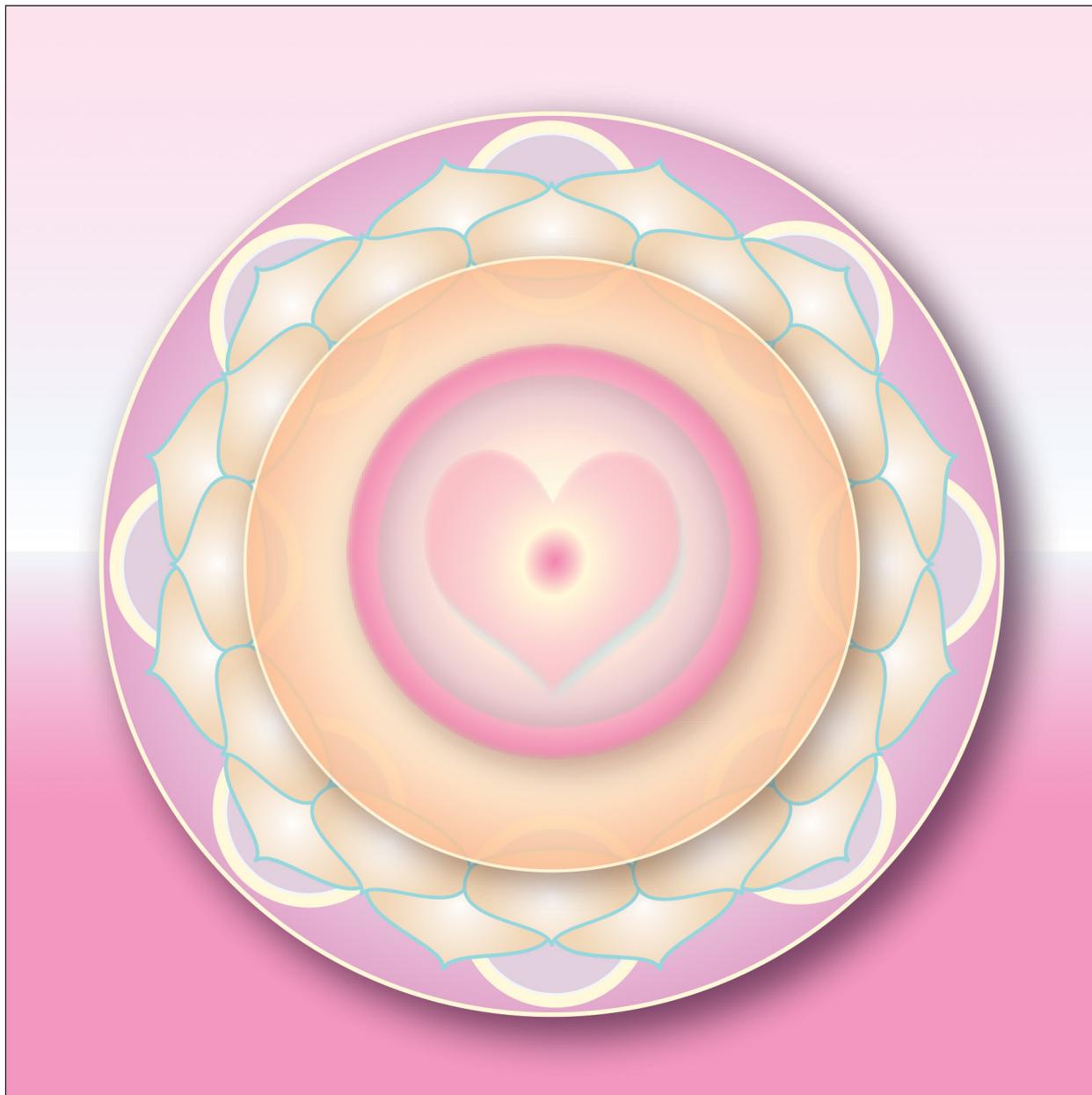


# Collaboration

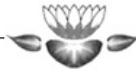
Spring 2015

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Vol. 40, No. 1



Life sketch of Jyotipriya by Mandakini Lucien-Brun •  
The controversial doctrine of the true, eternal Self in the Buddhist scripture:  
*The Māhayāna Māhāparinirvana Sutra* by Dr. Tony Page •  
Land and spirit: An American yoga for the 21st Century, *continued* by John Robert Cornell •  
Current affairs • AV almanac • Source material • Poetry • Apropos



## About the cover

Front cover: Circle of Love; back cover: Planes of Existence. These are graphic art designs by Margaret Astrid Phanes (phanes@margaretphanes.com). A selection of her graphic art can be found at her website: margaretphanes.com. Margaret is a trainer and digital artist who has taught meditation for 30 years in classes, workshops, and conferences. Visual Light-Energy Meditations were first exhibited as framed still images in 1989. Since then, she has produced imaginative presentations of stills and slide animations. These works are a dynamic meditation and a concentration of inner forces of Shakti and presence.

## The authors and poets

**Alan** (alan@auroville.org.in) is a British Aurovilian, and a long-time editor of Auroville Today, Auroville's monthly news magazine. He is also involved with reforestation and organizing workshops on sustainability in Auroville.

**John Robert Cornell** (johnrobt@cal.net) is a writer and workshop leader living in California. He is secretary of the Sri Aurobindo Association, the publisher of Collaboration, and is associated with the Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham.

**Lord Byron** (1788-1824) was one of England's greatest poets and a leading figure of the Romantic movement. The poem included here was published in the anthology, *Poetry for the Spirit*, edited by Alan Jacobs.

**Mandakini Lucien-Brun** (mlucienbrun@wanadoo.fr), originally from Brooklyn, NY, now resides in France where she is associated with AVI-France.

**Maggi Lidchi-Grassi** (valletta8@hotmail.com) is a senior Ashram member who founded Quiet, an Auroville community focused on natural healing. She is also an author of numerous books.

**Michael Miovic** (mmiovic@yahoo.com) is a long-time student of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. He lives in Edina, MN, and works as a consultation-liaison psychiatrist. He is interested in integral psychology and geo-spiritual studies.

**Dr. Tony Page** (tny7tny7@fastmail.fm) is a lecturer in English Literature in the School of Humanities, Bangkok University. He is the author of three books on Buddhist philosophy, and two books on the scientific invalidity and immorality of vivisection. He is one of the UK's leading researchers on the Buddhist scripture, the Mahāyāna Mahāparinirvāna Sūtra, of which scripture he is the English-language editor and upon which he has lectured at the University of London.

**Dakshina Vanzetti** (dakshina.sasp@gmail.com) is a founding member of the Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham, an Ashram in California, and President of Auromere Ayurvedic Imports, the Ashram business.

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## From the office of Collaboration

We open this issue in Current Affairs with a remembrance of the American disciple, Frederic Bushnell, better known as Ananta, who has passed away at the age of 88, written by his friend Michael Miovic. We also have updates on activities at the Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham and the upcoming All USA Meeting to be held at the Menla Center near Matagiri in August. In AV Almanac, we have an article by Alan of *Auroville Today* on a recent conference that was aimed at breaking through the roadblocks that have stymied Auroville's development over the long-term.

Our feature Chronicles article is by Mandikini Lucien-Brun on the life of Judith Tyberg, whom Sri Aurobindo had named Jyotipriya. Originally written for the Wikipedia website, this is a well-researched, scholarly review of Jyotipriya's life and accomplishments as a Vedic scholar, disciple of Sri Aurobindo and Mother, faculty member of the American Academy of Asian Studies in San Francisco, and later founder of the East-West Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

In Essays, our first article is by Buddhist scholar Tony Page who reviews evidence from an early Buddhist scripture that the Buddha taught and believed in an eternal Self, essentially the same as that of the Vedantic Atman. While *Collaboration* usually does not publish articles about other spiritual paths, we have made an exception in this case because of the importance of this paper in aligning Buddhism more closely with Vedantic thought, and thus to a greater degree with Sri Aurobindo's view. Tony's revelations based on his research are put into a broader perspective in our later Source Material section with selections from Sri Aurobindo and the Mother relevant to this issue.

Our second featured Essay is the fourth installment of John Robert Cornell's unpublished work, "Land and Spirit: An American Yoga for the 21st Century." In this installment, John Robert discusses the work of other authors and poets he was reading while travelling through Navajo territory in Utah and Arizona, who also have explored the spiritual dimensions of the American landscape. He discusses the insights and perspectives of such writers as poets Robert Bly and Kenneth Rexroth, anthropologist Richard Nelson, cosmologist Thomas Berry, mystery writer Tony Hillerman, naturalist authors Barry Lopez and Ann Zwinger, among others. Samples of their writings give us glimpses into the spiritual possibilities of being in close contact with Nature, and reveal to us something of the inspiration underlying John Robert's own perceptions and writing.

We close the issue with a selection of spiritual poetry and Apropos quotations.

### Invitation to submit a short essay for publication

With the intention to make *Collaboration* more interactive and participatory, we invite you to submit a short essay of about 300-800 words for the next issue on the general topic, "What inspires me about the Integral Yoga." We would like to publish a few of the best submissions in a new section to be called "The Salon." As with the submission of other articles to *Collaboration*, the editor may require or suggest changes to the essay prior to publishing. We hope that the relatively short length of these articles may inspire more writers who may be reluctant to write the longer essays which have become the norm in *Collaboration*. Depending on the response, we hope to include this new section of short articles on a specified theme in each of our future issues. Please email your essay to the editor at: [editor@collaboration.org](mailto:editor@collaboration.org) before July 15, 2015.

### Artists

**Karen Cornell** has been drawing and painting since childhood. She was a graphic artist in the software industry for many years. She specializes in computer graphics, pen and ink, and watercolor.

**Margaret Phanes**, a graphic artist, resides in Lodi, California where she is associated with the Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham, and is a member of the Sri Aurobindo Association, which is the publisher of *Collaboration*.

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**Subscriptions:** Send requests to: 2715 W. Kettleman Lane, suite 203-174, Lodi CA 95242 USA, or call Auromere (209-339-3710 ext. 2) with your credit card information; A one-year subscription (three issues) is \$25 (\$35 for airmail outside the USA; a patron subscription is \$50 or more). For India residents, send requests along with Rs. 200 in the name of Larry Seidlitz to: Larry Seidlitz, 39 Vanniar St., Vaithikuppam, Puducherry 605101.

**Submissions:** *Collaboration* welcomes writing, photos, and artwork relevant to the Integral Yoga and spirituality. Submit material by email to: [editor@collaboration.org](mailto:editor@collaboration.org); or by post to *Collaboration*, 2715 W. Kettleman Lane, Suite 203-174, Lodi, CA 95242 USA. *Collaboration* cannot be held responsible for loss or damage of unsolicited material. Letters and articles may be edited for style and space considerations.

**About SAA:** The Sri Aurobindo Association distributes information about Sri Aurobindo, the Mother, and Auroville, and supports projects related to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville, and Integral Yoga activities in America. Current members: Lynda Lester, president; John Robert Cornell, secretary; Ananda, treasurer; Margaret Phanes, director.

**Contributions:** Donations for the work of the SAA, Auroville, and the Sri Aurobindo Ashram may be sent to SAA. Donations are tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.