

GREETINGS;

I hope your September wasn't as crazy as mine, and the New Moon of 9/27 in Libra began to shift your world into greater balance and peacefulness. I read a wise explanation about the four areas where we experience crisis: our body, finances, career and/or relationships. This is where we learn best and that is why cycles of challenge occur in these areas. I read a fascinating book about the years as Hitler was ascending to power in Germany, "In the Garden of Beasts" by Erik Larson. The book was from the perspective of the new American ambassador and his family. The world was falling apart, money was not available, and there was drought and heat all over the world. The planets at that time were very similar to what we are experiencing now, so not surprisingly, we deal with the same issues.

Landscaping: many people now want native plants which survive heat and drought better than the Asian plants that are so popular here. If you need help with planting, let me know. It is essential to clean up the debris of summer and mulch well for the winter which may or may not come. Mulch keeps roots cool, adds an organic component to soil and discourages weeds which compete for water and nutrients with plants and trees. Trees need to be evaluated by a qualified arborist. Irrigation needs to be in good working order before replanting or pruning. Grass may come back when the nights get cooler and the rain returns. Even weekly rains bring grass back to life. I have the best subcontractors for any of your needs and can help you with any of your "exterior decorating", please call my office at 713/520-1551 to schedule your appointment.

OCTOBER ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

The pattern for October began with the autumnal equinox on 9/23, followed by the New Moon in Libra on 9/27 and intensifies at the Full Moon on 10/11. This is a feast of social activities (Libra), and a time for reevaluation of all relationships. With the heat and tension of the summer, all of us know what and who aggravate and irritate us. Hopefully you have made a list of actions to take to remove some of the tension from these people and circumstances. With the majority of planets in Cardinal signs (action signs), this is the perfect time to make major changes and solve new and recurring problems. October is driven by Mars, planet of action, aggravation and decisiveness and Saturn, planet of reality, learning and the power of limits. These planets support one another all month, engaging the traits of Leo (generosity, creativity and celebration) and Libra (kindness, sharing and equitable problem solving). Keep these ideas as your intention and you will be in the current of this month's cycle.

As October begins, Mercury, the mental messenger, is moving through Libra, urging us all to bring peace to our thoughts and look at life from all sides before making decisions, particularly looking for reality checks and mirroring from competent professionals and those who have traditionally given us good counsel. Mercury joins Saturn in Libra on 10/6 which may be the most realistic day of 2011. Try to take advantage of the clarity it provides before you make firm decisions. On 10/12 Mercury and Neptune share creative energy so any problem that needs a creative and original solution should be addressed at this time. On 10/13 Mercury moves into deep, watery Scorpio, so if you need to probe deeper this is the time to begin to do so. On 10/17 Mercury gets a strong life of encouraging expansive energy from Jupiter, so don't spend this day alone. It is a wonderful time to be with others. On 10/28 Mercury moves into possible conflict

with Mars in Leo, so don't let ego override the goal of peace, and avoid all communication with the narcissists in your life and work. This is a day not to react to those who aggravate you.

Venus, our social messenger, is beginning the month in Libra, bringing too many opportunities to be with others. The challenge of finding a "no" in all that desirable social interaction will be present for all of us, particularly for those with planets in Libra. An overfull calendar can be more than a blessing at this time. On 10/7 Neptune and Venus make some powerful magic, so do not spend this day and night alone. On 10/9 Venus enters Scorpio and stirs up some sexual magic on 10/14 and 10/26. On 10/14 Venus and Jupiter urge us to take risk and overdo our pleasure principle. On 10/26, the powerful New Moon in Scorpio has Venus and Mars making strong sexual chemistry. This is a great time to begin a new business venture and/or a personal relationship. You will not be bored.

Mars spends all of October in Leo, encouraging our hearts to celebrate, create and show our best self to all we encounter. It is a pattern of extroverted energy in which introverts may surprise themselves and extroverts may go over the top.

Saturn continues the slow movement in Libra, continuing to challenge our peacefulness and balance, and urging us to take a serious look at our relationships to see if they are two way or one way streets. Now is when the "Opposites attract, then attack" mantra is most visible.

Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune are in a backwards rest period, so life should be clear with Mars and Saturn as our drivers. Pluto is getting started again in Capricorn and the lessons of power and authority are a constant theme for all of us.

The first three weeks of October are exceptionally dynamic and fast moving with planets in air and fire dominating. A much less hysterical pace begins the last week of October at the New Moon of 10/26, as the water energy of feeling, which always slows us down, predominates over the air, which is the life of the mind.

There are a few more dates that we should all note. Three days after the Full Moon of 10/11, the Sun will join sober Saturn on 10/13, for the only time this year. That usually brings our understanding of the major events of our life into a new focus. Sometimes it is about endings, other times about beginnings. On Friday, 10/28, there is so much connection between the planets: Moon, Venus, Neptune, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, Pluto and Uranus, that it looks like a fireworks display. Please find something wonderful to do on that day. Jupiter and Pluto balance one another in earth signs, which is something we should all look forward to as it doesn't happen often.

If I can help you with your life challenges and decisions, please call for an appointment. If you need a beautiful landscape, I am available as well.

Enjoy your Fall, which finally arrived.

NAN