

ASTROLOGY IN AMERICA TODAY

By Marion D. March
April 1994

Good afternoon and thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak to you here in your absolutely beautiful city!

The subject you've asked me to cover, ASTROLOGY IN AMERICA, is vast, nearly as vast as the country I'm to talk about. So, to illustrate more clearly, I have put the United States chart behind me [see chart next page], and in one glance you will recognize why we are such a dynamic mixture of wild and crazy, straightlaced and prude, idealistic individualists who will fight for freedom, yet will blindly follow fads cleverly laid out by some advertising geniuses. These huge fluctuations and differences of expression reflect in our geographical diversity, our motley climate, our daily life and, of course, our approach to astrology.

To quickly settle a point of contention, namely Gemini rather than Sagittarius rising: Dane Rudhyar is the one who made the Sagittarius chart famous in Europe. But that chart, published in the 17th century by Sibley, is not based on fact or knowledge, as usually assumed – it is a rectified horoscope which has less *raison d'être* than a Gemini Ascendant which at least is based on some historical notes. Most of our recognized and successful American mundane astrologers, including the Grand Dame of all, now deceased Washington D.C. resident **Barbara Watters**, all used Gemini rising. Gemini represents our preoccupation with youth, our delightful, often naive curiosity, which the chart ruler Mercury in Cancer well explains our zealous patriotism and near reverence for home, hearth, mother, and family life style. Gemini validates our movability, adaptability to new circumstances and boredom with the status quo.

Anybody who's ever been to the United States and observed us for a while, will acknowledge our strongly revolutionary inclination evident with Uranus rising, rebels with or without a cause; original, inventive and open to the future. Is it any wonder that we consistently have to show the world how unique we are? After all, Uranus, the ruler of our Midheaven is right on our Ascendant. Mars is also placed in the 1st house, and yes, we were born in revolution and war and

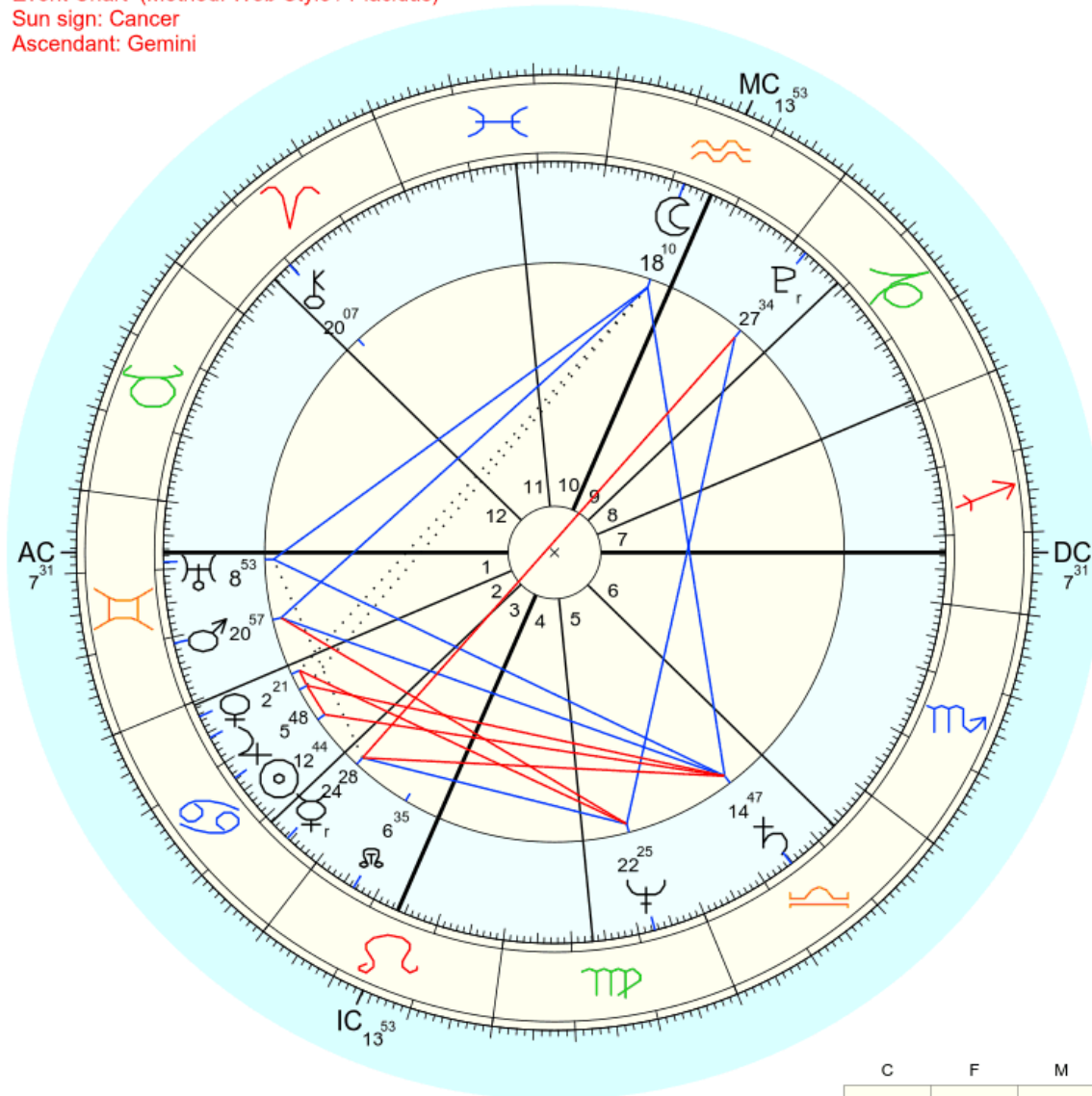
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date: Th., 4 July 1776
in Philadelphia, PA (US)
75w10, 39n57

Time: 2:14 a.m. LMT
Univ.Time: 7:14:40
Sid. Time: 21:05:25



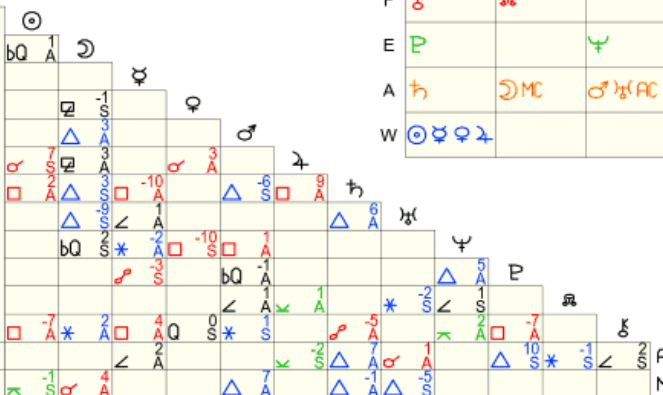
Type: 2.GW 0.0-1 22-Apr-2025

Event Chart (Method: Web Style / Placidus)
Sun sign: Cancer
Ascendant: Gemini



☉ Sun 12 Can 43'47"
☾ Moon 18 Aqu 10'22"
☿ Mercury 24 Can 28'16"r
♀ Venus 2 Can 20'34"
♂ Mars 20 Gem 57' 3"
♃ Jupiter 5 Can 47'34"
♄ Saturn 14 Lib 47'14"
♅ Uranus 8 Gem 53'24"
♆ Neptune 22 Vir 24'31"
♇ Pluto 27 Cap 33'59"r
♁ True Node 6 Leo 35'11"d
♄ Chiron 20 Ari 7'24"

AC: 7 Gem 30'46" 2: 0 Can 31' 3: 21 Can 10'
MC: 13 Aqu 52'59" 11: 13 Pis 10' 12: 23 Ari 11'



	C	F	M
F	♈	♉	
E	♊		♋
A	♌	♍ MC	♎ 1/2 AC
W	♏	♐	

still live in a violent society that thrives on gun ownership as a citizen's right with subsequent violence in the streets escalating. The Mars/Neptune square is not inductive to clear vision and has seen many a racial strife; but thankfully this same Mars is involved in a grand trine with Saturn (good timing) as well as the Moon (the public) enabling Americans to make mistakes and yet come out on top in the long run, be it in human rights, racial or gender issues.

Our 2nd house Cancer Sun conjunct friendly Venus and Jupiter, again confirms our love of home and country as well as our fixation with money, on equating success with what we earn and own rather than with who we are or what we know. Yet this Cancer Sun's ruler, the Moon, is in Aquarius in the 10th house, the highest or focal planet of the chart, lending a different nuance to usually sympathetic and domestic Cancer. This Moon placement prides itself on being unpredictable, independent, tolerant, humane and ahead of its time. The conservative Sun and the progressive Moon undergo an eternal battle that often appears to divide the country, but in truth adds to its basic strength and growth potential.

This great eclectic mixture reflects in our attitude toward astrology. In other words, we are willing to listen to anything, try it out and only reject it if it doesn't work – but first we give it a chance. This makes us a top testing ground for new methods, ideas and systems. Whereas Uranus and Aquarius say yes to the new, Cancer holds on to the old, the tried and true. Thus in our country can such groups as the **AFA** (American Federation of Astrologers) consisting of very traditional astrologers, most of them adhering to the type of astrology taught fifty or more years ago, versus progressive groups such as **UAC** (United Astrology Congress) made up of three top organizations in the U.S. today, namely **AFAN** *Association for Astrological Networking*, **ISAR** *International Society for Astrological Research*, and **NCGR** *National Council of Geocosmic Research*; all three pioneer new images for astrologers.

Just as our country flourishes and prospers because of its diversity, so does Astrology. Germany may have given birth to ***Midpoints, Uranian Astrology, Dr. Koch's house system and Composite charts***, but it was American that took these to heart, tested and retested them and made these systems palatable to the rest of the world. France may have given birth to **Dane**

Rudhyar, but it was the U.S. that accepted his philosophies, psychological insights as well as his lunar phases and put his name on the map.

The ancient method of using the relationship between the Sun and Moon for **childbearing** may have been revived and tested by **Czech Dr. Eugen Jonas**, but Americans, including myself, were the first to apply this to some of the new high-tech fertility techniques. In fact the newest book in our “The Only Way” on Horary and Electional Astrology due this May, covers the subject. For centuries the Chinese have used **Feng Shui**, a type of geomancy involving the art of placement, which, together with the use of the **I Ching** thanks to our large Asian population, is infiltrating into our basically western genre of astrology. It is forward looking Astrologers like **Angel Thompson** who up-date the ancient wisdoms and make them palatable to Eastern or Western, age-old or contemporary civilizations. Now many of us check carefully before placing our desks or chairs in certain directions.

In a similar vein the concept of **Local Space**, based on the Horizon system, has only recently been explored, though it is an ancient system that over the centuries lost is popularity to Ecliptic and Equatorial methodologies. **Edward Johndro** and **Charles Jayne**, two technically oriented American astrologers, tried to revive it in the 1930s and 40s, but it took **Michael Erlewine** (owner of Matrix astrological software) to work out the mathematics of converting the ecliptic zodiac planetary positions into their azimuth and altitude before the practical applications of local space could be ascertained. There still is no ephemeris that can give you the necessary information, though it is stored in navigation manuals and now can be obtained in computer programs. The **Local Space** chart is the perfect tool to help you understand the variety of conditions in your immediate environment. After fighting for months with my bank regarding billing errors, Local Space made me realize that this bank was on my Saturn line. My new bank is on my Jupiter line and I haven’t had a problem in 9 years!

True to the Cancer stellium in the U.S. chart which loves tradition, we have resuscitated **Heliocentric Astrology** first talked about by **Vincent Wing** a student of **William Lilly**, then discussed again in the 1940s by **Hugh McCraig** in the back of McCoy’s 200 year ephemeris and finally revived, researched, explained as well as publicized by **T. Pat Davis** in the late 1970s. She and

many other American astrologers use both heliocentric and geocentric together. Personally I prefer to use each separately and I find that Heliocentric can provide great insights when interpreting a chart in an esoteric rather than psychological manner. But either way, it is an interesting addition to natal astrology and well worth exploring.

The renewed popularity of such fields as **Horary Astrology** is partly based on the enjoyment of the old and traditional, thanks to England's **Olivia Barclay** who republished William Lilly, **Ivy Jacobson** who used many of Lilly's methods but also added some of her own procedures and **Joan McEvers** who streamlined and revised much of it. Yet in typical American fashion, all three techniques have gained followers and acceptance.

We still have a school of **Sidereal** astrologers which naturally includes **Hindu and Vedic** astrology. **Jacob Schwartz** has reintroduced the **Draconic System** based on the Lunar Nodes. **Fixed Stars** and their influence also seem to pick up in popularity, so do **Weather Predictions**.

Also digging back into our astrological roots is the exciting **Project Hindsight**, a fabulous effort at translating into English, mainly from the Greek and Latin, the surviving astrological literature from ancient times thru the Renaissance. This most worthwhile undertaking is headed by three Roberts, **Robert Hand** who serves as editor and general overseer, **Robert Schmidt** and **Robert Zoller** who do the translations. They already have discovered some amazing facts regarding some words where mis-translations have led to misunderstandings. The Greek word **zoidion** for example means "*small living things*" or "*a place where a living thing dwells*", yet its translation into the Latin "*sigmum*" and subsequent interpretation of **sign** does not really convey the same meaning. There have been many other discoveries, especially regarding the qualities and elements, diurnal versus nocturnal definitions and more.

English astrologer **Roy Firebrace** may have been the first to publish local maps in 1962, but it took the typically American mindset of "everything is possible" of **Jim Lewis** to computerize the idea, utilize it in mundane as well as personal applications and sell his Astro*Carto*Graphy to a willing and waiting public. Now you simply superimpose your horoscope onto a world

map and at one glance you can see where you may or may not live happily ever after.

Of course nothing changed the face of astrology as much as **computers**. Our preoccupation with them has brought another dimension into astrology, reducing once formidable tasks into simply pushing a few buttons, thus making many complex systems child's play. **Financial Astrology** serves as a good example. Though still not openly used, we know that many high rollers on Wall Street utilize astrology. J.P. Morgan's firm is supposedly the only one that officially employs an astrologer, but it is an open secret that assorted financial newsletters are based on astrological as well as financial cycles. Computerized programs have made it easy to establish and record those cyclic movements.

Lois Rodden, the lady more responsible than anyone else for alerting us to the amount of wrong birthdata being used, has categorized it into: **AA** = *Official Records* **A** = *Information given by family* **B** = *Biographical Data* **C** = *Source Unknown* **DD** = *Dirty Data*. If Lois had been around in 1776, we would know for sure at what time America was born! That same Lois, thanks to computers, was able to put together a data base of more than 20,000 people and 30,000 categories such as vocational, human interest, relationships and more. This database formerly called **RID (Rodden/ISAR/Data)** is now jointly handled by ISAR and NCGR, called **IDEA (International Data Exchange for Astrologers)** and available for research to astrologers worldwide.

Computers enabled **Edwin Steinbrecher** to assemble a **database** of more than 22,000 internationally famous people, using mostly AA or A data and the list is growing constantly. Of course the much acclaimed **research** by **Michel and Françoise Gauquelin** grew by leaps and bounds when **Neil Michelsen** offered them his, in those days, advanced computer and space in his San Diego Astro-Computing company.

The **Information Highway**, America's newest way of networking via computer, modem, fax, telephone, cable and other modern devices, is a rather typical consequence of Gemini rising with Uranus conjunct the Ascendant. Astrology easily fits into the picture with a networking organization like **AFAN**, which was already in 1982 linking astrology groups, both in the country and abroad. The

idea was enlarged upon by the concept of ARC (***Astrologer's Registration and Communication***) created in 1987 in Switzerland where the astrological world can communicate from country to country via Computer stations called *Nodes*. As more people communicate by modem, astrology will permeate even the remotest corners of the United States.

There is another significant component to the complex and many-sided face of the United States, and that is the importance, in fact passionate intensity of our ***religious and spiritual convictions***, astrologically easy to recognize with Pluto in our 9th house. I would say that most astrologers have a deeply spiritual side which they may or may not show. Because of America's strict adherence to the separation of Church and State, each person, each family, each group can go his or her own way. And believe me, Americans take full advantage of these freedoms. There are more diverse groups under the aegis of ***religious denomination*** than you can count. The so-called main stream religions such as Catholicism, various forms of Protestant, Jewish and Muslim faiths are enhanced by Eastern philosophies, by fads or guru led beliefs that spring up today and are gone tomorrow and of course we have our own native Indian ceremonies.

Originally based on such rituals as the ***Medicine Wheel*** and Directions, a group of adventurous young astrologers demanded that astrology be taken off the written page and put into inter-active participation. In doing so, they created a new form of astrology called ***Experiential***. When it was introduced to Europe at the Swiss International Congress in 1984 it coincided with the growing interest of the French in the same directions and quickly became successful.

All this has a tremendous influence on the way we access astrology. We do not consider it a religion, but use it as a tool to find a deeper or higher meaning to life, which of course includes religion. Numerous of our groups have an esoteric approach which includes some form of belief system and spiritual basis. ***Alice Bailey's Seven Rays*** theories are a case in point. So are those who work with the esoteric meaning of the astrological glyphs, Inner Meditation Guides or past life regressions.

Basically Christianity has rejected astrology; in fact the Vatican has yet again declared it a sin. Even New Agers are more interested in meditation and Eastern philosophies than astrology while the Media have fun deriding it as superstition or parlor games. This has left much of astrology out in left field, except for the mainstream who resonate to what is commonly called **Natal Astrology**, especially when used in a humanistic or psychological manner. **Carl Jung's** influence is strongly felt, so is a general attitude that astrology best serves as a road-map or guide to character analysis, to find vocational aptitudes, or work well together, to search for the right moment to execute certain ventures, to help in finding people who are compatible with each other or work well together.

Astrology as a profession has a hard time in the U.S., Astrologers seem reluctant to charge enough money to enable them to earn a decent living. It is as though a strict parent told them that it is sinful to set a price on metaphysical advice. Most of them hold outside jobs and pursue astrology as a hobby or part time profession. Only a few have found ways of totally supporting themselves, such as authors of well selling books who can also rely on royalties, those who have an astrological business such as computer programs and software and of course those who work with Sun Sign astrology. Newspapers in the U.S. all carry Sun sign columns which are so popular that the papers get severely chastised if for some reason they want to eliminate them. Astrology by telephone is becoming extremely fashionable and 900 numbers – a prefix indicating that you get billed for this call by the telephone company and pay a certain amount for each minute spent on the line – are very successful with the average public spending millions to have some unseen and unknown astrologer give them some usually superficial telephonic advice.

The United States is anything but monolithic, but it is its diversity rather than coherence that helps it to grow. This pattern of diversity has been successfully applied in the **astrological conventions** given by **UAC (United Astrology Congress)** since 1986. UAC was the first to divide the program into tracks, meaning into subject areas such as Natal Astrology, Technical, Esoteric, Psychological, Experiential, Financial, Mundane and so on, so students could focus on their special interests. UAC was the first to insist on **right brain** as well as **left brain** stimulation, meaning let's be serious and have fun, enjoy

cerebral stimulation as well as a special type of surrounding and entertainment. UAC also broke the ice when it came to financial remuneration, not only assuring its faculty of paid hotel rooms, a free dinner banquet and a share of the profits for each lecture given, but treating them like professionals. Much of UAC's success is, of course, due to its variety and broad spectrum of subjects which attracts a wide audience.

UAC has also contributed to an escalation of professionalism in America. Getting paid for one's efforts is a good first step in that direction. But much work still needs to be done. American astrologers have a great resistance to being licensed, since it would entail universally accepted tests and certain restrictions. Blame Uranus on the Ascendant, if you wish, or agree that astrology is not a science or even pseudo-science, but an art and as such cannot be categorized and licensed. Whichever, until astrologers assume some sort of coherence which can earn them credentials, they will have a hard time meriting credibility.

We have other rather serious problems, many of them connected with the same need not to comply with anything that even remotely smells of status quo or bourgeois behavior. We have no officially recognized certification or testing that says *"You are an astrologer"*. We have very few unified schools where, as you leave one, you can enter another and receive a comparable education.

The United States constitution has similar problems where this need for individualism reflects in the fact that each little community has its own laws, so that in some areas the dark ages still reign and astrology is forbidden as witchcraft or fortune telling. To combat this, each locality has to lead its own fight, one by one, town by town, state by state. A slow and cumbersome process.

So now you know the state of Astrology in America, the good, the bad, the indifferent. Some outsiders may consider us pushy, a few may mistake our wish to help as being on a power trip, but what we are really doing is reflecting our Aquarian Midheaven and Moon by wishing to share everything, be it our data, our techniques, our successes or mistakes. American enthusiasm is pervasive, and true to our Gemini, ever young Peter Pan nature, it naively

assumes everyone else feels the same way. Most Americans sincerely believe that learning is classless and that knowledge belongs to all! Our hope is that our willingness to be open, to try new things and to reach out to others is contagious.