

September, 2000 Celestial Timings

by Carolyn Sky Dancer

**“The stone circles are gateways, at certain times, as are all earth’s edges ---
mountaintops, caverns, the shore where sea meets land...”**

Lady of Avalon by Marion Zimmer Bradley

I love synchronicity. For at least a couple of years now, I have been writing about my sense of the importance of the stone circles and other sacred sites as gateways, especially during the equinox timings. Marion Zimmer Bradley's Lady of Avalon has sat on my shelf for about three years patiently waiting for me to find a time to read it. On my way to Idaho August 12, I spotted the title on my bookshelf and felt called to take it with me and read it on the plane. Hanging in the sky somewhere between Arizona and Washington the above quote leaped off the page at me. I chuckled with delight at this unexpected confirmation at the perfect time just prior to the upcoming Autumnal Equinox and coinciding with the annual Shamanic Astrology Autumnal Equinox Gathering at Faywood Hot Springs where a recently constructed Standing Stone Circle welcomes our celebration of these mysteries. (See below for more details) The synchronicity and magic of how these things appear in my life still amaze me and I am immensely grateful.

Autumnal Equinox

The equinoxes are the seasonal time of balance and harmony when the days and nights are equal in length. During the equinoxes the Earth's auric or magnetic field is affected by the Sun's alignment with the Earth's equator, creating the balance of equal days and nights. Twice each year, at the equinoxes, the Sun is exactly over the equator for approximately 48 hours. The equinox solar affect produces a reduction in the magnetic field of the Earth, creating an opportunity for us to connect more easily with other dimensions. The equinox effect begins around 24 hours before, and ends around 24 hours after, the exact Equinox point. Thus, the Sun's annual rhythmic cycle is intimately wired to our experience of the seasons. Certain seasonal cycles are optimum timings for connecting with Earth's sacred sites all over the planet. Doorways into the mysteries are more easily accessed during this time and when we consciously engage this energy we have an even greater opportunity to activate our own experience of these sacred timings and what they have to offer us. The ancient architects and builders of Chaco Canyon (in New Mexico) were inspired to build what is essentially now explained as some sort of equinox corridor in their main building complex. This corridor marks the equinox Sun's rise, tracks the Sun's journey through the sky, and then marks the equinox Sun set. This corridor was designed to capture the *So Below* experience of this *As Above* bi-annual event, giving us another potent clue about the importance of this seasonal timing. This understanding may inspire each of us to tune in and discover what significance the equinox timings represent for us individually and collectively. Indeed, part of our time at Faywood Hot Springs, New Mexico during the Autumnal Equinox will be about ceremonially tuning in and connecting with these energies from the Standing Stones, hopefully assisting us in opening to remember our connection with these mysteries.

The Autumnal Equinox occurs at 10:28 am on Friday Sept 22. For those who are interested in Sunrise or Sunset ceremonies the following data can help. Just remember to adjust the times for your time zone. On September 22, in Southern Arizona, the Sun Rises at 6:16 am MST and sets at 6:16 pm MST varying somewhat depending upon your horizon. In Southern New Mexico the Sun is rising at 7:04 am MDT and setting at 7:04 pm MDT. Also interesting to note is on this day the Moon

is waning and Moonrise happens just after mid-night in southern Arizona and about 1:15 am in Southern New Mexico. This is ideal for those who plan to do some stargazing on the nights around the equinox as the skies will be dark until the Moon rises.

Currently the Zero Libra point marking the Autumnal Equinox is aligned with the North Galactic Pole. The North Galactic Pole lies 90 degrees north of the Galactic Plane in the constellation of Coma Berenices. This constellation has been viewed as long beautiful hair. **Anne Wright's web site** on Fixed Stars has this to say about this constellation. This is *"a classical story concerning the hair of Berenice, the wife of Ptolemy III of Egypt. It happened that Ptolemy had to fight against the Assyrians. Berenice feared for his life and went to the temple to pray that her husband would emerge victorious from the fray. In her anxiety she promised to sacrifice her hair to Venus, the Goddess of Love, if Ptolemy were to return safely. Berenice was very famous for her beauty. She had beautiful long amber-colored hair which she was really proud of. She asked the royal oracle, Conon, what to do. Conon advised the queen to offer her beautiful hair to Aphrodite (Venus the goddess of love and beauty) for the safe return of her husband. Berenice did not hesitate, she was willing to sacrifice anything for her dear husband. After weeks of tension and waiting Ptolemy returned safe and sound. The nation rejoiced but when Berenice told Ptolemy about her promise to sacrifice her hair, Ptolemy was very upset because it was the crowning glory of his queen; it was looked after with loving care by Berenice's ladies-in-waiting, it had the admiration of the nation, and it gave inspiration to the poets. Nothing, however, would change Berenice's mind. She went to the temple where her beautiful locks were cut off and laid on the altar by the priests. The next day when the king went to the temple to have a look at his wife's hair, he was furious to find the hair had been stolen. He summoned the priests and would have put them to death, then and there, had not the court astrologer intervened in the nick of time. "No, no, your majesty, do not blame the priests, it is not their fault, wait until it is dark and I will show you where your wife's hair is". So when day turned into night the astronomer took the king to look at the night sky "Look! Dost thou not see the clustered curls of thy queen, too beautiful for a single temple to possess, placed there by the gods for all the world to see? Look! They glitter like a woven net, as golden as they were on Berenice's head". And there, between Canes Venatici, Bootes, Leo and Virgo, twinkled a mass of very faint stars. The astronomer declared that Jupiter had descended from Heaven the night before to take the golden locks up to the heavens where they could be admired by the whole world, not only by one nation. The king was satisfied with this explanation and Berenice was delighted that Venus had so honored her.*

Coma Berenice seems to have been first alluded to by Eratosthenes as Arladne's Hair in his description of Ariadne's Crown. It was not known till about 243 BCE, in the reign of the 3rd (Euergetes), the brother and husband of Berenice, whose amber hair we now see in the sky figure. It was the happy invention of this constellation by Conon of Samos (the royal astrologer) that consoled the royal pair after the theft of the tresses from the temple of Arsinoe. The word Berenice, is from the Macedonian form of the purer Greek - Victory-bearing; and is the Bernice, of the New Testament, the name of the notorious daughter and

wife of the Agrippas. From it some philologists derive the Italian Vernice, the French Vernis, and our Varnish, all from the similar amber color of the lady's hair. Christians also called this constellation "The Veil of Veronica," probably because the Herodian Beronica has a Latin name that is equivalent to Berenice ("v" and "b" are closely related). Some Christians saw it as Flagellum, "The Whip," the Latin word from which the English word flagellate is derived, which describes the instrument used to whip Christ.

Bayer also mentioned Rosa, a Rose, or a Rose Wreath; but he figured it on his plate of Bootes as a Sheaf of wheat, in reference to the Virgo Ceres close by; indeed, Karsten Niebuhr, at Cairo in 1762, heard it called Al Rusat, the Arabic term for that object, or for a Pile of Fruit, Grain, or Wood. The Dresden globe has it as an Ivy Wreath, or, just as probably, a Distaff held in the Virgin's hand, which has been designated Fusus vel Colus, Fila et Stannina, the Distaff, Thread, and Wool. The Arabian astronomers knew Coma as Al Ralbah, or Al Dafirah, the Coarse Hair, or Tuft, in the tail of the Lion of the zodiac, thus extending that figure beyond its present termination at the star Denebola. Coma probably was known in early Egypt as the Many Stars. The naked eye can really see a wealth of glitter in the area of Coma Berenices, but a small telescope reveals an even more glorious display of astral abundance. The astrological influence of the constellation it is said to give a suave and well-bred manner, with great personal charm, but to lead to an idle and dissipated life. There is some love of, or, ability for the stage. Lilly states that the beginning of this constellation causes blindness or defective eyesight and it is probable that the part in Virgo causes baldness. (Robson). (For more info please visit [this web site.](#))

The rising Sun at Autumnal Equinox obscures our view of this constellation and the North Galactic Pole. For only one time period in 26,000 years (if using a one degree orb, the time period covers at least 144 years) will we find the Sun rising at Autumnal Equinox in this area of the sky. Astronomers consider this region of the sky one of the best for studying other galaxies, because the conditions here are favorable in essence creating a clear window to see other galaxies. This gives us further clues about what we can tune into during this timing as the brightness of the Sun, also seen as a "doorway (or window?) into the knowing" according to the Upanishads, activates the North Galactic Pole and the constellation of Coma Berenices. Is this an opportunity to more clearly experience our intergalactic connections, and to receive a greater understanding of our relationship to time and space? Maybe so!

The constellation of Coma Berenices also gives us some important clues about this area of the sky. The symbol of hair conjures up many images and mythical stories. In some traditions hair symbolizes our connection to personal power, life force, strength, i.e. Samson. For Rapunzel her hair symbolized a link to the outside world, and the sacred masculine who intended to free her from her prison tower. Other traditions see hair as a symbolic link to the power of thought, spiritual knowing and inspiration, and higher powers. The black hair of Kali symbolizes Time, the matted hair of Siva symbolizes the ascetic, the curled hair of the Buddha symbolizes mastery of life force in a tranquil and serene state. (Sourced from [An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Traditional Symbols](#) by J.C. Cooper)

These images provide additional dimensions to the significance of the Autumnal Equinox, or the seasonal point of the year marking the crossing of the return threshold from the journey that began at Winter Solstice, and the time of final harvest and preparation before a new cycle begins. In essence this begins an inbetween the worlds experience (represented by crossing through the return gateway), not of the world of the previous quest and not fully of the world where the quest began because so much has grown and changed. The alignment of this seasonal point with the North Galactic Pole lets us know that we are truly becoming more multi-dimensional, as we learn how to consciously exist

in many realms simultaneously. Accessing the mysteries from this multi-dimensional perspective enhances our ability to consciously dream the dream onward.

September Sky

Venus is growing more easily visible on the western horizon after Sunset. Mercury is about 5 to 6 degrees to the lower right of Venus Sept 17-30, though Mercury will be difficult to see for those in northern latitudes due to Mercury's closeness to the horizon. Venus and Mercury are also close to the fixed star Spica, which is getting ready to set not long after Sunset. On Sept 23 Mercury and Spica are at their closest to each other.

Jupiter is rising about 4 hours after Sunset at the beginning of the month and 3 hours after Sunset at the end of the month from about 40 degrees latitude. (Note: Following places are all northern latitudes Tucson, Arizona 32 degrees, Los Angeles 34 degrees, San Francisco 37 degrees, New York, 40 degrees, Denver, Colorado almost 40 degrees, Spokane, Washington, 47 degrees) Saturn is rising an hour and a half before Jupiter. Both planets are in the constellation of the Bull. Jupiter is near the fixed star Aldebaran, the eye of the Bull and Saturn is 10 degrees to the upper right of Jupiter.

Saturn goes Retrograde Tuesday, Sept 12 at 4:45 am MST 6 degrees from the Pleiades and 9 degrees from Aldebaran and Jupiter goes Retrograde Friday, Sept 29 at 5:53 am MST still very close to Aldebaran. Uranus and Neptune remain Retrograde the entire month, both going direct in October.

Mars is becoming more visible though still not very bright in the morning sky near the fixed star Regulus, the heart of the Lion. On Sept 16 and 17 Mars passes one degree north of Regulus. On the morning of September 18 Jupiter, Saturn and Mars span 90 degrees of the sky. The Moon passes all three from the 18th to 26th.

September Timings

This month, due to many factors, I am only listing the dates and times of the Full and New Moon and the Moon conjunctions with Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Mercury and Venus. (Which are worth checking out in the sky if you have an opportunity)

Sept 13, Wed, Pisces Full Moon (21 Pisces) at 12:37 pm MST.

Sept. 18, Mon, Moon conjuncts Saturn (0 Gemini) at 7:01 pm MST.

Sept. 19, Tues, Moon conjuncts Jupiter (11 Gemini) at 12:40 pm MST.

Sept, 25, Mon, Moon conjuncts Mars (5 Virgo) at 11:13 am MST. This is the second Moon/Mars conjunction since Mars rose from the underworld last month beginning the growth and wisdom phase of his quest.

Sept 27, Wed, Libra New Moon (5 degrees Libra) still zodiacally linked to Coma Berenices which spans 23 Virgo to 17 Libra.

Sept 29, Friday, Moon conjuncts Mercury (0 Scorpio) at 11:06 am MST and Venus (5 Scorpio) at 8:35 pm MST. This marks the third Venus/Moon conjunction since Venus rose out of the underworld in July symbolizing her passage through the third gate from the underworld. In the Inanna myth this links with the return of her personal power symbolized by either a gold ring or a waist belt.

Oct 1, Saturday, Juno (23 Aquarius) goes direct at 12:31 am MST. I wrote about this in the June Celestial Timings under the heading Summer Solstice and Juno.

Carolyn is available for personal readings and can be reached at, (520) 744-0506 Fax (520) 744-6923, and e-mail: carolyn@ShamanicAstrology.com Please visit [The Shamanic Astrology Web Site at:www.ShamanicAstrology.com](http://www.ShamanicAstrology.com) where you may sign up to receive these timings via e-mail for no charge

Important upcoming events:

**The Standing Stones
and Autumnal Equinox, 2000 Celebration
at Faywood Hotsprings, New Mexico
(between Deming and Silver City)**

With Daniel Giamario, Carolyn Brent

and Special Guest John Dumas Musician and Didgeridoo Extraordinaire
September 21-24, 2000

Autumnal Equinox signals a shift in seasonal energy moving us between the worlds as we cross the threshold of the return journey in the cycle of a year. In ancient times, Standing Stone circles were built to track the seasonal cycles, marking these energetic shifts and connecting the Great Above with the Great Below. Some believe the ancient stone circles were literally gateways to otherworlds, to other times and other places. Some say they were used to link energy grids on the earth and were also used to relay messages from place to place. Today, many are remembering the great mysteries and teachings the Standing Stones carry, and therefore remembering our living relationship with Earth and Sky.

The Faywood Standing Stones have been carefully placed on the land to capture special features of the celestial cycles and thus are alive with purpose, acting as a connecting link between the celestial and the earthly. The Great Above connects with the Great Below through us and through the stones. It is time to remember and re-awaken to what we already know and the stones act as a powerful catalyst. As we gather in the Standing Stones we have a unique opportunity to be a living witness and participant in dreaming the emerging myths and symbols for these times. If these mysteries speak to you, then please be sure to join us September 21-24, 2000 to celebrate the first Autumnal Equinox of the new millennium and the center point of the Turning Of The Ages.

When: Plan to arrive the afternoon of Thursday Sept. 21, 2000. We will break camp by Noon on Sunday, Sept. 24th.

Where: Faywood Hot Springs Between Silver City and Deming New Mexico featuring a must see and experience Ceremonial Standing Stone Circle and Healing Hot Spring Waters.

Cost: \$175 for the teachings, classes, and ceremonials. Price does not include camping or use of the Hot Springs. An optional field trip to an amazing vast petroglyph site is available for an additional \$35.00 per person and a minimum number who are interested.

Our intent is to celebrate and ceremonially experience the Autumnal Equinox at the center point of the Turning Of The Ages within the context of Shamanic Astrology and living ceremony. Faywood Hot Springs is a truly magical location for this gathering, featuring wonderful healing, non-chlorinated mineral waters in outdoor pools. There are clothing and clothing optional pools. The centerpiece of the ceremonials and night sky teaching is the amazing standing stone circle (overlooking the Hot Springs) designed and co-created by Elon Yurwit, the owner of Faywood Hot Springs and Daniel. Faywood Hot Springs has camping and RV facilities, with showers and toilets. Reservations are recommended. Call Elon or Wanda at (505) 536-9663 for arrangements. This is a camping experience so bring your own camping equipment, supplies and food. Sheltered facilities are available for meals and classes. This is a drug free event.

This Gathering Features:

- Shamanic Astrology Classes with Daniel and Carolyn with Emphasis on:
 - Moon Cycle-Your personal Moon Phase & how to work with it
 - Venus Cycle (overtone Leo) Evening Star
 - Mars Cycle (overtone Scorpio) Morning Star
 - The Saturn, Jupiter conjunction (only occurs every 20 years)
 - Mercury, now visible in the evening sky
- Equinox and Solstices at the Turning Of The Ages
- Equinox Sunrise and Sunset ceremonials at the Stone Circle
- Night Sky with Daniel at the stone circle

*****No Previous Knowledge Of Astrology Is Necessary*****

If you are interested in this event and want to reserve a space or get more information contact Carolyn Brent at (520) 744-0506

**Shamanic Astrology Mandala Mysteries
And Sacred Art**

With Carolyn Brent, Ursela Gurau and To-Ree-Nee Kaiser

Shamanic Astrology provides us with tools for more conscious participation with our own natural cycles and rhythms as they relate to the natural cycles and rhythms of Earth and Sky. Sacred Art is a medium that brings these mysteries into a full conscious cellular activation. This experience is designed to enliven your knowledge of the 12 mystery schools of life as defined by the As Above, So Below mysteries. This process activates greater awareness of the mysteries you carry within your own personal mandala and expands your knowledge to include the wisdom of all the many different paths of human expression and fulfillment. All of these paths have an important purpose, no more or no less important than any other path.

Please join us in celebrating these mysteries through many forms of expression including art, dance, meditation, and a willingness to allow the mysteries to teach us in the moment. We are co-creatively exploring the art of living in its many forms and expressions through these mysteries. These experiences assist us in more consciously dreaming the dream onward!

October 14th is an introductory workshop to these mysteries where we will experience all the zodiacal archetypes. Then, our intent is to continue to engage each archetype in depth, at the rate of one or two a month. We will begin in November, hosting a one day workshop on the second Saturday of each month through June. It is not necessary to commit to the ongoing workshops to participate in the introductory workshop. This is an exciting opportunity to engage these mysteries as they are growing and evolving in our awareness and understanding, while actively dreaming and co-creating the new myths and symbols now emerging at the Turning Of The Ages.

When: Saturday, October 14, 2000 in the Taurus Full Moon Window from 10:00 am to 4 or 5:00 pm

Where: The Star Bear Temple 5634 W. Owl Ridge Road, Tucson, AZ

How Much: \$100...Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

For more information and/or to register contact Carolyn Brent at 520-744-0506 or by return email.

**For more information about Shamanic Astrology
please visit the Shamanic Astrology Web site
at www.ShamanicAstrology.com**