

Astrological Insights: Pathways Magazine, Winter 2008-09

# New Hope for the Future

By Misty Kuceris

The winter quarter of 2008 in the United States not only marks another astrological quarter, but it marks a historic new beginning with the election of Barack Obama on November 4, 2008, and the beginning of a Democratic presidency in the office after eight years of Republican leadership. Many people welcome this as a needed change for the country. Other people view this with trepidation as the country struggles with an economic crisis and fears of other terrorist attacks. Whether you see President-elect Obama as the first black president or as a man of multi-cultural heritage with his white mother and black father, the fact remains that the United States and the world are in transition and this quarter marks an important shift in that transition. Economically the world will still continue to struggle, but at the same time there will be hope and an increased resolve in working together to not only solve the problems but also develop solutions that change how we all use our money, spend it, and save it.

The entire month of December 2008 will be one of intense feelings and actions. The planets, with the exception of Saturn and Ceres, are moving together to form a cluster. As this cluster comes closer together it means that you need to focus your energy on your life and not your fears. It also means that you need to reach out and develop better relationships with people in your life. This is not a time to



try and do things on your own.

The full Moon (with Sun in Sagittarius and Moon in Gemini) that occurs on December 12, 2008, forms a square to both Saturn and Uranus creating a mutable Grand Cross. This mutable Grand Cross represents a climate where change is inevitable. The old way of doing things doesn't work. Meanwhile there are so many changes occurring that you're not really certain just what it is that you need to change in your life. It's very important for you to pay attention to your dreams. So the best way to use the energy of this full Moon is to meditate on your dreams and determine which of those dreams can be realistically implemented in your life and which of those dreams are fantasies. In some ways, you are in a holding pattern where you need to take time to reflect. In other ways, you are in a change pattern where it's time to throw out old concepts and items that

stand in the way of you taking positive actions.

The Winter Solstice occurs on December 21, 2008, when the Sun enters Capricorn marks the fourth quarter of the astrological year. The world is in transition and this chart shows need for you need to prepare and understand that transition. Not only is it important for you to understand your personal needs, but it's important for you to reach out to your friends and family. Relationships are critical right now. Feeling love from people who surround you can help you through any transitions that you make in your life.

As 2008 draws to a close, there is a new Moon (with Sun and Moon in Capricorn) that occurs on December 27, 2008. This is a very appropriate new Moon to end the year 2008 and to announce the beginning of the year 2009. As the year ends, the economic turmoil is continuing. It will take, according to astrology, at least two to three years before the economy returns to normal growth patterns. This can be very frustrating. Yet as you look at the energy patterns for the year 2009, there are also signs of hope that plans implemented during 2009 create very solid foundations that get the world back to the path of prosperity and bring health and vitality back into your life.

Take the economy out of the equation and the year 2009 begins on a very upbeat note. Jupiter enters Aquarius on January 5, 2009, and represents hope. This is a 12-year cycle that lasts for about 13 months.

Historically, leaders in the United States, whether for good or bad, stand out and leave their mark. In 1985, Ronald Reagan was elected to his second term of office and is still remembered for his “Reaganomics” financial policy. To many he embodied one of the best and more loved Presidents of the United States. Richard Nixon met his “Waterloo,” or more specifically his Watergate, in 1973 when he ordered a break-in and resigned before impeachment hearings began in the Senate. Yet President Nixon also opened the door to China and presided over the end of the Vietnam War. John F. Kennedy, inaugurated as President on January 20, 1961, winning by a close margin over Nixon, is remembered for his “Camelot Days” and bringing both intelligence and glamour to the White House as well as his shortened career by assassination in 1963. Each of these men had a dream that the country could be prosperous even if their approaches to this prosperity were different. Also, each one of these men believed they had a legacy to fulfill. When you look at Barack Obama, you see he has this same belief. Even if you are not a national leader, you want to leave a legacy behind.

People all over the world try to join together to help others less fortunate when Jupiter is in Aquarius. In 1961, President Kennedy saw the need to help out other countries and give the youth of our society a means. The result was the Peace Corps. Even the entertainment business got involved when, in 1985, musicians came together to help Ethiopia and produced the song “We Are the World,” which raised funds for relief

efforts. The theme for Jupiter in Aquarius is that you can do things to gain control over your life even if the economy is unsettling. The other theme for Jupiter in Aquarius is that gaining control over your life is easier when you join with other people in these efforts.

There is also a desire to take control of your health. Discoveries focus on nutritional factors, such as the use of vitamins for health purposes and the use of sanitation methods in medical care taking. Even drugs, such as insulin treatment for diabetes that was started in 1937, are aimed at improving your life. You’ll find more holistic approaches to your health being emphasized by your doctors. You’ll be able to improve your health as more research indicates that vitamins and other nutritional supplements really do work.

While this desire to control extends to the global economy, it doesn’t always succeed. Reagan tried to control the economy with his economic plan called Reaganomics. Yet by 1985, the United States became the largest deficit nation in the world. Reagan’s plan was to cut taxes and government spending while increasing the military budget and balancing the budget by 1986. He believed that by cutting taxes more people would have money to purchase goods and services. He believed that by cutting government spending in all areas but the military, the government would save money. What he didn’t take into consideration, according to Keith M. Carlson in his article *Federal Budget Trends and the 1981 Reagan Economic Plan*, was an unexpected recession and the

amount of compounding interest the government needed to pay on its debt.

Richard Nixon believed that he lost the election to John F. Kennedy in 1960 because of economic policies, according to Daniel Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw in their article, *The Commanding Heights*. As a result, Nixon was determined to control the economy, not surprising for an individual whose natal Sun was in Capricorn. During his term of office, Nixon implemented 90-day wage and price controls. The first control, implemented in 1971, seemed to work. However, the 90-day wage and price control implemented in 1973 backfired, especially in the agricultural industry. In some cases, beef and chicken were actually slaughtered rather than brought to market under the lower prices. OPEC made the problem worse by creating a worldwide energy crisis with its oil and gas embargo. Long lines at gas stations and rationing of fuel became part of the American reality at that time.

Perhaps the government can review these and other related Jupiter in Aquarius time periods and learn some lessons. You can even apply these lessons to your own credit situation. Increasing your budget deficit means that you increase your expenses because more of your money is going to pay interest rates. While you may do the best you can to hold down your costs, you also need to pay more attention to your bills. Companies may increase their interest rates. Other companies may either change the due date of the bills or mail the bills later making it more difficult for you to pay on time.

Leaders in government don’t

want their populations to suffer due to economic stress. In both 1949 and 1961, the United States increased the minimum hourly wage. In 1937, the US Supreme Court ruled that minimum wage was legal for women. As a result, you'll see increases in minimum wage and also other legislative attempts to make your life easier.

The full Moon (with Sun in Capricorn and Moon in Cancer) occurs on January 10<sup>th</sup> followed by Mercury turning retrograde the following day. Both indicate that looking backwards can be very beneficial right now. By understanding your past actions, you can determine what steps you need to take for the future. And by building coalitions you'll be better able to take the right steps.

On January 20, 2009, at approximately 12 pm, in Washington, DC, Barack Obama will be inaugurated as the President of the United States. Some astrologers have already looked at this chart and said that it has a void-of-course Moon. This means that the Moon does not make any aspects before it changes signs. What these astrologers are implying is that nothing will come of the Obama administration. But this is far from the truth. When the chart is analyzed, you can see that it is what is called a "fated chart." This means that the inauguration chart is specifically linked to Obama's birth chart. It emphasizes the sense of optimism many people feel and that Obama is meant to leave a legacy behind that impacts the history of the United States.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the first eclipse of the year occurs. This is an annular Solar Eclipse, which can be seen in Indone-

sia, the southern third of Africa, Madagascar, Australia (except for Tasmania), southeast India, and Southeast Asia. This will be an important time to watch the Asia countries and their economic programs. In some ways, some of the programs that they implement may either replicate United States programs or just the opposite.

For the United States, this eclipse could be very unsettling. There could be storms brewing. Even the weather seems to be very unsettling. If this is an unsettling time period, it's important that you don't get sucked into negative emotions. Try to find ways to relax and perhaps even meditate.

Mercury turns direct on February 1, 2009, and plans that were under development begin to take hold. Things may seem chaotic, but you'll be able to muddle through this chaos. You find that things you were working on are bringing results. Even some federal actions are beginning to generate results.

On February 5, 2009, Saturn (now in retrograde) forms its second opposition to Uranus. This is a 47-year cycle that lasts a little more than one year. It usually occurs in a series of five. The first time this opposition occurred was on November 4, 2008 – Election Day in the United States. There is symmetry here. Now Obama faces many of the same challenges he faced when he was elected.

Banking is one area. Understanding the infrastructure of the banking industry is more important now than ever before, yet so is being reasonable about the approach to enacting financial policies. In 1829, President Andrew "Old Hickory"

Jackson became concerned that the Second Bank of the United States was controlled by foreign investors, especially investors from England. He felt that these foreign shareholders would be able to control the monetary security of the United States, especially if the United States went to war with one of the countries. So, he vetoed the second charter for the Bank, withdrew all federal funds and placed them into state-operated banks. Eventually the Second Bank of the United States went out of business due to lack of funds. This resulted in less regulation of the banking industry.

At this point, more bank mergers are occurring where smaller banks are being forced, due to lack of funds, to merge with larger banks. In addition, more banks are getting into the investment industry. Meaning, just the opposite of what occurred in 1829 is happening. Yet, as this happens, there appears to be decreased regulation in the banking industry. The merger of banks, especially with investment companies, could lead to less credit for individuals and small businesses. As banks make these changes, it's important for you not to panic. Your money will continue to be insured under FDIC.

But the real challenge faced at this time is seen in the opposition itself. Saturn represents the past while Uranus represents the future. Historically, the conflict between opposing parties is very great, to the point of spreading unfounded rumors and half truths. In addition, there are potential conflicts between people who want to hold on to the past and people who want to look to the future. The lesson with this opposition may

be simple but not necessarily easy: Use the past as a stepping stone in building a better future. This is a lesson both for our leaders as well as us. Since the use of technology increases during this opposition, the internet, email, blogs, and social websites will become more important in trying to build consensus and understanding.

The second eclipse of the year occurs on February 9, 2009. This eclipse is a lunar eclipse (with Sun in Aquarius and Moon in Leo), of which there are four this year. However, of the four lunar eclipses, there are only two which will be significant: the one occurring at this time and the one occurring on August 6, 2009. This eclipse will be visible in most of the world except for eastern Canada and eastern

USA because it occurs after moonset. The best place to see this eclipse will be in Alaska, Hawaii, Australia, and East Asia. It is important that your dreams are realistic. This is especially true if you are doing anything to restructure your finances. At this point, many companies are trying to get your business to "improve your credit scores" or "help you refinance your loans." However, you need to be very careful because most of those companies really can't give you what they promise. Rather, it will cost you money for them to promise to do something when they do nothing.

As the month draws to a close, there is a new Moon (with Sun and Moon in Pisces) which occurs on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The hope for your future really does lie in

your ability to approach your life in a new way. It rests with you getting involved with people and organizations. You need to approach things in a new way until the economy gets better. By working together there is a better chance of success. There is a new hope this quarter, even if the turnaround takes a while.

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