

GREETINGS;

HAPPY HALLOWEEN to you and be warned: November could have been written and directed by Alfred Hitchcock. I have been trying to summarize the many challenges and opportunities in November for days, and since it is like nothing we have ever experienced, prepared to be surprised.

In Houston we are experiencing a fabulous Fall and great abundant life. After watching Sandy for the past few days, I feel it is a preview of times to come and the blessings of living in Houston, Texas are many.

I want to recommend a book to those who are trying to make sense of parenting. It is called "How Children Succeed" by Paul Tough. I was very excited to read this new book and even more amazed to learn he would be in Houston speaking at St. John's School before a presentation for KIPP Academy. It was an amazing presentation and here is the link to a recording of the event <http://new.livestream.com/KIPPHoustonlive/howchildrensucceed> for those of you who are interested in his research to have a personal connection with this fine messenger. As I have watched parenting disappear and mutate into the current helicopter mode, I have said I wanted to live long enough to see Character make a comeback. This book addresses this issue in a timely and clear manner and all those who want to see children succeed will benefit from his research.

LANDSCAPING: Please make the time to bring your landscaping up to holiday celebration mode while we have such wonderful weather. It is time to plant flowers, trees and shrubs, prune everything, mulch, examine your trees and redesign your beds. If I can help you in any way with your exterior decorating needs, please let me know. I have a great group of subcontractors that can do anything. Combined, the five of us have over 125 years of experience and expertise.

WINTER SOLSTICE RITUAL: The Winter Solstice, the most powerful change period of 2012 occurs on December 21st. Please mark your calendar to plan a release and reimagining your life time to celebrate these many significant changes. I will hold an annual Solstice Ritual at my home on Thursday, December 20th, the longest night of the year. I will send more information on how to prepare soon. We all have read and seen many ideas about what will happen on December 21, 2012, but for me, I will celebrate my daughter's birthday.

NOVEMBER ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK;

In looking forward into November, the Full Moon of 10/29 gave us a preview of the dramatic changes and events of November, 2012. When the Sun entered Scorpio on 10/22, it began a month of extremes. Scorpio is associated with death and rebirth, loss and abundance, transformation through adversity, and that is just for starters. The first day of November begins with a bang, literally, as Uranus, the planet of unexpected change moves into alignment with Venus, rearranging our financial and relationship lives in ways we have not imagined. This is a somewhat magical combination, so make plans to be with others so you can be surprised. For those with planets in Libra, Taurus, Aquarius and Aries, this is an especially significant time. On election day, November 6, Mercury goes retrograde in Sagittarius for 3 weeks (11/26), Remember 2000. We had this same factor and it became a circus and was decided weeks later. I am sure some variation of this outcome will befall us again this year. Since 2012 is a year for everything to be new and surprising, it will not look exactly the same, but delays in outcome are certain. For months I thought it would be a matter of the popular vote being different from the electoral vote, and the matter being decided by the House of Representatives, but after the effects of Hurricane Sandy and the other storms still to arrive, I wonder if there will be electricity restored so voting can take place universally.

We have two eclipses in November, a New Moon Solar Eclipse in Scorpio on 11/13 and a Lunar Eclipse at the Full Moon of 11/28. Prepare to have your world rocked to the core in November. Drastic changes make a new path appear for each of us. Even though it is often painful and shocking, the removal of choice is a success strategy for those who are courageous, resilient and determined. We all should sign up for that program now. On 11/11 the planet Neptune moves back into the equation as it begins moving

slowly in Pisces, increasing our need for inner depth and spiritual surrender. For those who understand and accept that path, it will appear with stunning synchronicity.

The trickster Mercury is the major planet of challenge in November. Not only is it moving out of sync with its path, it has very few contacts with other planets, which gives it the appearance of a child having a tantrum or a runaway train. Mercury affects communication and transportation, as well as our thinking processes. The best advice is to listen carefully and restrain yourself from oversharing and reality check yourself with the assistance of wise associates to make sure you haven't missed the point. This is not the time to make major decisions or purchases unless absolutely necessary. During this month, things are truly "haywire", like the storm Sandy was for the Northeast. We are all affected by what happens everywhere as we are wired together as one organism. On 11/13 Mercury and Neptune intersect during the period of the Solar Eclipse, which brings opportunities to shape shift and find new possibilities of becoming. Find your center on this day and practice a time of quiet in the evening hours and note your impressions. On 11/14 Mercury moves backward into Scorpio and joins the light of the Sun on 11/17 for a day of clarity in this confusing time. Finally, on 11/27 Mercury returns to forward motion prior to the Full Moon Lunar Eclipse on 11/28. Mark your calendars for 12/13, as Mercury returns to the point it went backwards on this day. The month of December should provide a welcome relief from the upheaval of November.

Venus begins the month of November with an encounter with Uranus, which is a bolt of genius and opportunity, both unexpected and well deserved. On 11/3 Pluto brings us back to reality as the reality of Capricorn principles brings the practical into relationship with the ideal and the fanciful. On 11/9 Jupiter joins the mix from its position in Gemini. This is definitely one of the best days to enjoy others and feel a sense of relief, joy and gratitude. As Venus joins the Moon in Libra on 11/11, the feeling intensifies, so celebrate on this day as well. On 11/21 Venus enters Scorpio bringing a sense of mastery of life's challenges and a deeper understanding of the meaning of struggle through adversity. On 11/22 Venus and Neptune co-create a magical time for each of us and on 11/26 Saturn turns on the light of clarification of what is really real so we understand our options.

Mars begins the month in fiery Sagittarius where we have the energy to tackle anything that comes our way. Practice optimism and you will be in the flow of Mars energy. As we know, Mars is the warrior spirit which dances through difficulties with determination and decisiveness. On 11/16 Mars moves into Capricorn where it becomes like a bulldog with a bone. Nothing is impossible if you do not accept defeat and keep moving forward boldly. Please note two dates to be cautious: 11/23 and 11/27. On 11/23 Mars and Uranus collide. In my experience this is a very explosive energy which sometimes causes accidents, anger, irrational thought and action and machines to malfunction for no reason. This is definitely a day not to be tired and/or take chances. Be risk averse this day. On 11/27 Pluto and Mars struggle together. and we don't want to be part of that activity. Protect yourself and those you love and affirm and plan for a peaceful day. This is certainly a day to avoid difficult people and to remember it is the day before a Full Moon, which affects most of us, many in an irrational manner.

Jupiter continues to float backwards in Gemini holding the position of the fan in the crazy fan handle we are experiencing in November which has us all off balance and on the verge of a nervous breakdown. The message is clear to me that we all need to find the humor in our situations. Rent funny movies and be with those who make you laugh and not worry about what you cannot change. Say the serenity prayer till it makes you laugh. That is Jupiter in Gemini playing the fool and laughing at us.

Saturn moves slowly in Scorpio teaching all of us about the power of release and renewal and that loss is always followed by something better and unexpected. When a door closes, another opens and as I often say, it is only Hell in the Hallway between those two realities.

Uranus moves on in Aries calling us to be original and decisive and leave fear behind.

Neptune is moving again in Pisces reminding us to receive spiritual understanding and to be in a continual state of grace

Pluto holds firm in Capricorn proving that in time discipline, determination and persistence overcome adversity and disempowerment. We are Victors, not Victims as Joel Osteen always says.

As we approach the challenges of November, remember what Martin Seligman, the author of my favorite book "Learned Optimism" says (and I paraphrase): don't get too realistic, it leads to pessimism. Optimism is a decision and a mental strategy for shifting your thoughts and feelings so you become eager for the better outcome. Read his book again and master his techniques so you will feel confident. November will offer opportunities to become Master of Optimism and Creative Visualization. If I can help you in any way in this pursuit of excellence, please let me know. This is my communication as a power tool skill to share with you.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING. REMEMBER WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW: WHATEVER YOU APPRECIATE APPRECIATES. On November 14th I will begin my 42nd year in professional practice and this is definitely my life's calling so THANK YOU for being in it with me.

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