

The Atlanta Astrologer



Metropolitan Atlanta Astrological Society

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IT TAKES TWO (HOUSE SYSTEMS)

Zane B Stein

Very few astrologers would disagree with this statement: the Ascendant is one of the most important points in the chart. It is associated with cusp of the first house in the majority of astrological house systems in use today and is even important to astrologers who no longer use a house system of any kind. I'm sure everyone reading this article knows their Ascendant.

But the astrological community is not so ready to degree on choosing a house system. In fact, most astrologers have chosen one system to the exclusion of all others and frequently have a great deal of emotion invested in their choice. I know of at least one conference in Canada several years ago where an actual fist fight broke out over the 'correct' house system!

I have been involved with astrology for more than forty years and in that time have come to the conclusion that different house systems work on different levels. I'm not alone in this. Robert Hand once told Jeff Jawer "that each one is correct within its own system, through its particular lens. Each represents reality according to its own rules, perfect in its own universe, but dumb to all the rest." Bernadette Brady has written "that there is no "wrong or right" house system. You should choose your house system depending on the client's needs. I use Placidus generally (although I like Alcabitius myself) because I do predictive work (which is time based) and most people live in a time-based world. However, when the need arises I will use Campanus for looking for that lost object (space question) or working with a space-based person. Al H Morrison wrote that "Placidus remains the most valid system for judging the native as he copes with social context, predicts times and results of relationship episodes better than any other. Koch describes the inner psychology of the individual, something of why he does what he does in coping with society. Alcabitius is the most accurate in delineating the chart in terms of the native for himself, without reference to social pressures or context."

Many years ago I took the time to do a (very subjective) study of my chart in various house systems. I saw in the ephemeris that over the next few weeks Mars would be crossing into my 6th house and made note of the times it would do so in each house system, then began keeping a journal. After all, I figured, Mars is action, energy, assertion, aggression..... something should happen in a 6th house area of life when Mars crossed the cusp in any valid house system, and I truly expected to end up with only one or two working house systems afterwards. Was I ever wrong!

In one house system, as Mars reached the 6th cusp, I had an argument at work, while in another I cut myself using tools. When Mars crossed the cusp in a third system I was given an extra heavy load of work to do on the job, and in another I found myself coming down with an infection. I was surprised to find that for every single one of the house systems I was studying there were Mars-related events as Mars crossed the border.

On a day to day basis it just isn't feasible to look at a chart in 23 different systems, nor 15, nor even a half dozen. As an astrologer, you need to focus to give a clear reading, not get lost because of too many perspectives. But I'd like to propose that your reading will be enriched if you use two different house systems.

Some time ago I discovered that there was one house system that worked, clearly and without confusion, for the chart of every child I did a reading on, and it continued to

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THIS MONTH'S EVENT

Thursday, February 18, 2010
7:30 pm

OPEN MEETING

LOCATION

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



Valentine from the President



Hello Everyone,

Here's hoping this finds you warm and dry as we make our way through Valentine's Day month. Anyes told us months ago it was going to be a cold and wet winter, and boy, has she been correct!

I trust you all enjoyed Janet Sciales's lecture and workshop. I regret I was unable to attend but understand it was lively.

In honor of the New Moon in Aquarius, the February meeting will have a vastly different flavor than meetings past. We need to take advantage of the "group mentality" mindset to put our heads together and come up with ideas to increase membership and enhance your experiences here at MAAS. So, we will be having an "Open Meeting". The board has come up with ideas for meeting our goals. We'd like to get your input and solicit your help.

We will also be electing the Nominating Committee, which in turn will be responsible for coming up with a slate of officers to run in the May election in preparation for the next term which begins in June. If you are a paid member, you have a say in who does the nominating. We need new officers in all positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary, plus two Members without Portfolio. The bylaws stipulate that no office can be held by the same person for more than two consecutive years. (See the current listing of the Board Members on this page.)

In an effort to raise money, one of the ideas we have come up with is a raffle. We will be raffling off tickets at \$10 a

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THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Special thanks to Mary Trapp, Kathy Papoutsis, and Kathryn Silverton 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 <svpahno@att.net>.



February 18

Sun Enters Pisces at 1:36 pm

March 1

Mercury Enters Pisces at 8:28 am

March 7

Venus Enters Aries at 7:33 am

March 10

Mars Stationary Direct at 12:09 pm

LUNATIONS



February 13

New Moon in Acquarius at 9:51 pm

February 28

Full Moon in Virgo at 11:38 am

NOTE: From Solar Fire Gold.

Current Board Members:

President: Kathryn Silverton

Vice President: Karen Branch

Treasurer: Kathy Papoutsis

Corresponding Secretary: David Railey

Recording Secretary: Erika Sowell

Members without Portfolio: Anyes Moscrip and Rene Goodale

UPCOMING SCHEDULE



Thursday, March 18, 2010

Speaker

David Railey

Topic

THE SIX SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

Everyone's heard the quip "A Libra is just a polite Aries;" but why is this true? It's true because the signs opposite each other in the zodiac are the 'polarities' of a theme - six themes to be exact! After all, when the Sun is in Aries the Earth is in Libra, and when the Sun is in Taurus the Earth is in Scorpio, etc. These six themes correspond to the most basic realms of human experience and behavior. Understanding these six polarities can provide greater insight into the more subtle and oftentimes seemingly contradictory expressions of each sign. This is meant to be a stimulating topic; so come prepared to be insulted!

MAAS BULLETIN BOARD



BUILDING FOR RENT: With the exception of MAAS meeting nights, workshops, and Sundays our building is available for rent.

The fee is a very reasonable \$60 for members and \$75 for non-members. Please contact Kathryn (770-931-2577) to reserve the building.

It Takes Two

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hold sway during their formative years until they began to venture out into the world on their own. It was at this point, I found, that the other house systems began to show their influence.

Which house system worked best for children? For this, I have to return to that highly sensitive point, the Ascendant.

As we all know, the Ascendant is the particular degree of the particular sign that rising at the moment of birth. Astrologically, the Ascendant is the window the person looks at the world through. It is an extremely subjective view the world.

The essence of the newborn child is found in the first house. For the infant, everything is subjective. Everything the child knows is as a result of what it sees, hears, feels, smells and tastes. The child's whole universe consists solely on what relates back to their subjective impressions. In other words, everything that exists for the child relates back to the Ascendant.

A child's birth chart is often said to be the chart of the first moment of the child's independent existence. While the child may be able to breathe on their own from that moment on, they are anything but independent. Every need the newborn has, be it for food, or drink, or comfort, must be taken care of by the adults (usually the parents) in their lives. And these adults are also shown in the infant's chart, but of course, from a truly subjective perspective, just like everything else. In other words, the chart doesn't show the parents, it shows the world the parents created for the child as seen by the child.

In the equal house chart, every house cusp is totally dependent on what is on the first house cusp. The second house is exactly 30 degrees from the first house/ Ascendant, the third house exactly 60 degrees, all the way around the chart. To put it simply, the Equal House chart is the subjective universe based solely on the person's perceptions of the world. It is for this reason that this system so clearly describes the child, who is by nature self-centered and totally subjective.

The adults in the Equal House chart are described by the 10th and 4th houses. These are always exactly 90 degrees away from the Ascendant, dependent upon the Ascendant, because as mentioned they represent the adults as the child sees them.

The child also has an MC and an IC. In most Equal House charts, however, these do not coincide with the 10th and 4th cusps. The MC, for example, may fall in the 10th or 9th house, but may end up in any of the other houses above

the horizon as well. Likewise, the IC can be in any house below the horizon. And this discrepancy between them, this difference between the Equal House 10th/4th, and the MC/IC, is a key factor in understanding 'growing up'. To make this clear, first I must explain something else.

If I look straight up, directly above my head, that's the Zenith, and in the Equal House chart, that point is the 10th cusp. Likewise, the equal house 4th cusp is directly below, oft referred to as the Nadir. The MC, aka Midheaven, however, is not the same as the Zenith. The MC represents the highest point a planet can rise to before it starts to descend towards the Western horizon. Likewise, the IC is the lowest point in the planet's journey before it begins to rise towards the East, and is not the same as the Nadir.

For those born at the equator, the MC and Zenith are usually very close. But if you remember from your grade school science, the earth is tilted on its axis, and one of the results of this tilting is that a distortion occurs in how we experience the Zodiac here on earth. As one moves north or south of the equator, the difference between the Zenith and the MC increases, until at the furthest north and south latitudes it is possible to be born with the MC several signs away from the Zenith.

Most unequal house systems put the MC on the 10th house cusp, and arrive at the intermediate cusps by dividing either the space between the MC and Ascendant by some formula, or by using a time-based measurement to calculate these houses. It is beyond the scope of this article to go into the calculations used for each house system.

But when the astrologer puts the MC on the top of the chart, no matter which house system is used, it clearly shows that this chart shows an entirely different perspective than the Zenith/10th Equal House chart. And it is by comparing the two that the astrologer can learn volumes about the child, the adult, and the 'end of innocence' that marked the transition between the two.

In the Equal House system, one's perceptions of a parent were all subjective, centered on the first house. Everything the child knows about the outside world was filtered through the parents, and what the parents allowed the child to experience. The child had no independent contact with the world at large.

As the child grew up, they begin to interact with the world on their own. At first it is structured, such as attending school. But more and more, the child began to see the world from a new perspective outside of the framework set by their early subjective worldview.

This interaction with the real world is one's interaction with the MC. Moving the MC to the 10th cusp is a major paradigm shift, changing as well the signs on all the

intermediate house cusps. Everything changes...values, philosophies, hopes and desires.

One of the easiest ways to see the change is by looking at what a person wants to do with their lives. When a little child talks about what "I want to be when I grow up", what they describe can be found in the sign on the Equal House 10th, the degree on the cusp, and aspects to it, as well as the ruler of that sign. But an adult's career focus is found in the sign on their MC, the exact degree of the Midheaven, and aspects to it, as well as the ruler of that sign. Very few people actually become the fireman, cowboy or ballerina they wanted to be as a child that was the focus of their Equal House 10th.

So when you next look at the chart of an adult, turn first turn to the Ascendant to see how they see the immediate world. Next set up the equal houses from there so you can see the world the child saw, and how their early personality was shaped. Then put the MC on the 10th (using whichever house system you are most comfortable with), and you will see the person as an adult, where they are going, what they want from life. And then, compare the two, and you will discover everything that 'growing up' was to the child as you see what was lost, and what was gained. ♡



**HAPPY RETURNS
TO THIS MONTH'S
MEMBERS!!!**

NEED MAAS?



404-634-2677

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Valentine

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piece and we must have at least 5 participants. The winner of this month's raffle will receive a copy of David Railey's book as well as a complimentary one hour reading from him. All of the proceeds go to MAAS. Thank you in advance David for donating not only these goodies, but also a new computer for the MAAS office!

We thank you all for being a part of MAAS and look forward to your participation in this month's meeting.

Sincerely,

Kathryn