

New ACVA role: Editor-in-Chief of Publications



**By Professor Charlotte Benson,
ACVA President**

Dear ACVA members and subscribers –

I am pleased to announce a new addition to our ACVA leadership team. As of this date, Alan Annand will assume the position of Editor-in-Chief for ACVA publications, in which role he'll be responsible for the form and content of our monthly newsletters and quarterly journals.

For those of you who don't already know him, Alan has been a long-time student of Hart de Fouw, and received ACVA's Bachelor of Arts in Jyotish certification in 2003. He has since gone on to distinguish himself as an active consultant, teacher, and writer of several texts on *jyotish*, eg, his books *Parivartana Yoga*, *Kala Sarpa*, and *Kama Yoga*.

Please join me in welcoming Alan to our team.

– Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi), President

Alan Annand



I'm honored to have been selected by ACVA's leadership team to take on the role of Editor-in-Chief. As an avid reader, student and life-long writer (poet, novelist, technical writer, blogger, etc), I have great respect for the written word. I look forward to ensuring that ACVA has a robust publication platform to share "best practices" via classical principles and/or practical techniques of *jyotish*.

I know that many of our members are also active writers, indeed published authors, and my plan over the next few months is to reach out to solicit material for future ACVA publications. In due course, I'll provide more details, but for the moment, I welcome any existing or aspiring writers to review what you might have in hand or development, and feel free to contact me via email with suggestions or proposals.

In the meantime, here's the Coles Notes version of my life as an astrologer. After a chance encounter with an astrology book in the 1970s, I embarked upon correspondence studies with the British Faculty of Astrological Studies, and received my Diploma in 1980. For the next 15 years in Montreal, I was active as a consulting astrologer, teacher and conference speaker in western astrological circles, including a five-year stint as sole correspondence tutor for the Faculty's North American student body.

In the mid-90s I was gifted an introductory book on Vedic astrology that presented me with the proverbial fork in the road. After some initial hesitation in converting from the tropical to sidereal zodiac, I embraced the study of this fascinating system. The next year, at an ACVA conference in San Diego, I bought *jyotish* software and a suitcase full of books, and first heard the name of Hart de Fouw. Back in Canada, I sought out Hart for a reading, and the following year enrolled in his nascent Trilogy program at Dr.

Lad's Ayurvedic Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Thereafter, for another decade I continued to attend his many advanced and specialty courses in the San Francisco area.

After moving from Montreal to Toronto, I began attending *satsangs* with Hart's *gyotish* guru Mantriji who gave regular talks on the *Bhagavad Gita* and Patanjali's *Yoga Sutras*. One day, while driving him to an appointment, I asked him whether writing novels was a worthwhile occupation. He said I should stop living in imaginary worlds and embrace reality by writing books on *gyotish* instead. I protested, saying that everything had already been written, and that, in any event, I knew nothing that was worth writing about. He said I was wrong on both counts, and that I should just start writing articles, and eventually books would come. So, I heeded his counsel and began to write a monthly article for my website. In due course, as he predicted, I wrote books.

– Alan