

## **ASTROLOGY: Planetary Event Calendar for February, 2023, by Joe DiSabatino**

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**Valentine's Day approaches, so what better time for discussing the astrology of love and relationships.** Venus, of course, is the planet of love. In a birth chart, Venus says something about how we give and receive love, our relationship style, our relationship needs. In a woman's birth chart, Venus speaks about how she expresses her femininity in her style of dress, the way she adorns herself, how she goes about attracting and keeping a partner, and what she finds most attractive in a partner. In a man's birth chart, Venus is an indicator of the kind of female or feminine energy he finds most appealing.

**In Jungian terms, Venus is a symbol for the anima archetype, the inner feminine in our psyche, whether male or female.** When we were born, Venus was located in one of the twelve zodiacal signs. So our anima comes in twelve possible colors. Traditional astrology holds that Venus expresses herself best in these three signs: Taurus, Libra and Pisces. And Venus' beauty and charm is said to be at her weakest if located in the signs opposite those three: namely, Scorpio, Aries and Virgo. In the remaining six signs, Venus operates at about half her potential.

**If Venus is in one of the three Water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) at birth, the free flow of feelings and deep intimacy in relationships is essential for the person.** In Earth signs (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn) love needs are more tied in with practical matters: physical comfort, routines, and ambitions. In Fire signs (Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius), a person's love needs are linked to risk-taking, bold and grandiose expressions from the heart, and fun, laughter and adventure.

**In our birth chart, Venus was probably making links to one or more of the other planets, which adds additional ingredients to our relationship needs and patterns.** For instance, if Venus connects to Jupiter, the person is big-hearted, generous, and sees relationships as an exciting game. If Venus links to Saturn, the opposite is true: the person tends to be cautious, guarded, reserved, especially at the start of a relationship, often because of an underlying fear of being rejected or feeling unworthy of love. But Venus/Saturn people often excel at staying in relationships for the long haul. Commitment is Saturn's specialty.

**Not so with Venus/Uranus links.** These people need romantic excitement, novelty and space in relationships. Commitment is difficult for them because they feel they are suffocating if the relationship becomes too routine and predictable, or if the partner is clingy and possessive. They can handle just so much emotional intensity and intimacy at which point they detach emotionally, physically or both. For instance, a woman with a strong Venus/Uranus link in her birth chart may marry a commercial airline pilot who is away from home frequently—not so she can cheat on him, but so she can have her freedom to pursue her other friendships and interests.

**Astrologers are often asked to evaluate compatibility with a partner or potential romantic partner.** We do this in two ways. The main method is to look at how the planets in one person's birth chart interact with the planets in the partner's birth chart. In other words, how your energy system interacts with your partner's. The astrological term for this technique is "synastry." Some planetary interactions indicate a positive flow of energy between two people, others a tense or blocked flow. For instance, in romantic relationships, one of the best inter-aspects is when one person's Jupiter makes a positive link to the other person's Venus. These two people feel really happy in each other's company; they will probably say they are the best friends as well as lovers.

**On the other hand, if one partner's Saturn clashes with the other's Sun, despite other indicators of attraction, the Saturn person in some way disapproves of their partner.** Something about the partner's natural self-expression (Sun) threatens the Saturn person. He/she may try to hide their disapproval for the sake of relationship peace, but the truth is they're having critical thoughts/feelings which effects intimacy and bonding.

**The other way astrologers look at relationship compatibility is by casting what is called a "composite" chart.** This is a chart of the relationship itself, or the energy field created by the blending/merging of the two individuals' energy fields. It's done by using the midpoints of each pair of identical planets in their two charts. For instance, the composite chart uses the halfway point in the zodiac between Person A's Venus and Person B's Venus to create a composite Venus, and so on with each planetary pair. (Sun-Sun midpoint, Moon-Moon, Mars-Mars, etc). The composite chart is read like a natal chart but with an emphasis on the relationship dynamics at play between two people.

**There are no "perfect" synastry comparisons or composite charts.** There are always both harmonious and tense aspects between two birth charts. A relationship would offer no growth potential for each person if it was sweet and smooth all the time. We need some friction to challenge us but it's best to have the harmonious connections between birth charts predominate, otherwise the relationship feels like too much work.



**Speaking of love and romance, there is a special planetary romance alignment happening exactly on Valentine's Day this year.** Venus and Neptune are conjunct at 22 Pisces on February 14<sup>th</sup> (a rare coincidence!). Neptune is said to be the higher octave of Venus. Venus is exalted in the sign of Pisces and Neptune is in its home sign. There's isn't a more romantic two-planet alignment in all of astrology.



**So I guess you can call this year's a Super Valentine's Day!** Cupid's arrows will fill the sky.

**In addition, February looks to be a fairly smooth month astrologically.** All the planets are moving direct in the sky and there are no tense Saturn clashes happening. So you can take advantage of the strong tailwind this month and make good progress with plans and projects.

### **Key Dates in February:**

1. **Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: Sun in Aquarius clashes with Uranus in Taurus, the ruler of Aquarius.** There's sudden, unexpected events, or news that may be disruptive and upsetting. At the same time, Venus in Pisces clashes with Mars in Gemini. Not good days for launching major new projects or beginning a new relationship because they will be unstable.
2. **Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Mercury conjuncts Pluto in Capricorn.** Good days for increasing the power of any messages, verbal or written, that you want to convey. Also good days for intellectual research or delving beneath the surface to solve problems or getting at the hidden truth.
3. **Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Venus conjuncts Neptune in Pisces (see introduction).** A highly romantic alignment that falls on Valentine's Day. Also excellent aspect for anything to do with the arts or spiritual practices. Not good days though for major financial investments or new business projects unless it is a non-profit endeavor.
4. **Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>: Mercury in Aquarius clashes with Uranus in Taurus while making a positive link to Mars in Gemini.** This is a dynamic three-planet alignment that enhances all Mercury-related activities: travel, all forms of communications, publishing, advertising and marketing, networking, teaching, etc.
5. **February 20<sup>th</sup>: New Moon at 1 degrees Pisces takes place in Myrtle Beach at 2:05 am.** Saturn in late Aquarius is close to this New Moon, so there's a sense of heaviness/problems to be solved as the last sign of the zodiac, Pisces, symbolizing endings, wrapping things up, reviewing the past comes to the forefront.
6. **Feb. 19-March 3: Venus, Jupiter and Chiron line up in Aries.** This is a powerfully positive alignment, excellent for success in love and finances. Very good to capture this alignment in any new relationship or business start-up chart.