

Note from the President: December 2025



By Professor Charlotte Benson
ACVA President

Dear Friends of ACVA –

We hope all is well with you and your families, especially those of you in areas of extreme weather disturbances. May you have safe, and happy holidays wherever you are!

As we approach the end of 2025 and welcome 2026, we reflect on the meaningful impact that the American College of Vedic Astrology™ (ACVA) continues to have on the global Vedic astrology community. ACVA, a non-profit educational organization, is dedicated to advancing the sacred knowledge of Jyotisha through education, recognition, and community engagement. Please consider a year-end gift at: www.acvaonline.org/donate.

Throughout this past year we have offered our stellar online education, certificate exams, a beautiful graduation and awards ceremony, webinars, and scholarly articles in our publications. ACVA Provost Professor Juliana Swanson and her team have been busy refining ACVA's existing curriculum. We have also spent considerable time developing two separate collaborations with other world-class institutions. Details of these developing alliances will be forthcoming in the first quarter of 2026.

Under the creative guidance of Dr. Amarasinghe, ACVA produced another fabulous graduation and awards ceremony on 12/13/25, broadcast globally. It is available to view on our YouTube channel. The following are some highlights of the annual event, emceed by Dr. Lynn Bootes, ACVA Dean of Students:

ACVA has granted the 2025 Sri K.N. Rao Challenge Scholarship to a talented student, Ms. Teresa Tabangay. Congratulations, Teresa! Thank you to the generous donors who have endowed this scholarship.

The Jyotish Navaratna Award is a distinguished honor conferred by the American College of Vedic Astrology™ (ACVA) to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the promotion, teaching, and practice of Vedic astrology (Jyotisha). This award celebrates outstanding service and dedication to advancing the mission and values of ACVA. Jyotish Navaratna Award reflects ACVA's vision of promoting excellence in Vedic astrology while fostering a global community of learners and practitioners. "Navaratna" translates to "nine gems," symbolizing brilliance and preciousness, qualities embodied by the award's recipients. The honor is a testament to their invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication to advancing the field of Jyotisha.

The 2025 Navaratna Award was unanimously voted to be conferred on Leadership Team member, Mr. Alan Annand for his outstanding contributions to Jyotisha and ACVA. This award is a testament to Alan's invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication to advancing the field of Jyotisha. Well deserved – thank you, dear Alan!

The Jyotish Vibhushan Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor bestowed by the American College of Vedic Astrology™ (ACVA). This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated unparalleled dedication, scholarship, and service to the field of Jyotisha over the course of their lifetime.

The Jyotish Vibhushan Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed on Smt. Gayatri Devi Vasudev celebrates her extraordinary contributions that have advanced the understanding, practice, and application of Jyotisha on a global scale. Her contributions to the global Vedic astrology community have shaped its growth and elevated its recognition as a spiritual and scientific discipline.

From the introduction of GDV during the ceremony by ACVA Vice-President, Dr. Sisira Amarasinghe:

“Your work stands at the confluence of scholarship, authorship, and stewardship of our tradition. As Editor of *Modern Astrology*, the successor to *The Astrological Magazine* founded by Dr. B. V. Raman, you have sustained a vital platform for classical Jyotisha since 2009, after serving previously on the editorial leadership of *The Astrological Magazine* itself. This continuity of high standards in editorial curation and thought leadership has been invaluable for students and practitioners worldwide.

“Beyond editorial service, your authored works, including *Practical Horary Astrology*, *The Art of Prediction in Astrology*, *The Art of Interpreting Horoscopes*, *Vastu, Astrology and Architecture*, and more, have guided countless learners from fundamentals to applied interpretation. These texts have become staples in libraries of serious students and teachers alike.

“We also wish to acknowledge your distinguished role in carrying forward the Raman lineage of Jyotisha (which has also been an important pillar of foundation for the ACVA curriculum) — upholding rigorous methods, accessible pedagogy, and a spirit of service to society, thereby nurturing a living Parampara that continues to enrich our field.”

This rare award was presented during ACVA's Graduation and Awards Ceremony 13 December 2025, when Mrs. Gayatri Devi Vasudev was recognized for her unparalleled contributions and service to Jyotisha. This public acknowledgment serves as an inspiration for the global Vedic astrology community to continue advancing this sacred knowledge with integrity and dedication.

Thank you for your lifetime of service, and congratulations, dearest Gayatri Devi Vasudev!

Shri Chakrapani Ullal also received a posthumous Jyotish Vibhushan award for his service to the Jyotir Vidya, and to ACVA. His life partner, Ms. Dianne Brown, presented a lovely voice tribute to Chakrapani. Dr. Dennis Harness, Ms. Christina Collins, Ms. Edith Hathaway, and Nalinikanta Das

also contributed their beautiful memories of ACVA's "Grandfather." Chakrapani-ji will always have a treasured place in our hearts and minds.

Dr. Jayaranjan Kodikannath, CEO of Kerala Ayurveda Academy USA, delivered an inspiring speech to the audience: "Roots of Ayurveda and its Vital Intersections with Jyotish." Thank you, sir!

Professor Juliana Swanson awarded ACVA certifications to:

- Ms. Muni Roger – Jyotish Prabhakara
- Dr. Jayaranjan Kodikannath – Jyotish Ratna
- Ms. Guilia Avvanzini – Jyotish Ratna

Congratulations to each of you! You may be rightly proud of your academic accomplishments. Please put your diligently won credentials to their highest and best use.

Please enjoy the fascinating articles in this edition of the ACVA newsletter.

Sending you every good wish in this sacred season.

Charlotte

Professor Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)