

Interview *with* Georgia Stathis



SPENDING TIME WITH GEORGIA STATHIS

A first-generation Greek-American with cultural roots in myth, story, and trade, **Georgia Stathis** is a USA-based astrologer and popular international lecturer who started her practice in 1977 and has been going strong since.

She regularly contributes to the astrological community through books, articles, lectures, curriculum development, and various learning materials, including the annual **Starcycles Cheat Sheet**, released each August.

Her courses are offered through diverse international astrological organizations, including **ISAR, NCGR, OPA, FAA, Astrology Hub**, and the **New Moon School** in Beijing, China.

Currently, she leads the **Alexandria iBase Project** –AIP— a nexus point for locating astrological information and books worldwide from any historical period.

Georgia pursues many enlivening interests and talents, as we'll discover in this interview that gets to know her personally and professionally. — William Sebrans, Lead Editor

TELL US ABOUT YOU

After a long, distinguished career in varied expressions of astrology, what is your current focus?

In 2023, I will teach a 10-week Business & Astrology course previously taught for New Moon School in Beijing. This time, it will be in English and through my company, www.starcycles.com.

I am considering a series called *Before They Go Away* to present the core essentials from old astrology books that are no longer available.

I might collaborate with someone like you, Will, on podcasts about films, myth, and astrology. I might even do a series of presentations on historical astrological cycles around fashion, a life-time pursuit that should be fun, too. I want to explore things that are fun but also interesting to balance out my left and right brain.

And finally, for personal satisfaction, I loved taking metal and jewelry fabrication courses in St. Petersburg, FL, where I reside part-time, and will resume classes there again in 2023.

Your best qualities?

I am kind, always curious, and try to connect the 'dots' with friends, people, ideas, and genres. I try to help people—give them the benefit of the doubt. I am loyal, honest, and respectful. Also, extremely independent.

Your most challenging qualities, either for yourself or others?

I have an active and curious mind, which can be challenging because I am interested in many things. It has me juggling sev-

eral ideas or projects and learning to triage what is important. A challenge I often have is accepting the myopic views of individuals who refuse to look at both sides of an issue and stay so fixed in their opinion without exploring other ways of thinking or doing something. I then disengage.

Spiritual orientation: Do you align with any tradition and/or follow specific practice(s)?

I was raised Greek Orthodox, and though not a regular churchgoer, I still appreciate the more mystical aspects of the services—the incense, the chanting, the beautiful voices, and the music...all quite soothing. Also refreshing is that they've curtailed the damning judgments one often finds in organized religions.

I've walked in nature with a dear friend every Sunday morning for the last 25 years and find that to be very much 'church' for me. I often hike alone to clear my head and let thoughts clarify themselves. And I try to meditate at least five times a week for the centering that brings.

Formal education?

B.S Northwestern University in Speech and Communication and Theater, M.B.A. Pepperdine University.

California Real Estate License since 1979 and recently 'let it go.'

Two years of graphic arts study in Oakland, CA.

You never tried...

Bungee-jumping...and never will. Windsurfing, and just might.

You can't refuse...

Someone who is in great need. I am better at setting boundaries now, but I try to help others if I can. But once everyone's taken care of, I can't refuse a good cannoli with mascarpone cheese. For the goods, go to Vaccaro's Bakery in Baltimore. It will complete you.

What constitutes playtime and renewal for you?

Hiking, cooking, and escaping to movies in the late afternoon for what I call Movie Therapy. In a parallel universe, I would have gone into the drama/film arts. I see movies as an expression of our modern mythology. Then there's Music Therapy—listening to various artists from diverse genres – Bruce Hornsby, Crosby Stills and Nash, opera, and Broadway music.

I've always enjoyed fashion design, art exhibits, and museums. I'm Greek, so I deeply value visiting with friends and my adult children and being able to bandy about all kinds of ideas. I love seeing a great play, dancing, or going away alone to a beautiful place by the ocean to 'think' and 'be' in nature with no schedule or time commitments. I treasure my time alone.

Name a few favorite places and why...

Bodega Bay, California—the ocean, the air, the quiet, the sounds, the good sleep

Downtown Chicago (my hometown!)—great blues, deep dish pizza, the Art Institute, authentic heartland energy

Copenhagen—the architectural charm and friendliness of the people

Australia—especially Brisbane and Sydney. I like the freshness, spontaneity, and enterprising spirit of the Aussies and their directness without malice.

Northern Spain in the Pyrenees—there's freedom in the mountains there, paradors, and the gazpacho

What sort of work did you do in the world before and even during the time of being an astrologer?

Costume design, calligraphy teacher, belly dancer, public relations, advertising sales, real estate sales, marketing, design, investing in and running large companies

If we use the frame of life as having evolutionary lessons, what have you come to understand as yours?

There have been many iterations in my life—I have had many skins, so to speak—marriage, children, divorce, loss of family at early ages, diverse occupational experiences, and, of course, astro-



Georgia with family and close friends in France, and showing off her culinary expertise.

logical teaching, writing, and consulting. The key thing is that each time I changed the direction or life changed me, I learned to pivot even though, at the time, I may have resisted. When I resisted less, magic happened and pointed me in the right direction.

Sun, Moon, Ascendant, MC?

Pisces Sun and Moon, Taurus Ascendant, and Aquarius MC.

What in your chart points to an astrological calling and your aptitude for different expressions of it?

A Grand Air Trine links Uranus in Gemini to my Libra South Node and Venus in Aquarius in the 10th House (Koch) —all suggesting potential success and suitability in the astrological profession. The Sun, Moon, and Mars are in Pisces in the 11th House, so I love helping people with their goals. Jupiter in Capricorn in the 9th House is always learning, traveling, teaching, and expanding metaphysical frontiers. Mercury in Aquarius trines Neptune for a visionary perspective—intuitively connecting the out-there dots. Pluto opposes Mercury in a way that compels dialed-down rigor in doing the research.

YOU, THE ASTROLOGER

Was there an AHA moment or two, when you knew the astrological path was for you?

Yes, it was in my early 20s when working for a large public relations firm in San Francisco. We had a three-day temp come in who sat next to my desk. She pulled out Joan Quigley's book on her break, and I recognized the symbols on the cover.

It triggered a memory from when I was ten years old. My mother paid me a quarter for one day's worth of housework (I worked cheap!), and I would go to the drugstore and buy the 'birthday' Dell Books to learn about peoples' birthdays. I didn't understand it was astrology, but the symbols stayed in my mind. That temp—a lovely, robust red-headed Irish lady—handed me her book when I mentioned my memory. She told me, "Oh, this is wonderful stuff; please take the book home and read it."

And I did. It was a huge book, and I devoured it in three days, brought it back to her, and she left. Never saw her again! Also, I was married then, and my husband had a radio show with astrologer interviews. I heard those and started taking classes! It stuck, and it has stuck for over 50 years!

Your prime Astrology teachers and influences?

Jean Mulgrew: esoteric

Carol Lincoln: chart structure

Wendy Ashley: mythological connections to astrology

Grace Morris: business astrology

Raymond Merriman: business astrology

Jean Coleman: horary

Theresa Weed: Vedic

So many more through the years. But these were the early ones, some of whom have passed, but I still honor them.

Here's an unfair question for someone spearheading an international astrological library database...Share 3 (or more) never-lose or give-away-without-replacing astrology books?

Stephen Arroyo: Astrology, Karma, and Transformation

Thyrza Escobar: Sidelights of Astrology

Melanie Reinhart: Chiron and the Healing Journey

What have been key areas of focus in your practice, client work, or teaching?

Natal, of course, for years. Because I was working in the real estate world, clients began asking me about career changes, vocations, and timing, pushing me to research business and financial cycles. In 1984, I went to my first Business Astrology conference in New York; that clinched it for me. It connected my dots! I could see the connections, combining two very familiar worlds for me. It saved time, too, doing that :).

I have shared frequently, *"When people heal their self-worth, they make more money."*

What do you feel are your greatest accomplishments to date in your astrology career?

I team-taught the pioneering Undergraduate Program at Kepler College for eight years. I have written many articles and contributed to journals and books. My two published books are *Business Astrology 101: Weaving the Web Between Business and Myth* (2000) and *Pushing through Time: Synodic Cycles and their Developing Phases* (2018).

I am proud of all the classes and courses I have taught online, at conferences, and most recently, the Business and Financial Astrology course, representing 20 years of research, that I taught to students in Beijing, China, for the New Moon School.

THE PROFESSION OF ASTROLOGY

What do you experience as the great thing ... and the difficult thing about being an astrologer?

It is work we do alone, and though it is more accepted now, in the early 1970s, when I started, it was not; you had to be fierce. This was long before conferences, social networks, and the internet. It was hard to find teachers, too. Astrology requires huge swaths of time for study, and the learning never ends.

You need to know your techniques to consult with clients successfully. The more clients you see, the better you get at consulting and seeing the chart. You become experienced at asking yourself, "Okay, where else in this chart can I find the answer to this question?" In my experience, clients want the 'beef' when they come to you. Clients want the potential 'when' or possible 'how' and an 'out of the box idea' that sparks some useful change in their life.

Astrological delineation is unique in allowing you to see the one thing (or more) the client often cannot see. Clients can't and don't want to hear that their 'Sun is in the 6th House and the sign of Leo.' It means nothing to them.

They want to know the deeper meaning of the chart, the thing that makes them uniquely different. They usually want to know what is going on with them now—that is why they called you in the first place.

I find stories to help clients understand what a Pluto or Uranus or Neptune transit is. They 'get' that. I'd like to see more of that in our counseling work combined with the different iterations of a chart—like eclipse hits, solar arcs, secondary progressions, and transits. The client needs to take something away with them and speaking in approachable "English" or whatever language your culture uses is important.

What aspirations/visions do you have for the profession of astrology?

We become more respected over time as a viable resource and one that complements other support modalities. The only way we can do this is to know our technique. Our opinions are nice, but astrology is a timing tool. It is a language that has nuance and depth, and when we speak to lay people, the public, we need to put it in terms of cycles because that is a word the public understands.

I hate the question, "Do you believe in astrology"? Although I don't get that now because I have established myself, in the beginning, it was tough, tough, tough. I gave tangible examples of business cycles that were astrology cycles to straight groups—that is how I started.

After my MBA in 1978, I wrote over 700 letters to all the local service groups like Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions to see if they wanted a speaker. I prepared a 20-minute speech about how astrology is the study of cycles and coined three examples of how it worked if people were open to other ways of looking at progress. It was risky, I was very naïve, and I will tell you, in those days, when there were more men's service groups, you had to know the facts. I got a client from every group here and there, and I am sure several left thinking it was ridiculous, but with a little pinch of possibility.

That's been and continues to be my aspiration for our profession. Give everyone a *pinch of possibility* by contrasting and comparing outer world events with judgment and show how these things have happened in the past and are now in a cycle where they happen again but with a slightly different face.

What inspires you to be an OPA member?

I am an original member of OPA, which started as Pro-Sig. I am also a lifetime OPA member and one of the first contributors to the very first OPA Handbook. I appreciate OPA for its dedication to raising professional standards and for the community it fosters.

Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers?

Love the work and be willing to work—to dive into material that is often overwhelming and confusing. Shake it up, and study with different teachers who have different methods. Don't decide on just one system—not when you are starting. Try many things.



The 49ers at 2012 UAC New Orleans (Well known Astrologers born in 1949)

Also, don't limit your studies to only astrology. To be effective, you also have to BE in the world and know what is happening in many industries. Your job as an astrologer is first to validate the client's subjective experience. Suppose you don't know what is happening in vocations, industries, health therapies, fashion, marketing, technology, science, history, geography, etc. In that case, you cannot bring your whole self to the table to be fully of service to your client. This takes a lot of time and work.

I think Saturn can be the old ruler of Astrology because it is a lot of work. But if you keep at it, over time (Saturn), it gets easier and more fluid. You'll find your style and your ideal client who resonates with it and will send their friends and acquaintances. In that way, you build a practice that aligns with your identity. Don't be afraid to charge appropriately because this work takes a lot of time.

If you want to be part of a respected profession, then be professional in presentation and demeanor—set boundaries for what you can do and cannot. If you can't help someone, refer them to someone who can help them more effectively. And give something back to the future astrologers of this world.

How can people practically support the Alexandria iBase Project at this kairos time in its development?

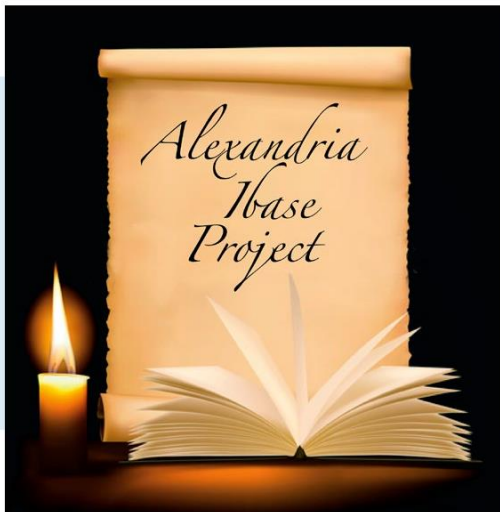
I am the chairperson of the globally-based www.alexandriabase.org project—an invaluable worldwide initiative that started in 2015. Our **mission** is to make it easy for people to locate specific astrological topics in collections and access points they can use for research and continued education in the field or simple enjoyment. This subject-driven database is what makes this resource unique.

We are the link to other libraries —not in competition with them but as an adjunct to their resources.

Nothing has been developed like this before, and we think it's a great idea we know you'll enjoy.

You can use www.alexandriabase.org to find astrological topics **even in your private library.**

For researchers, we offer a free reference librarian service via Anna Grzeszkiewicz (Anna G), who can be reached at Anna.Grz@alexandriabase.org. She will help you find the location for that astrological book or article in either our database or someone else's.



WE ARE LOOKING NOW FOR:

Experienced astrologers to volunteer a few hours a week to review books in our database and identify specific topics in those book listings.

Sustaining Contributions! Maintaining the project costs about \$4800 per month, funded primarily by myself, Urania Trust, and some generous contributors. We look to your enthusiastic support to keep this initiative alive and thriving.

THANK YOU

Thank you, Georgia, for sharing about your astonishingly productive and creative life!

You can get the 2023 Starcycles Cheat Sheet, a color-coded forecast for the new year www.starcycles.com. It's only \$6.95, and you can download it directly to your mobile device. (Editor's note: It's a steal!)

Find out how you can grow and sustain the Alexandria iBase Project: info@alexandriabase.org



Pluto on Georgia's wall, 2011 Hike for Shelter, Void-of-Course-Moon-Baby Georgia.