

GREETINGS;

William Shakespeare was correct when he warned that April is the cruelest month, as all of us know, having gotten to the end of this crazy time. I am writing about May early, since I am so looking forward to all of us having a more peaceful, grounded time. The last week of April was the Dark of the Moon, with May beginning with a New Moon on May 3. We can all keep our attention on that date and event, and life will become more peaceful.

In the spirit of the three R's of healing, rest, recreation and regeneration, I want to mention a class on the Art of Relaxation on 5/20 presented by my vinyasa yoga teacher Pam Johnson. Check out her website www.heightschoolofyoga.com for this and other wonderful opportunities to reboot your relaxation response. As many of you know, I have practiced yoga for 42 of my 68 years, and I find vinyasa as taught by Pam, the best relaxation experience of all.

LANDSCAPING: With 3 months of no rainfall, many of you will find you are ready to pay to get irrigation. My master irrigator Tommy Dukes, 281-989-3889, is who you should call to take the pressure off yourself and your plants. Actually, I found my water bill became lower once I got irrigation installed. Hand watering is quite wasteful. The dormant season for trees is over, and the heat has gotten them growing, the lack of water has increased the prevalence of disease, so if you need assistance with trees, especially before hurricane season begins June 1, please let me know and I will help you. This is the time to put in plants which can make it through the summer, and weed and mulch. Let me know if you need help with any of your replanting, clean up, or creating paths and patios. For pictures of my work, check out the Landscape section on my website www.nanhallinke.com.

MAY ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

I recently ran into someone in the grocery store who shared with me that the format I now use which is to report the patterns as they affect all of us, rather than focusing on individual signs, was confusing to her. Since others may wonder about this, I want you to know that the astrological method of predicting individually through dissection misses the awareness of the patterns which astrology reflects. In his new book "The Science of Success", David Brooks mentions that one of the habits of those who succeed is the ability to see the larger pattern, so this is what I am aiming for in my outlook.

As mentioned earlier, we are moving out of a particularly challenging time, with many planets in the aggressive sign Aries and transitioning into the more fixed, peaceful sign of Taurus. The Sun entered Taurus on 4/20, with Venus and Mercury to move into Taurus on 5/15, Mars moves into Taurus first on 5/11. The Moon is New on 5/3, so between 5/3 and 5/15, life should offer less challenge and more contentment, particularly if we align with the thoughts and activities which will ensure peace and gratitude, if only for surviving the first 4 months of this interesting year. Take a break and find the movie "I Am" and enjoy the message it presents. You will surely feel better after watching it.

Mental Mercury will move past the point it went out of balance on 5/10, and will join with Venus on 5/9 and with Jupiter on 5/11. This traditionally brings peaceful optimistic thoughts and actions in our relationships with others. If you need to have a discussion with anyone, these are the days to do it (5/9-11). Those with planets in Taurus, Gemini and Virgo will be particularly blessed. On 5/16 for the second time, Mercury will join Venus. Please plan some social time on this day as well, since harmony is the theme of the day. If you have the need to make business decisions regarding money, the period from 5/9-16 is a very fortunate time. If you want to take a vacation, these are great days to do so. After the Full Moon in Scorpio on 5/17, Mercury is stabilized by Pluto on 5/20 and joins Mars in Taurus. This bodes well for problem resolution, financial decision making and starting new projects which require focus and determination. The first of the Mercury/Venus conjunctions occurs in Aries (5/9) and the second in Taurus (5/16). I can't overstate what a fortunate week this will be for all of us, especially those with a clear direction and unbridled optimism leading to action.

Venus begins the month in Aries, enjoying an impulsive period till it enters Taurus on 5/15. On 5/11 Venus and Jupiter join together, which is one of the most favorable patterns in all astrology. Take

advantage of this energy in any way you can imagine. Plan a party, make a date, do business, solve problems: all will be easier at this time. On 5/21, the strengthening balance from Pluto in Capricorn aids all of us in feeling stable, strong and more powerful in all we want to accomplish. On 5/23 Venus joins Mars in the most powerful sexual magnet in astrology. If you are single, find others; if you are mated, enjoy the fireworks. For those who want to conceive children, this is a particularly fertile day. If there is anything you want to put in motion, this is the day to get it done.

Mars, the mania maker is thankfully running out of steam in Aries, and enters Taurus on 5/11 where we all will get more practical in our actions and more stable in our inner lives. We begin May with Mars and Jupiter joining forces, which is the theme for the month: get going in the direction of your joy, in other words, "Follow Your Bliss", as the late, great Joseph Campbell used to say. Perhaps it is the relief of April ending, but May begins with a feeling of optimism and enthusiasm which is well placed. On 5/20 Mars is balanced by Pluto in Capricorn, which is the picture of balanced power.

For those who can shift forward in May, this will be a time of relaxation and pleasure and relief. All the tension of opposites from Aries to Libra ended in April, which caused most of us to feel overburdened, pressured, anxious and angry. I hope you found time to be alone and have some "self" dialysis so you could prepare for the magnificent May which is coming. If you need to plan ahead or resolve some of the challenges of your life with an empathetic counselor, please call my office to schedule your appointment.

SUMMER SOLSTICE RITUAL: Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 21 to attend the annual Summer Solstice at my house. Instructions for preparation will follow shortly.

Enjoy this month.

NAN