

Healer uses astrology to empower, educate clients

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
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Did you know that the very moment you were born a virtual road map of your existence could already be charted that illustrates "the hand you've been dealt" in life? This blueprint is known as your birth or natal chart.

"Knowing how to interpret your birth chart arms you with the knowledge to help you steer your boat, so to speak, through life's uncharted waters," said Susan Austin. "And we all know — knowledge is power."

Austin, a metaphysical reader, has been working at BodyWorks Healing Center in Plymouth's Old Village since 1993 yet honing her psychic and astrological skills for the past 22 years. She said when she first began studying astrology in the late 1970s it wasn't as widely accepted as it is

today.

"I got a lot of criticism and strange looks from people when I told them about what I did and what my interests were. People thought I was crazy," said Austin.

Having had visions as a child and a strong attraction to astrology, Austin says she uses her natural abilities to help people seek greater knowledge about themselves. She uses astrology, reads tarot and tarot cards, chakra scanning and intuitive healing and guidance.

"I basically help them tune in to their own energy. It's terribly difficult to be objective about ourselves. Lots of issues can get in the way, like our ego and our emotions. I don't predict events but I can interpret the natural cycles people are inclined to encounter and I know what areas to look out for."

Interpreting the signs

Astrology is based on a two-dimensional chart showing the position of the sun, the moon, and planets at the precise moment of your birth.

According to Austin, a skilled natural healer understands "what reflects back" from your birth chart and can help you comprehend lessons you have to learn, issues to be faced, and problems to be solved.

Austin says she can't force people to make changes — that's up to the individual and the choices they make once they possess the knowledge their birth chart holds.

"I can offer people the insight into why they may make the choices in life they do or behave a certain way, but to be perfectly honest there are no cut-and-dry answers that come from astrology. However, understanding

where you're coming from will help you begin the healing process."

Austin says not only has the acceptance of her talents changed dramatically in the last two decades, but so has the way in which she's able to develop an individual's birth chart. Thanks to technology, Austin simply enters your birth date, day of the week, time of the day and year and a computer program provides a printout that Austin uses as a guide. In the past, she said everything was written out by hand and involved a great deal of mathematical calculations.

"One wrong number and the whole chart would be in error," said Austin.

The chart includes information about the sun and the moon and the planets in signs; the houses; planets in the houses (behavior influences) and your

ascendant, or rising sign (impacts personality).

Austin does initial readings once she's developed your "blueprint" and each reading is recorded on cassette tape so the individual may refer to them later. Other readings typically follow.

Twelve houses

The 12 houses of the horoscope define 12 areas of your life. The beginning of each of the houses is called its cusp. Each house has what is called a natural ruling sign and natural ruling planets. That is the sign and planet associated with that house that begins with Aries and ends with Pisces.

The 12 areas of our life that are depicted include:

- Behavior, health, appearance.
- Material side, financial condition.

- Early childhood, siblings, early education.
- Family life, domestic affairs, home, end of life.
- Love affairs, children, creativity.
- Work, health issues.
- Marriage partner, business partners.
- Attitudes about life/death, legacies, sex.
- Religion, higher learning, travel.
- Social status, fame, reputation.
- Friends, social associations, goals, wishes.
- Hidden resources, subconscious, hidden problems.

Austin teaches Level I and Level II Astrology classes for beginners and intermediate students. The next six week class starts Feb. 12, 2000. For more information call (734) 416-5200.

Rocks, crystals hold inherent energies

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That pretty blue gemstone set in gold on your right hand may be more than an accessory to your wardrobe, it could also be a healing aid that's working with your body's own magnetic field.

According to Pamela Zuch of BodyWorks Healing Center in Plymouth's Old Village, rocks and crystals are the tools she uses to help calm chaotic energy, promote healing, turn negative emotions into positive ones and induce inner peace among others.

"Stones and crystals have immeasurable powers to influence and enhance the healing process," said Zuch. "I wear a lot of them for their different effects, because I'm drawn to others and as a support buffer."

Zuch, a healer who refers to herself as "a Jill of all trades," also is knowledgeable in tarot, Reiki, Tarot (learned from Ahambra Institute), Reiki, intuitive healing, psychometry and crystal healing. She's also certified in iridology (a belief that each area of the body is represented by a corresponding area in the iris of the eye — a person's health and disease status can be diagnosed from the color, texture, and location of various pigment flecks in the eye).

Intrinsic value

Individual rocks and crystals have various healing powers and each of the seven chakras in our body have their own healing stone. Chakras are innate energy systems that correlate to a major nerve in our spinal column. Using the correct stone,

the object is placed on the appropriate chakra to focus its energy to the area that needs healing.

Zuch says if she can't get a feeling for the kinds of rocks and crystals people need she'll often lay them out and ask the person to choose which ones they're drawn to, for whatever reason.

"The vibrational energy of the stones have a luring power unto themselves," said Zuch.

There are literally hundreds of different rocks, crystals and gemstones in existence. Listed below are a few, along with their natural healing powers:

■ Malachite: Cleanses the emotional body, releases old trauma of past lives.

■ Lapis lazuli: Cleanses the mental body, changes negative views of reality into positive ones.

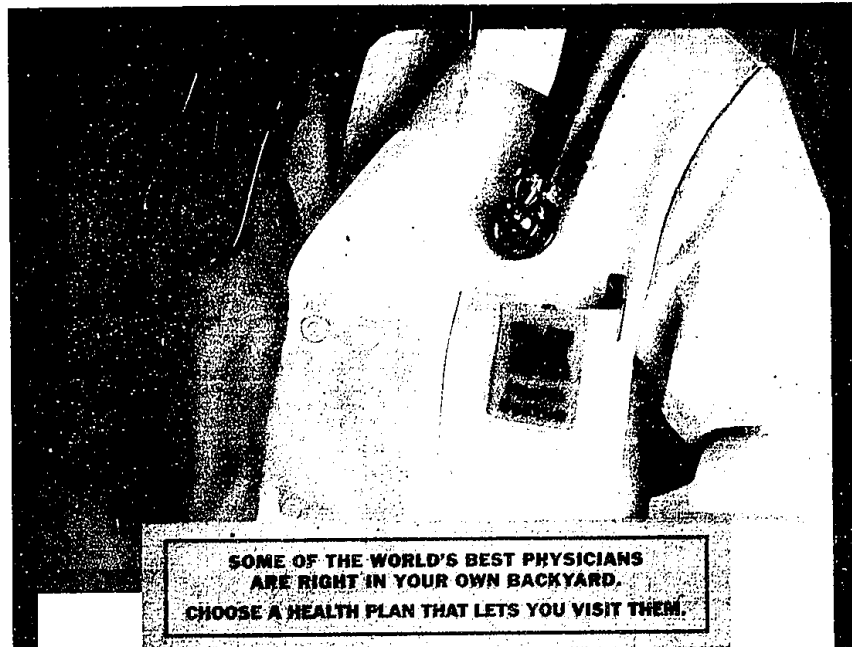
■ Rose quartz: Promotes the healing heart through self love, self esteem and body image. Fosters inner peace.

■ Citrine: Useful to balance energy.

■ Green fluorite: Aids ability to meditate, brings healing to emotional body and heart chakra.

Zuch said crystals are more than ornamental accessories in our homes or articles that we wear as a trendy fashion statement. "Stones and rocks are natural objects that emit their own electrical frequencies. It's important for people to know the healing powers they possess and use them appropriately."

If you would like to meet with Pamela Zuch, contact BodyWorks Healing Center of Plymouth at (734) 416-5200. She teaches classes in Tarot and in the use of crystals in healing.



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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Items for Medical Datebook are welcome from all hospitals, physicians, companies and residents active in the Observer-area medical community. Items should be sent to: Medical Datebook, c/o The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, e-mail kmortson@oe.homecomm.net or faxed to (734) 591-7279.

Fertility Challenge Support Group, helps individuals or couples cope with the emotional consequences of infertility. Group meets from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Beaumont Hospital.

TUE, NOV. 23

CANCER SEMINAR

An educational program designed for cancer patients and their support person. Learn more about cancer, treatment, nutrition, managing treatment side effects, reducing stress and more. Program runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Providence Hospital Southfield, 16001 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield. Call (877) 345-6500 for information.

WED, NOV. 24

NEWBORN CARE

A two session class meets for the first time at 6 p.m. Designed to help expectant parents learn about their baby's needs. The second session includes child and infant CPR conducted by the American Heart Association instructors. Registration required by calling (734) 468-4330.

WED, DEC. 1

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