



## **Some History of Matrix Software**

By Michael Erlewine

## Matrix Software

An interest in astrology and all things esoteric probably grew out of my Catholic upbringing, a religion which aside from having a lot of negatives IMO had the side effect of endowing me with a sense of mystery and awe for the universe. Don't ask me to explain; that is just how it turned out.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s I was interested not only in astrology, but also in tarot, the I-Ching, and the world of occult knowledge. But it was the year I spent in Berkeley, California in 1964 that cemented the deal. In Berkeley I was exposed to Ouspensky, Gurdjieff, and a whole lot more, not the least of which was my first LSD trip which really opened my eyes to the subtle energies and the unseen. All of this came to a head when I moved back to Ann Arbor in 1965.



*Photo of Poster by Michael Erlewine*

## Circle Books

On the spring equinox in 1968 my younger brother Stephen, his wife Morgen, and his partner John C. Sullivan opened Circle Books, the first metaphysical bookstore in Ann Arbor. It was located at 215 S. State Street up on the 2nd floor, just at the top of the stairs. In fact, if you went up those stairs and kept on walking you were there. Circle Books consisted of two medium-sized rooms and a back room which was an office. I was proud of my brother for bringing to Ann Arbor something the town never had and really needed. Prior to Circle Books the only place to get anything close to metaphysical books was Bob Marshals and that bookstore was already in trouble with publishers and closed not long after Circle Books opened. The other bookstores in this university town were all about text books for college courses and offered little else.

Circle Books was in a building (perhaps the only one in Ann Arbor) devoted to Sixties themes. On the floor above the bookstore (the third floor) was Middle Earth, a glorified and gone-to-heaven head shop. On the same floor as the bookstore was Saturn, a sixties-style mod clothing store. In the basement was "Little Things," filled with all kinds of neat little things, and on the main floor was a chic expensive clothing store. The whole building was probably a trip for some visitors back in the

middle 1960s.



*Photo Michael Erlewine circa 1968*

In the beginning Circle Books looked pretty empty, some simple pre-made bookshelves placed against the wall and not-quite-enough-yet books. I am not sure how I got involved, but I did. After all, I was Stephen's older brother. That would do it or was it my growing interest in astrology and all things metaphysical. Stephen was already an astrologer and I was, well I was many things. At the time I believe I encouraged or enthused John Sullivan to invest more money in the store to modify it.

Within weeks of opening I was hard at work helping them to remodel the store so that it had a more new-age and sophisticated look. I ended up designing and supervising the rebuilding of the entire store in redwood and glass. Back then redwood was just another (beautiful of course) wood at the lumber yard and in fact it was cheaper than clear pine. Imagine that! When we were done, the entire bookstore was finished in redwood with frosted globe lights and back-lit frosted glass panels at the top of some shelves, and with boxed-in areas down by the floor. Better yet, we had two really great aquariums, one for fresh water fish and a really big

one for salt water. And finally we had a four-foot chart wheel (also backlit) that displayed the current astrology of the day. It was beautiful.

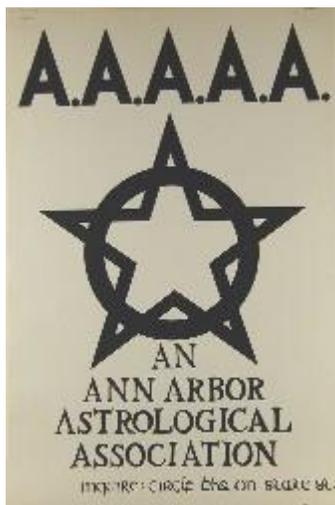
John Sullivan and Stephen & Morgen ran the bookstore. I ended up calculating the astrology charts for the bookstore, at first by hand using the traditional log table approach and later in the early 1970s using a little 4-function calculator. I probably helped out with sales at times and I know I occasionally gave classes in the larger second room some evenings. Mostly I just hung out there a lot. Circle Books was the perfect place to spend time, meet new people, and have lengthy intellectual conversations on astrology and the occult and all things spiritual. People came from towns near and far to shop at Circle Books. Until then most of us had no place and no one to talk with about these spiritual matters. The bookstore was a conversation waiting to happen.

Circle Books was almost like a dream come true - otherworldly at times. There were plenty of outside windows and the inner store with its globe lights and backlit panels made the overall effect something very special. You just naturally wanted to go there. How many times did I come up those stairs two steps at a time and then step down into Circle Books for a wonderful time – many, many, many.

You could probably say that I held court there. And I wasn't the only one. It just naturally happened. Before long I had not only some students but many new friends. Ann Arbor had never before catered to those with an interest in spiritual and

metaphysical things. And they flocked to the store.

In 1969 my brother Stephen and I published the "Circle Books Astrological Calendar" which has been published every year since then. It is still going today, over forty-one years later. That is quite a run. I left Ann Arbor to run greenhouses in northern Michigan and later 19,000 square feet of glass in Apopka Florida in later 1971. That did not work out. When I returned to Ann Arbor after my adventures in the green-plant business early in 1972 I was able to pick up the chart work for the bookstore again and began offering many different evening classes.



*Poster by Michael Erlewine*

We also started a local astrological group called "An Ann Arbor Astrological Association" and I designed a special logo and poster for it. The meetings were held weekly in the evening at the store. Circle Books survived for something like six years but as all the other bookstores in Ann Arbor begin to pick up what are called the "bread & butter" books, the most popular

new-age and astrology titles, it meant less and less sales for Circle Books.

When sales flagged further the store was eventually sold in 1974 to Robert Thibodeau from the Detroit area who had his own metaphysical store in Ferndale called "Mayflower Books." Thibodeau cherry-picked the books he wanted for his store and sold Circle Books to another would-be bookseller not long afterward. It soon faltered and failed as well. Like all mandalas, it bloomed and then it was gone.

By this time I had been a professional astrologer already operating out of my home at 1041 N. Main Street for a couple of years. Making a living as an astrologer is no easy task. I was working all the time, doing readings, giving classes, writing courses, and making flyers which I would post all over town. By 1975 I was also operating my own mail-order astrological book business out of my home. This really was a shoestring operation. And our house was small.



*Current photo of 114 N. Main. I did the paint job which has remained for over 30 years*

## **The House at 1041 N. Main Street**

We lived in a little house perched high on an embankment out on 1041 North Main Street in Ann Arbor. It overlooked the Huron River which runs parallel to the street but on the other side of the highway, beyond the junkyard and the train tracks. Our house was out on the edge of town right where the highway begins so we could have heavy traffic at times and often plenty of noise. It was also no kind of road for a kid to be near. It was the "Main Street." And we were directly across the street from Lansky's junk yard with all that entailed and giant wharf rats would cross the street and could be seen digging through the garbage cans at the side of our house in the dusk and early morning light. These rats were the size of small cats. Also, less than one-half block from our house freight trains ran both east & west and north & south all night long. Starting and stopping, creaking and crying, one of the train tracks slowly clanged around a turn and across the river bridge. The sound actually became almost beautiful after a while, sounding like Gagaku, the free-reed oboe-like imperial court music of Japan. I almost miss it. Almost.



*Photo: View of the Huron River from our house*

Behind our house was a very steep hill running straight up to another whole part of Ann Arbor high above

us. It was difficult to climb even if you wanted to. The house faced east so we could watch the sun come up on the river early summer mornings. It was one of those places few people would want to live, but we loved it. It was almost outside of Ann Arbor (not smack in it) and kind of isolated, yet still near where things were happening. It was a good compromise.

The house itself was nothing special but it was special for us because it was where we lived and the rent was low enough that we could afford to stay there as long as I could find some work. We had next to nothing and few ways to make a living. I picked up odd jobs as a stagehand or mixed clay and helped to fire pottery at a friend's studio. I had lost most of the income streams I had built up before I left Ann Arbor to go into the green-plant business. When that did not work out and I found my way back to my home town, things had changed. I had changed.

The house itself was far above the street, so by the time you reached the second floor where my office was you were really up high. There was this sense of no one else around although there were a couple of houses in the same situation to the right and left of us. There were no houses in front or behind us, only north and south of us along the highway. Other than that there was no one else around. We were maybe a block from where the rest of the town started, just down a little sidewalk through some weeds and under the bridge over which one of the train tracks ran.

This is where we lived from the spring of 1972 until March 1st, 1980 when we relocated to Big Rapids where we live today. The Main

Street house was where Matrix Software was born, where our first two kids were born and raised, and where so much that has affected astrology began. Noel Tyl, Dane Rudhyar and many other great astrologers visited there. We had next to nothing but actually had everything we needed, like time and a vision. That was enough.

One major change that came around the end of May 1972 was that Margaret told me she was pregnant and that we were expecting our first child. I was surprised and happy but also terrified as to what it meant for our lives. It would no longer be just Margaret and I who could live on next to nothing. As a natural provider type, the news sent shock waves through my system. We were barely surviving as it was. In fact, I was so panicked about providing that the very next day I went out and got a job on a garbage truck just to prove (to myself) that I had to be willing to do anything. That job lasted one day and I came home pretty stinky. It was fun hanging off the running boards at the back of the garbage truck and to have people feel sorry for me. After I calmed down I realized that I could probably find some work better than hauling garbage. I did have 'some' abilities, just not a high-school diploma. I still have dreams of being back in high school trying to get that diploma that I never got.

I have been an entrepreneur all of my working life. Even back then I had more trouble working for others than for myself. I wanted to fit in, but it was always easier to create my own livelihood than it was to blend in somewhere else. I don't blend well. It would have been nice to be able to just go along, but that was

not me. My critical gifts are too strong and criticism unless applied "just so" is not welcome much of anywhere in this world. We all know that. And I was not always skillful in my criticism.

Anyway, I was soon searching inside myself to find some kind of living more in line with what I naturally liked to do and could do. I had been doing a lot of astrology so in August of 1972 I decided to become a full-time professional astrologer and hung out my shingle. I had worked with astrology for many years helping build Circle Books (my brother's metaphysical bookstore), teaching classes there, and doing the chart work for the store. When I returned to Ann Arbor I picked back up on doing the astrological charts for Circle Books. It was natural for me to expand my services and work out of my own home.

The problem was that we did not have all that much room in our house. In fact, it was tight. For example: we had one small living room in which was a couch. That couch would fold out into our bed. We used to have classes in the living room and when everyone was gone (and if we were dead tired) we would immediately turn out the light, unfold the couch, and climb in. Well sometimes a student would have forgotten something or other and soon after we were in bed would be pounding on the door. It was pretty funny to answer the door, directly behind which was the open bed. Margaret might have been hiding under the covers for all I remember. Anyway, that had to change.

Our house had two bedrooms on the second floor and we decided that the larger one of them would

become my office and the “classroom.” There would be no more classes in the living room. They would be held upstairs, which left us with one small room to sleep in which appropriately became known as the “bed” room because it literally had wall-to-wall beds to sleep the whole family. After our second child was born (late in 1975) you could walk across the beds from one side of the room to the other with no gaps. The kids loved it.



### Flyer for My Astrological Services

And I held classes. Students would file up the stairs and into the classroom past Margaret who was trying to bathe and put the kids to bed in the next room. It was close. Of course I never thought of it as anything but grand, having a house to live in! In my office I had a desk against the south wall and a large blackboard on the north wall. And I had my IBM Selectric typewriter. I wrote whole books on that typewriter; that and my calculators were about all I had in the way of equipment for many years. This was before computers. In the office during the day I would work and do readings for a constant stream of

people who filed in. It was hard on my family to have people coming in and out all day long. Then at night I would cram any number of students into my office, all squished together. My classes were literally up close and personal. And I am told I was pretty tough on some of my students. If they were not paying attention or mouthed off I would escort them to the door and put them out. They were lucky I did not grab them by the ear. End of story.

Back then it was hardscrabble all the way, never having any money and reinventing myself every which way I could to come up with new services so we could pay the rent. I also was speaking at churches, schools, colleges, meetings, and about anywhere they would have me. I taught classes at Circle Books, Art Worlds, Guild House, Y.M.C.A, The Free University, and the Heart Center (our place). I once taught an astrology class to 1200 people in the Michigan Ballroom on the second floor of the Michigan Student Union as part of the Free University.

Margaret and I would also participate in all kinds of New-Age psychic conferences and gatherings. I would be there as an astrologer but most other speakers that came were psychic readers, healers, tarot readers, palmists, and what-not. It was all over the board. Along the way we checked out séances, healings, hands-on healings, message services, and about anything else that was out there. It was all fascinating for a while.

We even drove down to Camp Chesterfield, Indiana (which is a community of healers and spiritualists) to have our firstborn

daughter Lotis baptized. Once there, we went around to the little cottages where the healers lived and visited those we had met at conferences here and there. Although I tried really hard to be open to it, none of the psychic or 'spiritualism' managed to stick. It was, however, somewhat of an education.

One of my favorite psychics was Elsie Vocovitch who lived right in Ann Arbor out on the west side. Elsie was a kindly woman and we would visit her quite often either to just sit and talk or to be part of whatever service or séance-like event she might be holding that evening. I can remember that during one séance I was told that my spirit guide was an Indian medicine man named "Drum Song." And sometimes on Sundays we would attend the spiritualist church that Elsie belonged to and check that out. One of the features there was the giving of messages. Various psychics would come up front and deliver messages for those in the audience. They would actually single you out and pull messages out of the ether that were specifically for you. Mostly they were upbeat and always intriguing. Of course I would try my best to bend each message around whatever I had going for me and wanted most to hear. In time, I begin to have problems with psychic pronouncements in general.

I can remember one such statement having to do with a road and an overpass in Ann Arbor. The psychic told me I had to be very careful of this particular overpass or I might have an accident. Well, you can be sure that I never forgotten that overpass. Multiply that by ten or more such pronouncements and you might have a fairly healthy list of

things you had to "watch out for." I found this really annoying after a while. And it also partook of what I call the "chiropractor syndrome," meaning that like chiropractors, psychics tend to make you dependent on them. You have to keep coming back again and again to have your psychic temperature checked out and problems patched up. After some considerable experience, I gradually tuned away from this kind of spirituality. One becomes too dependent on the psychic as a person and, even worse, the psychics seem to like that.

I am not sure how I rationalized my view of psychic readings considering I made my living doing astrology readings for many years. I am sure the public can't tell the difference. For me the difference is that (at least the readings I did) were one-offs and did not require that you come back for another one. And of course astrology is about cycles based on heavenly motions that reoccur rather than specific events that are called up from the ether or wherever. I can see this discussion could get murky, so I will not try to rationalize this with myself right here in your presence. But it's on my list of things to ponder.

In the middle of all this scrambling for money, doing readings, teaching classes, and lecturing there was something else going on as well. My interest in astrology was deepening and broadening. I had real questions and I set about to find the answers. After some years I was able to move from log tables, pencil & paper to the 4-function calculator, pencil and paper, somewhere in the early 1970s. That helped. Many of my questions required that I learn some more about trigonometry and

before long I was doing extended series of trig calculations on a lowly pocket calculator. It beat the earlier paper trig tables, but it still took a long time. I can remember calculating early Local Space charts (azimuth and altitude) that would take me the whole day to do the numbers for a single chart.



*Photo: HP-67 Programmable*

When programmable calculators came along I was Johnny-on-the-Spot in line to get one. I can still remember buying my first HP programmable at Ulrich's Bookstore at 549 E. University in Ann Arbor, just down from where my grandmother used to live. It was a marvel to me. And the calculators soon got more complicated and more expensive. Of course I had no money and the next one I wanted cost a steep \$500. I decided to go to the bank and ask for a loan. Well, that was fun.

Sitting there with the credit manager, he asked me what I did for a living. Of course, honest Abe here told him I was an astrologer. His eyebrow arched and I knew I

was in for trouble. Then he ran his finger down a long list of professions, leaned over, looked me in the eye and said "The profession of 'astrologer' is listed right above that of 'migrant worker'." Loan denied.

Well, I needed that calculator and I went back to the bank two more times until they finally gave me the loan to buy my first programmable calculator, one of many I would learn before I was done. I purchased an even better calculator sometime later when a almost-new car my parents had given us was hit by a passing motorist (while it was parked) and totaled. With the insurance money I was able to buy a much-worse car and a larger programmable calculator. From little acorns big oaks do grow. That wrecked car was the seed from which came Matrix Software.



*Photo: HP-97 Programmable*

By this time I was writing all kinds of astrology programs on programmable calculators and delving into some areas astrologers had never been before. One of them was published by no less than Hewlett-Packard as part of a book on astronomical and astrological algorithms. In 1975 I published my first book, a long-range heliocentric ephemeris, "The Sun is Shining"

which covered four-hundred years covering 1750 through 2050 A.D. It was the first of its kind. I also produced a set of detailed star maps, some seven in all, placing familiar celestial objects in Zodiac maps rather than the Equatorial maps used by astronomers. In fact I had to lay them all out on large sheets of paper, calculating each star or point on a calculator, and then plotting it with rulers and T-squares on the paper... and finally using PressType to affix a little star or whatever symbol. This too had never been done in such detail on the Ecliptic. The year was 1976.

That same year I published "Interface: Planetary Nodes," a reduction of the complete planetary nodal solar system into the series of measurable points of interest to astrologers. And lastly, that year I published "Astrophysical Directions," the first book on deep space astrology ever written and unmatched today some thirty-five years later. This was all before I was anyone or knew anyone in astrology. I just did it because I loved it.

I was an unknown astrologer living somewhere in the Midwest but I was happily on a quest and I actually had some vision. As for famous astrologers? I never met one before I met Charles A. Jayne and that was by telephone. We soon became good friends. I was no one but that did not faze him one bit because he was interested in my ideas and not whether anyone had ever heard of me, and they hadn't. My friendship with Jayne resulted in our meeting in person in the fall of 1976 at a large astrological conference at Columbiere College in the town of Clarkston near Detroit. It was mind-boggling when I finally met Jayne in

person, trying to put his booming authoritative voice together with his more whimsical persona. He looked for all the world like Mr. Toad from "The Wind in the Willows" and Winnie the Pooh. Jayne and I became fast friends and I miss him to this day. He would fly out here to Michigan to spend his birthday with us and was about to do that again one year when he suddenly passed away. You can't replace what there is only one of.

At that conference in 1976 near Detroit in a single day I not only met Charles Jayne, but also such lights as Charles Harvey, John Addey, Robert Hand, Michael Munkasey, Thomas Shanks, and many other astrologers. I was soon one of the gang. And I continued to program and explore little-known and unknown techniques. And all of this time I was struggling to make enough money to pay the bills. By the fall of 1975 I had two kids and all the attendant responsibilities that go with them. And then in 1977 microcomputers appeared on the scene.

I lived by my wits, my sense of discrimination, and the basic good taste in color and style that my artist mother had instilled in me. Still it was very difficult to make a living, especially as an astrologer. It was all Margaret could do to care for two kids and make sure they had what they needed in love and attention. I was always there with them but often distracted by either my research or in trying to come up with new ways of finding income. At least my body was there. In later years my mind came back into the body which made for a better father. It seemed back then that there was no light at the end of the financial

tunnel but a change was coming: microcomputers.

I pretty much lived and breathed programming and astrological calculations. I had followed the process of calculation up from log tables and paper & pencil to the 4-function calculator, to programmable calculators, to more sophisticated programmable calculations, and so on. Up until then if I needed any large computer work done it had to be on a mainframe with the help of my friend David Wilson. And now there was talk of home computers on the horizon. That would be a dream come true when it happened.



*Photo: Commodore PET*

I practically lived at NCE/Compumart at 1250 North Main Street in Ann Arbor. That was where microcomputers could be found even before they could be found. I lived at 1041 North Main so it was only a few blocks away. Compumart was more like a warehouse than a consumer store and had huge behemoth computers stacked up against their walls and all kinds of parts and computer-board kits strewn everywhere in various states of functioning. Much of what they had was way too complicated and required a dedication to hardware that I didn't have in me. I was a software guy and they had mostly do-it-yourself logic boards, interfaces, and stuff I

didn't know much about. But nevertheless I wandered their aisles in wonder at it all and dreamed of the home computers to come. And Compumart had one really remarkable sales person, a fellow name John Johnson. He helped to bring all that computer stuff to life for me.

What I wanted was my own computer, one that I could just turn on and not have to solder and piece the thing together. And home computers were not really out yet, so I waited and waited. I put my order in for one of the very first Commodore PET 2001-8 (Personal Electronic Transactor) which was released in 1977 at a price of \$795. Does anyone but me remember the yellow demo PETS that receded the real article in the stores?

I would try not to, but could not help but watch each day for the UPS truck to come down Main Street where I lived. I was waiting for my first computer and knew that someday my own personal computer would arrive, a Commodore 8K PET. And then one day it was my turn. The UPS truck pulled into the driveway and I had my own microcomputer. It was like a living in my own dream to finally have a computer of my own and I knew just what to do with it. It was the key to my future and I intuitively could feel that.

Although Apple got all the press, the Commodore PET was IMO a much better computer and more complete. I used to have to load floating-point BASIC into my first Apple from cassette just to do ordinary math. With the Commodore PET I just turned the machine on and everything was ready to go. I had a complete astrology program running

in 1977 and this included geocentric, heliocentric, Equatorial, and Local Space (azimuthal) coordinates and then some, all in 8K of RAM, which is 8192 bytes of memory space. A gigabyte or RAM today is something like a billion bytes of space. Go figure.

I was soon programming everything I could think of in astrology on my Commodore PET and telling other astrologers about it too. I encouraged my fellow astrologers to do what I was doing: get themselves a computer and program it. This didn't happen. Astrologers wanted copies of my programs so they could just get a computer and be off and running. I didn't blame them. Math and programming was not my first nature either. Of course I obliged and pretty soon I was spending most of my time copying and verifying cassette tapes of programs I had written and putting them in the mail – very tedious work. I didn't even charge for them. The demand got steadily greater for my programs.

I was still barely supporting my family as it was and before long I had to make a decision and it actually was quite a spiritual experience. It was almost like a voice spoke from inside saying something like: You can stop sharing your programs and devote yourself to the astrological research you love while you find ways to support your family or you can divide your time between research and charging for your astrology programs and not have to struggle so much for work. The second choice seemed best and with that I was soon in business. I had to charge from my programs and I did.

I called my company "Matrix Software," not after the mathematical term 'matrix' but after the word matrix meaning "womb" or birth place. For me this was the birthplace of astrological computing, and so it was for many. As it turns out I was the first person to produce computer programs on microcomputers and share them with my fellow astrologers, at first for free and later as a business which is still going some thirty-three years later.

I thought it was very funny when one quite-famous astrologer (not to be humiliated here) wrote me a nasty letter telling me that I had no right to charge anything more for my astrology programs than the cost of a cassette, mailer, and postage. Of course this particular astrologer was kicking himself that he had no way to cash in on what he could now see might become popular. Thank you very much!

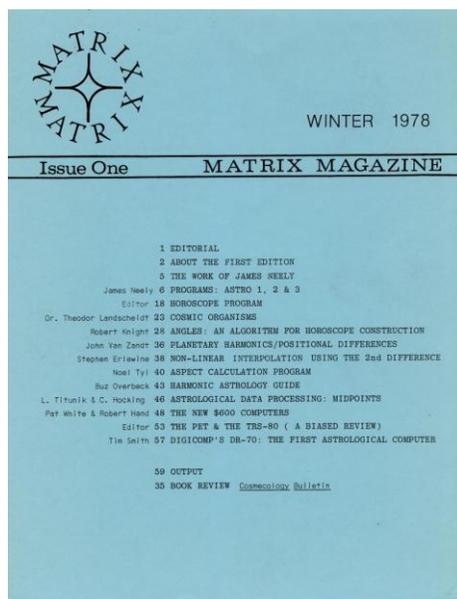


Photo: Matrix Magazine, Vol. 1

Matrix Software was incorporated early in 1978 and I started "Matrix Magazine," a journal that was dedicated to sharing astrological algorithms and technical information relating to astrology. Some of the most prominent astrologers in the world contributed or participated in the magazine and a good time was had by all. Matrix Magazine shared a wide variety of astrological programs with the community and a lot of fun was had as well.

Of all the astrologer-programmer types I met somewhere around that time, the most important and influential was James Neely. Let me start out by saying that "Neely" is not his real name, but a name he used when he interfaced with astrologers. His real job was such that 'astrology' might not enhance his career prospects, something like that. Neely was older than I was and knew just about everything I wanted to know about astronomical programming, and he was willing to share his knowledge. Neely was not an astrologer. In fact, all who contributed to Matrix Magazine readily shared information with one another. As a child of the 1960s, this was just natural for me.

Neely and I soon became good friends and he was featured in the magazine and given special reverence and appreciation by all. Neely was also just a really great person to know and became for me something like a father figure and mentor. I looked up to him. And James Neely also helped me to learn astronomical programming and readily contributed not only to Matrix magazine, but also to Matrix Software, which was increasingly coming into its own. However, Neely did not want to get a royalty or be paid for his contributions. I am not

sure just why, but perhaps it had to do with taxes and acknowledging outside income. What he did allow was for us to send him equipment as he needed it, which we happily did.

## **MATRIX SOFTWARE**

As it turns out Matrix was the first astrological software company in the world, and even today is one of the two oldest software companies still in existence on the Internet, the other (and older) company being a little company called Microsoft, so an article written for the magazine "Red Herring" pointed out. That's old in computer time.

Today we can just go downtown and buy a printer for our computer but back then there were no printers available, so my first printer was a converted Teletype machine that weighed about 70 lbs. and was two-foot square or more. I could barely lift it. And there were no word processors available. I had to write my own type justification routines to print out my first book, "Manual of Computer Programming for Astrologers," which I then traded to the AFA (American Federation of Astrologers" for enough money to buy a real printer. That is all I ever got for it. Talk about salad days.

Why me? There is only one reason: because I did it. There were other astrologers with far more proclivity for programming than I, but none that cared enough to do it. I was the first astrologer to program astrology and make it available on home computers for my fellow astrologers. And in the beginning, as mentioned, I didn't even charge money for my programs. I gave them to anyone

who had a computer that could run them and was happy to do so.

The only other astrologer I knew who was into programming was Rob Hand who had a little Wang computer that he programmed. When I wanted to start Matrix I did not want to step on anyone else's toes so I called Rob and told him about Matrix and asked if there was any conflict with his future plans. He told me that he had no intention of selling software and that I had his blessing. Then, about a year or so later, I found out he had started Astrolabe and was selling software. I had never heard this from him but had to discover it myself. I called him and reminded him of his statement to me and his only reply was "I changed my mind."

It is not like astrologers by nature took to the computer right off. It was just the opposite. Astrologers as a group were computer-phobic from day one and only slowly warmed to a machine that could do the calculations they did by hand. The ridiculous old log-table rituals of calculating a chart were their secret and many saw the computer as an unwanted intruder into their ancient science. But the forward-looking astrologers (and aren't all astrologers supposed to be future oriented?) could see the advantage of having a computer and I began to get more requests for my free software than I could fill. As mentioned, soon I was spending almost my entire time recording and verifying cassette tapes of programs for my fellow astrologers while I could not pay my own bills. It was around then that I began to charge for my programs. Even this was not welcome, and this is one of my favorite stories:

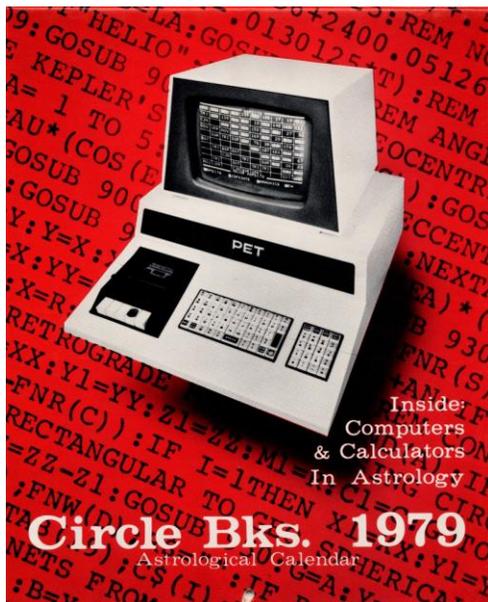


Photo: Circle Books Calendar 1979

I received very many more poison-pen letters when in 1979 I put a computer on the cover of an astrological calendar that my brother Stephen and I had been publishing since 1969. The calendar is still published today, some 42 years later! But at the time the photo of a computer with an astrological aspect grid on its screen was just too much of an affront for many astrologers to bear. They hated it. However, more and more astrologers of another inclination loved it and actually could see the future, at least when it presented itself.

I could go on and on but I will give just one more example of the old saying that "No good deed goes unpunished" and this had to do with the advent of the first microcomputer interpretation reports. Oh the horror of the thought when astrologers figured out what these written interpretations actually were. I remember one round table discussion at a major conference

where we were discussing computers and astrology and talking at that moment of computerized reports of chart interpretations. The poor woman who was assigned for our roundtable to monitor the door just stood by the entrance crying her eyes out about how horrible these reports were for astrology and that they would take the bread out of the mouths of working astrologers.

Of course, just the opposite is what happened. These little reports gave every astrologer the opportunity to sell a client \$5 or \$10 worth of astrology when the client was not up to paying for a sit-down reading. But even here astrologers did not flock to buy computer software that printed out written readings, at least not publically. Instead, they called us on the QT, after hours and under-the-counter to buy these new reports because they knew they could sell them but did not want other astrologers to know they would stoop to such a thing. Such is progress.

Of course, just a few years later almost every astrologer with a computer had one or more reports to offer their clients. And one other story is worth relating. It had to do with the first time I went to a major astrology convention to present my software. I am not sure exactly where that conference was held, but it may well have been the AFA (American Federation of Astrologers) conference in New Orleans in 1980. That sounds about right.

Although I was the only person creating and marketing astrological software for home computers, that did not mean I had no competition. There was one dedicated machine

that did astrological calculations from a company named Digicomp Research called the DR-70. It was a little hard-wired computer that came in a neat closed case like a typewriter and cost a couple of thousand dollars. I will never forget that first day when I walked into the large convention hall where the astrology exhibitors had their booths.

I had only one small card table and a couple of folding chairs. As I walked into the hall I looked around at all of the booths where astrologers were busy setting up their wares. I was looking (of course) for the Digicomp booth. It must be there somewhere, I thought. Then it dawned on me. At the back of this large hall, stretching left to right along the entire back wall was Digicomp, not a booth, but filling the entire room horizon with one vast display. It was devastating to see.

I set up my little card table, sat in my chair, and the rest is history. Within a few years Digicomp and the DR-70 disappeared from the scene and my programs and Matrix Software became the weapon of choice for astrologers who had computers and by that time almost all of them had computers.

As mentioned, Matrix started in my little office on the second floor at 1041 N. Main street in Ann Arbor in 1977. Three years later on March 1, 1980, the coldest day in the winter as it turned out, my family and I moved three hours north to Big Rapids, Michigan. It was a small convoy of one UHaul trailer and two pickup trucks. We had found a small house in Big Rapids for about \$30,000 and we moved in. I had

never dared to imagine that I could own a home because it seemed beyond my most remote dreams. But all those little astrology programs and years of work made it possible at least to put down a small down payment and move in. We did.

As mentioned, the house was small and could only allow me a small office, something like 10x12 feet and here I sit some 34 years later in that same little room. It is smaller than my office in Ann Arbor, but I was and still am quite happy in it. My brother Stephen (who still lived in Ann Arbor) had begun to help me with programming, taking over creating programs on the Radio Shack computer TRS-80. By this time I was supporting the Commodore PET, Apple IIe, and the Radio Shack machine. Oh yes, we tried some other computers as well like the Osborne II, Exidy Sorcerer, and several small programmable calculators. And of course the IBM PC was huge. It was not long before Stephen and his family decided to move north and join us. This was October of 1980.

Well, it was not just me he was joining. My parents and three of my younger brothers lived here, so it was a gathering of the clan. We moved up to this small Midwestern town to raise kids and give them the same experience we had, the ability to walk downtown without the danger of anything happening to them. Big Rapids still could support this kind of lifestyle. Ann Arbor had grown too large for small town experiences. It was like going back in time and was worth it. Anyway, by then and with two kids we were using less and less of Ann Arbor's wonderful resources. It was as if they were not there. I was so busy I

could live anywhere and never know the difference.



*Photo: Matrix First Shop*



*Photo: Inside Matrix Shop*

The Was Such a Thing as a Free Lunch

Back in the 1980s, Matrix Software was housed in three buildings in a small complex in Big Rapids. We actually had a free lunch for employees every day Monday through Friday. Better yet, on Friday evenings after work we would have a big dinner for anyone on the staff, their families, and often various guests from the community.

Also we happened to have with us a remarkable chef named Martin Wolf, who was also a very fine poet. He did the cooking for the meals on Friday night and food seemed to just appear soon after he entered the kitchen. Now folks, that was a

long, long time ago, way back in the day when such things as this were possible. I don't even know where Martin Wolf is today. I include a pretty poor snapshot of Chef Wolf in the kitchen.

Also shown here are some of the menus for the Friday-night dinners done by my brother Tom Erlewine, a graphics designer and artist. These menus are lots of fun. Late afternoon every Friday, Tom would take some time off from his duties as artist for Matrix and just kind of stretch out a bit putting together a menu for the following week.

These menus were posted for the employees to see and employees would sign up for the following week. Some of you looking at these many even have attended a dinner or two.

The Heart Center was founded in late 1972/early 1973 just before the birth of our first child. It was a very special time for many reasons. The whole idea for the center came in a vision, so let me tell you about that first.

I had stayed up late talking with an occult scholar in Detroit. It was very, very dry and academic, so that by the time I got back to my home in Ann Arbor, I had a headache or something like one. My head was crammed/jammed with words that made little sense. I was literally nauseous.

That next morning when I got up, I was really hung over and I had not been drinking. I did not feel well. Then a strange thing happened. I found myself dropping to the floor and going through a very exact yoga

exercise, sometimes called "The Cat," as in: a cat throwing up a fur ball. Anyway... my whole body went through this spontaneous kriya and it was as if, like a snake, I shed my skin of all of that stuff from the night before, and a lot more from my past. It was a transformative experience.

In the midst of all this came a symbol, one I had never seen before (and I study symbols and create logos), and I took this symbol as the sign of this new era. I enclose the symbol and a drawing I made at the time that explained (at least to me) what I had gone through.

With this symbol came an idea for a communion center, and the concept would take a whole post if not a small book to explain. Some of it is in my free book "Astrology of the Heart," if anyone is interested. The bottom line is that this was the beginning of the Heart Center, a place where people could come together and share experience. This was in 1972 and the center is still going strong now in 2010, some 38 years later.

The Heart Center has had literally thousands of visitors over the years, not to mention many astrologers, musicians, mathematicians, psychologists, and others who have stayed at the center, some for as long as 4 ½ years! Most of the great astrologers of the later 20<sup>th</sup> center were guests at the center including Dane Ruhdyar, Charles Jayne, Michel Gauquelin, Noel Tyl, Rob Hand, John Townley, John Addey, Charles Harvey, Theodor Landscheidt, Roger Elliot, Jim Lewis, Angel Thompson, Gloria Starr, Steven Forrest, Jew Jawer, Neil Michelsen, Robert Schmidt, Axel Harvey, and many scores more.

At one time we had staying in the center a Sanskrit scholar, a swami, an astrologer/astrologer/mathematician who had worked on the equations for lunar theory, the head astrologer for the Hari Krishna movement, all at once. Now that was fun mix.

Originally the house had eight bedrooms, but some of those rooms have been reclaimed for other uses over the years. I know I took over two of them myself, for various reasons. In recent years the center has also been a refuge for a great many young musicians, who have come to record in our studio or just crash for the night. There have been mornings when I have come into the center to find every bed filled, every couch occupied, and sleeping bags all over the floor - that kind of thing.

Over the years, the center has held more and more conferences, teachings, and visits by dharma practitioners and very high lamas. The list of distinguished Kagyu lamas who have taught and/or given empowerments at our center include His Eminence Tai Situ Rinpoche, His Eminence Shamar Rinpoche, Ven. Traleg Rinpoche, Ven. Thrangu Rinponche, Ven. Khenpo Tsultum Gyamtso, Ven. Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche, Lama Namse, Lama Karma Drodul, Lama Yeshe Gyamtso, Lama Lohdro Lhamo, Lama Kathy Wesley, and many other dharma teachers.

Today the center still offers Wednesday night dharma discussions along with meditation instructions and the occasional lama visit. There you have an introduction, so let's look at the photos and I will add some additional comments there.



*Heart Center House*

Here is the main building tucked away in the center of a quiet block in Big Rapids, Michigan. Our home is right next door to it. You can see a faded Dream Flag flying on a flagpole in the upper right, the flag designed by the 16<sup>th</sup> Gyalwa Karmapa from a dream, which said to him that as long as the dream flag waves, dharma will grow and spread.



*Heart Center Mid-House View*

On your left is the side entrance to the Heart Center, and on the right you can see a little bit of our house. A patio-like area is in between the two houses. Mostly you can see some of my Milkweed plants. We let the middle and backyards grassy areas grow wild to attract more butterflies, bugs, toads, and anything. The city won't let us do it in the front, but we mow around any flowers, etc.



### The Main Shrine

Here is a close-up of the main shrine. It would be too complex to call out all of the various statues, but suffice it to say that our center is dedicated to Amitabha Buddha, the Buddha of the western direction, and also of death, dying, and the bardo. The large statue in the middle is of Amitabha as well as the thanka painting just above it. Various offerings are in the front row, but the water bowls had not been filled for the day when I took this photo.



### The Stupa

This is our stupa, around which we circumambulate. It contains precious relics and other items and had to be built and oriented just so. You can see the circular walkway surrounding it, around which we walk in a clockwise direction, saying mantras and prayers. Stupas are said to represent the mind of Buddha for all beings, including animals, to see. There are eight

kinds of stupas and this one is an "Enlightenment Stupa."



### Shrine Room and Stupa

Here you can see the walkway up to the shrine room on the left and the stupa on the right. You can't see the strings of prayer flags, but you can see one of our bird feeders on the extreme right, although now it is summer.



### Heart Center Kitchen

This is the Heart Center kitchen, and many years of many meals were prepared and shared here. The little stainless-steel bowl on the floor tells me that we have a canine visitor, a little female husky who lives here with my daughter Michael Anne.



### Heart Center Music Room

A little music room, with a piano, some drums, too many guitars, and a bunch of other instruments in the closet. I can see on the piano Bartoks "Music for Children," and his "Mikrocosmos," and an old "Sing Out Magazine" from 1960. On the transom going into the kitchen at the back is a whole collection of Chinese Laughing Buddhas.



### Heart Center Living Room

Here is another view of the main living room, which also has a six-foot or so video screen for watching

movies, dharma films, and the occasional TV somethings. This is also where our dharma discussion group meets on Wednesdays, if it is not in the shrine room.



### Heart Center Landing

Here is the landing upstairs (to the right), and the door to one of the bedrooms I took over for an office, which is mostly used for various photography projects. On the wall at the left is a poster for my last gig as a musician in 1972, when I was playing piano and singing under the name "Ann Arbor [heart] Song].



### Heart Center Bedroom

One of the guest bedrooms, each of which has a bunch of books, so there is always something to do.



### Upstairs Hallway

Here is a hallway between groups of bedrooms on the second floor. Along the walls of the hallway are images of various Buddhas and Bodhisattvas on the left, and the history of the Kagyu lineage master (thanka photos) on the right.



### My Secret Room

Ok this room is out of control, and I have to claim it as my junk. Mostly it is what remains of my music CD collection, with junk on the floor. Behind us are two more walls of CDs. However, most of my CD collection is gone as part of the All-Music Guide, and is now in a warehouse in Ann Arbor, over 500,000 of them. That is a lot of music.



### Heart Center Dining Room

This once was the dinning area, but today is an office and where my daughter Michael Anne creates some wonderful paintings and other art pieces. Some old posters I made for my band are on the right, and back-right walls.



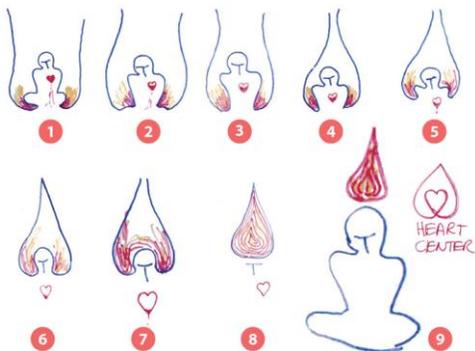
### Heart Center Bedroom

A view into bedroom #5, which is simple but nice, decorated by batiks and appliqué work by my mother.



### Heart Center Symbol

This is the Heart Center symbol, envisioned by me and drawn out for me by my architect friend Stanley Doctor, many years ago. It represents a heart and a flame, the younger and the older, each the inverse of the other. I like it.



### Heart Center Symbol Experience

Here is a drawing I made of how the experience or vision took place back at the time. I put the numbers in so that you can get it in the proper order. I hope it speaks for itself.



### Heart Center Living Room

Here is the main living room. There are wonderful thanka pictures of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas on the wall. The couches are comfortable, and the fireplace works. A video projector on the ceiling projects films, etc. on a large screen on the wall behind.



### Heart Center Front porch

A nice breezy front porch with a swing, and some wood for the winter.



### Rinpoche's Room



### Heart Center Hallway

The top of the stairs, with a view into one bedroom at the right and a photo of a sand mandala above the stairs.

This is the most coveted of all the bedrooms, because many, many lamas and rinpoches have slept here. I am told by those who stay in this room that they have the most wonderful dreams. Also, there are a lot of great dharma books to read and look at here.



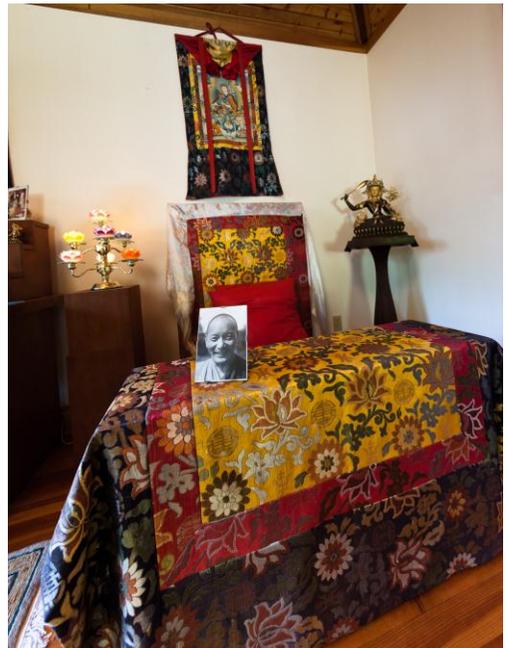
### Main Shrine Room

Here is our main shrine room. There are several practice tables and cushions, not to mention a whole pile of cushions that you can't see at the back right. The main shrine is in the center, a second shrine is on the left, and a small teaching seat is on the right. There is also a drum for pujas on the left, and quite a few painted thankas on the walls. The ceiling is pyramid shaped.



### Side Shrine

This is a small shrine with various statues on it, including a wooden statue of the Japanese Bodhisattva Jizo (protector of children), given to us by our friend Roshi Bodhin Kjolhede of the Rochester Zen Center, and a wooden standing Thai Buddha, given to us by our friend Michael Katz. In the center is a statue of Guru Rinpoche, and above a painted thangka of Vajrasattva. The buddhas of the five directions are in front.



## **Shrine Room Seat**

Here is the seat that visiting rinpoches teach from and there is a picture of the Ven. Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche, our personal lama on the small table. Behind in the corner is a statue of Manjushri, the bodhisattva connected to astrology, and above is a thanka of Guru Rinpoche. Don't forget the lotus lights on the left, which I first thought were cheesy, but now love.

## **Heart Center Visitors**

The Heart Center has been the focus for many workshops and conferences and has served as host for some of the most distinguished astrologers, names like: Dane Rudhyar, Charles Jayne, Michel Gauquelin, Noel Tyl, Rob Hand, John Townley, John Addey, Charles Harvey, Theodor Landscheidt, Roger Elliot, Jim Lewis, Angel Thompson, Gloria Starr, Steven Forrest, Jew Jawer, Neil Michelsen, Robert Schmidt, Axel Harvey, and dozens of others. Over the years I have interacted with many astrologers, including:

Al H. Morrison, Alan Oken, Alexander Borg, Alois Treindl, Alpee Lavoie, Andrew Taylor, Angel Thompson, Ann Parker, Arch Crawford, Arlene Kramer, Arthur Blackwell, Austin Levy, Axel harvey, Barbara Cameron, Barbara May, Barbara Schermer, Barbara Sommerfield, Barry Lynes, Betty Lundsted, Bill Henry, Bill Meridian, Bill Whisenent, Bob Cooper, Bruce Scofield, Buz Meyers, Buz Overbeck, Capel McCutcheon, Carl Weschke, Carol Mull, Carol Tebs, Carole Yawney, Caroline Rupert, Charles A. Jayne, Charles Emerson, Charles Harvey, Charles P. Jones, Charles S. Hocking, Christopher, Claude Weiss, Count Guy de

Pengern, Dane Rudhyar, David B. Black, David Cochrane, David W. Wilson, Debbie Kempton-Smith, Demetra George, Dennis Flaherty, Dennis Harness, Donna Van Toen, Doris Chase Doane, Dorothy Oja, Doug Kellog, Doug Pierce, Doug Smith, Dr. Miquel Charneco, Dulal Koley, Dwight D. Johnson, Ed Kluska, Edith Custer, Edwin Steinbrecher, Eileen Nauman, Eleanor Bach, Ellen Black, Eric Bloom, Erin Sullivan-Seale, Evelyn Button, Evelyn Hertz, Francoise Gauquelin, Frank Piechoski, Gary Christen, Gary Duncan, Geoffrey Dean, Gerald Markoe, Gil Herrera, Gilbert Navarro, Ginda Lasseigne, Gloria Star, Greg Meadors, Haloli Richter, Hank Friedman, Henry Weingarten, Ian McKinnon, Ingrid Naiman, James Braha, James Neely, James Williamsen, Jay Jacobs, Jeanne Long, Jeff Green, Jeff Jawer, Jeffrey Horovitz, Jim Twentyman, Jim Lewis, Joan Negus, Joe Osowski, John Addey, John Kahila, John Lawson Ahern, John McCormick, John Townley, John van Zandt, Joseph Vidmar, Joyce Wehrmann, Kelly Essoe, Ken Gillman, Ken Irving, Ken Mcritchie, Ken Negus, Kenn Gillman, Kirk Brooks, Larry Pasavento, Laura Des Jardins, Lawrence Ely, Lawrence Lerner, Lee Lehman, Lee Wayne Holt, Leyla Rudhyar, Lilian Pena, Linda Curtiss, Lois Rodden, Luci Titunic, Ludmila Lobenko, Madalyn Hillis, Malcom Dean, Maria Jossick, Marion March, Maritha Pottenger, Mark Lerner, Mark Penfield, Mark Pottenger, Mark Urban-Lurain, Marria K. Simms, Martin Davis, Mary Downing, Mason Sexton, Maxine Taylor, Michael Helius, Michael Lutin, Michael Munkasey, Michel Gauquelin, Mohan Koparker, Murray SOuva, Narendra Desai, Neil Marbell, Neil Michelsen, Nick

Campion, Nona Press, Norman Winsky, Pat Escalvon-Hardy, Pat White, Paul Hewitt, Prince Hirindra Singh, Ray Merrimen, Raymond Mardyx, Rebecca Romanoff, Rich Rogers, Richard Idemon, Richard Nolle, Rick Levine, Robert Dontath, Robert Hand, Robert Knight, Robert Schmidt, Robert Thibodeau, Robert Zoller, Robin Armstrong, Roger Elliot, Ron Watson, Ronnie Gale Dryer, Roxanna Muise, Rudolf Smit, Samuel Weiser, Sandra Lee Serio, Sange Wangchug, Sara Cooper, Serge Pollakof, Shelley Jordan, Shyam Sundar Das, Sri Jyotishacharya Ramakrishna Shastry, Stan Barker, Stephen Erlewine, Steve Blake, Steve Cozzi, Steve Hines, Steve Pincus, Suitbert Ertel, Susie Cox, Swami Kriyananda, Swami Prakashananda, T. Patrick Davis, Tad Mann, Thabit B. Qurra, Theodor Landscheidt, Thomas Shanks, Tim Smith, Tom Brady, Tom Bridges, Tom P. santiago, Velma Chatman, Vladimir Bogdanov, Warren Kinsman, Wayne Moody, William Eng, William Whisenant, Zane Stein, Zip Dobyns

of Contents for all major books and periodicals on astrology.

The library does not have regular hours, so contact ahead of time if you wish to visit.

Michael@erlewine.net.



*Photo: Heart Center Library*



*Above: The Library Campus*



*Photo: Heart Center Library*

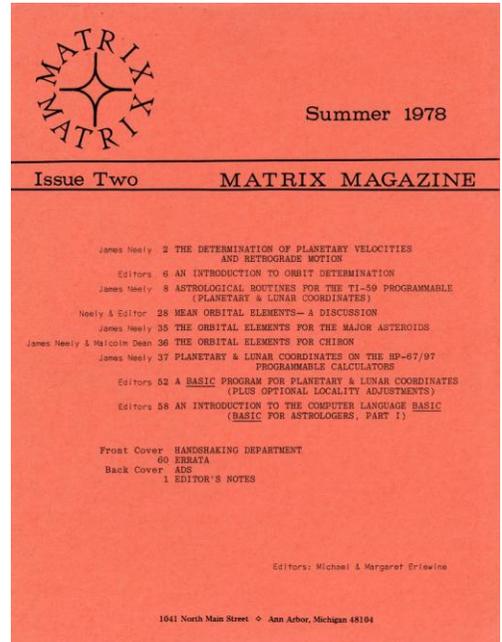
Erlewine also founded and directs The Heart Center Astrological Library, the largest astrological library in the United States, and probably the world, that is open to researchers. Meticulously catalogued, the current library project is the scanning of the Table



## Astro\*Talk Newsletter

In 1983, Michael Erlewine launched the “Astro\*Talk newsletter,” which was sent to Matrix customers and interested astrologers. Aside from updates on new astrology software, it was filled with in-depth interviews with famous astrologers, news items in astronomy of interest to astrologers and much more. In fact, so good was the newsletter that no less a computer expert than columnist than John C. Dvorak (even though he had NO interest in astrology) saw fit to award Astro\*Talk with his distinguished Silver Award for excellence in computer-oriented publications. Fueled

by Erlewine’s writing and editing and designed by his talented brother Tom Erlewine, each issue of Astro\*Talk was eagerly awaited and thoroughly enjoyed.



## Matrix Magazine

In 1978, Michael Erlewine launched Matrix Magazine, devoted to astrological computing, techniques, and the algorithms that made them work. Armed with little more than an electric typewriter, Erlewine drew around him some a distinguished group of technical astrologers, names like Charles A. Jayne, James Neely, Theodore Landscheidt, Noel Tyl, Robert Hand, Roger

Elliot, Axel Harvey, Doug Pierce, Mark Pottenger, Alexander Borg, Laurence Ely, and many other technical astrologers. Instead of hoarding the techniques that made his astrological programs work, Erlewine shared them with the entire community of programming astrologers, not only through Matrix Magazine, but also through his book “Manual of Computer Programming for Astrologers.” He published the very same code that made his own programs run. Why? Erlewine states “... because I am a child of the sixties and sharing resources is just the natural thing to do within a community.”

## The Matrix Journal

More than nine issues of Matrix Magazine were published, eagerly awaited by technical astrologers the world over. In time, Matrix Magazine was replaced by “Matrix Journal,” with the last issue of that having been published in 1992.



*Photo: ACT Panel: That is me in the center with the beard and plaid shirt.*

## ACT: Astrological Conferences on Techniques.

Together with legendary astrologer Charles A. Jayne, Erlewine founded ACT, which were a series of conferences devoted to the technical concerns of astrologers. ACT Conferences were unique in the astrological community, because instead of a lecture format, they were all round table discussions, that also included audience participation. A moderator was chosen who did just that



moderated both the panel participants and the attending audience.

outreach materials. Michael is also a lifetime member of NCGR (National Council for Geocosmic Research).

ACT Conferences were held at both AFA (American Federations of Astrologers) and UAC (United Astrology Conference), as well in other venues. Typically, they would run ACT sessions from morning to night. Panelists included the very top names in the astrological field, many of whom had never actually had open discussion with one another. Because of the outstanding quality of those who participated, ACT conferences were always well attended and more than a little lively. At least eight ACT conferences were held over the years.

### **Participation in Astrological Organizations**

Aside from serving as chairman of ACT (Astrological Conferences on Technique), Michael Erlewine has served on a number of boards including that of ISAR (International Society for Astrological Research), and two terms on the AFAN board (Association for Astrological Network), during which he helped to produce their newsletter, and other

# Astrotalk

## Inside:



EXPLORING WITH YOUR BLUE STAR: PART TWO—Pg 10



MATRIX CUSTOMER PROFILE: EVELYN HERBERT—Pg 8



BIG BLUE IS NEWS: SEE WHAT YOUR PC CAN DO NOW!—4

## THE MATRIX HINDU ASTROLOGY CONFERENCE:



GOOD DIALOGUE ♥ GOOD TIMES

by Cindy Lawrence

The energy was high and the activity hectic as final preparations were made for America's first Hindu astrology conference here in Big Rapids.

On the Matrix grounds a brightly colored blue and white tent was raised and in the late afternoon and evening on Friday, our guests arrived from around the U.S. and even as far as Calcutta, India. The Heart Center was filled with guests in anticipation of the coming weekend.

Weekend activities began with an early morning meditation in the Heart Center shrine room, followed by a warm and friendly breakfast of hot cakes, fresh fruit, juices, espresso coffee and other tasty delights.

After breakfast the conference began...



Page 2 >

## Astrological Conferences by Michael Erlewine

Michael Erlewine has planned and put on many dozens of conferences and workshops over the years. Below is a list of some of the more significant ones, but there are many more. Erlewine conferences and workshops were not just your average event. The ones held at the Heart Center included carefully planned homemade meals and special fun events like tubing down the river and what not. And Erlewine was always careful to see speakers and attendees were not separated, but mixed together, not only during the workshops themselves, but

also during meals and free time. A lot of fun was had.

ACT Conference at AFA in New Orleans in 1980

Act Conference at AFA Chicago in 1982

Act Conference at AFA 1984 in Chicago

Tibetan Astrology Conference June 22-23, 1985

Heart Center Retreat Conference, Sept. 1, 1985

Tai Situ Rinpoche at the Heart Center, September 1985

Heart Center Meditation Retreat Fall 1985

Ven. Thrangru Rinpoche at Heart Center, Jan 1986

Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche at Heart Center, Jan 1986

ACT Conference at UAC June 26-July 1, 1986 San Diego

AFA ACT Conference in LA July 15-20, 1986

Matrix Hindu Astrology Conference Aug 9, 10, 1986

Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso at Heart Center Aug 25 & 26, 1986

Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche at Heart Center, Dec 12-14, 1986

Family Dharma Weekend,  
July 3-6, 1987

Act Locality Conference June  
30-21, 1987

Act Hindu Astrology  
Conference, Aug. 8-9, 1987

Shamar Rinpoche at Heart  
Center, May 8, 1987

Matrix Computer Software  
Workshop, June 22-23, 1987

Meditation Workshop at Heart  
Center, July 12-13, 1987

Calm & Clear Mind Workshop,  
July 18-19, 1987

Matrix Computer Software  
Workshop, Aug 10-11, 1987

Natural Cycles Conference  
Jul 30-31, 1988

Eastern Astrology Conference  
June 18-19, 1988

Matrix Computer Software  
Workshop, August 1-2, 1988

Traleq Kyabgon Rinpoche at  
Heart Center. Fall 1988

Neo-Astrology Conference,  
July 21-23, 1989

Matrix Astrology Software  
Workshop, July 24, 1989

Second Neo-Astrology  
Conference, Jun 23-24, 1990

Act Conference AFA in  
Chicago, July 1992

## **Noel Tyl**

*Internationally-known  
astrologer and author Noel  
Tyle (over 34 astrological  
textbooks to his credit), had  
this to say about Michael  
Erlewine and his influence on  
modern astrology:*

“Michael Erlewine is the  
giant influence whose  
creativity is forever  
imprinted on all  
astrologers’ work since the  
beginning of the Computer  
era! He is the man who  
single-handedly applied  
computer technology to  
astrological measurement,  
research, and  
interpretation. He founded  
MATRIX software long  
ago, and from crucial  
algorithms to interpretation  
zenith, Erlewine has been  
the formative and leading  
light of astrology’s modern  
growth. After inventing the  
technological applications,  
Erlewine humanized it all,  
adding perception and  
incisive practical analyses  
to modern, computerized  
astrology. Now, for a  
second generation of  
astrologers and their  
public, Erlewine’s genius  
continues with StarTypes

... and it's simply  
amazing!"

Contact Michael Erlewine at  
[Michael@Erlewine.net](mailto:Michael@Erlewine.net)