THE ASTROLOGICAL BLUEPRINT OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS



by Sonia Giudici

Investigative journalism often requires a special calling due to its relentless pursuit of truth and exposure to hidden realities. To understand this vocation astrologically, we can examine the birth charts of journalists who have dedicated their careers to unraveling secrets, plots, and mysteries. By analyzing the natal charts of 12 journalists renowned for unveiling state secrets and governmental misdeeds, we observe intriguing astrological patterns.

In this article, we will explore the common thread in the astrological charts of those who have chosen to play the role of watchdogs. We will focus on individuals driven by a strong motivation to reveal secrets of collective interest, even at the risk of their reputations, professional status, or personal safety. Our analysis spans contemporary and controversial figures like Julian Assange, Edward Snowden, and Gary Webb, as well as historical figures such as the French writer and journalist Émile Zola and the American-Italian activist and journalist Aldino Felicani.

The Research

To ensure a diverse perspective, this study includes the birth charts of 12 individuals from various nationalities (including the US, France, Italy, Argentina, Australia, and Burkina Faso) and historical periods over two centuries.

This research examines journalistic efforts to expose institutional secrets and injustices, highlighting the darker aspects of power while excluding investigations into individual or organized crime. Our focus is on journalists who faced significant risks and challenges in sharing their findings. Among the 12 subjects studied, five were killed or committed suicide, two had their lives ruined, and many endured considerable hardships due to their revelations.

We will not consider journalists who also served as politicians, as their investigations are often intertwined with their political roles, potentially compromising the analysis. For this reason, prominent figures such as Russian journalists Navalny and Kara-Murza in Russia or the Italian journalist Giacomo Matteotti, who was kidnapped and killed by fascists, are omitted, even though their profiles matched at least 3 out of 4 criteria.

The analysis focuses on men because, interestingly, the birth charts of male journalists predominantly show common astrological markers. In contrast, the charts of female journalists only align with these patterns if we allow a slight modification of one criterion, as explained below.

The Findings

From the outset, I hypothesized that the relentless drive to uncover governmental and institutional secrets, even at great personal cost, might correlate with specific astrological traits:

- **Aquarius energy**: Symbolizing a desire for social justice;
- **Aries energy**: Denoting courage and combativeness, often at high personal cost;
- **Plutonic Moon**: Indicating an emotional desire/compulsion to delve into dark secrets and manipulations;
- **Significant impact of Pluto on other personal planets**: Given its themes of secrets, power abuses, and mysteries, a capacity to handle Plutonic energies is crucial.

The research revealed four recurring elements:

1. **Aspects between Pluto and the Moon** (often a square)—Present in all 12 charts;
2. **Personal planets in Aquarius or aspects from Uranus**: Found in 11 out of 12 charts;
3. **Luminaries in Aries or aspects to Mars**: Also in 11 out of 12 charts, with an exception profile, featuring Mars prominently at the IC.
4. **Additional Pluto contacts with personal planets or the Ascendant**—Present in all 12 charts

By slightly modifying the criteria and considering contacts between Pluto and the Luminaries rather than focusing solely on Moon–Pluto aspects, the results are consistent even for female journalists who met untimely deaths due to their courageous investigations, such as:

- Anna Politkovskaya (Russia-USA —killed in 2006)
- Ilaria Alpi (Italy—killed in 1994)
- Daphne Caruana Galizia (Malta —killed in 2017)
- Veronica Guerin (Ireland—killed in 1996)

The same criteria also apply to icons of female investigative journalism who did their jobs often at great personal risk, such as Nellie Bly (USA) and Lydia Cacho (Mexico), and partially to Oriana Fallaci (Italy).

The Archetypes Involved

The social drive brought by personal planets in Aquarius or with aspects from Uranus doesn't need much explanation since we are discussing a collective rather than a personal quest for truth. Pluto/Scorpio is about delving into the dark, obscure areas of life, dealing with power, manipulation, mysteries, and hidden facts, but it also involves bringing hidden truths to light. Pluto hides but also reveals the truth, often requiring a painful transformation process. Mars and Aries's values connected to the luminaries indicate a personal mission (Sun) or a need for emotional satisfaction (Moon) that involves challenges, fighting, and self-assertion.

The Scorpio/Pluto Moon is significant for several reasons.

Those who risk their safety and professional status to reveal a secret often do so not out of rational choice but out of a difficult-to-manage emotional need. It's no coincidence that the square is the most common Pluto–Moon aspect in the 12 charts. Lunar dynamics significantly



influence behavior, and the drive to satisfy emotional needs can overpower rational considerations.

A Scorpio Moon brings a deep need for intensity and drama. Investigative journalism often leads to extreme situations.

The Moon is associated with "the public," and investigative journalism derives its impetus and framework partly from the notion of "the public interest," shedding light on matters of mass significance, a Lunar signification.

12 Birth Charts of Investigative Journalists

The analysis includes 12 figures known for their roles in exposing secrets and injustices from various nationalities and historical periods, reflecting the universality and timelessness of these archetypal traits.

JULIAN ASSANGE (AUSTRALIA)

Julian Assange is an Australian journalist and activist, best known as the founder of WikiLeaks, a platform dedicated to publishing classified information from anonymous sources. Assange's work with WikiLeaks brought him international attention in 2010 when the site released a series of significant leaks from the U.S. Army. These exposed numerous government and military secrets, sparking global debates about government transparency and the ethics of whistleblowing. Assange has been a polarizing figure, hailed as a hero of free speech and transparency by supporters, while critics accuse him of endangering national security. He is now held in a UK prison, facing extradition to the US on charges related to the publication of classified documents. His case continues to generate significant legal and political controversy, highlighting ongoing debates about press freedom, state secrets, and the right to information. Concerning the four characteristics identified previously, his chart shows:



Julian Assange

- **Pluto–Moon**: Moon in Scorpio
- **Aquarius energy**: Mars in Aquarius and Uranus square the Sun
- **Mars–Luminaries**: No contacts (the only exception out of 13 charts), but Mars is in a strong position conjunct the IC.
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Mercury sextile, both Mercury and the Sun are in the 8th house.

EDWARD SNOWDEN (USA)

Edward Snowden (not a journalist but a CIA contractor) became globally renowned in 2013 after leaking classified documents that exposed extensive global surveillance programs run by the NSA and other intelligence agencies. Snowden's disclosures revealed the scale of U.S. government surveillance on both domestic and international levels, including collecting phone records, internet communications, and data on millions of people (including members of foreign governments). In May 2013, he fled to Hong Kong and Russia to avoid imprisonment. Snowden's revelations led to significant scrutiny of intelligence practices and spurred reforms and changes in surveillance laws. Snowden remains a controversial figure, hailed as a hero by some and criticized as a traitor by others. In his chart:

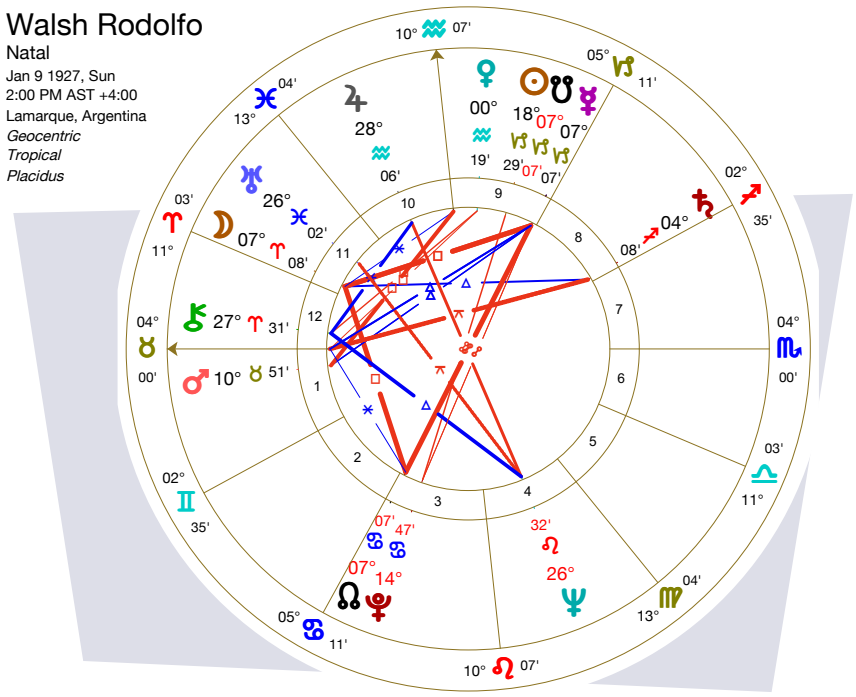
- **Pluto–Moon**: Moon in Scorpio
- **Aquarius Energy**: Uranus to Mercury and AC
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Sun–Mars conjunction
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Sun and Mars.

RODOLFO WALSH (ARGENTINA)

Rodolfo Jorge Walsh was an influential Argentine writer, journalist, and political activist renowned for his fearless pursuit of truth and social justice. His work, "Operación Masacre," bravely exposed the torture and murder of innocent civilians by the government—a harrowing act of violence against political dissenters unveiled by Walsh despite the grave risks involved.

His unwavering commitment to shedding light on injustices made him a target for the military regime. In 1977, Walsh penned his powerful "*Open Letter from a Writer to the Military Junta*," condemning the regime's human rights violations and economic policies. He starkly stated: "*Fifteen thousand missing, ten thousand*

Walsh's unwavering commitment to shedding light on injustices made him a target for the military regime.



INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS

prisoners, four thousand dead, tens of thousands of exiles are the real figures of this terror." Tragically, the following day, Walsh was ambushed and disappeared, becoming one of the countless victims of Argentina's dictatorship. His courageous legacy continues to inspire those fighting for truth and justice worldwide. In his chart:

- **Pluto–Moon**: square
- **Aquarius Energy**: Venus in Aquarius, Uranus to Venus
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Moon in Aries
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Sun opposition, Pluto–Mercury opposition.

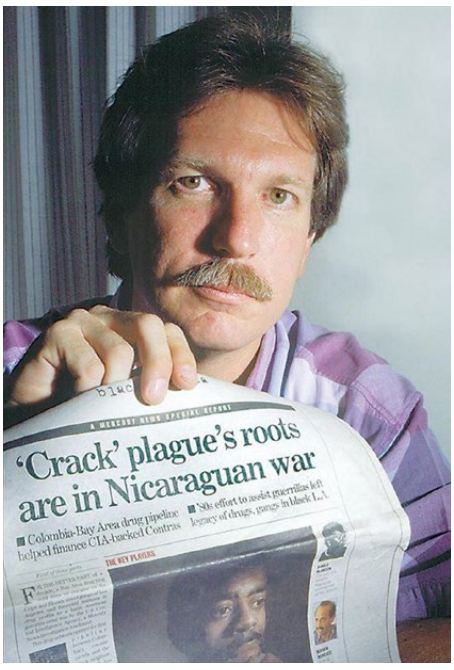
GARY WEBB (USA)

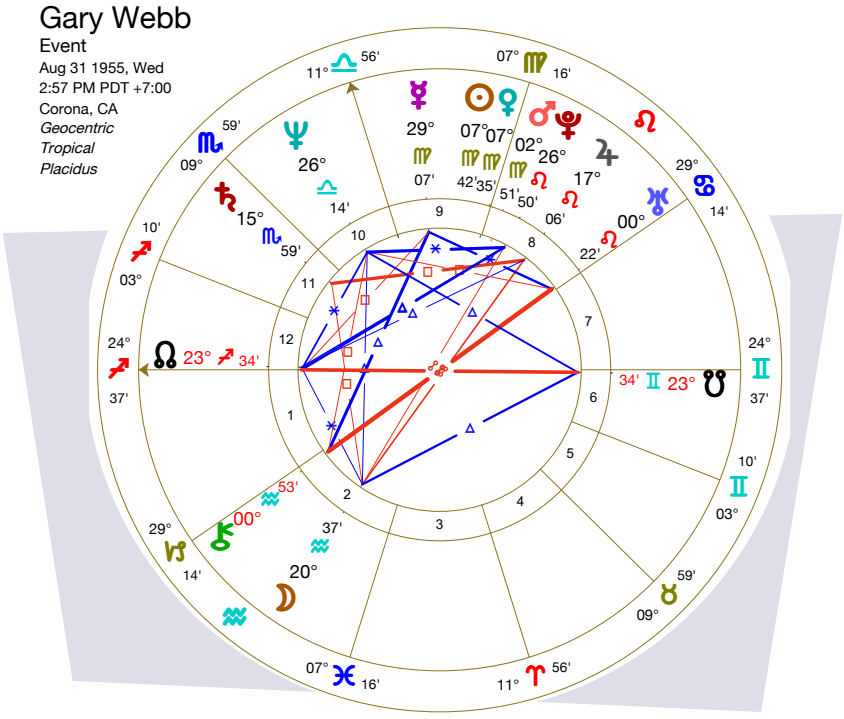
Gary Webb was an American investigative journalist known for his groundbreaking work on the connections between the CIA and cocaine trafficking. Webb's "*Dark Alliance*" series revealed the origins of the crack cocaine trade in Los Angeles. He claimed that members of the anti-communist Contra rebels in Nicaragua had played a major role in creating the trade, using cocaine profits to finance their fight against the elected government. It also stated that the Contras may have acted with the protection of the CIA. Webb's reporting suggested that U.S. government agencies were complicit in the crack cocaine epidemic that ravaged American cities.

Despite initial acclaim, Webb faced intense backlash from major media outlets, significantly damaging his career. Critics argue that his claims were inaccurate or overstated, while supporters cite the findings of a subsequent CIA investigation as vindication. Webb eventually resigned and continued to face professional and personal challenges until his death in 2004, which was ruled a suicide. The circumstances of his death remain contentious, as it is notably difficult to shoot oneself in the head with a rifle twice, raising questions about the official ruling. In his birth chart:

- **Pluto–Moon**: opposition
- **Aquarius Energy**: Aquarius Moon, Uranus to Mercury
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Sun–Mars conjunction
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Sun, Venus and Mars conjunction

Webb's reporting suggested that U.S. government agencies were complicit in the crack cocaine epidemic that ravaged American cities.





MAURO ROSTAGNO (ITALY)

Mauro Rostagno was an Italian sociologist, journalist, and activist who frequently used television to expose the collusion between the Mafia and local politics in Sicily. Despite receiving numerous threats to cease his journalistic activities, he persisted. He conducted investigations into the intricate connections between Mafia, deviant Freemasonry, corrupt military sectors, and Gladio, a secret militia structure that sought to influence Italian politics. In 1988, his dedication and courage cost him his life; he was assassinated in his car during an ambush. For years, his reputation was maligned with misleading claims attributing his murder to personal affairs or alleged involvement in drugs and arms trafficking. However, these assumptions later proved to be red herrings, even favored by the authorities: it was confirmed by a court ruling that his assassination was ordered in retaliation for his investigative and journalistic work. In his chart:

- **Pluto–Moon**: square
- **Aquarius Energy**: Aquarius Mercury and Venus
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Moon–Mars inconjunct
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–AC conjunction, Pluto–Venus and Mars.



NORBERT ZONGO (BURKINA FASO)

He was a renowned African investigative journalist and writer in Burkina Faso. Zongo founded the independent newspaper *L'Indépendant*, known for its critical reporting on government corruption and human rights abuses. Zongo's fearless investigative journalism often put him at odds with the authorities. His first novel, *Le Parachutage* was a disguised political critique of Togo's President. In the preface, Zongo mentioned being arrested and beaten for writing for the book. As an investigative journalist, he exposed many cases of extortion and impunity within the Government. In 1996, he began investigating a series of fraud and graft cases involving mining and manufacturing companies with ties to top political officials and President Compaoré's family. The following year, he was shot and burnt in his car alongside his brother and two friends. Zongo's death triggered a national crisis and violent protests within Burkina Faso and outrage across the world. His death remains a symbol of the struggle for press freedom and justice in Africa. In his chart:

Pluto–Moon: Moon in Scorpio
Aquarius Energy: Uranus–Mars, Uranus–Moon, Uranus–Venus
Mars–Luminaries: Moon–Mars trine
Other Plutonic Elements: Pluto–Sun conjunction, Pluto–Mercury conjunction

While not all of the journalists whose birth charts we will analyze have met untimely deaths due to their investigative pursuits, a significant number have endured personal and professional crises as a consequence of their work.



ÉMILE ZOLA (FRANCE)

Émile Zola, a prominent French novelist and journalist, played a crucial role in the Dreyfus Affair, a political scandal that divided France in the late 19th century. Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish French army officer, was wrongfully convicted of treason. In 1898, Zola published an open letter titled "J'Accuse…!" on the front page of the newspaper *L'Aurore*. Zola accused the French military and government of anti-Semitism and unlawful actions in the wrongful conviction of Dreyfus. By meticulously explaining judicial errors and exposing the lack of substantial evidence, Zola's letter sparked widespread outrage in France and Europe. However, it came at a personal cost, as Zola was prosecuted for libel and ultimately forced to flee to England to avoid imprisonment.

Nevertheless, his bold stance significantly contributed to Dreyfus's eventual exoneration in 1906. Today, the phrase "J'Accuse" remains embedded in the common language, meaning a strong accusation.

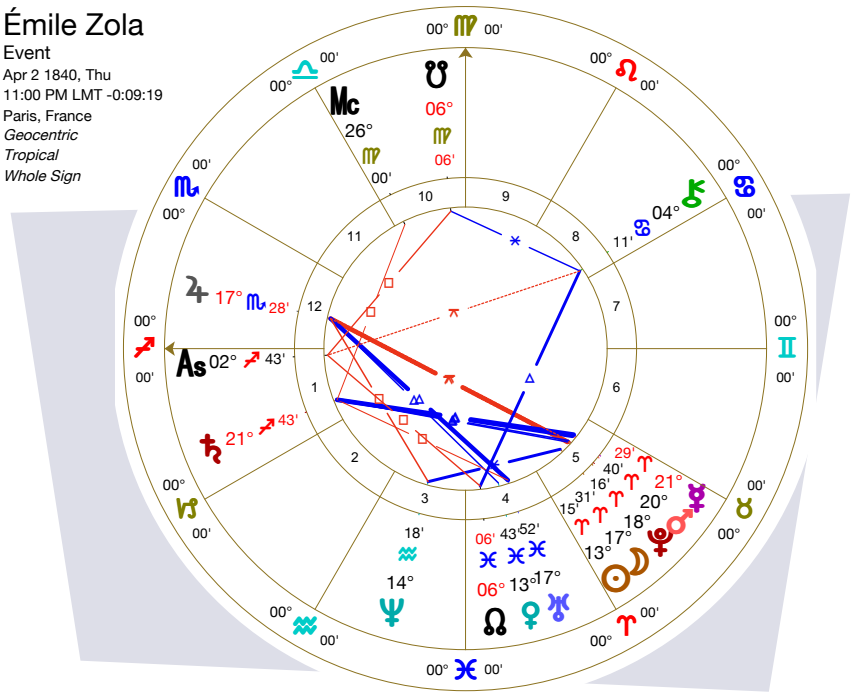
Zola accused the French military and government of anti-Semitism and unlawful actions in the wrongful conviction of Dreyfus.

- **Pluto–Moon**: conjunction
- **Aquarius Energy**: Uranus–Venus
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Sun and Moon in Aries
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Sun conjunction, Pluto–Mars conjunction, Pluto–Mercury conjunction

ALDINO FELICANI (ITALY/USA)

Felicani was an Italian-American journalist and a committed advocate for social justice. While in Italy, he was indicted for his journalistic work. In 1914, he fled to Switzerland and France to avoid imprisonment and finally found refuge in the US. He is best known for the infamous Sacco and Vanzetti trial of the 1920s, a landmark case for justice issues, xenophobia, and political bias. Sacco and Vanzetti, two Italian immigrants and anarchists, were accused of robbery and murder. The trial was controversial: the evidence was largely circumstantial, and the two men were targeted mainly due to their political beliefs and cultural background. Aldino Felicani tirelessly worked to raise funds, coordinate legal strategies, and mobilize public opinion. His efforts attracted international

Émile Zola
Event
Apr 2 1840, Thu
11:00 PM LMT -0:09:19
Paris, France
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Sign



INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS

attention and rallied many intellectuals to their defense, including Albert Einstein and H.G. Wells. Despite multiple appeals, Sacco and Vanzetti were executed in 1927. Their innocence was publicly recognized only 50 years later when Governor Dukakis officially stated that they had been unfairly tried and convicted. After their execution, Felicani continued to work on clearing their names: his dedication to their cause left a lasting impact on the fight for civil liberties and the struggle against political repression. In his chart:

- **Pluto–Moon**: square
- **Aquarius Energy**: Uranus aspects to Sun, Moon, Mercury and Mars
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Sun–Mars conjunction, Moon–Mars trine
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto– Mercury (trine), Pluto–Sun (inconjunct).

After the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, Felicani continued to work on clearing their names: his dedication to their cause left a lasting impact on the fight for civil liberties.

PIERRE PEAN (FRANCE)

He was a French investigative journalist and author renowned for his often controversial investigations into political subjects. Péan authored numerous books that exposed hidden facets of French and global political life, attracting acclaim and criticism. His work has led him to receive threats, isolation from his colleagues, and several lawsuits. In "*Manipulations Africaines*" (African Manipulations), published in February 2001, Péan investigated the sabotage of UTA Flight 772. He alleged that evidence pointed to Iran and Syria (acting through the Hezbollah movement) but that due to political issues, France and the United States tried to put the blame on Libya. He claimed that authorities fabricated false evidence against Libya in both the Pan Am Flight 103 and UTA Flight 772 sabotages. One of his books explored the controversial early life of former French President François Mitterrand, stirring significant public debate. His contributions to investigative journalism have left a lasting impact, providing the public with deeper insights into the often opaque political power. In his chart:

- **Pluto–Moon**: square
- **Aquarius Energy**: Uranus–Sun, Uranus–Mercury
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Moon in Aries, in conjunction with Mars
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Venus trine, Pluto–Mars square



Pean claimed that authorities fabricated false evidence against Libya in both the Pan Am Flight 103 and UTA Flight 772 sabotages.

PIERRE SALINGER (USA)

He was an American journalist best known as White House Press Secretary. A controversial episode in 1996 marred his professional legacy. That year, a TWA flight bound for Paris from New York exploded, resulting in the deaths of all 230 people on board. Preliminary testing on the remains of the explosion indicated traces of explosives. Three months later, Salinger claimed that a U.S. Navy missile accidentally shot down the flight. This claim was quickly debunked by the CIA and NTSB, leading to widespread criticism and damaging Salinger's reputation. Salinger's name became associated with the term "Pierre Salinger Syndrome," a derogatory label for someone who disseminates misinformation or conspiracy theories from Internet sources without proper verification. This characterization, however, is somewhat inaccurate since Salinger's claims (discredited by the findings of official investigations) were derived from several eyewitness accounts, a videotape of radar screens, and a document he believed had been leaked from French Intelligence, which was a widely accessible document that had been circulating for weeks on the Internet. In 2013, a documentary alleging that the investigation into the crash was a cover-up made news headlines. Six members of the original investigation team filed a petition to reopen the probe. In his chart:

- **Pluto–Moon**: square
- **Aquarius Energy**: Uranus–Sun, Uranus–Mercury, Uranus–Mars,
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Moon in Aries
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Venus conjunction, Pluto–AC trine

Fortunately, not all investigative journalists have experienced such dangerous or difficult situations as those recounted earlier. The next ones had a less complicated life.



BOB WOODWARD

He is an American investigative journalist and author renowned for his groundbreaking reporting on the Watergate scandal during Richard Nixon's presidency in the 1970s. The scandal stemmed from efforts by the Nixon administration to cover up its involvement in the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, D.C. Teaming up with colleague Carl Bernstein (whose birth time is unavailable for analysis), Woodward embarked on a relentless investigation. Their reporting uncovered a far-reaching campaign of political espionage, ultimately leading to President Nixon's resignation in 1974. This historical achievement earned them the Pulitzer Prize, although it was an undertaking filled with challenges and risks. In his chart:

- **Pluto–Moon**: trine
- **Aquarius Energy**: Uranus–Sun, Uranus–Mercury, Uranus–Moon
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Sun in Aries
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Venus square, Pluto–Sun trine

GENE MILLER (USA)

Gene Miller was a distinguished American journalist who carved out a remarkable career in journalism, earning widespread acclaim for his tenacity in pursuing justice. He played a crucial role in exposing wrongful convictions, often leading to the exoneration of innocent individuals. Miller's work earned him two Pulitzer Prizes for reporting on criminal justice issues. His first Pulitzer came in 1967 for his reporting on the acquittal of a man wrongfully convicted of murder, and his second in 1976 for his series on unjust imprisonments in Florida. Miller was a stalwart in investigative journalism and a mentor to many young reporters, influencing generations of journalists with his commitment. In his chart:

- **Pluto–Moon**: square
- **Aquarius Energy**: none
- **Mars–Luminaries**: Sun–Mars square
- **Other Plutonic Elements**: Pluto–Venus trine, Pluto–Mercury trine

Conclusion

Investigative journalism emerges not only as a vocation but also as a courageous journey to uncover the truth. As we delve into the astrological profiles of those committed to revealing secrets, one thing becomes evident: beneath the celestial alignments lie the unmistakable traits of courage, determination, adeptness in confronting the darkest matters, and social consciousness.

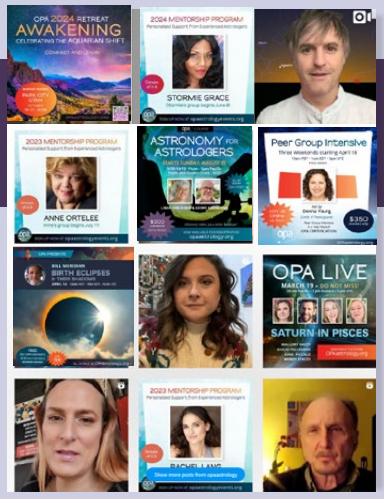
This analysis uncovered fascinating correlations between astrological archetypes and the path of the truth-seeker. Whether it's the transformative influence of Pluto, the revolutionary fervor of Uranus, or the fiery valor of Mars and Aries, these cosmic energies converge to embolden those who challenge the status quo.

In a world hungry for truth, investigative journalism can illuminate the opaque workings of political power and help improve our society. Astrology, in turn, offers an extraordinary tool to uncover the intricacies of human nature and the truths within our souls.

CHART DATA

1. Assange Julian, 3 July 1971, 3.00 PM, Townsville, Australia, Source: Astro.com
2. Snowden Edward, 21 June 1983, 04:42 AM, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Source: Astro.com
3. Walsh Rodolfo, 39 January 1927, 2:00 PM, Lamarque (Rio Negro), Argentina, Source: Astro.com
4. Webb Gary, 31 August 1955, 2:57 PM Corona, California, Source: Astro.com
5. Rostagno Mauro, 6 March 1942, 3:20 PM, Torino, Italy, Source: Astro.com
6. Zongo Norbert, 31 July 1949, 11:30 PM Koudougou, Burkina Faso, Source: Wikipedia and Local people
7. Zola Émile, 2 April 1840 11:00 PM, Paris, France, Source: Astro.com
8. Felicani Aldino , 15 March 1891, time n/a, Vicchio, Italy, Source: anarcopedia.org
9. Péan Pierre, 5 March 1938, 6:30 PM, Sablé sur Sarthe, France, Source: Astro.com
10. Salinger Pierre, 14 June 1925, 4:30 PM, San Francisco, California, Source: Astro.com
11. Woodward Bob, 26 March 1943, 6:35 PM, Geneva, Illinois, Source: Astro.com
12. Miller Gene, 16 September 1928, 2:10 PM, Evansville, Indiana, Source: Astro.com

Sonia Giudici *has been a professional astrologer in Milan, Italy, since 2012. She previously taught at a renowned Italian astrology school and is now the director of the School of Psychological Astrology Astriepsiche. Sonia is also a speaker at astrology conferences and runs a popular YouTube channel and blog with over 18,000 readers. She holds an astrology diploma from Italy and a certificate from the Faculty of Astrological Studies in London, along with additional courses in the US and UK. Before her astrology career, Sonia gained extensive experience as an International Relations manager and communication trainer/consultant. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Italy's leading business school and has pursued university studies in psychology, NLP, and intercultural communication. Her specializations include Psychological Astrology, Astrology for Business/Communication, and Astrology and Self-Development. Her website is:* ***www.astriepsiche.it***



JOIN OPA INSTAGRAM

for ongoing video updates and goodies!

opa