

The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery

News From The Astropoetic School May 2015

Greetings from **The Astropoetic School of Soul Discovery** located in the heart of the galaxy on **Milky Way Farm** here in the beautiful Ozarks – where dappled green sunlight competes with scintillating birdsong for the attention of the poetic mind.

It's actually hard to stay inside on a day like this, but it is time to give you another update. Having just completed another exciting [Sacred Balance Workshop](#) with my co-teaching partner [Nia Kallhof](#), I'm excited to tell you about our next exciting event – our 3rd Annual [Tracking the Soul Workshop](#), sponsored by [The Astropoetic School](#) in conjunction with [Yggdrasil Mystery School/Retreat for Visionary Contrarians](#).

Tracking the Soul Workshop Hearthaven Retreat – Willow Springs, Missouri September 11 – 15, 2015



Based on my [book](#) of the same name, [Tracking the Soul](#) is an experiential workshop, integrating the exquisite spiritual psychology of the seven chakras with an intimately personal, image-based approach to astrology that I call astropoetics. The workshop brings the provocative theory of the astro-chakra system into real-life application in relation to core issues brought by participants.

Beginning with a timeline of significant events in your life, and then mapping your astrological cycles to it, we gradually work our way toward a story of the particular thread of your soul's journey you are inspired to track. The story then becomes a

launching pad for insight and meaningful changes. Said one participant about the process:

Here, Joe's skills truly came to the fore. He helped us all to see just how unique and valuable our life experiences, as illustrated by our chosen pattern, had been to our souls. Despite the suffering our stories revealed, I think we all felt acknowledged, and honored, in the sharing of them. We gained clues to shifting old patterns.

Included with this workshop are 3 preparatory lessons, designed to teach the basic astrology necessary to get the most value from the 4-day experience of the workshop itself. Each lesson will be customized for each student, based on their current level of familiarity with astrology and the chakra system. Each will include a homework assignment, and a follow-up 90-minute Skype consultation.

Lesson One will cover the chakra system, a psycho-spiritual adjunct to astrology, great for understanding how consciousness is being channeled through life experience.

Lesson Two will cover basic astrology, as it applies to the chakra system, and specifically as it applies to each student's chart. This lesson will be customized to meet each student at his or her current level of knowledge.

Lesson Three will help each participant identify core issues, determine which issue will be their focus in the workshop, and work out the time frame for tracking the relevant soul story.

The workshop itself will be our opportunity to share these soul stories, learn from them and from each other, and move the energy of insight into transformation through [authentic movement](#) and other experiential exercises. This is what two previous participants said about this powerful combination:

This is a truly experiential soul journey with a unique yogic and astropoetic flavor. It gave me the support and inner courage I needed to go through the confusion and disorientation of uncovering my core wound. I can still feel the empowering moment when my whole being, my own body, showed me how to shift out of fear and become more me. I now have a deeply embedded touchstone for that.

I would say that it was life altering. I feel that strongly and I don't say that lightly, because I've done some personal growth work before.

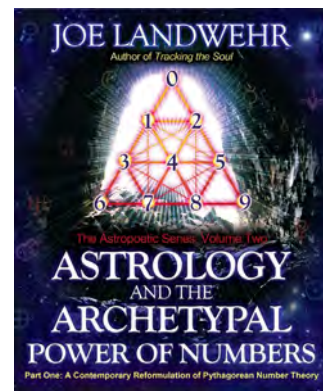
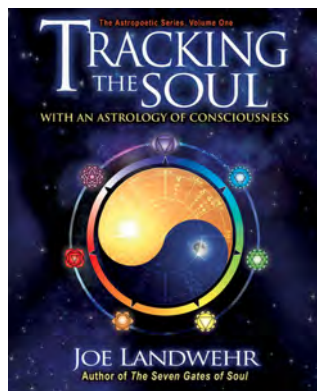
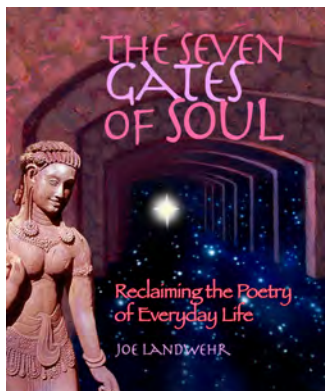
Limited to a small number of people, the workshop provides each participant with ample opportunity to be the loving center of group attention, while allowing plenty of alone time for integration. To supplement our group work, there will be an opportunity for bodywork, individual sessions, and daily yoga classes.

For more information, or to register, go [here](#). For the first person who registers and mentions having seen this notice in the newsletter, I will give a 10% discount. Registration is open until **July 10**, and space is limited, so if you do plan to attend, please don't procrastinate.

Free Shipping While Mercury is Retrograde

Since 2001, my publishing company **Ancient Tower Press** has published three books, each professionally edited, and produced to the highest quality, with covers by an award-winning artist. Together these books elaborate an exploratory, image-based approach to an astrological language of soul I call astropoetics.

Although these books have been widely reviewed, have won numerous awards, and have been available for a long time, it could be that somehow in the shuffle of 200,000 books being published each year, that you have missed them. If so, this Mercury retrograde period (through June 11) is your chance to catch up.



In starting my first book, I set out to write about the astrology of soul, thinking maybe I should define what I mean by soul first. Nearly 500 pages later, I realized I needed to refine my intentions. As it turned out, My first book [The Seven Gates of Soul](#) wound up being a 6,000-year history of ideas about the soul, exploring ideas from eastern and western religion, philosophy, science, psychology and astrology.

A welcome addition to the growing body of work in recent years that aims to question assumptions held by contemporary astrologers and to inspire us to consider astrology in the wider cultural and spiritual context. – Mary Plumb, **The Mountain Astrologer**

You have accumulated a tremendous amount of knowledge – my highest respect – and have been able to condense this enormous amount of information in brief, but poetic form . . . I do not know much about astrology. You helped me lose my intellectual distance to it. – Marion Schneider, co-owner of Toskana Therme in Bad Sulza and the Toskana Therme in Bad Schandau, Germany

Your unique approach to everything that you write about is so different from anything else out there, it really fascinates me. Although I have studied various forms of astrology for years, your approach has me starting all over again. But that is a very big compliment, believe me. Thank you for your dedication to your new paradigm and your superb writing. – Catt Berlin-George, reader

In my second book, [Tracking the Soul With an Astrology of Consciousness](#) I present a complete system of spiritual psychology integrating astrology and the chakra system, including astrological case studies for each chakra and anecdotes from my experience as an astrologer of 40+ years and a student of Yogi Bhajan and Swami Muktananda.

(Joe Landwehr's) ability to communicate is so extraordinary it took me several chapters to comprehend the scope of his scope and relax into reading his work. It's the difference between listening to a guy plucking on his guitar in the corner of a coffee shop and being in the room with a full-blown symphony orchestra, you have to adjust. But as I grew used to being stimulated on multiple levels simultaneously I became more and more appreciative of the author who manages to teach while being both spiritual and sober . . . high-minded and deep . . . humble and confident. I was thrilled when midway through this ride (half-way through the book) he included his own chart like some kind of present that explained it all and I had to laugh. – Elsa Panizzon, www.ElsaElsa.com

I have recommended your book to many people. I am not an astrologer, but love exploring the many patterns of the spirit. Astrology . . . as it is often practiced in the west seems to be complete enough for most, but fell short for me. I not only like how you join the chakra to astrology, but how you've done so. You speak with an open heart, a rare gift that allows us to see ourselves without judgment, with both our positives and our challenges. – Ellen Hill, watercolor artist, www.tseka.com

*Once the definitive history of the last one hundred years is written, I suspect the dominant intellectual theme will be the collision/ fusion of psychology and religion. The funky realities of our inner lives and the soaring glories of our souls' potentials will emerge as interdependent and synergistic. The more deeply we embrace our humanity, the higher our souls climb - and the more we fear engaging with our juicy, crazy humanity, the more we become schizoid and shattered. Joe Landwehr's book, *Tracking the Soul*, is smack on the cutting edge of this paradigm shift. He's done his homework, both metaphysically and psychologically. And we, his readers, are the lucky winners. – Steven Forrest, author of *The Inner Sky*, *The Night Speaks*, and *Skymates*.*

[Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part One](#) is a meandering exploration of the extant teachings of Pythagoras about number, showing how number is encoded in our collective psychology, and in the construction of the universe of which we are conscious.

Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part One, is to be read as an epic poem that moves into unknown realms below, above and beyond our usual daily lives. – Jonathan de Vierville, Professor of Humanities, History and Interdisciplinary Studies at St. Philips College, San Antonio, TX

Landwehr not only displays a wide range of speculation, he is a superb discursive writer. His brilliant insights are clothed in beautiful phrases and ideas . . . He legitimizes the core ideas in astrology and numbers as archetypes by interfacing them with his profound knowledge of several schools of psychology, Eastern religions, mythology, awareness of environmental issues and courageous self-exploration. – Rockey Robbins, Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology at University of Oklahoma – Norman

This is one of those books designed to inspire – to breathe life into conversations . . . one that you will want to have on your shelf for inspiration, for breaking through, for meditation, for illumination, and beautiful words . . . I recommend this book to anyone wishing to leap and/or relax into the sound of the heartbeat of the world. It's that good. – Claudia Johnson, ISAR Journal

You can read more about my books on [my website](#) – including the entire introduction, TOC, and reviews for each book.

If your interest has been piqued, I am offering all books purchased between now and June 11 with **free shipping**.

From My Latest Blog Series

The Lost Art of Communication - Part One



At [Yggdrasil's School/Retreat for Visionary Contrarians](#), our "curriculum" revolves around [four basic soul tasks](#). The third of these is "inviting dialogue between diverse intelligences." Diverse intelligences can include beings of the more-than-human world with whom we share this planet – plants, animals, rocks, rivers, clouds, and mountains; and beings of the unseen realms – spirit guides, animal totems, characters in a dream. But most fundamentally, it includes other human beings.

Unless we can learn how to communicate with each other – across sometimes seemingly insurmountable barriers posed by the differences between us – then there is little hope that the human species will survive the damage that we are doing to the planet, its other inhabitants, and each other.

As renowned physicist David Bohm wrote in his classic, *On Dialogue* – nearly 20 years ago now^[1]:

During the past few decades, modern technology . . . has woven a network of communications which puts each part of the world into almost instant contact with all the other parts. Yet, in spite of this worldwide system of linkages, there is, at the very moment, a general feeling that communication is breaking down everywhere, on an unparalleled scale.

Since Bohm saw the early handwriting on the digital wall, email, cell phones, text messaging, Twitter, Facebook, Skype, and other conveniences of the Internet Age have made communication even more instantaneous than he imagined, and virtually unimpeded by barriers of time and space anywhere on the planet. Information and misinformation is omnipresent, just a Google search away. Yet despite all this genuinely amazing technology, the evolution of our communication skills has not kept pace, and we seem to be mired in deepening trouble because of it.

Nations with different political ideologies, economic interests, or ethnicities routinely and easily descend into war with other nations, impatient with the lost art of diplomacy, much less any sincere attempt to see the conflict from the other's point of view. Within nations, differences between people lead to systemic patterns of sexism, racism, ageism, gross economic disparities, political gridlock, censorship, genocide, and other atrocities born of a basic failure to communicate. Those who are different are routinely eyed with suspicion; labeled "terrorist;" and/or stripped of their rights and their human dignity.

Even within smaller groups and subcultures, minor differences can trigger irrational patterns of response that make genuine interaction awkward at best, impossible at worst. Divorce rates are high; isolated, bullied teenagers commit suicide; and the Supreme Court declares money to be speech – essentially all because we have forgotten what real communication is.

How did we get to this impasse, and what can we do about it? These are very large questions, and I won't pretend to have ultimate answers. But in this blog series, I want to explore some of the dimensions of good communication, and how they are an essential component of healing person and planet. If we are going to focus at Yggdrasil on the art of dialogue among diverse intelligences, then it will be helpful to start by getting clear about what exactly we mean by that.

^[1] David Bohm, *On Dialogue*, London, England and New York, NY: Routledge, 1996, p. 1.

Unsubscribing

You are on my mailing list because you were at one time interested in my work. You are automatically subscribed to this e-letter, which you will receive periodically (not more than three times a year). In it, I will share the latest news of my various projects in motion.

Hopefully this news will be of interest to you, but if it is not, please just let me know, and I will take you off the mailing list.

If you know anyone else who might be interested in this newsletter, please feel free to pass it on. But please also be discriminating and do not simply broadcast it to your entire list. No one likes spam, and in no way do I wish to generate it.

Please do let me know if any of this touches you, or you want more information about my books, my blog posts, my astrological consultations, my astrological correspondence course, my workshops, or my unfolding vision of a mystery school-retreat center.

Be well,
Joe Landwehr

The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery
Where Your Life is the Classroom

Ancient Tower Press
Celebrating the Sacred Mysteries

Yggdrasil Retreat
Where Visionary Contrarians Love to Hang

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Quote of the Month

You can begin or deepen your relationship to soul in the same way (a) poet (might) advise you to commune with (a) forest. None of the nonhumans in the forest – or the world, more generally – are lost. Each one is precisely in its true place, and each one knows every place in the forest as a unique place. They are doing something you do not yet know how to do. You could apprentice yourself to them. The forest, the world, knows where you are and who you are. You must let it find you.

from **Nature and the Human Soul: Cultivating Wholeness and Community in a Fragmented World** by Bill Plotkin (2008)