

## GREETINGS;

As July finally ends with a dynamic Full Moon on 7/31 (a so-called "Blue Moon") with the Sun in Leo and the Moon in Aquarius, we welcome the change that lies ahead. Please read the article from yesterday's Houston Chronicle [here](#). In July Mars was running rogue in water sign Cancer and it was an experience in insanity and unforeseen circumstances for most of us. On August 8 Mars enters Leo where our hearts can heal with creative ideas and activities and the comfort of friends and family.

On August 8 Jupiter ends its 12 month stay in Leo and moves forward to energize the traits of practical Virgo, and we can all slow down and heal. The New Moon in Leo on 8/14 begins a cycle of creative expansion and increased awareness of our true desires and needs. The Sun enters earthy Virgo on 8/23 and the Full Moon follows on 8/29. This is definitely a more enjoyable energy pattern for all of us to enjoy. If you have not taken time off yet this summer, August is a great time to do so, particularly on 6/4 when Venus and Jupiter join together for the second and final time in Leo or 8/26 when the Sun in Virgo joins Venus in Virgo, begging us to rest and make time for self-care. After Mars enters Leo on 8/8, all of the personal planets (Sun, Venus, Mercury, Mars and Jupiter) are in social signs, urging us to make time for friends and family who vibrate on our frequency so we can have a non-distorted mirror. This is how we regain balance and begin the healing process. At month's end Mercury enters Libra, where he will remain for more than 9 weeks (3 times the norm), urging us to think about relationships, fairness and balance.

Now that the trends are summarized, let's look at the chronology of August and see what lies ahead:

The Aquarius Full Moon on the morning of 7/31 awakens us to the trends in August. The Full Moon brings about dynamic tension between our personal, creative expression and our expanded social and/or community awareness. The Sun in Leo at this Full Moon symbolizes our fiery, heart centered, passionate impulse for a full life. The Moon in Aquarius filters that energy through the multitudes of expressive thoughts that all of us experience, inviting us to accept our diversity. This Full Moon urges us to fearlessly and generously shine our light so we can see and be seen by those who share our values and mission. The message is be and accept yourself. Find your tribe. Since Leo is the sign most associated with personal creativity and Aquarius seeks collaboration among equals, the combining of these two archetypes expands us to be more of what we all are at the core. This is especially true since this Full Moon energy is influenced by the combining of Venus and Jupiter in Leo as well. We are growing more than we have for 24 and 48 years.

On August 1 Saturn, the planet that forces us to reassess our limits and boundaries, reclaim our power and authority, and be more realistic and responsible, begins its march forward in Scorpio. Two days later Saturn and Jupiter complete the tug of war that began last month allowing us to reconcile our beliefs with our goals. This is a natural correction between being overly optimistic and overly pessimistic. It is a dreams vs. reality theme song, foretelling the ending of the excessive optimism of Jupiter in Leo on 8/11, and being replaced by Jupiter in Virgo. Jupiter remains in Virgo until 9/9/2016 and encourages the use and development of an earthy pragmatism, a strong focus on simplicity, discernment and self-improvement, as well as widening our understanding of health and healing. We last experienced this energy pattern from 8/27/2003-9/24/2004. It will bring new opportunities to those with planets in Virgo.

On Tuesday, 8/4, Jupiter and Venus entwine in Leo one last time encouraging us to enjoy life's pleasures, get together with friends, or just rest and exhale. It is a great time to begin a vacation or at least take some time off. It will be hard to deny our desires for rest, recreation and relaxation and fun in general. On 8/5 Saturn and Venus realign us to the responsibilities in our life, especially those related to our budget and financial realities, as well as what we truly value. After midnight, Mars in Cancer and Saturn in Scorpio form a peaceful triangle, which should release tension and provide restful sleep. On 8/6 Mercury and Venus join together providing those who can use it a "charm alarm" for communicating and thinking successfully. If you have anyone you need to resolve conflict with, this is the day to do it. On 8/7 Mercury enters practical Virgo and will bring us down to earth to fix whatever is broken in our lives. The energy to be strong and active gets a boost on the evening of 8/8 as Mars enters Leo until 9/24. For the next 7 weeks we will feel more confident, have more courage and stamina and the energy to participate in what we truly enjoy. We all will be drawn to activities and people where we can experience a sense of belonging.

On 8/11 Jupiter leaves Leo and enters work oriented Virgo. Since Jupiter enhances the qualities of the sign it occupies, we could see the job market expand over the next 13 months, especially in technical and/or service oriented occupations, as well as the healing industries and engineering. Now is the time to pay attention to details and fix all the broken places in yourself and your life. We will all be looking for greater joy and satisfaction in our work and service activities. Mercury moves into opposition with dreamy Neptune on 8/12. It is tempting to daydream and/or exaggerate our fears during this time. On 8/15 Mercury and Pluto support reality once again in earth signs Virgo and Capricorn, the two most practical and realistic in the Zodiac.

The New Moon in Leo occurs on 8/14 and it is a powerhouse as Venus joins this New Moon. A New Moon is the ideal time to set new intentions. This New Moon in Leo reveals where we are ready for more love, creativity and joy in our lives. Leo represents the journey of self-discovery, being heart centered. It draws to us the courage to step fully into our power as creators. We ask: "What was I born to be?", "What makes me happy?", "Where does my authentic self need to go?" With Venus in Leo joining this New Moon, we are drawn to more rest, pleasure and play in our lives, clarifying what matters most to us, as well as what is blocking us from having what we really want. Venus will be in Leo almost 4 times longer than her normal passage in any sign, and in close proximity to Jupiter from 6/14-8/17, amplifying our need to open our hearts and love ourselves and others, and life in general. With Mars energizing the Leo energy pattern from 8/8-9/24, our passions will be aroused, as well as our confidence. Uranus in Aries supports us being true to ourselves and finding our own way. On 8/15 Mercury and Pluto make a strong triangle which allows us to transform our inner critic into a helpful editor. The message of this New Moon is to trust our intuition. On 8/15 the Sun and Venus join together for the last time in Leo adding more zest to the theme of being loving to yourself and others.

On 8/19 Venus in Leo and Uranus in Aries make their last contact, and brilliance is the gift it leaves if we take the time to open it. On 8/23 the Sun enters Virgo and the Moon and Mars team up to get things taken care of with ease and practicality. With the Sun now in the sign of the "fixer", nothing can remain broken. On 8/26 the Sun and Jupiter join together in an expansive healing aspect for whatever you need to heal. On 8/27 Mercury enters Libra so we can turn our thoughts to kindness and civility and enjoy our relationships with greater focus on meeting our own needs as well as those of others.

The Pisces Full Moon occurs on 8/29, helping to illuminate whether we are on the right track. This Full Moon sheds light on the validity of our beliefs, the vitality of our ideals and points to where a shift in perspective can make a difference between our dreams and our reality. The Sun in Virgo symbolizes our reality and the Moon in Pisces illuminates our dreams. This is the first of 3 Super Moons in a row, where the Moon is both closest to the earth and in alignment with the Sun and Earth. SuperMoons generate stronger gravitational and electromagnetic pull on the earth and its tides, as well as our physical bodies, thus facilitating greater shifts if both. Sensible Virgo energy strives for practical information since it is ruled by Mercury. Pisces is a sensitive water sign ruled by nebulous Neptune and seeks transcendence. Virgo functions through analysis and Pisces navigates through intuition and empathy. Three days before the Full Moon the Sun joins expansive Jupiter and then thereafter on 8/31 opposes Neptune. We will be pulled by these two opposing forces the last week of August, offering the opportunity for integration and balance between these two powerful forces. Also on 8/31 Venus makes its 2nd of 3 conjunctions with Mars. The first was on 2/21 in Aries and the 3rd will be on 11/2 in Virgo. This is a super magnet for love and money and the clarity of desire. Enjoy the fireworks.

As you can see, there is tremendous opportunity for clarity and balance in August if we follow our hearts desires and avoid what does not serve us. I will be in the office for appointments in August as my short vacation will be on the weekend. Enjoy the forward movement and the end of summer activities as we get back to the business of improving ourselves and our lives.

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LIFESTYLE

# 'Once in a blue moon' is about to happen

By **Kyrie O'Connor** | July 29, 2015 | Updated: July 29, 2015 8:04pm

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Photo: Cody Duty, Staff

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**IMAGE 1 OF 4**

Pigeons sit on power lines on Studewood in front of the moon. The third of four full moons in a season is a "blue moon," though many believe it's the second full moon in a month.

The phrase "blue moon," meaning, roughly, "not going to happen," has been around for hundreds of years. But the actual celebration of the blue moon as a specific astronomical phenomenon is recent. And, like so many things, it started in Texas.

In 1980, Deborah Byrd was rummaging around the University of Texas astronomy library in Austin, looking for material for her NPR radio show, "Star Date." In a 1946 edition of the magazine "Sky & Telescope," she found a definition of a blue moon as the second full moon in a calendar month. The next takes place at 5:42 a.m. Friday.

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She went with it on the air, then and for many years after.

The blue moon caught on as a phenomenon, firmly entering the culture as a Trivial Pursuit answer in 1986.

"But the article had made an error," Byrd says now. "I copied the mistake and publicized it like crazy for almost 40 years."

The "real" astronomically accepted definition of a blue moon was the third of four full moons within a season.

"Astronomy is full of people who love to nitpick," says Byrd, still in Austin and now editor-in-chief of earthsky.org, a science and astronomy news website.

"It's kind of dumb, really, in my opinion," she says. Neither definition has any real astronomical significance

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## LIFESTYLE

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and is just a matter of folklore. (And the "wrong" definition is, she says, much easier to understand.) A lunar month has 29.5 days, so periodically - usually once every two-and-a-half years - a month with 30 or 31 days will

have a full moon at the beginning and a full moon at the end. Monthly full moons all have folk names. (In the northern hemisphere, July's is the Thunder or Hay Moon.) The second in a month has no specific name; thus it is known as the blue moon. At earthsky.org, Byrd celebrates both kinds of blue moons.

"Blue Moon will be on my tombstone," Byrd says.

Peg the existence of blue moons to, of all things, our agrarian origins, says Carolyn Sumners, vice president of astronomy and physical sciences at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

People with nomadic cultural pasts, such as Muslims, have purely lunar calendars. A month begins with the new moon and ends with the next new moon. "If you live in the desert, this is a logical system," she says. "You choose the calendar that's best for your lifestyle."

Under that system, the calendar has 11 days "left over" at the end, and thus an important marker such as, say, Ramadan moves 11 days each year.

Agricultural communities that had to plan growing seasons couldn't function that way, and thus they sprinkled the extra 11 days throughout the year, Sumners says. That's why two full moons can occur within one month.

On rare occasions, such as a major volcanic eruption, an ordinary moon can appear blue because of matter in the atmosphere, but that is a different sort of blue moon.

Sumners regrets that modern life has driven basic understanding of the movement of the moon and Earth and the rhythms of the seasons out of general knowledge. "Rural kids had

**Jokes on us: July 31**

**Birthdays: July 31**

**Looking back: July 31**

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a good idea of why there were long days and short days, and they understood the seasons," she says.

But now she has had even Harvard grads tell her that summer is warm because Earth is closer to the sun. (No. It's the tilt of the Earth's axis.) "Try to explain global warming if you don't even understand the seasons," says Sumner.

Full moons have great significance in astrology, says Houston astrologer Nan Hall Linke, but the arbitrary position in the calendar month is not important.

"But I believe intention is everything, and if you want it to be wonderful, it will be," she says.

At this full moon, the sun is in Leo and the moon in Aquarius, an arrangement that happens only every 12 years, she says. "It's a personal and collective event, spectacular for entertaining. It's the perfect time to have a party."



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