HELEN GAHAGEN DOUGLAS

Actress - Congresswoman

**by**

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 This is the chart of a beautiful actress, opera singer, author, Congresswoman, humanitarian and social rights activist, who was raised in a socially prominent Scotch-Irish family. Her father was a successful civil engineer. Her mother was a former school teacher and an aspiring opera singer. She quit Barnard college to audition for acting. She was born on Nov. 25, 1900 at 12 noon in Boonton, New Jersey.1 This is her Chart:



When a planet is within five degrees of the next cusp, it can be considered in that house. Helen's Sun the 10th house, takes on the virtues of a benevolent sun that shines to be admired for its regal countenance, its magnanimity, its confidence, its courage. Helen was stagestruck by the time she was five. She enjoyed being in the "lime-light" and appreciated the adulation of her admirers. Her father could not change her decision to become an actress. Uranus conjoins the Sun and the Midheaven. She was rebellious and self-willed.

2At the age of 22 she became an overnight sensation on the New York stage. She worked with Helen Hayes and Katherine Cornell on Broadway. Jupiter in its own sign Sagittarius, in the 10th house, favors one's career. Because its energies emit honesty, optimism and enthusiasm, cooperation and goodwill are evoked from others. It sextiles the ascendant. In addition, Mars trines Saturn the natural ruler of the 10th house. That means success in her career is assured. Then at the age of 26 she studied voice with a famous teacher. She sang in concert halls in Germany and Austria before returning to more acting and more concerts in the United States. She witnessed first-hand the terrifying ripples of the rise of Hitler.

In 1930 she met her co-star, Melvin Douglas, in the Broadway hit: "Tonight or Never". Melvin had his Sun in Aries. She had Mars in the 7th house. It was a perfect match. She was in love for the first time. Progressed Venus conjoined her Sun and progressed ascendant trined Uranus, the ruler of her Aquarius ascendant. The timing was right. They married on April 5, 1931, (Melvin's 30th birthday) and left New York City to relocate in Los Angeles. In 1933 their son Peter, was born. (Venus trines Neptune in the 5th house of children). She acted in only one motion picture: "She" with Randolph Scott, Disenchanted with films, she retired from motion pictures.

In Europe they noticed the rise of anti-semitism. Her husband co-founded a Hollywood anti-nazi league. Aquarius on her ascendant and its ruler, Uranus, conjoining Jupiter expressed her desire to help others less fortunate. This was the time of the great depression. She hosted fund raisers for the migrant camps for the "Okies", and poor farm workers. She was capable of organizing. Mars trines Saturn in its own sign of responsible Capricorn. Her nurturing instincts were aroused. (Saturn conjoins Moon). With international tensions on the rise, Helen set entertainment work aside and in 1937 threw herself into public–service projects, becoming a member of the national advisory committee of the Works Progress Administration and a member of the California state committee of the National Youth Administration. She became a California Democratic national committeewoman—a post she held until 1944—serving as the vice chair of the California Democratic central committee and as head of the women’s division. Her stellium in the 10th house and Mars trine Saturn had to be expressed for the good of the country.

In 1938 several weeks after the birth of her daughter, Mary Helen, she organized a Christmas party for 5000 needy children. Mars is sextile to Neptune in the 5th house of children. Progressed Venus conjoined Uranus and progressed Sun conjoined the Moon, the co-ruler of the 5th house of children. With those favorable aspects she and her husband were invited to the White House as overnight guests. Soon thereafter, The First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, stayed with the couple in Los Angles and Helen took her on a tour of migrant camps. Uranus induces restlessness and a need for change. The vision is seen for the goals of the soul of humanity, but work is required to overcome its resistance. Her desire for the welfare of the people demanded expression. She had self-confidence (Sun on MC) in her abilities to bring about the needed progressive (Uranus) changes in government. In 1944 She ran for Congress on the Democratic ticket and won. Jupiter, the ruler of the 10th house is sextile the ascendant and Pluto (power) trines the ascendant. She served three terms as the California Representative to Congress. She was considered as a left leaning liberal. The people, but especially men, were intoxicated with her warmth, enthusiasm and effervescence. They admired her femininity and capability. She was convinced that **the gravest danger to American society was not the threat of internal, or even external, communist subversion but** **that of demagoguery and repressive domestic controls justified in the name of national security.**

In 1950 she insisted on running for the seat in the U.S. Senate, as the House of Representatives was not doing enough for the people. She was asked by the Democratic Party, not to run, as she would split the Democratic ticket. Her rebellious self-will and Sagittarian overconfidence paid no heed to that request. Her opponent was Manchester Boddy, the Owner and Publisher of the Democratic-leaning Los Angeles Daily News. He smeared her as a Communist sympathizer labeling her the "pink lady". She prevailed by a 2-1 margin. She was the Democratic nominee for the Senate from California. Jupiter, ruler of the 10th house sextiles the ascendant, Pluto trines the ascendant and Mars trines Saturn.

At that time there was a witch hunt for those who favored the progressive policies of the Roosevelt Administration. Writers, directors, actors, actresses, and many others were branded "Communists" by Senator Joe McCarthy. He declared that he had a list of known subversives in the US government. The "Hollywood Ten", a group of directors and screen writers, had been cited for contempt of Congress and were facing jail time. It was a time of fear brought on by the media favoring the big corporations rather than the people. The "pink lady” epithet—resonated in the general election, as Helen's Republican opponent, Representative Richard M. Nixon, employed a similar strategy. Nixon was noted for his vicious use of the smear and its manipulation of the ''red scare.'' Nixon alluded to her alleged Communist sympathies, pointing out that her husband had belonged to several groups that turned out to be Communist fronts. He hinted that she was a fellow traveler, citing as evidence her supposed Communist-leaning votes in Congress. He also made vaguely anti-Semitic comments referring to her as Mrs. Hesselberg (Melvyn Douglas’ real last name). He won the election. She threw in the towel of her political career. Pluto opposes Jupiter, the ruler of her 10th house; Neptune is square to the part of Fortune in the first house and Mercury, the ruler of the 7th house of open enemies is square to the ascendant. She branded him as "Tricky Dick". Her Jupiter and Uranus are in the feisty Aries decanate. She retaliated but it was not enough. He was backed by big money and the oil industry.

Helen was articulate and outspoken. Her ascendant (18+ Aquarius) was in the Gemini decanate as well as was her Venus, the ruler of her 3rd house. She spoke out against the belligerent foreign policies of the government. Later she openly opposed the Viet Nam war. She was against the arms race and war, being good for business.

She retired to private life as a lecturer and a successful author. Venus, ruler of the 3rd house of writing trines Neptune in the 5th house of creativity. She was able to give more attention to her children. Later she returned to the theater and performed in two Broadway plays. That formidable Sun of hers, needed to shine and she reveled in its glory. In 1964 she was again in the political spotlight when President Lyndon Johnson appointed her as the Special Ambassador to head the United States delegation to the inauguration ceremonies for President William V.S. Tubman of Liberia. She also authored a book based on her close friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt. She was married for 49 years. Her last project was her autobiography. She died on June 28, 1980 succumbing to breast and lung cancer, when progressed ascendant quincunxed Mercury and progressed Midheaven trined Neptune. Melvin Douglas died the following year.

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References:

1Helen Gahagan Douglas was born on Nov. 25, 1900 in Boonton, NJ 74W25; 40N45 12:00 Noon EST. from Lois Rodden's *Profiles of Women*, page 246. Data: Church of Light quotes D.C. Doane, "data from her."

2[**DOUGLAS**, **Helen Gahagan** | US House of Representatives: History ...](http://history.house.gov/People/Detail/12399)

2a[Tricky Dick and the Pink Lady: Richard Nixon vs. **Helen Gahagan** ...](https://www.nytimes.com/books/first/m/mitchell-tricky.html)

2b[The Pink Lady - The Many Lives of **Helen** Gahagan **Douglas**](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/books/review/Mallon-t.html)