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- As an active subscriber you can now access all TMA issues from 2020 digitally via your “Personal Login Link.” Contact our subscription department for more details: subs@mountainastrologer.com
- We now have single digital issues of TMA available — visit our website to order: www.mountainastrologer.com
- Attention Dell Subscribers: If you are receiving TMA as part of your pre-existing subscription to Dell Horoscope and need to make changes to your account or inquire about remaining issues, please contact Penny Publications at 1-800-220-7443 or customerservice@pennypublications.com.

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Astrologers Become Socially Distant

As the focus of our lives over the past few months has been “all COVID-19 all the time,” the world of astrology has also been significantly impacted. One of the most notable manifestations has involved the much-beloved astrology conference. Whether or not you enjoy gathering with other astrologers and like-minded individuals, those meetings have now been halted in the wake of stay-at-home lockdown orders. From meetings and classes hosted by local groups or organizations to larger regional and international conferences, leaders in the astrological community have been scrambling to maintain connections while revising schedules, venues, and options for these events. You’ll see some of these influences as you peruse the Astrology Conference Calendar in this column.

Astrology classes and full courses of study have been available online for years. For example, the International Academy of Astrology (IAA) has successfully hosted several international conferences utilizing webinar-type formats. However, the huge, dynamic gatherings like International Study for Astrological Research (ISAR) or United Astrology Conference (UAC) have not yet been available as a 100% virtual experience — until now. As you know, astrologers are unique, with their particular viewpoints bringing almost any subject into a different focus. There’s a lovely brilliance displayed by this diverse body of individuals, and being together can be truly life-changing. For the next several months at least, these events are curtailed. Many are taking on the challenge to utilize the wonders of our current technology to meet via webinar and other connections like Zoom. While sharing and learning via digital screens might be an excellent opportunity, it’s a completely different experience from sitting together in person.

Plus, the marvelous trade shows and marketplaces mounted at conferences provide an opportunity for showcasing new books, software, and creative, metaphysical merchandise. Those who rely on conventions to market their goods will be limited for a while, although online shopping is likely to be featured at the larger virtual summits. Some form of social distancing may become the new normal, quite possibly well into the future. While the large-scale astrology conference and pop-up markets have been evolving over the past decade, COVID-19 has accelerated changes.

At the time I am writing this column, Northwest Astrological Conference (NORWAC) will be initiating its first-ever all-digital conference in Seattle, Washington. The Astrological Association of Great Britain (AAGB) has just announced that it will go online for its June 2020 conference, utilizing webinar format for the entire event. Details are available on their website (see below listing). We send our best wishes as this grand experiment gets underway.

The ISAR Conference, slated to take place in Westminster, Colorado, will soon be announcing their decision about whether or not to hold it, postpone, or cancel. They intend to make that decision by July 25. By the time this issue of TMA goes to press, they will have learned about governmental guidelines regarding an assembly of that size. ISAR announced in April 2020 that they will not attempt an online conference at this time.

The future of UAC 2022 also hangs in the balance and will be powerfully influenced by the alterations from our current experiments as we reframe the possibilities of gathering and sharing with one another. We astrologers are an adaptable and visionary breed. We have a grand opportunity to reinvent the ways we will continue to share knowledge and be part of the evolution for the new practice and profession of astrology.

Share Your Thoughts

I’ve heard from many of our TMA readers concerned about these changes. I would like to invite you to share your thoughts or experiences until we once again have access to more opportunities to be together personally.

Have you attended a conference that was reset in a digital format? Did you find this to be a positive experience? What did you like or dislike? How do you think the loss of opportunity to gather in large groups might impact astrology?

Please send your comments regarding any of these new directions to me via e-mail at: Gloria@GloriaStar.com, and I’ll share a summary with TMA readers in a future installment of “Astrology News.” Thank you!

In Brief

Thanks to TMA reader, M. Murphy, for sending along an interesting article about the links between medieval astrology and epidemiology. Appearing in The Conversation (https://
the conversation.com/before-epidemiologists-began-modelling-disease-it-was-the-job-of-astrologers-137895), author Michelle Pfeffer presents a fascinating tale of astrology’s place in human history related to global events, like pandemics.

Astrology Conference Calendar 2020
(updated May 2020)

**June 26–28:** The 52nd Annual Conference of the Astrological Association of Great Britain, Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, U.K. will be held virtually.
FOR INFO: https://www.astrologicalassociation.com

**July 9–13:** Great Lakes Astrology Conference: Renewing Our Faith, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S. will be held virtually.
FOR INFO: https://www.greatlakesastrology.com

FOR INFO: http://sophia-project.net/conferences/conference2020/index.php

**August 21–28 (canceled):** Faculty of Astrological Studies Summer School, Exeter College, Oxford, U.K. A message from the organizers: “In order to maintain the connectivity of the unique community spirit that Summer School engenders, we will be offering an alternative event online, The Summer Gathering, which will take place over the weekend of 21–23 August.”
FOR INFO: https://www.astrology.org.uk/summer-school

**September 10–14:** ISAR 2020 Conference: Reimagining the Future, Westminster, Colorado, U.S. A determination will be made on July 25 about the status of the event.
FOR INFO: https://www.isar2020.org

**October 2–4:** Northern Stars Astrology Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
FOR INFO: https://northern-stars.CA

**November 6–8:** Breaking Down the Borders: IAA Conference. Online only!
FOR INFO: https://astrologyconference.org

**November 19–23:** Sedona Vedic Astrology Conference, Sedona, Arizona, U.S.
FOR INFO: https://sedonavedicastrology.com or contact Dennis Harness at: +1 (928) 282-6595 or dennis@dennisharness.com.

**December 14–19:** Institute of Vedic Culture 30th International Astrology Conference: Building Bridges Between East and West, Kolkata, India.
FOR INFO: http://ivcconference.com

Save the Date:
**September 2021:** Canadian Astrology Conference. Details to be announced.

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