

Mercury Messenger

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Federation of Australian Astrologers WA Inc

April Issue / 2018



from the President

A very happy and blessed Easter to you all. Fond memories of childhood Easter-egg hunts still delight me – although I can't really remember all that much chocolate! The eggs were real and painted by the family. It was later that I found out that eggs are tokens of new life and fertility – spring-time symbols. My mother explained the spring equinox to me – the first hint of astrology in my life.

Global southerners have a lot of accommodating to do when they adopt northern seasonal symbolism – we Aussies are very "nice" about it, really. I never hear complaints. But it was still a curious thing to see a full-scale autumn tree with big bunnies and eggs in Garden City the other day – autumn and spring symbolised in one display for one Holy Day.

We have an excellent post-Easter offering for you this month: on-going learning in Hellenistic predictive techniques from Sam Bakewell, who is experienced and expert in her field. Her last session with us was very well received and I highly recommend that you come on the afternoon of April 15th. Please refer to details inside this issue.

Next month at the very end of May comes a bit of déjà-vu; we will revisit the 7th Ave Hotel in Midland for a multi-speaker event on the topic of nodal and karmic astrology. This was always a favourite venue for our talks; you could get real coffee and on-time lunches, and the room is nice and big. There are great Sunday morning markets outside, which we will try to schedule into the day's activities.

At the time of this writing we are in the throes of a Sun-Mars square, part of a significant cycle in western politics. A dangerous part, actually; and right on time there's been another US sacking and a very hawkish man has joined the Trump team. If you are interested, read all about it in Ed Tamplin's weekly columns online.

Here's wishing us all lots of energy from that Mars, and much peace from the Easter holidays.

Jeannette Lewis-Hill

FAAWA President

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Editor:

Carol Jenkins



Hello everyone,

déjà vu, or what? Recent news of 150 dead or dying pilot whales washed up on a beach in Hamlin Bay near Augusta. On that same date of 23rd March but 9 years previous 80 pilot whales and some dolphins were beached and later died in exactly the same spot.

Don't you think that date is a little too close to the Autumn Equinox here in the southern hemisphere to ignore? We all agree, and I am including even the science sceptics here, that the Moon is responsible for the tides. We as astrologers take that a little further of course and include all the planets, fixed stars, asteroids, sensitive points, et al.

"An equinox occurs each year at a specific moment in time (rather than two whole days), when there is a location on the Earth's Equator where the centre of the Sun can be observed to be vertically overhead, occurring around March 20/21 each year." This year the Autumn Equinox here in Perth was timed 12.15 am AWST on 21st March 2018.

I'm throwing this thought into the mix as it deserves more investigation and by the way this year Mercury also went stationary retrograde on 23rd March, is it that pesky Mercury getting in the way again?

Finally, all information for Sam Bakewell's talk on the afternoon of Sunday April 15th at the South Perth Learning Centre is following on pages 3 and 4. Be sure to read her suggestions for preparing for the talk. I'll catch up with you there 😊

Warm regards,

Carol Jenkins

Mercury Messenger Editor carol.j@westnet.com.au

Quote of the Month:

"The Sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent upon it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the Universe to do."

— Galileo Galilei, Astronomer

...Next Event in April...

Hellenistic Astrology

Meet Your Guardian Angel

Sunday, 15th April, South Perth Learning Centre

with Sam Bakewell

Everyone has a Guardian Angel

*Depending on who is translating,
the Guardian Angel of the chart,
it may be defined as; Almutem,
Almuten, Mubtazz, Victor,
Master or Ruler of the chart.*

*In simplest terms,
It is the winner of the chart*



\$20 concession (members only) \$25 members \$30 non-members

Payment options

F'ward cheque to: The Treasurer of the FAA WA Inc. 2/14 Angelo St South Perth 6151

Or pay directly into FAAWA: Account no: 416267-2 BSB no: 306-084

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. *(Please see MAP at end of Newsletter)*

About Sam's talk:

Everyone has a Guardian Angel.

Depending on who is translating, the Guardian Angel of the chart, it may be defined as; Almutem, Almuten, Mubtazz, Victor, Master or Ruler of the chart. In simplest terms: It is the winner of the chart.

I will demonstrate the scoring system and illustrate what the Guardian Angel represents through example charts. It is significant why the winner of the chart is so important - it is your protector.

Now if mathematics and calculations is not your forte, I will demonstrate how to manually calculate the "winner", followed by where to find it on the Solar Fire Software program. It has taken a long time for me, to have complete trust in Solar Fires scoring system. I have, however, undertaken the calculations many times manually and made the comparison with Solar Fire and the scores were comparable. I now have the faith to share it with others. This is through a wonderful techno savvy friend who has worked out how to tweak the settings, thank you Dagma.

Solar Fire uses the word Almuten and will give you the score tally.

If we have any time at the end of this workshop relating to The Guardian Angel, I will reiterate the predictive technique Profections, by request.

What do you need to bring?

If you are interested in calculating alongside me then you will need; A pen, Calculator is optional, 20th Century Ephemeris – Please do not rush out to buy one I will have a couple on hand and we can couple up if we need to.



Be ready for it!





The 'Sidereal vs. Tropical Debate' heats up: Glen Perry and that Elephant in the Room.

In early February at the 28th International Vedic and Western Astrology Conference, the astrologer and ISAR¹ ethics chairman Glen Perry, gave a controversial lecture that has the international astrology community furious.² At a few points in the talk, the other attendees including Roy Gillet, Rick Levine and Lynn Bell, begin to hide their faces in exasperation, shaking their heads and looking away. The lecture has resulted in accusations of plagiarism, formal complaints being submitted to ISAR, requests for him to step down from the board and his subsequent resignation in March.

The Two Zodiac "Problem"

The lecture he gave was titled 'The Two Zodiac Problem: Toward an Empathic Understanding'³ and judging by the response, it seems that it was the empathy part that was sorely missing. Perry proposed that the Tropical Zodiac is the one "true" system and that the Sidereal Zodiac has no value or inherent meaning in astrological terms. This being delivered to a mostly Indian audience begs disbelief, considering the main system in use within the Vedic tradition for the past two thousand years has been the Sidereal Zodiac. However it is not necessarily the content of the lecture that has caused the controversy, it is more the way it was delivered and the reasoning (or lack thereof) behind its delivery.

Capricorn, Tradition and Timing

Perry has a peculiar history of divisive public attacks on other traditions of astrology, namely the Traditional (Hellenistic) and Evolutionary schools⁴, yet these attacks had not previously been met with as much furore amongst the community. This current diatribe seems to be the straw that broke and in a way couldn't have come at a more "appropriate" time. The approaching conjunction between Saturn and Mars in Capricorn, (and Pluto's residence there) has got me

¹ **ISAR**: International Society for Astrological Research, Gainesville Florida USA, dedicated to advancing international education and research, promoting high standards of ethics and competence, and sponsoring the exchange of ideas among astrologers worldwide.

² Article by Robert Curry <https://www.astrologer.com/blog/when-tolerance-beats-critical-thinking>

Astrology Podcast: the Elephant in the room - <http://theastrology podcast.com/2018/03/07/the-elephant-in-the-room/>

³ Transcript of the lecture posted by Glen Perry on his website:

<http://aaperry.com/two-zodiac-problem-toward-empathic-understanding/>

⁴ Evolutionary Astrology: 'Separating the Wheat from the Chaff' by Glen Perry - <http://aaperry.com/evolutionary-astrology/>

'A Critical Review of Reincarnational Astrology' by Glen Perry

<http://aaperry.com/reincarnational-astrology/>

'Astro- Fundamentalism' by Glen Perry - <http://aaperry.com/astro-fundamentalism/>

'From Ancient to Postmodern Astrology' by Glen Perry -

[https://www.academia.edu/15105324/From Ancient to Postmodern Astrology](https://www.academia.edu/15105324/From_Ancient_to_Postmodern_Astrology)

thinking about the relationship between our actions and their consequences and it seems Perry has run smack bang into his own Saturnian elephant.

The debate between the validity of both zodiacs is hardly a new one, and the conference would have been a perfect opportunity to create an open forum for such an issue. Especially in light of recent controversial debates within the Vedic community regarding the use of the Tropical Zodiac in Vedic charts, with astrologers such as Ernst Wilhelm and Vic DiCara using this in preference of the Sidereal Zodiac.⁵ Instead what was presented was a somewhat standard description of the technical details of the two zodiacs (to a room full of astrologers no less) and then an argument for the supreme validity of the Tropical Zodiac with no logical or technical reasoning other than ideas that have been heard before, such as the relationship between the Tropical Zodiac and the seasons. This was followed by an authoritative conclusion that the the Sidereal Zodiac is arbitrary and that the constellations are nothing more than a "distraction" rendering the system as having no value astrologically. Which is ok I guess, but if you were waiting for the punchline you would be waiting a long time.

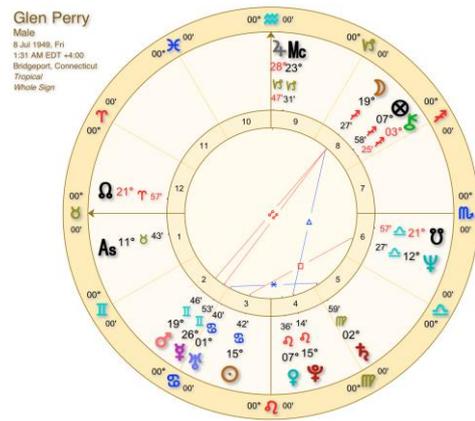


Fig. 1 - Glen Perry Natal Chart

And so, the weary conference attendee asks "Ok then, what was the purpose of this lecture?" If we are to accept that people have different opinions and ideas and, if we can put aside the relative "correctness" of such statements, then what we are left with is the intent. And it seems the intent was clear - that not only are Sidereal approaches wrong but that everyone in the audience is wrong by proxy and there is not need to explain or give evidence for why it is wrong because it should be self evident through any intellectual inquiry! Therefore you (the audience) are unintellectual, unethical, dangerous to the profession and harmful to astrological traditions. And all though that might sound melodramatic, this is the context in which the talk was received.



A very Capricornian theme indeed, Perry attempts to build his **authority** on Indian (foreign) soil, and stand strong in his adopted **tradition** and approach to **technique**. But offers no true **critique**, no **evidence**, no **reasoning** nor **method** to move forward. It seems this time however, he has not been allowed to avoid taking responsibility for his public opinion and in a true Saturnian fashion, is reaping what has been sown. In fact, in an interview with Rick Levine who attended the lecture, he mentions that a previous public attack at Steven Forrest's lecture at NORWAC happened during the Saturn - Pluto opposition.⁶ And for Perry's

⁵ <http://www.vedic-astrology.net/About-Ernst-Wilhelm.asp>

'9-Part Complete Refutation of Criticism, Establishing the Validity of using Tropical Signs with Sidereal Nakshatra in Vedic Astrology' by Vic DiCara - http://vicdicara.com/tropical_vedic_astrology.php

Kenneth Bowers talk on the Astrology Podcast with Chris Brennan entitled Western Sidereal Astrology - <http://theastrology podcast.com/2017/07/24/western-sidereal-astrology-with-kenneth-bowser/>

⁶ Astrology Podcast: the Elephant in the Room. <http://theastrology podcast.com/2018/03/07/the-elephant-in-the-room/>

Sun in Cancer chart, it seems the looming conjunction is paying off.⁷ with his resignation front the board of ISAR being announced on Facebook.

Fig. 2 - The Ghost of the Sidereal Zodiac



The Ghost of Conferences Past

The takeaway from this event is surely the question of how do we as a community learn to tackle sensitive issues? The context of the conference was 'Where East meets West' and a uniting of the astrological world under the guise of shared knowledge and understanding. So perhaps this was not the most appropriate occasion to present a lecture in an insensitive manner without paying enough attention to the

intention of the talk in that particular cultural context.

It also brings up questions like - how do we make sense of the techniques, history and traditions of the practice of astrology whilst still being inclusive, sensitive and open to other methods and systems? Because we all make choices about what systems we use, what works for us and for clients, what knowledge we have and where our research has taken us. And finally, how do we make sure that we are not operating on some mutually exclusive model of knowledge, because as history has constantly shown, any extreme positioning is the only thing that is dangerous. And certainly none of us truly know with certain authority what is right and what is wrong. In the video of the lecture, Perry uses a bizarre image of a spectre or ghost to represent the Sidereal Zodiac haunting the Tropical Zodiac like a 'vestige of the past'⁸ - however all I can hear is the ghost of Socrates whispering to us to remember that thing about knowing you know nothing.

Further Insight:

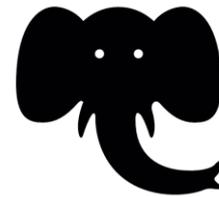
If you would like to watch the full lecture it was uploaded to Youtube by the conference director - **Gopal Bhattacharjee** and was titled - 'Glen Perry's Misleading Lecture on Vedic Astrology at 28th IVC 2018'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMC0JqsYA_o

Also you can watch Chris Brennan's video commentary of the lecture at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP5gLTgFYaQ>

And listen to the interview with Rick Levine on the Astrology Podcast at: <http://theastrologypodcast.com/2018/03/07/the-elephant-in-the-room/> or on Apple Podcasts - The Astrology Podcast



- Michael John Joseph March 2018

⁷ See Perry's Natal Chart above - Fig.1 Glen Perry Natal Chart

⁸ See screenshot of lecture above. - Fig.2 The Ghost of the Sidereal Zodiac

Coming Soon - in May

The Three Speakers

A Nod to the Nodes

(a full day event 10.00 - 4 pm)

★Karmic Astrology

Rick Boyd

★Evolutionary Astrology

Jeff Farrow

★The Draconic Chart

Jeannette Lewis-Hill

A Sunday event @ The 7th Avenue Bar and Bistro , Midland
Back to our old haunt, with a lovely comfortable room

Very reasonably priced hot or cold lunch menu, tea or coffee
provided



An FAAWA Event

April 2018: using Wild West Oz times

Information from Moontime Diary 2018

Monday 2	Sun conjunct Mercury 1:52am Mars conjunct Saturn 11:44pm
Wednesday 4	Mercury square Mars 3:05pm
Thursday 5	Mercury square Saturn 4:22pm
Saturday 7	Venus trine Saturn 9:36pm
Sunday 9	Last Quarter Moon 3:17pm
Tuesday 10	Venus square Nodes 6:10pm
Wednesday 11	Sun square Pluto 12:53pm Venus trine Mars 2:02pm
Friday 13	Venus sextiles Neptune 0:26am
Saturday 14	Jupiter sextiles Pluto 5:58pm
Sunday 15	Mars sextiles Neptune 1:27am
Monday 16	New Moon in Aries 26°02' 11:57am Mercury goes Direct
Tuesday 17	Venus opposite Jupiter 2:59pm Chiron enters Aries 5:38pm Venus trine Pluto 9:03pm
Wednesday 18	Sun conjuncts Uranus 10:00pm
Friday 20	Sun enters Taurus 11:17am
Monday 23	Pluto goes Retrograde First Quarter Moon 5:45am
Wednesday 25	Venus enters Gemini 0:44am Venus sextiles Chiron 8:40am
Thursday 26	Mercury square Saturn 5:27am Mars conjunct Pluto 7pm
Sunday 29	Sun trine Saturn 6:03pm
Monday 30	Full Moon in Scorpio 9°38' 8:58am

. . . Notices . . .

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Membership Renewals due 1st April 2018

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(Please quote your Name to ensure you are credited correctly) A follow up email when payment is made to jencoat@inet.net.au would be greatly appreciated.



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2/14 Angelo St
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Contact Jenny on 0427 080 430 or email jencoat@inet.net.au if you have any queries.

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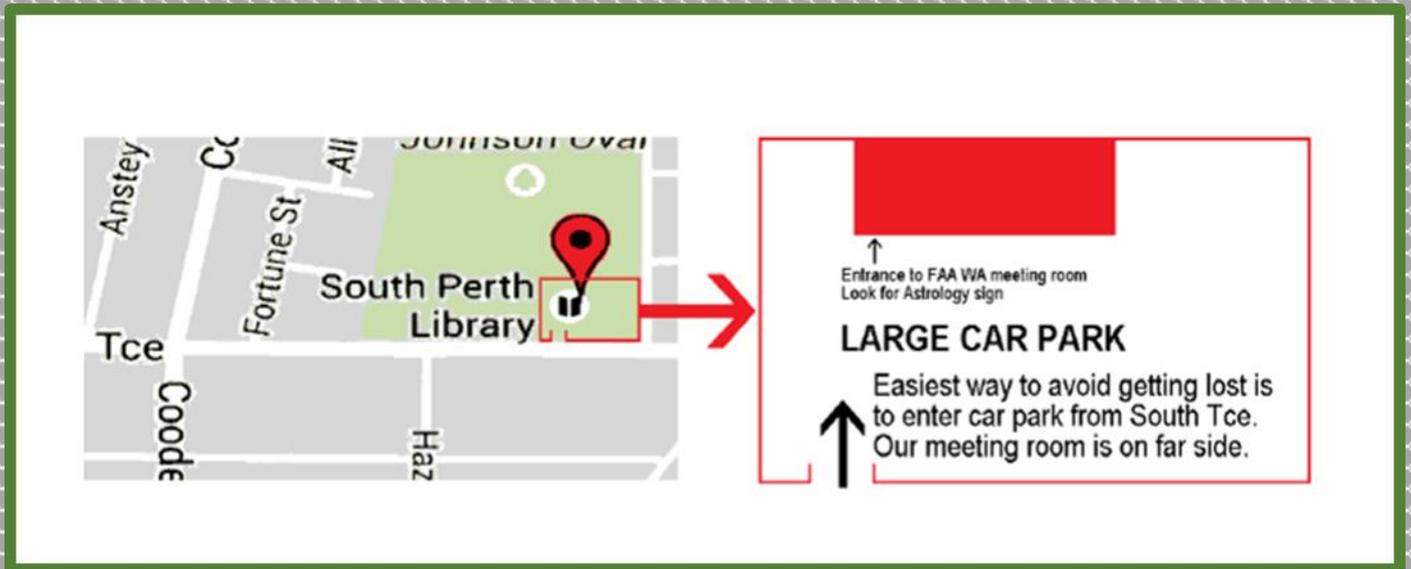
Advertising Fees for All Others

(repeats)

\$25 for ¼ page	(\$20)
\$40 for ½ page	(\$35)
\$70 for full page	(\$60)

Ad to be received by 20th month.
(or by prior arrangement with Editor)
Payment in FULL to be received
before publishing

HOW TO FIND SOUTH PERTH LEARNING CENTRE



☞ We're looking forward to

seeing you next month ☞