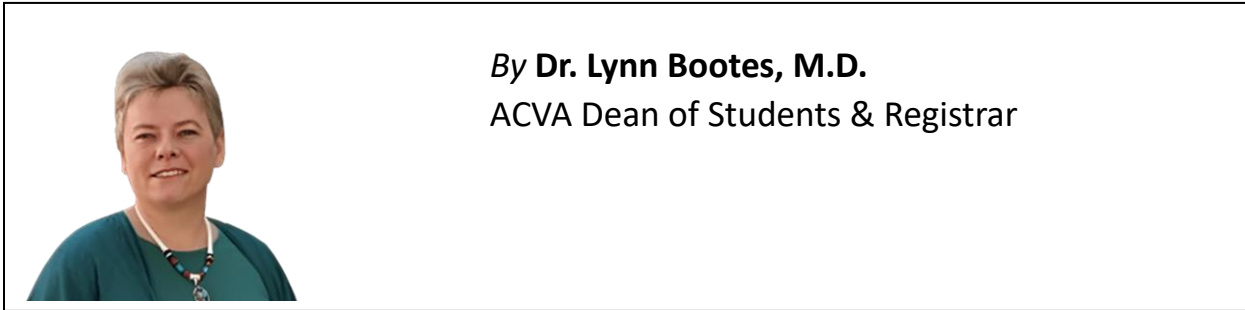


ACVA Newsletter 2026-01 – Observatory



By Dr. Lynn Bootes, M.D.

ACVA Dean of Students & Registrar

THE OBSERVATORY

Late January 2026 edition

Dear Readers,

Makara Sankranti, the ingress of Sun in Capricorn, has been dramatic this year, as Mercury, Venus and Mars have all been combust and all together in that sign beginning January 14-18, followed by a super-conjunction of these planets with the New Moon on January 18 in the early degrees of Capricorn and the mysterious Nakshatra Abhijit. The emphasis in earthly affairs has shifted from the enthusiasm and moralization of Sagittarius to the exercise of cold power and practical execution of Capricorn. The pattern repeats at the period around the Full Moon on February 1, when the Moon in Cancer opposes this group.

Then the scene shifts, as one by one Mercury, Venus, the Sun and finally Mars move to Aquarius between February 3 to 23. They will enjoy a special 1:9 one-way aspect from Jupiter in Gemini, hopefully allowing for some elevation of rational thought and constructive dialog. But at the same time, these fast-moving four will be sharing Aquarius with Rahu and opposing Ketu in Leo. Many of the actions of people when under the influence of the “shadow planets” tend to be in accordance with the purposes of greater forces beyond our individual egos. At all times, a quiet mind and alignment to the benefic divine guidance symbolized by Jupiter, is helpful.

Our New Moon on February 23 will be a Solar Eclipse at 04deg33 Aquarius. It is an annular eclipse, visible only in Antarctica. It will be visible as a partial eclipse in extreme southern South America, Southern Africa and Mozambique.

Saturn and the non-visible planet Neptune will reach conjunction on February 17 at 06deg31 Pisces. While traditional Jyotisha does not consider the trans-Saturnian planets, it is an important marker milestone of a 35-year synodic cycle. It is particularly notable as it falls within half a degree of the Sun’s position at the spring equinox, important for our alignment with the seasons. You will want to be aware of this event even if you don’t use it in your astrology practice, as Western astrologers and members of the public may ask about it. In analyzing recent global history, my interpretation is that past conjunctions of these planets have occurred

at times of major realignment of geopolitical forces and alliances. This all conforms to the sense that we're living through a period of change in the world.

We end the month as Mercury stations and turns retrograde on February 27, giving us a chance to digest and assimilate changes in March.

The Almanac

Dates and times refer to Eastern Standard Time (-5:00h). Please adjust for your own location. I have elected to start with the super-conjunction of January 18.

January 18, 06:00 to January 20, 15:00, Moon in Capricorn conjoined with Mars, Mercury, Sun and Venus

January 20, Saturn enters Uttara Bhadrapada nakshatra

January 20, Sun enters Abijit

January 21, Venus enters Shravana nakshatra

January 22, Venus leaves Abijit

January 23, Mercury enters Shravana nakshatra and leaves Abijit

January 23, Mars enters Abijit

January 24, Sun enters Shravana and leaves Abijit

January 28, Mars enters Shravana

January 29, Mars leaves Abijit

January 29, Mercury conjunct Venus

January 31, February 2, Moon in Cancer opposite Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars

February 1, 5:09 pm EST, Full Moon at 18deg50 Cancer/Ashlesha

February 3, Mercury enters Aquarius

February 5, Venus enters Aquarius

February 6, Sun enters Dhanishtha

February 7, Mercury enters Shatabhishak

February 10, Venus enters Shatabhishak

February 12, Sun enters Aquarius

February 12, Mercury is conjunct Rahu

February 14, Mars enters Dhanistha

February 17, New Moon/Solar Eclipse at 04deg33 Aquarius/Shatabhishak

February 17, Venus conjunct Rahu/opposite Ketu by degree

February 20, Saturn conjunct Neptune 06deg31 Pisces

February 23, Mars enters Aquarius

February 24, Mars conjunct Rahu

February 26, Mercury stations and turns retrograde at 28deg20 Aquarius

February 27, Sun conjunct Rahu

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