

Charts in the News

with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



Author's Note: In keeping with this issue's theme of feminine power, all of these extraordinary newsmakers are extraordinary women.

Kamala Harris, October 20, 1964; 9:28 p.m. PDT; Oakland, CA, USA (37°N48', 122°W16'); AA: birth certificate from Steven Stuckey.

The junior senator from California is one of at least two dozen Democrats running for president. With a Gemini Ascendant, intellectual curiosity and a clever way with words are front and center. (See **Chart 1**, at left.) The only major aspects to her Ascendant are trines and sextiles from the Sun, Mercury, Saturn, Moon, and Mars. This easy flow softens the tension and force of hard patterns in her horoscope, as anyone who watched her apply her prosecutor's skills to calmly and coolly pierce the armor of the hair-splitting Attorney General William Barr in May could see.¹ You knew, she knew, and he knew — that he was deliberately sidestepping answers to her straight-arrow questions.

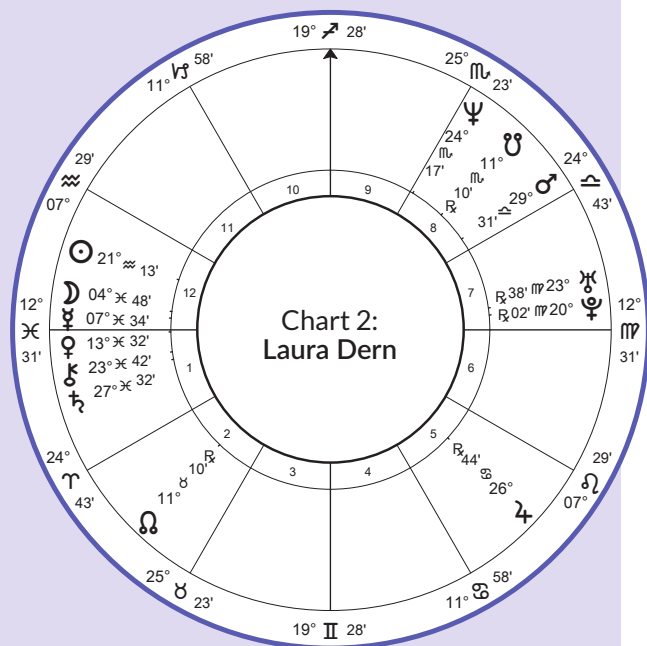
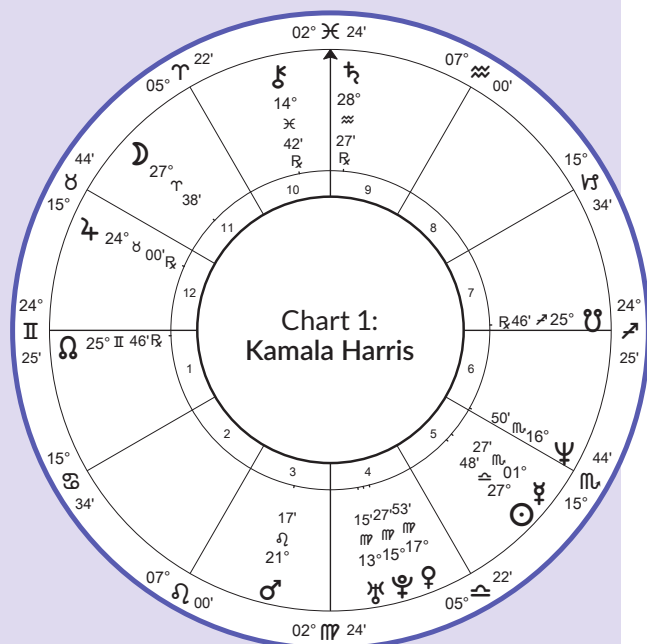
What's behind that Gemini mask? First, a full-blown Full Moon in Aries, opposing her "iron fist in a velvet glove" Libra Sun. Libra is here to create peace and harmony, but combined with the Aries Moon, a strong public outlet for its courageous, "me-first" initiatives is required. So far, so good. Senator Harris recently said on CNN that she's always been "first in every one of [the elected positions she has held], when there was no one like me who had done the job." To anyone who suggested that her goals might be ahead of their time, she just didn't listen.²

Know who else is a Libra with the Moon in Aries? Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. And like Ocasio-Cortez, Kamala Harris has a dynamic t-square among Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars, suggesting militant discipline, rightness of purpose, and plenty of energy for action. While Ocasio-Cortez's t-square includes Neptune, Harris's Neptune is only in orb with Mars and Jupiter (8°). Still, it adds idealism and glamour to the mix. Check out Ocasio-Cortez's horoscope on page 30 and compare. Ocasio-Cortez's t-square is cardinal; Harris's is fixed. One is the irresistible force; the other is the immovable object.

Looking at Harris's presidential prospects, we see a series of solar arcs (SA) in 2019 that reflect extraordinary professional and personal fulfillment:

- August 12 — SA Midheaven (MC) = Moon
- September 9 — SA MC = Sun/Moon
- October 8 — SA MC = Sun

Harris's Moon rules her 2nd house: self-worth, money, and values. The Sun rules her 3rd house: communication, mindset, and siblings. How will that period of reward prepare her for the streamlined focus, ambition, and heavy controls suggested in 2020? That's when transiting Saturn will square her Moon, Sun,



and Sun/Moon midpoint three times, with the last squares happening November 21–23, just after Election Day.

As daunting as 2020 seems, it ends on an expansive note for Harris. In December, transiting Jupiter follows in Saturn's footsteps. On December 19, another solar arc suggesting once-in-a-lifetime personal recognition will be exact: SA Sun = Ascendant. Whatever Election Day brings for Kamala Harris, the aftermath looks just fine.

Laura Dern, February 10, 1967; 7:48 a.m. PST; Santa Monica, CA, USA (34°N01', 118°W29'); AA: birth certificate in hand from Frank Clifford.

Laura Dern was recently interviewed in *The New York Times*. With transiting Jupiter, ruler of her 10th house (career), about to make its second pass over her MC, while squaring the powerful Uranus–Pluto conjunction in her 7th house, the timing of this media exposure wasn't a surprise. (See **Chart 2**, previous page.) Glancing at her horoscope, we are quickly drawn to the cluster of planets around her porous Pisces Ascendant: the Moon, Mercury, and Venus. This focus on the chart's eastern hemisphere suggests that Dern may have developed a need for a defensive posture as a coping strategy in her early home life.

Another protective pattern is her grand trine among Jupiter, Saturn, and Neptune. Yes, I know grand trines are thought of as lucky, and people who have them do seem to be able to live by their own rules. But I learned from one of my teachers that a grand trine can function like a moat around a castle, working against relationship. A water grand trine can be interpreted as an aura of emotional self-sufficiency, projected as a defense against hurt.

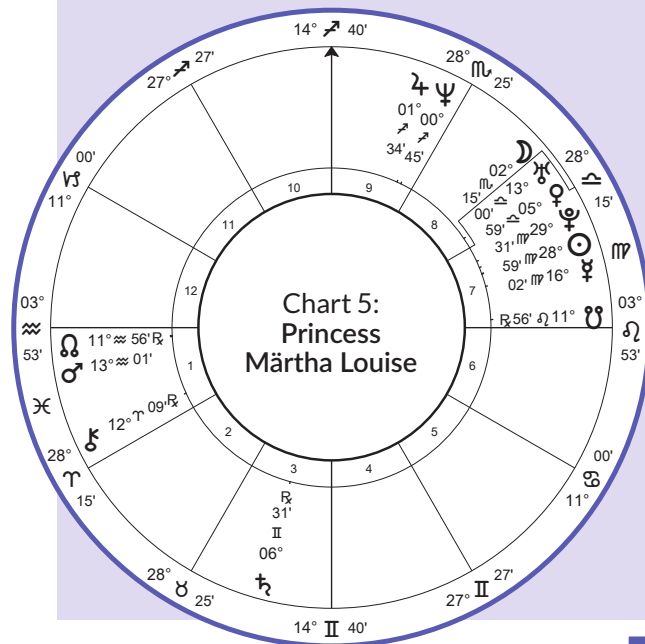
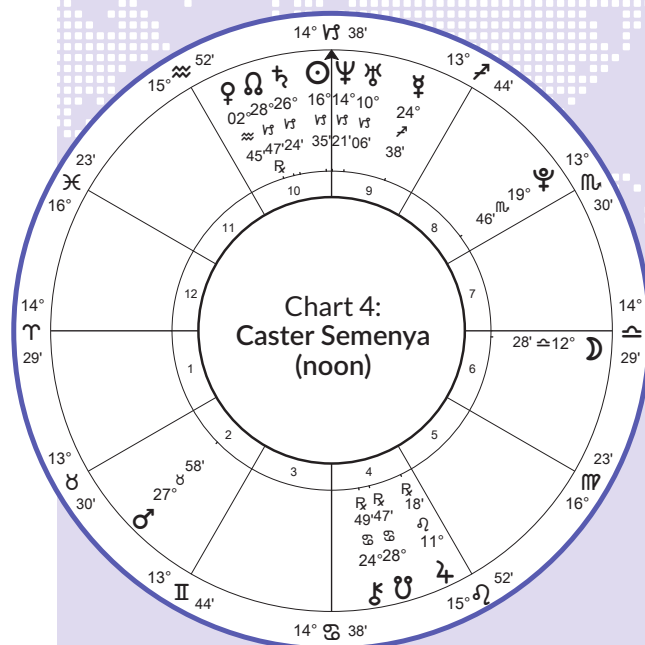
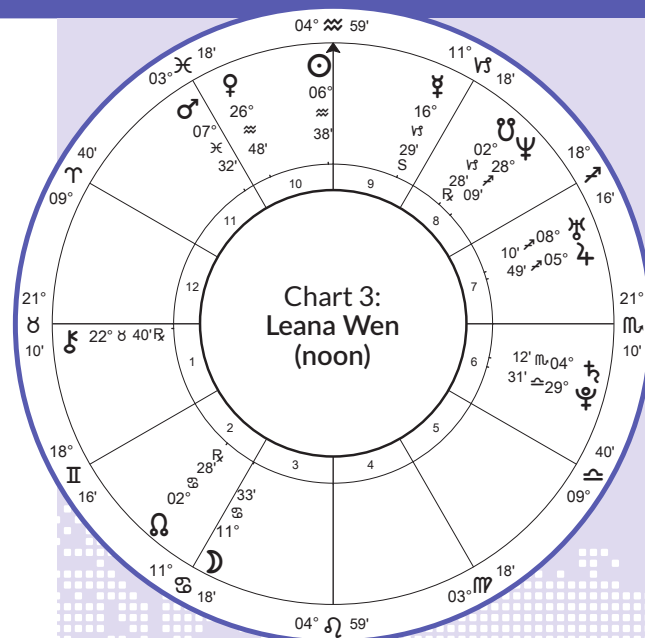
There are so many other patterns in Laura Dern's horoscope conveying exceptional sensitivity, vulnerability, and a need for retreat: the Sun, Moon, and Mercury in the 12th house; the Sun square Neptune (confusion, illusion, or victimization). Venus on the Pisces Ascendant adds a strong need for people-pleasing — but at what expense? As astrologers, we wonder *why* these patterns are present. How have they been reflected in her life experience? For starters, we would not be surprised to learn that Dern's parents divorced when she was two years old — and she didn't form a relationship with her father until she was 12.³

Countering the emotional vulnerability: Uranus–Pluto conjunct in the 7th house, squaring her MC. She can't help being seen as a free-spirited maverick in a world of power players, though we might be concerned at how that potent rebellious streak would manifest in adult relationships. With her humanitarian Aquarius Sun and intuitive Pisces Moon, we'd expect Laura Dern to have empathy for human suffering like nobody's business. The headline for the *NYT* interview was apt: "Laura Dern Embraces the Messiness of Human Life."⁴ Of course she does. Astrology is amazing.

Leana Wen, January 27, 1983; birth time unknown (noon AWST used); Shanghai, China (31°N14', 121°E28'); source: Wikipedia.

Dr. Wen moved to the United States from Shanghai when she was seven. Raised in Utah and then Los Angeles, she started college when she was only 13, graduating *summa cum laude* at 18. As a medical student in 2007, she wrote a prize-winning essay

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that earned her a trip to Africa with NYT journalist Nicholas Kristof.⁵ Now 36, she has three graduate degrees and a brilliant career as a physician, educator, author, and health advocate. If we had a birth time, how do you suppose we'd see that résumé reflected in the horoscope? Which houses would be hot? 3rd? 9th? 6th? 8th? Think about it.

In November 2018, Dr. Wen left a “dream job” to become the director of Planned Parenthood. Her Aquarius Sun is driven by a Cancer Moon (see **Chart 3**, p. 13), just like Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She needs to apply her intellect and be appreciated for the ways in which she nurtures others, facilitating emotional and home security. The square to her Sun from Saturn reflects discipline, structure, and high expectations on herself. Maybe that's why she left her dream job — a sense of responsibility.

Her Sun-Saturn square is the pattern that caught my attention when I first glanced at the horoscope. Why? I'll tell you. When we look at horoscopes, we should have the *current* positions of the planets in our heads. Get to know your ephemeris. Memorize it! If you did, you would know that, as I am typing this on May 14, transiting Uranus is at 3° Taurus. You would know it will station at 6° Taurus in August. Wen's Sun at 6° Aquarius squares Saturn at 4° Scorpio. Uranus will be opposing her Saturn any minute now — and *almost* square her Sun for a loooong stretch of 2019. After turning direct in January 2020, Uranus will finally make that exact square to her Sun. What could happen?⁶

Transiting Uranus in hard aspect to natal Saturn threatens to shake up structure, for better or for worse. Transiting Uranus in hard aspect to your natal Sun can be a test of your ability to be yourself without compromise. If you can't, then something needs to change. If you can, then opportunities to express your individuality — and shine! — may suddenly arise.

Wen last experienced a similar Uranus transit in 1996 and 1997, the year she skipped high school and went straight to college at 13. This time, she's at the helm of Planned Parenthood, fighting to preserve health care access for the millions who depend on it.⁷ Yet, with every passing day, it seems that we read about another state legislature passing a bill to strip women from access to reproductive health — brought to you by the anguished controls of Saturn and Pluto conjunct the South Node in Capricorn. And every time a bill is passed, presumably Dr. Leana Wen has to adjust to the disruption. The issue is far from resolved, but it will be interesting to see if she gets a break when that Uranus square to her Sun is exact next May.

Caster Semenya, January 7, 1991; birth time unknown (noon EET used); Pietersburg, South Africa (23°S54', 29°E25'); AAX: birth certificate, no time recorded.

Track star Caster Semenya is a two-time Olympic champion whose career continues to spark controversy. With her Capricorn Sun conjunct Uranus and Neptune, we can understand why her life experience is unconventional

and confusing. (See **Chart 4**, p. 13.) And in fact, she is quite different from most other women athletes. How so? Her natural level of testosterone is much higher than the average.

In July 2017, just after transiting Saturn's second conjunction with her Mercury, research commissioned by the IAAF (the international federation that sets the rules for athletic competition) concluded that female athletes with exceptionally higher testosterone levels have “a competitive advantage.”⁸ In April 2018, when transiting Saturn was probably squaring her Libra Moon (without an exact birth time, this is my educated guess), the IAAF introduced new rules for female athletes with high testosterone, barring them from participating in certain competitions unless those athletes agreed to take drugs to reduce their natural testosterone levels. True to the needs of her Libra Moon, Semenya challenged the “unfair” IAAF rules.

In February 2019, with transiting Saturn making the first of three controlling conjunctions with her Capricorn Sun, her legal hearing began. On May 1, in a 2–1 ruling, she lost. It's fascinating to note that Semenya's Mars is in Taurus and in trine to a high-functioning Saturn in Capricorn, the sign Saturn rules. This suggests an effective application of discipline and structure in matters of assertion and ambition. It seems reasonable to associate rulership of testosterone with Mars, does it not? Mars in Taurus can be doggedly persistent and enduring. But Mars in Taurus is also in the sign of its detriment. Not only that, but at 27° Taurus, her Mars is conjunct Algol, a fixed star associated with misfortune.

Also of note are two midpoints that are conjunct the Aries Point (0° cardinal). Any planet, angle, or midpoint at the Aries Point needs to be noticed. Semenya has Jupiter/Pluto at the Aries Point, suggesting that she can't help being known for her connection with power and resources, possibly even wealth. The other midpoint is Venus/Mars, suggesting that somehow gender/relationship issues are going to be prominent. Coincidence or conspiracy?

Princess Märtha Louise of Norway, September 22, 1971; 5:07 p.m. CET; Oslo, Norway (59°N55', 10°E45'); A: Sy Scholfield quotes a news report.

Just days after the birth of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's bundle of joy, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, set the news media a-twitter, another royal caused a stir. News outlets around the world were buzzing over Princess Märtha Louise's announcement (via Instagram) that she has found her “twin flame”⁹ in the form of Shaman Durek Verrett, the Los Angeles-based American healer, teacher, author, and “spirit hacker”¹⁰ of Haitian and Norwegian descent. How apt that this story was making news in a week with Venus sextile Mars, Mercury sextile Neptune, and Venus conjunct Uranus!

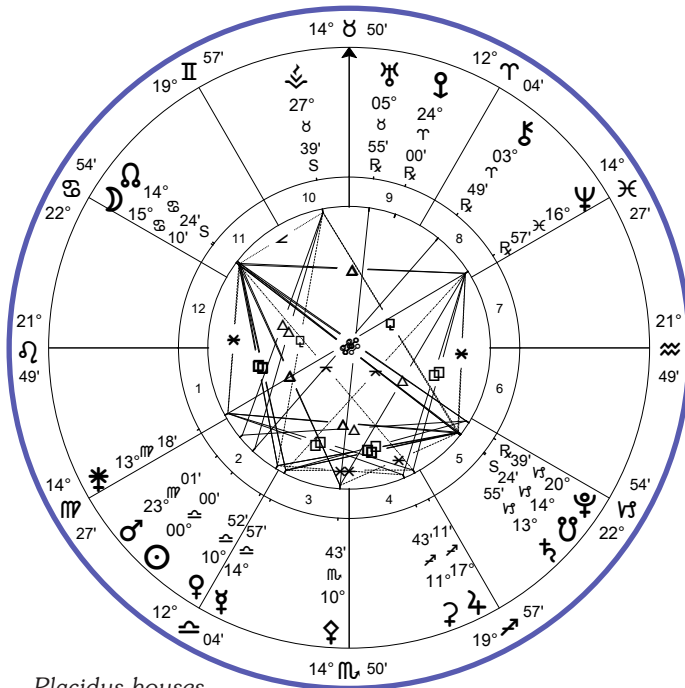
Princess Märtha Louise is a Virgo, driven by a Moon in Scorpio. (See **Chart 5**, p. 13.) In the 8th house and making no major aspects, the Scorpio Moon's need for depth in matters related to energy, resources, and transformation may have difficulty finding a connection. As a result, this need can run away with the personality. In the 9th house, Jupiter

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Libra Equinox – Sept. 23

Sep 23 2019, Mon

3:50:10 am EDT +4:00, Washington, DC



Placidus houses,
True Node

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and Neptune conjunct in early Sagittarius suggest an urge to push boundaries in foreign affairs and collective belief systems, especially spiritual. Over the years, the princess's interest in paranormal concerns and intuitive gifts has sparked controversy in her home country.¹¹ Also running wild: an un-pected Mercury in Virgo in the 7th house, ruling the 4th and 5th houses and co-ruling the 7th. This is a mind that can think with exacting detail and high efficiency, as Mercury thrives in Virgo, one of the signs it rules.

Meanwhile, her Sun is conjunct Pluto at 29° Virgo — within 1° of the Aries Point. Princess Märtha Louise may have been born famous, but in her early home life, a hard aspect between the Sun and Pluto alerts us to the possible suppression of personal power. Her challenge in adulthood would be to claim power for herself, breaking the pattern of her chart's western-hemisphere emphasis. Whereas a packed eastern hemisphere is often a sign of a defensive posture that works against relationship, a heavily populated western hemisphere can be a pattern of giving the self away to others at the expense of developing one's own talents. The remedy for people with this pattern is (as the flight attendant advises) to put the oxygen mask on themselves first — and seek out partners who encourage them to make investments in their

own growth. How fortunate that her new beau is a woman's empowerment leader.

All through 2018, transiting Neptune squared Princess Märtha's Sagittarius MC and opposed her Mercury, possibly carrying her away in a fairy-tale come true. A Neptune transit can be a bewildering experience — or it may coincide with success in spiritual, healing, artistic, or charitable pursuits. Meanwhile, transiting Uranus opposed her Scorpio Moon, offering it an intense and exciting connection that enabled Princess Märtha to fulfill her need for profound and sacred knowledge. Less than a month after the last Uranus opposition to her Moon and days before Uranus's first square to her humanitarian and eccentric Aquarius Ascendant, Princess Märtha Louise made her big announcement.

With Uranus squaring her Ascendant twice more between now and March 2020, the planet of change will continue to present opportunities for personal and professional fresh starts that she may find liberating and others may find shocking. "The Princess and the Shaman" is the name of their web page promoting spiritual workshops they will teach around the world. We should keep an eye on November and December 2019, when transiting Neptune will oppose her Mercury twice, and SA Uranus = Neptune. With Uranus and Neptune co-ruling her 1st house (how she needs to be seen), she may be lost ... or sublimely found. Time will tell.

References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in May 2019.)

- <https://www.cnn.com/video/2019/05/01/kamala-harris-grills-ag-barr-during-senate-hearing.html>
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/05/13/about-elect-ability/?utm_term=.d815906256d9
- https://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Dern,_Laura
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/07/magazine/laura-dern-little-women.html>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/29/opinion/29wat-wen.html>
- What did happen on May 14 — the day I wrote this article — was that Alabama legislators passed a ban on abortion with no exception for rape or incest.
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/02/business/corner-office-leana-wen-planned-parenthood.html>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/47276765>
- <https://www.businessinsider.com/durek-verrett-dating-norway-princess-maertha-louise-2019-5>
- Spirit Hacking* is the title of Shaman Durek's new book (see <https://www.amazon.com/Spirit-Hacking-Shamanic-Personal-Transform/dp/1250217105>)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess_M%C3%A4rtha_Louise_of_Norway (viewed page last edited on May 16, 2019)

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