

Electional Astrology

by Mary Fortier Shea, M.A. Counseling Psychology

INTRODUCTION TO ELECTIONAL ASTROLOGY

An electional chart tells you the most propitious time to initiate your project with the greatest "finality". Finality is when you do the last possible thing to initiate your project before it is totally out of your hands. For example, when you mail a letter or contract by putting it in a post office slot or blue mailbox, it is out of your hands. If you place it in the mailbox with the flag up in front of your house, it is not out of your hands until the mail person comes by and collects it. If you can retrieve it, it is still under your control. A contract is not final when you sign it. It is final when you give the contract to the other person or mail it. Determining the moment of finality is crucial in Electional Astrology.

To create an election chart, first an astrologer must pick the best day to initiate your project. The planets, aspects and signs should reflect your intentions. This is a good start, but more may be required. An astrologer can also pick the most propitious time on any particular day. This is called an elected time and a chart set up for this time, date and place is called an election chart. The chart should be a planetary picture of your vision and should say what you want to happen. Within this chart you should see the challenges and opportunities you will face during your quest for success.

MY PHILOSOPHY REGARDING ELECTION CHARTS

I believe that electional astrology is an art form, not an exact science consisting of hard and fast rules, any one of which can make or break an election. I am not a fatalist. I do not believe that God or the Universe must obey my command if I come up with the perfect election chart, assuming it existed! Nor do I believe that God or the Universe is waiting with dire consequences should I choose an inappropriate time. I do believe that electional astrology opens the door to co-creative cooperation with higher forces or intuition and possible success.

It has been my observation that those who formulate their plans carefully and bring a lot to the table in the way of skills, intelligence and effort, are not only more likely to succeed, they are also more likely to pick good times astrologically. Those who consistently come up short and experience bad luck tend to pick difficult times which reflect a lack of forethought, skills, intelligence, and effort. This is not a fatalistic predestination, but a non-causal correlation. Election charts are meant to be informative, not causal, and picking a great election time never absolves you from participation in a meaningful way.

Astrology is a symbolic language. The election chart must symbolically say what you wish to occur, and hopefully, give you insight into how this will happen and what your role should be in the process. In my experience election charts do not and cannot come with guarantees. However, a good election chart can indicate how to initiate, proceed, and succeed. In this way, a good election chart can improve your chances for success through a co-creative interaction with God or a responsive Universe. You are working "with" higher forces, applying your skills, intelligence and efforts in the most productive and efficient manner.

THE PROBLEM

I had lived in Baltimore City for ten years and for much of that time the family had been members of a local pool. Many of our friends and our children's friends attended the same pool. We had moved to New Jersey for two years. On our return to the Maryland area we were unable to find a suitable house and were

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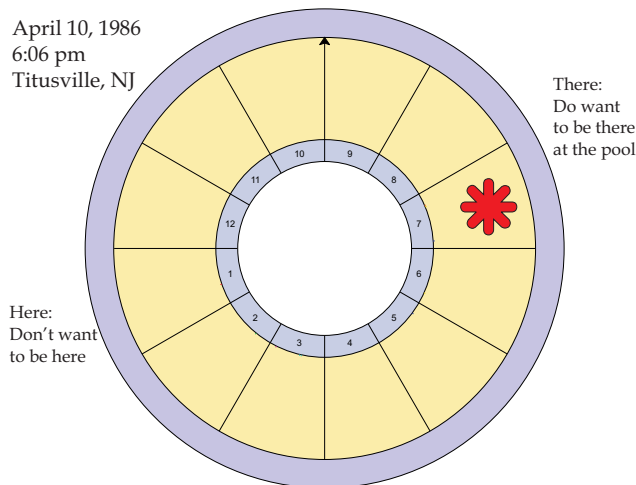
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forced to build. Building would take five months and much of the summer. In the meantime we would be living with my mother-in-law. I had three active boys, ages thirteen, nine and three. My mother-in-law's house was a Baltimore "row house" filled with china and antiques and without a front or back yard to speak of. We needed some place to go and my thought was to return to the pool we had previously belonged to. I called for an application and was told that there was a twenty family, two year waiting list. Acceptance for the coming summer was impossible. I requested an application anyway. My thought was to pick an election time for mailing the application. It is important to have a clearly stated goal before looking for a good election time. So here is my goal: **Acceptance into the pool despite a long waiting list.**

HERE VERSUS THERE

The 1st house in any electional chart rules the "here" position. In other words, this is where you are now. The 7th house in an electional chart rules removing or the "there" position. In some charts it can represent where your wish to go, as in not here (1st house) but there (7th house). For this reason, the 7th house will play an important role in this election. I and my family want to go "there" to the pool. We do not want to be stuck "here" in my mother-in-law's house.

SIGNIFICATORS



The person or people initiating the election are ruled by the 1st house, 1st house planets and the rulers of the 1st house cusp. It is important what planets you pick to represent you. On this day there are three planets in signs they rule or rulership. Planets in rulership are doing what they should be doing and are where they should be. They belong.

- * Venus in Taurus
- * Jupiter in Pisces
- * Pluto in Scorpio

There are three planets in exaltation. Planets in exaltation will rise to a higher position and they are treated as the honored guest.

- * Moon in Taurus

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- * Sun in Aries
- * Mars in Capricorn

There are three peregrine planets, having no standing by house or sign. Peregrine planets are said to be wandering aimlessly.

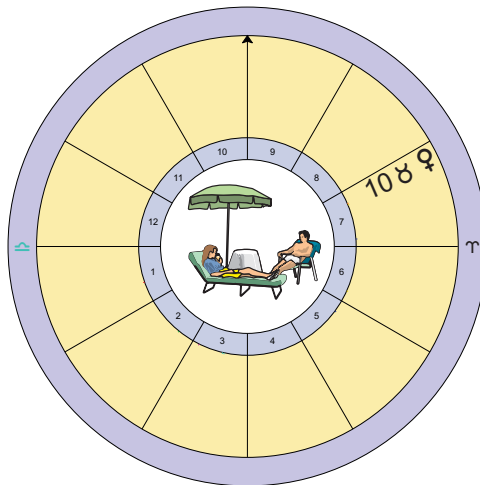
- * Saturn in Sagittarius
- * Uranus in Sagittarius
- * Neptune in Capricorn

Obviously, I would not want to be ruled by a peregrine planet and end up wandering aimlessly with my three children. Since I want to belong to the pool, a planet in rulership would indicate acceptance back at the pool. A planet in exaltation could indicate that I rose to a higher position on the waiting list and became an honored guest. So I need to focus on Venus, Jupiter, Pluto, Moon, Sun and Mars as planets I might use to represent me in the chart.

BELONG THERE

Any planets in the 1st house and the rulers of the 1st house cusp or Ascendant will represent me and my family in the electional chart. Because I want our signifiers (rulers of the Ascendant in this case) to appear in the 7th house (there position), I need to choose a planet or planets that can do that.

- * Pluto is in Scorpio and could not fall into the 7th house with a Scorpio Ascendant.
- * The Taurus Moon would not fall into the 7th house with a Cancer Ascendant.
- * The Aries Sun would not fall into the 7th house with a Leo Ascendant.
- * Pisces Jupiter will not fall into the 7th house with either a Pisces or Sagittarius Ascendant.
- * Capricorn Mars will not fall into the 7th house with a Scorpio or Aries Ascendant.
- * Venus in Taurus with a Libra Ascendant is the only planet that would work. The Libra Ascendant (representing good relationships) with Venus in Taurus (showing comfort) in the 7th house (there position) indicates that I/we belong.

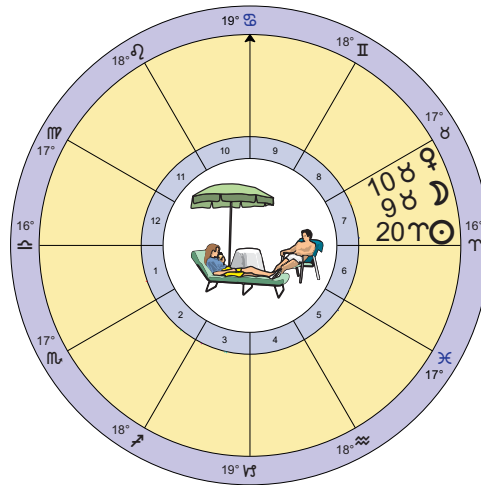


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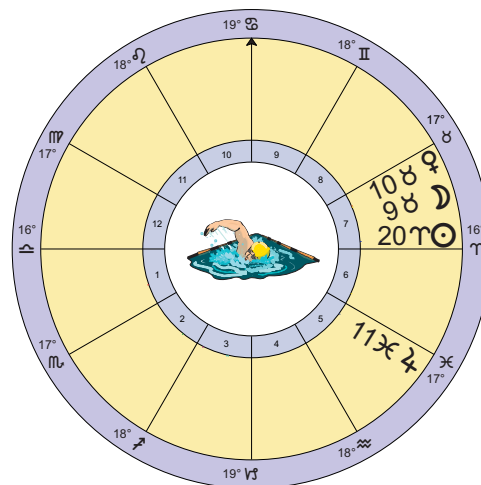
HONORED GUEST

If Venus in Taurus is in the 7th house, it is also possible to put the exalted Moon in Taurus and the exalted Sun in Aries in the 7th house. Planets in exaltation rise to a higher position and are the honored guests. In any election chart, the Moon rules the activity and tends to work for the initiator as a co-significator. To place the Moon in the 7th house is another indication that my family is welcomed at the pool and may rise higher on the waiting list. The Sun exalted in the 7th house in Aries represents the pool owners and membership board. Since exalted planets tend to do the honorable thing, we can expect that they will be more than fair with us and our request for membership.



KIDS SWIM

Even though the chart is falling into place with all the planets in the 7th house, there might still be room to make minor improvements. In this case, it is to my benefit to also have Jupiter fall into the 5th house. The 5th house rules my children. Jupiter in rulership Pisces, a water sign, in the 5th house of children indicates that they have a right to swim. Not only do I belong at the pool, but they also belong in the water. Planets in rulership have rights. My children have the right to be there.

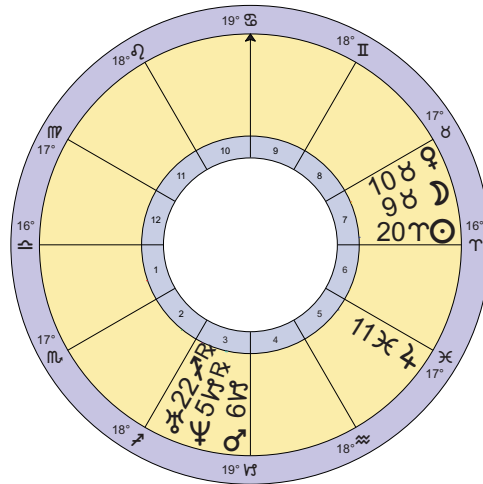


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ALTERED BYLAWS

At this point in the electional chart process, I am wondering how this will all come about. I can see myself at the pool and my children in the water. I see us moving higher on the waiting list and becoming honored guests. But how? Then I notice Neptune and Uranus in the 3rd house. Neptune rules confusion or matters undefined. Uranus rules change. The 3rd house rules bylaws. The bylaws of the pool are unclear in some way and subject to change. This is information I can use to my advantage. I know from the chart that I should not just submit my application. I should write a complementary letter (Libra Ascendant and Venus in Taurus as my ruler) stating that we were past members for many years and how much we had enjoyed the pool. I should also mention our difficult situation and ask if there are any considerations given to returning members. This might bring the bylaws into question, triggering a change and allowing us to move higher on the waiting list. This is exactly what happened.



FULL SWIM ELECTION CHART

In any electional chart, the Moon is allowed all of her aspects until she leaves the sign. In this chart, the Moon is moving to conjunct Venus and then sextile Jupiter, indicating positive events for myself, my family, and the children. The confusion in the bylaws and the decision to make a change is shown by the Moon parallel to Saturn in the 3rd house, the sextile to Mercury in Pisces, and the Moon's final aspect, a parallel to retrograde Neptune also in the 3rd house. All of these Moon aspects worked to our advantage.

Admittedly, this is an exceptional chart and an exceptional turn of events, but it is an excellent illustration of what an election can do and how one would work with the chart to create the most positive outcome.

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