



## THIS MONTH AT THE ASA

### DON McBROOM

Friday, October 19, 2007.  
Registration begins at 6:45 PM.

Time: 7:00 – 9:30 PM.  
Admission is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Saturday, October 20, 2007.  
Registration begins at 12:45 PM.

Time: 1:00 – 4:30 PM  
Admission is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Both meetings will be held at the Granite Reef Senior Center. The address is: 1700 N. Granite Reef, Scottsdale, AZ 85257

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#### **FRIDAY NIGHT - Simplified Midpoint Interpretation: What Midpoints Are and What They Can Tell Us**

Often, the intricate midpoint relationships that link astrological influences have been perceived as elusive or excruciatingly complex. Now, Don McBroom's simplified approach to midpoints removes this stigma and makes midpoint analysis accessible to anyone with a serious interest in astrology.

Midpoints, the Focal Point, and the midpoint picture (the midpoint equation) will be defined as we learn how these terms are combined to efficiently describe specific midpoint relationships. An easily-learned method will be presented that allows logical interpretation of these three-way interactions between planets or points.

Midpoints graphically symbolize the subtle, yet dynamic connections between points in the astrological chart and describe a synergistic interaction between apparently distinct components. Midpoints suggest not only what can be accomplished, but also reveal the means by which this potential can be accomplished.

Signed copies of Don's book will be available for purchase prior to and during the Friday meeting.

#### **SATURDAY Seminar - Practical Midpoint Applications: Situations When Midpoints Are Particularly Useful**

Building on Friday evening's presentation, we'll continue midpoint interpretations and explore specific situations where midpoints can contribute important information that might otherwise remain

hidden, including the importance of the closest midpoint picture, an enhanced understanding “unpected” planets, and more.

A portion of Saturday’s workshop will be devoted to individual questions relating to the interpretation of the attendee’s natal midpoints.

If desired, Saturday workshop attendees may request a copy of their personal midpoint sorts and midpoint trees by providing their birth information to Don at [donmcbroom@mindspring.com](mailto:donmcbroom@mindspring.com) by October 12. Individualized midpoint printouts will be distributed at Saturday’s workshop.

Don McBroom is the author of *Midpoints: Identify & Integrate Midpoints Into Horoscope Synthesis* (Llewellyn Publications) and is a practicing astrologer and teacher with a deep respect for the personal expression of individual potential represented within every natal chart. His research and unique approach to midpoint analysis describes the personal potential that might otherwise remain hidden. His profound yet simple technique describes how midpoints suggest the means by which these specific individual potentials can be accomplished.

### Getting to Know Don McBroom

“My first exposure to astrology was in rural Oklahoma where my father was a wheat farmer. I observed that certain farming tasks were consistently performed during a particular phase of the Moon. I neither understood nor doubted the wisdom of using celestial events in the planning of earthly endeavors, and just accepted it as the way things were. This observation impressed upon me at an early age how the practical use of cyclical events can impact the desired outcome when we use all the tools at our disposal - both physical and metaphysical.

My conventional education and scientific interest eventually led me to a 26-year career as a hospital pharmacist, but in the mid-1990’s astrology re-entered my life. Despite (or perhaps because of)

having a strong scientific background and perspective, it soon became obvious that astrology went well beyond the “for entertainment purposes only” disclaimer.

Recognizing the need to augment my studies, I enrolled in Noel Tyl’s Master’s Certification Course, which provided a structured and consistent approach to chart analysis and synthesis. I made a final transition from pharmacy and opened my astrology office in June of 1999, receiving my Master’s Certification from Noel in December of 1999, graduating with highest honors.

Although pharmacy and astrology might seem quite different, both involve a role in providing something that is potentially beneficial to the patient/client. As I am a Cancer, both careers exhibit a degree of nurturing, but not in an, ‘Oh, you poor thing’ manner, but rather, ‘this has the potential to make you feel better.’ Objectivity and a degree of detachment are also necessary in both professions, so my Uranus in Cancer conjunct the Midheaven at the Aries Point has been helpful.

A source of continual fascination is that each astrological measurement - whether life-long as in a natal measurement, or one in effect for a much shorter time - brings with it the suggestion not of what will be, but what can be. While astrology suggests the possibilities, our free will allows us to determine the specifics of how these influences are used in pursuit of our individual needs, goals, and desires.”

Besides being the author of a book on midpoints, Don offers weekly classes for advanced students and periodic workshops for students of all levels at his office in Tucson, AZ, (Personal Astrological Consultations). His website, [www.donmc.com](http://www.donmc.com), offers two new articles monthly and includes complete archives of past articles, such as “What You Should (and Shouldn’t) Expect From An Astrologer.”

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### *Letter from the President . . . Mercury Retrograde Special... a query from Charlotte*

Hello fellow lovers of astrology- I would love to know how you feel about changing our meeting place to Vision Quest Bookstore, on Scottsdale Road. Please read on - Sarah has noted some issues that need consideration (consideration means “being with the Stars”). Please email us your ideas here - all useful comments will be very welcomed by the Board. :)

A word about our current aspects: the South Node conjunct Saturn - Mercury stationary – Mars’ reactions as it becomes perigee. These are rough aspects, and I suppose we should remind ourselves to be patient and forbearing and overcome our lower natures during these catalyzing times. See you at the meeting. Thank you all for being friends of astrology. *Charlotte*

### *ASA at Vision Quest in November*

Our November meeting will be held at Vision Quest. That meeting is **FRIDAY ONLY**. There will be **NO SATURDAY MEETING**. Vision Quest is located on the east side of Scottsdale Rd., just south of Oak St. It is very visible from the street. The address is 2225 N. Scottsdale Rd. Phone number is 480-949-1888.

## ***ASA at Vision Quest permanently?***

Several times in the past, ASA has held meetings at Vision Quest, courtesy of Apryl and Rocky Berlier, the store's owners. Now, Apryl has offered us free meeting space every month. If we were to accept her offer, we would give up our lease at the Senior Center and move permanently to Vision Quest. This is a big decision, and every ASA member needs to be part of it.

Vision Quest has a large back room with movable partitions that can be used to create up to three separate classrooms. They also have plenty of padded chairs, tables, a lectern with mic, and a dry-erase board – all onsite, so storage would not be a problem. On the other hand, we would not be able to have food or book sales.

I have listed a number of pros and cons, and you may be able to come up with more. Please consider this idea carefully and email your ideas to Charlotte. We will be discussing this proposal at future meetings.

### *Pros:*

- \* Free meeting space for the foreseeable future. Vision Quest has 17 years remaining on its lease.
- \* Much greater access to potential new members.
- \* Free publicity in Vision Quest's newsletter and in their store.
- \* A more attractive and accessible meeting site. Some people won't come to a Senior Center.
- \* Equipment and supplies onsite. In the past, we have not had things like a whiteboard because there was no place to store it.
- \* No need to mess with food or books. Vision Quest would order the books we requested. Apryl mentioned the possibility of book discounts for ASA members.

### *Cons:*

- \* We would lose our very favorable, grandfathered-in rates at the Senior Center. There's no getting them back if things don't work out with Vision Quest.
- \* We could not have book sales – a major fundraiser for ASA. That means no more half-price books, donated books, calendars through ASA, etc. But you can buy books at the store.
- \* No food allowed. They might have a vending machine. The holiday party would be history.

Please email your ideas to Charlotte at [cb@charlottebenson.com](mailto:cb@charlottebenson.com) or talk to any Board member at the monthly meeting.

## ***Pre-Solstice Party ~ Dec. 11***

Celebrate the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction with ASA at The Devil's Martini in Old Town Scottsdale, 4175 N. Goldwater. If you've never been to an ASA party, this is a good time to meet our members when they're having fun. And it's Tuesday night, so things won't get too wild!

Other aspects that night are a Mars-Venus trine, a Moon-Uranus sextile, and a Sun-Neptune sextile . . . it's a night made for a party!

## ***Holiday Party & Mini-Readings***

This year, we're doing something different. We're streamlining the Holiday Party in response to the difficulties of serving an entire holiday meal as we have in the past. This year, we are asking members to bring -

- \* Hors d'oeuvres (appetizers, finger foods, happy hour treats), OR
- \* Your favorite dessert.

The Board will provide beverages (coffee, tea, spiced punch). Board members will bring veggies and salads, etc. but do not plan to make this your main meal of the evening.

If you cannot bring food, please be ready to pay \$10 at the door as usual for our holiday parties.

There will be no program as such, but everyone who comes will get a mini-reading from one of our three talented psychics: Kathy Metcalf, Brenda Black, or Kay Cox.

### ***Thanks Kay and Steve!***

Kay Cox is our new publicity chair. She has a lot of good ideas to attract new members and keep current ones interested.

Her husband, Steve Cox, has agreed to be ASA's legal advocate, a newly-created advisory position.

### ***Last Chance Book Sale!***

Except for calendars, ASA will not be selling books in November or December. This month's meeting will be your last opportunity to buy until next year. And remember ~ astrology books make great gifts for those who may be interested and just need a little encouragement. We still have a lot of Bonnie's books, and different ones show up at every meeting.

### ***!!Second Annual Open-Air Calendar Sale!!***

Lisa has ordered the Maynard calendars and expects them to be here by the November meeting. But since we will be meeting at Vision Quest, we cannot sell them inside the store. Therefore, you will need to meet Lisa in the parking lot after the meeting to get your calendar. Exact change will speed up the process and make Lisa's job a lot easier.

If you want to be sure she has exactly what you want, reserve your calendars now. Tell her how many you want of each kind. You can see her at this month's meeting, or email [mtarot@yahoo.com](mailto:mtarot@yahoo.com).

### ***Separate checks, please!***

We love your donations, memberships, and book purchases. But each function belongs to a different department, so we need separate checks for each thing. Thanks!!

***BEAT THE RUSH – RENEW EARLY!***

## ***Last Month at the ASA . . . Ken Johnson***

*By Marta Morris, ASA Scribe*

### **Friday Lecture — Chasing the Dragon: The Moon's Nodes in Hindu Astrology**

In the absence of our President and VP, Jeanne Callahan introduced Ken Johnson, stating that this is his first appearance at the ASA but some of us may know him from his many books, among them *Mythic Astrology*, co-authored with Arielle Guttman, and *Mansions of the Moon*.

Mr. Johnson opened with the comment that "things change over the years." For instance, in ancient astrology, Aquarius did not have its current reputation of being exciting, unpredictable and fun-loving. It was considered rather staid. Sign meanings can change over time and cultures, but planets keep their meaning.

So what about the Nodes? Llewellyn's *A to Z Horoscope*, published in 1937, had several pages for each of the planets and luminaries but just a few lines on the Nodes—North Node, increases, South Node decreases!

Dane Rhudyar introduced a new concept about the Nodes and their psychological implications of Karma. This theme expanded our understanding greatly.

The outlook from the Vedic is different. The Nodes have no physical existence. They are points along the ecliptic where eclipses occur and can be predicted. The Vedics have a myth that explains the Nodes dealing with "gods" and "demons" who keep the world in balance. Both are immortal as long as they feed on the "nectar" of the gods. When they ran out, they drilled into a mountain to find more. Somehow during the process the "serpent" became aware of what was going on and decided to avail himself of this nectar. In the process, he was cut in half and became a dragon's head and disembodied tail. The head keeps on "eating" and the tail just

kind of “allows things to fall in.” This explains the “increase” and “decrease” definitions, and the difference in cultures explains why Vedics consider the Dragon’s Head or Rahu to be more problematic than the Tail or Ketu. However, since in Vedic astrology the outer planets are not used because you cannot see them, why use the Nodes, which cannot be seen either?

Rahu means “one who grasps and one who seizes.” Ketu is more like a comet’s tail. North Node-controlled people have a lust for life in the extreme. They are thirsty and swallow things up. There can be addictions as well as a spiritual dimension. For example, William Blake’s chart has NN conjunct ASCendant.

The South Node can deal with phobias, nightmares and psychic experiences. Ketu can also be spiritual liberation. They see with the heart. Example: Ezra Pound, with SN conjunct ASC, had a very interesting history. Also, Nicole Kidman, whose best roles involve playing unusual leading ladies.

In Vedic astrology you can “fix” things that are “broken.” Gem stones are one way but the least used in India, since so many people are too poor to avail themselves of gems. There are other remedies for afflicted planets. But there are no remedies for the Nodes due to the eclipse factor. Rahu is the more powerful. Surrender. The Cobra’s head. There actually is the symbol of the SN on the hood of a cobra. The Nodes do not own (rule) any houses. They are “beggars outside the City.” They are tenants, independent of the signs. They can, however, be exalted by house placement. Rahu is exalted in Taurus and in 6° of Gemini and Mercury. Ketu is exalted in Scorpio and 6° of Sagittarius, which is aligned with the Galactic Center. The “Circle of Life” (the “Wheel of Life”) is bound up with the Milky Way with its boundless stars and never-ending ancestry and progeny.

The Dasas in Vedic astrology determine your life. They depend on the time you are born, which determines your cycle of life. Ancient Western

astrology also used planetary cycles known as time lords. There are 9 dasas lasting a total of 120 years.

Examples of “celebrities acting badly” were the charts of Paris Hilton with NN “swallowing” the Moon and SN conjunct Venus. Britney Spears also has SN close to Venus.

The chart of Bob Dylan, who was in his Rahu Dasha from 1963 to 1982, was a good example of “planetary cycles” or “time lords” and how they manifest.

### ***Saturday Seminar — The Dragon in Your Chart***

Saturn delays things depending on house placement. In the 7th house—delayed or no marriage. Or you may marry someone older. With more than one planet in the 7th house, you may have more than one marriage. Ditto Mercury. Empty 7th house is deemed benefic in Vedic astrology. If the ruler of the 7th house is “in trouble” then you will have problems with regard to marriage.

Moon’s Nodes: emphasis was put on houses rather than signs. Since the more you share, with others (signs) the less personal it can be.

If there is no birth time in Western astrology you use the Solar Chart based on the Sun. In Hindu astrology, they would use the Moon. Next to the ASCendant, it is the most personal point. Even with the time known, the Lunar chart is always used as well.

1. Going over the nodes and their meaning, Mr. Johnson referred to last night’s charts with Nodes on the horizon. South Node on the Ascendant: Ezra Pound and Nicole Kidman. John Lennon also had SN conjunct ASC; he could be gentle or exemplify the NN, but once he met Yoko Ono, she was his NN.

2. Nodes conjunct the Luminaries: Cusps do not exist in Vedic. The “houses” are like real estate; the boundaries are like physical walls; whereas in

Western astrology you kind of “float” over the boundaries.

Rahu rules computers in Vedic—outer planets are not used.

The Nodes measure eclipses: Timothy Leary was born with an eclipse—SN conjunct Sun/Moon.

With NN conjunct Moon: Head of the Dragon: fierce, over-active minds. Rahu swallows the Moon. This person is avaricious – wants more and more. Example: Courtney Love. Good use: Pablo Picasso. Thirst for fame with unquenchable energy.

Sun conjunct SN: tendency towards confusion, phobia, dark side. Sun is the ego. Natural mystic. Vedic astrologers disagree about the SN, but all agree on the difficulties of Rahu conjunctions. Strong Ketu can pose problems in Western society. Closing off the Ketu function will cause confusion, phobias.

3. Houses: Hindu and early Greek astrologers did not use orbs. Whole signs are used. Using asc/dec/MC/IC axis works up to about 45 degrees latitude. In St. Petersburg, Russia—66 degrees latitude—it is difficult to work with any of the house systems. Hence, whole sign will work better.

Why are the nodes better in some houses than others? Ketu is like Neptune. A malefic can be positive in its own house. Mars in Aries or Scorpio is good. Saturn in Capricorn or Aquarius ditto. Saturn can give structure. A planet in its exaltation becomes its highest spiritual self.

Rahu rules nothing but does better in Mercury signs. Houses: 3rd, 6th, 10th, 11th. Why? 3rd is an energy house. Multi-tasking.

6th—house of sickness. ASC is the house of health. Enemy of the ASC. Mars in the 6th is athletic; Saturn removes illness; Rahu fights illness. Ketu in 6th—black hole in consciousness. The

difference between the mean node and the true node is that the nodes are more powerful when direct, more turbulent. Whereas retrograde planets are more powerful than direct planets because they are brighter in the sky.

10th – business is competitive. NN wants to consume everything, very ambitious. Innovative. Ketu in the 10th would wonder why they need a career at all.

Before a Ketu cycle move your money/gains into a safe investment, because you could lose what you’ve gained.

11th – different meaning in Vedic—resources from career. (1st is who you are, 2nd is your money and your lineage ...)

Einstein had a great 10th house, but not a good 11th house. He rarely earned more than the average professor. It was asked, can you have a great 11th house and a terrible 10th house? Yes. Rahu is great in the 11th house. All planets are good in the 11th house. Greeks called it the house of good fortune.

Coming out of a Rahu cycle can cause losses.

4. Planetary cycles are called dasas (pronounced dasha) or timelords. Planetary cycles are extremely individualized. They always follow a certain order, but where you begin is individual.

Sun cycle lasts 6 years;

Moon: 10 years

Mars: 9 years

Rahu: 19 years

Jupiter: 16 years

Saturn: 19 years

Mercury: 15 years

Ketu: 7 years

Venus: 20 years

Since all of the foregoing are rather lengthy, there are secondary cycles. For example, the 19-year Rahu cycle can go consecutively through the dasha cycle: Rahu/Rahu — Rahu/Jupiter — Rahu/Saturn —

Rahu/Mercury — Rahu/Ketu — Rahu/Venus — Rahu/Sun — Rahu/Moon — Rahu/Mars, etc.

Venus / Saturn in mutual reception would be favorable (albeit square).

People born with a 9th house Rahu do not follow the path of Dharma. In Western culture, this placement separates you from the religion into which you were born. It eclipses your religion. Ketu in the 9th is mystical.

Rahu with the planet Mercury is the mind of the writer or at worst, logic to con—a creative genius or a criminal mind. Ketu with Mercury dissolves all logic and is good for astrology or poetry.

Rahu with Venus is problematic—turbulent love affairs. Ketu with Venus is “impossible love,” spiritual love and mysticism.

Rahu/Mars—athletes and/or rage-aholics. Ketu/Mars—unusual yogis, gurus, spiritual warrior, kundulini, or paranoia.

Rahu/Jupiter—creating wealth/multiplies/gifted entrepreneur. Ketu/Jupiter—religious mystic, scholar, best astrologer.

Rahu/Saturn—too much of a good thing, not good for money. Ketu/Saturn—retreat and the spiritual quest.

Rahu/Uranus—doubles the roller coaster effect. Ketu/Uranus—”dead on” or susceptible to cults.

Rahu/Neptune—addictive. Ketu/Neptune—beautiful.

Rahu/Pluto—atom bomb, unstoppable. Ketu/Pluto—”Mafia princess”—you had to be there!

## The Sign Within Each Sign

This material comes from Bil Tierney’s book, *The Twelve Faces of Saturn*, published in 1998.

Comments made about the sign under examination should not be read as referring to one’s Sun sign. Instead they refer to the essence of the sign itself, i.e. Capricorn-ness, rather than Sun in Capricorn.

For illustration, I will focus only on those three signs that either oppose or square Capricorn. Ideally, the remaining eight signs that sextile, trine, semi-sextile and quincunx any sign will, all together, help flesh out that sign’s overall character profile, adding nuances to attitude and behavior. It seems that those signs that form a hard aspect to any focal sign examined explicitly affect how and why that sign operates the way it does.

I find this technique a marvellous way to contemplate sign motivation. All you have to do is put the sign you are interested in on the Ascendant, and then include the signs that follow counter-clockwise in an equal house pattern. Note what sign-to-sign aspect patterns are formed and then try to figure out why these signs are in those specific aspecting positions!

Why is Capricorn what it is?

Part of what makes Capricorn tick is the natural opposition it forms to the water sign Cancer; it is drawn to and yet pulls away from the “touchy-feely” lunar approach to life Cancer represents (attraction vs. repulsion is a typical dynamic found in the opposition pattern itself). Thus, Capricorn is ambivalent about emotionality, especially in its open, assertive expression (cardinal water). Perhaps the Goat tries to prevent vulnerabilities from surfacing and getting in the way of its single-minded ambition to “take over” and master its outer world. By keeping a tight lid on emotional reactions, Capricorn can make practical, hard choices without insecure feelings interfering and making Capricorn waver or give in. But that only reinforces the sign’s traditional reputation for appearing hard-nosed or even cold.

And yet . . . though this sign may externally seem tough and crusty – wearing that famous frown – Capricorn is more sensitive, tender, and even sentimental on the inside that casual observers would

guess. Its feelings get hurt very quickly, although people rarely get to see that.

Capricorn is also devoted to traditions of the past and unbroken family rituals, plus it has great respect for ancestry and lineage (all actually Cancerian issues). There's thus a lot more watery Cancer lurking in Capricorn than this stiff-upper-lipped earth sign would like to admit. Healthy Capricorn energy means unblocked access to Cancerian energy and all its virtues.

But Capricorn also makes its first (lower/waxing/opening) square to Aries. Squares, until resolved, seem to create perceptual roadblocks, where the two signs in question are sharply at odds with each other until their initially clashing needs can establish a common ground of interest (unlike the more complementary opposing signs). Of course, the friction that develops can spur us to incorporate the strengths of both signs – yet while we struggle to do this, it's the glaring weaknesses of each sign that seem to be over-emphasized in a frustrated manner.

In this case, what makes Capricorn what it is, is that it is NOT Aries. It flat out rejects almost everything this impetuous fire sign stands for. Aries is too brash, too straightforward, too aggressive, too risk-taking, and even too unprepared in action to fit in with the cautiously designed plans of “I don't reveal my moves prematurely” Capricorn. The Goat excels in careful strategy, not spontaneity; in practical deliberation, not impulsivity. Plus, there's a sense of reserve and an air of quiet dignity in Capricorn that is nearly non-existent in overtly expressive, noise-making Aries. In Capricorn's eyes, Aries is unreliable, not a class act, and doesn't deserve to rule at the top of the social stratum.

Actually, Aries' raw and unbridled self-expression frightens the heck out of Capricorn, but the more the Goat rejects Aries-ness, the stiffer and more brittle its personality gets – ole fuddy-duddy! Capricorn needs Aries so that it can let loose more often without feeling shame or guilt. By rejecting Aries, the Goat remains too uptight to take bold chances, too

controlled to act quickly enough when unexpected opportunity knocks, and too disciplined to break set patterns and allow for fresh perspectives. Life for Capricorn can grow stale.

Capricorn is also not Libra. What's so wrong with nice, sweet Libra? Maybe Capricorn fears the consequences of being all that sweet and kind to people, who can then turn around and take unfair advantage of the situation. Actually, Libra wants too much equality in relationships to satisfy Capricorn, who would rather be the lead supervisor, the boss who's in full charge of any relationship and who gets to call the shots.

Saturn's sign wants to have the upper hand at all times, while Libra would opt for periodic power role reversals, all in the name of fair play. The Goat worries that such “fair play” could one day mean it will end up on the bottom again, stripped of its supreme authority.

Libra is also too people-oriented for Capricorn, who has less interest in getting all that intimate and chummy. By rejecting Libra, Capricorn gets to ensure adequate social distance while giving the appearance of responsible collective involvement. But it doesn't connect with people as easily and as smoothly as this Venus-ruled air sign.

There's one thing about Libra that Capricorn really can't stand: its exasperating indecisiveness. Capricorn doesn't go for much fence-sitting or wishy-washy response. Although it's not going to commit to action as readily as impulsive Aries, when it does, it's with a solid sense of commitment backed by the determination to see things through.

Libra, meanwhile, is still not too sure whether it will or it won't, or whether it can or it can't. Libra's even willing to pass the buck at a certain point, which Capricorn would never do. And so, the Goat is firmly decisive and sure-footed when it comes to making its moves, and is less influenced by others in the process.