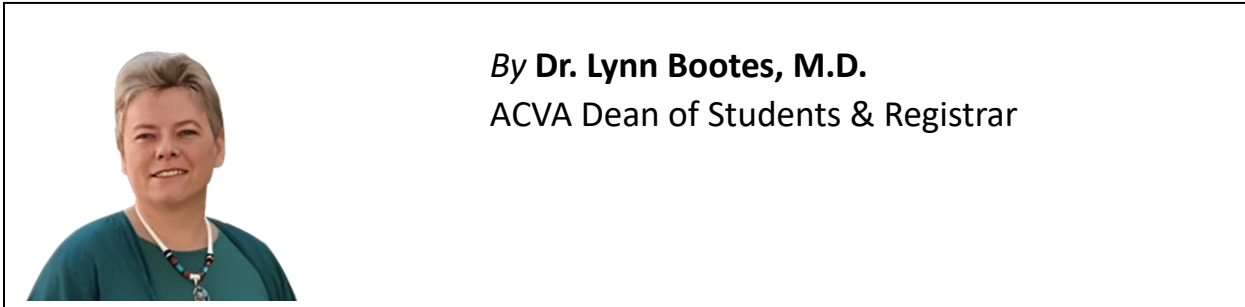


ACVA Newsletter 2026-02 – Observatory



By Dr. Lynn Bootes, M.D.

ACVA Dean of Students & Registrar

THE OBSERVATORY

February 2026 edition

Sun in Aquarius/Pisces 2026 edition

Dear Readers,

We are in between the annular Solar Eclipse of February 17 and the Lunar Eclipse on March 3, and getting ready for the Equinox on March 20, bringing the change of seasons of spring and fall around the globe. These annual cycles of the seasons and the 19-year cycle of the Equinoxes continually supply us with wonder, and keep our planet active, just as we have our bodily cycles of ingoing and outgoing breath.

This month the more mobile planets, Mercury, Venus and Mars, continue to move close to the path of the Sun, but with some changes. Mercury has begun retrograde motion on February 26, and will continue in reverse apparent motion until March 20, between the degrees of 28 and 14 Aquarius. On March 15-18, Mercury, Mars and Rahu will pass within a degree of each other between 14-15 degrees Aquarius, a powerful combination which may incite sharp tempers and righteous or rigid opinions and doctrines. This is a good time for all people of good will to exercise spiritual and personal practices of calm and compassion.

Venus enters its exaltation sign of Pisces on March 1, elevating those values of compassion, and may take these to a more universal level as it conjoins Neptune on March 7 and Saturn on March 8. Venus is gaining speed and will enter Aries on March 31.

Jupiter finishes its season of retrograde motion on March 11 at 20deg52 of Gemini. It casts a Vedic 1:5 aspect upon all the planets in Aquarius this month, giving the possibility of compassionate communication as opposed to mere opinion.

Saturn and Neptune remain very close, having just passed conjunction last month. Today in the news there is an astronomer's report about how Saturn may have developed its tilt, got its rings, and created the large moon Titan over 150 million years ago from a collision of two large moons. This perturbed its synchronous orbit with Neptune slightly from the near perfect

synchrony of times past. Who knew? But these two still meet every 35 years, and they are located very close to the longitude of the Equinox this month. Astrologers have been keeping records of events on Earth for thousands of years, and it is well worth our while to take note of the events of this season.

There is another big meetup of planets between March 18-25, as the Pisces New Moon falls very close to the Saturn/Neptune conjunction, and Venus is in the late degrees of Pisces. This could be a good time for an outpouring of compassion in the world, but also a time when one should be mindful of rising waters in the weather.

In the festivals on Earth, we can look forward to the festivals of the Equinox, as well as the end of Ramadan, and the approach of the Christian Easter and Passover in early April. In India, Holi will be celebrated March 3-4 with the Full Moon. And don't forget the change to daylight/time which begins Sunday March 8 in the USA, and Sunday March 29 in Europe and the Middle East. This is also a season of renewal and growth for ACVA, with many events and activities for both members and students, as you can read elsewhere in the Newsletter. Om Shanti Shantih.

The Almanac

Dates and times refer to Eastern Standard Time (USA), (-5:00h) until Sunday March 8, when they are Eastern Daylight Time (-4:00h) Please adjust for your own location.

February 24, Mars conjunct Rahu/opposite Ketu

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

February 27, Sun conjunct Rahu/opposite Ketu

March 2, Venus enters Pisces

March 3, total Lunar Eclipse visible in most of the Western Hemisphere at 18deg20 Leo. Totality will be at 3:44 am EST

March 3, Mars leaves Dhanishtha and enters Shatabhishak Nakshatra

March 4, Venus leaves Purva Bhadrapada and enters Uttara Bhadrapada Nakshatra

March 5, Sun leaves Shatabhishak and enters Purva Bhadrapada Nakshatra

March 5, Jupiter in Gemini makes an exact trine aspect to the Sun in Aquarius at 20deg54.

March 7, Mercury in superior conjunction to the Sun

March 7, Venus conjunct Neptune at 07deg05 Pisces

March 8, Venus conjunct Saturn at 08deg25 Pisces

March 8, Daylight Savings Time begins in the USA and Canada

March 10, Mercury leaves Dhanishta and enters Shatabhishak Nakshatra

March 11, Jupiter stations direct at 20deg52 Gemini

March 15, Sun enters Pisces

March 15, Mercury conjunct Mars at 16deg04 Aquarius