Reflections on the individual and society by Martha Orton •
The supreme discovery by Shyam Kumari •
Rebirth and karma by Larry Seidlitz •
The superman: Intermediary between the human and the supramental being by Larry Seidlitz •
Current affairs • AV almanac • Source material • The poetry room • Apropos
About the art on the front and back cover

Front cover: Art by Michael, known as Mike-gi, posted on Pixabay. The image is evocative of the descent of the superman and the supramental consciousness. See information on the artist on the right of the next page.

Back cover: Digital art created by Gerd Altmann, known as Geral, posted on Pixabay. The image evokes a sense of the future minds of light and oneness that will one day establish human unity on earth. See information on the artist on the right of the next page.

The authors and poets

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806–1861) was an English poet of the Victorian era, popular in Britain and the United States during her lifetime.

Arnab Bishnu Chowdhury (www.ninad.in) is founder-composer-teacher of ‘Know Your Rhythm’, a training programme inspired by Integral Education which helps seekers discover their musicality and rhythm. He works with Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville and other evolution-seeking groups.

Rita Chaudhuri Pease (radhe@lagracecenter.com) is Executive Director of La Grace Sri Aurobindo Integral Life Center near Greenville, NC.

William Bell Scott (1811–1890) was a Scottish artist, poet and art teacher.

Larry Seidlitz (lseidlitz@gmail.com) is an author, an editor, and conducts online courses and research on Integral Yoga.

Santosh Krinsky (santoshk@msn.com) is the founder of Lotus Press, publisher of U.S. editions of Sri Aurobindo’s writings, and the President of the Institute for Wholistic Education, devoted to the development of spirituality in daily life.

Shyam Kumari (shyamkumari@auromail.net) is a senior member of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and the author of many books.

Madhu (Please read his article in the AV Almanac section to learn more about Madhu.)

Valentina is a 28-year-old professional film maker from Chile, and an amateur dancer and artist. She joined Auroville as a newcomer in 2018, and makes videos for different units and projects. She has found her home in Auroville.
In this issue, Current affairs provides news and updates from several Sri Aurobindo centers in the US and UK. These include reports on the Cultural Integral Fellowship in San Francisco, the Sri Aurobindo Center, SE, and the new Sri Aurobindo Center of Honolulu which recently relocated there from Wisconsin. The Briefs section includes short reports on the Auromira Centre, UK; Matagiri in Mt. Tremper, NY; and the Foundation for World Education.

In AV Almanac we feature three essays by three Aurovillian youth—Inge, Valentina, and Madhu—about their experiences in Auroville, and a poem which was made into a video by a young associate of Auroville and the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Arnab Bishnu Chowdhuri. A link to the video is given at the end.

In the Salon, Martha Orton reflects on the relation between the individual and the society, based partly on Sri Aurobindo’s views expressed in The Human Cycle, and partly on two classical French films, Jean de Florette and Manon des Sources (Manon of the Spring), that illustrate those views.

In Chronicles, story-teller extraordinaire Shyam Kumari recounts the fascinating but perilous spiritual journey of an unnamed Indian sadhak who eventually discovered the Mother of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, who saved him and helped him to gradually overcome his difficult hardships and gain peace.

In Essays we feature two articles by Larry Seidlitz. The first, “Rebirth and karma,” reviews the nature of these two core principles of Sri Aurobindo’s philosophy of spiritual evolution, or more accurately, the evolution of the soul in nature. Both principles are found to be much more complex than the common prevailing views of them tend to convey. The second essay is titled “The superman, intermediary between the human and the supramental being.” This year marks 50 years since the descent of the superman consciousness, which was reported by the Mother to have occurred on 1 January 1969. The essay discusses Sri Aurobindo’s predictions and explanations concerning this consciousness and being written in a series of essays near the end of his life, and that were later published as The Supramental Manifestation upon Earth, as well as the Mother’s descriptions of her experiences of its first appearance and subsequent activity that were published in the Ashram journal Bulletin of Physical Education, and later republished in her Collected Works in the volume Notes on the Way.

In Source material, we provide interesting contextual material from Sri Aurobindo and the Mother that sheds further light on the issues of rebirth and karma.

We close the issue with a selection of fine spiritual poetry in The poetry room, and spiritual quotations in Apropos.

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 any topic related to Integral Yoga for the Salon section. 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. For the next issue, please email your essay by December 1, 2019 to the editor at: editor@collaboration.org.

The Sri Aurobindo Associates 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 board members: Mateo Needham, president; John Robert Cornell, secretary; Lynda Lester, director; Mira Patel, director; Kinjal Shah, director; Gloria Sayavedra, board member. SAA Associates: Margaret Astrid Phanes, Ananda, & Nick Rytlewski.

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Submissions: Collaboration welcomes writing, photos, and artwork relevant to the Integral Yoga and spirituality. Submit material by email to: 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 board members: Mateo Needham, president; John Robert Cornell, secretary; Lynda Lester, director; Mira Patel, director; Kinjal Shah, director; Gloria Sayavedra, board member. SAA Associates: Margaret Astrid Phanes, Ananda, & Nick Rytlewski.