# Stellar ASTRO

IN THE **ASTROLOGICAL JOURNAL**

# YOUR STAR SIGN GUIDE TO HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS

**July/August 2025** | Free online: https://www.astrologicalassociation.com/stellar

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**We all know there's a lot more to astrology than Sun signs, writes Victor Olliver. But they can be a useful guide to our reflexive tastes and needs – such as in our holiday experiences. Here we identify the headline attributes of the 12 signs and suggest perfect destinations for each, whether you're a free-roaming Aquarius or hedonistic Taurus....**

## ARIES

Aries are ambitious, confident and like to be right in the middle of the action. They love spontaneity so need a broad canvas in which to make impulsive or go-getting decisions.

Australia is an adrenaline-junky's playground. Go skydiving in Cairns and take in the epic views from 14,000 ft, then make your way down to Port Douglas and book a kite-boarding lesson at dreamy Four Mile Beach, followed by a crocodile-spotting river cruise. Why not indulge your spontaneous side, jump in a car and take a road trip to Cape Tribulation, where you can jungle surf the world's oldest rainforest and snorkel the Great Barrier Reef off the Daintree Coast.

Alternatively: island adventures in Croatia; Mont Blanc treks; ski the fjords of Norway.

## TAURUS

Taureans know how to self-pamper. They love life's earthly pleasures. Taurus is ruled by Venus, the planet of luxury, beauty and love. They like the finer things in life – splurging from time to time – and believe treating yourself should be taken seriously.

The small, picturesque Italian island of Capri, a ferry ride from Naples, is the ideal blend of glamour, luxury and nature for pleasure-seeking Taurus. Check into boutique accommodation. We recommend Hotel Luna for its breathtaking views of the *faraglioni*, and enjoy your days spent exploring the artisan shops, tucking into fresh ceviche and sipping ice-cold limoncello overlooking the port.

Alternatively: The Maldives (Thudufushi island is exquisite), Dubai (shopping) or the Caribbean.

## GEMINI

Smart and social Geminis are easily the life and soul of the party. They relish the company of others, and people are often drawn to their charismatic and charming personalities. They talk and think fast, never missing an opportunity to form a connection with others. The polar opposite of a homebody, they like to be out and about seeing what a place has to offer.

Geminis will love energetic and gothic Barcelona. The seaside city has got a lot to offer, from the colourful Las Ramblas to the Camp Nou and not to mention the spectacular Gaudi-designed Park Güell. The Mercat de la Boqueria is the city's most popular food market and a great place to grab some lunch. There's no need to worry about changing your mind at the last minute (a typical Gemini trait), as you'll find plenty of food stalls if you decide you fancy bombas instead of blistered peppers.

Alternatively: Board the Orient Express. Visit Montecito (Meghan-spotting?) or sample New York skyscraper nightlife.

## CANCER

Cancers are romantics at heart, incredibly imaginative and love to create new things. They are less inclined to step outside their comfort zone when travelling, preferring places that feel homely and familiar. Highly sympathetic towards others you have a need to feel safe and protected.

With its rolling farmlands, rugged cliff tops, delectable food scene and over 400 sprawling beaches, Cornwall is always a good idea. Book yourself a cosy cottage in St. Ives: you can unwind after long coastal walks. If you do feel like venturing out on a night, make your way to the nearest pub with an open fire and mingle with the friendly locals.

Alternatively: Tanzania's beaches. Or exotic spas. Or stay in a former convent in northern Spain. Then there's seaside Worthing....

## LEO

Party-loving Leos adore taking centre stage and their upbeat and enthusiastic attitude makes them fun to be around. They always need to be where the action is. Creative, theatrical and passionate, Leos have a fierce need to express themselves. Their energy and enthusiasm is boundless and leaves others feeling revitalised.

Cuba's capital city Havana packs a punch. From the music blaring out of every window to the hypnotic dancing on the street and some of the friendliest people you'll ever meet, it's somewhere Leos will immediately feel at home. Sip mojitos at the Hotel Nacional de Cuba which the likes of Sinatra and Nat King Cole used to frequent and rent a classic Fifties car and cruise around with the top down.

Alternatively: Paris glamour or the luxurious Banff Springs Hotel in Canada. The Seoul Sky Observatory, South Korea.

## VIRGO

Monarch of itineraries, Virgo likes to be super-productive even when on vacation. Logical, practical and extremely efficient. Virgo seeks a structured adventure, rarely taking idle 'breaks', and will assiduously plan just about everything. Photography is essential.

Where modern technology meets ancient traditions, Japan is one of the most interesting countries to visit. Spend a week in bustling Tokyo and take a walk across the iconic Shibuya crossing, light incense outside the grand Senso-ji temple and join a tour around Takeshita street to learn about the infamous kawaii culture. Next, jump on the bullet train with a bento box (you'll love the attention to detail) to Kyoto and discover the city's Geisha history, Shinto shrines and traditional houses.

Alternatively: Luxury cruises (anywhere), Athens' ancient sites; Switzerland and its delicacies.

## LIBRA

Easy-going Libras like calm and beautiful environments. They are drawn to architectural symmetry, arty aesthetics, buzzy social events. Blessed with the ability to navigate any social situation, people are naturally drawn to them and enjoy being in their company.

What better place for Librans to visit than the city of Copenhagen that emits a sense of balance and contentment. Denmark's effortlessly cool capital city offers inviting culture, exciting cuisines, innovative design and plenty of green spaces. Stroll along the Nyhavn and take a snap in front of the colourful houses that line the harbour, ride one of the world's oldest rollercoaster's at theme park Tivoli and make new friends in Vesterbro's hippest bars.

Alternatively: London, Paris, New York (best parties if you get the invites). Or try the gorgeous Seychelles or happening Aspen.

## SCORPIO

Peace and privacy are sought, thank you. Scorpio usually prefers to read a good book than go partying night after night. They are intense, independent and headstrong and generally avoid crowds and large social situations, opting for secluded or exclusive getaways where they can reconnect with inner spirit.

With its chalk-white cliff mountains, emerald waters and captivating, hidden coves, Kefalonia is a little slice of paradise – it's no wonder the best-selling novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* was set here. Though it's one of the largest Ionian islands, it enjoys a lack of crowds, making it a peaceful and quiet escape for private Scorpios. Explore the beautiful sandy beaches, be transported back in time in Fiskardo – one of the few fishing villages that survived the 1953 earthquake.

Alternatively: Iceland, Goa, Luxor: soulful destinations.

## SAGITTARIUS

Travellers at heart, Sagittarians love to discover new places and different cultures. A low-key, relaxing holiday isn't the Sagittarius way. Fuelled by wanderlust, they need to really lose themselves in a country, learning the language and immersing themselves in the culture and country's traditions.

Tanzania has it all. Challenge yourself by scaling Kilimanjaro, continental Africa's largest mountain; be blown away on a safari at the Serengeti National Park (it's like a real-life Lion King); get your history fix by visiting one of the seven Unesco World Heritage sites and round off your trip relaxing on a breathtaking beach in Zanzibar – there are plenty to choose from.

Alternatively: Bali or the Raja Ampat islands of Indonesia. Think twice about North Korea....

## CAPRICORN

Ambitious and driven, Capricorns always need to feel like their achieving something – even when on holiday. Competitive and disciplined, they love a challenge. Their idea of unwinding on holiday is packing out their schedule with day trips and exciting expeditions.

Capricorns want to get the most out of their vacation and New Zealand has plenty to offer. Hiring a campervan is one of the most popular (and fun) ways to travel around the country. Start in the North Island where you can sip world-class wines on Waiheke Island, marvel at the bubbling mud pools in Rotorua, visit a living Māori village in Te Puia and trek the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

Alternatively: Rome or wine tasting in California's Napa Valley. Vienna's imperial palaces. Or Buckingham Palace?

## AQUARIUS

Aquarians are independent, inquisitive and don't like to follow the crowd. You rarely find them holidaying in the latest Instagrammable vacation spot. Instead they opt for somewhere more offbeat, usually in nature. As someone who hates being bored, Aquarians are always seeking out fun and original things to do. They thrive off meeting new people and exploring alien places.

Finland is your next ideal getaway. It might boast a small population, but you needn't worry about a lack of mental stimulation. There's plenty to pack out your itinerary, from hiking in the Nuuksio National Park to bear watching and enjoying some R&R at one of the country's 2 million public saunas – well, they did invent them after all.

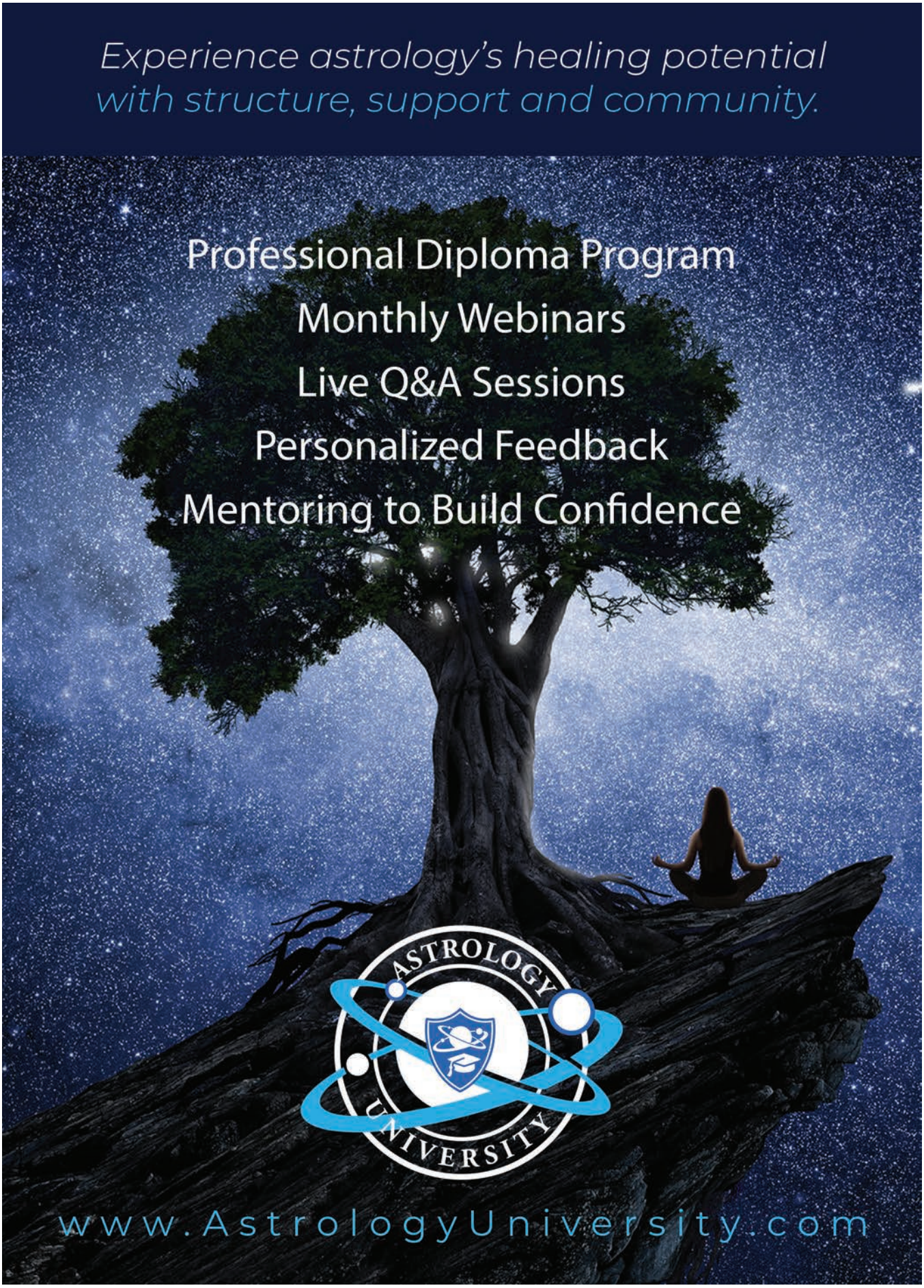
Alternatively: Eco-friendly hols such as Kauai in Hawaii. Or Bermuda. Or the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida.

## PISCES

Pisces takes a relaxed approach to life. They are easy-going, artistic and spiritual. Usually on vacation they need to be near water. A tranquil ambiance is what Pisceans seek out at home and on holiday. When you do venture afield it needs to be stress-free. Your friends describe you as intuitive, creative and open-minded if not a bit other-worldly.

Take a sojourn to sunny Thailand. There's no shortage of stunning coastline, and water instantly rejuvenates you. Once you've clocked up some beach time, why not travel up to Chiang Mai. The endless paddy fields can't help but give off a calming, negative ion effect and it's the best place to go temple hopping/flex your creative skills in a cooking class.

Alternatively: Santorini in Greece; Wadi Rum, Jordan (phantasmagorical scenery); Algarve in Portugal.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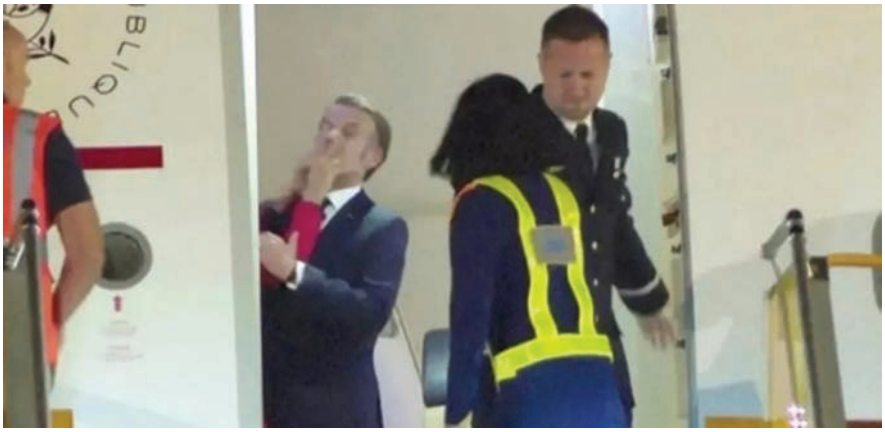
## Instant Synastry

# French President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron



On 25 May 2025, a video went viral of the first couple of France appearing to have a row before disembarking a plane in Hanoi, Vietnam. Her hand seemed to slap the President's face, and he looked shocked. He denied a serious altercation. But the incident reignited interest in their relationship marked by a 25-year age gap.

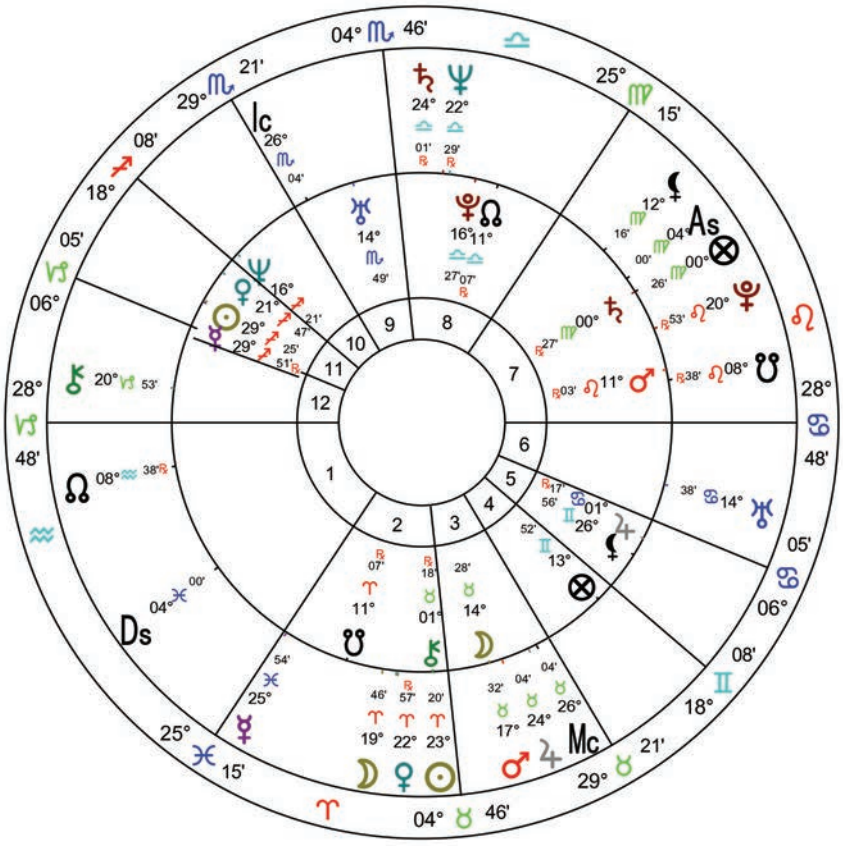
**She:** Sun, Moon and Venus are conjunct in Aries in the 8th house, square Uranus and opposing Saturn/Neptune. This suggests a volatile or explosive temperament. Virgo rising cools her, and chart ruler Mercury is sensitised in Pisces in the 7th.

**He:** Sun and Mercury in the last degree of Sagittarius out-of-sign opposite Jupiter in Cancer blends dynamic and expressive energies. Venus in Sagittarius, too, is sucked into a wide solar stellium, so relationships are always going to be...lively.

**Strengths together:** Their two Suns and two Venuses respectively are trine in fire, amping up passion and compatibility in a high-octane bond. His Sun sextile her Saturn, and her Sun trine his Saturn, is near-perfect for professional support.

**Challenges together**: His Pluto opposes her Moon, and widely her Sun: huge attraction is subject to power plays and emotional storminess. Her Mercury square his Sun/Mercury/Venus points to fundamentally different perspectives to be resolved.

**Overall**: Never a dull moment!




**Inner Wheel: Emmanuel Macron Natal Chart**
**21 Dec 1977, Wed 10:40 CET -1:00 Amiens, France**
**49°N54' 002°E18' Geocentric Tropical Placidus Mean Node**

**Outer Wheel: Brigitte Macron Natal Chart**
**13 Apr 1953, Mon 15:00 CET -1:00 Amiens, France**
**49°N54' 002°E18' Geocentric Tropical Placidus Mean Node**

# Celebrity Almanack:

## News from the Charts of the Famous

***We dip into the horoscopes of household names***

**Anna Wintour**, editor-in-chief of American *Vogue* and Chief Content Officer of Condé Nast

**Born:** 3 November 1949, [time unknown], London

*Tr Mars conjunct her Neptune in Libra towards end of Aug and start of Sep 2025 could see frustrations: an episode may cause her to pause an event. Before that Mars will have had its return and then conjoined her Saturn in Virgo (exact on 24 June) which probably is beneficial given Saturn's good natal alignments. On 26 June 2025, she announced she was stepping back from the Vogue editorship after 37 years to focus on other major roles as tr Sun/Jupiter conjoined her Uranus in Cancer. Perfect timing!*

**Queen Camilla** of the UK and 14 other Commonwealth realms

**Born:** 17 July 1947, 7:10 am, London

*We noted in the last issue of* Stellar *that King Charles III has tr Pluto around his Descendant point. By coincidence, so does his wife Queen Camilla. The usual theme indicates major change in progress both in key partnerships and one's relationship with the world. The news is not necessarily bad, but nothing much stays the same when Pluto's involved. A status change may be hinted at, or a new set of circumstances must be accommodated. In May/June 2026, tr Saturn hits her Midheaven in Aries, possibly bringing her major new responsibilities. Her resolve could be tested.*

**Russell Brand**, comedian, actor, Christian influencer. At time of writing, he is on trial at the Old Bailey accused of multiple sexual abuses by four women. He denies all charges. Trial is expected to take months

Born: 4 June 1975 [time disputed so treated as unknown], Grays, England

*He has Moon, Mars and Jupiter in Aries, so tr Saturn's journey through the sign till April 2028 (retrogrades lengthen the time) puts pressure or restriction on him no matter the trial outcome. Saturn by its nature causes us to address the question of consequences. Tr Uranus' ingress of Gemini in early July occurs on his South Node: the past is being confronted by highly volatile energies, and given Uranus' slow movement and long retrogrades, Brand is in one way or another having to deal with activities or allegations of past conduct. Uranus can also be the liberator which breaks old life patterns either through events or inner dynamics.*

**Pope Leo XIV**

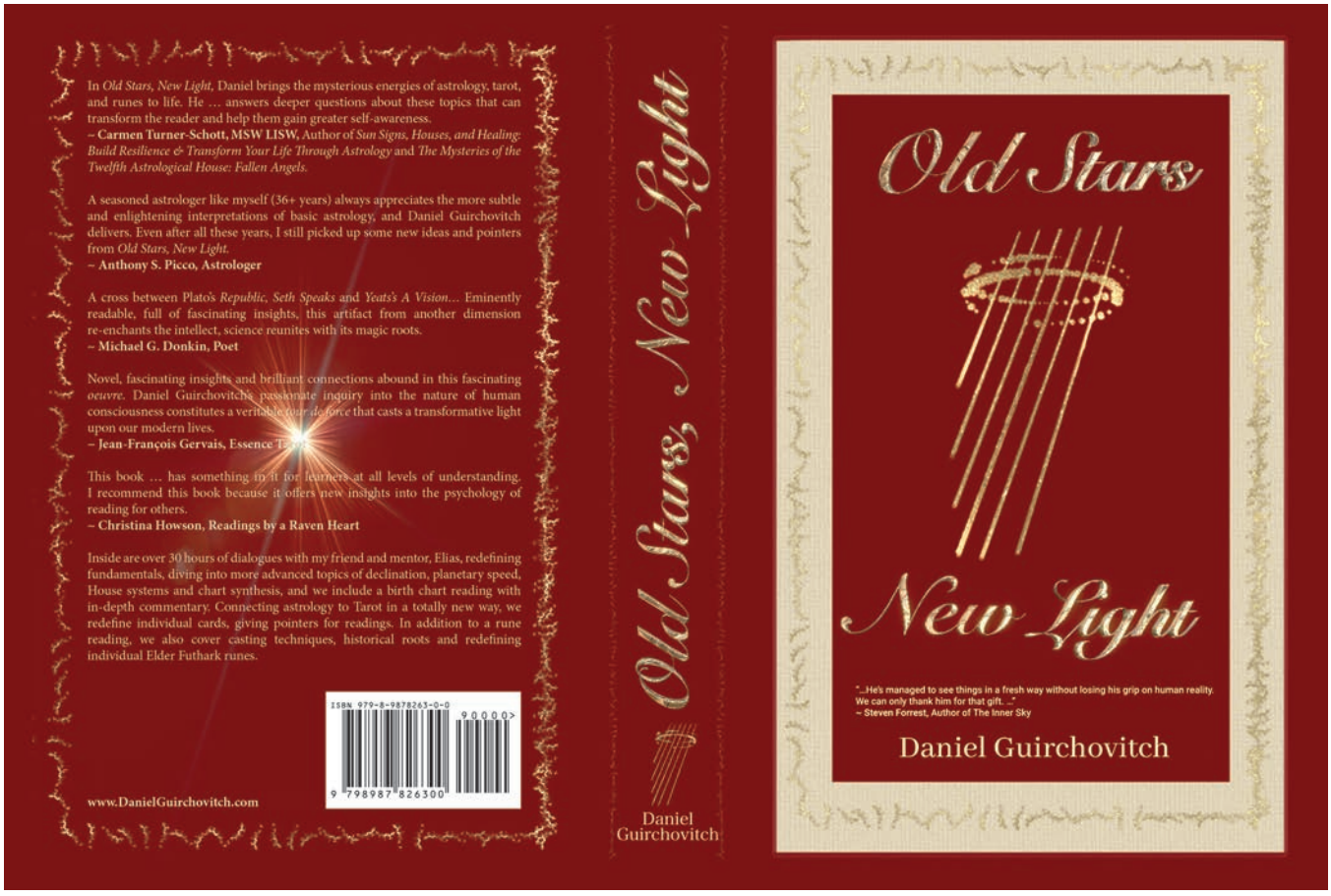
**Born:** 14 Sep 1955, [time unknown] Chicago, Illinois (Cook), USA

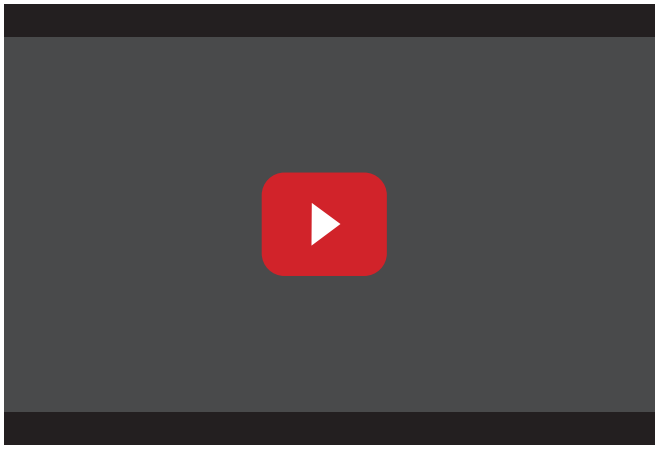
*Tr Mars will pass through Virgo during June to early August 2025 activating his three planets, including Sun, in that sign – although his Moon could be in Virgo or Leo depending on when precisely he was born. This signals intense energy as he establishes his papacy. Tr Jupiter's shift into Cancer sextile his Virgo stellium opens up opportunity for growth. Tr Saturn in Aries positions itself awkwardly to the stellium which could suggest irreconcilable differences with other powers, or controversy. The Virgo Lunar Eclipse on 3 Mar 2026 occurs very close to his Mars: around that time and over the following six months, the Pope is in highly dynamic mode, perhaps launching a project to revive his Church through enhanced pastoral care.*

**Britney Spears**, 'Princess of Pop'

2 December 1981, 1:30 am, McComb, Mississippi, USA

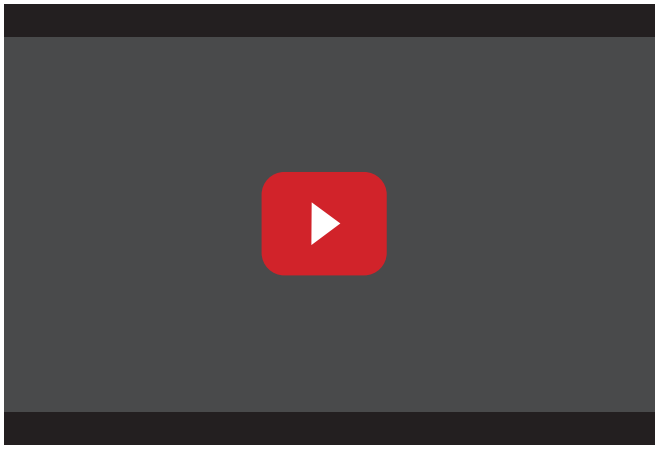
The Saturn/Neptune conjunction in Aries in July 2025, and exact in February 2026, occurs close to her Descendant point. The latter date is more powerful. This is likely to be a crisis of sorts as she is prompted to distinguish between what is real and unreal in her partnerships or close relationships. She may have to face up to some attempted deception or fraud by another in her circle. With tr Pluto sextile this conjunction, extracting the truth is a likely outcome. But these are slow-moving developments so there may not be one dramatic moment.



## Jupiter's Many Moods - with Victor Olliver

Is Jupiter always the greater benefic? In this conversation between Victor Olliver and Ana Isabel, Liz Greene's new book, *By Jove!* is discussed. Jupiter is not always good news. Much depends on proportionality and realism.



## Barry Street Accepts Charles Harvey Award

Barry, who runs The Astrology Shop in London, won the award in 2022, but due to the Covid lockdown was unable to accept in person. Finally, the AA made the trip to London to deliver the award.

# The Consciousness Adventure of the Dwarf Planet University

**Dwarf Planet University founder Alan Clay with co-teacher Melissa Billington dressed up to party at a recent Federation of Australian Astrologers conference**

The Dwarf Planet University was founded by New Zealand astrologer Alan Clay under the Jupiter/Saturn conjunction in 2020. Alan is a 70-year-old former clown teacher, who looks back on his clown work as a deep research into people. The Uni was founded on an election date recommended by Chris Brennan and Leisa Schaim and the foundation chart has the Jupiter/Saturn conjunction on the 9th-house cusp of higher education.

Many astrologers believe that new outer planets are discovered when we are ready to incorporate the new consciousness represented by that planet into our existing consciousness. The planets inside Saturn represent aspects of personality, and the outer planets represent aspects of consciousness. Uranus is our intuitive consciousness, Neptune our spiritual consciousness, and Pluto, our psychological consciousness. Now we've discovered 10 new planets, which each represent a new aspect of consciousness that is coming available to us.

And because they talk of consciousness, how these planets manifest in our lives is different depending on our current level of consciousness. Most of us are unconscious of these new energies, but we see in our research at the Dwarf Planet University, how, by simply making them conscious, students become empowered, and their lives are transformed. To do this we need to engage with these new energies, and by engaging, we take them out of the unconscious arena of action.

At the Uni you engage with them through six-week courses exploring them one at a time in your chart with a friendly international group of astrology students. We encourage you to look at it as a consciousness adventure, and the aim is to encounter the higher manifestations of each planet in your life, which you do by developing your spiritual perspective.

The students on the courses range from beginners to experienced astrologers, and it is this range that is the source of the vibrant class culture. What students love is the community sharing, through blog-posted assignments and live Zoom Q&As, which gives a good picture of how these new planets act similarly, and yet diversely, in each of our lives.

As a student you focus in the first fortnight on the house position. That is the area of your life where you most clearly see the effect of these outer planets. In the second fortnight you study the aspects, which tell you about the interconnection of this new consciousness energy with the other sides of your consciousness – represented by the outer planets – and your personality, represented by the inner planets.

A powerful way to see how these new consciousness energies manifest in your life is to look at the transits to these new planets in your natal chart. This is what you do in the third fortnight of each course. You find a time in your life that seems emblematic of the planet that you are working with and look up the transits on that date.

We offer a diploma on completion of any eight of our 13 courses. However students are also welcome to do courses singly and in any order, and all the courses have a mix of ongoing and casual students. The ongoing students sign up for course-after-course because the consciousness growth is powerful and addictive. Why wouldn't you take the Salacia course and embrace Higher Love consciousness, when you've already benefited from the Ixion course and discovered your Seeker consciousness?

The fact that so many new planets have been discovered at once tells us that we're in a time of rapid consciousness development. The enlightenment that until now was only available to select gurus and priests after years of devout work, is now open to everyone. Join us as we explore this new frontier. – Alan Clay

**For more information on the Dwarf Planet University, visit its website: dwarfplanetastrology.com.**

# New Stars for a New Era:

## A Consciousness Workbook for our 10 New Planets

Haumea

Gonggong

Salacia

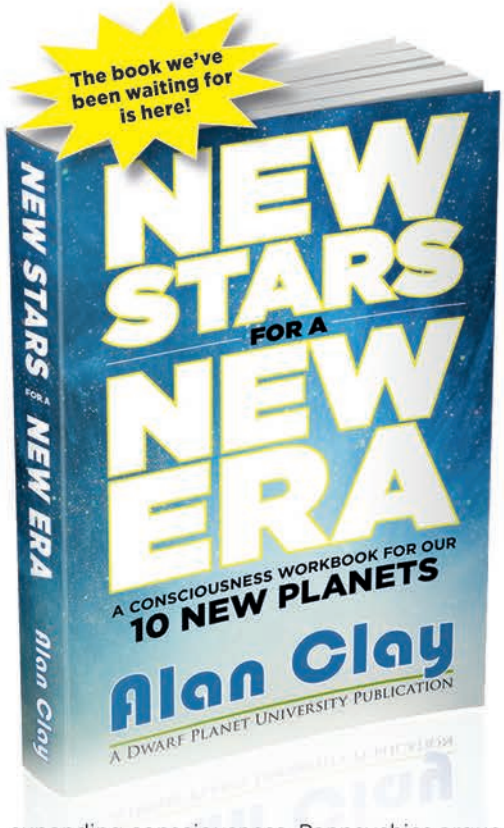
Sedna

Varuna

***Reviewed by Christeen Skinner in the NCGR Syzygy Research Journal.***

In his book 'New Stars for a New Era', Alan Clay presents compelling argument for testing the cosmic waters beyond Pluto at the personal and collective level. He is immersed in the worlds beyond Pluto and offers exciting insights into the potential influence of these dwarfs.

Alan Clay has a distinctively writing and teaching style. He seeks to involve the reader and student at every turn. Sentences often begin with 'we'. This approach is interesting: we are shepherded to collaboration as we explore these new worlds.




The word 'spiritual' is used frequently in this work and Alan does his best to illuminate how spiritual welfare and general well-being might benefit from knowledge of the positioning of each of these dwarfs by house in a natal chart.

Each dwarf is given its own chapter. There is a discourse as to the meaning of each, followed by interpretation by house position. Reference is made to the charts of famous people that give insights as to how the influence manifested in their lives. The challenge for the reader is to develop the suggested interpretations which will no doubt be modified as we incorporate the dwarfs into our own work.

Alan Clay is focused on our expanding consciousness. Panpsychics argue that the laws of physics as we know them might not explain everything and that it may be that consciousness is not an illusion but everywhere.

***In inviting the dwarfs into our charts, Alan Clay suggests that we may be tuning into cosmic consciousness and perhaps experiencing the wonder that has been expressed by returning astronauts who have been given rare and privileged views. It is clear that the addition of these dwarfs into our charts offers new perspectives.***

***The work now required of today's astrologers should not be viewed as daunting, but as exciting and thrilling. 'New Stars for a New Era' is only one of the many works offered by Alan Clay whose legacy to astrological literature will surely be appreciated.***

dwarfplanet.university

# CHANGING SKIES

Astrological Video Contest

## Stellar Video Contest 2025

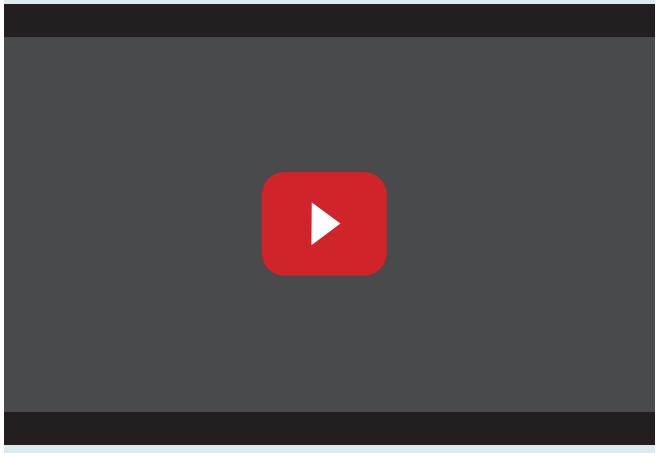
To celebrate the successful launch of Stellar, we are launching this video contest titled 'The Changing Skies'.

Create a short video that reflects this theme inspired by any of the major astrological developments this year, such as Uranus in Gemini or Neptune in Aries.

The contest is open to members from organisations or students from schools registered as part of the APAE network (https://apae.org.uk). Or for eligibility, you can join the Astrological Association. For guidelines and deadlines click the link below and watch the video. There are three great prizes. Express your creativity!

FULL DETAILS

JOIN THE AA



## WIN £250!

The winning video will be featured at the Astrological Association Conference 2025 and in the Stellar magazine!

// AA CONFERENCE 2025

**MYTH AND MODERNITY:**

## THE ROBIN HOOD LEGACY IN AQUARIAN TIME

**WEDNESDAY 27 - SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2025**
NOTTINGHAM, UK AND LIVE ONLINE!

This will be a hybrid conference once again, offering a residential conference held at Eastwood Hall, Nottingham and via Zoom Online. We will also be offering excursions Thursday 28 August for those who wish to join the residential conference earlier.

The theme of the 2025 conference is 'Myth and Modernity: The Robin Hood Legacy in Aquarian Time' as we celebrate the astrology of our time. The conference will offer state of the art technology and a choice of a two-day, three-day and four-day conference which will include a local tour on the Thursday, workshops on the Friday and then five tracks thereafter for delegates to choose from.

BOOK NOW

## FREE CHART CALCULATOR

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## ASTRO-X-RAY

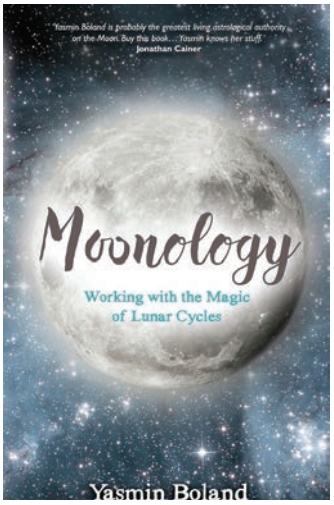
# Yasmin Boland

**Yasmin Boland is a UK Sunday Times best-selling author, award-winning astrologer, and the creator of the Moonology Oracle Cards. She is known for her expertise in Moonology, Divine Feminine, and astrology, which she teaches and shares through her books, website and various media outlets.**

**Q: When did you first realise that astrology had completely taken possession of you – if indeed it has?**

**YB:** It was back at the end of last century. My first astrologer friend, who became my first astrology mentor, was moving house. Incredibly, she decided to give me her *entire* library of top-drawer astrology books by luminaries such as Liz Greene, Howard Sasportas, Stephen Arroyo, Alan Oken, Robert Hand, and so on. She also gave me a CD of the super basic Solar Spark program, and a current ephemeris.

About six weeks later, she asked me how I was getting on with it all, and I confessed I had no idea of where to start, so she gave me a little basic astrology lesson over the phone, and somehow it clicked. Everything went from there. Before I knew it, I was utterly obsessed. I always felt as though I was *remembering*, rather than *learning*.




The turning point came about two years into this obsession. I realised was 'doing' astrology for hours and hours every single day, to the complete detriment of my work as a freelance writer. I simply had no time for working, with all this astrology!

I realised I had to either stop, or make it pay. Because I was so unreasonably obsessed, I decided that the healthiest course of action was to stop. Feeling quite *weird* about it all, I very reluctantly stacked all my astrology books into milk crates, and took them down to the garage below my apartment...About half-an-hour later, my flatmate of the time walked into the flat, holding said milkcrates full of books, dumped them in the middle of the living room and said, "I found these in the garage. They're yours, aren't they?" The loud and clear message from the Universe wasn't lost on me! So instead of quitting, I doubled-down, bought myself a copy of Solar Fire (which, at $500 back then, was a pretty major investment for me), and the rest is now my own personal history!

**Q: Where do you live and work? Which country? Briefly describe your office and the view from the principal window, if any.**

**YB:** I live in London, England, and I currently work mainly in my light-filled kitchen, which looks out onto my courtyard, though I do have a perfectly good office upstairs.

**Q: Name one feature of your birth chart that stands out as a major trait – and is known to loved ones, less so to acquaintances.**

**YB:** My Moon is pretty much partile my MC! (You can't make this stuff up, and funnily enough, I didn't think about this until *after* I had come up with the idea of *Moonology*.)

**Q: One of your great successes is the bestselling 'Moonology'™ books phenomenon. How did this idea come to you? Can you remember the lightbulb moment? Where were you? Or did the idea evolve into existence?**

**YB:** I blithely mentioned to the same astrologer friend who gave me all her books that "just as we have astrology, we could have Moonology!". She was a bit psychic, and at this comment, she kind of cocked her head to one side, like she was getting some kind of cosmic download, and said, "That word is important! Write it down and remember it!" So I did. I had a website at the time (around 1999) because I had a novel out. Eventually, I pivoted that site and started writing Daily Moon Messages on there. Those messages became a Yahoo! Groups message list which grew and grew, and eventually all

of it became the *Moonology* book, about 15 years later.

**Q: I asked Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok to ask you one question. Here it is: "How do you balance the intuitive and mystical aspects of astrology with the need for grounded, practical advice when guiding people through their personal and spiritual journeys?"**

**YB:** Although I am at the very woo woo end of astrology, and even work with the law of attraction, the Divine, Angels and Goddesses, and so on, I also am nothing if not down-to-earth and practical (or so my friends and readers tell me, plus it's in my chart). So I talk about "the woo woo and the work".

**Q: If you were the Commander-in-Chief of all astrology, what executive order would you sign to address a perceived problem in our practice?**

**YB:** This is a tough one. I guess the thing which most rankles is people who scare their clients with dire predictions, whether on purpose, because they're plain unscrupulous, or because they're just not fit to be giving people readings. One strike and you're out!

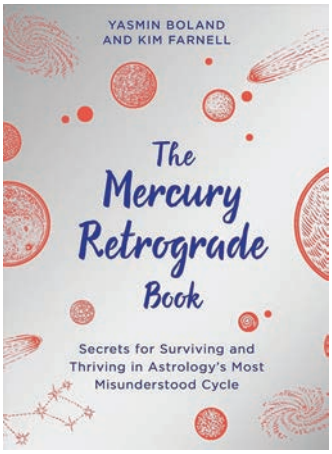
**Q: You have astrology columns all over the world, and you have appeared on TV and radio shows. Some astrologers get quite sniffy about Sun sign columns or any attempt to popularise astrology. It's as if it is a sacred or academic thing that can be tainted by exposure to the hoi-polloi or 'Muggles'. How would you tackle that one?**

**YB:** Three out of three of my first astrology friends/mentors were all very well-known and respected, and all wrote Sun sign columns 'openly'. I later learned of some other, quite famous very 'serious' astrologers who wrote horoscopes under *pseudonyms*!

In any case, I decided a long time ago to live and let live on this subject.

Also, I do see it as a funnel – people go in at the top via horoscopes.

Many Moons ago, I explained my horoscope-writing methods (learned in combination from my mentors) to Robert Hand (one of my all-time astrology heroes), and I swear to God/dess he replied, "Oh well, that's real astrology!" That was good enough for me!



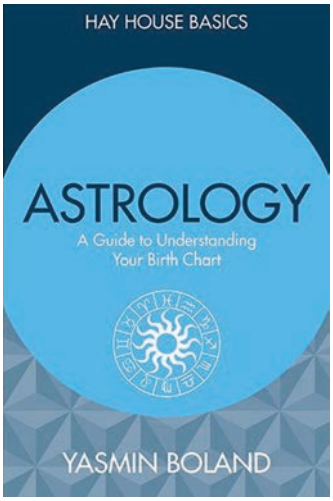

Plus, another of my mentors, was the late Jonathan Cainer, who was obviously a hugely successful Sun sign astrologer. I met him with my journalist's hat on. He said to me something like, "Even on a xylophone, a skilled musician can bash out a good tune", and he was right.

I use horoscopes to spread good vibes in the world!

**Q: Are famous and/or powerful people among your clientele?**

**YB:** That would be telling!!!

**Q: Which astrological software program do you use? Ever hand-draw charts?**




**YB:** I learned how to hand-draw charts at the Faculty of Astrology Summer School in around 1999. I went there on the advice of the astrologer who first gave me her astrology library – I think she was concerned that I might go rogue, so she sent me off to learn good habits and the proper basics. I am glad she did, but I am also glad I started astrology in the computer age, let's put it like that! I use Solar Fire.

**Q: Any major project/book in development?**

**YB:** So many!

**Q: Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, please tell all.**

**YB:** No.

**Q: Yasmin, would you say you are powerful?**

**YB:** I would say we are ALL powerful.

**Q: And finally, how do people get hold of you?**

**YB:** Email is best: yasmin@yasminboland.com. Or Facebook: www.facebook.com/yasminbolandmoonology. Or via my site: yasminboland.com.

## New/Full Moons: July–August 2025, London, Tropical

Universal Time is behind Ephemeris Time by about 70 seconds [Source: AI Grok]

| Phase | Date | Sign/Degree | Ephemeris Time | Significant Aspects | Central Themes (World & Personal) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full Moon<br>Aka 'Buck Moon' | 10 July | 18 Capricorn 50 | 20:38 | Mystic Rectangle involves Sun and Moon | Major development in NHS changes or personal health-related matters. Positive indicators |
| New Moon | 24 July | 2 Leo 08 | 19:12 | Pluto retrograde in exact opposition. Sextile Saturn and Neptune | Very challenging situations that are balanced by ideals and practical considerations |
| Full Moon | 9 August | 17 Aquarius 00 | 7:56 | Venus applies to conjoin Jupiter. Saturn in Cancer. Neptune conjunct in Aries | The Mystic Rectangle continues, helping to heal difficulty or discord. Fresh initiatives favoured |
| New Moon | 23 August | 0 Virgo 23 | 6:08 | Square Uranus in Gemini. Trine Chiron in Aries | A sense of instability requires flexibility to roll with unexpected challenges. Strong health themes linked to AI |

# Stories from a Stargazer's Casebook:

## Secondary Progressions

**Anne Whitaker**

How to introduce the concept of Progressions in astrology – simply and briefly? Try this:

"*I have laid on you a day for each year.*" (Ezekiel 4:6)

That's it in a nutshell. Secondary progressions in astrology are a predictive technique where each day after birth represents one year of life. This means that the planetary positions of the second day after birth are considered to represent the second year of life, and so on. The progressed chart, calculated by advancing planetary positions, reflects inner growth and evolving life themes, offering insights into personal development and timing of significant events.

To create a progressed chart, the planets' positions in the natal chart are moved forward by a number of days corresponding to the individual's age.

These days, you can work out your progressed chart just by pressing a few buttons. The computer will do it for you. But you can do it manually, too.

The method behind simply pressing a button in your computer astro-program and creating a chart for e.g., your 27th year, is as follows: get a ruler, red pen and 21st century ephemeris – or 20th century, depending on your vintage. Underline the planets, nodes etc. of your date of birth in red. Then count 27 days down from the underlined day and make a note of the positions of the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars on that day. Underline the day in green if you fancy that. Then take your birth chart, place the progressed symbols in red around the appropriate degrees of the birth chart – and start pondering.

It is, of course, more complex than this, but those are the bare bones. My dear editor has granted me a mere 600 words, after all!

As you'll find out from a little further research, there are several ways to progress a chart. The one I've found most consistently accurate is Secondary Progressions – as described above.

I taught astrology classes in Glasgow for many years – and used to really enjoy introducing students to progressions. A favourite exercise was to go round a class of students, working just from the ephemeris, telling them how old they were when e.g., the progressed Sun changed signs. Invariably, they would all report significant shifts either in their own or their family's lives at those times. They would also scratch their heads and wonder out loud how this could be so accurate when it wasn't even tied to any observable planetary movement.

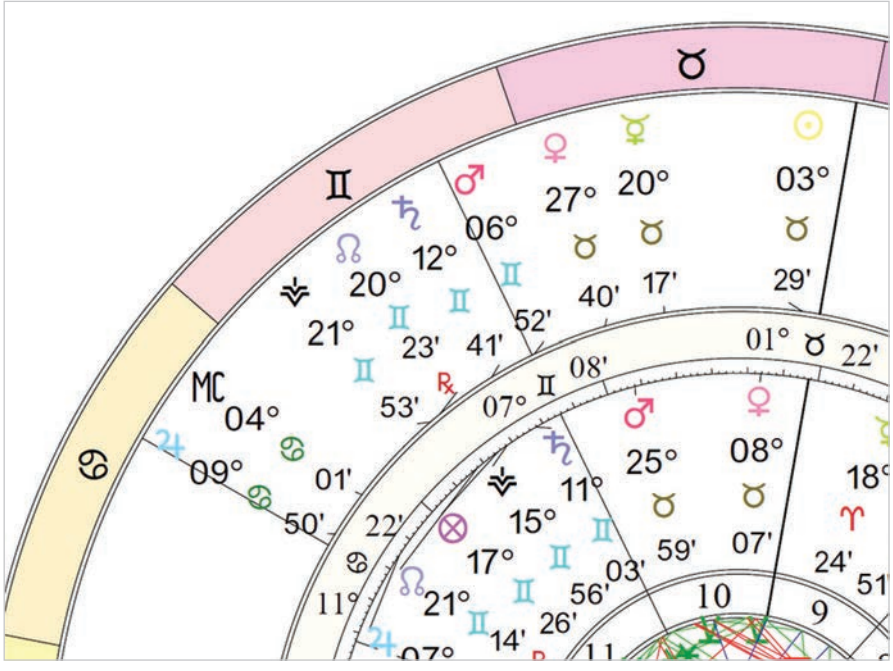
They were set a 500-word essay on that one. One 19-year-old student, studying for a science degree and hitherto very dismissive of astrology, discovered that her progressed Sun had moved from Capricorn to Aquarius the very year she fetched up in my astrology class.

My late husband's progressed Sun was due to shift from Pisces to Aries when he was 50. "You're headed for a new adventure soon", I said. That year, he set about climbing all the mountains in Scotland over 3000 feet – all 284 of them. (A sport known as Munro bagging.) A 12-year transiting Jupiter cycle later, he completed them.

I've written elsewhere about the most striking example I ever had, from my own life. One day, whilst messing about playing with astrology, I decided it would be fun to progress my Granny Bella and my Grandpa Calum's horoscopes to the year of my birth. Two different people, two different birth times (accurately recorded on their birth certs) – but the grandparents I felt I most resembled in character. To my astonishment, *both* grandparents' Ascendants and MCs were at 9° Virgo and 28° Taurus respectively. My Ascendant is at 9° Virgo, my MC /North Node is 28° Taurus.

Progressions truly deliver.

*Anne's website Writing From The 12th House: anne-whitaker.com.*




**Secondary Progressions: image from cafeastrology.com, with thanks.**

ASTRO Stellar

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