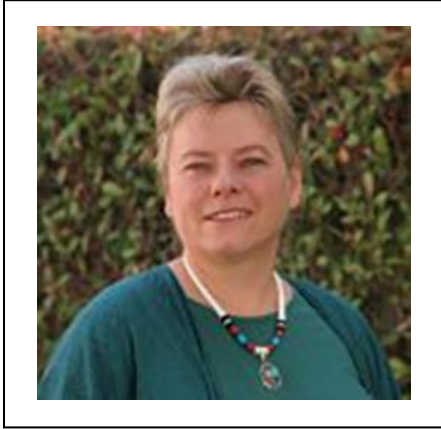


THE OBSERVATORY

June 2024 Solstice Edition



**By Dr. Lynn Bootes,
ACVA Dean of Students & Registrar**

Dear Readers,

Astronomical summer has arrived in the Northern Hemisphere, while our Southern Hemisphere friends enter winter. The most dramatic event of the season will be the exact conjunction/occultation of Mars and Jupiter on August 14 at 22 degrees Taurus. Please refer to Julene's excellent analysis of how they will appear in the sky in her *GOLA* article in this journal.

Please note that the exact longitudinal "conjunction" by degree is at a slightly different time of day. Jupiter and Mars will be at 22deg27 Taurus in Rohini. In the USA, that will place it in the early afternoon (9th house) in the eastern USA, while in Europe, Russia, and the Middle East it will take place near sunset (7th house), and in India around midnight (4th house). Since Mercury and Venus are in Leo, Saturn in Aquarius, and the Moon in Scorpio on that day, we may expect there will be actions and events, hopefully for the ultimate karmic good of all. With planets inhabiting all the fixed signs, one can suppose actions taken will have lasting results. Please note there are many traditional Vedic aspects active at this time.

This occultation is known as Planetary War in the Jyotish tradition, and different gurus give different outcomes for "who wins." Some say the brighter, some say the one which is at a more northern latitude. All agree that the outcome is not good for either. Even if we suppose that the brighter Jupiter wins, it pays the price for war, and even if Mars loses, it causes damage. As we have many other favorable conditions, we can do our part to create and accept outcomes in the highest good in the world.

My Jyotish guru Dennis Harness called the combination of Jupiter and Mars (*Guru Mangala Yoga*) the "conference planning yoga," and said that if auspiciously placed and strong in a horoscope, this signifies a person who can plan and accomplish a major project. Here is a shout out to you, Dennis, and a reminder to our readers that Dennis organized many great ACVA conferences for decades before his retirement. Personally, I am holding out hope for auspicious results of world-wide events such as the Paris Olympics, various other social events, elections, and diplomatic summits. August may also be an auspicious time to begin planning big events for future years, while the cautious will keep an eye out for less auspicious events.

Please keep in mind that the binary star *T Coronae Borealis* is due to blaze up as a bright visible Nova sometime soon. This is a rare periodic Nova which erupts every 80 years but the exact date it will start cannot be predicted. It sits quite a bit north of the ecliptic, at a longitude of 04deg38 sidereal Scorpio. Look for it in the Northern sky near *Arcturus* the bright star in *Swati* (Bootes in western astronomy), rising about an hour later.

Jupiter will be making auspicious aspects when Sun, Mercury, Venus and Moon visit Virgo late in the season, creating the possibilities for more auspicious *Muhurthas* for important events. ACVA will remain open for students to start study the entire season.

The slower-moving grahas make few changes this season. Jupiter continues its stately progress through Taurus, moving from Rohini to *Mrgashira* nakshatra August 21. Saturn remains in Aquarius/*Dhanistha* the entire season and begins its retrograde period. Rahu moves through Pisces (always retrograde) and shifts from *Revati* to *Uttara Bhadrapada* nakshatra in July. Ketu remains in Virgo/*Hasta*. Among the non-visible "outer planets", Uranus continues in early Aries/*Krittika*, Neptune in Pisces/*Uttara Bhadrapada* (with the beginning of its retrograde period), and Pluto in Capricorn/*Uttara Ashadha* (also beginning its retrograde period).

THE ALMANAC

Times when listed are EDT (-4:00h), calculated for New York City, USA.

The exact time and date of these events will vary around the world.

Sidereal zodiac, Lahiri Ayanamsa.

June 2024

June 15-30, three grahas in own sign: Mercury, Mars and Saturn

June 19 Mars in Aries, enters Bharani

June 18, Venus enters Ardra (in Gemini)

June 20, 4:51 pm EDT, Summer Solstice Northern Hemisphere, Winter Solstice Southern Hemisphere.

June 21, Full Moon 9:17 pm EDT, 06deg51 Sagittarius/Mula nakshatra.

June 21 – Sun in Gemini, enters Ardra

June 24, Mercury enters Punarvasu

June 29, Saturn stations retrograde at 25deg14 Aquarius

June 29, Venus enters Punarvasu

June 30, Mercury enters Cancer

July 2024

July 1, Mercury enters Pushya

July 5, New Moon 6:57 EDT, 19deg40 Gemini

July 7, Venus enters Cancer

July 7, Sun enters Punarvasu

July 8, Mars enters Krittika

July 9, Mercury enters Ashlesha

July 10, Venus enters Pushya

July 13, Mars enters Taurus
July 17, Sun enters Cancer
July 20, Mercury enters Leo/Magha
July 20, Sun enters Pushya
July 21, Full Moon 6:16 am EDT, 04deg47 Capricorn
July 21, Venus enters Ashlesha
July 27, Mars enters Rohini

August 2024

Entire month of August: Jupiter makes 1:7 aspect to Scorpio, Saturn makes 1:10 aspect to Scorpio, and Mars makes 1:4 aspect to Scorpio

August 1, Venus enters Leo/Magha
August 3, Sun enters Ashlesha
August 4, New Moon 7:13 am EDT, 18deg15 Cancer
August 6, Mercury stations retrograde at 09deg54 Leo
August 11, Venus enters Purva Phalguni
August 14, Mars/Jupiter conjunction/occultation at 22deg Taurus
August 16, Mars enters Mrgashira
August 17, Sun enters Leo/Magha
August 19, Full Moon 2:25 pm EDT, 02deg47 Aquarius
August 21, Mars makes $\frac{1}{4}$ aspect to Venus (Taurus/Leo)
August 21, Jupiter enters Mrgashira
August 22, Venus enters Uttara Phalguni
August 23, Mercury moves retrograde back into Cancer/Ashlesha
August 25, Venus enters Virgo
August 27, Mars enters Gemini
August 28, Mercury stations direct at 27deg16 Cancer
Aug 30, Sun enters Purva Phalguni

September 2024

September 2, New Moon 09:55 pm EDT, 16deg25 Leo
September 2, Venus enters Hasta
September 5, Mercury moving direct enters Leo/Magha
September 7, Mars enters Ardra
September 13, Venus enters Chitra
September 13, Sun enters Uttara Phalguni
September 14, Mercury enters Purva Phalguni
September 17, Sun enters Virgo
September 18, New Moon and Partial Lunar Eclipse, 10:34 pm at 01deg07 Pisces will be visible over Europe, much of Asia, Africa, North America, South America, the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the Arctic and Antarctica.
September 18, Saturn at 21deg Aquarius makes 1/7 aspect to Mercury at 21deg Leo
September 19, Venus enters Libra
September 19, Mars enters Punarvasu

September 21, Jupiter at 26deg Taurus makes 1/5 aspect to Mercury at 26deg Virgo

September 22, 8:44 am EDT, Autumn Equinox Northern Hemisphere, Spring Equinox Southern