

AstroUpdate — August 2012

Hi and welcome to the Stella Starwoman August AstroUpdate! And a special welcome to our new subscribers.

Mercury Retrograde



A planet is described as 'retrograde' when it appears to be moving backwards through the zodiac - an optical illusion resulting from the variable speeds of the planets as viewed from earth. From 15th July to 8th August, communication planet Mercury can be seen travelling backwards through fire sign Leo. Mercury retrograde occurs three to four times a year and is known as a time when everything seems to go haywire. Delays, computer problems, broken promises and relationship problems are typical manifestations of Mercury retrograde. Problems with transportation and crucial bits of missing information that prevent us from achieving understanding or "moving forward" are also common during a Mercury retrograde period.

When Mercury travels backwards through a fire sign we are able to see the past, present and future of possibilities, as fire is all about intuition and inspiration. Here are some things you might experience as the 'winged messenger' journeys through Leo.

- A sense of frustration, restlessness or even depression.
- A lack of apparent direction designed to break up old patterns of expectations.
- Angst about the future brings pressure and forces growth and undeveloped potential to flow from the unconscious.
- A desire to respond spontaneously and be more creative with decisions for future change.
- Awareness of sedentary habits may provoke a fitness urge. Psychosomatic illness is common in the area of the psyche that is cramped or under active.
- Artists block common. Consider a change in technique or style.
- A desire to play, relax and be irresponsible.
- Living without planning or conscious purpose and for fun and enjoyment.
- Being surprised by what you're actually capable of.



Featured Sign - Leo



From the 22nd July to the 23rd August, the Sun travels through fire sign Leo. Leo is the fifth sign of the zodiac with keywords “I express” and “I stand out”. Leo’s symbol is the lion, king of the beasts, but also the beast within who must be subdued and civilised. Lions in art and myth are symbols of strength, supremacy, glory and brilliance. Leos are extremely creative and love to show off their talents. They are often attracted to the performing arts or any role where they can shine and lead others. At best they are loving, loyal, affectionate and sincere, displaying willpower, courage, dignity and leadership and radiating confidence. Negatively, Leos can be arrogant, bossy, vain and over-dramatic. Leo rules the heart, circulatory system and spine. When Leos are out of balance they can suffer from back pain, nervous palpitations, high blood pressure, fever, stroke and heart disease. The Leo colours are gold and orange. Leo’s greatest lesson is to learn that they are not the centre of the universe. The true leader is the servant of all!

August New Moon & Blue Moon



The August new moon falls on the 18th in fire sign Leo giving us a once-a-year opportunity to focus on that inner rock star! Leo is the sign of the creator, the performer and the larger than life personality. The Sabian Symbol for this new moon shows a perfect rainbow forming as light breaks through the clouds symbolising the need to maintain a state of open communication between the heavenly and earthly parts of our being. This new moon promises that if we remain true to ourselves, our self-worth will be revealed in all its splendour.



“Once in a Blue Moon” is a common expression meaning ‘hardly ever’, but what exactly is a blue moon? According to popular definition, it’s the second full moon to occur in a single calendar month. The average interval between full moons is 29.5 days, whilst the length of an average month is roughly 30.5 days. This makes it unlikely that any given month will contain two full moons, though it does sometimes happen. On average, there are 41 blue moons every century - so we could say that ‘once in a blue moon’ means about once every 2.5 years. This month we have a full moon in air sign Aquarius on the 2nd August and a full moon in water sign Pisces on the 31st August. The Pisces full moon is the blue one.

Life was much simpler when we had thirteen months (moon cycles) in a year and all months lasted for 28 days with one new moon and one full moon. Make the most of the incredible energy available to us at these two August full moons, blue or not!

Jupiter into Gemini



In mid-June, Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, shifted from earth sign Taurus to air sign Gemini. Jupiter will be in Gemini until June 2013 offering those with planets in the air signs Gemini, Libra and Aquarius special opportunities to achieve their potential over the coming months. In astrology Jupiter represents our yearning for meaning in life and our desire for expansion and growth. But Jupiter’s true purpose is to inspire us to embrace a belief system that gives meaning to life. Gemini is the whiz kid of the zodiac ruled by the planet Mercury whose role is to relay messages from the unconscious to the conscious mind. If you’ve recently started to feel an impulse to reach beyond your present boundaries, you’re feeling the effects of Jupiter’s move into Gemini. Here are my predictions.

Mental Flexibility & New Neurological Pathways

If ever we needed to think outside the box, that time is now. Jupiter in Gemini offers us the chance to process information in a more creative and expansive way and as we undergo a quickening of our thoughts and activities in line with the planetary shifts, we will evolve neurologically to handle the faster pace of life and deal with the increased information flow.

Youth Power & Networking

Gemini is one of the most youthful signs of the zodiac and the youth of today with their love of Gemini technology have much to offer when it comes to finding new solutions to old problems. We are entering a time of greater cooperation between peoples and nations, despite appearances to the contrary. Much of this cooperation will occur quite naturally through the global communication network, which has already broken down borders and bypassed traditional alliances.



Communication

Expect more revolutionary breakthroughs in all forms of communication technology plus the ability to access information through meditation, guided visualisation and prayer. The idea of working with angels, spirit guides and the higher self will become more mainstream.

Media

Journalists who search for and reveal the 'truth' will become more fashionable. Expect an increase in the number of personal blogs, talk shows and podcasts and a decrease in people watching traditional TV and radio programs. Online video viewing will increase exponentially.

Neighbourhood & Community

Gemini loves the idea of community and networking – expect more collectives, cooperatives and support groups; more sharing of resources with flat mates and neighbours; more friends-as-family and more people living in two places for work or seasonal reasons. Gemini is the sign of the twins.

Transportation

Expect more funding and research into alternative forms of transport. Cars will become increasingly automated and more people will live and shop locally and enjoy getting to know their neighbours. "Think globally – act locally" is an apt slogan for Jupiter in Gemini.

Technology

Gemini is one of the most inventive signs. We can look forward to new forms of energy generation that are more compatible with the natural environment plus more wireless gadgets and battery powered devices. Wireless technology will be reconfigured to be more compatible with the natural frequencies of the human body and planet Earth. Computers, telephones and other communications devices will operate with projected light rather than physical keyboards.

The Art of Conversation

Gemini has a quicksilver mind – the art of conversation and eloquent speech will come back into fashion. Those who enjoy writing, debate, comedy, satire, improvisation and storytelling will enjoy Jupiter's passage through Gemini. And it needs to be brief and entertaining as Gemini is a light-hearted, fun-loving sign. Overly-serious, politically-correct folks beware!

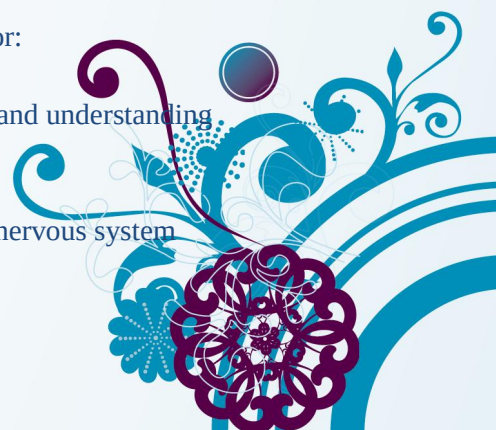
Education

Gemini brings a thirst for knowledge so we can look forward to more investment in education and more people writing, talking, thinking and sharing their knowledge. Jupiter in Gemini is good news for online book distributors and education providers.

Negative Jupiter in Gemini

You can always have too much of a good thing. Here are some things to watch out for:

- Addiction to collecting data and information rather than cultivating wisdom and understanding
- Exhaustion from too many distractions
- Too much socialising, not enough rest
- Increase in panic attacks and anxiety disorders from over-stimulation of the nervous system
- Careless decisions due to lack of reflection and discernment
- Overwhelm through too much choice
- Disconnection from feelings and intuition



August Moon Calendar

Launch projects at the New Moon, bring them to completion in the period from just before the Full Moon to the Third Quarter phase and wind them down and reflect on developments in the week before the next New Moon. The period between the New Moon and the Full Moon is the waxing moon (moon getting bigger and fuller). The period between the Full Moon and the New Moon is the waning moon (moon getting smaller and thinner).

You can use this moon table to select the most favourable days to slow or increase hair regrowth. Full instructions can be found in my Lunar Hair Care guidelines at www.stellastarwoman.com/files/LunarHairCare.pdf but to get you started I've marked the best dates for waxing/shaving to slow regrowth in yellow and the best dates to cut hair for thicker, lusher growth in green. If you're serious about Lunar Hair Care - order your own Moon Calendar from the Stella Starwoman Store then you'll know exactly what time of day the moon changes from one zodiac sign to the next meaning you can fine-tune your activities with confidence.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sign</u>	<u>Element</u>	<u>Moon Phase</u>
1 st	Capricorn	Earth	Full Moon 2nd
1 st -3 rd	Aquarius	Air	
3 rd -6 th	Pisces	Water	
6 th -8 th	Aries	Fire	Third Quarter
8 th -11 th	Taurus	Earth	
11 th -13 th	Gemini	Air	
13 th -16 th	Cancer	Water	New Moon 18th
16 th -18 th	Leo	Fire	
18 th -20 th	Virgo	Earth	
20 th -22 nd	Libra	Air	First Quarter
22 nd -24 th	Scorpio	Water	
24 th -26 th	Sagittarius	Fire	
26 th -29 th	Capricorn	Earth	Full Moon 31 st
29 th -31 st	Aquarius	Air	
31 st	Pisces	Water	

Thanks for being part of AstroUpdate. If there's something you'd like to see featured, or have something you think would interest others, please contact me at stellaw@ozemail.com.au

PS – Don't forget to check out your August Monthly Stars at www.stellastarwoman.com to see what's coming up for you this month.

Happy Stargazing

Stella Woods

www.stellastarwoman.com

