

September 2023 - Hello from the President of ACVA

By Professor Charlotte Benson, ACVA President



Dear Friends of ACVA,

We hope this edition of The Comet finds you and your families doing well. Thank Heavens that long hot summer is finally over! Here in Arizona where I live, it's still warm, but the worst is over. So now we can cool down a bit and get back to studying Jyotish. I spent some time in mid-September sky-gazing in hopes of seeing Comet Nishimura but couldn't spot it. Since comets are considered Dhum Ketus in Jyotisha, it will be interesting to see which world leader may succumb to its visit to our solar system.

We hope that you enjoy the valuable content in this issue. One article is particularly relevant during this back-to-school season, written long ago by the late Vice President of ACVA, dear scholarly Jessica Sayles.

The college is doing well, and our students impress us with their genius on a regular basis. Congratulations are in order to Julene Louis, who has recently achieved the distinguished title of Jyotisha Ratna. Well done Julene!

Here's what she has to say about this accomplishment: "It is with gratitude, joy, and humility that I now carry the distinguished and reputable ACVA Jyotish Ratna designation. Certification has always been important to me in the field of Astrology where anyone can claim a social media platform and claim to be an Astrologer, Astrologist, or Jyotishi despite their level of knowledge. I can honestly say that ACVA is one of the best places to learn the art and science of Vedic Astrology. The curriculum is very thorough and provides a structure where each lesson builds upon the prior. With self-study one can find themselves attempting to learn a topic but realizing there are pieces they are unfamiliar with. This can lead to a haphazard mode of back and forth learning where things get missed. At ACVA the structure is there and all the pieces fall into place in a logical order. Plus, you have accessible teachers for your questions, and you receive valuable feedback on learning assignments. With different courses taught by different teachers you get the benefit of learning from more minds than just one. If you are on the fence about receiving a formal education in Vedic Astrology, try ACVA. The curriculum and faculty are outstanding."

Julene is also the curator of ACVA's recently acquired trove of some rare Jyotisha books for sale. She can be reached at julene.louis@acvaonline.org for a list of those books on offer.

ACVA has decided to bring back my own humble offering to students of Jyotish, the "Ask Jyoti Devi" webinar series on Saturday, **September 23, 2023**. This is an opportunity to chat with me in real time about Jyotish – or about your own personal chart. Don't we normally hear during

webinar presentations that the hosts do not want you to ask questions about your personal charts? Well – here is your chance to see what I might have to say about your individual situation! It's complimentary. Here are the links:

Flyer: https://acvaonline.org/event/ask_jyoti_devi/

Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iRCKeH_WQGWsle7WIHqzMQ#/registration

Our colleague Visti Larsen is hosting an in-person conference in Leeds, England **October 20 – 22, 2023**. Registration is at www.vedicconferences.com. One of my new favorite jyotishis, Gordon Brennan, will be presenting there.

The **Maharishi Parasara Conference** (successor of Dr. Dennis Harness' SVAC Conferences) will be held online from **November 6 – 20, 2023**. I will be presenting there, along with a superb group of Jyotish experts. Here is the registration link: <https://www.parasharaconference.com/registration>
Please join us online.

Continuing to send you every best wish,

Professor Charlotte Benson (*Jyoti Devi*)