

GREETINGS;

I hope your year has gotten off to a productive optimistic beginning. As we move into February, life should get more interesting, as uncertainty and change are the New Normal for 2012. For those of us in Houston, it appears that Spring is nearly here. After mid-February, if no inclement weather arrives, we can get our yard and our wardrobes ready for warm weather.

LANDSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES; I hope you are itching to get your yard clean and beautiful. I know I am sorely tempted to plant and clean and after 2/15, if the warmer, wetter weather continues, which I think it will, I will be available to help you as you get ready to move forward with your Spring 2012 beautification projects. This is a great time to install a sprinkler system, evaluate the condition of your trees, plant new trees and prune existing trees. The grass is a mess and needs help with weeds soon, so what is left of the grass can grow as the evenings warm up. The horribly hot and dry summer has given landscape professionals a new awareness of what will survive these extremes. I believe we will not have a repeat of last year in 2012. This is a new cycle, not a repeat. Please let me know if I can help you design, improve or clean up your yard.

FEBRUARY ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK;

February is loaded with change as we move into new cycles. For the first time since the 19th century, Neptune, the planet of imagination and spiritual inspiration, moves home to its sign of Pisces on 2/3. This is a very lengthy, slow moving transition, so don't expect sudden changes. Neptune is the creator of subtlety, moving from the inside out. I don't think it is an accident that Time magazine has a cover on Introversion as we move into this period. After 6 year of research, Susan Cain's magnificently written and meticulously researched book "Quiet, The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking" was published the last week of January. For all of us who proudly wear this designation and for those who want to understand us, this is a must read.

On 2/7 Saturn finally turns backward and quits grinding away on all of us from the last degree of Libra, bringing us all into a new awareness of what we bring to relationships and what we need in return. This is a once every 30 year review of who we are and what we need from others. For some this is their first time of active review of their priorities. For others it is an awareness of how we and our needs have changed in the past 30 years. This is a bit of a pause period in relationship struggles which should start back gaining in earnest when Saturn makes its final move forward and leaves Libra for good on 10/5. Try to recover from 2/7-6/25, at which time the wheels get going stronger than very.

The first day of February brings a dynamic combustion of Mars and Venus as Venus moving through Pisces passes the opposition point to Mars, as it moves backwards in Virgo. This is a highly charged energy pattern, which will bring conflict to some, passion to others, but not a chance of being neutral about money and love.

The highly charged Full Moon in Leo occurs on 2/7 with Saturn moving backwards and Mercury energizing the pattern by joining the Sun in Aquarius and then opposing the Moon in Leo. This is not a peaceful combination for serious conversation or problem solving. It is a great time to get together with friends and business associates. The energy is just right for networking and enjoying a light hearted gathering.

The New Moon in Pisces on the afternoon of 2/21 is preceded by a balancing of emotional energy from Saturn and a jolt of magic from Neptune which fertilizes the fantasies beyond belief. After the Moon becomes new, the pattern of new beginnings for a month, the energy of Mercury enriches the mind with feeling and creativity on 2/22 and then gets the opposing force of Mars in Virgo stirring the pot with aggravation and potential conflict.

Mental messenger Mercury begins he month in Aquarius, leading us to conversation with friends and group activities where we will find kindred spirits and spirited communication with others. This is the time of synchronistic meetings and opportunities to run into those we need to meet and connect with. On 2/13,

Mercury moves into a stabilizing pattern with Saturn, which encourages clear thinking and good problem solving. On that day, Mercury moves into Pisces, where the imagination is rich with images and feeling. On 2/14 Mercury joins Neptune for a very romantic feeling day. Please don't spend this day alone, as it is great time to express yourself with others and receive as good as you give. The great teacher Bishop Shelby Spong says the task of life is to "love wastefully", and for those of us who can take up this challenge, this is the day to do it. The inspiration for giving and receiving love is very high at this time. On 2/23 Mercury opposes that troublesome Mars in Virgo energy. Whether this agitates you within yourself in the form of self doubt or self hatred, or regret, delete it and find away to become peaceful in spite of the agitating nature of this combination of energy. Do not try to solve problems with others this day. It will not succeed.

Venus, the planet of love and friendship begins February in the feeling sign of Pisces, and as mentioned above, is opposed by Mars in Virgo on 2/1. This can be irritability on steroids for some, especially if you are not getting your needs met in your relationships with others. On 2/8, just after the Full Moon, Venus moves into Aries, where it becomes clear, decisive and somewhat demanding, especially when joined by Uranus on 2/9. This is the day in 2012 to know exactly what you need and do not need from others, but probably not the best day to communicate it, as there will be no way to keep your awareness filtered by tact. It is an aspect similar to what is known as "flash of genius". If you are working on a problem that needs a solution, make time to reflect on it this day. Finally, on 2/15, Venus makes its final strong pattern of the month with Pluto in Capricorn. This sometimes creates a feeling of disappointment or loss, followed by an angry determination to bring about lasting change.

Mars, the planet of action and determination, fueled by anger, continues its re-evaluation of every detail of life in Virgo. For those who are problem solvers and realists, this is a great time for implementing improvement, as Jupiter moves through earthy Taurus and Pluto moves slowly through Capricorn. Many people, particularly those with planets in earth signs Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn, will have the opportunity and awareness of the need to make changes in their life in 2012, especially in the first 6 months of the year.

Jupiter continues moving through Taurus in February, bringing opportunity for growth, travel, education and prosperity for all of us with the Taurus virtues of thrift, dependability, endurance and love of sensuality.

Saturn moves backward in Libra giving us an opportunity to review and decide on what our relationship needs are and how to get them

Uranus moves slowly through Aries for the first time in 84 years, bringing us a clear awareness of how we can change quickly and decisively. It is the pattern of the entrepreneur who moves against the social norm and creates a new form of being. It encourages us to be more self reliant and take a position of courage, not victimization. As Joel Osteen says: "Be a victor, not a victim".

Neptune moving into Pisces for more than a decade and a half leads us to find spiritual solutions to life's challenges and dreams. It is, as Howard Ceasar of Unity says a time to "Clear the Fear", because what we imagine is being fertilized by the powerful force of Neptune in Pisces, a time to dream big dreams and release worry.

Pluto in Capricorn is turning life upside down for all of us, as the institutions of power have become too big to respond to the speed at which life is changing.

February is a month which celebrates the Aquarian Ideal of freedom for all and the awareness that we are all one. It is the beginning of the period of extreme creativity that intensifies as the Sun enters Pisces and joins Neptune for the beginning of a time of increased chaos, leading to a new creative solution to life's challenges. In the Northern Hemisphere, we are ending the dormant period of winter as we prepare for the arrival of Spring on March 20. Get yourself ready for a time of renewal and action and seek inspiration from others and a rich inner life of the spirit.

If you need help in processing, preparing or clearing out the obstacles to this amazing time, I will be happy to help you do so. Please call my office to schedule your appointment.

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