

GREETINGS;

We got teased with the cooler weather before Fall arrived on 9/22, but don't despair, change of all kinds is on the way sooner than later. As September's Harvest Moon explodes on 9/29 with its contacts to Uranus and Pluto, the big change arranger planets, some of us will have a lot to digest as October brings a second act for many of us.

LANDSCAPING; As you might imagine, this is the beginning of the Fall planting, pruning and exterior decorating season. Since we have a mild climate, our Fall is our most abundant blooming and growing season with warm days and cool nights and usually enough rain to keep everything green. I can provide you with personal assistance with tree work, irrigation, planting, clean up and anything else you need outside. If you want to do your work yourself, I charge \$95 for an hour landscape consultation. I have the best team of experts available to handle all your needs.

OCTOBER ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK;

The blast of the Harvest Moon on 9/29 will be felt the first half of October, as it provided extra emotional energy and clarity regarding the major changes we all are trying to adjust to. When the Moon is in a Full Moon pattern, it is like a magnifying mirror. This dynamic pattern was intensified by the contact with Uranus in Aries and Pluto in Capricorn, revolutionary individualism vs. controlling, disempowering large organizations. We all experienced clarity in our personal and professional lives between late June and late September and now we have several months to rewrite our life script before Act 2 begins in May 2013. With the Sun in Libra, it would serve us all to find a balance between past and future and self and others in planning our next act.

October has 5 of the 10 planets changing signs, which should warn us of the presence of great uncertainty in life. I remember years ago I heard Deepak Chopra say that he had decided to embrace uncertainty. Challenging as that idea is, I feel we all are being led to that path. A great book to take with you on the journey is Jonathan Fields new book *Uncertainty: Turning Fear and Doubt into Fuel for Brilliance*. We are used to the Sun changing signs each month, much as a scale in music. In October the Sun travels from air sign of balance Libra, which loves social contact, challenge, activity and conversation to Scorpio, water energy which can be deep, reserved, intuitive and profoundly transformational. Mercury often changes signs in a month as well and in October this mental messenger moves from Libra to Scorpio which moves our attention inward so our introverted self can direct the mind. Many of you remember and read the brilliant book *Quiet* by Susan Cain. This book explains the gifts of introversion. Get it out and re-read so you can be re-inspired and re-educated on how to make the most of this process. Venus, the planet which focuses us on beauty, our values, our needs and our love relationships usually moves with relative speed as well and in October it moves from the royal sign of Leo into practical, problem solving Virgo, and ends the month in Libra which changes the focus to relationship needs and desires.

The larger change patterns are symbolized by Mars, the trigger of desire and aggression, changing from the depths of water sign Scorpio where it can stir the pot and cause upheaval and uproar in our feelings as well as our finances into fiery optimistic Sagittarius on 10/6. Say goodbye to frustration and limitation for the remainder of the month as Mars in this fiery element gets life moving faster than we can imagine. The larger change is the movement of Saturn from Libra into Scorpio on 10/5. It has been roughly 30 years since we have experienced this influence and 3 years since Saturn has changed signs. In developmental psychology, it should not surprise us to learn that 3 years is a growth pattern of assimilation and 30 years is a marker for maturation. Since Saturn is the teacher and the teacher always administers tests so we can see where we need to focus our attention on growth and change, we will be entering a 3-year period of learning what we know and don't know. The 3 years that Saturn has remained in Libra has reminded us of what balanced relationships bring into our lives, as opposed to those that are one way streets. For the next 3 years we will get to review our financial lives and decide on new financial goals, particularly with those we share financial responsibility. This is a conserving pattern so taking few risks is wise, as well as reducing debt and consumption. Also, as Saturn moves with slow deliberation

into Scorpio on 10/5, Jupiter, the fast moving planet of growth takes a rest in light hearted Gemini on 10/4.

The New Moon on 10/15 in Libra brings with it the energy of Mars and Uranus in a fiery triangle which makes it the best time all month to start new projects and resolve difficulties. The Full Moon two weeks later on 10/29 is preceded by a stop on Saturn's path which is often a bit of a reality biting moment, followed by a powerful support from Pluto which brings power to solutions and awareness. This is also the day Mercury enters optimistic, brilliantly creative Sagittarius, so there is a ready solution available for whatever this powerful Full Moon stirs up. Find someone who is wise, truthful and caring to talk to so you will be prepared to keep moving forward.

As Mercury leaves Libra on the early morning of 10/5 it crosses Saturn in Libra for the final time for the next 30 years, and most of us will not miss this connection being broken. If you want to think clearly with a still mind, you will love this day, as it will be hard to miss the point unless you are asleep. As Mercury enters Scorpio at dawn on 10/5 a creative burst will occur that will last the remainder of the day. This is the best day of the month to make plans and solve problems realistically and creatively. This combination sets the tone for October until the Full Moon of 10/29, on which day there can be a bit of temporary insanity and unreality. Keep your thoughts to yourself as Mercury moves into Sagittarius that day, increasing the probability of speaking before thinking things through.

Venus begins the month in sunny Leo, entering Virgo from 10/3-28. This is a pattern of finding solutions to life's problems and annoyances. On 10/3 Neptune provides a splash of creative genius, with Pluto empowering on 10/9 and Jupiter expanding our options on 10/16 following the great New Moon of 10/15. Take advantage of this productive pattern and practice optimism in thought and deed. For those with planets in Virgo, this can be a wonderful time of recognition and reward.

As mentioned before, Mars has been stirring the pot in Scorpio since late August, and will vacate that position on 10/6 and move on to Sagittarius. While in Scorpio, Mars energizes our emotional nature and makes it harder to resolve problems. Scorpio is a fixed water sign and Mars is a fire planet which rules a Cardinal sign, Aries. To say this is an "oil and water" combination is an understatement. The release of Mars energy into fire sign Sagittarius will feel like a huge relief to most of us, particularly as Mars and Uranus balance at the New Moon on 10/15 and just before the Full Moon on 10/28 as Jupiter expands our choices more than we can imagine.

Say goodbye to Saturn in Libra on 10/5 and hello to a balance between Saturn in Scorpio and Neptune in Pisces on 10/10. For those with planets in water signs Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces, the next few years will allow for new dreams and new opportunities to appear suddenly and easily. The rest of us should follow the flow of ease and plant lots of seeds for change and only harvest the ones which grow quickly and easily. We are all advised to slow down and feel our feeling function so we are guided by our needs and not our wants, our desires and not our "shoulds". The great Albert Ellis used to call this failed process "Musterbation".

Fall is the domain of the social signs Libra and Scorpio which invite us to engage with others for enjoyment and personal satisfaction, finding meaning and reflection in the lives of those we love and care for. October is a great time to reconnect with those we have lost touch with, as well as to make time for those who have mattered most to us. We gain strength and stability from our relationships with those who share our interest and values, so make time on a regular basis to reboot yourself through plugging back into others of like mindedness. As everyone alive knows the world is coming apart at the seams. Uncertainty is the new normal as the world tips over and as one of my professors used to say, everything that is not grounded falls over. This is a time for deepening our inner connection to our authentic self, our spiritual resources, what our true desires are, making time for people who see us as we are and love us anyway, slowing down to rest and recharge, and not taking life so seriously we forget to laugh each day. This year 2012 is the changing of an Age, which is a 26,000 year period. None of us has ever experienced the changes we are now faced with, so it is a time to make a plan for wellness on every level and change habits and thoughts to support the plan. If I can help you in any way with this

quest, I am available for personal consultations. Next month, I will begin my 42nd year in practice and I have no plans to quit growing or working and as many of you know wellness is like a religion to me.

Enjoy the lessons and challenges of October, as the winds of change are definitely upon us!

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