Where the universe begins by Arnab Chowdhury •
How I joined the Ashram: based on recordings of Udar Pinto •
“I had seen eternity in a moment” by Harald Fehrenbach •
Involution and evolution by Larry Seidlitz •
Current affairs • AV almanac • Source material • The poetry room • Apropos
About the art on the front and back cover

**Front cover:** This image brings to mind the exquisite mystery of our place in the universe. It was created by Angela Yuriko Smith and displayed on the Pixabay site.

**Back cover:** This image speaks of our star dust origins, those places in the universe where stars are born, where we are born. It was created by Gerd Altmann, known as Geralt, and shown on the Pixabay website.

### The authors and poets

**Alan** (alan@auromville.org.in) is a British Aurovillian and co-editor of Auroville Today.

**Milan Bhardwaj** (amitmilan@gmail.com), inspired by Savitri at a young age, became a lecturer on English literature in India, and now lives in Cupertino, CA where she is a stay-at-home mother.

**Edward Carpenter** (1844-1929) was an English poet, philosopher and anthologist.

**William Cowper** (1731-1800) was a popular English poet, a forerunner of the Romantic poets.

**Dakshina** (dakshina.sasp@gmail.com) is a resident and director of the Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham, an ashram in Lodi, CA.

**Arnab Chowdhury** (www.ninad.in) is founder-composer-teacher of ‘Know Your Rhythm’, a training program helping seekers discover their musicality. He works with Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville and other evolution-seeking groups.

**Harald Fehrenbach** (harfe68@web.de) lives in the village of Heimbach, Germany, near Freiburg. For more than 30 years, yoga, spirituality, philosophy and related subjects have been his passion.

**Santosh Krinsky** (santoshk@msn.com) is the founder of Lotus Press, and the President of the Institute for Wholistic Education.

**Mandakini Lucien-Brun** (manda.lucien.brun@gmail.com) is on the board of Auroville Inspiration Limited and is helping to raise funds for AV land.

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

**Julian Lines** (julianlines@gmail.com) resides at Matagiri Sri Aurobindo Center, is President of its Board of Trustees and an organizer for AUM 2020.

**Rita Chaudhuri Pease** is the eldest daughter of Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri and is currently serving as President of the Cultural Integration Fellowship (CIF). Rita has been active in the CIF Ashram in San Francisco since its inception in 1956.

**Radhe Pfau** (radhe@lagracecenter.com) is Executive Director of La Grace Sri Aurobindo Integral Life Center near Greenville, SC.

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

**William Shakespeare** (1564-1616) is widely regarded as the greatest English poet and playwright.

**Larry Seidlitz** (lseidlitz@gmail.com) is an author, editor, and scholar on Integral Yoga.

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From the office of Collaboration

In this issue, *Current affairs* has reports on the upcoming 2020 AUM and 2020 Sri Aurobindo Integral Yoga Retreat, as well as updates from several American centers. It also has news of the Auroville Art for Land program and new initiatives of the Foundation for World Education (FWE).

In *AV Almanac* we have an article by Alan of Auroville Today called “The Employees of Auroville”. With about two employees per one Aurovilian, they are an undeniably crucial part of the community, but rarely receive the recognition and understanding that they deserve, something this article begins to address.

In the *Salon*, we have a short article by Arnab Chowdhury on the nature of mantra, its various components, and its efficacy for facilitating inner experience.

In *Chronicles* we have two articles. The first is by Shyam Kumari and is based on recordings of Udar Pinto, one of the early disciples who was a powerful instrument of the Mother in building up the Ashram. In this article we learn of the unconventional ways in which Sri Aurobindo and the Mother sometimes worked with their disciples. The second article is by Harald Fehrenbach, a devotee in Germany, who has a practice, coming quite spontaneously, of reciting and memorizing Sri Aurobindo’s poems.

In *Essays* Larry Seidlitz writes on Sri Aurobindo’s philosophical conception of involution and evolution. The essay focuses on the process of the manifestation emerging out of Sachchidananda and descending through the grades of involution and evolution. The essay is complemented in Source material by writings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother on the same issue from different angles.

We close with inspiring poems in *The poetry room* and quotations in *Apropos*.

From the publisher: A new look for Collaboration

The Sri Aurobindo Association (SAA) is working on a redesign of *Collaboration*, which since 1974 has offered the evolutionary message of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother to readers in the U.S. and abroad.

The next issue will feature a new layout, more white space, a greater use of art, and contemporary type fonts. We hope this will bring a heightening of joy, beauty, and celebration to *Collaboration*.

As *Collaboration* moves into the future, in addition to serving our audience of already committed Integral Yoga insiders, we would like it to welcome spiritual seekers ready to meet the majesty, comprehensiveness, and hopefulness of Sri Aurobindo and Mother’s vision and work. We think this is a time for collaboration with spiritual partners.

We hope to publish work from the ferment of this yoga that witnesses, enlightens, and shifts forces and trends of today’s rather terrifying world, with a special but not exclusive focus on yoga in, for, and of the United States.

For this aspiration to manifest, we plan to develop a collaborative team that will include editorial advisors, writers, poets, artists, and graphics professionals. If you are interested in collaborating on *Collaboration*, please contact John Robert Cornell at johnrob@cal.net.

The artists

Front cover artist: Angela Yuriko Smith lives in Independence, Missouri and has been a member of Pixabay since September 2017. See her versatile images at: https://www.instagram.com/angela_yuriko_smith/

Back cover artist: Gerd Altmann lives in Freiburg, Germany. He has been a member of Pixabay since 2012, where he has earned 294 Editor’s Choice awards.

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Editor: Larry Seidlitz, 42 Pappamal Koil St., Anandam Apts. Ground Fl., Apt. 1A, Kuruchikuppam, Puducherry 605012, email: lsseidlitz@gmail.com. The opinions expressed in *Collaboration* are not necessarily those of the editor or the SAA.

Artistic Editor: Karen Cornell; email: kcornell@cal.net.

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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; Gloria Sayavedra, board member. SAA Associates: Margaret Astrid Phanes, Ananda, and Nick Rytlewski.

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.