

SOLAR RETURNS**General Rules:**

The Solar Return chart is cast for the exact hour and minute that the Sun returns to the position it held in the birth chart (you must know your birth time in order to get an accurate SR chart). It is set up to cover one year in a person's life and is limited to that one year. Activity indicated through other means of progression finds its focus in the Solar Return chart. It is the easiest and most personal way to assess how transits will relate to your natal chart by 'freezing' them into place for that special, once a year moment in time when the Sun returns to the same position it occupied at birth.

We obviously, in 90 minutes, don't have time to go into the mathematics of erecting a Solar Return chart. Suffice it to say that most astrological software can calculate returns, including Lunars ones which we also do not have time to discuss. If you don't use a computer or computer service, see me after the lecture and I will let you copy some of my math sheets.

The Solar Return can dramatically point out where action might occur during the year by the emphasis on certain houses, made even more pertinent by using the longitude and latitude of your place of residence. In other words, you not only update your chart, but you also relocate it to wherever you now live.

Some Disagreements:

As you know, not all astrologers agree with each other, which is fine by me, because I consider astrology a symbolic language, and as such I feel strongly that every astrologer should use those symbols that best work for him or her. When it comes to Solar Returns, many insist that you must use the place of birth in your calculations, others, like myself, relocate to wherever you now

reside, and still others really take fate into their hands by spending their birthday in a place that results in the type of Solar Return they want for their next year. I made my choice based on years of practice and empiric learning, but I also feel that since the Solar Return is based only on one year, it should be calculated for where you will spend most of the time during that year.

The Natal/Solar Return Combination

First, we cannot stress enough the importance of the natal horoscope. A solar return means nothing without the natal chart and I hope before you move any chart forward by any method whatsoever, you first understand and know the natal chart. Again, not every astrologer approaches this the same way. Some look at the Solar Return and the natal horoscope side by side, on two pieces of paper. Others use a two wheel ring and place the solar return chart on the inside, the natal planets on the outside ring. Personally, I always consider the natal chart to be the most important, that moment in time frozen forever in the ethers, so uniquely YOU, and, after all, the entire Solar Return premise starts with the natal Sun. I erect the new wheel for the Solar Return, place the natal planets in the new wheel on the inside and the Solar Return planets in the outside ring.

It is also a good idea to look at your progressed and directed horoscope, whichever method you may use to move the birth chart forward, as well as eclipses or lunations. You may just make yourself some notes on some of the afore-mentioned happenings, or erect full charts...whichever way works best for you. Though the Solar Return will give you all the information you need, it is always wise to seek confirmation.

A small warning is in line - and I always do this, because amongst you might be some bright eyed novice who looks at her Solar Return, sees Saturn conjunct her Moon, and immediately foresees one whole year of depression, deprivation and

dreariness. A Solar Return may show hundreds of possible happenings for the year but very few of them will actually take place. In other words, not every aspect results in an event, but every important event will have an aspect. There's also an old but wise adage to remember: "The stars impel, they do not compel" meaning your **FREE WILL** and your attitude will make all the difference. That much maligned Saturn/Moon combination seen as disastrous by the beginner can really be what you've been looking for to keep your emotions under control, to help you focus and concentrate, to give you the discipline you've been lacking.

Solar Return Interpretation:

To help you interpret Solar Returns, more or less in order of their importance, I start with the Solar Return Ascendant and its ruler. They show the potential for your outlook for the year, the scope of your temperament and personality as well as your possible approach to self-awareness, your appearance and general health. In other words, the image you project for the year in question. The sign the SR Ascendant is in as well as the sign, house placement and aspects of its ruler give additional information; so do any planets placed in the 1st house or just behind the SR Ascendant. The areas they rule in the SR chart provide much insight on the year ahead.

The house in the SR chart that holds the Sun is where much of the activity for the year is centered. Depending on its aspects, it is the region where you can expend much personal energy and experience growth. It is where your ego can best express itself. The SR house with Leo on the cusp often indicates another arena to work out the year's purpose and most certainly a province where you like to 'shine.'

The house that comes to the SR Ascendant from the natal chart is of particular significance. It frequently brings the needs of that house to the surface and it

can give you good insights into what should be handled for the year in question. Your astrological knowledge will tell you how, but just to give you a few ideas: The 1st house usually indicates a rather important year, especially if the natal Asc. sign within 5 degrees. This occurs approximately every 33 years, depending if you have moved from your birthplace. If it is the 2nd house it can be about values, finances, money earning, the 3rd house might bring short trips, dealings with relatives or learning to the fore. The 4th house can signify parental involvements and home changes, while the 5th house coming to the SR Ascendant often deals with children, love affairs, creativity or speculations.

The 6th house usually involves more work or it has to do with health and hygiene matters. Partnerships come to the fore when the 7th house comes to the SR Ascendant, or maybe just some public acclaim. The 8th house may lead to research and investigations, or the end of a previously existing condition. When the natal 9th house is found on the SR Ascendant, it can mean long trips, new ideas or the wish to publish something. The 10th house brings career or professional concerns as well as status into the picture. Friends, groups and unexpected happenings are all areas that can seem important when the 11th house is involved. The 12th house may bring the need for privacy or it could indicate the ending of a phase. All these are just some possible needs being brought to the surface and some more detailed notes are in your handouts.

To recap, the most important factors to consider are:

- 1) The SR Ascendant, its sign, its ruler by sign, house and aspects.
2. Rising planets, their aspects and where they rule. (See handouts)
- 2) The house which holds the Sun, its aspects and where Leo is on the cusp.
- 3) Which natal house comes to the Solar Return Ascendant.

Division by Axis:

There are other elements to review, not quite as meaningful, but still of help in interpreting the year ahead. For example division of the planets by axis. Please keep in mind that we are dealing with 20 possible placements, 10 natally and 10 by SR.

If the majority of planets are on the east side of the chart, you are usually able to make your own decisions on major issues and have the opportunity to exercise your own will.

If the majority of the planets are on the west side of the chart, you may have less control over situations and relationships and may have to accept choices as others call them. It may also be a year where others play a large role in your life.

If the majority of planets are above the horizon, you tend to focus a lot on external events, seem quite ambitious to succeed and business affairs may occupy a lot of your time.

If the majority of planets are below the horizon, you tend to be more concerned with inner reactions and at times even feel the need to withdraw and live in your own little world.

Qualities and Elements on the Angles:

If you have Cardinal signs on all 4 angles, it generally indicates a very active year. You may initiate new ideas or ventures. Avoid rushing into new situations without adequate preparation.

If you have Fixed signs on all 4 angles, a somewhat introspective year is ahead and there could be some financial concerns if the 2nd and 8th are emphasized.

If all 4 angles are mutable, there is a tendency to be involved with others, to be social, travel, learn. Procrastination may be one drawback of this position.

With a cardinal Asc. and fixed MC, the year may start out very active and if you have thought out your goals, the year may end with your achieving them.

With a cardinal Asc. and mutable it again indicated a busy year but the results may depend on other people.

If there is a fixed Asc. and cardinal MC, it is a good time to take action on long standing ideas and plans.

If there is a fixed Asc. and mutable MC, long-standing plans and affairs may change and flexibility becomes important.

With a mutable Asc. and fixed MC, others may talk you into starting something that you have no wish or intention to finish, therefore approach commitments carefully and try not to become dependent on others.

With a mutable Asc. and cardinal MC, there may be a lot of activity, but it may not always be productive. Try to establish attainable goals.

General Notes:

When aspecting SR planets to natal planets, keep your orb to 5 degrees maximum.

In delineating the SR chart, you always are dealing with both the natal and SR positions of each and every planet, except of course the Sun which is the same natively as in the SR.

Look at stelliums, (more than five natal and/or SR planets in one house). They obviously denote extra emphasis in that area of life; as they bring action from the houses these planets rule natively, a bit of confusion may result.

Since angles denote action, count how many planets are angular.

When the angles are reversed (the Descendant is rising) you may feel at the mercy of other people or even have a marital or business partner run-in. Jupiter or Venus rising may modify this. Similar feelings may prevail when the SR Moon opposes the Sun.

Any planet receiving a return is noteworthy and the houses in the SR chart ruled by that planet need special attention.

The SR houses holding the natal Ascendant and Midheaven are key houses in

pinpointing activity for the year. Where the Asc. falls suggests an area where you will take personal action. Also compare the SR Asc. to the natal Asc. Hard aspects, especially the quincunx, may indicate some health problems. Be sure to confirm that by checking the 6th house for health in general, the 8th for possible surgery and the 12th for hospitalization. In case of serious health problems, progressions, directions and transits must be checked.

Where you find the MC often reveals where you may take public or career action. Again compare to the natal MC. Flowing aspects usually promise professional success while upsets are possible with difficult aspect. Also pay attention to planets near the SR chart MC, they too may give you clues as to your career potential for the year. Please remember that when we discuss the 10th house, we are also addressing your status, an important fact to keep in mind.

Where the Moon falls in the SR chart frequently implies an area of restlessness or a wish to change. Where Pluto is placed in the SR chart can depict areas of new opportunities.

SR planets conjunct natal Saturn can disclose responsibility for the year as indicated by house and aspects. Natal Saturn in the SR 12th often indicates the need to spend some time by yourself, or it may denote hospitalization. On the other hand SR Saturn in the 12th typically illustrates your visiting someone in the hospital.

Jupiter in the 12th shows strong protection for the year, like a guardian angel sitting on your shoulder.

With Mars in the SR 10th, you may get more public attention than you wish.

Indicators of marriage in the SR chart: The 3rd, 7th, 9th or 11th houses sparked by either coming to the Asc. or having the Sun or Asc. ruler placed there. Also Venus, Mars, Pluto and Saturn angular (3 to 4 of the possible 8 positions.)

For childbirth or pregnancy: The 4th, 5th and 11th houses activated. The lunar

nodes cadent or in the 5th/11th axis. The Moon and/or natal Asc. or MC angular or in the 5th house. Neptune in the 4th.

For profession, job or occupational change: The 2nd, 6th and 10th houses are activated. Uranus in the 6th or 10th can indicate a job change. In the 6th, the change is often within the same field or company. In the 10th it may signify a change in career direction. The Moon and Mars reflect similar concerns.

Home change: This is frequently suggested by 3rd and 4th house activation. The Moon, Mars or Uranus in the 4th can correlate with changes or moves; Saturn here suggests staying in the same place or delaying a move. With the Moon, Mars or Uranus in the 3rd, you may feel the need for a change of environment and talk about it, but not necessarily do anything about it. Sometimes these placements, especially in the 4th, indicate nothing more than change in the home itself, such as remodeling or someone moving in or moving out.

Divorce and Separation: The 3rd, 7th, 8th and 9th houses are activated. The 3rd because of dissolution of a contract; the 7th usually implies a break with a partner; the 8th reflects financial settlements and changes in sexual patterns; the 9th depicts legal activity. Also Pluto, Uranus and Mars are often angular. 4 out of 7 is enough to sit up and take notice.

Strong **2nd/8th house** activity can mean an inheritance, an insurance settlement, a tax audit or going into debt.

Strong **3rd/9th house** activation frequently correlates with travel or educational opportunities.

When the **5th and 7th houses** are both activated and Venus is prominent, it often signifies a love affair culminating in marriage or some form of commitment. If the person is already married, there may be an increase in the family.

The **5th/12th house** strong or the ruler of the SR 5th in the 12th house can imply a clandestine affair or one with someone already married, whereas **7th/12th** or

ruler of the 7th in the 12th may suggest an unfaithful partner.

SIGNS RISING ON THE SOLAR RETURN ASCENDANT

The Solar Return rising sign is very meaningful because it adds a patina to your overall temperament as indicated by your natal chart. The following notes should be considered in the total context of how you may best assimilate them into your modus operandi for the year represented by the Solar Return chart.

Aries: This is often a period of action, quick decisions, increased vitality and an interest in the opposite sex. If Taurus falls on the 2nd house cusp, added financial responsibility may be inferred. The impetuosity of Aries could find you in a spending mood. You may spontaneously start new projects in order to prove yourself, especially in the natal house that Aries comes from. For example, if Aries comes from your natal 6th, you may initiate a job change. SR and natal Mars show how and where you could start action this year.

Taurus: Financial, domestic and occupational affairs occupy you, and this is an excellent time for some self-evaluation. You probably feel a powerful urge to improve your physical appearance, to advance in your professional life, to earn more money and to embellish your surroundings. Use Taurean caution in contemplating career changes. Think before you act, be practical and consistent. You have a need to touch and be touched. Natal and solar return Venus show where and what you attract.

Gemini: You are likely to have fluctuating mental views and attitudes, especially toward your everyday environment and affairs. Be flexible, use care in dealing with neighbors and relatives, as well as in making any long-distance

commitments. More curious than usual, you are open to new concepts and thoughts. Natal and solar return Mercury show where you should find it easy to express your ideas.

Cancer: Emotional and sensitive, it is important to be tolerant in all your dealings, yet the tendency is to be just the opposite, because your temperament may be unsettled and your feelings close to the surface. This is a time to deal with your security needs and to express any nurturing qualities inherent in your natal chart. Family matters may require much of your time and stamina. It's best to stick to routine. Natal and solar return Moon show where changing conditions require adaptability in order to maintain stability.

Leo: A good year to be creative, especially if this sign comes from either the 3rd or 5th natal house. A time to be dramatic and self-assertive, but curb your tendency to extravagance. Be careful of speculation, unless the Sun and ruler of the 5th house are well aspected. There may be more involvement with children or you may take on new obligations concerning them. Finding areas to express yourself would help and the house that holds the Sun can show you where and how.

Virgo: You may hope to change your occupation or at least the daily routine, or you may feel discontent with those you work for or with. In fact at this time you may be too critical and analytical of much that goes on around you. There is additional emphasis on health and work now which may worry you unnecessarily. To keep a positive attitude and stay busy are the best remedies to overcome a sense of insecurity in those areas. Mercury placements will show where.

Libra: Tests of family, legal or partnership concerns may occupy you. It may also be a year where you easily feel sorry for yourself. Instead it would help for you to stick to your guns, work with spouses or business partners til you recover your own sense of balance. Both Venus placements can help you find the area through which you can find harmony and fulfill your social needs.

Scorpio: Powerful feelings can arise for and against those with whom you deal,

and you should be aware of how you handle yourself. You may have to call on your deepest psychological resources in order to regain inner strength and maintain control. You may want to go into business for yourself or somehow be 'in charge' and in control of your own destiny. This is also a strong position for marriage, if eligible. To understand where to take action, blend Mars and Pluto positions, natal and SR. In SR charts, because Pluto moves so slowly, it is best to also consider Mars.

Sagittarius: You could experience added financial responsibility or have the opportunity to make more money. Much will depend on Jupiter's aspects and house placements. Self-indulgence should be avoided especially if the natal chart suggests this potential. There may be a strong urge to travel, to find adventure both physically or mentally, to grow and expand. You could find yourself drawn to those living far away. This is an excellent time for further schooling or establishing long range goals, Jupiter's placements will show you where.

Capricorn: Some new responsibilities may be facing you, or some extravagant and unexpected expenditures. Career and business concerns are like to occupy you and if Saturn is not too well placed or aspected, concentrate on concrete goals and be practical and consistent in building your status and reputation. This year could also bring opportunities for increased power and/or authority leading to new avenues of recognition. SR and natal Saturn will show you where feelings of limitation or restriction need to be worked out.

Aquarius: This is a good year to turn your mind to the future and make important decisions, as long as they are based on past experience. You may feel the need to be particularly independent now, often more so than is good for you, yet it is vital to express as an individual in some unique way. Natal and SR Uranus positions will point out possible avenues. With the Sun ruling your SR 7th house you should focus on one-to-one relationships of all kinds.

Pisces: This sign rising often denotes a restless period where you tend to make decisions based on feelings rather than sound judgment. This can be delightful in such areas as love affairs, but needs to be controlled if Neptune's aspects are difficult, especially if Neptune is involved with the money houses. You may be going through a very affectionate spell and relate particularly well to young people. Giving vent to your aesthetic and artistic talents, such as with the arts, music or dance, can make you feel very good. It is also a good year to commit to what you really believe in. Take advantage of Neptune's placements and make your dreams become reality.

HOUSES OF THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

The houses in the SR chart are the most significant, because they represent the theaters of operation. This is particularly important if you use our system of relocating, since then the SR chart can show activity where you actually live. Of course each house covers a wide range of experience, but these notes should be helpful in your SR chart interpretations. They are particularly apt in describing action where the SR Ascendant rulers are placed, but they are also quite useful to describe the houses that come to the Ascendant from the Natal or anything that involves house illustrations.

Where the natal solar return Ascendant ruler is by house shows where and how the function of that planet is operating for the year. The solar return Ascendant ruler discloses by its house position the way the function can work out.

(Example: Gemini rising in the SR, natal Mercury in the 4th and SR Mercury in the 9th could suggest activity in the home relating to 9th house affairs, such as a foreign exchange student coming to live with you - or the opportunity to take some sort of home-study course.

1st house: You may feel a strong desire for self-expression, to do things for

and by yourself, to make things happen rather than wait for others to initiate them. There could be opportunities for self-development, growth and projection.

2nd house: The emphasis is on values, financial problems and opportunities. Your motto could be pay and collect. Your earning capacity is accentuated as are all possessions and personal self-worth. Depending on the aspects to the planets involved, this could be a good year to invest or buy real estate.

3rd house: The accent is on expression of ideas, personal understanding and your state of mind. Perceptive abilities may increase; environmental changes are possible; there may be dealings with neighbors or relatives. There is much focus on communication. Lots of short trips are indicated, such as week-end outings or you may get a job requiring daily commuting. You could be moved to study, teach or write, to whatever extent these abilities show in the natal chart.

4th house: Home, family, estate or parents could all come strongly into the picture. It is a good time to seek emotional or establish financial security. Try to work on your image from the inside out; get in touch with your feelings. This 4th house period is good opportunity to go back to your roots, to get to know who you really are. Since the 4th house is also a house of endings, some affairs may need to be finished up or some loose ends tied up.

5th house: Your affectionate nature could be stimulated or you could find novel ways to express yourself through a new love or a new baby. In fact, this may be an excellent year to improve relationships with children. Be mentally and physically creative in order to gain release from possible emotional tension. Depending on the aspects of both chart rulers as well as the natal 5th house, it can be a good or bad time for investments or taking chances in any field. Have fun and play, but if you don't want to get pregnant, do take extra precautions.

6th house: Health and work matters should be wisely handled. Watch people who work for and with you. Improve any service you offer, or learn new techniques.

You may have to make adjustments in your daily routine. Pace yourself - this is not a good time to push your body beyond its physical limits, unless the Ascendant and its rulers are very well placed.

7th house: Legal, marital and partnership relations may need attention. Handle them wisely and avoid quarrels. If you are not married, this is frequently the year you will tie the knot. Be diplomatic and tactful and try to understand the other person's viewpoint, even though you may feel quite the opposite. This is a period where others play an important part in your life, it may also coincide with incidents that put you into the public limelight. This is particularly applicable when the 1st and 10th houses as well as the Sun or Moon are accented.

8th house: Settlements in partnerships as well as in legal and marital affairs are possible. Funeral, tax or insurance matters may need your attention or an inheritance may be coming your way. The latter would need 4th and 10th house activation as well. There could be strong sexual stimulation and the ability to express yourself freer in that area. Birth, death and transformation are emphasized, as well as other people's resources and support. You may borrow money, refinance property or deal with debts and other people's demands on you.

9th house: The urge to study and learn new concepts may be strong during this year. You have a need to expand your horizons either literally with long-distance trips or figuratively with armchair travel. Publicity, publishing and import/export opportunities could be in the offing. Legal affairs might command your attention. Mental expansion is possible; you might also meet a guru, teacher or friend who opens your mind to new ideas, ideals and visions. This year may bring interaction with in-laws or involvement with church or learning institutions such as universities. Often this denotes a year where you become intrigued with astrology or similar pursuits.

10th house: Business or career matters could come into focus and with heavy aspects to the chart ruler, this can be a time of professional advancement or a

change of status. Relations with authority figures - governmental, social or occupational - could play a large role. Parental relationships come to the fore. Sometimes there is some deep-seated problem in that area which can be resolved during this period. Public recognition could be a factor. This is a good time to improve the image you project into the outer world. Handle any business or career challenges wisely.

11th house: Old or new friendships may be accented. Unexpected circumstances may change some of your plans. Money from your business or career may be forthcoming (such as a bonus for example), or with challenging aspects, withheld. Social activity or involvement with large organizations is likely to be spotlighted. Realization of goals or adopting an unusual approach to them could be your main focus of activity during this period. Associations made through the public or your career could prove helpful now.

12th house: Confidential affairs need to be judged and carefully reevaluated. Be sure to avoid any behavior that could be considered scandalous. You may be quite vulnerable now and secret affairs could be revealed this year. In fact any sub-rosa dealings could now come out into the open. This is a good time for quiet self-development or a spiritual search. You may even feel the need for privacy or at least a place you can call your own where you can recharge your physical and psychological batteries. With very harsh aspects, there could be a period of not necessarily voluntary isolation. This is also a prime year for helping others less fortunate than you.

RISING PLANETS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

Any planet right behind the Ascendant or in the first house of the SR chart is considered to be a rising planet, but the closer to the Ascendant, the more power the planetary themes seem to have. We have also found that a natal planet

rising has more impact than a Solar Return planet, but they both are important, so be sure to judge both. However many planets happen to be rising, take them all into consideration. When reviewing these planets, do not only look at them for the ascending significance, but remember that the house they rule will be activated for the year.

Here is a description of how the rising planets could express in the SR chart:

Sun: This is a time for accomplishments in areas where your personality comes to the fore, where you can be outspoken, dramatic and definite, of course depending on the extent possible with your natal Sun. obviously Pisces will not express in the same way as Sagittarius. You feel in control and could, this year, live up to the best your natal Sun can offer. The effect of a rising Sun can be seen in the house with Leo on the cusp. This is the area you will experience your greatest growth, or your greatest recognition.

Moon: Your emotional and domestic side surfaces. Many of the qualities and experiences indicated by your natal Moon can be enhanced. Build relationships with loved ones at this time. It is a sensitive period, one in which you are likely to express yourself in a most intimate manner; keep your emotions linked to good judgment, especially if you are the least inclined to show your feelings too demonstratively. A restless time, you may just wish to make some changes, yet it is best not to do anything on a permanent basis, if this is the sole testimony. The house with Cancer on the cusp will show where the need for change is most deeply felt.

Mercury: It is time to put your judgment to work on problems or events indicated by Mercury in your natal chart. Matters of communication, trade and work are accentuated. Possible health conditions might arise if you permit your nerves to become over-active. This is a good year for writing and travel, but also for caution lest a tendency to hurry or be careless could lead to trouble. Check the Gemini and Virgo house cusps for ways to communicate and reach out to others.

Venus: If you ever wanted to cultivate beauty on many levels in your life, or to seek harmony, especially in partnerships, this is the year to do it. Your affections may be strong now, but be sure not to seek mere self-gratification or self-indulgence at the expense of meaningful involvements. This is a time to share with those who really care for you. Romance, social affairs and fun are all highlighted. The cusps with Taurus and Libra show areas that need attention and activity.

Mars: This may be the year to be active along lines already planned in order to avoid splashing around aimlessly; also, the better the plans are laid out, the less the necessity to retrace your steps. Self-assurance is an asset, but don't get carried away with yourself and try to lord it over others. Temper desire with discretion. The houses with Aries (primarily) and Scorpio (secondarily) on the cusp will indicate areas that require you to apply extra energy or, perhaps you need to cut something away.

Jupiter: Growth and expansion as indicated by Jupiter's placement in your natal chart are possible now. Long-term or permanent plans may take shape this year. It is important that you understand your own circumstances as well as those near and dear to you, and it might even be helpful to grasp conditions of the world you live in. In other words, expand your consciousness. Try and avoid the kind of overconfidence that leads to extravagance. Seek to stretch mentally as well as spiritually and even materially in the area indicated by the house with Sagittarius on the cusp.

Saturn: This is a period of testing for personal worth; Saturn's position in the natal chart can depict the areas where you feel insecure. You can put your talents to practical use now; results of the kind of life you have lived may show up in health conditions this year. Since negative use of Saturn can sap your physical strength, it is important to maintain a reasonable regimen this

year, such as good diet, plenty of sleep and a visit to the dentist. At this time you may also want to take on additional responsibilities, or use your increased ability to focus in the area with Capricorn on the cusp.

Uranus: Try to take inventory of the past and cut away dead issues during this year. Look ahead and make changes, especially those that benefit a great number of people in your life. It may be a period that brings unexpected events to the fore, therefore the more flexible you are, the easier it will be. It is most important that you do your own thinking, particularly in the areas governed by the with Aquarius on the cusp, yet you must make sure not to come across as self--opinionated. The potential for unique achievement of some kind is possible, if such is indicated by your natal Uranus.

Neptune: Take time now for a calm examination of your inner nature, time to reflect upon or to develop an interest in some art form of your liking. If your chart indicates acting talent, this is the year when the chameleon quality of Neptune can be of great benefit. It may be an inspirational period, but check carefully lest you be taken in by some illusion. Give a wide berth to schemes, especially if Neptune has challenging aspects. Your creativity can best express through the house with Pisces on the cusp.

Pluto: This is a period for establishing precedents and bringing an end to an era. It may also coincide with a "first" in your life. But there could be a tendency to shirk your obligations and try to take the easy way out, especially if Pluto does not have some challenges from the transiting planets. With Pluto rising you may feel a need to control, to change others and avoid changing the self. It suggests an intensified expression of the personality and often denotes opportunities for growth and development. The house with Scorpio on the cusp shows where you need to make some deep-seated changes and where the aforementioned growth and development are likely to take place.

SOLAR RETURN NOTES

Cast for exact time Sun returns to natal position. Must know birthtime.

Whereas progressions, directions, transits show wide picture, SR narrows it to your year, from one birthday to next.

Joan and I have found it best to relocate chart to place of residence. Explain why, birthplace also works, place of vacation does not for us.

Importance of putting natal chart in center for focus etc. SR chart without natal only show half the picture.

Transits frozen into place for moment Sun returns to its birth place.

When relocating, how SR can point out where the action is taken place you've already seen in other methods.

SR may show 100s of different possibilities, use those that confirm what you see in other methods of moving chart forward. Also what we found seems to be particularly important:

- 1) SR Asc. sign
- 3 2) Where does it come from in natal chart
- 4 3) Where are the 2 SR chart rulers what are their aspects
- 2 4) Where is the Sun, what aspects to transits and where is Leo
- 5) What planets are rising and where do they rule how are their aspects
- 6) What new configurations are formed

Interpretation of course the same for whatever you do in astrology. If the 5th comes to Asc from natal may emphasize love affairs, creativity, children Chart ruler in 7th marital, partnership or legal matters, public acclaim Sun in 10th status, career etc.etc.

Some less important but helpful look for predominance of planets (20) East, West, above, below.

Quality of the angles.

Stelliums, if there are any.

Planetary return.

Where n. Asc. falls, its relation to itself

Where n. MC falls, relation to itself, planets in SR 10th

Have lots of notes in our book, pages and pages of specifics we have found to work for *rising signs, houses in SR, planets rising, mixture of quality of angles* as well as notes for odds and ends and also indicators of certain events, such as marriage, childbirth or pregnancy, profession or job change, Home change, divorce or separation etc.

Solar Returns - Some Odds and Ends Notes

SR charts are most forceful when the same sign rises as did at birth, especially if the same degree is ascending (within 4°). This occurs approximately every 33 years.

Pay attention to planets near the MC since they may be indicative of your professional life for the year. Also look which house holds the natal MC for further career indications and activities.

Always check for new configurations to see the new emphasis and challenges.

Planets conjunct a house cusp will activate the entire house.

SR planets conjunct natal planets show that the houses ruled by these planets will work together; whether positively or negatively can be seen by checking the aspects and of course the secondary and solar arc progressions.

Angular planets show more action than any others.

Where the Moon falls (both the natal and SR Moon) show an area of restlessness or a wish to change. Where both Plutos fall shows an area of new opportunity.

Apart from the usual 8th house matters, a strong 8th house can show a tax audit.

Ruler of the natal 4th can show what is ended or culminated this year by its SR position. Ruler of the natal 12th can show by SR position what can happen to the natal limitation. Ruler of the natal Ascendent show active area for the year by its SR position.

Planets in the SR 12th show that areas ruled by these planets natively will go into background or underground. Natal Saturn in the SR 12th can indicate hospitalization or some sort of confinement. SR Saturn there: you may visit in a hospital.

SR planet conjunct natal Saturn can show responsibility for the year as indicted by house and aspects.

Mars (natal or SR) trine or sextile Saturn (natal or SR) indicates a good year to build. Mars near IC or in 4th can show much home activity, including remodeling, new furnishing etc. Mars (natal or SR) trine or sextile Jupiter (natal or SR) you may spend quite a bit of money. Mars (natal or SR) square or opposition Jupiter (natal or SR) You may spend more money than you want to.

Compare natal and SR MCs. Good aspects career may prosper, difficult aspects upsets are possible. Compare natal and SR Ascendant. Good aspects, good health. Difficult aspects may indicate some health problems. Confirm through more indications in SR chart and through secondary and solar arc progressions.

Ruler of natal 4th in SR 7th: affairs may be brought out into the open.

SR Mercury conjunct natal Sun: you will make your own decisions by yourself.

SR or natal Jupiter in 12th shows strong protection for the year.

Natal South Node in SR 12th: you may not get the recognition you deserve.

With natal or SR Saturn in the 3rd: you may cry a lot.

Natal Ascendant hitting 12th house cusp: more work than you can comfortably handle.

Sun square SR Saturn: one tends to evaluate.

Natal Mars in SR 10th: you'll get lots of public attention.

Natal Saturn in the SR 2nd: you may feel restrictions on your freedom.

SR Uranus in SR 12th: can indicate subconscious upheavals and inner changes.

Sun opposition SR Moon: can show stresses in partnerships.

4th house to the SR Ascendant plus Saturn in the 4th or the Sun in the 12th can show some parental denial or separation or sickness.

For MARRIAGE to take place, 3rd, 7th, 9th, or 11th houses must be stressed by coming to Ascendant or having the Sun therein or the Ascendant ruler. Also Venus, Mars, Saturn, or Pluto angular. At least 3 of the 4.

JOB or CAREER change: 2nd, 6th, and 10th houses activated. Uranus in 6th or 10th for job change. In the 6th – change within the field or company: in the 10th it may indicate a career change. The Moon and Mars work similarly in these houses.

CHILDBIRTH: 4th, 5th, and 11th houses activated. SR and natal nodes cadent. SR Moon angular; natal MC and ASC angular. SR return and Natal Neptune in 4th. Need 4 to 5.

HOME CHANGE is often indicated by 3rd and 4th house activities. Moon, Mars, or Uranus in 4th can bring changes; Saturn there seems to keep you in the same place. Moon, Uranus, or Mars in the 3rd, you may feel like changing, but it does not always happen – you talk about it. The 7th can be involved since it represents your new home (4th from the 4th). For long distance moves look for ties between 4th and 9th houses.

DIVORCE: 3rd, 7th, and 9th houses are activated. Also Pluto, Uranus, and Mars are angular.

HEALTH: look to 1st, 6th, and 12th houses; for surgery add the 8th to that. With Mars in 8th and/or Moon in 8th with difficult aspects, check for possible surgery. A caesarian section pregnancy shows through similar aspects.

Strong 3rd and 9th axis, study and travel opportunities.

Strong 5th and 7th houses, a love affair may become a legal marriage, especially if Venus is also prominent. It can also show an increase in the family.

Strong 2nd and 8th axis can indicate an inheritance or insurance matters.

NATAL HOUSE TO SOLAR RETURN ASCENDANT

- 1st An important year.
- 2nd Income, values, finances to the fore.
- 3rd Minor changes, studious year, short trips, dealings with neighbors & relatives.
- 4th Parental involvements, beginnings and ends, home changes, and/or activities.
- 5th New creativity, love affairs, speculations, sports important, also children.
- 6th More work than usual. Check for health. Keep good diet.
- 7th Partnerships to fore, public acclaim and/or opposite – check rest of chart.
- 8th Research, investigation, end of a condition or someone out of the life.
- 9th Long trips, new ideas, sometimes childbirth, publishing, broadcasting etc.
- 10th Profession, career, and status to the fore.
- 11th Friends, attitudes, outcome of 10th and circumstances beyond control.
- 12th Ending of phase as indicated by natal chart. Natal 12th house matters go in background. Check natal 12th rulership too.