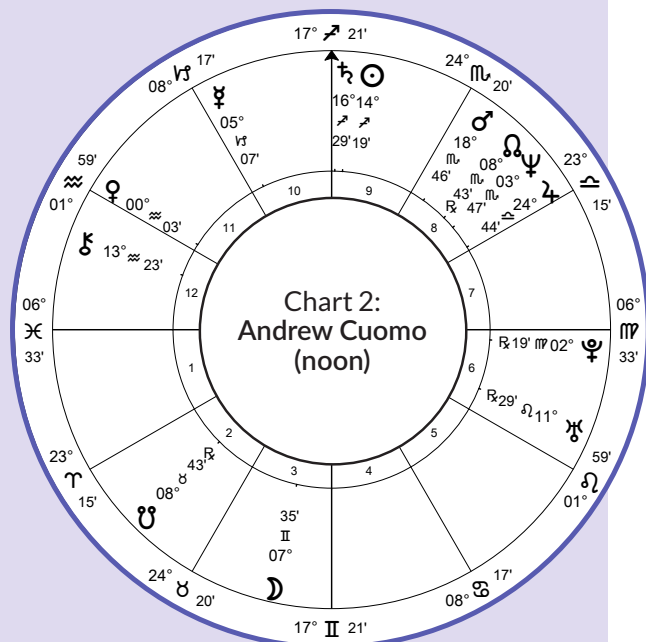
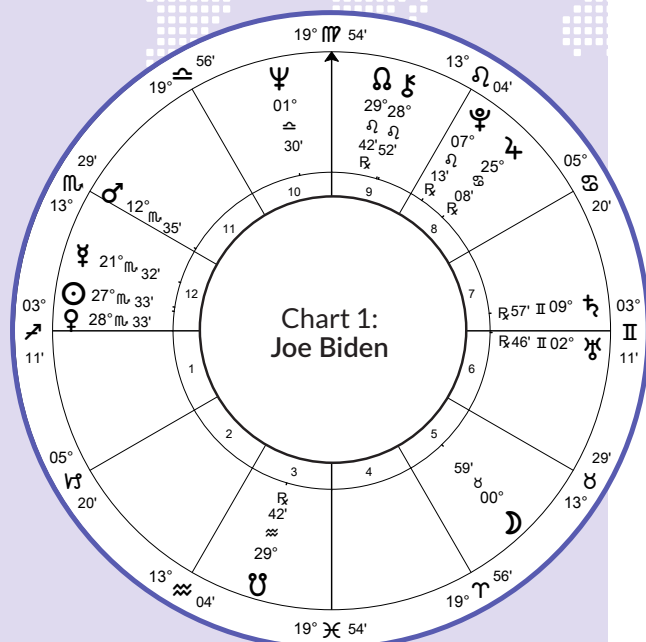


Charts in the News



with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



All charts use Placidus houses and the Mean Node.

Author's Note: Ideas for this issue's column were generated in mid-March, just after transiting Jupiter and Mars triggered the January 10th eclipse at 20° Cancer–Capricorn and Saturn–Pluto conjunction at 22° Capricorn. Astrologers anticipating a release of bottlenecked energy that “could change everything” noted two astonishing developments: Joe Biden suddenly emerged as the Democratic frontrunner — and as of March 25, he has a comfortable edge over Bernie Sanders, the only other candidate still standing. Meanwhile, the whole world is shutting down in an effort to stop COVID-19, save lives — and maybe the economy.

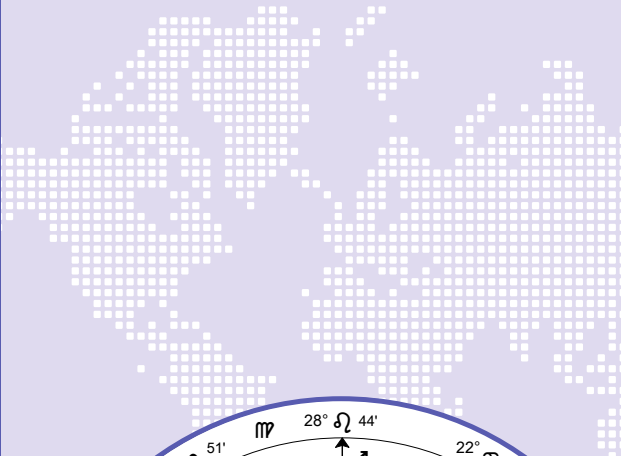
Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., November 20, 1942; 8:30 a.m. EWT; Scranton, PA (41°N25', 71°W40'); A: from memory.

Biden is a Scorpio, driven by Moon in Taurus. (See **Chart 1**, at left.) He needs to apply his depth of understanding to build material security. A stellium of planets in the 12th reflects a behind-the-scenes perspective and a potential to serve in government institutions. His Sun rules the 9th house of big ideas, and his Moon rules the 8th, focusing its need for security on managing collective resources. Jupiter and Pluto in the 8th trine the Ascendant hint at the power of those resources, along with the midpoint picture Moon = Jupiter/Pluto.¹ It's only in recent years, however, that Biden accumulated wealth for himself. Throughout his long tenure in the Senate, he was one of the poorest — a consequence of decades devoted to public service.² Six planets in fixed signs contribute to his endurance.

Sagittarius rising suggests a mask of opinionated optimism, with a foot occasionally inserted in its mouth. Biden is known for making gaffes — with shock potential intensified by Uranus (in chatty Gemini) in opposition to the Ascendant. But gosh darn it, people like him. He's a “fundamentally happy person who can be as generous toward others as he is to himself,”³ reflecting Sun–Venus near the Ascendant, trine to Jupiter (in caring Cancer) and sextile visionary Neptune (in people-pleasing Libra). Plus, he's a born crusader. Mars in Scorpio in the 12th house can execute strategy as a quarterback would, calling plays that benefit the whole team. Another midpoint picture, Mars = Sun/Moon, adds to the need to champion a cause.

But about his Neptune — it's at the Aries Point (within a degree or two of 0° cardinal), thus demanding prominence. It's in the 10th house, ruling the 4th, so we see the potential for these themes to attract attention in matters of family, career, and public status: vision, healing, sacrifice, faith, drugs, scandal, fog. (See his Wikipedia bio for multiple examples.) Meanwhile, transiting Neptune made the first of three conjunctions to Biden's IC, exact on April 20. While this aspect can suggest success in artistic and charitable pursuits, it can also reflect an unexpected wipeout, in the way that an ocean wave wipes out footprints in the sand. On April 6, he had the first of three squares from transiting Saturn to his Taurus Moon. This can suggest a streamlined ambition — and/or isolation

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and loss. More than one astrologer has pointed to these patterns as reasons to question whether Biden would prevail in the primary and/or in the general election.

What planetary patterns could reflect his March success? We can see the potential for enjoyment in his progressed (SP) Moon square Venus on the 25th. On March 4 and on March 15, transiting Mercury — ruler of his MC — was exactly on his 29° Leo–Aquarius Nodes, and he has a past partile Solar Arc (SA) ASC = Mercury. When a planet activates the nodal axis, it can reflect expanded contact with groups of any size. Perhaps SA Saturn = Venus — exact on March 15 — afforded him the “trust factor” of an elder authority. It’s interesting that on that date, he vowed to select a woman (Venus) for running mate.

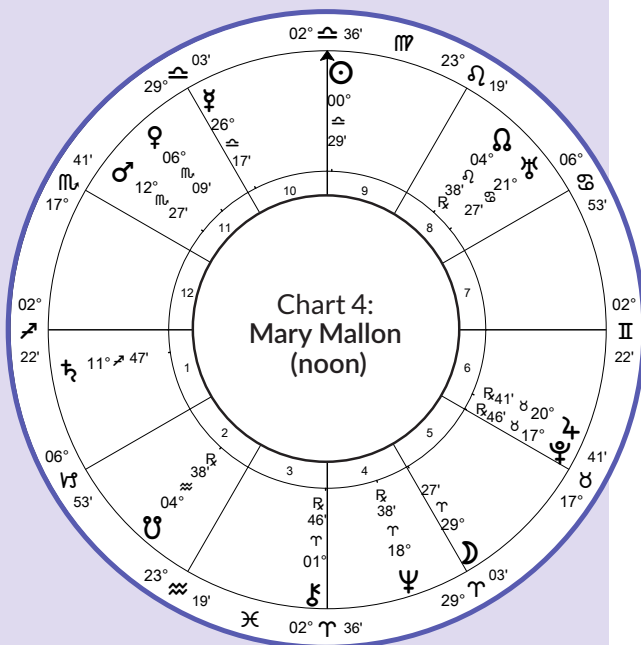
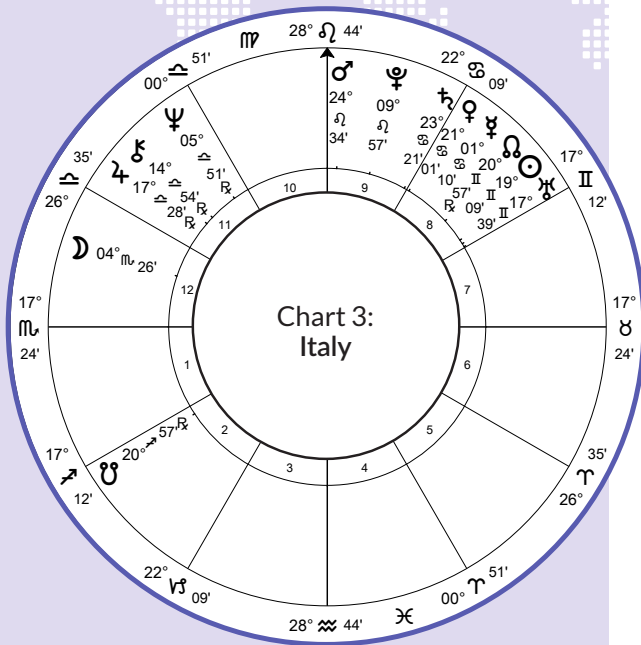
Still, as COVID-19 has postponed primaries and canceled rallies, Biden has been pre-empted by the media’s focus on the response of state governors and federal authorities. Some who oppose him have spread unfounded rumors, alleging that his gaffes are a sign of dementia. By the time you read this in May, we will know more about the significance of Biden’s heavy Neptune and Saturn transits. We may see an intense and/or surprising announcement regarding his public status — for better or for worse — as SA Uranus = Mercury is exact on May 12.

Andrew Mark Cuomo, December 6, 1957; time unknown (noon EST used); New York, NY (40°N47’, 73°W57’); from various Internet sources, including Wikipedia.

Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) is now a sensation. His daily COVID-19 PowerPoint briefings have “garnered more national attention than at any point in his career.”⁴ #CuomoCrush and #PresidentCuomo are trends on Twitter. Even without a birth time, we can see how Cuomo needs to be a wealth of information and a down-to-earth idealist, ruthlessly effective in action. (See **Chart 2**, previous page.) In astrological jargon, we’d say he has Moon in Gemini (needs to be the smartest kid in the room), with Mercury in Capricorn (needs to have a practical, enterprising mindset) and Venus in Aquarius square Neptune (needs to be a visionary, expressing humanitarian values).

Like Joe Biden, Cuomo has Mars in Scorpio (needs to be ruthlessly effective in action), but his Mars is oriental (rising before the Sun). In a vocational profile, Mars oriental suggests needing a crusade. Finally, we see how the expansive self-assertion of his Sun in Sagittarius is tempered by a conjunction with Saturn, suggesting authority and assumption of responsibility;⁵ trine Uranus, we see an easy application of innovation.

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Cuomo's Sun-Saturn (and possibly his Gemini Moon) were squared by Neptune in 2019. Last February only 43% of his constituents approved of his tenure — the lowest of his career. Coupled with transiting Uranus in hard aspect to his natal Venus-Neptune square, he ended a 14-year relationship with Sandra Lee.⁶ But from what we know of Cuomo's chart, the Neptune fog has lifted. His Mercury at 5° Capricorn was eclipsed on December 26th — and now he is all over the airwaves, dispensing volumes of practical information on New York's efforts to contain the virus — with sobering, comforting authority.

On March 22, Saturn made its first of three conjunctions with his Venus — in a pattern similar to that of Joe Biden's emergence as *the* serious contender. On March 24, transiting Pluto made the first of three squares to Cuomo's Jupiter in diplomatic Libra. The Pluto-Jupiter aspect suggests a push to amass extraordinary power and resources. Looking further down the road, we note that the December Jupiter-Saturn conjunction will be exactly on his Venus, and by then his directed (SA) Jupiter will be at 29° Sagittarius. That solar arc alone suggests a prominent "bloom" of reward for a couple of years as it moves to 0° Capricorn — the Aries Point.

National Chart of Italy, June 10, 1946; 6:00 p.m. CEDT; Rome, Italy (41°N54', 12°E29'); AstroDatabank (https://www.astro.com/nat/natit_e.htm).

Italy was not the first place outside China to report a case of COVID-19, but the pandemic's devastation in this country is staggering. Looking at the horoscope for modern Italy on March 24, several patterns stand out. (See **Chart 3**, p. 10.) First, note that whenever we look at a chart, we should know in our head exactly where the outer planets are at that moment. This enables us to work more efficiently. Memorize your ephemeris! Thus when we see a stellium in Italy's 8th house at 17°–20° Gemini, we immediately remember that transiting Neptune is at 19° Pisces, squaring Italy's 19° Gemini Sun. We see the potential for a wipeout — and Neptune refers to viruses.⁷

We see the Moon at 4° Scorpio and know that Uranus was at 4° Taurus (during most of March), transiting through the 6th house (one that refers to health and work routines). We recognize that this Uranus-Moon opposition is the third of a series that began last year, and may disrupt the Scorpio Moon's need for depth and control. The Moon is in the 12th house — an area that refers to confinement, self-undoing, and critical illness. It rules the 9th house, so we see that whatever is "zapped" by the Uranus opposition may have a far-reaching impact, as the 9th house refers to collective beliefs, internationalism, and broadcasting.

We see Italy's Venus at 21° Cancer and Saturn at 23° Cancer. We remember that 20° Cancer-Capricorn was the degree of the eclipse on January 10 (yes, you have to remember the dates and degrees of eclipses, too). You also know in your head that Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto are all going to activate 20°–23° Cancer by opposition, releasing the bottleneck of energy around Italy's Venus-Saturn conjunction in Cancer, sign of home and family.

Let's examine a timeline of Italy's biggest transits in early 2020, noting what happened with respect to the pandemic:

- 1/29 Transiting (TR) Mars opposes Uranus
- 1/30 TR Pluto opposes Saturn (1st pass)
- 1/31 TR Mars opposes the Sun. Two Chinese tourists are diagnosed in Rome with COVID-19.
- 2/17 TR Neptune squares Uranus (final pass). Italy declares a state of emergency. A cluster of cases is discovered in Lombardy. Note that Uranus rules Italy's 4th house (land), and Neptune rules the intercepted 4th house.
- 2/26 Solar Arc (SA) Moon = Chiron. The first death occurs on 2/21. A healing crisis, in effect a few months before and after, touches the world.
- 3/9 TR Jupiter opposes Venus (1st pass) and triggers Italy's eclipsed Venus. Lombardy is under quarantine; the whole country is quarantined on 3/10.
- 3/17 TR Mars opposes Venus. Mars triggers the 1/10 eclipse again; TR Uranus opposes Moon (final pass).
- 3/21 TR Mars opposes Saturn. Bergamo, Italy's worst-hit city, can't process its dead; the military is called to transport bodies and enforce the quarantine. New cases and deaths reach new highs; quarantine restrictions are expanded.
- 3/24 TR Jupiter opposes Saturn (1st pass)
- 3/28 TR Neptune squares the Sun (1st pass)

The outer planets are quiet for a brief spell, with no exact hard transits, but they resume in June and July. Following is a list. Use your powers of astrological observation to anticipate what might happen:

- 6/2 Secondary Progressed (SP) Moon squares Jupiter; Jupiter rules Italy's 2nd house of money and self-worth.
- 7/3 TR Uranus squares Pluto (1st pass)
- 7/6 TR Jupiter opposes Saturn
- 7/24 TR Jupiter opposes Venus (2nd pass)
- 7/31 TR Pluto opposes Saturn (2nd pass.)
- 9/1 SP Moon conjunct Venus
- 9/6 TR Jupiter squares Jupiter. This transit occurs again on 9/19.
- 9/26 TR Neptune squares Sun (2nd pass)
- 9/28 TR Uranus squares Pluto (2nd pass)
- 10/7 SA Pluto = Venus
- 10/14 SA Uranus = MC
- 10/31 SP Moon conjuncts Saturn and TR Jupiter opposes Venus (final pass)
- 11/15 TR Jupiter opposes Saturn (final pass)
- 12/2 SA MC = Pluto
- 12/4 TR Pluto opposes Saturn (final pass)

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Mary Mallon, September 23, 1869; time unknown (noon used); Cookstown, County Tyrone (Northern Ireland) (54°N39', 6°W45'); AstroTheme (https://www.astrotheme.com/astrology/Mary_Mallon).

Mary Mallon worked as a cook for several affluent families in New York around the turn of the 20th century, and she was known for her superb peach ice cream.⁸ She is now known for being an asymptomatic carrier of the bacteria that causes typhoid fever. Dubbed “Typhoid Mary” by the media, she is believed to have infected at least 51 people between 1900 and 1907, three of whom died.⁹

Mallon’s Sun is at 0° Libra — demanding prominence at the Aries Point. (See **Chart 4**, p. 10.) It’s unaspected, save for an opposition to Chiron. Hmm. The Sun is in *fall*,

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opposed by a wound she can’t possibly heal? She’s certainly famous for that! A planet in *fall* is in a sign where it is challenged to fulfill its need. The Sun needs ego recognition, but how can it achieve this in Libra, a sign that needs to focus on “we” instead of “me”?

If born after 1:15 p.m., Mallon’s Moon would be in Taurus, needing to establish material comfort, perhaps through a Venus-ruled creative outlet (like cooking?). A Taurus Moon would oppose her ruthlessly effective Mars in Scorpio and her equally ruthless Venus. That’s a challenge, as Venus is in *fall* in Scorpio.

If born before 1:15 p.m., Mallon’s Aries Moon would need to use the social energy of Libra to be recognized as someone who gets things started, ideally in ways that are courageous and inspiring. An Aries Moon might be within five degrees of Neptune and part of a t-square with Mercury and Uranus. We know that a Mercury–Uranus square suggests needing to have a mindset that may rebel against the “norm.” An Aries Moon in such a t-square would intensify potential rebellion and self-absorption.

When authorities famously tracked her down and confirmed she was a carrier, Mary Mallon refused to believe it. She would not submit to doctors’ proposed treatment (removing her gall bladder), nor give up cooking. “Typhoid Mary” was declared a menace to society and sent to live alone on an island in the East River.¹⁰ In 1910, she was released

on condition that she work as a laundress. The pay was lower, so she changed her name and disappeared. She was caught again in 1915 after an outbreak in a maternity hospital where she was working as a cook. Aries Moon or Taurus Moon? What do you think?

It’s fascinating that Mallon has Jupiter–Pluto conjunct (in Taurus). Jupiter–Pluto were conjunct in Cancer in 1918, during the deadly Spanish-flu pandemic — and of course, they are conjunct now. A pattern? Finally, note that Mallon’s Uranus–Neptune square at 21° Cancer and 18° Aries, respectively, was activated by the January 10th eclipse. Key-words for those planets include: freedom, unconventional, victimization, and suppression. Even though she is no longer among the living, her horoscope still works. I couldn’t find any recent articles about her when I looked at the beginning of March. But around St. Patrick’s Day, with transiting Jupiter and Mars making hard aspects to her eclipsed Uranus, I noticed a piece in the *Washington Post*.¹¹ Google “Typhoid Mary” and you’ll find scores of recent stories, noting that COVID-19 is now believed to be transmitted by countless asymptomatic “super spreaders” just like her.¹² Coincidence or conspiracy?

References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in March 2020.)

1. The Moon is making a square aspect exactly in between (at the midpoint of) Jupiter and Pluto. The Moon is the Focal Point; Jupiter/Pluto is the midpoint. All together, Moon = Jupiter/Pluto is the midpoint picture. Translation (as Don McBroom explains in his helpful book, *Midpoints*): Biden’s Moon in Taurus can accomplish its need for material security through all that may be symbolized by Jupiter (expansion, confidence, optimism) and Pluto (power, resources). When a planet is the Focal Point of a Jupiter/Pluto midpoint, we see potential for personal success.
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Biden
3. *Ibid.*
4. <https://www.lohud.com/story/news/coronavirus/2020/03/24/new-york-andrew-cuomo-coronavirus-briefing-powerpoint/2903009001/>
5. As I type this on March 24, 2020, I just heard him say (in a press conference streaming on the web), “I will take personal responsibility.”
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Cuomo
7. Google “Neptune rules viruses” for scores of sources, though Rex Bill’s rulership book gives viruses to Pluto. Perhaps viruses are ruled in part by both.
8. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2020/03/17/typhoid-mary-st-patricks-day-coronavirus/>
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ibid.*
11. *Ibid.*
12. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/27/what-are-super-spreaders-and-how-are-they-transmitting-coronavirus>

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