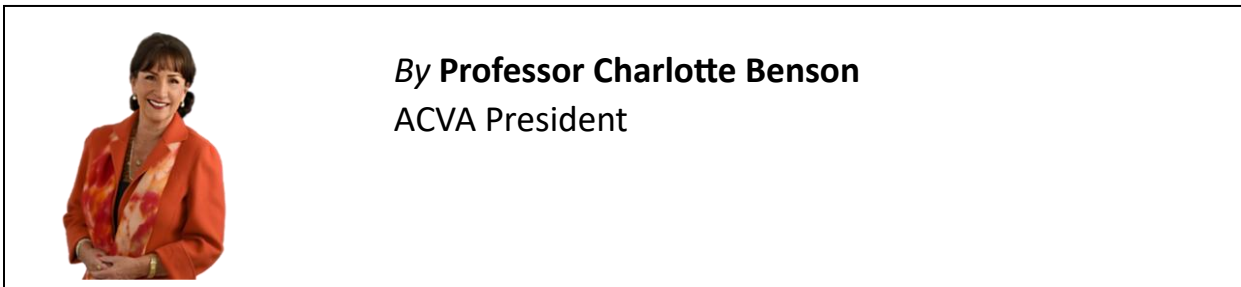


Letter from the President: September 2025



By Professor Charlotte Benson
ACVA President

Dear Readers,

We're pleased to announce two significant new developments with respect to ACVA's continued expansion in Jyotish education:

ACVA has established a collaborative partnership with Kepler College, one of North America's longstanding (25 years) and leading providers of astrological education. Our common goal is to deliver a series of courses under the Kepler online classroom model that will introduce western students to Vedic astrology and thereby provide them a classical education in the philosophy, techniques and best practices of Jyotish. Our Editor-in-Chief Alan Annand, with the support of ACVA's leadership team, is leading the development of these courses, the first of which will be offered in 2026. In addition to acting as Kepler's "Ambassador of Jyotish," Alan will also be the lead instructor for the online program. Although examination and certification are not mandatory for Kepler students, the proposed Jyotish curriculum will provide sufficient detail to prepare students for examinations at the Ratna level of certification.

ACVA has also entered into a collaborative agreement with Dharmavedas, a Vedic astrology school operating in Turkey and the EU, with the aim of providing ACVA-accredited Jyotish courses to Turkish-speaking students. Although Dharmavedas, under the stewardship of ACVA tutor Gizem Heukelom, will run its operation autonomously, ACVA will provide oversight to ensure that the curriculum and testing for certification requirements will meet the high standards already established by ACVA in the international Jyotish community. Formal certification of Turkish-speaking students under Dharmavedas will become available in 2026.

On the ACVA "people in the news" front, congratulations are in order for the family of ACVA Vice-President, Dr. Sisira Amarasinghe, who welcomed his third grandchild recently. And congratulations also to ACVA President Emeritus, Dr. Dennis Harness, on his 70th birthday, which we celebrated at the Astrology Weekend conference in Sedona, Arizona in mid-September.

It was a wonderful experience to be able to join my long-time friends and colleagues in person at two separate conferences recently. In August, I spoke on Vedic Astrological Poetry at the Sedona Vedic Astrology conference in Arizona. Dr. David Frawley, ACVA's first president, made a rare public appearance there. Also in attendance was ACVA's Dean of Students, Dr. Lynn Bootes, emerita faculty Komilla Sutton, along with ACVA alum Joni Patry, Dr. Dennis Harness, and other luminaries. Thank you, dear Ksanati and Dennis for your labor of love in organizing this for us!

Another in-person, Western Astrology conference took place in Sedona in mid-September. I had the opportunity to showcase the enriched information that Jyotish offers about what is contained in the bhavas. It was an interesting experience to see young attendees begin to understand the value of Jyotish. Or of at least considering the sidereal placements of their planets. Eyes and minds were opened! As I mentioned there more than once – the stars of the constellations exert specific, well-defined, empirically-evidenced influences. I was encouraged to see so many younger students eager to understand more about the Sacred Science.

ACVA also hosted part two of Mr. Marc Boney's brilliant webinar on "Effects of Planets from Karakamsa Lagna" recently. He did a great job of explaining the relevancy of this specific technique. Thank you, dear Marc, for offering your profound wisdom and experience!

Please consider becoming an ACVA member. This will entitle you to free admission to our Jyotish Masters series of webinars, and to many other valuable member benefits.

Until next month, enjoy the positive potential of Mercury exalted, and Jupiter vargottama!

With every best wish for you and your families,

Charlotte

Professor Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)