



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

April 17, 2012

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Earthquakes

THIS month there have been two notable earthquakes.

The first was a magnitude 7.2 in Baja, Mexico, on April 4, at 22:40 GMT at 32N, 115W (data from the [US Geologic Survey](#)). The chart has 3° Virgo rising, with a MC of 0° Gemini.

The second was magnitude 8.6 in

Sumatra on April 11, at 8:38 am GMT. According to the [USGS](#), it was at 93° E, 2° N. It had 0° Virgo rising, with 4° Gemini on the MC. Both charts with very nearly identical angles, both charts with Mars on the ascendant and Neptune on the descendant, with the nodes in 4 and 10.

George McCormack says quakes are touched off as a result of MC/IC placements at the preceding equinox or solstice. Which would be the Spring Equinox, at 5:15 am GMT on March 20, 2012. For the Mexico quake, this gives 19° Leo on the MC. For the Sumatra quake, 19° Pisces MC. The Moon-Neptune conjunction opposite Mars falls in 4 and 10 in Baja, and 9 and 3 in Sumatra. I've not looked at a lot of quake charts so I am not quite sure what to make of it.

IHAD a delightful dinner on Saturday with Portland's [Andrea Gehrz](#), who was in town to give a couple of lectures at the [NCGR](#) and [Baltimore's Astrological Society](#). I showed her my progress on [Vettius Valens](#) (mostly done but not yet finished), we talked about what Greeks should be translated next. As Andy reads Greek fluently, including the New Testament, I asked her if its original verses would be easy to memorize. She said yes, quite easily memorized. Which confirms my hunch, that the early Church was an oral affair and the Gospels only put to paper when the Church was growing too large and too fast. It is still largely hidden.



Painting, Love of and Ability for. Venus is often in good aspect with Uranus and Jupiter with Neptune, and about 22° of all the negative signs are commonly occupied, especially Taurus and Pisces. About 3° of the airy trigon is another area that seems frequently occupied. [Turner's](#) nativity exemplifies these features. Leo and Aquarius are also important influences and the 27th degree of the former seems, as in the case of astrologers, to be often emphasized; see, for example, [Albrecht Durer's](#) map given in [N.N.](#) Gemini is also important, probably mainly in connection with outline. See also [Benjamin Haydon](#), [N.N.](#) 818, Mars 2° Gemini, asc. 22° Virgo trine Venus.

Paleness; Pallor. When not due to specific disease this arises from a powerful and prominent Saturnian influence, especially if the asc. be involved. The two Saturn signs seldom have other than a pale or tanned complexion, even when in health, except, indeed, in infancy. The same may be said of the Moon and Cancer, and I believe that Neptune setting often gives pallor. Some signs, such as Taurus, Sagittarius, and Pisces, rarely lack colour.

—from [Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology](#), by [Charles Carter](#).

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

| | | | |
|----|-------|---------|----------|
| 17 | 03:41 | ☾ □ ♀ | |
| | 06:42 | ☾ ♀ | |
| | 07:59 | ☾ # ♁ | |
| | 14:35 | ☾ * ♃ | Void |
| 18 | 01:52 | ☾ ♁ | |
| | 01:56 | ☾ # ♀ | |
| | 02:49 | ♀ # ♁ | |
| | 13:46 | ☉ # ♀ | |
| | 16:00 | ☾ ♃ | |
| | 19:29 | ☾ ♀ | |
| 19 | 03:46 | ☾ ♀ | |
| | 09:13 | ☾ # ♁ | |
| | 10:57 | ☾ □ ♀ | |
| | 16:12 | ☉ ♀ | |
| | 18:41 | ☾ * ♀ | |
| 20 | 06:53 | ☾ # ♀ | |
| | 11:03 | ☾ ☉ | |
| | 15:09 | ☾ ♀ | |
| | 19:36 | ☾ ♀ | Void |
| 21 | 04:06 | ☾ ♀ | |
| | 07:19 | ● 01♃36 | New Moon |
| | 09:25 | ☾ * ♀ | |
| | 12:13 | ☾ Δ ♀ | |
| | 20:07 | ☾ ♃ | |
| | 23:26 | ☾ Δ ♀ | |
| 22 | 01:20 | ☉ ♀ | |
| | 09:19 | ☉ * ♀ | |
| | 17:12 | ☾ ♀ | Void |
| | 20:29 | ♀ ♀ | |
| | 22:21 | ☾ # ♀ | |
| 23 | 17:06 | ☾ | |
| | 22:34 | ☾ □ ♀ | |

Extracted & adapted from [AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020](#). Get yours!



STAR OF THE WEEK



MIRACH beta Andromedae 0 ♂ 34

Notes: A yellow star situated in the girdle of Andromeda. From Mirak, the Loins. Often called Zona Andromedae, or Andromeda's Girdle.

Influence: According to Ptolemy, it is of the nature of Venus. It gives personal beauty, a brilliant mind, a love of home, great devotion, beneficence, forgiveness, love, overcoming by kindness, renown, and good fortune in marriage.

With Sun: Trouble through opposite sex, disappointments in expectations but otherwise favourable.

With Moon: Trouble with opposite sex owing to indiscretions, bad for domestic affairs, honour through martial matters.

With Mercury: Vacillating, unstable, peculiar events, many travels and changes, little success.

With Venus: Voluptuous, bad morals, scandal. . . —from [Fixed Stars](#), by [Vivian Robson](#)

Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990

IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Our Solar System

THE vast reaches of Space surrounding our Earth form what is called the Celestial Sphere, through which are scattered 88 Constellations (groups of fixed stars) of which 56 are within the Equatorial Zone, which extends from 45 degrees above the equator to 45 degrees below; 23 are within the 45 degrees of the South Pole, and only 9 within 45 degrees of the North Pole.

Of these 88, twelve in the Equatorial Zone form the 360 degree circle of the Zodiac, and fall irregularly near the twelve 30-degree sections called SIGNS and originally identified with them but no longer in the same places. It is not the constellations that we use but these 30 degree Signs, which are precise mathematical divisions always in the same position in the great circle.

Besides the fixed stars in constellations, there is the SUN, the one great fixed star marking the point around which the non-fixed celestial bodies revolve, and so becoming the center of our Solar System. It is the Sun which is the basis of our calculations, giving what is called Sidereal (star) Time if we are figuring from his path, the zodiac or ECLIPTIC; and Right Ascension, if we are figuring from his relationship to the Celestial Equator, as we shall see later in this work.

The Moon is our Earth's satellite, neither a star nor a planet but of immense importance as the prime activator in our affairs, being closest to us. Then we have the eight planets or "wandering stars" each in its own orbit or path around the Sun. — **Foundation of the Astrological Chart**, 1959.

KNOW YOUR RULERS

Joseph Biden

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

JOSEPH BIDEN was born on November 20, 1942, at 8:30 am EWT, in Scranton, PA. The Rodden rating is A, which is to say, she had a report from someone who said he had seen the birth certificate, and in the years since, that report has not been contradicted. The 8:30 am time is therefore considered to be reliable.

Joseph Biden has 3 degrees of Sagittarius rising. The ruling planet is Jupiter in Cancer in the 8th. Jupiter is exalted in Cancer. I am looking at my textbooks, which say that Jupiter in the 8th house is mystical and spiritual and occult. And that you marry money and have inheritances, which for Joseph was true of his first marriage, but 8th house placements turn up too often in political charts for that to be the whole story.

I am coming to a different understanding of a politician's 8th: *What can I get from you that I can use for my own benefit?* Or more bluntly, *How can I pick your pocket?* Politicians always have the most charming way of doing that, which is why we elect the scoundrels. This is shown in Joe's chart by friendly, enthusiastic Sagittarius rising, with ruling planet Jupiter in caring and concerned Cancer in the 8th. Having gone retrograde a week before his birth, Biden's Jupiter will ultimately care more for himself than he does for you, sweetie.

I am getting mean about this because the economic situation in the US continues to worsen yet I do not see our leaders running wildly about the country with their hair on fire trying to do something about it. This is all the more bizarre in an election year, when our rulers usually pretend to be serving the populace. Instead they seem like Joe: Placid and serene. As if the upcoming election was, well, fixed maybe.

In college, Biden was an indifferent student. Wiki says he was distracted by an out-of-state girlfriend. Can we see this in the chart? Yes. Third house of mundane studies has Aquarius on the cusp. (Joe said he was bored in school. Scholastic boredom is third house, not ninth.) The ruler of the third is Saturn, posted in the 7th house of girlfriends, and in Gemini. So rather than study, Joe leaned on the ruler of the 3rd and found girls. Let's try a new wrinkle in chart reading. Let's say that not only does the ruler of the cusp

bring the affairs of the house it is domiciled in to the house it rules, let's also say it brings the sign it's in as well, and then let's look at how the "relocated sign" gets on in that house. Got that?

Okay. Saturn in Gemini in the 7th is ruling Joe's 3rd house. As we know, Gemini likes the third. Can this explain why Joe was stuck with out-of-state girlfriends? Would not Saturn in *Gemini* in the 7th make it hard for poor Joe to get *local* girls? Make it *easy* for him to travel?

Let's look at it from the girl's point of view. Take Joe's 7th house as her first. Her first house Saturn rules her 8th house of sex and martial duties, and also her 9th house of travel and adventure and higher education. Saturn also has strong influence in her 5th house (Joe's 11th), with Libra on the cusp. And into her boring, Saturnine life, up pops safe and sedate and boring college-student Joe. Exactly what she was looking for.

Remember that when you turn the chart like this, it **DOES NOT** describe the whole world. It describes the world **FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE NATIVE**. The women in question will only be "like this" when they're with Joe. The rest of the time they're themselves. Joe's chart is only "renting" them. Have you ever noticed how you can be "different" around different people? It's not just planet-to-planet synastry that's going on. You're also spinning each other's charts.

After college, Joe tried his hand at being an attorney, first as a partner in a firm, and later on his own, without success. In 1970, he ran successfully for City Council at New Castle, Delaware. At the age of 27, Joe had found himself. He was a success. He never looked back.

In 1972, Biden got into national politics by running for the Senate seat held by Republican J. Caleb Boggs, who was on the verge of retirement. Biden used his agreeable, friendly nature in a door-to-door campaign. Delaware is just that small, and though he trailed in the summer, he won in a squeaker.

Barely a month after that, on December 18, 1972, his wife and youngest daughter were killed, and his two sons gravely injured, in a traffic accident in Hockessin, Delaware.

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This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's masterpiece, *A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*. It is now in print.

Part 90:

Love and Marriage

The following are the influences of the planets:—

SUN. Proud and honourable or vain and domineering partner; marries in middle life. In good aspect to Moon, happy. If afflicting Moon, unhappiness.

MOON. Fickle love affairs; intrigues; early marriage; partner fond of change and travel. If afflicted unfortunate in choice. In 4th wife dies first. In 7th marries between 24 and 28; if afflicted tragedy. In 12th indiscreet in love affairs. Afflicted by Uranus, cruelty to or from women; by Saturn, slovenly wife; by Venus, untidy wife. If opposite Jupiter or Venus, bereavement. If separating from Mars and applying to Venus in the western half of the map, several wives. If conjunct Venus and Saturn in the 12th, death of wife and difficulty in obtaining one.

MERCURY. Clever and quick witted or busy-body and malicious partner; wrangling if afflicted; anxiety over love affairs; marriage through correspondence or journeys; partner younger or a cousin. If afflicted, especially in 5th, scandal. In 7th afflicted by Mars or Uranus denotes partner with nerve disorders or unsound mind. If with Venus in 4th afflicted by Mars denotes evil conduct.

VENUS. Attractive, pleasant and affable or bold arrogant, and wasteful partner; happy love affairs. Afflicted by Uranus, very romantic attachments or sudden separations; by Saturn, sorrow in love; by Mars, impulsive and extravagant love affairs. If in the Asc. with Saturn in signs ruled by either planet, dishonorable or aged wife. In 2nd, marries for money. In 4th, afflicting Moon in Aquarius, inconstant wife. In 6th, marries servant. In 7th unafflicted, good house wife; and if in good aspect to Saturn, Jupiter or Mercury, provident, attached to home, late marriage, fond of harlots. — *A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*, by Vivian Robson.

Chapter 20.

Debt and the payment for it.

from **Carmen Astrologicum**
by **Dorotheus of Sidon**

IF you contract a debt or pay it, consider the condition of the claimant to whom the debt [is due] from the ascendent and the condition of the borrower who seeks the debt from the seventh, and the condition of the borrower also from the Moon and Mercury. If the Moon is with the benefics or they aspect it while one of the malefics injures it, he will pay this debt, but he will also revert in this debt. If Mercury is with Saturn, there will be confusion and deception and trickery in the payment of this debt. If Mercury is with Mars or [Mars] aspects it from a strong place, he will revert in this debt and there will occur in what is between the two of them for this debt fighting and shouting and quarreling. If the Moon is under the Sun's rays, then look at what I wrote for you in which the consideration is from the condition of the Moon and its position, and make your consideration of this from the Sun and its position and its liberation from the malefics.

If the Moon is in the burned place, that is if the Moon is in the middle of the zone which is the equator, taking the direction of the qibla towards the South, or [if] the Moon is in the first degrees of Leo or Gemini or Capricorn, or [if] those degrees of which I wrote are the ascendent, then it will not be good if you decide anything according to this. If you wish, then borrow when the Moon is in Leo or in Pisces or in Aquarius or in Scorpio or in Sagittarius while the Moon is decreasing in light and Jupiter and Venus and Mercury are aspecting the ascendent or the Moon. If they are aspecting together the ascendent and the Moon, it will be more powerful. — *Carmen Astrologicum*, 1st century AD.

Is This You?



0-10° Sagittarius rising
The Sagittarius decanate

Appearance of the First Decanate:

The Sagittarian body is usually tall, slender, well made and somewhat stooping. The neck is set far forward on the chest like a horse, the prototype of the first fifteen degrees. The eyes are fine, often hazel, the nose short, the mouth rather large and genial, the chin firm. The body is short-waisted and wide at the hips, the legs long and well shaped, making the whole figure graceful, possessing the easy swaying movement of the racehorse. **Joel McCrea**, the film actor, in appearance, is typical of this decanate.

The first decanate is ruled by Jupiter. It denotes an open-minded, sympathetic, kindly disposition, inclined to be touchy if taken advantage of. When well aspected there is considerable intuition and mental independence; when afflicted the mental powers become chaotic, resulting in restlessness and dissatisfaction. — *Man and the Zodiac*, by David Anrias.

April 17:

- 1397—*Canterbury Tales* first told
- 1524—*Verrazzano* reaches New York harbor
- 1897—*The Aurora*, Texas UFO incident
- 1949—*Republic of Ireland* born
- 1961—*Bay of Pigs* invasion
- 1969—*Alexander Dubcek* deposed
- 1970—*Apollo 13* returns to Earth



It would seem that Mrs. Biden pulled into an intersection and was hit by an oncoming big rig. Tractor-trailer rigs, when fully loaded, can weigh upwards of 40 tons, they are neither nimble nor agile. As Wiki says the truck driver was cleared of wrongdoing, it would appear that Mrs. Biden was foolish. I once knew a truck driver who killed a family in precisely this way. He watched his truck roll straight over a car full of people, in speechless horror. It shattered him.

It shattered Joseph Biden, who had just turned 30, was the 6th youngest man ever elected to the Senate, and who had not yet even taken the oath of office. There is no greater tragedy than to lose one's family. That it happened at the very moment of his greatest triumph made it all the more intensely severe.

Let's look at his transits on the day:

Having just arrived at the age of 30, you will wonder about Saturn. It was at 18 Gemini, past the return at 10 Gemini, but still in the 7th house. One delineation of natal Saturn in the 7th is the eventual death of a spouse. A definition of transiting Saturn in the 7th is the end of a relationship. Biden's natal Saturn lacks significant Ptolemaic aspects (trine to Neptune, sextile to Pluto) and has, instead, only "invisible" inconjunct/whole sign aspects to Mars, Mercury, Sun and Venus. This might have been the very first time in his life that Joseph Biden had ever really experienced Saturn.

Transiting Mercury was at 4 Sag, conjunct the ascendant, and also conjunct Neptune, at 5 Sag. Neptune on the ascendant, Joe had entered a world of make-believe. When Mercury transits the ascendant it brings news to the native. In Sagittarius the news will deal with hopes and ideals, and also transport and distance.

To drive this home, transiting Mars at 20 Scorpio, was conjunct Biden's natal Mercury at 21 Scorpio. Note the tendency for transiting Mars to "strike early", while transiting Saturn comes late, in this case, eight degrees "late."

Transiting Venus was directly conjunct Biden's Sun, the transiting Moon was in Taurus, where Biden's Moon is natally. On the day of the tragedy, Biden's ascendant, Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus and Mars were not only all tightly transited, but all the transits were conjunctions. It was like being hit in the face with a dozen hammers.

In grief and shock he wanted to resign but was persuaded by Senate Majority Leader **Mike Mansfield** to take the oath of office, which he did at the bedside of one of his two

Joseph Biden

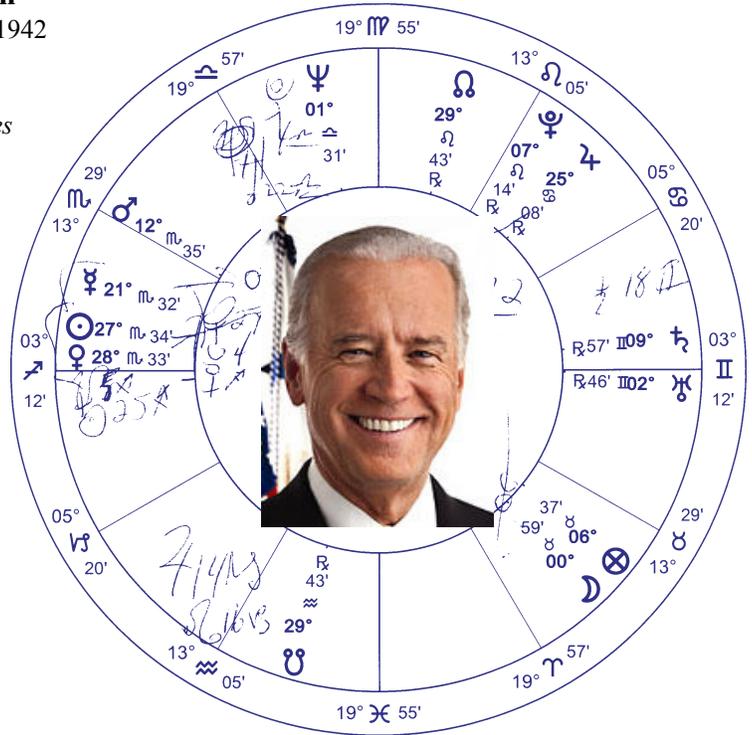
November 20, 1942

8:30 am EWT

Scranton, PA

Placidus Houses

Mean node



surviving sons (Beau or Hunter), the other members of his family having died. It is believed that Biden ever recovered from this loss.

Further note the placement of Mars in Biden's chart. Mars rules the 5th house of children and is itself in Scorpio in the 12th, which is the 8th house from the 5th, or, in other words, in the house of the death of children. Mars in Scorpio strikes by stealth. You will never see the blow coming, you will never recover from it.

OVERALL, Biden's chart, like the man himself, is not of great interest. Joe Biden's life demonstrates the curse of being a successful man, in that once one is successful, he stops trying. This is in part as he no longer needs to try, though it is often compounded by the fear of losing what he has. The earlier the success, the more complete the ultimate failure.

Sag rising, Jupiter in Cancer, Mercury-Sun-Venus trine to Jupiter, Joe is an affable man of no great consequence. You will note mutables on the angles, which indicates a life that never quite settles down, nor ever amounts to very much. Angular rulers, Mercury and Jupiter, are in trine from 12 to 8, the two most "hidden" houses in the chart.

Joe Biden's long career in the Senate was undistinguished, save for his sponsorship of Amtrak. Why was this? Because his home

in Delaware was close enough for him to commute to Washington on a daily basis. Joe went by train.

From his ascendant, we can already see Joe's maladroit speaking style, his habit of putting an appendage in his mouth and chowing down. With Sag rising, we expect youthful boyishness and enthusiasm, with Jupiter the ruler in Cancer, we would expect heartfelt caring, in the transcendental 8th we expect an intense, intimate point of view, but, the ruler retrograde, it all gets messed up. Retrogrades are like dull knives. They never work the way you expect, and if you're not careful, you can blunder and hurt yourself. This is especially true when the chart ruler itself is what's retrograde. While head of the Judiciary Committee, Joe was known to ramble on so long that no one could remember what his point was. His natal Mercury is in Scorpio, where it hears intensely, but in the 12th, hears mostly itself. Which, by the way, is as bad a placement for a politician as it is for a musician.

As Vice-President, Joe Biden joins a long line of forgettable people. The American system rarely puts brilliant men in this position. The Vice-Presidency has often been a dumping ground for politicians from small states, states where one can still campaign door to door and actually meet the bulk of real voters. Cheerful, sunny glad-handers are often elected by this means. Misled by easy

victories, they are frustrated in their efforts at higher office as they are rapidly—and easily—chewed up by the pros who know what they’re doing. The lucky ones (Dan Quayle, Spiro Agnew, Walter Mondale, etc.) may find themselves selected for largely honorary post of Vice President, mostly because of their inoffensive fecklessness.

Longevity. Why not? It’s a useful technique but you won’t learn unless I drill it into you. Although a day birth, Biden’s Sun is not hyleg, as the Sun is never hyleg when in the 12th or 8th.

Nor is the Moon, as it makes no aspect to Venus or Mercury, its relevant rulers.

Which brings us to the ascendant, ruled by Jupiter. Jupiter at 25 Cancer is ruled by a term (or bound) of Venus, with which it is in trine. This makes Jupiter hyleg and Venus alcohoden, or giver of years. I am going to fudge exact degrees, as I suspect the ancients could not reliably determine the ascendant to a precise degree, and declare Venus to be angular. An angular Venus gives 82 years. The trine to Jupiter gives him Jupiter’s minor years of 12. There is no aspect to Saturn but there is a conjunction (whole sign) with Mars, which would deduct Mars’ minor cycle of 15.

This makes for a net of 79. *Presuming ancient theory is correct, this is not the age at death*, merely the *theoretical opening of a “window”* which thereafter makes the native susceptible to a fatal transit of one sort or another. Theory says that *prior* to this moment the native will successfully survive all transits, directions and progressions, whatever they may be. You will note that **Steve Jobs** and **Whitney Houston** both lived a number of years beyond what ancient theory predicted.

The best longevity instructions (which are still far from perfectly clear), along with the longevity table, are given in **Judgements of Nativities**, by Abu ‘Ali Al-Khayyat, but the rulership table you need is missing. You will find that in both volumes of **Lilly**, and also in **Al Biruni** (fragmentary), **Dorotheus** and most good books on horary. Take a look at your bookshelf. You might already have it.

Traditional textbooks say that Jupiter in the 8th gives a peaceful death, and peaceful deaths are very often at a very advanced age. It seems clear that Joseph Biden will outlast his current job, which he must vacate by January 2017 at the latest. Will he go back to the Senate? I wonder.

BACK in the early 1990’s I had a mad urge to use PageMaker to make fake business cards. What pompous fake title could I give myself, I wondered? The most pompous and the most fake?

First I thought, **FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**. Nothing more pitiful and forgotten than a former president. (Ask a few of them.)

But I was wrong. **FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT**. That’s the ultimate in obscurity. There are no Vice-Presidential Libraries, though **Dan Quayle** is trying.