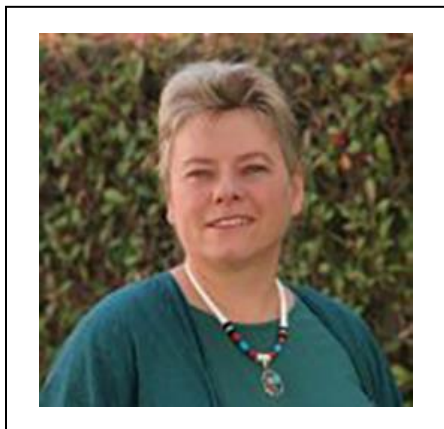


The observatory - Mid-January to Mid-February 2024

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



Note to the reader:

The full quarterly Observatory for the December Solstice to the March Equinox appeared in the quarterly edition of the Comet last month.

Here are a few highlights of the coming month which are of interest.

Makara Sankranti – the ingress of the Sun into sidereal Capricorn is of great significance as a holy day in India, this year **on January 14 in India, and on January 15 in the USA**. While the world is at its' coldest in the Northern Hemisphere, the lengthening of days becomes noticeable. In India, great gatherings of sadhus take place, along with preparations for the spring agricultural season. Pay attention to your actions and intentions on this day as you meditate and set the tone of your own coming year.

Mars, Mercury, and Venus in Sagittarius received trine from Jupiter in Aries – These three busy planets are all direct in motion now. **Mars** has been in a **Parivartana Yoga** – mutual lordship with **Jupiter in Aires** – for a number of weeks now and remains so until February 5. While this has been beneficial for certain types of bold action, in other circumstances there has been impulsive action. **Mercury** has been in Sagittarius all month, receives the exact trine from Jupiter on January 14 and stays until February 1. **Venus** enters Sagittarius on January 18, with an exact trine from Jupiter on January 28, and stays until February 11. The Mercury and Venus trines from Jupiter are positive for communication, arts, and study.

Full Moon January 25 at 10d36 Cancer in Pushya Nakshatra.

Mercury exact conjunction with Mars January 27 at 22d47 Sagittarius in Purva Ashadha Nakshatra. These two planets are often at odds, and there is potential for frayed nerves and sudden arguments.

Jupiter leave Ashwini Nakshatra and enters Bharani February 3 – There is a general shift from the higher planes and spiritual vision to embodiment – the image is of the process of labor and delivery but also of death and loss when the soul takes up physical existence. There is much to

meditate upon here, as individuals will have different experiences depending on the birth chart. This next portion of Jupiter's journey will last until mid-August.

New Moon at 25d42 Capricorn in Dhanistha Nakshatra February 9 – This is the Lunar New Year in China. Note that Jupiter is in sidereal Aries this year, this is the Year of the Dragon. China occupies more northern latitudes than India, and this marks the beginning of the spring season in that land. In each of the New Moons, we can gain a bit of insight from the position of the planets at the Lunar Ingress. In all cases, we can be ready for more than average weather events at the New and Full Moons.