



Letter from the president of ACVA

December 2022

Dearest friends of ACVA –

Greetings of the season to you and your families. This is a sacred time of year, when Surya begins the Uttarayana course of his journey through Heaven, and we have an opportunity to resolve issues which we may have been curating for a few months now.

I hope that you are still enjoying Jupiter/Guru in Pisces, even more now that he is in direct motion. There's an opportunity to increase our spiritual understanding, and compassion because of this sweet position of Jupiter. Saturn is, of course, about to improve his expression when he ingresses to Aquarius, his second favorite rasi, in about a month. Just these two simple placements are at our disposal to improve our lives – even a little bit – and that of others, too. The message of the grahas in Q1 of 2023 could be: Cultivate Compassion (Pisces) and Be Accountable to your own Proper Duty (Saturn.)

I must mention the Three Astrologers, so evident right now who are still being acknowledged in some subtle way. You may know that one of the three astrologers (kings/wisemen) was from India. It's still inspirational, to me at least, that the sacred literature of the West, has introduced us to our amazing jyotishi predecessors. And because of their skills in Jyotish/Astrology they were wealthy and honored.

Congratulations are in order for a couple different reasons here at ACVA. Dr. Lynn Bootes is the well deserving recipient of ACVA's 2022 Navagraha Award. Here is what Provost and Dean of Academics, Professor Juliana Swanson has said about our wonderful Dr. Bootes:

"I offer my warmest congratulations to Dr. Lynn Bootes as the recipient of the American College of Vedic Astrology's distinguished 2022 Jyotish Navaratna Award. This rare honor is given to the outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of Vedic Astrology. It also recognizes the recipient's special service and support for the goals of

ACVA, which include making Astrology available to learners around the world.

For several years now, Lynn has selflessly served ACVA as a faculty member, Registrar, and member of the Leadership Team. She has extensive background as a Family Medicine physician, and this is combined with her deep studies in western and Vedic Astrology, Sanskrit, and Bhagavad Gita, and the Vedas. Lynn's impressive academic scholarship coupled with her lifelong experience, love of history and astrological research, and her gifts in writing, counseling, and teaching all add tremendous value to not only ACVA, but to the Vedic Astrology community at large.

I trust that Lynn's dedication will continue to serve her well as she continues her mission as a professional astrologer while also helping to guide ACVA into the future. I am so pleased the Lynn is receiving this well-deserved Jyotish Navaratna award, the most prestigious nine-gem talisman among all the gems of Jyotish. Well done Lynn!"

Congratulations are also in order for our recent Jyotish Ratna diplomates. ACVA broadcast a wonderful Zoom Graduation Ceremony earlier this month. Our special guests for this Commencement were Dr. Dennis Harness, president emeritus of ACVA, and Mrs Gayatri Devi Vasudev, daughter of Dr. B.V. Raman, the editor of Modern Astrology Magazine. Here, in part, are GDV's words on this occasion:

"Dear Students and Friends of Jyotisha. I bring you the blessings of the ancient masters of Jyotisha. It is a matter of great pride and happiness that the classes in Jyotisha have been going on so long at ACVA. Many of you may be aware that in India, students who study Vedic subjects under the same master are known as "Guru bhais" and "Guru bahens" (brothers and sisters.) I am sure each one of you will, after

graduating, turn out to be ambassadors of Jyotisha, helping people handle the many ills that life often throws at one. It is a science of foreknowledge and helps one handle life and its problems in a mature and confident way, instead of being dictated by emotions such as fear and apprehension. May the great Rishis of India who bequeathed this knowledge to the world and may Dr. B.V. Raman, the Father of Modern Astrology, shower their blessings on you all, and give you the boon of Vak-Siddhi, is my prayer to the Masters. Your Guru-bahen, Gayatri Devi Vasudev."

We are honored to have the blessings of such an illustrious world figure at our most recent graduation ceremony! It was a truly heartfelt celebration of the accomplishments of our international students.

Graduate Venkatesh Narasiah, Singapore: There is a Tamil saying that you can change your fate through your intellect, but your intellect will be guided by your fate.

I have been fascinated by astrology since young. I bought books which remained on the shelf. When the time was right, and as if guided by fate, I picked up the books, Hart de Fouw's was one of them. That journey led me to seek a GURU, and I found mine in ACVA Acharyas. I feel by doing this course, I am fulfilling my soul purpose. In trying to understand the natal charts of others, I have understood myself.

Kathryn Swanson, United States of America

I have been interested in Vedic astrology since I first learned about it from my mother-in-law, Juliana Swanson, almost twenty years ago. During the past several years, as I entered my Jupiter dasha, I felt moved to begin my own studies in astrology. During my first course, I especially appreciated learning about the effects of transits and how to predict significant life events. I am excited to continue with my

studies and learn more about the dashas, outer planets, and other topics!

Some important events on the horizon:

Friend of ACVA Carol Allen will donate a two-hour webinar on "Relationships" as a fund-raiser for the college. This fascinating webinar will be broadcast on Saturday, February 11, 2023. Fee is \$27. Further details to follow.

ACVA will broadcast a Global Address on Sunday, March 5, 2023. This will be a first of its kind webinar about the current State of Contemporary Jyotish.

We will also offer a webinar at the Vedic New Year, on March 19, 2023. Details on the above to follow.

One last thing: as you know ACVA is a duly incorporated 501-C3 not for profit organization. Your year end donations will be very much appreciated and put to good use to support our institutional aims of providing the highest-level Jyotish education. Please donate here: [Donate | American College of Vedic Astrology \(acvaonline.org\)](https://www.acvaonline.org/donate)

With every best wish, Professor Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)