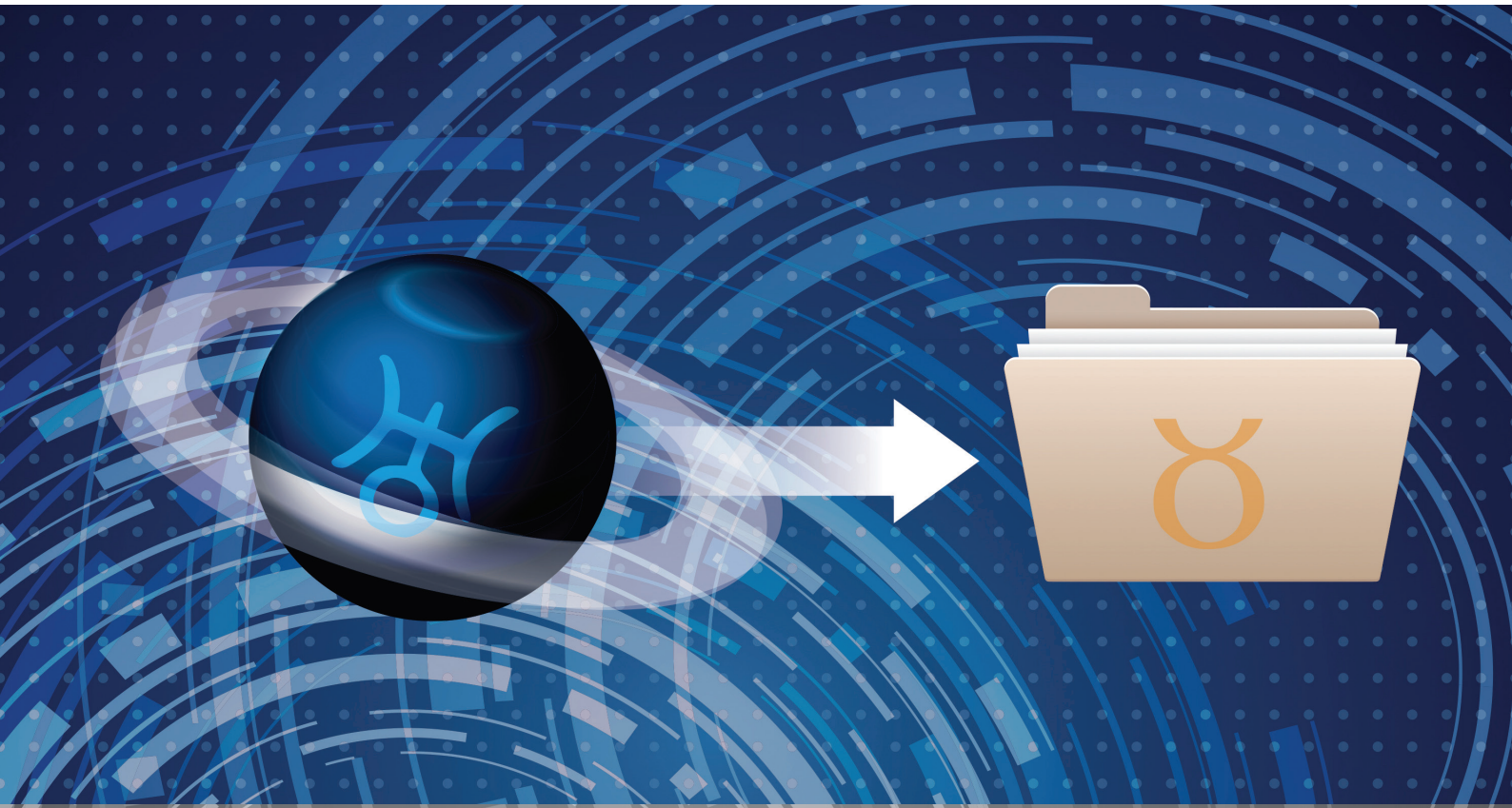


Contents

THE MOUNTAIN ASTROLOGER } APRIL / MAY 2018 } ISSUE 198



25 }

Uranus in Taurus

by Sue Tompkins

When the planet that insists upon change enters the sign that resists it, the world can expect a wild ride! This article offers a global vision of developments to look for in the Taurean realms of farming, food, and finance.

30 }

Why I choose to use the midnight chart for Hong Kong

by Maxine Wan

A country can have several possible astrological charts. How do we select the “right” one — and support our choice? Here is one astrologer’s exploration of a valid chart for Hong Kong.

33 }

Jupiter in Scorpio: Lord of the Starry Heavens Enters “the Great Below”

by Anne Whitaker

In this article, Jupiter in Scorpio “speaks” through the chart of David Bowie, the returns and progressions in the author’s own chart, and the life events of four non-astrologers she surveyed.

40 }

The Moon: A Community’s Compilation

collected by Frank C. Clifford

The “inconstant” Moon shows us many different faces, so it is appropriate that the astrological community has come up with such a variety of observations about our closest luminary. Frank Clifford presents a prime collection of illuminating insights.

51 }

Why Queer Astrology?

by Barry Perlman

Why? Because as clients’ gender identification expands beyond traditional views, astrologers should be more sensitive to the language used in consultations, particularly when delineating Venus and Mars.

60 }

Pluto’s Riches

by Shawn Nygaard

Besides acknowledging the dread this Underworld planet can inspire, it is helpful to remember that its name, Pluto, means “wealth.” But we must venture outside our comfort zone and go deep inside to excavate these riches.



Bonus Digital Content for Subscribers

Three vintage *TMA* articles:

- * **The Living Planets: The Moon** by Dana Gerhardt — June 1996 *TMA*
- * **The Lunar Phases: Archetypes of the Soul**
by Michael Thurman — June 1996 *TMA*
- * **Cancer the Crab**
by Deborah Houlding — Feb./Mar. 2005 *TMA*

Digital *TMA* Users: Click on the article titles above to access each PDF file.

Student Section

- 11 **Astro-Wisdom: Reader Questions Answered**
by Alexandra Karacostas
- 14 **The Eastern Window**
by Penny Farrow
- 16 **Jupiter Conjunct the Sun:
The Self-Expansion Transit**
by Kathy Rose

Forecasts

- 70 Sky Watch for April/May
by Julene Louis
- 72 Magical Elections for
April and May
by Nina Gryphon
- 76 Where's That Moon?
- 77 April/May Forecast Calendar
by Pam Younghans
- 81 New and Full Moon Reports
 - Aries New Moon
 - Scorpio Full Moon
 - Taurus New Moon
 - Sagittarius Full Moon
 by Emily Trinkaus
- 85 Uranus-enters-Taurus Chart

Departments

- 8 Letters to the Editor
- 22 *TMA* Professional Directory
- 56 SoftStar Muse
by Hank Friedman
- 57 AstroSoftware Marketplace
- 58 Astrology News
and Conference Calendar
by Gloria Star
- 59 Astro-Cartoon
by Jerry King

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Many thanks to Linda Ferencik, who faithfully managed *TMA*'s circulation department for most of this decade. She is retiring in March. And welcome aboard to our brand new circulation manager, Rae Sapp!

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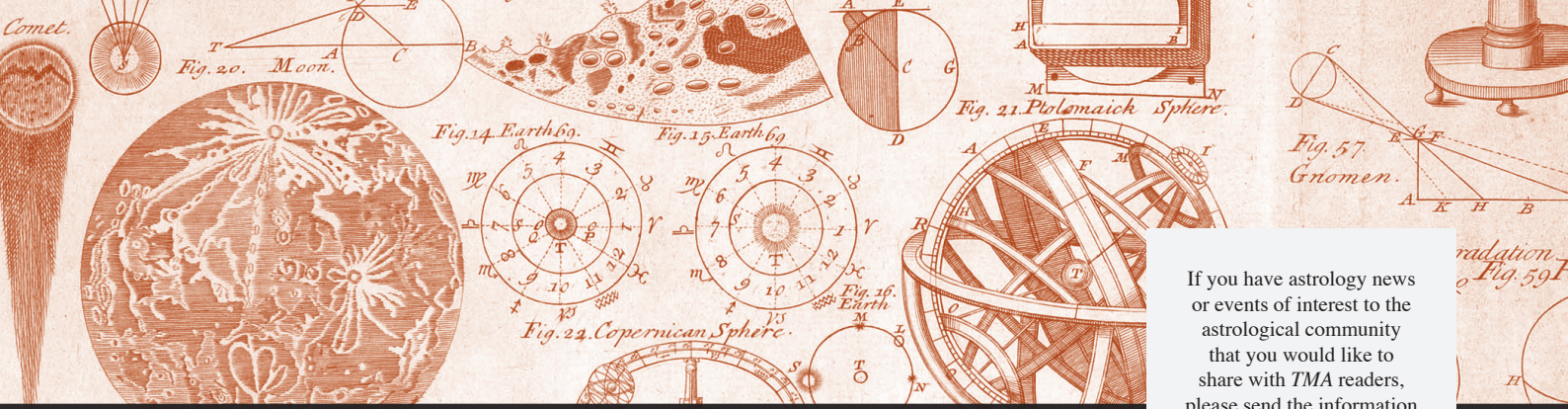
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Astrology's Good Buzz Continues

In my most recent Astrology News column for *TMA* (Feb./March 2018), I wrote about the upswing of astrologically themed features and discussions currently taking a top spot in the media. The beat goes on. Starting the new year, *The New York Times* (January 1, 2018) featured an article about why astrology is “suddenly trendy” again: “How Astrology Took Over the Internet,” by Amanda Hess. In the wake of numerous feature articles, blogs, newsgroups, and other posts, astrology continues to be a hot topic, particularly among the millennial generation. Hess points out that one primary reason astrology is popular is that it is tailored to the individual. Even the limitations imposed by referring to information about Sun signs can offer acknowledgment of the personal audience. Hess reviews several new apps and websites. One app she describes as “re-branding the Zodiac for the digital set.” She further emphasizes the fact that the new Internet content requires full birth data, adding truly personal details to be mined by the algorithms being utilized. Ultimately, she states, the information becomes almost too detailed, especially when it includes a lot of astrological terms that leave the reader feeling intimidated and uncertain.

On air, NPR's *On Point* radio broadcast of January 19, 2018 was centered upon the growing interest in astrology by the millennials. This program is available as a podcast on NPR.org (<http://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2018/01/18/for-millennials-astrology-is-on-the-rise>). Additionally, *The Atlantic* (January 16,

2018) highlights the same topic in an article by Julie Beck, “The New Age of Astrology.” Beck states, “Astrology is a meme, and it’s spreading in the blooming, unfurling way that memes do.” (Beck is one of the guests featured on the NPR program.) In her article, she cites Los Angeles astrologer Chani Nicholas: “Then there’s something that’s happened in the last five years that’s given [astrology] an edginess, a relevance for this time and place, that it hasn’t had for a good 35 years. Millennials have taken it and run with it.” Beck’s exploration of the subject is extensive, with interviews of people who use astrology in its many forms today, practitioners of astrology, academicians, and others regarding the whys and wherefores of astrology’s current favorability. She notes that it’s not so much a belief system as it is another way of looking at life. She also quotes Nicholas Campion, astrological historian, who points out that even those who don’t “believe” in astrology may identify with what their zodiac sign indicates about their personality, and might also read their horoscopes. This is an excellent article, worthy of time and contemplation. The URL may still be accessible: <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2018/01/the-new-age-of-astrology/550034/>

Other periodicals have featured astrology-based articles that might never have seen the light of day in the past. For example, *Allure* magazine (January 18, 2018) offered an excellent article by Aliza Kelly Faragher, “Saturn Is Now in Capricorn, and It Could Be a Major Astrological Event for You.” She writes

in detail about Saturn’s qualities, with a focus on the first Saturn return. Also, *Newsweek* (December 21, 2017) published a piece by Callum Paton, “Winter Solstice: Astrologers Say December 21 Will Be Worst Day of the Year,” which focuses on the fact that Saturn moved into Capricorn on the same day as the solstice. I’m not so sure that the promise of “the worst day” was realized, but the concept received a great deal of attention in multiple media outlets in print and online.

Meanwhile, this is a clear heads-up for astrologers who are interested in advancing the positive uses and applications of this powerful tool. Perhaps it’s time for astrologers to reach out and offer our insights, as they connect to the experiences of life, to media outlets that may not have been particularly friendly to astrology in the past. Not to re-invent the wheel, but we just might let it carry us into expanded territory.

Regulus Award Nominees Announced

The Marion D. March Regulus Awards will be presented at UAC 2018 in Chicago on May 28, 2018. These awards are presented by the Marion and Nico March Family Foundation, and highlight outstanding work in astrology. Winners will receive an honorarium from the Foundation. Members of the organizations sponsoring UAC have nominated the potential winners, and will be voting prior to the conference. This year’s nominees are: for *Community Service*: Roy Gillett, Steve Pincus, Richard Smoot, Chris Turner, and Donna van Toen; for *Discovery, Inno-*

vation, and Research: Gary Christen, David Cochrane, John Halloran, Alpheo Lavoie, and Melanie Reinhart; for Education: Steven Forrest, Clare Martin, Glenn Perry, Bruce Scofield, and Noel Tyl; for Professional Image: Frank Clifford, Robert Currey, Grace Morris, Edward Snow, and Tem Tarriktar; and for Theory & Understanding: Chris Brennan, Benjamin Dykes, Adam Gainsburg, James Holden, and Deborah Houlding. Congratulations to all the nominees for your outstanding contributions to astrology!

Astrology Conference Calendar

March 22-26, 2018: 34th Annual Northwest Astrological Conference (NORWAC), Seattle, Washington, USA. **For info:** e-mail: nwastroconf@gmail.com; URL: <http://NORWAC.net>

May 24-29, 2018: UAC 2018, "Celebrating Earth & Sky," Chicago, Illinois, USA. **For info:** URL: <https://www.UACAstrology.com>

June 22-24, 2018: Astrological Association 50th Anniversary Conference, "Diamonds in the Sky," Wokefield Park, UK. **For info:** URL: <https://astrologicalassociation.com/calendar/index.php>

July 7-8, 2018: 16th Annual Sophia Centre Conference, "The Materiality of Spirit and Place," Lampeter Campus, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK. **For info:** URL: <http://sophia-project.net/conferences/Spirit-And-Place/index.php>

July 12-16, 2018: Great Lakes Astrology Conference (GLAC), "Empowering the Joyful Path," Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. **For info:** tel. (734) 434-0804; e-mail: info@greatlakesastrology.com; URL: <http://greatlakesastrology.com>

August 9-12, 2018: Sky Astrology Conference, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, Moffat, Colorado, USA. **For info:** URL: <http://skyastrologyconference.com>

October 18-22, 2018: State of the Art (SOTA) Astrology Conference, Cheektowaga, New York, USA. **For info:** URL: <http://donnavantoen.com>; Facebook: [SotaAstrologyConference](https://www.facebook.com/SotaAstrologyConference)

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Gloria Star is a professional astrologer, author, and teacher. You can learn more about her and her services through her website, <http://www.GloriaStar.com>

Astro-Wisdom

continued from page 13

Chart Data and Sources

(Pseudonymous clients have given permission to publish their birth data. The sources of both are birth certificates.)

"Seeking Fame and Fortune," March 31, 1984; 11:05 a.m. IST; Secunderabad, India (17°N27', 78°E33').

"Inspired," December 25, 1955; 2:41 a.m. EST; Manhattan, NY, USA (40°N46', 73°W59').

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Alexandra Karacostas is a professional astrologer based in Chico, California. A student of astrology since 1975, Alexandra currently serves on the board of OPA, the Organization for Professional Astrology, and is co-editor for the ISAR Journal. She divides her time between the United States and Greece, where she leads Sacred Site tours, and serves a multinational clientele. Contact her at <http://www.WisdomAstrology.com> or e-mail AlexandraKaracostas@yahoo.com

SoftStar Muse

continued from page 56

More importantly, if you intend to study astrology for many years, then make sure that the program you get either has all of the features you anticipate needing for a long time, or can export its chart files to other programs (and import from other programs), because you don't want to have to enter every chart into a new program from scratch.

Most astrologers want "room to grow" with their software — that is, the ability to explore new schools of astrology and new techniques as they become more fluent in astrology.

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Hank Friedman is a professional Vedic and Western astrologer, author, and teacher. Visit his <http://www.soulhealing.com> website for astrology software guidance and his <http://www.learnastrologyfree.com> website for free in-depth astrology tutorials. You may contact him at stars@soulhealing.com for help in choosing the right astrology software for your needs.

Astro-Cartoon by Jerry King



"I showed my boss his horoscope which advised him to go with his gut instinct. Then he fired me."

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