

# Astrological Insights

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017 EDITION

## Mercury Retrogrades

We began the 2017 new year with Mercury retrograde in Capricorn until January 8th. Mercury retrogrades happen 3 to 4 times a year. It's a good time for study, reflection and introspection. It's **not** a good time to try and get things accomplished such as scheduling appointments, installing new computers, telephones, anything electronic or dealing with communications.

Mercury is the planet of communications. There are some who don't believe in Mercury retrograde but it is not a belief, it is a fact that communications don't work so well during these times. When in retrograde, it's telling us to slow down, take a breath and spend time contemplating things you would like to occur once it goes direct again.

### 2017 Mercury Retrograde Dates:

- 12-19-16 to 01-08-17 in Capricorn
- 04-09-17 to 05-03-17 in Taurus
- 08-12-17 to 09-05-17 in Virgo
- 12-03-17 to 12-23-17 in Sagittarius

Mark these dates on your calendar! Avoid planning things while Mercury is in retrograde -- they will surely have to be changed. Instead, use this time to work behind the scenes and you will avoid frustration.

This year is full of challenges. There are major patterns that challenge the chart of the United States. Jupiter, Uranus and Pluto make a dynamic T-square that speaks to our negligent stewardship of the Earth. We're going to have to use great effort to ensure a livable planet for future generations.

Saturn, Neptune and Mars make a T-square that speaks to defensiveness, righteousness and religious fanaticism. Lines between fact (Saturn) and fiction (Neptune) are being blurred as never before. We elected a media-savvy reality TV star – President Donald Trump, who will be greatly challenged in this office. More about this in future editions.

Uranus while in favorable position to the U.S. Mars, is emboldening people to take action. Saturn in favorable position to Uranus is a strange bedfellow alliance: Trump ran as an anti-Washington candidate, but has chosen Old Guard people to be in his Cabinet, thus discouraging those who voted for him. It seems there will be no rest this year.

For the inauguration, high expectation and pessimism in equal measure. We're in a new year, but finishing up old material (racism and bigotry) that's been haunting us. In 2020, things will start over on many levels.

How do we get through this time? Transiting Saturn and transiting Uranus are in favorable aspect to each other, which means helpful, inventive ideas are strengthened even in the midst of resistance to become accepted by consensus opinion. As we move forward, there will be many changes. It's most important to be vigilant. We have to get through the storm to find the rainbow!

*Look for Astrological Insights again in April. In the meantime, get your chart done to find out how all of this impacts you and what is important for you this year. Call 610-296-2324 or send an email to [plutorising424@gmail.com](mailto:plutorising424@gmail.com) to schedule an appointment with Sara Funk.*



# Understanding Outer Planets

In this first quarter newsletter, I have chosen to look at these outer planets as they are so powerfully located at this time in our evolution. It is also helpful to know where they are for you at this time. Transits of planets means through what sign the planets are currently expressing. Currently we have Jupiter in Libra, Saturn in Sagittarius, Chiron in Pisces, Uranus in Aries, Neptune in Pisces, Pluto in Capricorn and Eris in Aries. Aries Libra and Capricorn are Cardinal signs – meaning action. Sagittarius and Pisces are Mutable signs – meaning flexibility. The United States’ sign is Cancer – a Cardinal sign.



**Currently Jupiter, the planet of wisdom**, philosophy, travel, other cultures, expansion, and moral / ethical issues, is transiting in the sign Libra. Jupiter stays one year in a sign and expands whatever area (house) it may be going through in your chart. Jupiter also pushes boundaries and sometimes makes us overdo. In Libra, we experience an expansion of relationships, reaching out to others to bring harmony, justice, fairness and balance to our lives. It can, however, also be indecisive in the face of too many choices and being too nice in order to avoid being offensive and undermining our position



**Eris, a newly discovered planet** (announced in 2006 by the International Astronomical Union), is also called the 10th planet for which astronomers had long been searching. It's located beyond Pluto, approximately the same size and takes 556 years to circle the Sun. Eris is a feminine spiritual warrior, a planet of truth and where in our charts we stand up for the truth and will fight for it, if necessary. She champions causes and fights for principles. She is particularly powerful in Aries and has been in Aries since 1927, so we all have Eris in Aries. Right now she is traveling the heavens in conjunction with Uranus in Aries – this means a very powerful, surprising and upsetting time for our country and may be challenging personally. It's a good year to get your chart done and see where this spiritual warrior takes a stand for you in your life!



**Currently Saturn, the planet of discipline**, restriction, order, authority and structure is traveling in Sagittarius. This is a favorable position for Saturn as Sagittarius is the sign of wisdom, knowledge, the larger picture of life and our beliefs, which helps Saturn to expand in ways that open us up to seeing the bigger picture of whatever we are currently experiencing in terms of Saturn's journey through our charts.



**Pluto is still journeying in Capricorn** and will be until 2024. It's changing governments -- in fact, totally transforming them! For our country, whose sign is Cancer, this is quite a transformation -- along with the fact mentioned above, that Eris and Uranus are in Aries; both Capricorn and Aries are challenging signs to Cancer. We're in for some big lessons. Where it may be in your chart is where you experience transformation and great change.



**Neptune, traveling in its own sign**, Pisces, is helping us to be compassionate, sensitive to others' needs and also confused and unsure of what is next. Neptune asks us to have faith, to trust our inner knowing and to do what we can to help others.



**Chiron, the wounded healer**, is also in Pisces and will be until 2019. This brings out the healer in all of us, particularly those who are in healing professions. This is our chance -- with Neptune in Pisces and Chiron in Pisces -- to bring in great healing energy to transform life in ways that are loving and positive. This transformation is very much needed now and in the future.



**Uranus, the planet of sudden changes**, surprises, upsets, erratic actions, rebellion and original creative thinking, is currently in Aries with Eris. This is quite significant in describing the Women's March which just took place all over the world. The combination of planets traveling in Aries is powerful for creating change that moves us forward in a new way, and not backing down to any negativity. Eris will get to the truth and stand for truth, and Uranus will shake things up to do so.



## Meet Sara Funk

Sara, in her 40 years of practicing astrology, has studied notable astrologers such as Jeffrey Wolf Green, Liz Greene, Dane Rudyhar, Marc Edmond Jones, Steven Forrest, Robert Hand, psychologist Carl Jung, and many others. She has also attended many astrological conferences and workshops in the United States and published an article "Astrology and the Healthy Psyche" in Common Ground magazine. Sara has clients throughout the United States.



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