

This is the first in a series of articles being made available on the Astrological Society of Connecticut's (ASC) web site. We hope you enjoy them.

The ASC was born on October 17, 1972 in Hartford, Connecticut at 1:44 in the afternoon. A corporation is born at the moment that the papers are signed. The ASC celebrates its 38<sup>th</sup> birthday this October 17. The purpose of this article is to explore planetary influences on the ASC during the year ahead.

Our starting point is the ASC's birth chart. It should be noted that the date of incorporation was carefully chosen with the aim of giving this newly born organization the best possible chance for success. My guess is that many of you reading this article were not part of that process. So let's note some of the strengths, weaknesses, predispositions, and recurring concerns depicted in the birth chart.

- The southern hemisphere (the part of the chart above the horizontal line connecting the cusp of the 1<sup>st</sup> house with the cusp of the 7<sup>th</sup> house) predominates. That means the ASC's focus is on the outside world, and we as a group are repeatedly trying to figure out how we can interact with that outside world more effectively. If the chart were turned up-side-down, with most of the energies concentrated below the horizon, then the focus would be on ourselves, the membership of the ASC, and we would try to figure out how and why the outside world does or doesn't interact with us. The change in perspective is subtle, but important. The fixed reference points that we establish and accept color all of our thinking.
- Of the 4 elements (earth, air, fire, water) air is strongest in this chart. The stellium in Libra brings a large dose of social awareness to all of the ASC's interactions. The grand trine in air (Moon, Saturn, and Uranus / Sun) brings a private mental place where we can go and hang out when we feel stressed out. The effect is that when we lose our monthly meeting space to a flood, or when we cannot come up with enough money to pay our bills, we, the members and governing board of the ASC, collectively head for this special non-physical place where we receive enough time to just BE, and then we talk the issues through until a reasonable solution appears.
- Retrograde Saturn in Gemini brings a tendency to consider what we plan to say before saying it, and also a tendency to avoid small talk when we do speak. 'We' refers to the tenor of the ASC as a whole, and not to individual member's tendencies apart from the organization. This group tendency to be efficient and incisive in thought and speech is enhanced by Mercury conjunct the Mid-heaven in Scorpio. The Moon in Aquarius brings a feeling of peace and security through knowledge. The more elegant our thinking, and the more we learn, the safer we feel.
- The North Node conjunct the Ascendant brings cycles of growing pains. The up side is that growing pains result in growth. Capricorn on the Ascendant tells us how to handle these challenges.
- Clues to how the world at large perceives the responsibilities and maturity of the ASC can be found in the 10<sup>th</sup> house. Mercury in Scorpio is about digging deep enough to find truth, and then speaking that truth. Mercury's conjunction with the mid-heaven tells us that finding and speaking truth is a main career objective of the ASC. This ongoing task is supported by the Neptunian energy's ability to identify illusion. The chart suggests using the fire and light of Sagittarius to expose each illusion as illusion. As the ground is cleared, one illusion at a time, the Scorpionic energy is poised to dig even deeper. And the cycle continues.
- Chiron stands apart in the chart as the apex of a yod, a key player in a T-square involving Uranus and the Ascendant, and in opposition to Mars. There are many relationships between Chiron and significant chart points, none of them particularly easy. How the ASC handles healing energy -- receiving it, using it, distributing it -- or more simply, channeling it -- is a pivotal and life-long concern for the ASC. The close proximity of Mars with Pluto speaks to intense explosive energy, sometimes playing out as instances of frayed nerves and short tempers popping up among members of the group. Eight degrees of separation between Mars and Pluto lessens this effect, but does not cancel it. Using this volatile energy for healing purposes is also indicated in the chart. There is much more to examine in the birth chart, but this article is finite and we need to move on.

Which planetary energies are strongest, and most persistent, right now? Let's briefly put the current energy patterns in the sky into perspective.

- During the past several months Pluto has been the apex of a T-square featuring Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto -- all in, or close to, early degrees of cardinal signs. This has been affecting everyone and everything on the

planet. The main gist of this T-Square is about getting rid of baggage (Pluto's specialty) in a very methodical way (Saturn rules Capricorn, the sign Pluto is in). Of course, the hardest thing for any of us to get rid of is illusion. We fight wars to protect our favorite illusions. And not just us. And not just now. The Uranian part of this T-square seems to be about shaking things up enough to make the illusions pop into visibility. The mutual reception between Uranus and Neptune gives an added boost to our efforts to identify what is real and what is illusion.

- Chiron and Neptune have been traveling together in a tight conjunction for a long time, and will continue to do so during the coming year. Again, this effects everyone and everything on the planet. Neptunian techniques, such as emptying meditation, are more available globally and can be used to help heal the planet.
- Pluto entered Capricorn for the first time in January of 2008. Pluto remains in Capricorn until March of 2023. Neptune entered Aquarius for the first time in Jan of 1998, and will enter Pisces for the first time in April of 2011. Neptune will exit from Pisces in March 2025. Uranus entered Aires for the first time in May of 2010. Uranus remains in Aires until May of 2018. (Uranus will be firmly established in Aires when Neptune enters Pisces.)

These three outer planets generally work in concert. It seems to me that the key to using these very powerful energies effectively is to be prepared to cooperate with, and use these energies, on purpose, as they become available to us. To do this 'on purpose' requires strong and focused intention, as well as sustainable attention. Strengthening our faculties of intention and attention take a lot of effort and discipline. These efforts are critical at this point in time. The alternative to consciously using these energies with intention is to be subject to the Law of Accident. Things simply happen to us; we know not why. Unfortunately, interpreting what happens to us, as we move through the day on automatic-pilot, leads to a lot of superstitious attitudes (eg. my horoscope says it is unsafe to get out of bed this morning, ....). The ASC is poised to help the general population understand the value of astrology, and to help people to move away from superstition and fear.

It's time to take a look at this coming year. As the year opens the transiting Saturn / Uranus / Pluto T-square mentioned above is breaking apart. However the effect on the ASC chart, and in particular on the Mars / Pluto conjunction in the 8<sup>th</sup> house of transformation opposing Chiron in the 3<sup>rd</sup> house, is far from over. This year promises to be a year of transformation for the ASC. (Transiting Pluto tightly squares natal Pluto and also squares natal Mars. Transiting Saturn will conjunct Mars 3 times, as well as opposing Chiron 3 times, this year. Transiting Uranus opposes natal Pluto exactly in May and in September of 2011.)

So. What kind of transformation? What should we look for? Whatever healing energy we, the ASC, are able to tap into or channel (via Chiron in the chart), that energy needs to be made available to Mars (Mars rules Aires, the sign Chiron is in) in order to DO SOMETHING in the physical world. Mars in Libra wants to go slowly, essentially underscoring some of the themes of retrograde natal Saturn. (Mars is said to be in detriment in Libra because deliberation and immediate action are pulling in different directions.) But action is called for, guided by transiting Saturn, which is exalted in Libra. OK. This is getting very technical. So what can we do to aid in our own transformation? Some possibilities are:

- We can create a group within the ASC to approach Human Resource departments of major companies in our area with the purpose of offering astrological services for team building in their company. This is akin to synecism and family dynamic analysis in the workplace. We will need to develop our own mini-business. But it will, if and when we get it in place, have very far-reaching consequences on our own organization, and also on the way the community at large sees both us and astrology.
- Using the 3<sup>rd</sup> house orientation of Chiron, we can actively foster the development of small peer groups within the ASC. Being able to share with each other as professionals, without viewing each other primarily as competition, is an amazing experience. It too would transform our organization, and have consequences that filter into the general community.
- We can create astrological 'apps'. That one would definitely put us on the map in the next couple of years. After all the 8<sup>th</sup> house is about our joint resources as well as about inner transformation.

Let's return to this year's basic energy patterns. Pluto remains transiting our 12<sup>th</sup> house, and conjuncting natal Jupiter. The 12<sup>th</sup> house is our unconscious, a very alive active place -- our dream space. Transiting Uranus is coming into square with natal Jupiter later this year (and, of course, into opposition with natal Pluto). How can we use this energy on purpose? The basic mythology of Jupiter and Sagittarius can be helpful here. We need to apply the practicality of

Capricorn (natal Jupiter in Capricorn). Instead of shooting an arrow into the unknown with no clue at all about its final destination, let's figure out where we have never been before but would like to visit. Because Uranus will be a player as we move through the year, wherever we go should have a discernable 'before and after' aspect, even as we think about it in the planning stage. We should also remain on the lookout for outmoded boundaries and attitudes (Pluto is forever getting rid of baggage). Lastly we should remember that Mars is active this entire year and is our primary link to creating something new in the real world.

- This is the time to use what we learn in our dreams (Pluto transiting the 12<sup>th</sup> house) to energize what we create in physical reality. Mars being near the top of the chart, we need to bring our creation into the greater community. Perhaps we can mentor an astrology club on a local college campus, or offer age appropriate astrology activities to any school in our area that is open to the possibility. The challenges we encounter will certainly push our buttons, our personal boundary issues, supporting our own 8<sup>th</sup> house transformation.
- Another possibility would be setting up some kind of 'event' on the first Saturday that the Sun is in a new sign. Or, the ASC can form 12 separate sub-groups, each group responsible for setting up one event. The event can be keyed to that sign's energy and to the house in the ASC chart that the Sun is transiting. And, of course, it should include the outside community in some fashion.

The transiting Neptune / Chiron combination has been conjuncting the Moon in Aquarius in the 1<sup>st</sup> house for quite a while. This conjunction is coming to an end. (I rarely use orbs of more than 6 or 7 degrees.) A direct link with the channels of Neptunian information is being broken (Neptune no longer conjunct the Moon), throwing us, the ASC, into a more familiar and socially supported state of mind, but one where it is more difficult to feel truth directly. We need to simply recognize what is happening. Most of this coming year's energy is DOING oriented. What happens to us on the inside is processed through the energy of Mars and made real on the outside. But we also need to continue to BE, and not just DO. Hanging out in the chart's grand trine can help. We need to be present in that mental space without falling asleep, or drifting off into la-la land. Or at least make the effort.

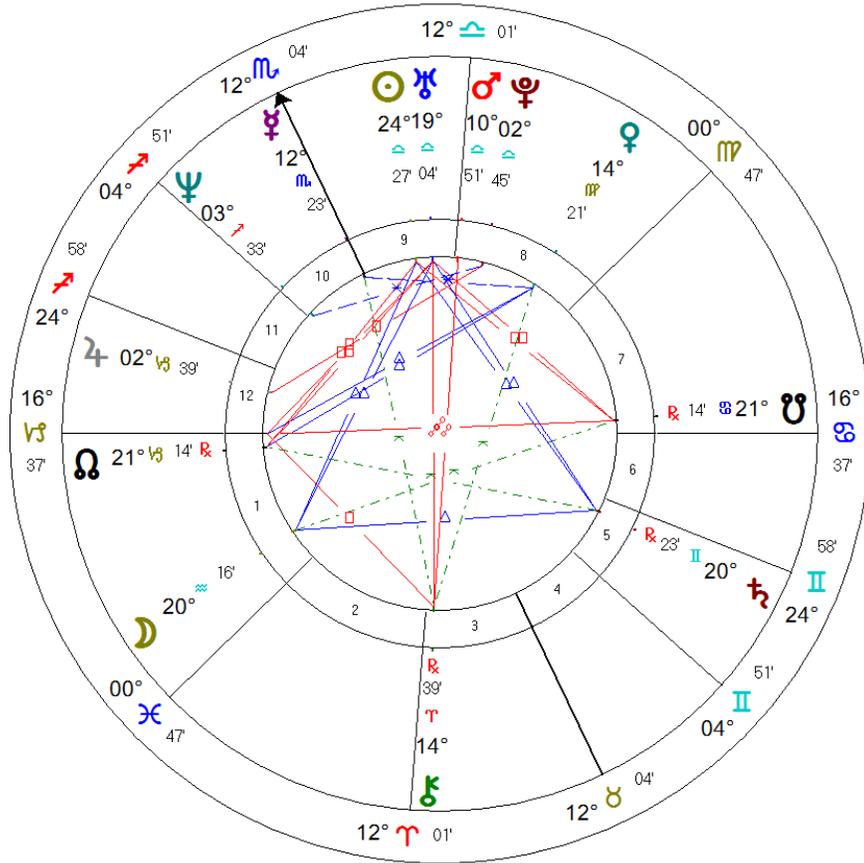
Two specific events of importance this year are the eclipse on July 1 squaring natal Mars, and transiting Jupiter conjuncting Chiron on March 29. I will leave it to the reader to investigate these events more fully. I am also inviting the reader to add further insight into this next year's energy interactions with the ASC. All useable ideas will be passed on to appropriate board members.

As an aside let's glimpse this year's solar return chart from a Neptunian, dream space point of view. Think of all the planets, and include the Moon's nodes, as five year old children in a playschool. The South Node has just discovered a small size violin lying in a quiet corner of the room. She picks it up and starts to experiment, pulling the bow across the strings. The North Node, buoyed by the closeness of Pluto's aura of leadership and power, is shouting across the room at her, correcting her obviously poor technique. 'Stand straight. Shoulders back. You're holding the bow wrong. Slow down. Speed up. Follow the rules. Argghh.' Saturn has no close friends. She is square to the nodes and she is quincunx to that snooty, stand-offish clique in the 11<sup>th</sup> house. Poor Chiron. Trapped between the non-verbal, and the non-rational. But the only thing Saturn notices is that she was not invited to the party in the 11<sup>th</sup> house, and everyone else was. Being in the 6<sup>th</sup> house of service, and in Libra to boot, where she is supposed to be balancing everyone's side of the story, Saturn decides to practice reciting new vocabulary, at the top of her lungs, that she learned from her slightly inebriated uncle this past week-end. That'll show them. Hurt feelings or not, I'm Saturn, and not the Moon. (You didn't know Libra could be that way, did you? She is cardinal.) Mars is cutting up rough at the party. He squares the snooty group, although he sextiles the midheaven and has clear career objectives. Mars does have buddies -- Jupiter and Uranus. But they're no fun. They like to jump out and surprise people with their water pistols. Oh well. Maybe Venus is seducible. She does like one-to-one relationships. So who have we neglected to see? The good kids. Mercury and the Sun. No doubt weighing the pros and cons of President Obama's latest initiative. But squaring the midheaven, they remain clueless. However they are only 5 years old.

Ruth Finizio  
finizior@yahoo.com

**ASC**

**Natal Chart (8)**  
Oct 17 1972, Tue  
1:44 pm EDT+4:00  
Hartford, CT  
41°N45'49" 072°W41'08"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
Mean Node



**ASC**

**Solar Return (10)**  
Oct 17 2010, Sun (±1 secs)  
6:34:23 pm EDT+4:00  
New York, NY  
40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
Mean Node

