

Charts in the News

with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



George Takei, April 20, 1937; 2:10 a.m. PST; Los Angeles, CA, USA (34°N03', 118°W14'); AA: Quoted B.C./B.R. (birth certificate/birth record).

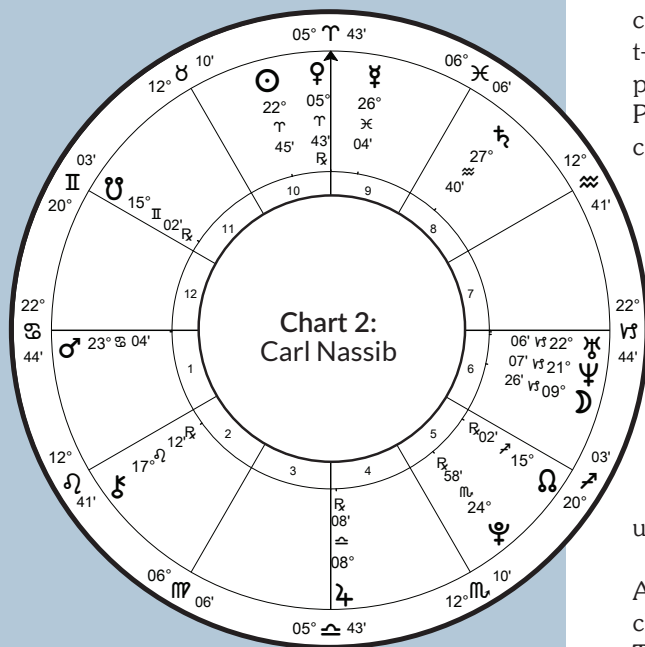
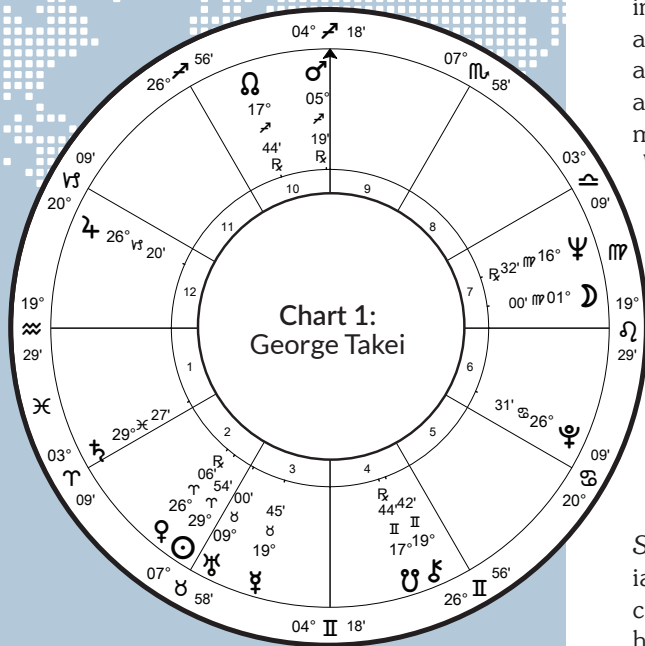
At the end of June, headlines were driven by the July 1 Mars in Leo opposition to Saturn in Aquarius and the July 3 square to Uranus in Taurus. Stories of militant discipline, daring innovation, and explosive action were all over the news.¹ The United States Air Force Academy announced a new reading initiative. As a focus on “dignity and respect,” all cadets are reading *They Called Us Enemy*, George Takei’s graphic memoir of living in a US concentration camp as a young boy during World War II.²

Far too many Americans have forgotten, or never learned, that in February 1942, FDR, 32nd president of the United States, issued Executive Order 9066, which directed authorities on the West Coast to incarcerate over 120,000 people (70,000 were American citizens) simply because they were of Japanese descent.³ Soon after Takei’s fifth birthday, with transiting Saturn and Uranus squaring his Moon and opposing his Midheaven (MC), soldiers with bayonets came for his family. They were held in three different camps over the next four years. Penniless when they were released, they had to start all over in LA’s infamous Skid Row.⁴

Takei’s first claim to fame was as Lt. Hikaru Sulu in the original *Star Trek* series. In 1965, with Neptune squaring his humanitarian Aquarius Ascendant (ASC), he was cast as the helmsman in the convention-shattering space odyssey, “To boldly go where no man has gone before!” How apt for a pioneering Aries, with added idealism courtesy of Venus conjunct his Sun. This conjunction is the apex of a t-square with Jupiter in partile opposition to Pluto, i.e., potentially expansive and empowering in the extreme. (See **Chart 1**, upper left.) Pluto rules Takei’s 9th house — collective beliefs, travel, and broadcasting. Jupiter rules his MC — career and reputation. As an Asian American, his presence on the bridge of the *Enterprise* in the mid-60s broadened perspectives on who could sit at the controls.

Moon in Virgo drives Takei’s horoscope with a need to make things right. Moon rules the 6th house, seeking an outlet through service. Mutable signs on the MC often suggest multiple vocations, and Takei’s Sagittarius MC is conjunct Mars and square the Moon. Here is another mark of a potential crusader who makes an impactful, emotional connection with an audience — thanks to that Moon on the cusp of the 7th house. As an actor and activist, Takei fulfills the need of his Aquarius ASC to be seen as unique and socially significant. With ASC-ruler Uranus unsuspected, the need for individuation is intensified, no matter what is shaken up in its expression.

Takei has Saturn at 29° Pisces, demanding prominence at the Aries Point (within two degrees to 0° of cardinal signs). Astrologer Michael Lutin says Saturn in Pisces turns its suffering into an art form.⁵ Takei has turned his childhood trauma into books, the Broadway musical



Allegiance, and more. Evolutionary astrologers might see this echoed by the house position of Takei's North Node. In the 10th house, his challenge in this lifetime is to actually come out into the world, rising above the fear of sharing his private life with the public.⁶

Even though Takei's sexual orientation was an open secret among *Star Trek* fans, he feared coming out publicly.⁷ Do you see that his Venus and Mars are both retrograde? Retrograde planets, especially personal ones, can suggest a delay in expression, as if the concerns they rule in a horoscope need time to be worked out internally before action can be taken. Takei says he was motivated to go public in 2005, when then-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, and he "moved from the closet to the front of the pride parade."⁸ At age 68, his progressed Mars had finally turned direct. Coincidence or conspiracy?

Now 84, Takei has just had his Uranus return, a rare event perceived as liberating in the most positive sense.⁹ His influence is especially super-charged now and into 2022, with transiting Pluto activating his potent t-square. He will continue to crusade for social justice and inspire citizens to participate in their democracy. He is keenly aware that those who do not remember the past are forced to repeat it.¹⁰

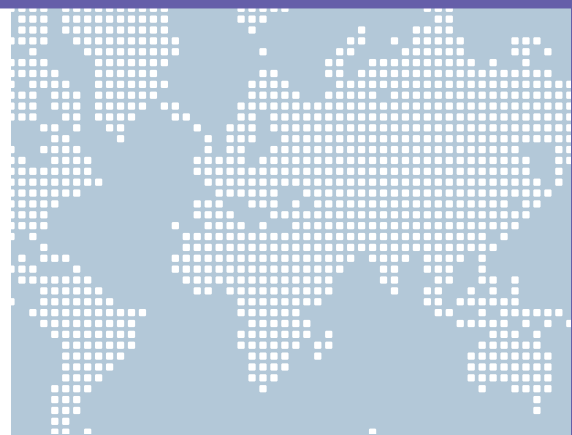
Carl Nassib, April 12, 1993; birth time unknown (noon EST used); West Chester, PA, USA (39°N57', 075°W36'); X: Wikipedia and other online sources.

June was Pride Month. On June 21, LA Raiders defensive lineman Carl Nassib became the first openly gay active player in the NFL. Employers, colleagues, and fans were overwhelmingly supportive in response to Nassib's matter-of-fact Instagram video announcement.¹¹

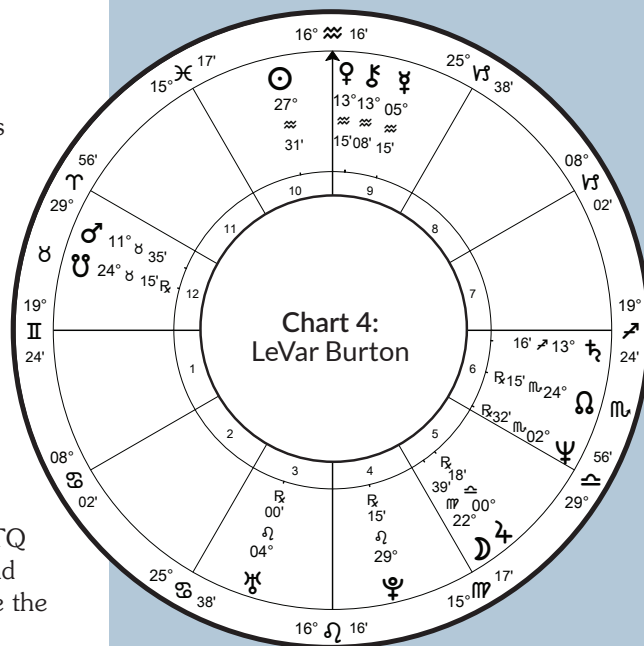
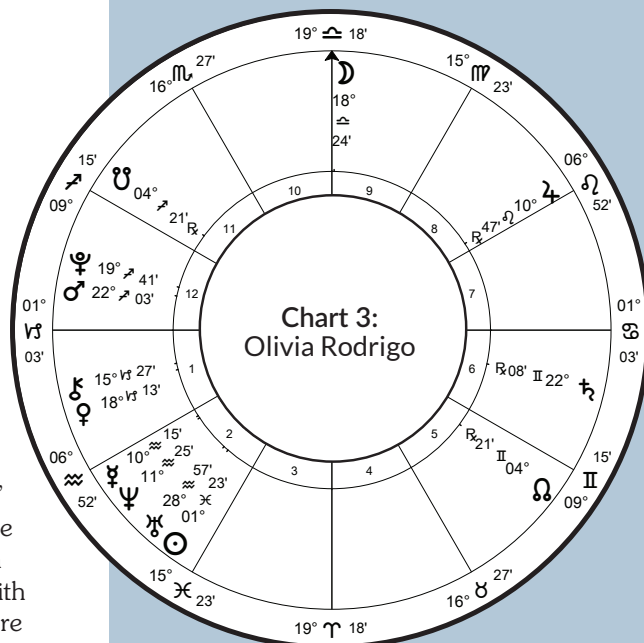
Like George Takei, Nassib is an Aries pioneer. Unlike Takei, he's driven by a Capricorn Moon. This Sun-Moon blend is one of "heated ambition and cool administrative detachment" that defines success.¹² Of course Nassib's big announcement was "matter-of-fact." The Sun refers to ego identity, and Nassib's 22° Aries Sun is at the apex of a nearly partile t-square among Mars in Cancer in opposition to a Uranus-Neptune conjunction in Capricorn. Sun in hard aspect with Mars suggests strong physical energy needing an outlet, and Sun square Uranus-Neptune adds a need for ego expression that could be called disruptive to the status quo (Uranus) coupled with idealization, acute sensitivity, or uncertainty about identity (Neptune) in the early years of development.¹³ (See **Chart 2**, previous page.)

In his Instagram post, Nassib says he is a private person and his horoscope reflects that self-assessment. He has a water grand trine among Mars, Pluto, and Mercury. Astrologer Noel Tyl observed that a grand trine can function as "a law unto itself,"¹⁴ which some might perceive as being lucky. But a grand trine can also be a defense against relationships, like a moat around a castle. A person with a water grand trine projects an aura of emotional self-sufficiency to guard against hurt.¹⁵

Nassib's revelation occurred on a day with a sweetly charitable water grand trine among Moon, Venus, and Neptune that was conjunct his own grand trine. This pattern was an apt opportunity, in tandem with his practical Capricorn Moon, to announce a \$100,000 donation to The Trevor Project, praising the work of this "incredible organization that is the #1 suicide prevention service for LGBTQ youth in America."¹⁶ With the Moon in a likely t-square with Venus and Jupiter, grand gestures and great enjoyment would be expected. Note the similarities with George Takei.



All charts use Placidus houses (except where noted) and the Mean Node.



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Nassib said he'd been thinking for a long time about coming out — as far back as 15 years ago. So, why now? His natal t-square among Sun, Mars, Uranus, and Neptune was hit in 2020 by the lunar eclipse at 20° on the Cancer–Capricorn axis. Multiple transits of Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto at 20–22° of cardinal signs served as triggers in 2020. Evolutionary leaps forward would be anticipated, including a transformative \$25 million dollar contract he signed in March of last year — lucky him!

This year, Jupiter in Aquarius thrice conjoins his natal Saturn and squares his Pluto. Saturn in Aquarius needs to help others in its vocation, and helping others is how he framed his announcement. Several weeks earlier, he had a Mars return that triggered his late-degree cardinal t-square, likely sparking action. Really, one wonders if an astrologer helped elect his moment, with transiting Venus conjunct his Mars and transiting Mars trine his Venus. What do you think?

Olivia Isabel Rodrigo, February 20, 2003; 3:00 a.m. PST; Temecula, CA, USA (33°N29', 117°W08'); A: from memory

Olivia Rodrigo has been tearing up charts and smashing records all year. The 18-year-old actor-singer-songwriter best-known for her role on the Disney+ mockumentary *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* is now a pop star. Her first single, “Drivers License,” debuted at number one on *Billboard's Hot 100* in January, and as of July 1, was on track to become *Rolling Stone's* top-selling song of the year. It would be the first time in ten years that a woman has claimed that honor. Wow!¹⁷

An emphasis of planets in the eastern hemisphere suggests a focus on the Ascendant, i.e., self-awareness. Whereas a western hemisphere emphasis suggests a person who may give themselves away for the sake of others, the eastern hemisphere emphasis justifies and defends the ego. With a Capricorn ASC, Rodrigo needs to be seen as a woman in charge. (See **Chart 3**, p. 11.) In a curious contrast, her Pisces Sun and Libra Moon suggest an appealing blend of feelings and intuition, with a reigning need to be popular. There is “much exposure to society,” writes Noel Tyl, as the individual “works overtime to adapt social situations to personal, temperamental needs.”¹⁸

With Moon conjunct the MC, feelings are certainly made public. The Moon's rulership of the 7th house echoes the need to connect with an audience or significant other, and let the record show that her songs are written with a partner, producer Daniel Nigro.¹⁹ Venus in the ASC square the Moon–MC increases appeal and the need for approval. “Drivers License” is about teenage heartbreak, rumored to be based on Rodrigo's own experience. With Venus in strategic Capricorn, she invited fans to “indulge in the emotion and the lore” by posting lip-synched versions of the song on TikTok. Over a million people acted on her invitation.²⁰

Rodrigo's Sun is conjunct Uranus, sextile the ASC. She's a born disruptor, and how lucky for her that transiting Jupiter conjoins that conjunction in 2021. Her Mercury–Neptune

conjunction in Aquarius is opposed by Jupiter, suggesting soulful brilliance, grand imagination, and a need to publish around the world (Mercury rules her 9th house). This opposition is activated by transiting Uranus, Saturn, and Jupiter all year, for better or for worse. At the end of June, transiting Mars in Leo sparked controversy as Courtney Love accused Rodrigo of copying the cover photo of Hole's second album, *Live Through This*, and others claimed that one of her songs “borrowed” a riff from Elvis Costello.²¹

Clearly, Rodrigo is not all sugar and spice. *Sour* is the name of her album, and it “metabolizes anger, jealousy and

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bewilderment into pop euphoria.”²² Where do we see this “cathartic rage”? How about transiting Neptune squaring natal Mars–Pluto in Sagittarius, seething in the 12th house, and opposed by Saturn? That can be brutal, and “brutal” happens to be one of her songs. Note that transiting Neptune has been squaring this opposition all year and made an exact pass at the end of August when transiting Mars in Virgo also made a square. Look at the houses ruled by these planets in Rodrigo's horoscope. If she makes news now, what kind of news could it be? Meanwhile, it's now July 13, and as I'm responding to notes from *TMA's* most excellent editors, transiting Jupiter has just made its second exact conjunction to Rodrigo's Pisces Sun, suggesting an expansive influence. She's just been invited to the White House to meet President Biden and Dr. Fauci, and will be spearheading a video campaign to inspire teens to get the COVID-19 vaccine.²³

Levardis (LeVar) Robert Martyn Burton, Jr., February 16, 1957; birth time unknown (noon CET used); Landstuhl, Germany (49°N25', 007°E34'); X: Multiple internet sources.

How curious that another *Star Trek* helmsman would be making news in the last week of June, but as you can see, LeVar Burton's Venus–Mars square was activated by transiting Mars and will be activated all year by the Saturn–Uranus square. (See **Chart 4**, p. 11.) He wants a new creative outlet (transiting Uranus square natal Venus) and he's not afraid

to be daring and disciplined in his efforts to win it (transiting Uranus conjunct natal Mars and transiting Saturn conjunct Venus and square Mars).

Burton wants to be the next host of *Jeopardy!* In an interview with *The New York Times Magazine* on July 4, he said he'd be hurt if he wasn't chosen, and that he's been preparing for the job all his life.²⁴ Does he have a chance? I haven't looked at the charts for the other 15 candidates, and I wish we had a birth time, but his Sun-Pluto opposition will be hit three times by Jupiter in 2021. Transiting Jupiter in contact with the Sun and/or Pluto often coincides with expansion, access to resources, and empowerment. Look at what's going on with Olivia Rodrigo. But a potential downside of Jupiter to the Sun is over-confidence. Hmm.

On the first pass of Jupiter to his Sun (April 25), he gave the show's producers a petition signed by hundreds of thousands of fans who supported his bid. He wasn't on the original list, you see — and only got a shot thanks to a fierce online campaign on behalf of the beloved *Reading Rainbow* host.²⁵ Burton's trial run occurred during the last week of July (did you watch?), and on August 17, Jupiter conjoined his Sun for the second time and met up with his North Node on September 13. Jupiter-Node contacts suggest "good relationships and positive associations."²⁶ How rewarded will he feel on Jupiter's third pass to the Sun on December 15? The suspense is killing me!



LeVar Burton by Super Festivals from Ft. Lauderdale, USA, CC BY 2.0

References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in July 2021.)

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4. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/arts-entertainment/2019/07/16/extraordinary-trek-george-takei/>
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9. Robert Hand, *Planets in Transit*, Whitford Press, 1976, p. 405
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12. Noel Tyl, *Synthesis and Counseling in Astrology*, Llewellyn, 1994, p. 79
13. Six days after Nassib's announcement, US Olympic track team member Sydney McLaughlin smashed the 400m world record at the trials. Her 14° Leo Sun is in a fixed grand cross with 14° Scorpio Mars, 14° Aquarius Uranus, and 16° Taurus Saturn. See the similarities?
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