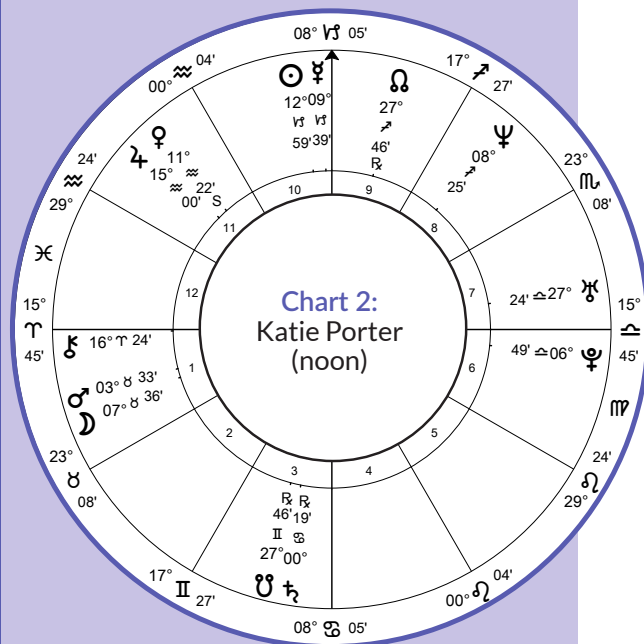
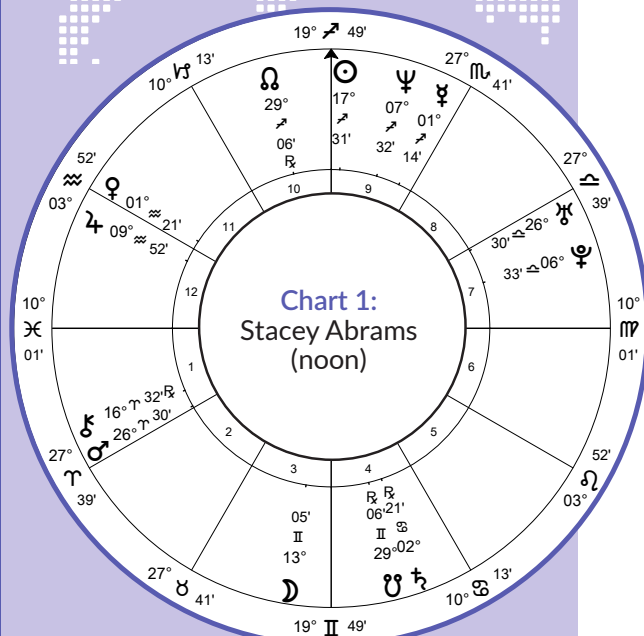


# Charts in the News

with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



All charts use Placidus houses  
and the Mean Node.

**Stacey Yvonne Abrams**, December 9, 1973; birth time unknown (noon CST used); Madison, WI, USA (43°N04', 89°W24'); X (date without a time): Wikipedia.

With Mercury turning direct on Election Day in the United States and squaring Saturn twice that week, astrologers expected delayed results. But who knew that the state of Georgia would be such a big surprise? Both Senate races were inconclusive and will be decided in a January 5 runoff. If Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock defeat incumbent Republicans David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, Democrats will gain control of the Senate. Meanwhile, after lagging by hundreds of thousands of votes on November 3, 2020, Joe Biden pulled ahead decisively as a record-breaking number of mail-in ballots were counted. Headlines are hailing Stacey Abrams as the “architect of Biden’s photo finish,”<sup>1</sup> that is, turning the Peach State blue for the first time since 1992.

Abrams is a Sagittarius, driven by Moon in Gemini (in that sign the entire day of her birth). (See **Chart 1**, at left.) She needs to be a fountain of information, influencing others to do what is right. This Sun–Moon combo needs diversity, adventure, and is highly adaptable to change. Two conjunctions catch our eye: Mercury–Neptune in Sagittarius and Venus–Jupiter in Aquarius. Together, they suggest visionary potential and a grand humanitarianism. With Neptune oriental (rising before the Sun), she needs to channel idealism into her career. In addition to inspiring millions of citizens to get out and vote, Abrams is a best-selling romance novelist writing under the pen name of Selena Montgomery.

A Mars–Uranus opposition adds shock value, along with the willpower to tackle the impossible. Mars in Aries never gives up! No planets in the earth element<sup>2</sup> suggests that her crusading drive will not be limited by fears of impracticality (note that one of her eight romance novels is titled *Reckless*). We do not know how her Ascendant might add gravitas, but note that her Saturn at 2° Cancer is at the Aries Point. Of course, she is known as an extremely responsible, hardworking caretaker. Exhibit A: She founded Nourish, Inc., “a beverage company with a focus on infants and toddlers.”<sup>3</sup> Plus, her Saturn is square Pluto and is the focal point of the midpoint picture Saturn = Mercury/Venus. These patterns temper idealism with realism.

Abrams was elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 2007, becoming the minority leader in 2011, as transiting Pluto squared her Pluto. This phase of life development is often a test of power. She gained national attention in 2018 when she ran against then–Secretary of State Brian Kemp, becoming the first Black woman in the US to be a major party’s candidate for governor.<sup>4</sup> As Secretary of State, Kemp cancelled the registrations of hundreds of thousands of Georgia voters, and his office was later found to have violated the law.<sup>5</sup> With transiting Saturn squaring her Pluto three times in 2018, Stacey Abrams lost the election by an agonizing 50,000 votes.

In 2019, with three hits of Jupiter conjunct her Sun, she again gained national attention by delivering the Democratic response to President Trump's State of the Union address. Defying expectations, she declined to run for the Senate. Instead, she founded Fair Fight 2020, an organization whose work includes support for voter protection programs, voter education, and encouragement of voter participation. Her Moon in Gemini is determined to keep people informed!<sup>6</sup>

It is interesting that Joe Biden's lead in Georgia began to emerge on November 5, with transiting Saturn exactly square Abrams's Mars-Uranus opposition. The upside is the application of structure and discipline to two volatile planets. On January 6, 2021, the day after the Georgia Senate runoffs, transiting Mercury will be exactly square her Mars-Uranus. Constructive news? Constructive or not, Abrams will adapt. The rest of 2021 suggests expansion and persuasive effort. Her Jupiter return is exact on January 30. In March, transiting Pluto makes the first of three squares to Mars-Uranus. Resistance is futile.

**Katherine Moore Porter**, January 3, 1974; birth time unknown (noon CST used); Fort Dodge, IA, USA (42°N29', 94°W10'); X: Wikipedia.

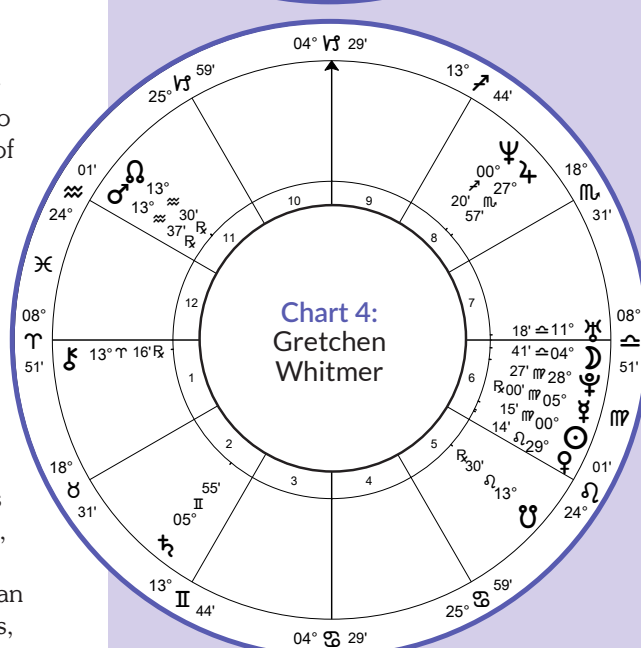
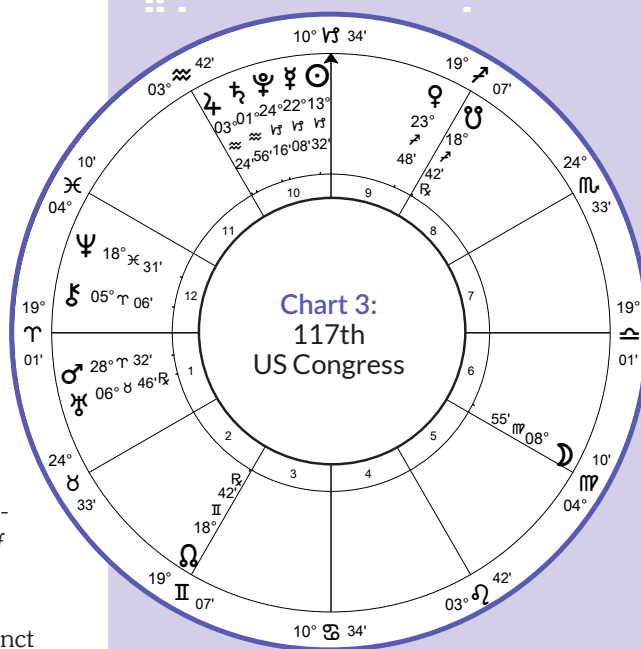
On the evening of November 6, a victory for the Biden-Harris ticket was finally within reach. Though not officially called, an impatient Twittersphere began lobbying for Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA) to be Kamala Harris's appointed successor in the Senate. With transiting Venus square Porter's Capricorn Sun on that day, who could blame them? (See **Chart 2**, previous page.) Porter is less than a month younger than Stacey Abrams, so we will see some similarities as we compare the two.

Capricorn Porter was born to administer progress. Her Mercury in Capricorn suggests strategic thinking, and Sun-Mercury trines her Taurus Moon and Mars. With four planets in earth and the whole chart driven by the Taurus Moon's need for material comfort and security, are we surprised by the title of her college thesis: *The Effects of Corporate Farming on Rural Community?* Nothing Reckless here.

Fun fact: Porter graduated from Harvard Law School, where she studied under Elizabeth Warren. Porter's Saturn is at 0° Cancer, conjunct Warren's Sun-Uranus. She followed in Warren's footsteps and became a law professor, too. Her textbook, *Modern Consumer Law*, addresses consumer law in light of Dodd-Frank and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Warren's brainchild!).<sup>7</sup> Fast-forward to March 2012, when she was a tenured professor at UC Irvine School of Law. Then-Attorney General Kamala Harris tapped Porter to be California's independent monitor of banks in a nationwide \$25 billion mortgage settlement.<sup>8</sup>

In 2018, Porter won a seat in the House, where she gained a reputation for relentlessly grilling CEOs. Illustrating her pointed questions with a small whiteboard, she often exposed their lack of awareness of Things They Really Should Know. For example, JP-Morgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon could not explain how a bank teller could make ends meet on a minimum wage salary; Postmaster General Louis DeJoy had no idea what it cost to mail a postcard.<sup>9</sup> Porter's Sun-Mercury conjunction is square Pluto, suggesting extremes of power and persuasion. It is also trine Mars (and possibly the Moon, too), serving as an easy channel for bullish Mars in Taurus assertion.

Like Stacey Abrams, Porter's Jupiter-Venus conjunction suggests an expansive focus in matters of money and social expression. In Aquarius, we anticipate an easy identification with like-minded groups, possibly humanitarian. Unlike Abrams, Porter has Venus stationary retrograde, which



## Charts in the News

commands even greater attention in Venusian concerns, just as a driver leaning on a car horn does. How so? It occurs to me to recall Porter's Saturn at 0° Cancer. Her father was a farmer-turned-banker. One wonders what influence her relationship with her father may have had on her values, especially with respect to money. She's positioned herself as a champion for working families, not big financial institutions.

On January 4, 2021, transiting Jupiter squares her Mars. We expect expansive courage and initiative — but in the Senate or the House? Throughout 2021, her Venus will be activated, either by conjunction or squares from Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus. Not only that, but solar arc (SA) Venus is at the Aries Point for the next two years, drawing still more attention to who, what, and how she needs to love.

**The 117th US Congress, January 3, 2021; 12:00 p.m. EST (date and time set by Constitutional mandate); Washington, D.C., USA (38°N54', 77°W02').**

The US Constitution mandates the start date and time of each new Congress, so the Sun and angles will always be the same, give or take a degree. Thus its "life purpose" is always suggested by the Capricorn Sun: to organize and deploy resources, with a healthy dose of ambition. How it is seen will always be reflected by its crusading Aries Ascendant.

What drives this Congress? The Moon in Virgo, in the 6th house of service, employment conditions, and health. (See **Chart 3**, page 11.) A Virgo Moon needs to make things right. If the Democrats control the Senate as well as the House when Joe Biden is inaugurated, much could be accomplished. Note that the Moon is part of an earth grand trine with the Sun and innovative Uranus. Conventional astrological wisdom argues that grand trines are lucky. Unconventional (but accurate) astrological wisdom observes that an earth grand trine needs to project an aura of material self-sufficiency. It does not ask others for input; it acts as if it is

a law unto itself, "sometimes overdoing things to prove a point."<sup>10</sup>

Chart ruler Mars is in the 1st house, where its need for pioneering action is clearly seen. Upside: Planets in angular houses are strong, and Mars functions effectively in Aries. Downside: Mars in the 1st house may provoke conflict. It is fascinating that this Mars is at 28° Aries, exactly where Uranus was in the chart for the 116th Congress.<sup>11</sup> It is as though Mars is now triggering the symbolism of the 116th's Uranus (disruption, change). You say you want a revolution?

Arguments over material practicality are suggested by Mercury in Capricorn square Mars. Mercury-Pluto represents extremes of thought and a need to expose corruption. There could be numerous investigations, and what is discovered may be explosive, as Mars not only squares Pluto but is also widely conjunct Uranus.

Reinforcing revolutionary themes is the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction in Aquarius square Mars-Uranus. How might the crusading drive of Mars and the disruptive energy of Uranus act upon the humanitarian "group-think" of this Great Mutation? With so much drive for action suggested by these squares, it is a relief to see Venus in Sagittarius trine Mars and the Ascendant. The values of the 117th Congress may be boundary-pushing, but these two trines offer hope for a measure of accord.

**Gretchen Esther Whitmer, August 23, 1971; 8:51 p.m. EST; Lansing, MI, USA (42°N44', 84°W33'); A: news report.**

Michigan's governor has a Virgo Sun. (See **Chart 4**, page 11.) It rules and sits in the 6th house, along with Venus, Mercury, Pluto, and the Moon. A stellium in the 6th suggests a need to focus on service and systems of co-operation, including health and work routines. And indeed, Wikipedia can confirm that her administration has "focused on health and infrastructure."<sup>12</sup> A need to serve is echoed by a majority of planets in the chart's western hemisphere; thus, she is inclined to put others ahead of herself. This pattern of giving the self away to others

*The US Constitution mandates the start date and time of each new Congress, so the Sun and angles will always be the same, give or take a degree.*

is reinforced by the drive of her people-pleasing Libra Moon, which is exactly square her Midheaven (MC) and opposing her Aries Ascendant. What other patterns of potential humanitarian service do you see?

Two partile squares capture our attention. Mercury is retrograde in Virgo, squared by Saturn in Gemini in the 2nd house. We expect a practical, disciplined, and cautious mindset. Saturn refers to controls and also to the father. Although Whitmer says she is a progressive Democrat, she reportedly does not believe that a single-payer health care system is practical. Did you know that her father was president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for 18 years?<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile, the Sun is square Neptune in the 8th. If Neptune dissolves whatever it touches, we wonder how the ego identity (symbolized by her Virgo Sun) may be diffused, as it picks up so many impressions from other people. Upside: a visionary or a healer. Downside: Others may project their fears and anxieties onto her. She could be idolized and/or victimized.

True to the needs of her warrior Aries Ascendant (which also reflects a penchant for red lipstick), Governor Whitmer responded aggressively to the COVID-19 crisis last March, issuing a strict stay-at-home order that was met with widespread approval. In April, however, as transiting Mars was about to conjoin her natal Mars-North Node (exact on April 19), she expanded the restrictions. Gun-toting protestors soon stormed the Michigan State House, and President Trump attacked her on



Twitter (“LIBERATE MICHIGAN!”). On the other hand, she was profiled in the national media and was on the short list of VP contenders (her Sun–Venus conjunction is conjunct Biden’s North Node at 29° Leo; we can appreciate the attraction).<sup>14</sup>

It is fascinating that there were no Ptolemaic hard aspects (i.e., conjunctions, squares, oppositions) from any outer planet or combative Mars to any planet in Whitmer’s horoscope from July 17 through the end of 2020. There were no soft aspects (sextiles, trines) between July 30 and November 25, either. The sole exception was a single solar arc: Uranus square Venus (SA Uranus = Venus), exact on October 8.

SA Uranus = Venus suggests intense disruption of values and social expression. Venus rules Whitmer’s 2nd and 7th houses, representing money, self-worth, and significant others, respectively. Uranus co-rules her 12th house of hidden enemies and self-undoing. Did anything significant happen on October 8? Yes! Prosecu-

tors filed a federal indictment against six men in a Michigan militia group, charging them with plotting to kidnap Governor Whitmer and eventually storm the State Capitol.<sup>15</sup>

Whitmer’s horoscope will not have any hard aspects from Mars or any outer planet to any other planet until February 2, 2021. Transiting Mars will square her natal Mars–North Node. Mars rules her Ascendant. What do you think we might see in the headlines?

## References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in November 2020.)

1. <https://news.yahoo.com/georgia-election-results-trump-biden-140754054.html>
2. *Editor’s Note:* For more on elemental voids, see Jenn Zahrt’s “There’s No There There. Or Is There?,” in this issue.
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stacey\\_Abrams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stacey_Abrams)
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. <https://fairfight.com/about-fair-fight/>
7. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katie\\_Porter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katie_Porter)
8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*

10. Noel Tyl, *Synthesis and Counseling in Astrology*, Llewellyn, 1994, p. 285.

11. Elisabeth Grace, “Charts in the News,” in *TMA*, April/May 2019.

12. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gretchen\\_Whitmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gretchen_Whitmer)

13. *Ibid.*

14. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/18/us/politics/gretchen-whitmer-michigan-protests.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>

15. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gretchen\\_Whitmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gretchen_Whitmer)

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# KEY TO ASTROLOGICAL SYMBOLS

## Signs

♈	Aries
♉	Taurus
♊	Gemini
♋	Cancer
♌	Leo
♍	Virgo
♎	Libra
♏	Scorpio
♐	Sagittarius
♑	Capricorn
♒	Aquarius
♓	Pisces

**BEGINNERS: Planets occupy signs and form exact aspects to one another when separated by the designated number of degrees. The midpoint between any two planets is determined by finding the place in the zodiac equally distant from those two planets. The North Node and South Node are astronomical points (not physical objects) determined by the intersection of the Moon’s orbit around the Earth with the Earth’s orbit around the Sun.**

## Planets

☉	Sun	☾	Moon	☿	Mercury
♀	Venus	♂	Mars	♃	Jupiter
♄	Saturn	♅	Uranus	♆	Neptune
♇	Pluto	♁	North Node	♂	South Node
♁	Chiron	♁	Pallas	♁	Juno
♁	Ceres	♁	Vesta	♁	Eris

## Aspects

0°	☿	Conjunction
180°	♂	Opposition
120°	♊	Trine
90°	♋	Square
30°	♌	Semi-Sextile
60°	♍	Sextile
150°	♎	Quincunx
45°	♏	Semi-Square
135°	♐	Sesquiquadrate
72°	♑	Quintile
51°26'	♒	Septile
144°	♓	Bi-Quintile
	//	Parallel
	#	Contra-Parallel