

# The Atlanta Astrologer



Metropolitan Atlanta Astrological Society

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Atlanta, Georgia

## The Rise of Social Media in Politics

~ *Hugo Chavez gone wild?*

~ *Uranus moving from Pisces to Aries*

*From the Atlanta Astrology Examiner  
Patricia Lantz*

By the end of 2003, Uranus, the planet of technological revolution had entered the sign of Pisces for a 7 year stay. Pisces urges us towards transcendence, movement beyond the normal or the accepted framework of reality and to form connections with all that is. This change of sign by Uranus presaged a major shift in our awareness and the events of our lives.

There were already a few social networks launched before 2003. However, from 2003 onward we experienced a revolution in our ability to connect to all that is. The many new and innovative SNSs launched since that time have grown rapidly to become an important part of our everyday lives.

While most SNSs began by connecting friend with friend they soon expanded to connect strangers with similar interests and like minds. However, Twitter is unique because it connects everyone to what's happening right now, anywhere in the world. It provides instant news and information that allows individuals to stay updated, connect and be connected to what's happening in real time.

Uranus is often thought of as the higher octave of Mercury, the messenger and communicator. The role of Uranus is to shake things up, push for new methods, and expand global consciousness. Clearly, SNSs are a Uranus in Pisces breakthrough,

shattering the norm, they have changed the way we communicate, make friends, get news and participate in the world.

Uranus is computers, connections, and large groups, while Pisces knows no boundaries. Combine these two, and you get individuals sharing feelings and experiences through their status updates, blogs, and short messages. SNSs have given us license to express, reveal and acquire information and knowledge in a way that has never been possible before.

### The rise of social media in politics

A study done by Digital Daya, "Real Leader's Tweet" (PDF), notes that 15 percent of the world's 163 countries are now represented by their political leaders or governments on Twitter, among its

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## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Thursday, June 17, 2010  
7:30 pm



**SPEAKER**  
David Beazley



**TOPICS**  
Great Circles  
&

Current and Future Events Covering Financial,  
Natural and Man-made Disasters through the  
Cardinal Cross

**WORKSHOP SATURDAY**  
Uranian Astrology

**LOCATION**  
2054 Harobi Drive, near Northlake Mall,  
just off Lavista, behind the DeKalb County Library

## Letter from the President

Greetings MAAS Members,

A big thanks goes out to the Cardinal T Square panelists at the May Meeting: Peaches McCollugh, Anita Chundurur, Anyes Moscrip and David Railey. May we all benefit from the dynamic stellar influences in store for us in the coming months.

On a personal note, I'd like to say thank you for the honor of serving on the MAAS board for the past decade. It has been most enjoyable, fulfilling and enlightening. I wish the new board all the best in the new year ahead and I trust they will have the full support of the MAAS members.

Thank you all and take good care.

Sincerely,

Kathryn



HAPPY RETURNS  
TO THIS MONTH'S  
MEMBERS!!!

**MAAS**

404-634-2677  
[www.atlantaastrology.com](http://www.atlantaastrology.com)

## THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Special thanks to Erica Sowell, Kathy Papoutsis, and Kathryn Silvertan for their contributions to this month's newsletter. Make sure they know you appreciate them. Also, please think about how you can contribute to MAAS and your newsletter.

Deadlines for submissions are the first of each month. Submit your entries to the Editor at [<maasociety@att.net>](mailto:maasociety@att.net).



ASTROPHENOMENA

### June 14

Venus Enters Leo at 4:50 am

### June 21

Sun Enters Cancer at 7:28 am

### June 25

Mercury Enters Cancer at 6:32 am

### July 5

Uranus Stationary Retrograde at 12:48 pm

### July 9

Mercury Enters Leo at 12:29 pm

### July 10

Venus Enters Virgo at 7:32 am



## LUNATIONS

### June 26

Lunar Eclipse/Full Moon in Capricorn  
at 7:30 am

### July 11

Solar Eclipse/New Moon in Cancer  
at 3:40 pm

NOTE: From Solar Fire Gold.

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 17, 2010

### Solstice Ceremony

Paula Dare

#### Speaker

David Beazley

#### Topics

Great Circles

&

Current and Future Events Covering Financial,  
Natural and Man-made Disasters through the  
Cardinal Cross

#### Readings by David

\$75 for 1 hour

\$175 for \$3 hours

#### E-mail David at

<karmicconnections@yahoo.com>

Saturday, June 19, 2010

12:00 to 4:00pm

Fee: \$55

#### Speaker

David Beazley

#### Workshop Topic

Uranian Astrology

(For those who have taken previous workshops)

## MAAS BULLETIN BOARD

### THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please, keep your thoughts with Kathryn Silverton and her mother while her mother undergoes some minor surgery.



### LOGO CONTEST

The deadline for the Logo Contest has been extended to the end of June because of the Mercury Retrograde.

Please submit your idea to Zane and we'll post them on our site and ask for votes.

## Social Media

Continued From Front Page

findings was that "fragile" nations - those with a high degree of political instability - are likely to consider social media as a threat,"

Now it seems that after some hesitation even the controversial Venezuelan president, Hugo Chavez, is embracing uncensored citizen participation and daring to take his ideological fights to the social networking world.

Earlier this year Venezuelans took to Twitter to protest threats to journalism and freedom of expression ~ making the hashtag #freevenezuela one of the largest trending Twitter topics for a time. President Hugo Chavez responded to the outpouring of messages ~ many of which called for his resignation along with expanded freedom of the press ~ by asking the National Assembly to start preparing legislation that would regulate the Internet.

It seemed Chavez perceived social networks such as Twitter to be threats to the state, and Twitter messages a "tool of terror." In mid-March, according to Reuters, Chavez believed: "The Internet cannot be something open where anything is said and done. Every country has to apply its own rules and norms."

### That was then and this is now

Chavez now says: "The potential this has ... it's not capitalist, it's not socialist, it depends on how it is used." Now Twitter has become "a weapon that also needs to be used by the revolution."

Yes, Hugo Chavez has entered the ranks of the politically stable by joining Twitter on Tuesday April 27th, 2010. Curiously, Chavez's profile name, @chavezcandaga, combines his own name with the word "candanga," which in Venezuela is used to refer to someone naughty or wild. Chavez gone wild? Perhaps.

It also seems that public engagement with the

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## *Social Media*

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president's new online presence has been high. In less than 2 weeks Chavez tallied up over 237,000 followers and has a newly appointed team of 200 Twitter aides to handle the over 50,000 messages he's received since he's been tweeting. Additionally, according to Reuters, Hugo Chavez said during a visit to Bolivia that he would like to invite Bolivian President Evo Morales and Cuban political leader Fidel Castro to join him on Twitter.

### **Uranus in Aries ~ Twitter "a weapon that also needs to be used by the revolution"?**

Uranus will move briefly into Aries on May 29 2010 and will stay until August 15, 2010, then it will return to Pisces until March of 2011~ at which time it will settle into Aries for the next seven years. Aries is a bold, aggressive and dynamic fire sign that rules war and the military.

Cyberspace is governed by the planet Uranus. As Uranus moves through Aries the world can expect advances in the technology of war, cyber warfare to become ever more aggressive and cyberspace to become the new battlefield. But could cyberspace also become the new venue for social protests and revolution?

### **Uranus in Pisces Has Altered the Collective Action Environment ~ Uranus in Aries Will Spark Action.**

Information and communication technologies are already facilitating collective (Uranus) action (Aries) in ways never before possible. The Internet has enabled groups (Uranus) previously incapable of political action (Aries) to have a voice. Like minded people from distant places are now able to locate and converse with one another, and as a result the ability to mobilize broad social action is possible.

Uranus in Pisces brought a revolution in social connection that will allow for the social action that will grow as Uranus moves through Aries. We've had hints of Twitter's ability to mobilize action...

remember the Iran elections? Iran Elections: A Twitter Revolution?

### **The Social Network Movement Could Be the 21st Century Version of the "Chautauqua" movement"**

In an important new book, *The Last, Lost Empire*, the authors write: "periodically when things got real bad for a great majority of Americans, there were "surges" of political "reformism" that swept the nation. But those reforms didn't come out of thin air. What made the political machinery actually get into gear and make a lot of changes in the way government worked were a network of public meetings and/or assemblies where politicians, authors, political activists would speak and draw large crowds. Perhaps the most famous of this kind of institution of public talk was the "Chautauqua" movement which lasted through the Populist and Progressive movements from the 1870s right through the 1920s."

The Internet has given everyone a voice and a place to have it heard. It has also significantly lowered the cost of organizing collective action, so groups and movements that lack funding are able to rally individuals around causes and issues as never before.

How Political and Social Movements Form on the Internet and How They Change Over Time, a report by Homeland Security says: "It is relevant that when the groups' purposes are political, the benefits of Internet use may be greater than when their purposes are nonpolitical"

It is clear that individuals of like mind can connect and organize like never before ~ but will this change anything? In the recent protests regarding the Iranian election, the final outcome was ultimately not changed as many had hoped. But I don't think anyone could deny that the potential to organize and mobilize on SNSs exists ~ but online social movement is still in its infancy and there's still a lot to be learned.

