

GREETINGS;

I hope you are enjoying our early Spring and the return of rain, our 6th heaviest start to the year since records were available. In this year of opposites, we might have a long, wonderful Spring and a rainy cooler summer. Don't forget to make your plans to spend the morning of March 17 at the FREE skin care seminar presented by Anita Ricca, the fabulous esthetician who has taken care of my nearly 69 year old face for almost 30 years. If you are as sick of ugly and brown as I am, this is the perfect time to clean up and replant and assess the condition of your trees and see if your grass will come back. For those with edible ornamentals in your landscape, especially Meyer lemons, a bloomfest is occurring. Wait to fertilize till next week and go out and remove some of the bloom clusters by hand where there are four or more blooms in a cluster.

LANDSCAPING; If you are eager to improve, clean up or redesign your landscape, please give me a call at 713/520-1551. The plants coming out of the greenhouses are fantastic and I have great people to help with any of your needs: irrigation and drainage, tree assessment, pruning and planting, paths, plant selection and planting and clean up.

MARCH ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

In this final month of winter with the Sun in a water sign until March 20, a steady, slow release of feelings is nourishing out plans for the next season. With Mercury, Venus and Uranus in fiery, active, decisive Aries, we had all better enjoy this softer time before a more active time begins. We get some help in that endeavor when Mercury goes retrograde on March 12 in Aries, returning to Pisces from 3/23-4/15, during which time Mercury moves forward again on April 4. As we all know all too well, things go haywire with our communication, appointments, details and understanding of life when this occurs. The challenge, as always is to plan well, with flexibility wired into our plans, verify everything, buy no electronics or cars during this time, and embrace uncertainty with a great sense of humor.

As we begin March, Mercury is at the last degree of Pisces, hanging loose before it moves into Aries on 3/2 and snaps back into motion with a vengeance. On 3/5 we have the "Flash of Genius" aspect as Mercury moves into relationship with Uranus in Aries, bringing new ideas, solutions to old dilemmas and a desire to brainstorm with wizards. Save your decisions for this day, as original ideas will flow like a waterfall. If you still need inspiration, mark your calendar for 3/18, as Mercury backs up to this point for Act 2 of your brilliant period. The final act of this most interesting pattern occurs next month on 4/22 and returns again next year. This is a time of solving problems and making future plans. The period when Mercury is occupying Pisces, 3/1, 3-23-4/15 is an introverted thinking period, which requires silence and stillness for answers to come into visibility. As the great Sufi poet advised us, we should work twice as long in the invisible world as we do in the visible. For those of us who want to understand the gift of Introversion, I strongly recommend Susan Cain's bestseller "Quiet". I devoured it and have been more peaceful thereafter. During the period when Mercury is energized in Aries (3/2-22), we feel the need to decide and communicate clearly in all matters. It is the gift of astrology that we can know how to position ourselves to "go with the flow" in nature.

Venus begins March finishing up a power walk in Aries, making us keenly aware of our needs and wants, and giving us little incentive to keep it to ourselves. On 3/4, Venus moves into opposition to Saturn in Libra for a reality check and the possibility of finding our limits in our relationships with others, particularly those closest to us. It is not a day to make demands or expect to be heard by those in authority. On 3/5 Venus moves into its peaceful home of Taurus, bringing a feeling of peacefulness, acceptance and pleasure, particularly to those with planets in Taurus. Since Jupiter is slowly expanding the lives of those with planets in Taurus, the presence of Venus in Taurus is a super booster for our blooming lives. This is an abundant, prosperous time for those who have prepared carefully for it. On 3/13, Venus moves into balance with Pluto in Capricorn, making a nice earth triangle. This pattern brings balance and opportunity into our lives, mentally, physically and financially, especially for those with planets in earth signs Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn. The rest of us can live well off the fumes of this structure. On 3/14 Venus moves

into an embrace with bountiful Jupiter and then to a stability with Mars in Virgo. It doesn't get any better than this. Please use this time constructively and you will be well rewarded.

Mars continues the slow movement backward in Virgo, stirring up fires to be put out, some real, others imaginary. Fortunately we get a break on 4/13 as Mars begins its forward move and our natural aggression merges with progress once again. At least we now know where the work needs to succeed. On 3/3 the Sun in Pisces opposes Mars in Virgo, providing a possibility of explosive feelings and a regression into victim feelings. This is all illusion, so observe, and save the reaction for later when you are in greater balance. If you have challenges at this time, please find someone to talk it through with. Keeping it inside or nursing the feelings by yourself is a recipe for failure. We are designed for collaboration before we decide and act.

Jupiter is moving slowly through earthy Taurus, bringing an abundant Spring to enjoy.

Saturn is moving backward in Libra, putting stress on all our relationships, showing us where we need to remodel our conceptual frameworks and rebuild so they can grow. This 2/12 year period only occurs every 30 years and ends on 10/5, so we still have some time to understand what we need in relationships based on an honest assessment of ourselves as we are now, not who we used to be. It is also an opportunity for each of us to determine the boundaries of our authentic, mature selves, not what we "should" be or want. The great Albert Ellis labeled this practice of becoming what the social conforming norm wanted us to be as "Musterbation". The time for leaving that habit behind is now.

Uranus is beginning a 7 year period of raising our self expression energies while slowly moving through Aries. Those with planets in Aries don't need any help with this assignment. The rest of us will be surprised at our new clarity and the enthusiasm with which we express it. In 7 years we will change every cell in our body/mind. This has not occurred for 84 years, so for most of us the next 7 years will surprise us to say the least. This is definitely a time to take some risk and get yourself on your growing edge. You will get a bit of a taste of this on 3/24 as the Sun joins Uranus in Aries. Be watchful and monitor yourself for that day and the few days before and after this period to know more of what is coming your way.

Neptune is moving into its ruling sign Pisces for the next 14 years, which will increase creativity, healing potential and spiritual seeking for all of us, not just those with planets in Pisces.

The Full Moon occurs on 3/3/8 after the Moon in Virgo hits Mars. This could be a volatile time for all of us, but particularly those born at Full Moons or with planets in Virgo and Pisces. The New Moon of 3/22 follows the beginning of Spring and the joining of the Moon with Mercury retrograde and the joining of the Moon with Uranus, all in Aries, a high voltage combination. This is a powerful starting over energy, but it tempts us to impulsivity, especially if we have planets in Aries.

As you can see, March continues a trend for the year toward greater awareness, mastery and success through greater control of our minds and hearts. If you have confusion, challenges or need to make sense of these events, please call me to schedule a personal consultation.

Enjoy the weather!

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