

## GREETINGS:

I hope a wonderful time of gratitude and thanksgiving has initiated your holiday season. As we move into this season of celebration and giving, it is a time to reconnect, reflect, and plan for the beginning of the New Year. On December 21, the Winter Solstice marks the natural shifting of the earth and the changing of the pattern of light. For this reason, a ritual time of release, rededication and release calls us to re-map the inner landscape. As we all understand increasingly, what we put our attention on, grows. With this in mind, on Sunday, December 20, I will host the annual Winter Solstice Ritual at my house at 7:00 PM. Instructions for preparation will be sent later this week, but for those who have attended in previous years and have been asking whether we would have a ritual this year, the answer is a resounding YES! In this years of difficult change, symbolized by the pattern of Saturn in Libra and Pluto in Capricorn, we must all redraw our boundaries, get more honest, and find ways to re-empower ourselves. Mark your calendar if you plan to attend.

**GIFT CERTIFICATES:** As you plan what you want to give yourself, your friends and family, please consider the value of talking through your hopes, fears and dreams for the upcoming year and purchase a gift certificate for an astrological consultation for 2010. After 40 years I am still amazed at the potential of astrology to increase our understanding of our cycles of change and experience; thereby giving us opportunity to maximize our growth. Please call my office to purchase a gift certificate.

**LANDSCAPING;** Paradoxically, this is now one of the best times of year to plant, prune and spruce up your yard for the holidays and the always early Spring we have in Houston. Our increasingly mild winters mimic spring in other parts of the country. As many of you know, El Nino brings a warm and wet winter to Houston. I use locally grown plants, many natives, and supervise all jobs personally with a crew I trained and have worked with for the past 9 years. If you only want my expertise, I charge \$90 for an hour consultation. Please call my office at 713/520-1551 to schedule a time for me to help you.

**A WORD ABOUT PREDICTIVE ASTROLOGY;** When I began my study of astrology over 40 years ago, I was taught many complex formulas about how astrology would cause events in peoples lives. This was a very limiting and frightening concept that had dominated the use of astrology for thousands of years. Fortunately, computers allowed us to calculate charts more quickly, and astrology became more popular with the public, and people like myself were able to understand astrology differently. Astrology does not cause anything to happen, it is a growing medium that guides change, development and/or crisis and regression. If you have encountered a form of astrology that causes fear and/or limitation, please eliminate it from your life. Astrology is a tool of consciousness and planning.

In my experience, The value of finding someone to talk with and be heard by cannot be quantified. Over 44 years ago, I went to the first of many people I have discussed my feeling life with. It launched me on a path of change which I will stay on all my life. I still consult others for insight, mirroring and their wealth of information on growth and development. My consciousness grows with the understanding and wisdom others have shared with me. The tools given to me have been truly amazing. As we age, it is understandable to have increased fear and doubt, but I have learned it is not necessary. I hope each of you finds friends and counselors to help you in this important way. Feeling leads to healing, so let it flow.

I am available for personal appointments all month. I do telephone consultations with those in other locations.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

NAN HALL LINKE

## DECEMBER ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

We begin December with the planet Uranus moving forward in Pisces for the first time since July 1. If you have been in the doldrums, your life is about to change in a big way, as Uranus is the strongest change agent in our solar system. There are two Full Moons in December, the first on 12/2 and the second on 12/31, hence the term "Blue Moon", which refers to a calendar month with 2 Full Moons. The New Year's Eve Full Moon also combines with a Lunar Eclipse in Cancer, the sign which rules the Moon. Expect an emotional time on this holiday. My suggestion is to stay at home and celebrate.

As many of you already know, our least favorite pattern, Mercury retrograde begins on 12/26, ending on January 15 with a New Moon and a Solar Eclipse. Not a good time for shopping, deciding, travel or communication. Make the best of it with the foreknowledge that you are not responsible for the confusion.

On 12/20, Mars begins its backward period in Leo, which amplifies the anger some people feel and project onto others. My suggestion is to avoid the hostile, arrogant people wherever possible. This is a great challenge during the holiday season, but do your best and practice your breathing to calm yourself down.

On 12/21 a particular vital Winter Solstice occurs, which signals a natural shift in energy and light. On that day Jupiter and Neptune join together in Aquarius, which is a fabulous time for a social gathering and lightening your mood. Creative imagination is at its zenith this day. It is a rainbow we can all ride for some time.

December begins with many planets in fire signs, helping with optimism and energy. Mental energy Mercury moves into Capricorn on 12/5, where it joins Pluto on 12/7, at which time reality has never been so clear and so deep and profoundly life changing. Later that day, Mercury and Saturn square off, helping our realistic assessment of our relationship needs and the reality of our situation. Mercury makes no more major aspects in December, except the slowing down on 12/26. Hopefully this will keep confusion to a minimum and limit the tendency to overexpose ourselves to others.

Venus, our value, beauty and social planet, begins December in playful, optimistic Sagittarius, which bodes well for social functions and life in general. It should make the holiday season more entertaining and lighthearted, especially for those with planets in Sagittarius. On 12/15 Venus joins the Moon, which is a wonderful feeling combination, and on 12/17 is energized by Mars in Leo, a pattern which revs up our creative engines and social opportunities. Say "yes" to all invitations this day. On 12/19 Venus and Uranus create an unusual and possibly amazing change in relationship options. On 12/25 Venus enters earth sign Capricorn which should bring about a more pleasant period in the lives of those with planets in Capricorn. On 12/28 Venus joins Pluto in Capricorn. This is a serious pattern and not the time to have a talk about love and/or finances with those close to you. On 12/29 Venus and Saturn intensify this warning. This is a day to slow down, rest and turn off our mind and open your heart.

As mentioned earlier, Mars, the energizer, is spending this month and the next 6 months in creative fire sign Leo. Since this is normally a one month visit, Mars has to slow down and rest for a long period of time before getting up steam to go forward. This period begins on 12/20. For those who feel exhausted and a bit discouraged, this is a time to review and revise your plans. It is particularly advised to avoid negative people and those who practice passive aggression and open aggression during the next 3 months. There may be a tendency for some of us to become impatient during this dormant season, but I can assure you, waiting for clarity and easy

movement will be worth the wait. Surrender your impulsively and demanding nature for best results.

As Saturn continues moving through Libra, we are all examining our relationship choices and needs. This is especially true for those with planets in Libra. As our boundaries and priorities change over the next two years, we will naturally find ourselves saying "no" to things we used to say "yes" to, and vice versa.

Jupiter is moving through Aquarius, joining Neptune on 12/21, which is a major pattern of spiritual and creative potential, particularly for those with planets in Aquarius, Sagittarius and Pisces.

Uranus is moving forward in Pisces, urging us to find an inner life to bring about greater freedom.

Neptune remains in Aquarius urging us to dream collectively.

Pluto is beginning its slow movement through Capricorn teaching us the power of personal responsibility for ourselves and leading us to greater maturity and authenticity.