



Letter from the president of ACVA

***by Professor Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)
President, ACVA***

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Dear ACVA alumni, faculty and friends.

Hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying life during this interesting Jupiter/Rahu conjunction.

Thank Heavens we have knowledge of Jyotish to help us contextualize what's happening around us. One observation about this rare Guru Chandala yoga is that it seems to have stimulated an outpouring of several concurrent Jyotish conferences already this month! I was fortunate enough to be traveling through Europe and was a guest at a beautiful spiritual retreat manor home at Waterperry Gardens, in Oxfordshire, England, BAVA's Gordon Brennan and company organized a group Jyotisha meeting post the BAVA online conference in May. It was a wonderful experience, which they intend to repeat in 2024. I'll remind you about this next year.

The Arsha Vidya Gurukulum Jyotish Mela took place over several weeks recently, and I was able to participate – and learned a lot, too. There are so many brilliant scholars offering the results of their research and experience – it's a wonderful time to be studying Jyotish. Included in the Mela was a memorial for Yogi Karve who passed away in February 2023. I met him once long ago in Fairfield Iowa, where I was the witness to his supernatural power to cognize a person's birth chart. Yogi Karve correctly identified all of my planets – and rectified my birth time by two minutes. It was astonishing! He attributed this ability, this particular siddhi, to his dedication to his spiritual practice and his devotion to the Divine. His work is being carried on by his lovely daughter, Pinky. There were many heart-felt words of love, remembering this modern saint. Karve-ji is a model for all of us – and he will be missed. Rest in Peace, dearest Sri Karve.

ACVA will be offering a Master Class Webinar by Souvik Dutta entitled "Karma Kshetra – Profession, Skills & Direction of Work" on July 8, 2023, at 12.00 pm Pacific time, 3 pm Eastern time. It will be two hours of precious knowledge about the crucial Tenth House. This is a fund raiser for ACVA. Fee is \$27. Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KrS_tohAQWy2-1pFCUtrKA

Our ACVA faculty have been busy with particularly brilliant learners this quarter. Here are some lovely words offered by recent Jyotisha Prabhakara graduate Venkatesh Narasiah:

'None of the astrologers I met since my youth predicted that I would one day become an astrologer, yet here I am, fulfilling a journey which started in 2017. I had a set of books and had read all but one, not making any headway. The last book was to be my final attempt in this, and it turned out to be the book by Dreyer which got me on track. After exploring other books on astrology for a while, the two books by De Fouw and Svoboda became a turning point; I felt the need to take this up in a professional capacity. I am sure seeing the name of these authors you would have guessed that my destiny would turn towards Vedic astrology. A fascination that began at an early age, a quest which started six years ago and a journey that is firmly on track with my Jyotisha Prabhakara .

A conversation with Lynn, my mind was made up when I started looking for a Guru and I found my Gurukul in the American College of Vedic Astrology. A fruitful 18-month journey with my pace matching my enthusiasm and eagerness in acquiring this invaluable knowledge has been metamorphic. It has helped me navigate my own life, my family/ relationships with near-and-dear ones, finally friends/ acquaintances who have consulted with me. ACVA is a very kind organization – the not-for-profit motto and eagerness of the tutors to participate in the learning journey, is the key differentiator vis-à-vis other choices. None of my questions have been put down by the tutors, key doubts have all been responded to, while at the same time candid feedback on what more needs to be done. I learned a lot, including remote topics like 64th Navamsha, 22nd Drekkana, Gulika or Mandi, what happens when an important festival's tithi date undergoes a ksheya, etc.

A very special thanks to my tutors – Lynn, Gary, and Karina, and I am blessed to have them as my Gurus. Guru Devo Bhava! Venkatesh Narasiah'

Thank you, dear Venky – it was a joy to provide you with the celestial knowledge that you were seeking!

In other good news, ACVA was the recipient of an entire library of rare and collectible Jyotish books. We will be offering them to those who request a list of titles from the curator, Julene Louis. She can be reached at julene.louis@acvaonline.org. Thank you so much to our generous donors who are keeping the brilliant ideas of the Jyotir Vidya alive and circulating!

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>).

Happy Guru Purnima, with love, to everyone studying and teaching Jyotisha!

Happy stars to you, your friend,

Charlotte (Jyoti Devi)