



The Pluto in Libra generation entered the astrological classroom very differently to my Pluto in Leo gang. And what they learnt in that teaching space was more diverse than ours. They had broader access to translations of traditional texts, more awareness of our astrological ancestors, ephemerides of Centaurs and TNOs, internet conferencing and well-developed syllabi. Born into an atmosphere of social and relational upheaval, to me, they seem so more comfortable with the diversity of human experience.

Each generation has a new look at the ancient tradition - today we have a well-versed innovative generation of astrologers who are practicing the art. They're podcasting, teaching on line, interconnecting, merging astrological wisdom with their profession and other fields of endeavour. It feels to me it's their turn to steer the course of the astrological vessel. I was curious about the Pluto in Libra's felt experiences of being an astrologer, so I asked an octet of practicing astrologers for their inspirations and revelations – here's what they told me.

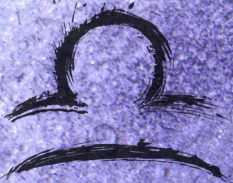
Brian Clark

From top left: Frank Clifford Stormie Grace, Jason Holley, Jessica Lanyadoo, Alejo Lopez, Safron Rossi, Amanda Simon, Kelly Surtees



Voices of a Generation

The Pluto in Libra Peer Group



Frank Clifford

No one ever learns astrology 'by themselves' – although that's how it felt when I began studying during the Saturn–Neptune conjunction of 1989 (transiting Uranus was square my Pluto at 2° Libra). But when I did start attending talks and seminars in person in the mid-1990s, I encountered a treasure trove of remarkable Pluto in Leo astrologers who most of us only get to read (from Liz Greene to Karen Hamaker–Zondag and Melanie Reinhart).

I really didn't know how lucky I was to be in London at a time when psychological and humanistic astrology were in full bloom. But attending these sessions, I struggled with the concept of 'not giving advice' (as an Aries, a polite enquiry can sound like a military order) and a friend pointed out that my Sun opposite Uranus in Libra would never be comfortable being a soothing, three-hankie therapy-type astrologer. The aspect had more of a Wake-up! energy that, at best, could inspire people to pursue life and their dreams with courage. Combined with the softer aspects of my chart, my 'style' over the years grew into a gentler challenge of: 'Go for it – if you want to; here are some ideas – give those that appeal a try.'

All of this self-disclosure is a way of saying that by being among the Pluto in Libra set, I was born too late to be part of the new world of creative self-discovery that astrology offered the Pluto in Leo gang, and narrowly missed the work- and data-obsessions that overworked the Virgo herd. Instead, I think my generation's mission has been to help clients by learning to ask the right questions, by listening, and offering insights and alternatives.

We Pluto in Libras stand (in true Libra fashion) between the create-the-world-in-our-own-image Pluto in Leo and let's-transform-astrology-through-number-crunching-research Pluto in Virgo, and the generation of Pluto in Scorpio that uses astrology to wrest back some control over a world that has plunged into sociological and ecological crisis.

I'd like to think that astrologers born with Pluto in Libra can find an astrological balance between the classical, evolutionary and psychological worlds of astrology – to integrate these principles yet stay client-focused and open to dialogue. I'm part of a Cardinal Air generation that understands that you learn by doing, and that is sensitive to people's personal choices, as well as the imbalance of power in consultations. I hope we're the ones that continue to invite discussion (Cardinal Air).

Infused by the Jung 'meeting of two personalities' quote ('If there is any reaction, both are transformed'), my Pluto generation endeavours to help clients reflect on their situation, their talents and patterns, and consider what's important to them now. This will in turn encourage them to make heart-felt decisions, to dig deep and unearth (Pluto) what they feel is right for them (Libra). Libran astrologer Caroline Casey offers simple and profound advice that resonates with the inclusive philosophy of the Pluto in Libra tribe: "We avert 'disaster' ('against the stars') by gathering to 'consider' ('with the stars')."

Frank Clifford is well-known and well-loved by our Australian astrological community. He has been an astrologer for 33 years, has written a number of books on astrology and palmistry, and runs courses online at the LSA:

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Stormie Grace

As a Pluto in Libra astrologer, I feel like my generation has been called into leadership positions, and it is an astonishing thing to witness. I feel honored to be a part of this happy-go-lucky generation that is ready to usher forward and amplify the field of astrology. As a side note to this, I also think that the Venus vibration that comes with Libra has allowed previous generations to release the chokehold on being industry leaders, and welcome us to the table because we were not elbowing our way in. That is simply not the beautiful Venus Libra way.

Instead, we have been diplomatic, accommodating, and willing to learn from what previous generations have to say, pair it with our innovative skills and open-mindedness, and take it to the public. It's been a real privilege to step into my potential and watch my fellow Pluto in Libras do the same. I also believe that many of us had no real idea of how much entrepreneurial leadership and public capacity we were capable of, but the last few years have made it crystal clear that we have a role to play on the astrological and public stage.

I love watching our generation of astrologers get comfortable in our leadership roles because we do bring a sense of comfort, mutual respect, and fashion to what we are doing in our messaging. We are the generation that brought reality TV to the world! We are interested in the social experiment that is

relationship - this has reshaped how we can deliver our astrological practices. We are also bridging the gap, not only between the older and the younger generations of astrologers but also between many cultures. In my practice, I have clients who are not only Americans but come from places in the world that may not have been so open-minded or receptive to the voice of Western astrology in their societies and practices. That's been absolutely brilliant.

There is a lot of uncovering, discovering, and discarding that we do as human beings, and there is also a great deal of value in appreciating different generations and perspectives. We promote equality to allow multiple voices to shine and bring their unique opinions and interpretations of astrological work to the public.

I don't know what my next life holds. But I hope that when I show up, wherever I show up to do the review of my life, I can say that I and my generation lived the fullest in ushering astrology into the world.

Stormie Grace has been an astrological consultant since 2014. She has a successful show on YouTube where she interviews astrologers and brings the community together by providing free astrology classes. Stormie holds a Doctorate of Business and applies these skills to business and mundane astrology, as well as personal chart work. She is a member of AFAN, ISAR, and NCGR and recently appointed OPA Marketing Director.
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The zodiacal image of the Circle of Animals our ancestors passed down to us inspires me each night I see those who are parading by. They remind me that I am always embedded in a world of relations, and mirror to me that I myself am also an ecosystem of creatures, each deserving habitat in my inner or outer life.

Each of the planets, the stars, the signs seem to ask to live their lives through us, to have a place for incarnation. It's rather wild inside you, isn't it? You are jungles and oceans, cities and caves, full of creatures hungry to follow their instinctual ways. And perhaps the question arises for you that comes up for me: how am I going to live up to all this?

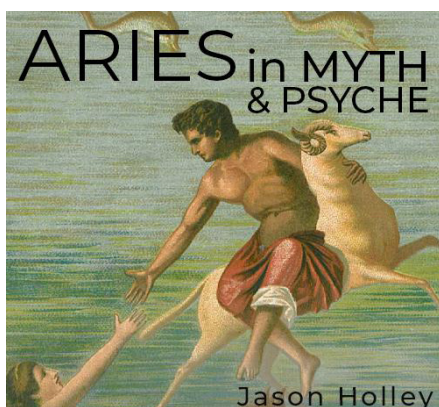
It's a beautiful question. To put it another way: how can we all get along together? In the shared space of earth or psyche, how can all people — animals, plants, insects, oceans, winds, humans of differing bodies, cultures, genders, desires — how can they all be supported to live, move, follow their instinctual ways and continue to weave life and love together, continue to hybridize? It's the question I hear behind all other questions people bring to consultation. And for me, astrology is a way not of answering this question, but rather, as Rilke once said, of deeply living it.

I grew up in astrology, in the hills of West Virginia, spoken by the women for at least five generations. None were professional astrologers, yet my chart was drawn at birth and I grew up with people feeling things in their bones and following precognitive dreams and asking the birth dates of my friends. For me a consultation is akin to walking with someone under the night sky, a dreamscape I have been living in and with for just under 50 years. They tell me about their lives, and as we walk this place, I've lived in all my life, some planet or transit or aspect offers an image or story for me to share back. It may be something I'm reminded of from another such walk, or a life memory, or very frequently some

Greek myth I'm misremembering. Usually the image first emerges from them — perhaps through a shift in tone, a body movement, an 'accidental' turn of phrase — and then it begins to grow and have its life through us. In the process, we each become storytellers.

As we weave — are woven by — the stars and the stories, we discover or restore habitat for more of the creatures of soul.

Offered a place to be, animals forgotten or repressed stir to life and sometimes speak. In sessions or groups, they and their habitats might be drawn out in many ways: through myth and story, or through dreams, art and writing prompts, dance and music, astro-drama and group dynamics, or emotions, sensations, and desires.



And though we cannot answer in a delineative way the question the zodiac poses — of how to live in the circle of animals — through this experiential dialogic way we will have lived that question a bit more deeply, and perhaps, as Rilke also suggested, “gradually, without even noticing it, lived [our] way into an answer” . . . for today.

Jason Holley (he/they) has been a practicing astrologer for over 30 years and a psychotherapist for 15 years. Jason facilitates living and embodied experiences of astrology in his roles as counsellor, teacher and facilitator. He has spoken and led workshops at many astrological conferences and retreats. Highly-valued by our Aussie mob, Jason has spoken at our 2020 and 2022 FAA conferences.
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Jessica Lanyadoo

I am a humanistic astrologer, and I started my formal study of astrology back when Pluto was in Scorpio. I started meeting with clients in 1995 and have been a full-time consulting astrologer since 1999. I often tell people that I am in a long-term, committed, polyamorous relationship with astrology, which from the perspective of my 8th house Pluto in Libra, is pretty on point.

As a queer woman from a multicultural family of immigrants and refugees, when I first started studying astrology, I had a mixed relationship with it. Astrology just made sense to me—the systems, the practice, and the potential of it. On the other hand, I often didn’t see myself in it – not until I took pains to translate the texts into language that was inclusive of my experiences and those of others.

This process taught me how to be a better investigator of the human experience. I taught myself how to read birth charts focusing on the theme of transitions and the complexity of the human psyche, relationships, and behaviors. Growing up in a home where the culture is different than the dominant culture or community has powerful implications. This motivated me to prioritize reading immigration patterns in birth charts, as I understood the unique impact of being an immigrant, or even a second or third generation descendant, and how this plays a powerful role in the life experiences of the native.

This practice led me to the study of medical astrology and the ability to read inherited issues, class, gender experience and expression, sexual behaviors and feelings, indicators of cultural markers of various religions, and more. Working to make my astrological practice centered around the lives, needs, and humanity of my clients has enabled me to not only be a better consultant but also to be innovative in my use of astrology.

Understanding that not everyone is heterosexual, wants conventional things like a career, a life partner, children, etc. requires me as an astrologer to be curious and open-minded. And by not making assumptions about what’s “normal” or what my clients want, I am creating a safe space in which they can explore who they are, and by extension, what they bring to their relationships - personal, professional, or their relationship to ideas, isms, or society itself.

Ultimately, I regard astrology not as a belief system but instead as a tool. It can be wielded in many different ways; for me, it is the most effective and efficient system for getting to the truth of almost any matter. But the truth means nothing without emotional presence and engagement; human relationships are more than ideas. And the relationship that we have with ourselves, which invariably includes our early developmental experiences, is the foundation of our capacity to give and receive love.

Astrology is an unparalleled tool, but it doesn’t do the work for us. This returns me to a human-centered approach. All we can do is identify the work that the native must consider doing. Because while the stars light our path, they also light up our free will, and that is a glorious thing.

With more than twenty-five years experience as a consulting Astrologer & psychic medium, Jessica Lanyadoo believes no topic is off limits or unworthy of kindness. She has lectured extensively and hosts the popular Astrology + Advice show, *Ghost of a Podcast*, is the author of *Astrology For Real Relationships*, and the creator of the astrology pro-tool, *Astrology for Days*.
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ASTROLOGY+WOO
LANYADOO

Alejo Lopez

I like to think that I do relational astrology. If someone says “Aquarius are eccentrics”, I would ask: “in terms of what...? In comparison to whom?”.

My first steps on a spiritual path were inspired by the Pluto in Leo generation. Bob Dylan taught me that “All I can be is me - whoever that is” and Eckhart Tolle encouraged me to defeat the ego. For the Pluto in Leo generation, the battle might have been with oneself.

But I am a Pluto in Libra. My battlefield is in the relationship arena. For me, the shadow (Pluto) is companionship with another. I approach astrological charts with a feeling of incompleteness. As in the realm of Pluto, I wander through the dark. It is the person sitting in front of me who then guides me. The session gets ignited when I’m receptive, open and willing to be touched and changed by that “other” who is asking for help. The more I accept that I don’t know but that the client already knows, the more creative and empowering the session is. Power is constellated through the relationship to other.

Liz Greene relates Pluto to the idea of fate. I wonder if my generation assumes that we are fated to live, respect and trust each other. Thanks to Libra’s dual nature, I also understand that your idea of fate may not equate to mine. So I accept diverse approaches to astrology. Also, I utterly believe that others are my fate. In the movie version of Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell, Somi says, ‘Our lives are not our own. From womb to tomb, we are bound to others. Past and present. And by each crime and every kindness, we birth our future’. This expresses how I see fate and the responsibility that it implies. Self-awareness is not gained for the sake of ourselves but also the sake of others. Others transform us and then we transform them... and that may be humanity’s fate. “We are bound to others”.

The other aspect in which I think Pluto in Libra may be expressed is in the perception of the masculine/feminine binary. People who are now in their 20s have Pluto in Sagittarius. And many of them are familiar with non-binary gender, or the importance of respecting trans rights. When they were kids, it was us, Pluto in Libras who might have inspired them. We grew up in a moment where the sanctity of marriage was being questioned and the meaning of a relationship was challenged. We are willing to expose the shadow (Pluto) of all that is organized in a balanced pair of opposites (Libra). In nature, equilibrium is not achieved statically, but in motion. Always seeking to tear down what is preventing life to thrive, Pluto is extremely attuned to nature’s rhythms. With Pluto in Libra, we are willing to accept that the old static concepts of gender and sexuality may not be representing reality. As Robert Frobisher (another Cloud Atlas’ character) says: “All boundaries are conventions”. Gender or, even better, I-in-here-you-in-there, as well.

Alejo López, D.F.Astrol.S., was born in Argentina and moved to Europe at age 23. He holds a degree in Performing Arts and another in Psychology. He is currently training as a Jungian Analyst and is completing the MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology. You can contact him at meetme@liminalcosmos.com or on Instagram @liminalcosmos.



*These celestial bodies are not to be sought by us outside in some other place;
for the heavens in their entirety are within us, in whom
the light of life and the origin of heaven dwell.*
- Marsilio Ficino

Safron Rossi

Ficino expresses what we have come to understand in depth psychological and archetypal approaches to astrology, namely that the cosmos is the outer dimension of the psyche and the psyche is the inner dimension of the cosmos. Having come to astrology through my doctoral studies in mythology and depth psychology, my work is entwined by these three fields.

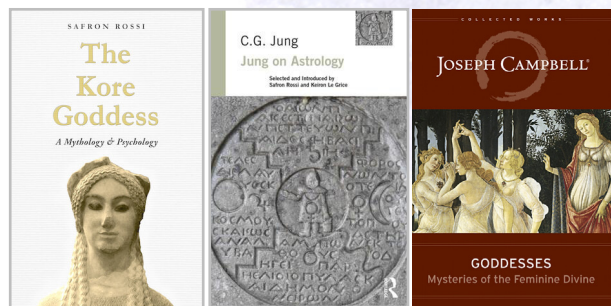
Here I offer some of the key ideas that form my philosophy and practice. I liken them to lighthouses whose flashing beacons assure me of land in the midst of exploring the oceanic depths of the psyche and its mythic imagination.

- Archetypes are living forces within us and astrology maps out these forces symbolically. These archetypal powers are mythical persons.



- Astrology is a metaphorical way of understanding that our character, states of consciousness, complexes and wounds are given and ruled by archetypal powers or the gods. As C.G. Jung said, “Instead of deriving these figures from our psychic conditions [we] must derive our psychic conditions from these figures” (CW 13:299).
- Astrology as soul-making means it’s not about me and making myself a better person. Soul-making is concerned with how we are working on the gods entry and appearance in life.
- Thus, our work is to attend on the bit of nature that flows through us, such as our Sun’s creative vitality, or what our Mars wants and needs. James Hillman sums it thusly, “Our lives are on loan to the psyche for a while. During this time we are its caretakers who try to do for it what we can” (Re-Visioning Psychology, 180).
- My art and task is an astrological therapy of the imagination – using myth, alchemy, poetry and art to amplify the astrological symbols so that people can absorb what’s happening in their life. These then become vessels with which people can hold their experience. My archetypal psychological approach to chart interpretation “favors responses in metaphors, images, sharp-pointed insights that stir the mind to awakened observation and deepened reflection” (Hillman, Heraclitus, xvii).

Core Faculty at Pacifica Graduate Institute in the Jungian and Archetypal Studies MA/PhD program, Safron Rossi teaches courses on Greek mythology, archetypal cosmology & astrology, and scholarly praxis. She is the author of *The Kore Goddess: A Mythology & Psychology*, editor of Joseph Campbell’s *Goddesses: Mysteries of the Feminine Divine*, and co-editor of *Jung on Astrology*. Safron is also a consulting astrologer.
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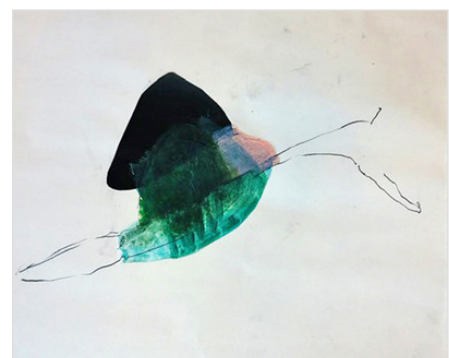
Ananda Simon

I was given the name Anandita whilst living and studying at the Bihar School of Yoga in India in my early 20s. Rather than a personal identification, names given in this context are an offering, an invocation, a calling towards latent potential. The Ananda body in Yogic physiology correlates to a quality of consciousness, a quality of connection. Translated clumsily from Sanskrit, Ananda is akin to bliss. Dita is to be full of, in this case, bliss. To live Anandita is a work, an art. I was given this name at one of the darkest, most destructive phases of life. Being gifted Anandita was a beacon, a blessing, that landed not as a rescue, but as a raft that supported a process of choosing life over death, unknowingly, yet coherently helping to choose full sentience over annihilation.

Sharing this personal antidote is to speak directly to practice, particularly astrological practice in a creative mode that continues to disclose and deepen. As a 5th house Pluto in Libra, trining a 9th house Aquarian Sun and a Gemini Moon, with Mars/Asc. conjunction, I find ‘myself’ given to a penetrative, persuasive and participatory preoccupation that I continue to track, listen with and explore through lived life, art, practice and play, of which astrological listening is paramount.

Libra - constellatory and as a crafted conscious state was the last sign to emerge from within the zodiacal circle of animals. Initially clawed, it shared sky space and star realms with Scorpio and Virgo. Libra’s birthing speaks to its way of living in the terrestrial while remaining connected to, and in conversation with, the celestial. In a way, its charmed power is an archetypal dimension that crafts consciousness out of the claws of our animal souls. Libran consciousness recognizes our deeply relational being and potentiates participation with all nature. Being with an astrological chart is to recognize the diverse and continuous participation between humanity and sacred mystery - an ongoing reciprocal unfurling.

This returns me to Anandita - participation is to be alive with mystery, with immensity - the bliss of being intimate with the astrological art. The threaded weaves, evidenced



Kelly Surtees

in the chart of the sky under which we are born, offer us a site and an in-sight to glean and honour the numinous encounters in and through our lived experience. Through astrological attentiveness we can, in my humble exploration, grow evermore perceptive organs - a feeling eye, an imaged ear, mythic moods, archetypal smells and polyphonic vision that tends and tunes beings - our own, and those we work with.

Amanda Simon is an Astrologer, Acutonics practitioner and an Artist, currently studying an MA in Art and Ecology at Goldsmiths University. Amanda has contributed a chapter to a forthcoming book dedicated to the Centaurs; she also has a passion for teaching, supporting people in coming into relationship with the depth and beauty of the Astrological art through monthly Planet Pulse circles, both on line and in person.
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When I began taking astrology classes in the late 90s, I was in my early 20s and the youngest in the class. I was fortunate to be surrounded by so much wisdom, from both my teacher and the other women in the class. But I did miss being able to talk astrology with people my age. It took me years to connect with other astrologers of my generation but eventually I found my peers – many of whom I’m still close with today.



I knew early on that that 9 – 5 work wasn’t for me. I was willing to work hard to build my client practice, both in massage therapy and in astrology, for the freedom and independence of working for myself. In the beginning I used a mix of old school and new technology marketing to help promote my work. Like many people who commit to astrology in their 20s, I didn’t have much money, but investing in my first website in 2002-3, which seemed like a huge expense at the time, proved to be a great investment.

I’ve always loved client work. Over the years I’ve learned to centre the things I enjoy most about astrology, rather than trying to meet the needs of what others want, or what’s trendy and cool at the time. These days, my weeks are a mix of client consults, prepping resources for my monthly astrology guide membership and teaching or hosting Q and A’s for students in my astrology training program.

Some of my most inspiring astrology connections are with my peers. For this piece I reflected on when they were born and realised most of them fall into the Pluto in Libra generation. These are individuals who I’m in study groups with, people who I’m in Astro business chit chats with and the sense of camaraderie is strong. Navigating life and working in this magical field is unique, and it’s special to me to have colleagues and friends from this group to share it with. It’s also fun to recognize that many of us now have a decade or more experience working with astrology. Now we also talk about how to best support those coming into the field. I’m still learning too, but it’s fun to share what I’ve learned as well.

My personal belief is that when you know something that might be helpful to others in some way it’s important to share what you know, especially with those who ask. I love teaching and working with students – it’s fun and uplifting for me. I always encourage students and new practitioners to find what feels most comfortable for them and then share their astrological knowledge however they can. This can be done through writing, posting videos, publishing your research, and teaching but also through one-on-one consults. In the nearly 20 years I’ve worked as an astrologer, astrology has become more mainstream, providing more possibilities of earning at the very least a side income.

The most meaningful astrological encounters I have happened in real time, either in private Zoom sessions and classes or in person at retreats and workshops. Astrology plus the simple magic of being together with other humans is a potent combination for personal growth, healing and transformation. It’s been a pleasure and a privilege to work with astrology and be a part of the lives of so many people over the years.

Kelly Surtees is an experienced and respected astrologer, who divides her time between Canada and Australia. Kelly has an established astrological career that includes teaching, consulting and mentoring. When Kelly isn’t teaching, she dreams of the ocean and often has her hands in the garden.

Discover her astrologer training program and monthly membership –
www.kellysastrology.com