

# *The Starfire Messenger*

**A Free Weekly Newsletter**

**From Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.**

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## **Key Dates for June 2020**

June of 2020 promises to be a potent passage in time. Filled with two eclipses, planetary stations, compelling planetary aspects, and a dramatic Full Moon configuration, this month is sure to be a time in which we are presented with abundant opportunities to accelerate our evolution, both collectively and individually.

Dominant throughout the month is a dynamic involving significant astrological happenings in the mutable signs of Gemini, Sagittarius, and Pisces, a suggestion that world events, immediate surroundings, and points of view will see much shifting, revision, and adaptation. Duality and fluidity as principles of evolution will be much in evidence. The emergence of new and different information is sure to be part of the mix, as Mercury turns retrograde mid-month and causes a complete re-examination of statistics and concepts used in the covid world crisis.

Yet, the real trend maker lurks in the background, building power all month. It's another Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in authoritative Capricorn, sign of force, authority, governance, and business, but also of necessary deliberations, decisions, commitments, duties, and obligations. Its worst face demonstrates in the form of the recent unwarranted police brutality in Minneapolis, resulting in the death of yet another unarmed Black American. Ruthless use of power over others has, unfortunately, become the hallmark of the dark side to the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction of 2020, which takes place three times throughout the year.

The second conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto in Capricorn taking place in late June 2020 is similar in meaning and character to the first one, which occurred in early April 2020. This time, however, as Jupiter makes the conjunction to Pluto, it will be in retrograde motion, thus imparting to this conjunction a slightly different twist. April's Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in governmental and restrictive Capricorn saw the imposition of harsh regulations upon the civilian public worldwide, severely limiting freedoms of assembly, travel, employment, and free speech. In many locations, police power was called in to stop persons from carrying out what were, only a few short weeks before, the normal activities of life. Excessive and unreasoning force has become one of the dominant expressions of the severe Capricorn archetype, although in its divine essence, such is not the whole truth about this sign. Nonetheless, restraint in exercising power remains a necessary concern of the world's people.

The June conjunction with Jupiter in retrograde motion will undoubtedly bring about the re-evaluation of the harsh governmental policies imposed earlier in the year, as the real numbers concerning covid morbidity rates<sup>1</sup> and the real numbers concerning the economic impact of

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<sup>1</sup> At newsletter production time, even the American Centers for Disease Control is now admitting that its earlier estimates for the covid morbidity rate were far too high. It is thus apparent that governmental decisions were driven by exaggerated predictive numbers.

lockdown force decision-makers into accountability. With this inquiry into the reasons for accepting inflated figures as background, it is likely that public fury over enforced unemployment will erupt, as Mars enters Aries late in June, stirring up individual drive, the will to express, and the courage to confront. Within this global context of intense scrutiny placed on government and business for leading humanity down a perilous path, it remains possible, however, for disciples and spiritual seekers to advance meaningfully on the path of initiation, as Ray 2 Jupiter and Ray 1 Pluto combine forces in Capricorn, sign of the Mount of Initiation. The key to making such an advance lies in applying the positive characteristics of Capricorn: time management, self-discipline, right choice, focused will, and the embrace of higher standards. In other words, those who raise the bar on themselves will learn, like fearless mountain goats, to leap higher and with greater confidence over the gaping abyss.

The month of June 2020 starts off with an emphasis on the two double-bodied signs of Gemini and Pisces, as Venus (now retrograde in Gemini) makes the exact square to Mars in Pisces. Gemini as the two linked twins and Pisces as the two conjoined fishes thus make for a complex mixture of polarized yet interacting positions, a scenario likely to emerge with this square between Venus and Mars, both positioned in signs of division and multiplicity. Exact on **June 2** from 14 degrees Gemini to 14 degrees Pisces, the square between these two planets will condition the collective psychic atmosphere for the entire first week of the month, with greatest intensity on the day of exactitude (**June 2**). This square pits culture-loving Ray 5 Venus of the higher mind against passionate Ray 6 Mars of the sentimental astral zone, stirring up a furious conflict of values and points of view. Fragmentation and schism are likely to play large and evident roles, as different points of view clash and vie for acceptance. A division is likely to be seen between those who espouse a scientific analysis (as embodied in Ray 5 Venus and mental Gemini) and those who espouse a purely ideological or sectarian analysis (as embodied in Ray 6 Mars and

psychically-responsive Pisces). As a result, many false and forced choices are likely to be presented in personal spaces and in public debate at this time, as intensively entrenched points of view seek to cast matters in dramatic contrasts.

Intellectual and social tensions continue to garner attention as the Sun conjuncts retrograde Venus at the 13<sup>th</sup> degree of Gemini on **June 3**. This aspect is likely to showcase recent upheavals and reversals in the areas of social connections, friendships, partnerships, and alliances, as all parties involved seek to scrutinize what lies behind words and rhetoric. This will not be easy going, given the retrograde condition of Venus in Gemini, which tends to make the formation of factual impression more difficult than usual. On the positive side, the emphasis on Gemini resulting from the Sun-Venus conjunction in that sign will, throughout the first week of June, surely serve to stimulate intellectual curiosity, discussion, debate, and examination of issues covering all the bases. Indeed, the Sun-Venus conjunction in early June highlights the attractive power of ideas, as the magnetic Ray 2 Sun blends energies with the intellectuality of Ray 5 Venus. At the same time, the first week of June is saturated with the Ray 2 energies pouring through Gemini. This impact will help to draw together those who have ideas to share with one another. Telepathic links will grow strong under the influence of Gemini, Ray 2, and Venus throughout this period.

Then comes the dramatic period of the **June Full Moon**, important in its own right every year for its role as the Festival of Goodwill, but also further powered up this year by the twin facts that, on the one hand, this particular Full Moon is a lunar eclipse, and on the other, this Full Moon configuration falls precisely square to transiting Mars in Pisces. Precise Full Moon moment takes place on **Friday June 5** at 2:12 pm CDT when the Moon at 16 degrees of Sagittarius opposes the Sun at 16 degrees of Gemini. This will be a noticeable highpoint, with intensive spiritual energies pouring in from the Sun and its stellar compatriots located in the constellation of Gemini, thus conducting massive Ray 2 energies into Earth

experience. This unifying Ray 2 influence will help to knit together the fractured and multiple points of view kicked up by the emphasis on the mutable signs of Gemini and Pisces occurring throughout the early days of June. At the same time, however, all the flaming emotional intensities associated with hot-headed Mars in sentimental Pisces will be activated as the Sun in Gemini squares Mars in Pisces, exact on **June 6**.

**June 4 – 6** is thus certain to be both volatile in terms of mass reaction to the energies and potent in terms of potential for acceleration of evolution in those committed to the path of discipleship and initiation. Astral activation of mass consciousness is likely to be overwhelming at this time; stabilization through meditative focus can help from the higher levels. Aspiration toward higher goals will be strong due to the inflow of Ray 2 through Gemini and Ray 6 through Mars and Pisces. This aspirational component bodes well for successful upward alignment with the inspiring sources of Hierarchy, Shamballa, Avataric Beings, and cosmic energies at the Full Moon of June 2020.

This trend of upward alignment continues well after the Full Moon, for not long after, on **June 10 and 13**, Ray 6 Neptune will be emphasized, thus drawing forth a mystical and aspirational trend, as well as giving rise to notable attention in the direction of conventional religion. Bringing this trend into focus is the square of the Sun in Gemini to Neptune in Pisces on **June 10**, and then the conjunction of Mars and Neptune on June **13**. Given that both Mars and Neptune distribute Ray 6, these two configurations operating **June 10 – 13** are sure to stir up a great deal of astral reaction in the mass population. Such reactions include intensive antipathy, agitation, blame-throwing, anxiety, and fear. Irrational assumptions may be made or promoted during this period, therefore. At the same time, however, the more elevated component of Neptunian influence is also available,

stimulating the development of the buddhic or intuitive function.<sup>2</sup> Thus, like the Full Moon period of June 4 - 6, the interval **June 10 – 13** promises marked evolutionary potential even in the midst of public upheaval and distress.

Mercury throws its Ray 4 hat into the ring on **June 17** at 11:59 pm CDT, when it turns stationary retrograde at 15 degrees of the sign Cancer. Appearing to backtrack through the degrees of the zodiac, Mercury retrograde in memory-rich Cancer will take us on a journey back into the past – perhaps the deep past, indeed, such as into past life memories and experiences in between incarnations. According to the esoteric astrology of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan, Cancer is a sign of incarnation or coming into form. Retrograde Mercury in this sign can easily therefore call up images relating to the process of taking form, such as might be had on the soul plane while determining the circumstances, conditions, and themes for a new incarnation, as well as experiences undergone while in the intra-uterine environment immediately prior to taking physical birth. Similarly, while Mercury is retrograde, projects and concepts treasured at distant previous times now exert powerful pulls. Our early formative roots call out to us and evoke a strong instinctive response. In many senses, we long to go home again, wherever home may be construed to exist. As a result, we take a detour into an alternative angle of vision through **July 12**, when Mercury goes stationary direct at 6 degrees of Cancer. The shifts of perspective, changes of plans, and alteration of travel routes typical of retrograde Mercury escort us down memory lane, an instructive experience for our now moment. At the same time, facts and numbers held to be

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<sup>2</sup> In the esoteric cosmology and astrology of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan, the planet Neptune is associated with the level of consciousness denoted buddhic. As the Tibetan Teacher has written, “No man begins to coordinate the buddhic vehicle until he comes under the influence of Neptune.... When this happens, his personality horoscope will show this influence as dominant.” Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, 899.

sacrosanct only a few weeks before now come up for revision and reconsideration in the realm of public affairs.

Then, even in the midst of oft-confounding retrograde Mercury, excellent conditions shape up for constructive thought and action. On **June 18 and 20**, enterprising Mars in visionary Pisces makes sextiles to powerful Pluto and influential Jupiter, both in well-established Capricorn, thus setting the stage for motivated individuals to connect with executive and governmental figures who can help locate resources and grant necessary permissions. Individually, we find that our efforts are quietly paying off. Encouragement enters the picture in various forms right around this period. The covid numbers are likely to be seen diminishing during this period, as natural vitality asserts itself in the Human Kingdom.

**June 20 - 21** stands out as a red-letter date, with the powerful Cancerian Solstice, the New Moon in Cancer, and a solar eclipse all arriving together. This combination of celestial energetics is sure to impact our planet dramatically. The sign of Cancer symbolizes the mass of Humanity, thus suggesting that compelling events of a collective nature will take place at this point. The Cancerian Solstice always brings to a culmination those trends and objectives which were formulated six months earlier at the Capricornian Solstice. **June 20 – 21** thus sees the fruition of intentions set around Capricorn Solstice of December 2019. Since the covid crisis emerged in Wuhan China around this very point in time, it is likely that the whole crisis will have exhausted its primary thrust around the Cancerian Solstice of late June 2020. A new set of issues will therefore emerge with the Cancerian Solstice and simultaneous New Moon on **June 20 – 21**. For committed spiritual seekers, the notable turning point indicated by the simultaneous occurrence of Solstice, New Moon, and solar eclipse in Ray Seven-influence Cancer suggests that actions and occurrences taking place in the physical world will now confirm timing considerations in regard to the taking of form, incarnation, or externalization of the Hierarchy.

Then, the astral-buddhic energies of Neptune make yet another appearance, just as they shall have done earlier in the month, each time calling forth the presence of the cosmic soul principle, also referred to as the Christ principle, and therefore connected with the Christ as the center of Hierarchy. On **June 22 - 23**, transiting Neptune makes a retrograde station at 20 degrees of Pisces, thus underscoring the power of the Christ Principle and all the rays involved: Rays 2 and 6 through Pisces, and Ray 6 through Neptune. The idealism inspired by the Sixth Ray Master Jesus thus comes forth powerfully, as does the Second Ray Message of the World Teacher. Mystical, metaphysical, aspirational, religious, and spiritual inclinations thus grow strong around this date. A great longing for higher spiritual contact will be much in evidence. Powers and abilities of spiritual healing for both psychological and physical ailments now capture the attention of Humanity, revealing that many things not understood by the lower mind remain possible nonetheless. Visions of subjective realities and objective phenomenal appearances enter awareness now, convincingly demonstrating that the higher planes exist, as do Beings of accelerated evolutionary status.

At the same time, around the Neptune activation of **June 22 – 23**, those who are not stabilized in their higher faculties are likely to be buffeted by strong currents of emotion and mass reaction, as fears and paranoias circulate, proliferate, and exaggerate. Excessive gullibility and obsequious submission to authority emerge, both remnants from the slowly departing Age of Pisces, the age of obedience to authority. Further intensifying attitudes and adjustments lingering from the Age of Pisces but now rapidly becoming obsolete, Neptune remains retrograde in Pisces through November 29, a normal duration for the outer planets to appear in retrogradation (approximately half the year), all the while kicking up the problems and challenges of acute astral sensitivity, fear, the desire to run and hide under the seeming security of an all-powerful authority figure, and the corresponding willingness to sacrifice the power of individual



inquiry into truth. Against this background throwback toward the Age of Pisces, disciples and seekers may still persist in forward momentum toward the values and practices of the current Age of Aquarius. Note that at the retrograde station of Neptune on **June 22 - 23**, a strong eruption of the Neptunian planetary energy results, making the period around **June 22 - 23** meaningful in that the energies of sacred planet Neptune become potently available. This influence closely follows the powerful Cancerian Solstice on June 20, making the entire period of **June 20 – 23** rich for productive meditation and higher spiritual alignment.

Just a few days later on **June 25**, Venus turns direct at 5 degrees of Gemini, adding a blast of Venus energies to the scene of Earth experience and correcting the numerous social misunderstandings which occurred from mid-May through late June. Close on the heels of the Venus fix, Mars enters spunky and pioneering Aries on **June 27** and makes the exact sextile to Saturn in teamworking Aquarius on **June 28**, signifying the emergence of new cooperative ventures.

In the background all along, the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction forms in exactitude on **June 29 – 30** at 24 degrees of Capricorn. Of considerable strength, this combination exerts influence for at least a month before and after exactitude, thus casting the presence of the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction over the two months of June and July entirely. As a result, by the time of the exact conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto on **June 29 – 30**, the influence of this combination shall have been growing and becoming more palpable for an entire month. June and July 2020 are thus colored and conditioned strongly by the energy field of the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction. While this activation serves on the outer level to emphasize power players and the role of outsized government and business, it also contains potent energies to forward the cause of conscious evolution. Pluto supplies Ray One qualities of will and power to the quest, while Jupiter supplies Ray Two qualities of expansiveness and inclusion. Both draw down the influence of Capricorn, a sign repeatedly referred to in the esoteric cosmology and

astrology of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan as indicative of the power to endure tests, demonstrate character, prove mettle, and stand for initiation. The months of June and July thus offer much promise for accelerated progress for those willing to accept the challenge.

June 2020 closes out with the Sun conjunct retrograde Mercury in Cancer on **June 30**, thus amplifying the introspective nature of both retrograde Mercury and the reclusive Crab, sign of home, family, origin, and roots. We are thus called to our traditions and ancestries, whether these are personal or spiritual.

### **Analysis and Predictions for the Week Ahead: June Full Moon**

**Monday June 1** sees the now rapidly waxing Moon in the intellectually cool and detached sign of Libra make a trine to both the Sun and Venus in mentally-polarized Gemini, setting the stage for undisturbed intellectual process. Even so, Venus and Mars are moving into square, making us aware of crossed positions and competing agendas. Inner conflict over right direction emerges on the mental level.

**Tuesday June 2** continues the theme of inner and outer contention, as the Venus-Mars square becomes exact. The rapidly waxing Moon enters Scorpio and takes the action to the level of deep-seated feelings and the subconscious. Tensions are particularly noticeable around 10 pm CDT, when the Moon opposes Uranus, bringing that which has been hidden right out into notice through shocking realization.

**Wednesday June 3** brings the exact conjunction of Sun and Venus in changeable Gemini, emphasizing needs for diverse types of experience. Freedom of mind and inquiry rate high in priorities. Individuals with uncommon interests make mental and social connections.

The Moon in Scorpio makes sextiles to Pluto and Jupiter on **Thursday June 4**, and then enters cheery and metaphysical Sagittarius to sextile Saturn, thus setting up an atmosphere of can-do attitudes and interest in higher teachings.

The drive for higher knowledge gains overpowering strength on **Friday June 5**, as the Moon reaches Full Phase in Sagittarius, sign of higher mind. At the same time, Mercury in Cancer makes the sextile to Uranus in Taurus, causing thoughtforms to shape with startling clarity in meditation. Public tension reaches a breaking point, as the Full Moon interacts with Mars in Pisces. Groups of persons are likely to gather in public spaces and demand redress for inequities. (Read: Minneapolis, for Pisces symbolizes the long-suffering African community, and Mars in this sign signifies action taken in the name of the marginalized.)

**June 6** continues the theme of potentially violent public demonstrations under the volatile, fiery, full Sagittarius Moon, prompting outspoken declarations of principles. The Sun squares Mars, further provoking irritation. Situations cool down just before 3 pm CDT when the Moon enters more subdued Capricorn.

The Moon in restrained Capricorn defines the theme for **Sunday June 7**. Authorities step in and enforce order. Potential for community agreement cautiously arises around 9 pm CDT when the Moon in Capricorn makes the soothing sextile to Mars in Pisces. Although centuries-old legitimate grievances can't be solved in a day, a moment of understanding arises. This is as true anywhere as it is in a Minneapolis, a New York, or a Ferguson.