

February Celestial Timings

By Carolyn Brent

Things do not change

We change.

Henry David Thoreau

Mercury, the transformational messenger magician, retrogrades back through half of Aquarius this month, making its second conjunction Feb, 15 (21 Aquarius), the first one was Jan 22 (20 Aquarius), a third one occurs March 10 (22 Aquarius), with the innovative change artist Uranus. This is a rare and potent retrograde. It was 1916 (85 years ago) the last time Mercury Retrograde made three visits with Uranus in Aquarius on Jan 17, Feb 4, and March 4 of that year (all occurring around 15 Aquarius, the astrological cross-quarter between the December Solstice and March Equinox). As we traverse the seasonal Aquarian changes of the lengthening days in the Northern Hemisphere, we may be feeling the quickening energies of sudden, unexpected, unplanned and unknown events designed to facilitate and accelerate growth towards the full awakening of our Radiant and Shining divine essence. A primary theme this month is to roll with the flow, release attachments to outcome, and trust the changes taking place are freeing us to live and express more freely who we truly are.

February Sky

Venus, Jupiter and Saturn are still lighting up the evening sky. Mercury also an evening star low on the southwestern horizon, disappears around Feb 7 (29 Aquarius) after stationing Retrograde Feb 3 (0 Pisces). Mercury conjuncts the Sun Feb 12 (24 Aquarius), reappears in the morning sky Feb 19 (17 Aquarius) and stations direct Feb 26 (15 Aquarius). Venus brightens to nearly maximum 4.6 magnitude and is observable to the naked eye during the day when the skies are deep blue. The Moon is lower left of Venus (15 Aries) on Feb 25 and only slightly closer to Venus on Feb 26. Having both returned to direct motion, Jupiter (near the Hyades and the fixed star Aldebaran, the eye of the Bull) begins to pull away from Saturn (near the Pleiades). After Sunset Jupiter and Saturn are visible overhead.

Mars remains the lone visible morning planet near the SSE horizon at dawn approaching the red star Antares, the heart of the Scorpion. The Moon is visible above Mars (0 Sagittarius) on February 15.

(The following events are listed generally for around Mountain Standard Time unless otherwise noted.)

Week Of Feb 1-7 The Taurus [First Quarter Moon](#) is found directly overhead the evening of Feb 1. The waxing half full Moon represents the balance between light and dark. This is the

most visible growth phase of the Moon and the best time to put our ideas and plans into action. As the week progresses the Moon waxes or increases in light, reaching its full phase in Leo on Feb 8.

Feb 1, Monday. This morning the [First Quarter Moon](#) is exact at 13 Taurus. Taurus is the seasonal sign related to the mysteries of the garden of earthly delights, sensual beauty, intimacy and pleasure as a creative artistic expression. Taurus reminds us to relax, slow down, and remember the art of savoring and enjoying each moment with gratitude for all the abundant gifts and beauty life has to offer. Unexpected gifts of beauty and pleasure are possible today, especially when we are open and allowing.

Mercury enters Pisces preparing to reverse directions from our Earth-based perspective in a couple of more days. (See Feb 3 for Mercury Retrograde info) Bright Jupiter, fainter Saturn, and the waxing Moon are lining up in a curving ark, then the Moon passes Saturn and Jupiter by tomorrow night.

Feb 2, Friday. Traditionally celebrated as Candlemas or Imbolc it is the time of extinguishing the old ceremonial fires and lighting new ones. "*Candlemas' is the Christianized name for the holiday, of course. The older Pagan names were Imbolc and Oimelc. 'Imbolc' means, literally, 'in the belly' (of the Mother). For in the womb of Mother Earth, hidden from our mundane sight but sensed by a keener vision, there are stirrings. The seed that was planted in her womb at the solstice is quickening and the new year grows. 'Oimelc' means 'milk of ewes', for it is also lambing season.*" (by [Mike Nichols](#)).

Venus enters Aries where she remains until June 6 due to her retrograde station March 9. Venus in Aries is the Amazon Warrior Wild Woman who knows what she wants and does not want to be told what to do. She is fiercely independent, ready to fight for a cause she truly believes is just, while mastering the arts of her mysteries including trust, spontaneity, innocence and courage, and thus triumphantly protecting the cosmic order of life.

In the evening sky, Moon has moved beyond Saturn and Jupiter appearing in the Hyades near Aldebaran, the eye of the Bull. Observing the Moon's movement helps teach us about the actual movement of the planets across the sky, opposite of how we observe them rising and setting.

Feb 3, Saturday. The waxing Moon now in Gemini suggests this is a good day to network, socialize and have fun. Mars (24 Scorpio) opposes Saturn (24 Taurus). The active masculine principle (Mars) is encountering the current structure and form symbolized by Saturn. This can feel limiting, uncomfortable, and frustrating if the current Saturn structures no longer serve the evolving masculine principle. This timing provides an opportunity to notice the limiting and restrictive structures, releasing them

and allowing for the new forms to find expression. It is wise to exercise caution and wisdom when de-structuring or dismantling what no longer serves. If the current structures are supportive to fulfilling your divine destiny then this timing supports the fruition of the current cycle, i.e. the benefits and rewards.

Mercury stations retrograde in Pisces this evening. These next 3 weeks provide a great timing for engaging right brained creative projects, doing inner healing processes and for completing projects already in motion. Communications through speech, electronics, and other devices may be challenging as creative right-brained communication is heightened, opening the way for new, uniquely different and innovative ways of perceiving the world.

Feb 4, Sunday. We have reached the astrological cross-quarter (Sun at 15 Aquarius) between the December Solstice (0 Capricorn) and the March Equinox (0 Aries). This is the cross-quarter celebrated as Candlemas, or Imbolc, marking the relighting of the ceremonial fires, the stirring of the seeds, the birthing of calves or lambs, the cleansing and purifying of old energies. Today is a good day to relax, rejuvenate and go with the flow. The Void of Course Moon lasts most of the day drawing our attention inward. Outward decisions at this time may produce unexpected results, especially if there are attachments to the outcome. Later in the afternoon the waxing Moon moves into Cancer encouraging us to continue nurturing ourselves.

Feb 5, Monday. The asteroid Ceres crosses Zero Capricorn the point that marks the December Solstice. This asteroid is associated with the Great Mother archetype, named after the Roman counterpart to Demeter the mother of Peresphone. Ceres' movement into Capricorn coincides with the Moon's transit in Cancer also archetypally linked with the Great Mother. The emphasis on responsible self nurturing in ways that effectively and efficiently administrate our domain in life is heightened and calls us to look at how we nurture or "mother" ourselves so we are better able to fulfill our own unique destiny.

Feb 6, Tuesday. Retrograde Mercury reenters Aquarius asking us to look more deeply within over the next several weeks at the uniquely, innovate, unpredictable, revolutionary, avante-garde ways we connect with the "big picture". Paying attention to your communication devices is wise, i.e. recording equipment, computers, cell phones, voice mail, email, etc. as they too may bring messages in unexpected ways.

Week of Feb 7–14 This week features a [Full Moon](#) symbolizing the fulfillment, or fruition, of the seeds planted at the New Moon or some earlier cycle. Each Full Moon reminds us of the seeds we may have coming to maturity, to their fullness, to fruition, to the

place where the fruits or gifts are received. The Moon then begins to wane this week representing the dissemination or integration of these gifts. Once each year the Moon is Full in Leo bringing to light our divine essence. Indeed, we are the radiant and shining ones returning and remembering, activating and radiating a new Golden Age of peace, joy and beauty. As the Hopi Elders remind us, "We are the ones we have been waiting for."

Feb 7, Wednesday. The Leo Full Moon (20 Leo) occurs just before midnight in the Pacific and Alaska-Hawaii Time Zone, and just after midnight tonight (on Feb 8) for all other US Time Zones. Today and Tomorrow mark the fullest point of this Leo Full Moon. The unpredictable change master, Uranus, conjuncts the Sun and opposes the Moon (with Mercury Retrograde nearby) expanding the unexpected ways we may encounter this Full Moon energy. One thing for certain is nothing is for certain. It is ideal to allow the magic and mystery to flow, while releasing all attachments to outcome.

Feb 8, Thursday. The Moon enters Virgo later today calling attention to the natural cycles of the Moon still in her full glory. Creating a sacred safe space, noticing how these current cycles are affecting you and life around you, while also honoring your own process of personal and shared experience as a sacred expression of life, is timely.

Feb 9, Friday. A doorway for more radical changes opens wider today with the Sun Uranus (21 Aquarius) conjunction illuminating the Uranian mysteries of unpredictable change facilitating an increasing desire to break out of existing conditions and embrace new exciting pursuits. This yearly Sun/Uranus connection is a New Moon type activation that may feel wildly chaotic while seeding possibilities of unique opportunities. Surrendering, trusting, and going with the flow helps facilitate the changes seeking expression now. It also helps to smooth out some of the restlessness and anxiety changes can bring up. Remember these changes are designed to promote greater freedom of being.

Feb 10, Saturday. Void of Course Moon this afternoon reminds us this is a good day to kick back, relax, rejuvenate and reflect on the next step. Late afternoon Moon moves into Libra energizing social and personal relationships based on conscious, equal, balanced exchanges.

Feb 11, Sunday. Waning Moon in Libra teaches the importance of all our relationships within and without. All relationships have value and purpose, teaching us more about ourselves. Sometimes the gift is in recognizing when the purpose of relationship has been fulfilled and it is time to get out and move on to new territory. Sometimes the gift is recognizing when it is time to

make a deeper commitment to a current relationship. How are our relationships serving or not serving our personal fulfillment?

Feb 12, Monday Retrograde Mercury (24 Aquarius) conjuncts the Sun and squares Saturn (24 Taurus). Communications with others may be especially challenged today, especially if we have a limited view and an attachment to a specific agenda. The transformational messenger is intending to expand our horizons so remember to let go of any attachments to outcome. There may also be challenges with communication equipment, and delays in projects that require concentrated mental effort. Detaching, stepping back and connecting with the cosmic overview is helpful, as is an open mind.

Feb 13, Tuesday. Waning Moon moved into Scorpio last night activating the mysteries of life, death, transformation and rebirth. This is a reminder of the importance of connecting to our passion and what needs to die, i.e. what beliefs, ideas, concepts, habits, and attitudes can we shed, release, or transform to support the fullest connection to passionate, alive, life force energy?

Week of Feb 14-23 This week marks the [last quarter phase of the Moon](#) occurring in Scorpio. In the Hero or Heroine's quest this Moon phase is the crossing of the return threshold back into the world they left, returning with the gifts and boons gained during the journey. This is the time of the final harvest, where the plant begins its death process, preparing the seeds for the next cycle. During this next week the Moon continues to wane. This symbolizes the completion phase of the integration process of the current journey. It also signals the time to begin looking at the new seeds to plant in the next cycle beginning with the next New Moon.

Feb 14, Wednesday. The Scorpio Last Quarter Moon (27 Scorpio) is opposite Saturn (24 Taurus) square the Sun (27 Aquarius) and square Uranus and Mercury (22 Aquarius). Once again, sounding repetitive I am sure, these energies work together bringing unexpected events that get us in touch with our deepest feelings around where we may feel limited or restricted. This may feel challenging to your emotional peace if there are areas needing release and transformation. Imbalances in your emotional reality are now spotlighted providing opportunities to integrate what may be hiding in the shadows. Transforming limiting emotional patterns allows greater liberation and fulfillment. If you have no limiting patterns then this window is a wonderful opportunity to solidly anchor your unique expression into concrete form.

Feb 15, Monday. Mars entered Sagittarius yesterday where it remains until September of this year due to its retrograde May 12. Today marks the seventh [Moon/Mars](#) conjunction (0 Sagittarius) since [Mars](#) rose as a morning star last August. The labors of Mars may have many different meanings, however I am feeling called to direct attention to the seventh labor of Heracles where he is sent out to capture a wild boar creating havoc and destruction in the land. The purpose of this labor is described by The Tibetan (Djwhal Khul) who is speaking of Heracles as he is about to assign the 7th labor, *"Another labor must be carried out. Balance he needs, and judgment sound, and preparation for a major test and future service to the race of men. For this, let him prepare with care."* ([Labors of Heracles](#))

Retrograde Mercury makes its second conjunction with Uranus (21 Aquarius). The first conjunction was January 22 and the last one is March 10. As I mentioned in the January Timings, this conjunction alerts us to unexpected messages and ideas coming in now and on into March. Unusually high intensity mental processes are possible now. This is an excellent time to expand ordinary modes of thinking by considering radical and unusual viewpoints, further opening our minds to new possibilities. It is also interesting to note that this is the first Mercury Retrograde to conjunct Uranus in Aquarius since 1916 (85 years ago), when Mercury made three conjunctions to Uranus (around 15 Aquarius) Jan 17, Feb 4, and March 4 of that year.

Feb 16, Friday. Waning Moon in Sagittarius conjuncts Pluto (15 Sagittarius), zodiacally linked with the fixed star [Ras Algethi](#) in the constellation of Heracles, it is the head of the Hero (Heracles) or the Kneeler's Head, and is said to *"give strength of character, tenacity and fixity of purpose, an ardent nature and dangerous passions"*. (see [Fixed Star's, Anne Wright](#)) for additional details).

Heracles (whose name means "glory of Hera") is probably best known for successfully completing 12 labors of purification. *"The twelve labors may be regarded allegorically as tasks to be accomplished for the purification of the soul or perhaps as a commemoration of the twelve seasons, with Herakles as a type of sun god accomplishing his labors as the sun goes through its yearly cycle..."* ([Fixed Stars](#)) A question worth asking is how to purifying ourselves, expanding our soul and spirit to its widest possible expression and experience?

Feb 17, Saturday. Moon enters Capricorn highlighting the area of the sky where the December Solstice, Milky Way, and Ecliptic are forming a once in 26,000 year triple alignment. In addition to allowing our most cherished dreams to find manifest expression it is time to notice how we are responsibly and effectively administrating the domain of our personal lives. Getting organized in thoughts and deeds maximizes this timing.

Feb 18, Sunday. Mars (2 Sagittarius) opposes Jupiter (2 Gemini), potentially intensifying our fighting spirit for moral and ethical causes. However, playful Gemini reminds the more serious questing Sagittarian not to take things *too* seriously, and to remember that the truth is relative to our level of awareness, changing as we change.

Feb 19, Monday. With Mercury Retrograde and a Void of Course Moon this afternoon, it's a good time to remember the importance of allowing magic to happen without attachments to outcome. With a high probability of unexpected detours, pushing to get things done may not work.

Feb 20, Tuesday. Waning Moon enters Aquarius in the early morning hours, moving to join Mercury Retrograde tomorrow illuminating the highly creative, inspired, innovative thinking energies available to us when we allow it to flow easily through us.

Feb 21, Wednesday. Waning Aquarius Moon conjuncts Neptune, Mercury and Uranus helping to further revolutionize our co-created experience of this space/time reality. Through imagination and through unexpected, unplannable, unknowable events designed to support our freest possible expression, the magic flows easily, alchemically liberating us to fully live our truest heart's desire, if we can truly trust and surrender.

Feb 22, Thursday. Sun (4 Pisces) squares Mars (4 Sagittarius) These energies produce the potential for high energy output through quick action. However, mindful decisions and actions are recommended. This is not a time to take unnecessary risks with health or safety.

Week of Feb 23 – Mar 2

This Pisces [New Moon](#) seed point is about allowing our visions and dreams the opportunity to manifest by consciously seeding these dreams in this window. Taking time to clearly state an intent, even if the intent is simply to explore what in the world our dreams and visions are, helps to draw the manifestation of that intent closer to us.

Feb 23, Friday. The Pisces New Moon (5 Pisces) is square Mars (5 Sag) and Jupiter (3 Gemini) activating and expanding this seed point in powerful ways. The sense I get is that there is nothing for us to do, rather it is up to us to allow these energies to flow through us and trust what is emerging.

Feb 24, Saturday. Tonight, weather permitting, the tiny crescent Moon is visible low on the western horizon. In ancient times, the Priestesses held their New Moon ceremonies for the community when the first crescent Moon sliver became visible.

This is a good time to ceremonially greet the Moon and offer up your dream seeds, planting them firmly in the ground of your conscious being.

Feb 25, Sunday. Mercury Stations direct today at (15 Aquarius). This is the zodiacal cross-quarter point between December Solstice (0 Capricorn) and March Equinox (0 Aries). The transformational message is around transmutation (transmuting the poisons into medicine), purification, and renewal through the alchemical fires of this seasonal energy.

Feb 26, Monday. Waxing Moon in Aries meets with Venus (17 Aries) for the eighth time since she rose as an evening star last July. This [Moon Venus](#) conjunction may be visible with a low horizon in the evening sky. This event marks the passage of [Venus](#) through a mysterious eighth gate out of the underworld, before she stations retrograde in early March. If the first seven gates mark the seven chakras of manifestation, i.e. life force, self worth, personal power, self love, personal voice, inner vision, and direct link with the divine, then the eighth gate may symbolize mastering an ability to enjoy our co-created reality. This Moon/Venus conjunction, near the degree where Venus stations Retrograde next month, marks the final council of Venus, as the Leo Queen, with Grandmother Moon. The next Moon/Venus conjunction occurs after Venus turns retrograde, signaling her preparation for a new cycle in the rugged, wild woman archetype of Aries as the protector of the cosmic order, taking a courageous stand for truth, justice and balance.

Feb 27, Tuesday. Waning Moon is entering Taurus today calling our awareness to the art of receivership. Are we truly open to receiving the abundant gifts life is continually offering? Do we *not* fully recognize and accept these gifts because we have a narrow limited view of how these gifts should look? Are we taking time to relax, smell the flowers, enjoy the sunset, and feel the beauty all around us?

Feb 28, Wednesday. Mars (7 Sag), asteroid Pallas Athena (11Sag) surround the fixed star Antares, the heart of the Scorpion (10 Sag) with Pluto (15 Sag) close by. Antares has been an important player in major transits with Pluto and Chiron last year. ([See related article.](#)) This timing draws our awareness back to this royal star, watcher of the west, and linked with Isis and her pyramid ceremonies. Mars is the active sacred masculine principle, Pallas Athena is a Goddess of truth, wisdom, the arts, industry, justice and skill. She is a wise protector of cities, of people, of truth and justice. Through Greek myth her symbols come to as the spear of truth, an owl, and the olive branch. The energies of Mars and Pallas Athena in the archetypal sign of Sagittarius gathered around Antares, the heart of the Scorpion suggests a time to surrender old limiting beliefs with

compassionate insight and truth that supports a balanced way of living life in a golden age of peace.

Carolyn is available for personal readings by calling (520) 744-0506 or emailing carolyn@ShamanicAstrology.com Please visit The Shamanic Astrology Web Site: www.ShamanicAstrology.com to sign up to receive the free Celestial Timings via email.