed within pentagrams endlessly.

Virgo Insights (Continued from page 9)

working hard to manifest energy, a very bright light in the big job of bringing people together to support one another in moving forward. We have wonderful tools in our philosophy, The Religion of the Stars, and we have partnership, friendship, and opportunity. I challenge you, and I accept this challenge myself, to use our tools in order to work toward our personal goals of self-improvement without beating ourselves up for not being or doing more than we are able at this very moment. Remember the metaphor of the cracked jar: we use our very best to spread beauty, and for us the greatest beauty is our contribution to Universal Welfare.

Remember then, children of earth, that the mind is enlightened in seeking God with the eyes of the will. God has said, “Let there be Light,” and light inundated space. We should say, “Let truth show itself and good come to me.” And if we possess a healthy will, we will see the truth sine, and guided

by it we will attain all to which we aspire. If Virgo, the Veiled Isis, should appear in the prophetic signs of your horoscope, strike resolutely at the door of the future and it will open to you; but study for a long time the door you should enter. Turn your face toward the sun of justice, and the knowledge of the true will be given you. Keep silent in regard to your intentions, so as not to be influenced by the contradictions of humanity.

So Shall It Be

This article is dedicated to
Christopher Gibson and Arturo Olivas
and is from a series of sermons presented by
Meg Dissinger in 2005-2006
for Sunday services at
The Church of Light Headquarters, Albuquerque, NM.



Membership Room

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook ...
 Ali McCray, the CofL Communication Director, has created a space for
 the Church of Light and its' members.

For more information contact: ali@light.org

Sponsorship Program

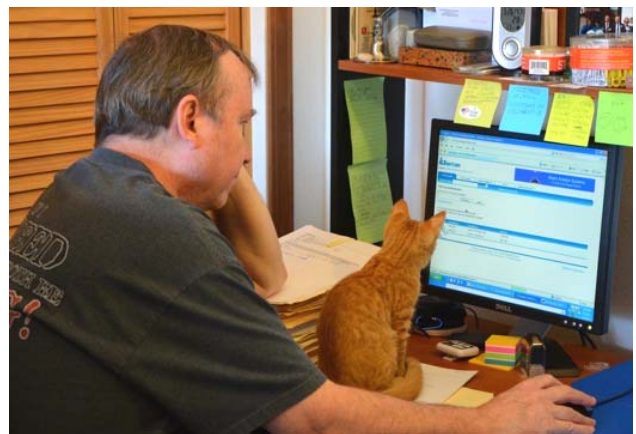
The Church of Light offers a Sponsorship Program for financially disadvantaged members. Sponsors agree to financially assist a member in their C of L studies by donating for their membership fee, lessons, and for the exam processing fee as the student studies the lessons and passes exams.

There are thirty-six members currently enrolled in the Sponsorship Program. Twenty-two of those members are incarcerated. Four members live in Africa, one from Cuba, and one from Australia. Since the Sponsorship Program began, six members being sponsored became Hermeticians.

To remain in the sponsorship program, an enrolled member must pass an exam once every six months with a grade of 75% or better. The next course is mailed only upon completion of the previous course.

There are always more members wishing to be sponsored than we have sponsors.

If you are interested in anonymously sponsoring a member in need, please contact our Membership Minister, Rev. Patrick Ramsey, at drpat@prodigy.net, email churchoflight@light.org or call the office Monday, Tuesday or Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time at 505-247-1338.



Patrick Ramsey (and assistant Tigger)

Classes and Services are available on Church of Light TV

When?

Whenever a class or 3rd Sunday Services is scheduled.

You will need to adjust for your time zone!

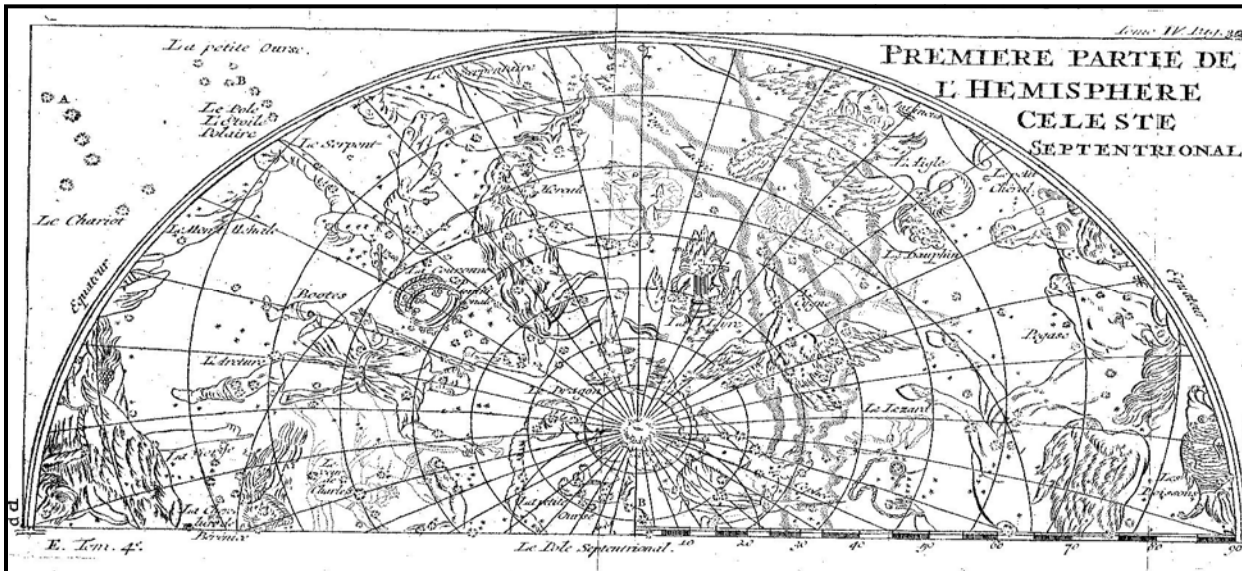
We are in MST (Mountain Standard Time).

Archived classes/services are available anytime.

How?

Simply logon to churchoflight.tv, enter your email, and select a class.

The Decanates of Astrology—Continuation



Date: 9 Thursdays

February 2 — March 29, 2012

Time: 6:30—8 p.m. MST

Instructor: Christopher Gibson

Location: Church of Light Headquarters

Early Classical astrologers such as Aratos, Ptolemy, and Marcus Manilius recognized 48 constellations; the 12 signs of the zodiac and the 36 decans. The word decan comes from the Greek meaning “ten” and each decanate corresponds to a ten-degree section of the zodiac. The decanates first evolved in Egyptian astrology before being absorbed by the Greco-Roman world.

In this 9-week class, instructor Christopher Gibson will take you on a journey through the folklore and mythologies of the classic world. Through astro-mythology we will discover keys to understanding character, personality, and the unique spiritual message that is encoded in every birth chart. This class will draw heavily upon the writings of C. C. Zain and contemporary astrological research conducted by Dennis Sutton in Australia.

This class is a continuation of the course that had to be postponed during the fall quarter. It will commence with Class I—the decanates of Aries which was not previously archived followed by the decanates of Leo.

February 2 – Aries

Triangulum, Eridanus, and Perseus

February 9—Leo

Crater, Centaurus, and Corvus

February 16– Virgo

Bootes, Hercules, and Corona Borealis

February 23 Libra

Serpens Draco, and Lupus

March 1—Scorpio

Ophiuchus, Ara, and Corona Australis

March 8 —Sagittarius

Lyra, Aquila, and Sagitta

March 15—Capricorn

Cygnus, Delphinus, and Pisces Australis

March 23–Aquarius

Equuleus, Pegasus and Cetus

March 29 - Pisces

Cepheus, Andromeda, and Cassiopeia

To Register:

Go Online to www.light.org

Email: churchoflight@light.org

Call: 505-247-1338 ext 103

Suggested donation:

\$12 per individual class

or \$100 for the series

(no one will be turned away for lack of funds)

Class Available Online at : www.churchoflight.tv

Fort Worth, Texas, Activities



The Fort Worth Center offers Brotherhood of Light classes on the first and second Tuesdays of the month from 7-9 p.m.

Religious services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 11 a.m.

A schedule for the upcoming year is available on their website at: owlswebnest.com

All classes and services are held at:

Owl's Clover Bookstore
3037 James Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas
817-921-5809

We Congratulate a New Certified Teacher

Yvette Fortin



We Welcome New Hermeticians

Stevie J. Johnson
Elvis Washington



In Memoriam—Margrit Morin

Margrit Morin, was a Minister and Hermetician in the Church of Light and served on the Board of Directors during the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Born on August 4, 1953, Margrit, a resident of Ward, Arkansas made her transition on Thursday, August 11, 2011, at age 58, after a brave & courageous battle with congestive heart failure.

In Memoriam—Emmett Perry

Born July 5, 1953, Church of Light member Emmett Perry passed into the next life on Thursday November 17, 2011, from a heart attack at age 58.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Diane Pinney, and his community of family and friends. He was born and died in Savannah, Georgia.



Sunday Services and Roundtable Discussions



Christopher Gibson



Veiga O'Sickey



Vicki Brewer



Paul Brewer

Astrology and Tarot Roundtable discussions

First and second Sundays of the month
Moderators will alternate between Paul Brewer,
Yvette Fortin, Christopher Gibson and Veiga O'Sickey

Services

We are happy to welcome
Rev. Vicki Brewer, Allyn McCray and Radine Ramsey
to the Third Sunday Service ministerial team.



Allyn McCray



Radine Ramsey

Please join us:
Live in ABQ, NM at
Church of Light Headquarters
or
Online at www.light.org

Schedule—2012, 1st Quarter

Month	Day	Time	Event	Presenter
January	1 st		New Year's Day – Happy Holiday!	No Event
	8 th	11 a.m. – 1p.m.	Astrology Lab	Paul Brewer
	15 th	11 a.m. – 1p.m.	Third-Sunday Service and potluck: Aquarius - ♒	Christopher Gibson & Allyn McCray
February	5 th	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Zain Spirit	Veiga O'Sickey
	12 th	11 a.m. – 1p.m.	Astrology Lab	Paul Brewer
	19 th	11 a.m. – 1p.m.	Third-Sunday Service and potluck: Pisces - ♓	Christopher Gibson & Allyn McCray
March	4 th	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Zain Spirit	Veiga O'Sickey
	11 th	11 a.m. – 1p.m.	Astrology Lab	Paul Brewer
	18 th	11 a.m. – 1p.m.	Third-Sunday Service and potluck: Aries ♈ <i>Spring Equinox</i>	Christopher Gibson & Allyn McCray

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Building A Better World With A Better Vision! The Church of Light Vision For the 21st Century

OUR MISSION:

To promote Universal Welfare and the exaltation of humankind through the teaching and practices of the Religion of the Stars as outlined in the writings of C.C. Zain.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

A loving Cosmic Intelligence, of which we are all a part, whose infinite goodness guides us through undeviating natural law.

A Divine Plan manifests through progressive evolution in which each soul has a unique and important role.

A soul is completely moral when to the maximum extent of its abilities it adheres to the universal moral code: Contribute Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.

The realization of the soul's Mission and the attainment of Self-Conscious Immortality is the goal toward which each soul moves.

Love is the way to life. Unselfish Love alone makes immortality possible.

Through the proper exercise of one's mentality using Directed Thinking and Induced Emotion, it is possible to control one's own life and destiny, both here and hereafter.

Astrology is the Golden Key that unlocks the door to understanding the Soul's true character and potential.

The safe development of extrasensory perception (Extension of Consciousness) is the best tool for realizing each individual's mission in the Divine Plan and for verifying the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.

Religion is the sister of Science, and it evolves by incorporating new information as it is discovered and verified.

OUR VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY:

We are a powerful force for good and for spiritual enlightenment and expand the reach and experience of our members because:

We provide reliable and verifiable information regarding the nature of the soul and its relationship to Deity and other life forms;

We seek out reliable and verifiable information regarding life on higher planes of existence, especially in regard to the transition we call death and the nature of the next life;

We develop increasingly advanced tools and training in astrology, extrasensory perception, directed thinking and induced emotion toward the end of maximizing each person's happiness, usefulness and spirituality;

We promote the importance of the four essential freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion;

We build a sense of community and spiritual purpose which uplifts and inspires our members to Contribute Their Utmost To Universal Welfare.