

# THE CHIRONIAN

A photograph of a cave interior. A large, dark, weathered log lies diagonally across the upper half of the frame. Below it, a pile of light-colored, angular rocks sits on a dark, dirt-covered floor. The cave walls are dark and textured, with some greenish moss or lichen visible. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

BY ERIC FRANCIS

*To Joseph Trusso, who knows very little about astrology, and  
who taught me how to be an astrologer.*

*And to Patric Walker.*

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## A Few Acknowledgements

**T**HIS MANUSCRIPT of my compiled articles about Chiron from 1996 to present has landed on my desk on the eve of a lunar eclipse in Virgo and moments before the Chiron-Eris conjunction of 2026. This project was made possible thanks to a year of impeccable, patient work by Sara Mononen, who located and assembled all of the writing.

Sara built on a prior, much older bibliography researched and compiled by Amy Rose Blaschke, musician and daughter of the beloved astrologer Robert Blaschke.

I was first introduced to Chiron by Laurie Burnett, then of Nevada City, who said, "If you like Pluto, you'll love Chiron." She also made sure I learned how to read progressions, and that I read and somewhat understood *Esoteric Astrology* by Alice A. Bailey. Like everyone who has tried, I'm still working on that one.

I offer my deepest gratitude to the Chiron pioneers, who recognized the significance of a whole new kind of thing in the solar system and the astrological chart. They include discoverer of 1977-UB and later (2060) Chiron, Charles Kowal ("This thing is a maverick!"), Brian Marsden, longtime director of the Minor Planet Center (who provided astrologers with the first ephemeris), Zane Stein, who made friends with astronomers, and Al H. Morrison ("Chiron is the inconvenient benefic"), who published Stein's book *Chiron: Essence and Application* using equipment located in his living room.

Melanie Reinhart, author of *Chiron and the Healing Journey* and *To The Edge and Beyond*, has been my friend, sister astrologer, co-conspirator, sounding board and cheerleader throughout my astrology career.

Barbara Hand Clow, author of *Chiron: Rainbow Bridge*, wrote the book that after reading about 100 pages of it somehow helped me focus the entire astrological concept in one idea, just like that. Dale O'Brien, or Doc Chiron, has been my friend, coach and advisor from the early moments of my astrological endeavor.

David Arner taught me classical astrology so that I would be a better minor planet astrologer. Geoffrey Cornelius taught me horary astrology and demonstrated that, like Chiron, astrology is a divinatory tool.

## Initiation in the Chironian

**A**ROUND THE TIME I wrote my first horoscope column in the early spring of 1995, my old friend Nikki Peone and I were exploring cement mines on the property where my little apartment was located. I lived in a converted mule barn on the former Norton Cement works in Rosendale, New York. We found a crag in the landscape amidst the ancient fossilized seafloor (also known as limestone cement ore), settled in and meditated through the Taurus New Moon.

A dimensional opening happened for both of us; that's the only way I can describe it. Interior space became wider, a kind of tunnel opened, and we were transported somewhere else, without the assistance of any mind-altering substances. Then the experience subsided.

A few minutes later, I climbed a little hill to the side of our cave and discovered a vast underground cavern. This space became known as the Chironian. Like something in Middle Earth, you can only find it if you're ready and you know how to get there. It is impossible to see from the nearby trail.

### **Making Home in a Cave**

Throughout spring, I made the place my home. I cleaned up the old mine, fixed the fire circle, raked the earthen ground. I communed with the bats and the Earth elementals and other critters, made fire, drummed and learned the part of astrology that is not written about in books: directly connecting to the elemental energy of our planet and grounding my work in the ancient rock.

I was fully committed to my astrological journey and thought it would be a good idea to hold an initiation ritual in the Chironian. The night of the Mars-Chiron conjunction in Virgo seemed perfect — that was July 7, 1995. This was probably my first use of electional astrology.

Preparations were made, wood was gathered, drums were transported down to the cave, and the invitation was sent out. By some miracle, more than 50 people found the Chironian in the back of a forest set amidst scores of abandoned mines. Two fires were lit and the flames touched the ceiling. That night, I committed to my path, and remain on it to the present day.

## **A Travel Journal**

This compilation of about 28 articles is a kind of travel journal pertaining to my work with Chiron. They are selected from a body of work of about 1,500 other articles that the Planet Waves project consists of.

The Chiron articles have been published in a diversity of places, mostly Planet Waves through its different incarnations, sometimes also published in *Chronogram* and *The Mountain Astrologer*.

We have included in the current selection articles that are either specifically about Chiron or which touch on a chirotic theme: healing, mentorship, maverick, hidden cycle, holistic, whole-making, transition, bringing the light of awareness and making conscious choices. Some do not mention astrology but convey one or more of these themes.

Chiron has introduced many new ideas to astrology, some used even by the few astrologers who still leave Chiron out of their charts. This is why I say Chiron has led astrology from behind.

## **The 'What Is It' Factor**

Let's take a moment and address the "what is it" factor. Chiron is a massive comet about 180km across, discovered in 1977 and with photos in the records going back to 1895. Chiron was the first discovered centaur planet, which means that it crosses the orbits of other planets.

[Note that a much earlier discovery, (944) Hidalgo, discovered in 1920, was recently reclassified retroactively as a centaur, though it's not clear when. This seems to have been in the 21st century.]

Chiron has an elongated, elliptical 50.7-year orbit that crosses inside that of Saturn and is considered a Uranus "grazer." To give you an idea of the

shape, Chiron spends 18 months in Libra and nine years in Aries, with other signs getting about four to eight years. Therefore, Chiron acts at times as an inner planet and at others, an outer planet. I cover this in some of the articles below.

As an astrological factor, Chiron responds differently than any previously known object, with its unusual cycle and way of manifesting in awareness. Some people have their first major Chiron event at age 7 and then in the next generation, at age 22. So you have to study the cycle carefully for every client.

Chiron is about direct experience, and how Chiron works in a natal chart is best learned from the experiences of Chiron transits. It is more of a wave than a particle, and it reveals a life-cycle concealed by the more regular and predictable orbits of the other planets. So to understand Chiron, it's necessary to see what you or your client has experienced during Chiron events.

When I started astrology, Chiron (discovered in 1977) had been used by astrologers for less than 15 years, and was still being called "the new planet in your horoscope."

Soon after, I learned of other discoveries in the centaur class. Some of these have made it into this collection, including Pholus, Nessus, Asbolus, Chariklo, Hylonome and others. These are described but not well delineated in some of the included articles, and I have a new collection coming that will provide delineations of about 15 of these points.

However, to understand any other centaur, it's necessary to have a grounded understanding of how Chiron works, for you or for your client.

### **The Discovery of Eris**

In 2005, Eris was discovered. This is an object in the distant Kuiper Belt or Scattered Disk (depending on how you think of it, in any event the outer solar system) that I consider to be the most astrologically relevant since Chiron. Eris was the factor that in 2006 resulted in the "demotion" of Pluto and the creation of the dwarf planet category. Chiron is *not* a dwarf planet; it is a centaur, in a unique orbit.

The 2005 discovery of Eris was predicted by that of 1992-QB1 (discovered in 1992, now called Albion), which I consider a more relevant and groundbreaking *astronomical* discovery and will treat in the next collection. The discovery of QB1 proved that there are planets beyond Pluto, and therefore led to the discovery of Eris. For those interested, I wrote the first monograph about Eris during the winter of 2007, called *Facets and Fragments of Self*. I describe QB1 in the article [Cue: Be One](#).

Eris has become a culture-bearing planet and at the time of this writing, in March 2026, Chiron is making its third and final alignment with Eris. So Eris factors more prominently in this series more than any other planet besides Chiron, particularly toward the end.

Chiron and Eris represent contrary forces in astrology. Eris tends to disrupt, fragment, and tribalize and collectivize people. Chiron helps integrate, awakens holistic awareness, fosters healing and favors individuality and personal service rather than collectivism.

### **Understanding Chiron Is About Experience**

Chiron cannot be learned only in theory; the theory might get you part of the way there, but the only way to learn is from experience. The things you read in books are a starting point for delineation; the truth comes out of your life journey over time.

If you want to learn about Chiron in your own chart, study your Chiron transits. Acquire a Chiron or centaur ephemeris [[this was provided by Melanie Reinhart](#)] or [use one online](#) (or [here is an easy-to-use tool](#) that is currently set for Chiron's position every three months beginning in 1940; modify for more exact placements).

Use Chiron's transits to itself, especially the squares, the opposition and the return; Chiron's transit to the ascendant and the other angles; and Chiron's transits to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Pluto. Suddenly you will have all the information you need.

When you identify a transit, write down your address at the time and then write a little about what you experienced when you were living at that address. Write about 200 words for each address, then read the whole thing back and you will see what Chiron is doing in your chart.

Do this five or 10 times for others and you will start to get a picture of what Chiron is about in a more full-spectrum way, since each experience is individual.

### **These Articles Here are Presented in Close to Original Form**

This series represents something unusual, which is the chronological 30-year arc of my understanding of Chiron. So you will be able to see my thought progression as I learned from much experience in my own life, the lives of my clients, and reading mundane (world event) charts in the Planet Waves series of articles.

I have only made minor edits for clarification or to correct typing errors, and I am sure there will be plenty more to correct for later editions. (Many of these articles were published before we had a formal proofreading and copy editing process and we are slowly going through them.)

The articles are artifacts of their place and time, often written and published as journalism. They all possess an immediacy that will reflect the quality of the moment they were written. Mostly that happened in New York, London, Paris, Brussels and on the west coast of the United States on Vashon Island, Washington.

Links to the original publication are usually provided near the title of any article.

### **The Wounded Healer and the Initiatory Wound**

One final note. In these articles, you will see very little mention of “the wounded healer” trope that is so often used to delineate Chiron. With rare exceptions — and without much discussion — the use of this incomplete and oversimplified phrase indicates that the writer most likely does not really understand Chiron or its purpose.

When taken in a spiritual context, “wounding” pertains to an initiatory or power wound; and it is the purpose of Chiron to transform the healing process into just that, an initiation around which one may gather strength and wisdom. Any life experience can be turned for learning, growth,

understanding and the concentration of ability. The process of working with Chiron is about claiming what you have learned from your life experiences, or as my teacher Joe would say, using what you know. Chiron always presents the option to learn, grow and understand.

This is a different concept from the *unhealed healer*, whose message is always some form of, "You are a miserable sinner and so am I." So if you ever hear someone say "wounded healer," ask them exactly what they mean by that and how it is relevant to them.

Chiron is about traveling the healing journey, which we are all on, as a conscious choice. It's about learning from your experiences, gathering strength around your injuries, transforming victimhood into awareness, and finding your way to your inner truth. Perhaps think of it in the words of A Course in Miracles:

"The journey to God is merely the reawakening of the knowledge of where you are always, and what you are forever. It is a journey without distance to a goal that has never changed. Truth can only be experienced. It cannot be described and it cannot be explained... Together we can meet its conditions, but truth will dawn upon you of itself."

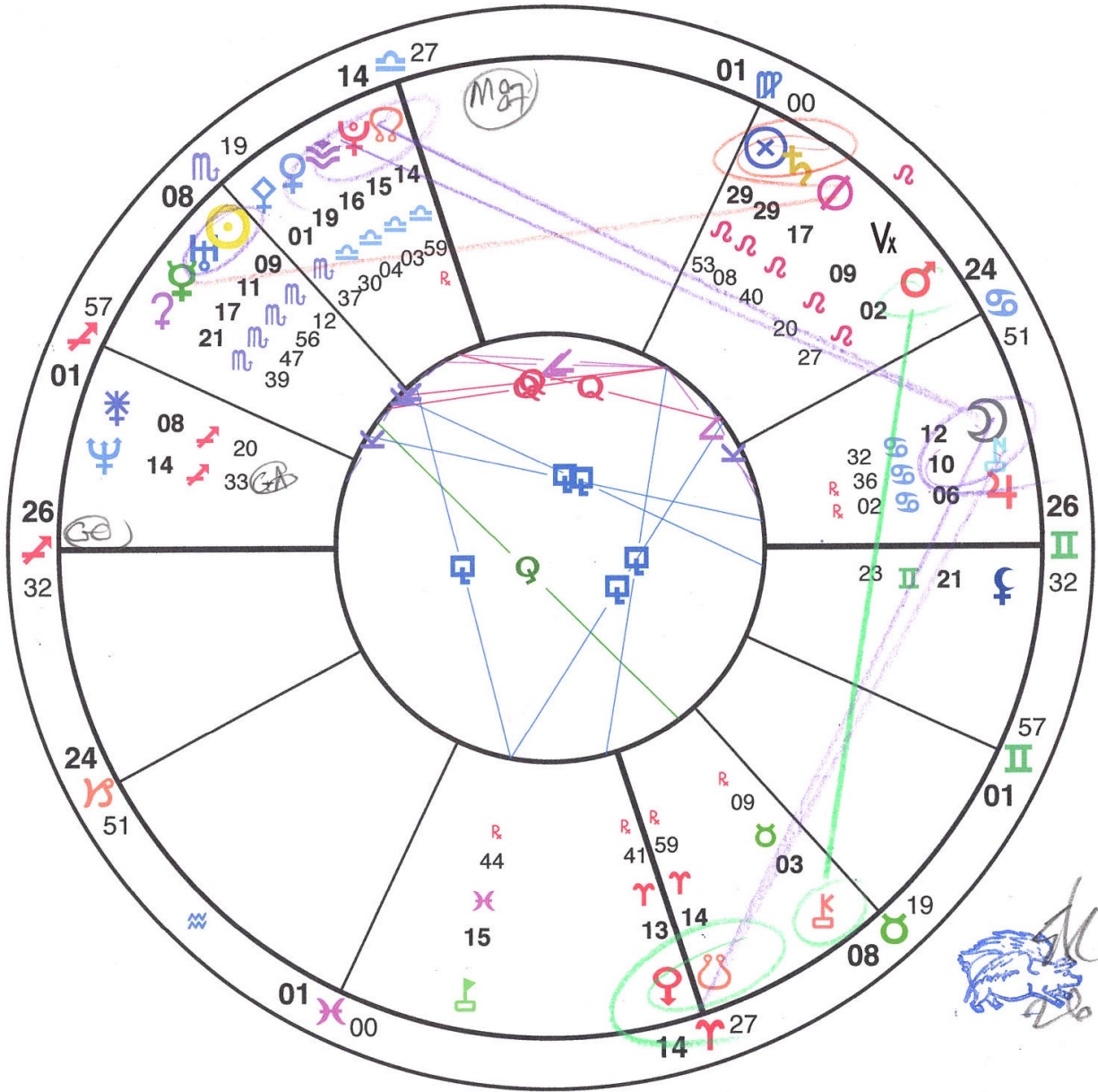
Okay, on with the journey.



— **Eric Francis Coppolino**  
Greene County, NY, March 3, 2026

# Discovery of Chiron by Kowal

Natal Chart  
Tuesday, November 1, 1977  
10:02:09 AM PST  
Pasadena, California  
Tropical Koch True Node



*I have rectified this chart by about two minutes past the stated discovery time of 10 am to align the ascendant with the exact position of the Galactic Core on the day of the Chiron discovery.*

# Mysterious Object Beyond Saturn May Be Solar System's 10th Planet

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

Astronomers have discovered an object between Saturn and Uranus that is orbiting the sun. They say the object could represent a new class of asteroid or perhaps be the solar system's 10th and smallest planet.

The discovery was announced yesterday by Charles Kowal, an astronomer at the Hale Observatories in Pasadena, Calif. He detected the object through the 48-inch Schmidt telescope on Mount Palomar. Other astronomers have subsequently confirmed the observation.

Mr. Kowal said in a telephone interview that the object "really doesn't resemble anything else we have seen."

The suspicion that the object is a planet, he said, derives less from its size than from the fact that it is far beyond the usual region of asteroids—small, irregular pieces of material that also orbit the sun, but mostly in a belt between Mars and Jupiter. Its orbit and appearance also seem unlike those of a comet.

It does not appear to come close enough to neighboring planets to be an escaped moon, the astronomer said. And, because it is so small—100 to 400 miles in diameter, about one-tenth the size of Mercury, the smallest known planet—the object is temporarily being described as a "mini-planet."

Dr. Brian G. Marsden of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., called the discovery "very unusual and certainly very exciting."

Depending on what the object turns out to be, Dr. Marsden said in a telephone interview, it could be "the second major exciting discovery in the outer solar system this year." The other was finding that Uranus, like Saturn, is encircled by rings.

When the Uranus rings were first observed last March, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said they

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*Chiron on page one of the New York Times, a week after the discovery.*

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*The Catskills as seen from the mountain where the Chironian is located directly below, facing westerly. Photo by Eric Francis, c. 2004.*

## **Chiron: A Personal Account**

The Worlds of Eric Francis  
July 1996

On the way out of my house this morning, I picked up the Course in Miracles, flopped it open somewhere in the middle and started reading:

‘To have faith is to heal. It is the sign that you have accepted the Atonement for yourself and would therefore share it. By faith, you offer the gift of freedom from the past which you perceived. You do not use anything your brother has done before to condemn him. You freely choose to overlook his errors, looking past all barriers between you and him, and seeing you both as one. And in that one you see

your faith is fully justified. There is no justification for faithlessness, but faith is always justified."

This reminded me about a personal astrology story I want to share with you. Ten years ago last month, my life became a quest for faith, though this happened, as it often does, because I had run out of options. I was 22 years old, and everything, every aspect of my life, had become a crisis.

My relationships were doing somersaults and making me look at my values about love for the first time, I was in love with three people, and suffering from an incredible amount of guilt over sex. Plus, I was sick with a painful skin condition, graduating from college and leaving my well-developed college community with no sense of direction in life, and, in the middle of this, I had a devastating experience on the drug Ecstasy, which left me incapacitated for a week.

Meanwhile, I was caught in a major political war at the local level, it was becoming obvious that politics — where I had invested most of my faith in humanity — were rotten at the national level, and Chernobyl was burning, spewing radiation across the planet as far away from Kiev as Kansas. In the days after the initial explosion, I was so sick, either from shock or radiation, that I couldn't get out of bed.

Everything that needed healing, every belief, issue, personality trait, and personal flaw, had come up to the surface, where I could not deny it.

It was also an incredibly exciting time, where, in the throes of uncertainty, I began to feel like I was alive for the first time ever. The reality of spirit was flashing through my world and the worlds of the people around me, consuming us in its flames.

My life after that point was different than anything I had ever envisioned. My early career goals had been things like becoming a U.S. senator or editor of *Time* magazine. Suddenly, in my

hunger for passion and truth, none of that mattered; a whole new values system had taken over my life.

It was not until many years and many adventures later that I checked the astrology of that time period 10 years ago, and learned that a planet (really a huge comet) called Chiron was involved and that all of these events, peaking with my college graduation, coincided, to the day, degree and minute with a turning point called the *first Chiron square*, which happens at two or three in critical points in a lifetime. It is happening to a great many people right now because Chiron is very close to the Sun, at the fast side of his orbit.

[For astrologers: Chiron will sweep through the next 22 degrees of Libra and into Scorpio in just 6 months, making hard aspects for anyone with Chiron in the last 22 degrees of a Cardinal sign. If you are reading for a client with an approaching Chiron square, opposition or return, keep in mind the significance of the turning point in the person's life, and how the transit will trigger all the issues of the natal Chiron position, and many others.]

When I noticed this incredible synchronicity between my Chiron square and these events in my life, I began learning about both Chiron astrology and the process by which we learn to have faith, which are very similar.

Chiron describes the ability of human beings to break free from prevailing belief systems, and come into their true freedom. He is a unique being in mythology d' half-man, half-horse, who is a healer, musician, astrologer, herbalist, sacred warrior and guardian of the Earth. For Chiron, freedom means the freedom to serve Humanity with our sacred gifts, while living a full and well-rounded life.

He was the first Centaur, a man directly connected to his animal nature. His students included Prometheus, who brought the power of fire — living spirit — to the Human race.

Growing in one's faith, an issue directly connected to Chiron, is largely about recognizing our true worth as human beings, and remembering that we are not alone here. Help is available when we need it, and love is all around us.

Chiron is practical. His two most basic lessons are *be kind* and *pay attention*. His glyph, which looks like a key, appears next to my name in the printed version of this newsletter each month — and as a rotating icon on this web site — as a reminder to me, because I consider his example to be the most consistent and uplifting in all the mythology and wisdom of modern astrology. He is always a gentle teacher, and if you're experiencing anything but gentleness in your life, look to yourself for the source.

During the month of July 1996, Chiron is extremely prominent in the skies for all of us, bringing all of his lessons to the forefront of consciousness. On July 27, he forms a conjunction with the North Node of the Moon. This is a time when real breakthroughs are possible in any area of your life with which you've been struggling — particularly personal relationships and a sense of balance. If you are a healer of any kind, it is a profoundly important time to make headway in your art. Under Chiron's influence, crisis is always a tool for becoming whole, and often a necessary part, so if things are rough, stick with it, and envision things better. That's the whole point: learning to have faith.

Surely, during this incredible time in human history, when so much seems balanced on so little, there's not much else we can really rely on.