

Summer Solstice: June 21, 2006
By Marianne Carroll and Barbara Hand-Clow

NOTE: Barbara Hand Clow is currently traveling on a book-signing/lecture tour and completing the last phases of her next book on the Mayan Calendar, scheduled for release in January 2007. Because of her intense scheduling constraints and her heartfelt desire not to leave her readers here "high and dry" after her last blockbuster AstroFlash!, Barbara asked me, her long-time student, Marianne Carroll, to write the 2006 Summer Solstice and Cancer New Moon AstroFlash! installments (with her guidance). I am deeply honored and humbled by this extraordinary opportunity (and challenge!) and stand in profound wonder of the vast databanks of information to consider. I have been filtering and processing Barbara's AstroFlash! teachings since she first inaugurated this website and I am ever grateful for her consistent oracular gifts and deeply compassionate understanding of the language of astrology that have been an extraordinarily empowering guide for my life - and perhaps, yours - thus far. May we all continue together to learn, share and grow in this grand cosmic dance of the heart!

It's the Summer Solstice when the Sun reaches its highest point in the heavens and beams its most potent cosmic rays to the consciousness of those living north of the equator before it begins its southward journey. The poise and balance of this moment is a delicious opportunity to consciously absorb all the energy and momentum the Spring Equinox has brought to you. It's time to feel and observe what your intentions have created and secured for you thus far. Like the gardener who's planned, planted, weeded and watered all spring, it's time to stand up, take a step back and admire the blooms! And with this particular Solstice, you're going to want to raise your arms high overhead and give yourself a BIG stretch, because finding your "outer reaches" is key to managing the potential of the tightly woven lineup of oppositions and squares we're working with here at Summer Solstice (SS), 2006.

Each season is a threshold to our next initiating phase where we get a big "boost" to move us through to the next cardinal sign (Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn) and related season (spring, summer, fall, winter). We want to pay particular attention to the planetary alignments on "opening day" just as the Sun moves into the new cardinal (starting) energy field. Since Barbara is now reading the political agenda primarily at the Solstices and Equinoxes, what's particularly fascinating about SS 2006 is that the rising sign for the Washington, D.C. chart is at 3 degrees Leo and is only one degree from the 2006 Spring Equinox ascendant, which was positioned at 2 degrees Leo. It's as if we're going to yet another show (Leo) at the same venue, with the handsome doorman standing beneath the lion-headed statue in the lobby who greeted us in the spring having taken only a single terrified step to the left since we last saw him. Are the Bushites going to hit the world stage with yet another production of "The War on Terror?" Or is it "Mission Impossible XXX" Or have we been sufficiently numbed to the truth or seduced by their lies and are learning to ignore their ferocious screen-opening MGM roar and view it for our own detached personal entertainment and creative emotional health?

You might notice that, since the charts for the Spring Equinox and Summer Solstice have virtually the same house delineations as one another, if we place one chart on top of the other and then hold them together "up to the light", we can see more clearly what's really shifted in the relationship dynamic between the inner, faster moving planets and the outer more stationary ones. It's like picturing kids (the inner personal planets) who go running around at the summer pool party while their parents (the outer transpersonal planets) tend to gather in one place (the bar and grill!) and let the kids maneuver the space for their interactions as they whiz on by.

With the SS chart cast for Washington, D.C. at 8:25 am EDT, Saturn in Leo is still guarding the door to the event from the 1st house but this time he's got his grandson, feisty Mars, in the lobby along side him in a tight conjunction (9 and 10 degrees Leo respectively). With Mars so close to Saturn in fiery Leo, high-spirited antics (Mars) could be nipped in the bud by grandfatherly (Saturn) restraints. Could this also signal our founding fathers (and constitutional lawyers) reigning in the maverick Bushites? Or would it take the form of homeland security "lock downs" (Moon in Taurus) with high drama involving foreign espionage (Jupiter in Scorpio) that might even make it to the mainstream press/box office?

This dynamic duo of Mars and Saturn is tightly opposed by Chiron at 9 Aquarius and squared by the Moon at 8 Taurus opposing Jupiter at 9 Scorpio. YOWSA! This is one of the tightest configurations we'll experience so far in the continuation of the fixed grand cross pattern that began in mid-December 2005 -- just as Mars went direct at 8 Taurus exactly during the first Jupiter Saturn square. Now the SS Moon at 8 Taurus is occupying the former Mars position to complete a very huge and highly charged fixed polarity. The recent New Moon of April 27, 2006, was also at 7 Taurus, where it seeded the potential for this conflict now at the Solstice, when the Sun is at its strongest position in the northern hemisphere. The intensity of these polarities force us to deeply examine whether or not we have been gathering our courage and making any headway to move beyond our own fears and limitations.

The Sabian symbol for 8 Taurus is "a sleigh on land uncovered by snow" and has a keynote meaning of "the value of anticipating and preparing for expectable conditions." With this much planetary activity on 8 Taurus, we should be ready by now to use past self-knowledge to meet the challenge of what is to come. Or have we managed to set up a new wall where there wasn't one before? On the national level, is the Mexican border, closer to home (Moon), going to become the new epicenter of an even larger conflict that extends to the southern hemisphere? Saturn's reigning in Mars, so one might expect even tighter controls regarding runaway immigration issues. Saturn will have had its final opposition to Chiron exact at 2:05 pm on June 20, the day before the Solstice, while Mars will have had its exact opposition to Chiron 2 days earlier on June 18th, giving us a prelude and foreshadowing for what will be released and blown into earth's consciousness by the solar winds of the World Tree at the Solstice. Fixed grand squares are pushing us to discover new beliefs with new ways of realizing them and if you resist, you'll feel a quick depletion of the available growth energy the Solstice winds offer.

Have you ever noticed that, while in a passionately heated argument, if for one insightful moment you can allow yourself to honestly see the other person's side (without necessarily agreeing with them) and they genuinely feel you've honored their position, a huge space opens up and a softening occurs? A simple "You've got a valid point. I hadn't quite seen it that way. I've learned something from taking your point of view." can shift the entire confrontation. If you can allow yourself to "stretch" the boundaries of your feelings, instead of closing in on them, you just might be able to "flip" yourself and the situation into another new reality that you've created together, simply by allowing for more than your (previously) limited view. And from the pattern established at the Solstice, the Moon will be the first heavenly body to move out from the challenge of the grand fixed cross. So value your feelings (Moon in Taurus) and their ability to shift you into a new dimension of grounded awareness.

I was a big fan of Geena Davis in ABC's brief series "Commander in Chief" as she modeled for me what integrity the Moon in Taurus in the 10th house of power (a beautiful, sensitive, intelligent heart-centered female world leader) could bring to transformation of world leadership through truth, honesty and informed cooperative compromise. Is America ready to consider joining the rest of the world by envisioning the healing role our abused political system might benefit from by entertaining qualities of an "ideal" female leader? For those who follow the asteroid Juno (Jupiter's wife and equal ruler of the heavens), she is at the ready standing next to Saturn at 7 degrees Leo in the battle against Jupiter. So watch out, Donald Sutherland!

The SS chart for Washington, D.C. has a Taurus/Scorpio interception from houses 10 to 4, still carrying over from the Spring Equinox when it was Neptune that was squaring Jupiter, so the spiritual potential for seeding and achieving the transformation in restructuring the new boundaries of your own consciousness and the conflicting emotions that fuel it will still apply.

The most potent realization I've had from the breakthrough point Barbara described at the last new Moon/midpoint of the 4th night of the Mayan Galactic Underworld is that we are all part - the human part - of EARTH'S path to enlightenment, according to Carl Johan Calleman in "The Mayan Calendar: Transformation of Consciousness" (2004). So the Taurus/Scorpio polarity of opening to Earth's journey -- what she needs you to align with all your Taurean feeling senses now in her garden - is central to how we individually and collectively transform and manage the earth's energy through our bodies as we receive this challenge from the heavens.

As Barbara has explained in her methodology section, the pattern of interaction between Jupiter and Saturn is ancient. The mythological father and son pattern has been dancing and battling with one another for as long as we can remember. Saturn "tends to control the inner planets" while Jupiter "works to receive outer planet intelligence" setting up an expansion/contraction pattern that gets "expressed" each time they square, conjunct or oppose one another in the sky. At SS 2006, Saturn and Mars in Leo shows us where our creative discipline allows us to structure and direct our energies for what is being challenged at this Summer Solstice by opposing Chiron in Aquarius.

Chiron was the one to whom all the gods sent their children for training and he founded the "School for Heroes." He was dedicated to the true integration of our spiritual, intellectual and physical natures. With Chiron in Aquarius, we must see now how technology (the tool of the modern day heroic soldier) is enabling us to integrate and face our physical limitations and fears (Mars/Saturn). How has the use of technology (and perhaps, more significantly, the technology of astrology) in your own life broadened your knowledge of self, aided your creativity and strengthened your courage? Or are you overwhelmed by the constant bombardment of information with its different and varying messages confronting you, demanding your attention and questioning what is in your heart?

With Jupiter in Scorpio, retrograde, T-squaring the opposition pattern, you now see the challenge appearing in the form of new controlling laws currently being set up by Congress to allow large corporations (Jupiter) to control and corrupt (Scorpio) the very freedom of information the internet and technology has brought into our homes and the fabric of our life (4th house). These father/son conflicts of Saturn and Jupiter are the most ancient of battle lines drawn in our own consciousness and you're going to see the explosive effect on all our freedoms being triggered by this alignment. Is it time to see how technology has simply been a "training wheel" for our conscious development of new, independent and healing (Chirotic) thinking?

The potential of this pattern is a juicy Solstice "summer Olympics" that will pole vault us to the next big match between Jupiter and Saturn in 2015 where there will be an entirely different dynamic of cosmically conscious collaboration in place. (In 2015 it will be Jupiter in Leo consorting with Mercury and Venus taking on Saturn in Scorpio and the nodes will be the exact reverse from where they are positioned now in early Aries/Libra). The final round of our current Saturn/Jupiter square takes place October 25, 2006, and at that time, it will be Mercury that is partnering with Jupiter in Scorpio, so the conscious filters for our thoughts and communications being set up by Jupiter (big business and government) at this junction are, indeed, critical. One can't help but marvel at the personal "time machine" astrology truly offers us to look ahead to the future and see the full potential for a given moment in time! Having recently enjoyed a large-screen viewing of H.G. Wells 1960's classic "The Time Machine" prompts me to ask: What 3 website archives would you take with you if the internet suddenly "went down?" As Barbara has said many times here, "9/11 stopped time and paralyzed almost everyone except its inventors." We're seeing that the Bushite spinmasters are spinning faster than ever before to keep one step ahead of everyone and play their own game with the law, meanwhile creating even vaster realms of damage around them. Will this Summer Solstice trigger the handle controlling the machines to start shifting the balance of power? With Karl Rove back in action, you can believe this summer's brainstorming for manipulation of votes (and those who count them) will be intense.

We will all have an extraordinary opportunity to see how polarity shifts work this Solstice, as, along with this potent fixed grand cross pattern, we also have the Sun at 0 degrees Cancer squaring the nodes of the Moon (at 0 degrees 4 minutes Aries/Libra) and moving into exact cardinal t-square alignment less than two hours after the Solstice, which indicates a karmic crisis over manifesting the energy that was set up at the Spring Equinox.

There's another fascinating pattern involving the nodes that is important to tune into. All the planets on one side of the nodes (Libra to Aries) are in retrograde motion and they also happen to be all the "outer" planetary bodies (Uranus, Neptune, Chiron, Pluto and Jupiter). On the "other side" of the nodes are all the "personal" planets (along with Saturn) which are in direct motion (Moon, Venus, Sun, Mercury, Saturn and Mars). You can almost use the "line" of the nodes with North Node in Aries as a starting point, move down the axis of karma to Libra (how we relate to others), then make a clockwise turn and follow the lineup of the personal planet grouping on the left side of the nodes to display their collective direct energy movement as a large "g". Then observe the opposite movement from the nodes: starting at south node in Libra, move across to the north node in Aries and then turn in a counter clockwise motion to envelope the outer planets in an "e" shaped motion. Or, these two dynamics might even represent the two aspects of the symbol for the sign of Cancer: Two spirals of opposing directional movement - signifying manifestation and release - each aligned on opposite sides of the nodal axis, with the Sun at 0 degrees Cancer in its furthest point from the nodal axis as the trigger.

As mentioned earlier, Saturn is the one controlling the inner planets while Jupiter is filtering the consciousness of the outer planets. What an exciting spiral dance they are leading us through, with Saturn/Mars (direct) squaring retrograde Jupiter showing us the point where the motion for the confrontational "collapse" - a giant cosmic "squeeze" - and release will occur.

Spiral motion is the energy of creation, so take a few moments to really tune into the energies of these opposing forces and their moving momentum "in heavenly concert." This signals it is also time for a karmic release of earth's consciousness in relation to our entire solar system.

You might want to check out a website that addresses the expression of the "spiral" energy of creation with this same "g" and "e" symbolism through the concept/word "gratitude" (www.g GRATITUDE.COM). This is the pattern for transformation cycles - giving motion to "flat" squares and oppositions by envisioning a spiral "lifting" of the energy to another dimension/view. Realize, also, that you already have experienced the concept for access to another dimension of "information" about this game plan from flat screen computer technology that makes use of "pop up" windows to instantly bring you to another view of related data. It will be interesting to see what dimension our consciousness will "pop into" as we navigate our way through this pattern. What buttons will you choose to click?

If you can take a moment at the Solstice, close your eyes and face the sun, and tune into the geometric patterns the sunlight creates on your closed eyelids as you tune into these opposing spiraling energies in our solar system. Your role as grateful creative interpreter for the Sun's communication to Earth will be activated. It's a new re-patterning of our collective "earth mind" that the Sun is setting up by your conscious participation. And for those who cannot be in a place to view the sun directly, momentarily close your eyelids as well and perhaps you'll receive the beamed transmission passing through the nodal axis from those that are facing the sun, giving birth to a new membrane of conscious alignment.

It's important to note that the nodes will shift into Pisces/Virgo approximately 24 hours after the Solstice so the potential for creating a practical (Virgo) conduit for spiritual (Pisces) forces could be a defining moment in the shift of consciousness from the age of oil based power to that of solar and alternative power as we align even more deeply with the our central star, the Sun. Petroleum company giants like Exxon/Mobil have long studied solar energy opportunities and you can count on the fact they are standing by and getting ready to exploit them. However, as Thomas L. Friedman has pointed out in the 2nd publication of his book "The World Is Flat [Updated and Expanded] : A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century", it will be the rapid innovations of small, independent -- and maybe even non-profit -- companies (like www.solarovens.org) that will get us on our individual path to resolving the pending energy crisis in our own lives long before the Bushites, with their corruptly incestuous ties to the oil giants, are willing to. It is interesting to note that countries like Afghanistan as well as nations effected by the tsunami in 2004 are already being seeded with solar technology at relatively low or no cost. If you've ever tried cooking with a solar oven, you'd know it readily attunes you to the sun's availability, position and movement as well as creating just the right cooking temperature that retains the natural enzymes and nutrients of your food. This t-square of the Solstice Sun (from the 11th house of technology) to the nodes (9th house to 3rd house) might well trigger an independent and more rapid development-adoption-deployment cycle of "small scale" solar technologies than might have been previously thought.

Also, as consumers switch to the "summer formula" of gasoline, you might even notice you are getting slightly better mileage to the gallon. By considering the intertwining of the nodal t-square crisis consciousness to the fixed grand cross pattern of the other planets, perhaps gas manufacturing technology itself (Chiron in Aquarius) could evolve to simply provide consumers more value (Moon in Taurus) with less product (Jupiter retrograde in Scorpio) for their summer fun (Mars in Leo). With Saturn in the mix, it could even offer the potential for "responsible" action from corporate industry!

Another strong pattern at the Summer Solstice involves the yod that is shaped as a result of the sextile between Venus (at 27 Taurus) and Mercury (at 24 Cancer) along with Pluto (at 25 Sagittarius) forming two quincunxes. A yod is a planetary formation containing two quincunxes with a sextile between the "right" and "left" positions.

I've been trying to get my head around quincunx energy patterns all my life and that's the problem with them -- by their geometric design you can't really get your head around them until you've integrated the opposition. It's like driving in a car on a 4 lane divided highway with a lush green lawn divider separating what's ahead on the left (opposing traffic) from what's directly ahead of you as you travel forward. Sometimes there is a bend further along down the road, which you can't see just yet, and it appears in your periphery for a brief time like oncoming traffic is coming straight at you. It can be confusing and sometimes fearful to integrate the pattern, but if you stick with the road and just follow the path given to you with trust, you'll see the road eventually bends to your right and you'll continue on your way unhindered. Quincunxes set you up with "tricks" that strengthen you for the journey back (which is what opposing traffic is). Pluto at Summer Solstice is the significant agent of the yod (or the back seat driver in your car). Barbara noted that Pluto had made its connection to the heart center of the galaxy at 26 Sagittarius just as it went into retrograde motion within hours of Spring Equinox 2006. So with this Summer Solstice, it continues to carry the deep and newly inaugurated pattern regarding our personal creations. So imagine Pluto's camped out at the galactic heart center controlling the transmission of our collective thought forms from the far reaches of our solar system by way of the ecliptic. Kind of like a combination of the NSA and the US embassy compound in Iraq that still remain in secrecy. This is a significant repeating pattern that will happen the beginning of each and every season right through 2011, so get used to a regular galactic heart-center broadcast update on the Sun from Pluto to the Galactic Underworld.

So the "opposing traffic" from the SS yod formed by Pluto to Mercury/Venus is aligned with the Sun itself. If you happen to be driving to work on the day of the solstice, imagine what cosmic messages are being transmitted/driven onwards from the flowing thoughts of drivers everywhere on the planet. Since Pluto is transiting the ecliptic (the nodes) as well, you should be noticing the changes your thoughts have brought to you since you seeded your intentions at the Equinox. With Pluto in the quincunx and the acceleration of the Galactic Underworld, what possessions (Venus in Taurus) -- or possessive thoughts or financial debts -- have you spun off? Are you seeing signs in your conversations with others (Mercury in Cancer) of the populous "wising up" about what America has been doing to the rest of the world, and herself, along with the controlled "dumbing down" of the people?

Of deep significance to the change in consciousness available at the Summer Solstice is the position of SS Mercury at 24 degrees Cancer. It is exactly conjunct the USA 1776 Founding chart Mercury (which was retrograde) as well as the Sun/Mercury conjunction in the trigon chart for the 1802 American Imperialism. Are Americans finally waking up, taking the time to smell the flowers they plant every spring and tune in to what's really going on that's nourishing or destroying their lives or not? I find it encouraging that people are willing to pay to learn the truth and you're seeing it at the box office with the success of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." Quincunxes are the pattern of "inconvenience" that come before and after the opposition following up from or going into a trine.

Will our planetary consciousness as Americans finally wake us up to the responsibility we have to our earth by learning the truth? Will our love of beauty and nature (Venus in Taurus) open our hearts (Pluto in the 5th house) to create innovative solutions in advance of the timeline true science in a PowerPoint slide presentation can force us to envision? Or will we just continue to act like high school kids in mandatory science class and drift off to sleep in the back corner of the room (Mercury in the 12th house)? Or will the enormity of the stakes be so compelling we will truly be motivated to put in place trustworthy competent leaders who will harness the urgency and opportunity our collective awakesness will mean for the world?

This quincunx position of Mercury to Pluto is a deep integration of the 1776 "foundation" consciousness (Mercury retrograde 8th House) that birthed the resulting manipulation of communication and dissemination of untruth that we are seeing right now. Doors to Gitmo are being closed, reporters are being locked out, investigations are whitewashed, whistleblowers are silenced. However, the lies and deceit can no longer continue as Pluto strips them away with one political corruption scandal after the next. It's interesting to note that GWB has a Mercury-conjunct-Pluto-in-Leo pattern that is being pulled into the Saturn/Mars/Jupiter, etc. blockbuster this Summer Solstice. How long can W continue to entertain us (Leo) with his bold lies before they blow up in his face? Will the projected release of Robert Greenwald's next movie "Iraq for Sale: the War Profiteers" this fall, just prior to the fall election, trigger a reality awakening to even deeper scandals of the Bushites unbridled corruption? Stay tuned for the final October 25, 2006, Saturn square Jupiter homecoming game!

What will be critical is not just the story the masses are fed, but how we process what we feel and the resulting realignment of our belief systems. The mercurial retrograde nature of our founding shows that it takes us a long time to "really" know what to think about what we feel. We're going to "source" (Pluto) for the truth (Mercury) and grounding it in reality (Venus) so when the "horrible truth" shows up and is made known, how do we then integrate it? We'll have to wait for the Winter Solstice Sun conjunct Pluto to see. However, the wide sextile from Neptune in the 7th house (at 19 Aquarius) to Pluto might give us a glimpse in terms of the new ideas around diplomatic relations that are being forged. Where are the true allies of our country? Is it between ordinary citizens and soldiers as they communicate to their families and friends using the internet to bridge the seas of confusion? Or by way of Karen Hughes's "civilian ambassadors" at the State Department Public Diplomacy shop?

Uranus in Pisces was the last of the "outer" planets to turn retrograde just two days before the Solstice. Its wide trine to Jupiter appears to reinforce this shift in the power of our ability to communicate across wide open spaces around the planet and experience our deepest collective feelings through silent communication, music and illusion (corresponding via internet email, our dreams, television and the movies). It can also suggest the depths to which the Bushites will ignore the laws of this country to gain access to our thoughts, even when they are not controlling them through the "content" they're pushing out to us. And since 99.9999% of Americans are not "terrorists", they ask us "should we even worry?"

We'll know when the truth comes out about what they are really doing with the data. In the meanwhile, we're preparing for an entirely different kind of consciousness revolution that is available now to every human living on planet earth through the complex technology of our creative loving existence here in the third dimension.

The shattering of old patterns and systems, as Calleman says, is about our evolution into galactic spirituality. "The difficulties, or even catastrophes, in the time ahead will have much less to do with natural disasters than with the social, spiritual and psychological consequences of the old values coming to an end as a result of a change in consciousness." Stay tuned for the upcoming New Moon AstroFlash! where we'll examine just how deeply our collective nervous systems are integrating our feelings and attuning our bodies, hearts and minds for the coming changes this powerful Summer Solstice offers.