



Message from the President of ACVA

Equinox September 2021

Dear ACVA alumni, friends, and students.

Hope this edition of The Comet finds you and your families doing well in these strange times. All is going very well at the college – we have a recent record number of really focused students. ACVA faculty are bringing their usual best to the courses. Gizem Heukelom has recently joined the ACVA faculty – we are pleased to welcome her as an instructor. We have some interesting plans for the near future – curriculum is being developed and polished. Our entire team works like a well-oiled machine, in order to serve our students. It feels like ACVA is truly serving its dharma as an institution of high education, training the next generation of jyotishis. Thanks to each of you instructors, leadership team, I.T. team, and staff for your contributions to ACVA this past quarter. ACVA is doing its part well to ensure that the professional practice of Jyotish is becoming recognized as a viable career option for our graduates.

I am personally very excited that one of ACVA's founders, and ACVA's first president, David Frawley, and his beautiful wife, Shambhavi, will be here in Arizona for the Sedona Vedic Astrology Conference. <https://sedonavedicastrology.com> This will be a hybrid conference – at a distance, and also in person. I think it's fun and special to meet with people in person when we can. Discount for the SVAC conference registration is in place until October 5, 2021.

Ramdas Bill Sinclair will be at SVAC – he and I will be presenting an Introduction to Jyotish. Dr. Lynn Bootes will be there too. And we hope to meet many of you there. It will be an exceptional event.

ACVA is offering our friends and supporters a series of Master Class webinars by renown astrologers.

Komilla will be presenting an online seminar on Spiritual Practices to cope with these challenging times, in October. And Dr. Andrew Foss will present an online seminar for ACVA friends and alumni in early November.

Planets/grahas during this quarter are in better positions than they were last quarter, in my opinion. So please do not be unduly influenced by current negative press from some of our colleagues. Sensational, fear-invoking predictions of dire events provoked by the planets don't seem to be helpful. It seems like it would be more creative to focus on the positive positions. Venus in Libra. Rahu/Ketu exalted, Saturn in his own sign, etc.

Yes, there are still tremendous stresses with this continuing pandemic – and this virus situation may go on for a while, so we must learn to adapt and cope. In order for us to succeed, individually and collectively, no matter what the planets are suggesting, we must maintain our vigilance over the quality of our thoughts. This is the same advice I give to my clients, every week. Yes, of course, the planets will certainly contribute their effects, for good or for ill, to our lives. However, the more we manage our own (negative) thinking, the better the outcome under any planetary influence.

Happy stars to each of you. “Lokah samastah sukhino bhavantu.” May all beings everywhere be serene.

Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)