

Letter from the President: April 2025



**By Professor Charlotte Benson,
ACVA President**

Dear Friends of ACVA,

On behalf of our Faculty, I extend to you all warm greetings in this season of multiple religious celebrations, and hope that all is well in your corner or the country or world. Although we now seem to be experiencing that ancient Chinese blessing – *May you live in interesting times* – we hope that this too will pass.

As you know from previous announcements, that great *kumbh mela* of western astrology – the United Astrology Conference – will be gathering in Chicago in September 2026. Thanks to liaison and negotiations by our Editor-in-Chief, Alan Annand, we've now finalized ACVA's participation in this major conference. As an organization, we're both pleased and proud to say that our veteran speakers have shown a remarkable degree of altruism in surrendering one of their two lecture slots to be used for another veteran who otherwise wouldn't have made the cut, or a new speaker who deserved an opportunity to speak at a major conference.

Consequently, we have the following experienced astrologers on the UAC2026 roster: Charlotte Benson, Lynn Bootes, Freedom Cole, Ronnie Gale Dreyer, Sam Geppi, Dennis Harness, Kenneth Miller, Joni Patry, Barry Rosen, Sonal Sachdeva, and Komilla Sutton. Our new speakers are Simon Chokoisky, Gizem Heukelom, Nathan (Theo) Naicker, and Shreekala Ram.

This final roster includes eight (8) women and seven (7) men, of which a quarter (26%) are new speakers, an unprecedented achievement which rightfully acknowledges and welcomes new voices to the podium. Included among our speakers, both new and old, are candidates that will also boost international representation of ACVA at UAC 2026: Sonal Sachdeva (UK), Nathan Naicker (South Africa), and Gizem Heukelom (Turkish national, resident of Netherlands).

Please join me in congratulating our representatives of *Jyotisha* at UAC2026. Needless to say, I hope to see many of you there. For those of you already eager to enroll, early bird registration will begin in August 2025. The UAC website is: <https://uacastrology.com/>

Professor Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)