

GREETINGS;

We here in Houston have just survived our hottest month on record. The heat and drought have seemed to be never-ending, as have the challenging planetary aspects.

In anticipation of Fall on 9/22, I am hosting Anita Ricca at my office on Saturday, October 2 from 10-12Noon to present the best new products and procedures to revive our skin. Please RSVP as soon as you know you are interested in attending, as space is limited. If you are unable to attend and wish to discuss your needs with Anita personally, you can call her at 713/528-6004. She has taken care of the skin needs for three generations of females in my family and I want to share her with you as well.

Another resource many of us need is a source for gluten free delicious foods. Please check out www.glutenfreehouston.com or call 713/784-7122 to place an order for pick up at their new retail outlet at I-10 and Wirt. Their baked goods are delicious and well worth the drive.

For those of us who have watered our yards and pruned the overgrowth in the heat, September is the time to get your yard ready for Fall. In last Saturday's Houston Chronicle the fabulous Kathy Huber had an article entitled "September in the Garden" which fully outlined what we should do to prepare for an exuberant Fall season. She mentioned the importance of pruning trees and removing dead limbs before the Fall storms arrive. I can attest to this need as the high winds two weeks ago toppled half of a tree at my house onto my neighbor's fence. I had been meaning to prune this tree for over a year. Let me know if you need help with clean-up, planting, re-design with best performing plants, irrigation or tree work.

SEPTEMBER ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK;

As I am sure we all know too well by now, Mercury the mental trickster planet, is moving backward in Virgo, the sign of worrying and fixing. This is a great time to review your health conditions and concerns and make plans to improve your health habits. As we all know, lifestyle is 85% of our health profile. Not so good for communication, transportation, contracts and long term decisions. On 9/12 Mercury turns forward and returns to a balance point on 9/26. This month is mostly about recovering balance and serenity as we plan to move forward after the New Moon on 9/8 and more fully at the Harvest Full Moon on 9/23, the day after the Fall Equinox as the Sun enters Libra, the sign of balance. There is an absence of planets in fire signs, so there may be an opportunity for all of us to calm down and rest more successfully. The planets in the first half of the month are in earth and air signs, which increases our desire for serenity and wellness. By the end of the month we have a large group of planets in water signs, which increases our desire for connection and guarantees our feelings will come to the surface.

Mercury, as mentioned above spends September moving back and forth in Virgo, which increases introversion of mental energies. This is always a good time to research, review and re-imagination those issues and conditions that aggravate us. October is a month to put plans into action in earnest, so now is the time to make a plan. This is the second month in a row where Mercury makes virtually no contact with planets other than the Sun and Moon, which offers the opportunity to obtain and maintain a still mind. On 9/12 Mercury moves forward and on 9/26 Mercury gets back to the place where the retrograde motion began.

With no planets in personal signs this month, our social needs and wants are going to take center stage, particularly in matters where we have been dissatisfied.

Venus, the planet of social attachments and values begins September in Libra, where we are all compelled to evaluate our relationships with others. On 9/4 Venus and Neptune join together for a creative, imaginative dance in a most pleasant pattern. This is especially true if you have planets in Libra, Taurus, Aquarius and Pisces. On 9/8 Venus enters Scorpio, a water sign of deep intensity. All of us will feel compelled to seek deeper connection to others and our feelings will inform us clearly of what does and does not satisfy us in relationship to others.

Mars, the energizing force begins September in Libra. This pattern can create desire for closer relationships with others. It can also show us where our conflict areas with others occur. The momentum

is strong to resolve our difficulties so we can be at peace. On 9/14 Mars enters Scorpio, where the emotional intensity heats up quite a bit. For the 6 weeks thereafter the energy of Mars is very determined, so take advantage of this pattern and have all your plans ready to put into action.

From 8/20 to 5/23 Mars and Venus join together three times. First in Libra on 8/20; then in Scorpio 10/3; and finally in Taurus on 5/23. Traditionally Mars is the passion and Venus the desires, so when these two combine consistently every 6.5 years, we get clear about what we want, especially if we have planets in Aries, Libra, Scorpio and Taurus. These are planets of attraction so new relationships and new ways of making money always appear. It is also interesting to note that this is a 9-month gestation period, which parallels human gestation. For some, if not all, this will provide a significant turning point in our emotional life, and can provide motivation to change our values, perhaps finding a deeper spiritual meaning in our actions. In other words, patterns appear more clearly, so we can understand and change more profoundly.

The planet Jupiter moves backwards from Aries into Pisces on 9/7 and joins Uranus on 9/18. This provides an element of surprise, possibly shock, and a possible gift of opportunity for each of us, especially if we have planets in Pisces, Sagittarius and Aquarius. It can also bring about change outside our personal world, as Pisces symbolizes the collective experience, rather than the personal. On 9/21, the day before the Autumnal Equinox, the Sun opposes both Jupiter and Uranus at the last degree of Virgo. This may be an additional unexpected change, or a continuation of what begins on 9/18. As doors open and close, we are advised to move bravely through them. By 9/18, there will be larger number of planets in water signs, evoking deep feelings about everything.

The other big astrological change in September comes from Pluto, Lord of the Underworld. Traditionally, the change from Pluto coincides with hurricane season and on 9/13, two years after Hurricane Ike, we will have another powerful stimulation to the earth's environment as Pluto moves back into motion from uber earth sign Capricorn. For those with planets in Capricorn, this is a time of extreme change and empowerment. With Saturn in Libra and Pluto in Capricorn, most of us are seeking improvement in our work and relationship experience. Pluto coming forward will make it clear what direction to go.

In general, September is an easier month to live with than the summer months we have just survived. We are all moving slower so we can't make as many mistakes. The earth and sun are changing their relationship this month, guiding us to make change as well. With virtually all the planets in social signs and the outer planets in transpersonal signs, we need the support and companionship of others as we fully experience and come to understand the very interesting, somewhat challenging times we are experiencing together. This is a time for "undependence", which goes beyond dependence and independence.

I will be working in the office all month if you need help making sense of your opportunities and challenges. I will be back outside beginning landscaping projects, so if you need help with that, please let me know.

NAN HALL LINKE, M.A.