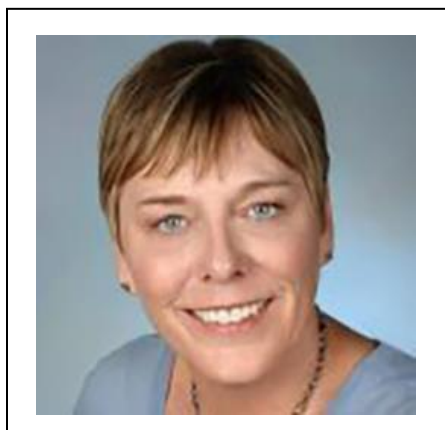


2024 Vedic Lunar New Year

What the Start Of the New Year Can Tell Us About the Next Twelve Months



**By Professor Juliana Swanson,
ACVA Provost and Dean of Academics**

The Vedic Lunar New Year will begin on April 8 this year. This is a special day that celebrates the creative power of the Universe and the divinity within all of life. Among certain sects and traditions of Hindu culture, the beginning of the Vedic Lunar New Year is known as Ugadi or Samvatsaadi. Vedic Astrologers cast a special horoscope at this time, which can tell us about some of the themes and events that may impact us during the year to come.



When Does the Vedic Lunar New Year Occur?

The Vedic Lunar New Year horoscope is one of a multitude of New Year charts used in Vedic Astrology. It is calculated for the exact time of the New Moon in Pisces, when the Sun and Moon conjoin in the same celestial longitude in the Pisces constellation.

This event is known as the Lunar New Year, or *Chaitra Shukla Pratipada*. It marks the first synodic lunar day (tithi) of the waxing Moon (shukla paksha) in the Vedic month of Chaitra. This month occurs on different dates in either March or April every year.

According to Vedic tradition, Lord Brahma created the universe on *Chaitra Shukla Pratipada*. Simply, every year we celebrate the beginning of the Vedic Lunar New Year at the same astrological point that Lord Brahma created the universe!

Entering the Krodhi Year: A Difficult Time for Humanity

The classic text known as *Brihat Samhita* by Sage Varahamihira states that there are 60 samvatsaras or lunar years that continue to cycle throughout time. These 60 years are organized into 12 groups of five. The current group of five years spans from 2022-2027, and the upcoming third year within this group of five is known as Krodhi Nama Samvatsara. The Krodhi year is the 38th of 60 samvatsaras. It will be in place from April 8, 2024, until March 30, 2025. According to Sage Varahamihira, humankind will experience great misery during a Krodhi year.

Each samvatsara carries a particular essence that correlates with its Sanskrit name. Krodhi translates as “angry and wrathful.” The Krodhi year is thus associated with aggression and violence, as well as lust, deceit, self-righteousness, arrogance, and greed. Previous Krodhi years were in 1964, 1904, 1844, and so on. In all these years, humanity experienced the usual spate of disasters, conflicts, and difficulties, but also made some advances, as well.

It’s interesting to look back and see what was happening during the last Krodhi year in 1964. This year was marked by dramatic changes, disasters, war, assassinations, and political and cultural upheaval. Yet, also on a more constructive note, the Civil Rights Act and President Johnson’s War on Poverty were initiated in 1964.

That said, 1964 was quite a troubled time, just as we are seeing again now in 2024:

The most pivotal year of the 1960s, arguably, was 1964. That’s the year the American Dream fell apart, when American culture fractured and eventually split along ideological lines — old vs. young; hip vs. square; poor vs. rich; liberal vs. conservative — establishing the poles of societal debate that are still raging today...everything called into question, from our relationship with our government and the military to our notions of free speech and individual freedom...It was a year of remarkable transition that prefigured 50 years of tumultuous change. (Simons, Tad. [1964: The Year America Lost It](#). Next Avenue, January 7, 2014.)

The Year of Krittika: Potential for Conflict and Illness

Another point of emphasis in the Vedic astrology tradition is to note the Jovian (Jupiter) year. On May 18, 2024, the Jovian year will change from Asvina to Krittika. The Jovian year will change again to Margasirsa in the following year on June 24, 2025. According to *Brihat Samhita*, “Chapter VIII: Jupiter’s Course,” we will see “a clash of arms and outbreak of disease” during a Krittika year.

The Total Solar Eclipse Will Occur on the Vedic New Year - Indicating a Year of Dramatic Events, Turmoil, and Tumult

This year, a total solar eclipse will occur at the time of the New Moon in Pisces at the beginning of the Vedic Lunar New Year. This suggests a period of dramatic events, and possibly a good deal of turmoil and tumult throughout the world. For some parts of the world, it will be more difficult than for others.

Strong Mars and Saturn Energy Throughout the Year

Certain planets will have a strong impact on the world during the next year. Throughout the world, Mars will be the King of the Year. Mars is King because it is the lord of the day (Tuesday) on which the first tithi of shukla pratipada appears before sunrise after the New Moon in Pisces. Mars as the Lord of the Year is associated with wars, fires, crime, and suffering among the people, and more than usual conflict among the people and among their leaders.

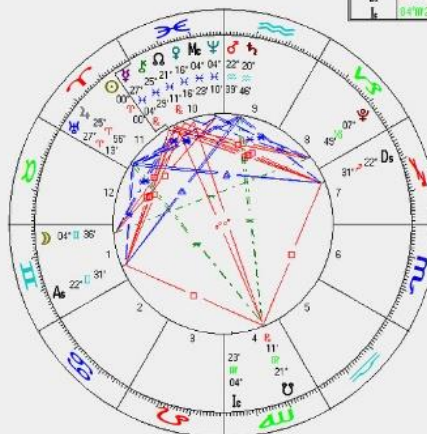
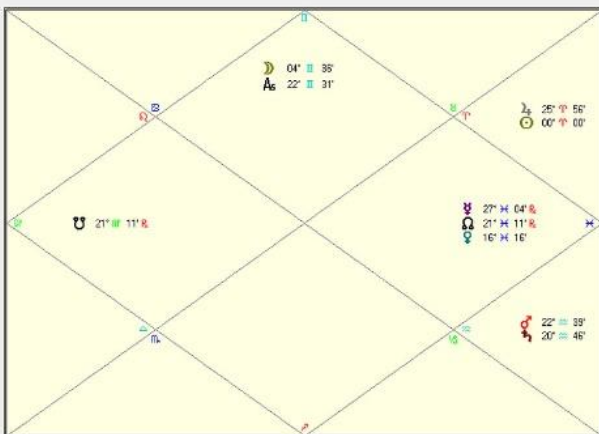
Saturn will be the Prime Minister of the Year. The Prime Minister of the Year is the planet that rules the day when the Sun enters Aries (Mesha Sankranti). This event will occur on a Saturday this year (Saturn's day of the week). Keep in mind that in the Vedic Astrology system, the day extends from sunrise to sunrise. This is the chart for Mesha Sankranti in the United States (Washington, DC):

vedic.pts	
Pt	Long.
☾	04° 36' 19"
☼	00° 00' 00"
♂	27° 04' 04"
♀	16° 04' 16"
♂	22° 00' 39"
♂	25° 00' 56"
♂	20° 00' 46"
♂	21° 00' 11"
♂	21° 00' 11"
♂	22° 00' 10"

Vedic
Mesha Sankranti
 Natal Chart
 Apr 13 2024, Sat
 11:33:44 am EDT +4:00
 Washington, DC
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
 Geocentric
 Lahiri
 Whole Sign
 Mean Node

Western
Mesha Sankranti
 Natal Chart
 Apr 13 2024, Sat
 11:33:44 am EDT +4:00
 Washington, DC
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
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♂	21° 00' 11"
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♂	22° 00' 10"

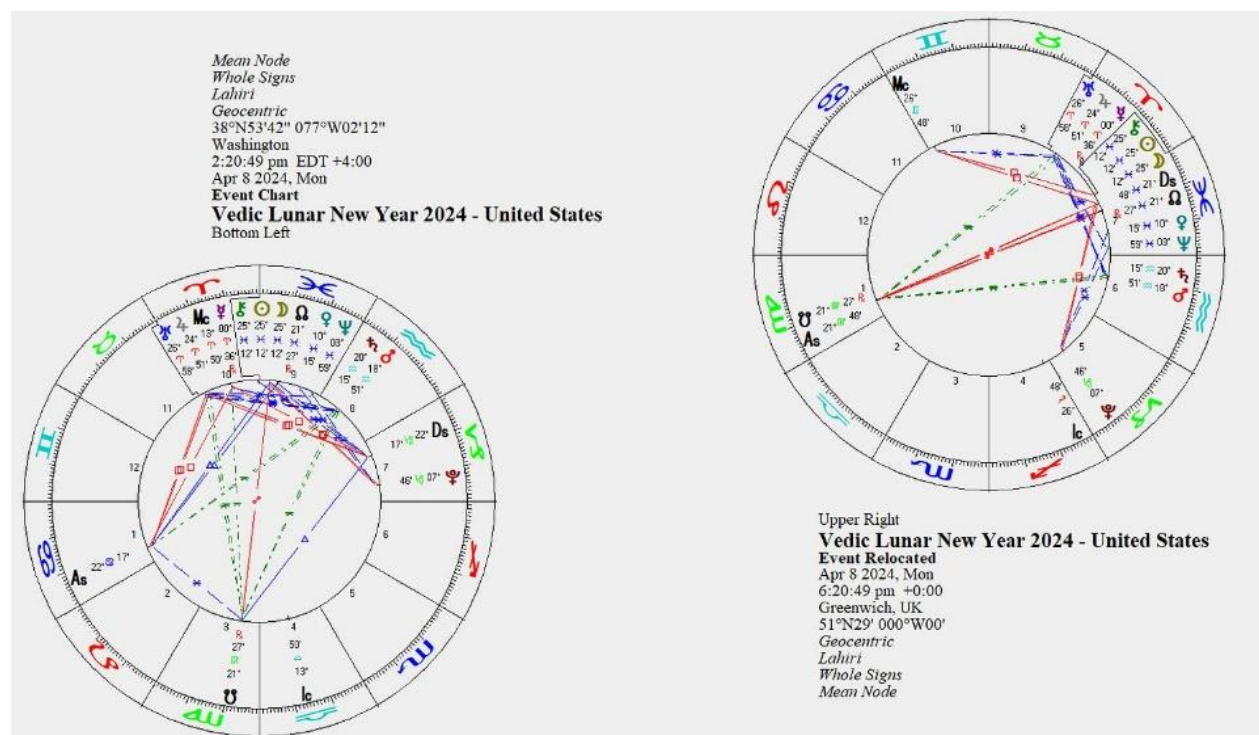


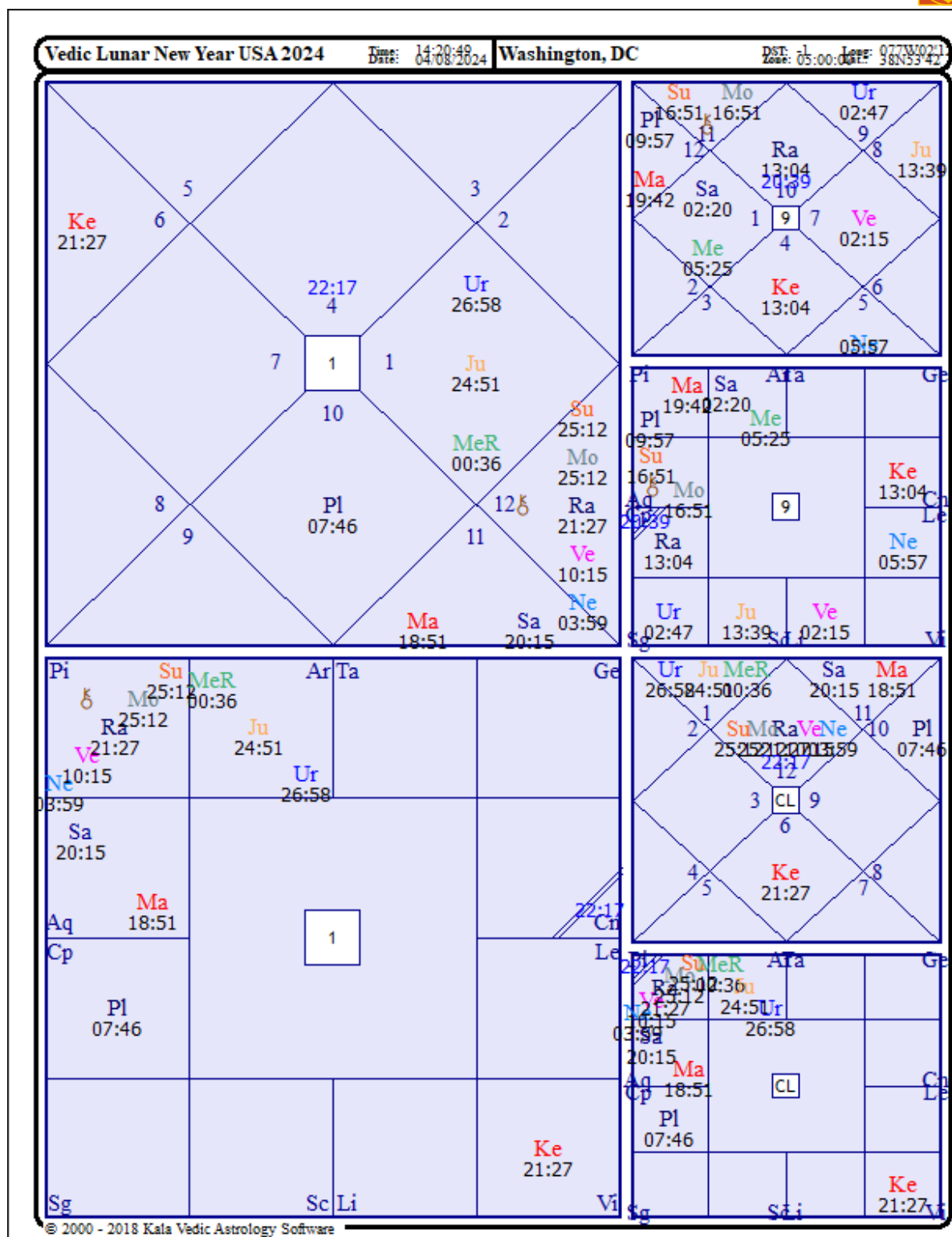
With Saturn as Prime Minister of the year, and Mars as the King, this suggests sociopolitical and economic instability, increasing crime rates, disasters, a growing mental and physical public health crisis, and general unrest among the populace.

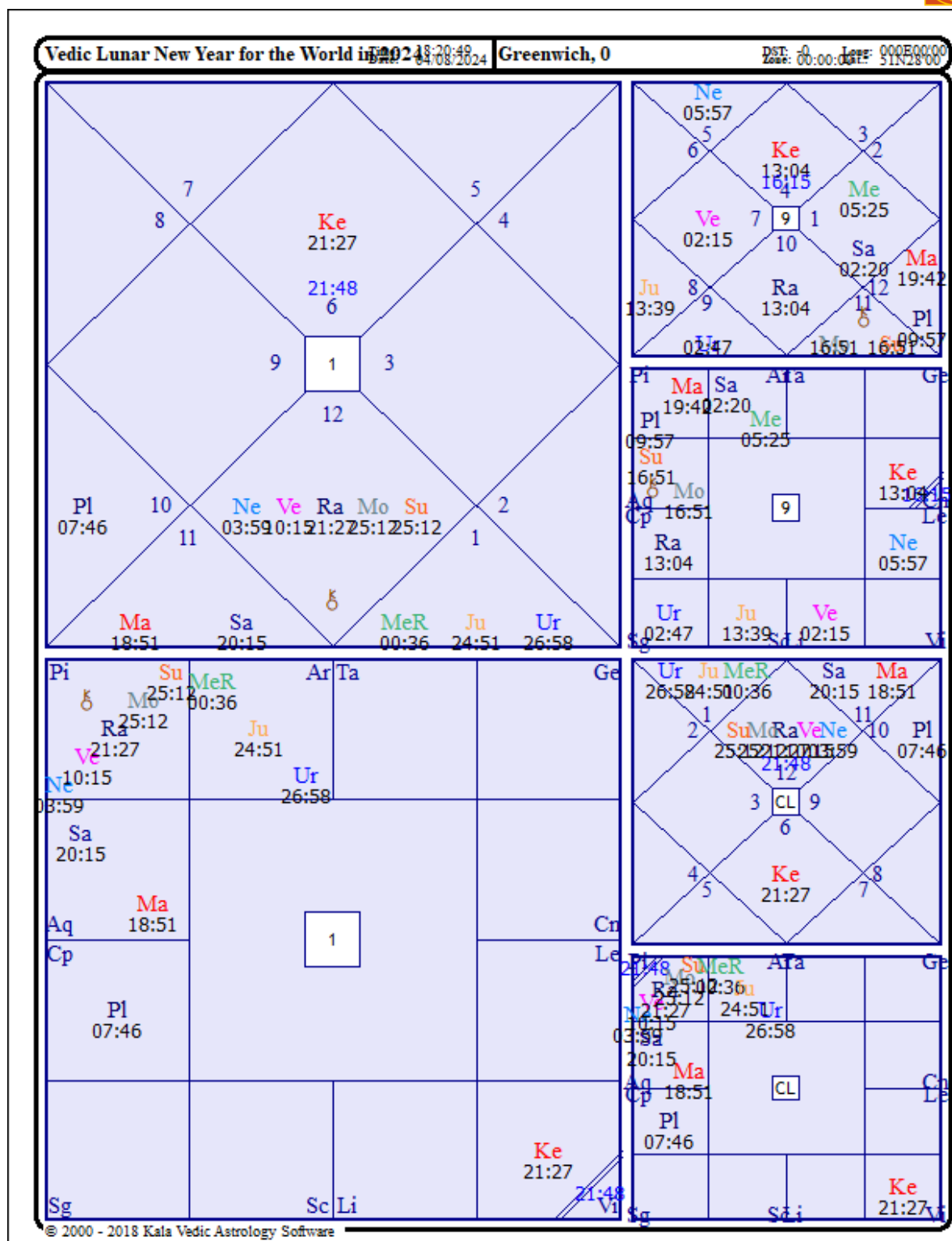
Vedic Lunar New Year Charts for the United States and the World at Large

Different parts of the world will have their own Vedic Lunar New Year horoscopes based on their unique coordinates and time zones which change from place to place. This means that the planets will be in the same signs, but will move into other houses as we move from one location to another.

The chart for each country is calculated at the time of the New Moon in Pisces and at the location of its capital. For instance, we use Washington, D.C. for the United States, where the New Moon will occur on April 8, 2024, at 2:21 PM. We can also cast a Vedic Lunar New Year chart for the entire global community, set at the location of the Greenwich meridian, on April 8, 2024, at 6:21 PM UTC. Below are these Vedic Lunar New Year charts in sidereal wheel format and North and South Indian style:







In the Vedic Lunar New Year chart, Saturn and Mars will be conjoined in Aquarius, the sign of Saturn. Synchronistically, Mars and Saturn are also the rulers of the year. Unfortunately, according to Vedic Astrology, Mars and Saturn share an unfriendly relationship. Their conjunction in its lower manifestation can be quite tense and negative, representing tyrannical, explosive, incendiary, violent, or stormy energy. This is known as Agni Maruti Yoga, in which the fire of Mars is fanned by the wind of Saturn.

Mars and Saturn will come together near the end of Shatabhisha nakshatra, which is ruled by Rahu, the Moon's North Node. This is significant as Rahu will be eclipsing the Sun at the same time, and will also form a 2/12 relationship with Saturn and Mars. These discordant aspects add more fuel to the fire.



In the chart for the world at large, which is created at the location at the Greenwich meridian, it's quite meaningful that the lunar node Ketu is exactly conjoined the ascendant, suggesting instability and a great deal of fiery, radical upheaval throughout the world. The Rahu eclipse exactly conjoined the descendant (seventh-house cusp) points to the possibility of multiple international conflicts, disasters, and economic depression.

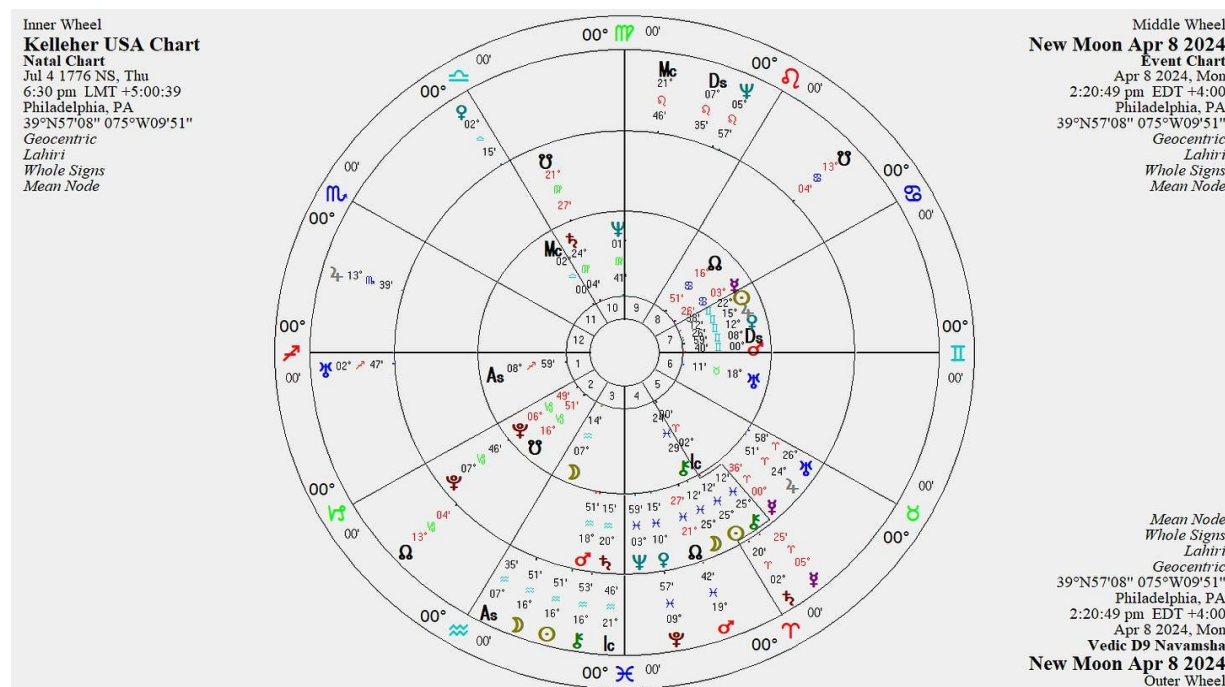
In the chart calculated for the United States, Cancer rises. This is the sign that occupies the eighth house of transformation in the United States Kelleher birth chart, suggesting an adverse year ahead.



The New Moon/eclipse will occur in Revati nakshatra in the ninth house, which may signify political plots, attacks by inner and outer enemies, unending corruption within the judiciary system, setbacks in business and commerce, antisocial behavior in the public, conflicts with foreign adversaries, difficulties with transportation and travel, and dangerous foreign policies, such as with the current administration's southern border crisis and immigration disaster.

Additionally, the New Moon in Pisces will occupy the fourth house of the United States birth chart (Kelleher chart). This emphasizes potential issues with land, real estate, agriculture, mines, minerals, seismic events, and explosive and shocking events related to politics, the government's actions, and the November 2024 election.

Mars and Pluto occupy Pisces in the New Moon navamsa chart, suggesting a possible housing and commercial real estate crisis, fires, and weather disturbances, including a good deal of rain indicated by the placement of Venus and the Moon in Pisces.



Navaratri: A Reason for Hope at the Beginning of a Potentially Difficult Year

Though the Vedic Lunar New Year energies are grim this year, we have the blessing of the Divine Mother coming just at the right time to help us alleviate some of the negative energy. Vasant (or Chaitra) Navaratri always begins at the start of the Vedic Lunar New Year. This is the nine-night spring festival of Devi Durga, who is worshiped as the deity of power, energy, and wisdom. She comes to bless and cleanse the world and all her devotees at this important turning point, to help us set off on the right foot as we begin the year anew.



Navaratri is a very auspicious period and time of growth and transformation for those who observe it. Navaratri celebrations will begin on April 9 and will extend through April 17. Prayers and pujas are performed to help remove misery and sorrow, and to bestow peace and well-being. On the ninth day, the celebration of Ram Navami will cap it all off. This is the precious day of Lord Ram's birthday, which is celebrated as the victory of light over dark.



The great yoga master Paramahansa Yogananda gave many important and inspirational teachings to help assist us along our earthly journey. Here's one that I never tire of, which helps me when I grow weary of the world and its endless problems, which have clearly grown more pronounced in the past few years:

Be not afraid of the frightening dream of this world. Awaken in God's immortal light! There was a time when life, to me, was like helplessly watching a terrifying movie, and I was giving too much importance to the tragedies being enacted therein. Then, one day while I was meditating, a great light appeared in my room and God's voice said to me: 'What are you dreaming about? Behold My eternal light, in which the many nightmares of the world come and go. They are not real.'

What a tremendous consolation it was! Nightmares, however dreadful, are merely nightmares. Movies, whether enjoyable or disturbing, are merely movies. We ought not to keep our minds so absorbed in the sad and frightening dramas of this life. Is it not wiser to place our attention on that Power which is

indestructible and unchanging? Why worry about the unpleasant surprises in the plot of this world movie! We are here for just a little while. Learn the lesson of the drama of life and find your freedom.

May you know great happiness, joy, peace, and laughter in this New Year ahead!

Please note that this and all my other forecasts are based on the sidereal zodiac used in both Vedic and Western sidereal astrology, not the tropical system used by most Western and a small number of Vedic Astrologers. All the astrological charts that I work with and share are calculated according to the sidereal zodiac and Lahiri Ayanamsa.

(This article first appeared on March 18, 2024 on Juliana Swanson's Astral Harmony Vedic Astrology and Healing at <https://astralharmony.substack.com>. Here, Juliana regularly shares cosmic updates about retrograde planets, planetary transits, lunar cycles and other important astrological events).