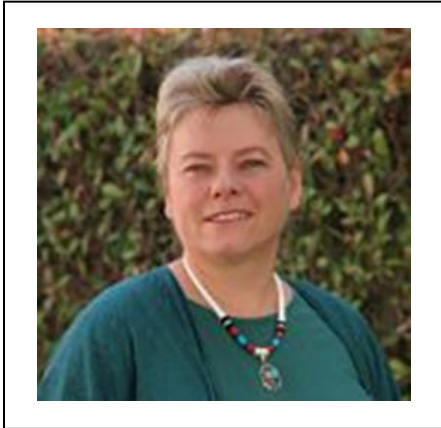


The observatory - September 2023 equinox edition



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Dean of Students, ACVA

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Equinox season – Spring in the Northern Hemisphere, Fall in the Southern, and the day when the day and night are equal world-wide.

Take a moment to mark the sunrise at your time and place and you will find that the sunlight is coming from exactly geographical East. While there are many great celestial events this season, this fundamental rhythm of day and night, direction, earth and sky, Moon cycles and season rule all beings on the Earth we share. Om Shanti Shantih.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON

This is an event-filled season in the stars. Between the total Solar Eclipse, the visit of a visible comet, and the ingress of Jupiter and Uranus into Taurus, keep your eyes on the skies and your spiritual focus on the essentials of equanimity and compassion.

Venus and Mars visit Saturn in Aquarius on March 21 and April 11.

New Moon in Pisces – Chatur Sanrkati, March 25, which is also an annular Lunar Eclipse.

April 8, Total Solar Eclipse in parts of the USA. You may refer to our contributing authors. As a resident of the South-Central USA, I would comment that this eclipse path will track along a common spring storm path for tornadoes, hail, and floods.

Mercury is retrograde April 9-25 – after dipping into Aries, it returns for a few more weeks in Pisces before moving on to Aries on May 10.

Jupiter enters Taurus May 1. In May and June, Jupiter has many conjunctions with the Sun, Mercury, and Venus, as well as a number of other possibilities for combinations with the benefic planets. Get your calendars out, social planners!

May 8-10, Akshaya Tritiya, the auspicious 3-day period when both Sun and Moon are exalted.

Uranus leaves Aries and enters Taurus June 1 for a stay of about seven years. The last time Uranus visited this sign was in 1940-1947.

Mercury, Venus, and the Sun dance closely together as they enter Gemini June 13-17, another time with some auspicious possibilities with Jupiter flanking from Taurus.

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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.

March, 2024

March 20, 11:07 pm, Spring Equinox in Northern Hemisphere, Fall Equinox in Southern Hemisphere.

March 21, Venus exactly conjoined with Saturn at 18d09 Aquarius in Shatabhishak Nakshatra.

March 21, Sun in Pisces leaves Purva Bhadrapada Nakshatra and enters Uttara Bhadrapada.

March 24, Mars in Aquarius leaves Dhanistha Nakshatra and enters Shatabhishak.

March 25, 2:00 am, Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse at 10d56 Virgo – an Annular Eclipse visible in western hemisphere. The Moon has entered Hasta Nakshatra a few hours before the Eclipse.

March 25, Mercury leaves Pisces/Revati Nakshatra, where it is debilitated, and enters Aries/Ashwini Nakshatra.

March 31, the Sun leaves Purva Bhadrapada Nakshatra and enters Revati.

April, 2024

April 1, Mercury stationary and starts retrograding at 2d58 Aries.

April 1, Venus enters Pisces, where it is exalted.

April 3, Venus enters Uttara Bhadrapada Nakshatra and conjoins outer planet Neptune at 3d47 Pisces.

April 7, Saturn in Aquarius enters Purva Bhadrapada Nakshatra.

April 8, Solar Eclipse 3:16 pm EDT (in NYC) at 24d56 Pisces, Revati Nakshatra.

April 9, Mercury moving retrograde moves back into Pisces/Revati.

April 10, Mars enters Purva Bhadrapada Nakshatra.

April 11, Mars exactly conjoins Saturn at 20d30 Aquarius in Purva Bhadrapada Nakshatra.

April 11, Sun conjunct Mercury (moving retrograde) at 27d Pisces/Revati. This is the inferior conjunction when it is closer to Earth than the Sun.

April 14, Sun enters Aries/Ashwini Nakshatra.

April 16, Venus enters Revati Nakshatra in Pisces.

April 16, Jupiter in Aries enters Kritika Nakshatra.

April 17, Venus conjoins Rahu at 21d28 Pisces/Revati.

April 23, Full Moon at 9d41 Aries/Libra. Moon in Swati Nakshatra.

April 23, Mars enters Pisces.

April 24, Venus leaves Pisces/Revati and enters Aries/Ashwini.

April 25, Mercury stations and begins direct motion at 21d48 Pisces.

April 27, Mars in Pisces leaves Purva Bhadrapada and enters Uttara Bhadrapada Nakshatra.

April 27, Sun in Aries leaves Ashwini Nakshatra and enters Bharani.

May, 2024

May 1, Jupiter leaves Aries and enters Taurus.

May 1, Pluto stations and begins retrograde motion at 7d54 Capricorn in Uttara Ashadha Nakshatra.

May 5, Venus leaves Ashwini Nakshatra and enters Bharani.

May 7, New Moon at 23d37 Aries/Bharani.

May 8-10, (in USA) Akshaya Tritiya, Sun exalted in Aries/Moon exalted in Taurus, a propitious time for many muhurtas.

May 10, Mercury enters Aries/Ashwini.

May 11, Sun enters Kritika Nakshatra

May 13, Sun conjunct outer planet Uranus at 28d56 Aries/Kritika

May 15, Sun enters Taurus.

May 15, Mars enters Revati Nakshatra.

May 16, Venus enters Kritika Nakshatra

May 18, Sun conjoins Jupiter at 3d55 Taurus/Kritika.

May 20, Venus enters Taurus – own sign.

May 20, Mercury enters Bharani Nakshatra.

May 23, Full Moon at 8d15 Scorpio.

May 23, Venus conjoins Jupiter at 5d Taurus/Kritika.

May 25, Sun enters Rohini Nakshatra.

May 28, Saturn makes a 1:3 one-way aspect on Mercury at 24d18 Aquarius/Aries.

May 28, Venus enters Rohini Nakshatra.

May 29, Mercury enters Kritika Nakshatra.

May 31, Mercury conjoins Uranus at the end of Aries and then enters Taurus.

June, 2024

June 1, Outer planet Uranus enters Taurus.

June 1, Mars enters Aries/Ashwini, its own sign.

June 4, Mercury conjoins Jupiter at 8d Taurus/Krittika.

June 5, New Moon at 21d44 Taurus/Rohini.

June 8, Sun enters Mrgashira Nakshatra.

June 11, Mars makes a 1:8 one-way aspect on outer planet Pluto at 7d33 Aries/Capricorn.

June 11, Venus enters Mrgashira Nakshatra.

June 13, Venus enters Gemini. Venus and Mercury in Parivartana Yoga for a single day.

June 14, Mercury enters Gemini, own sign. Sun enters Gemini. Sun conjoins Venus at 0d Gemini/Mrgashira.

June 16, Jupiter enters Rohini Nakshatra.

June 17, Mercury conjoins Venus shortly after they enter Ardra Nakshatra at 7d30 Gemini.

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

June 21, Full Moon 9:17 pm EDT, 6d51 Sagittarius/Mula Nakshatra.